

## **Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper**

### **Somerset Rivers Authority Annual Report 2021-22**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. Review and comment on the draft SRA Annual Report 2021-22.
2. Approve the publication of the SRA Annual Report 2021-22.

#### **Purpose**

The Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Annual Report 2021-22 provides a detailed account of SRA activities during 2021-22. The Report's wider publication and distribution would demonstrate the SRA's accountability and show partners, MPs, councillors, stakeholders and residents the full range of SRA-funded works across Somerset.

#### **Background and context**

SRA annual reports have been compiled since 2015-16. The first was produced primarily for Government ministers, Somerset MPs and the SRA Board to show how the SRA had spent its 2015-16 Interim Funding, which included £1.9million from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra).

Since 2015 the number of SRA schemes has accumulated year on year. There is a lot to write about and illustrate. As people across Somerset pay for the SRA through a 'shadow precept', it is good to show the full range of what is being achieved by the SRA as a unique partnership devoted to giving Somerset extra flood protection and greater resilience.

#### **Latest status**

The Somerset Rivers Authority Annual Report 2021-22 gives readers very localised details of what the SRA does as well as some sense of the bigger historical picture. The document largely follows the pattern of last year's publication. No other authority in the UK is known to give such a full account of its activities, type by type, place by place.

Draft copies of the report were approvingly reviewed by SRA Management Group members on 1 July, and by SRA Joint Scrutiny Panel members on 8 July. A few small changes have since been made, to reflect comments (for example, page 5 now includes a reference to some SRA partners' declaration of a climate emergency) and

also to correct some points picked up in proof-reading (for example, the second reference to West Buckland on page 39 needed to be in bold).

A much shorter version of the report is also being produced, condensing facts from the full report into something much more concentratedly visual and graphic.

If the Board's approval is given to the formal publication of the SRA Annual Report 2021-22, both long and short versions will be circulated widely as PDFs, primarily by email, and their contents will be made available on the SRA's website. Printing will be kept to a minimum, to avoid unnecessary costs to the SRA.

### **Recommendations**

The SRA Board is asked to:

1. Review and comment on the draft Annual Report
2. Approve the publication of the SRA Annual Report 2021-22.

**Date: 14 July 2022**

**Author: Jonathan Hudston, SRA Communications Manager**