

ITEM 10b

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper

2021-22 Somerset Rivers Authority Budget

RECOMMENDATION

The Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board is asked to:

1. Approve the proposed SRA 2021-22 Budget.

Purpose of the item

To formally approve Somerset Rivers Authority's 2021-22 Budget now that funding has been confirmed by each of the funding partners at their budget setting meetings during February.

Background and context

SRA funding is currently collected via a 'shadow precept' to the value of 1.25% of 2015-16 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 (IDBs) also confirm their contributions at budget setting meetings.

Latest Status

SRA Shadow Precept and IDB contributions 2021-22

| Authority | Contribution | Confirmed |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Somerset County Council | £2,560,700 | 17/02/2021 |
| Somerset West and Taunton Council | £97,909 | 18/02/2021 |
| Sedgemoor District Council | £73,784 | 22/02/2021 |
| Mendip District Council | £76,060 | 22/02/2021 |
| South Somerset District Council | £113,133 | 25/02/2021 |
| Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board | £10,000 | 21/02/2021 |
| Parrett Internal Drainage Board | £10,000 | 21/02/2021 |
| Total | £2,941,586 | |

Local Partner Funding for 2021-22 ('shadow precept' including IDB contributions) is confirmed as £2,941,586. This represents the core funding for the SRA. In addition to the shadow precept £1,367,000 of contingency funds are forecast to be carried over into 2021-22. These funds will be used to fund SRA running costs and the 2021-22 Enhanced Programme (detailed in ITEM 10a).

The proposed 2021-22 SRA budget is:

| 2021-22 Income | £ |
|--|--------------------|
| 2021-22 'Shadow' precept, including IDB contribution | £2,941,586 |
| Estimated contingency funds carried forward from 2020-21 | £1,367,000 |
| Total Income | £4,308,586 |
| | |
| 2021-22 Costs | |
| Enhanced Programme 2021-22 | £3,440,000 |
| SRA staffing and overheads (4 FTE) | £178,000 |
| Professional Support Services - legal, finance, audit, governance | £40,000 |
| Staff Training | £2,000 |
| Small projects and studies | £20,000 |
| SRA Technical Advisor (fixed term 12 months - 0.6 FTE) | £30,000 |
| Natural England Advice | £12,000 |
| Total Costs | £3,722,000 |
| Balance to be held as 2021-22 Contingency | £586,586 |
| | |
| Ongoing projects - funding brought forward from previous years* | |
| 'Shadow' precept and Enhanced Programme - works | £5,484,000 |
| Growth Deal Project – River Sowey / KSD Enhancement Scheme | £1,143,939 |
| Total Brought forward and Growth Deal | £6,627,939 |
| Total Budget approval | £10,936,525 |

*estimates as figures prepared prior to closure of 2020-21 accounts

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Date: 25 February 2021

Author: David Mitchell, Senior Manager, Somerset Rivers Authority