

ITEM 9

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper

2020-21 SRA Budget and Enhanced Programme

RECOMMENDATIONS

The SRA Board is asked to:

1. Approve the proposed SRA 2020-21 Budget.
2. Approve the proposed SRA 2020-21 Enhanced Programme.

Purpose of the item

To formally approve the SRA's 2020-21 Budget and Enhanced Programme now that funding has been confirmed by each of the funding partners at their budget setting meetings during February.

Background and context

At the SRA Board meeting on 10 January 2020, the Board provisionally approved the 2020-21 budget and Enhanced Programme subject to funding being confirmed.

SRA funding is currently collected via a 'shadow precept' of 1.25% on council tax. This alternative notional amount is a power granted by government explicitly for the purpose of funding the SRA. It is separate to other council tax funds and does not impact on the funds available to each council for core business.

Each year the councils must formally approve the raising of the shadow precept at February budget setting meetings. The Internal Drainage Boards also confirm their contributions at budget setting meetings.

Latest Status

All councils' budget setting meetings have been held and they have approved raising of the shadow precept for 2020-21. The Parrett and Axe Brue Internal Drainage Boards approved their contributions on 3 February. The table below sets out the value of each contribution based upon the tax base of each council.

SRA Shadow Precept and IDB contributions 2020-21

Authority	Contribution	Confirmed
Somerset County Council	£2,562,543	19/02/2020
Somerset West and Taunton Council	£98,787	19/02/2020
Sedgemoor District Council	£74,584	20/02/2020
Mendip District Council	£75,400	24/02/2020
South Somerset District Council	£112,315	19/02/2020
Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board	£10,000	03/02/2020
Parrett Internal Drainage Board	£10,000	03/02/2020
Total	£2,943,639	

Local Partners Funding for 2020-21 ('shadow precept' plus IDB contributions) is confirmed as £2,943,639. Funding will be spent on:

- a. 23 different projects totalling £2,691,270
- b. £252,000 for 4 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) staff, overhead costs, small projects budget and allowance for advice from Natural England

The total of a. and b. set out above is £2,943,270, leaving a small unallocated amount of £369.

For 2020-21, it is estimated that £4,364,605¹ of SRA Local Partners' funds will be carried forward. These funds were allocated to projects in previous years which are still in the process of being delivered.

It is also estimated that during 2020-21, £3,544,578² will be carried forward from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal funding allocation. These funds are for further pioneer dredging, Sow/King's Sedgemoor Drain enhancement scheme, North Drain Pumping Station and Field Way, Highbridge drainage scheme.

The total SRA budget available and allocated to schemes and running costs for 2020-21 (including activities carried forward from previous years) is estimated to be £11,303,453³. In addition, a contingency fund of £451,000 will be carried forward.

The following are attached with this report:

- Appendix 1 2020-21 Enhanced Programme List (CONFIDENTIAL with costs)
- Appendix 2 2020-21 Enhanced Programme List (public)
- Appendix 3 2020-21 Enhanced Programme map
- Appendix 4 2020-21 SRA Budget Summary
- Appendix 5 2020-21 SRA 2020-21 Budget Full (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Date: 27 February 2020

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¹ As per Appendix 4 row 12 on 'SRA budget summary'

² As per Appendix 4 row 13 on 'SRA budget summary'

³ Note that this figure has been prepared ahead of the closure of the 2019-20 accounts so while it is based on the latest information available from delivery partners, it can only be an estimate.