

ITEM 5

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board Paper

SRA Community Flood Action Fund update

RECOMMENDATION

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

Note the update on applications submitted to the SRA Community Flood Action Fund

Purpose of the item

To update the Board on the outcome of the first round of the SRA Community Flood Action Fund (CFAF) that was launched in December 2024.

Background and context

In September 2024 the SRA Board approved £200,000 being allocated to a new Community Flood Action Fund. CFAF is limited to requests of £3,000 to £20,000 per grant.

The purpose of the fund is to help people with good local knowledge of flooding problems take practical actions with obvious benefits that can be achieved quickly. The CFAF process is designed to have a 'light touch' approach to application and assessment compared to the SRA's main grant process.

CFAF will be open year-round with applications reviewed and approved on a quarterly basis, enabling prompt action to be taken. Once the £200,000 is fully utilised the fund will close for the year.

Current Status

The closing date for the first round of applications to the Community Flood Action Fund was 25 February 2025. The Review Panel met on 1 April to consider the applications.

- Number of applications submitted: 20
- Total value of applications: £253,752
- Largest grant request: £20,000
- Smallest grant request: £3,100
- Average amount of grant requested: £11,131

Table 1: Types and numbers of organisations submitting applications

Type of Organisation	Count
Town or Parish Council or Parish Meeting	15
Registered charity / Community Interest Company	2
Other	3
Total	20

Table 2: Application Types

Type of Application	Count
Community Flood Equipment (eg workwear / signage/ sandbags)	3
Capital equipment (eg pump)	1
Investigation, inspection only	2
Highways maintenance of road drainage only	2
Road works to reduce flooding, eg refurbishment and raising	2
Vegetation and watercourse, drainage clearance, general maintenance	8
New surface water drainage	2
Total	20

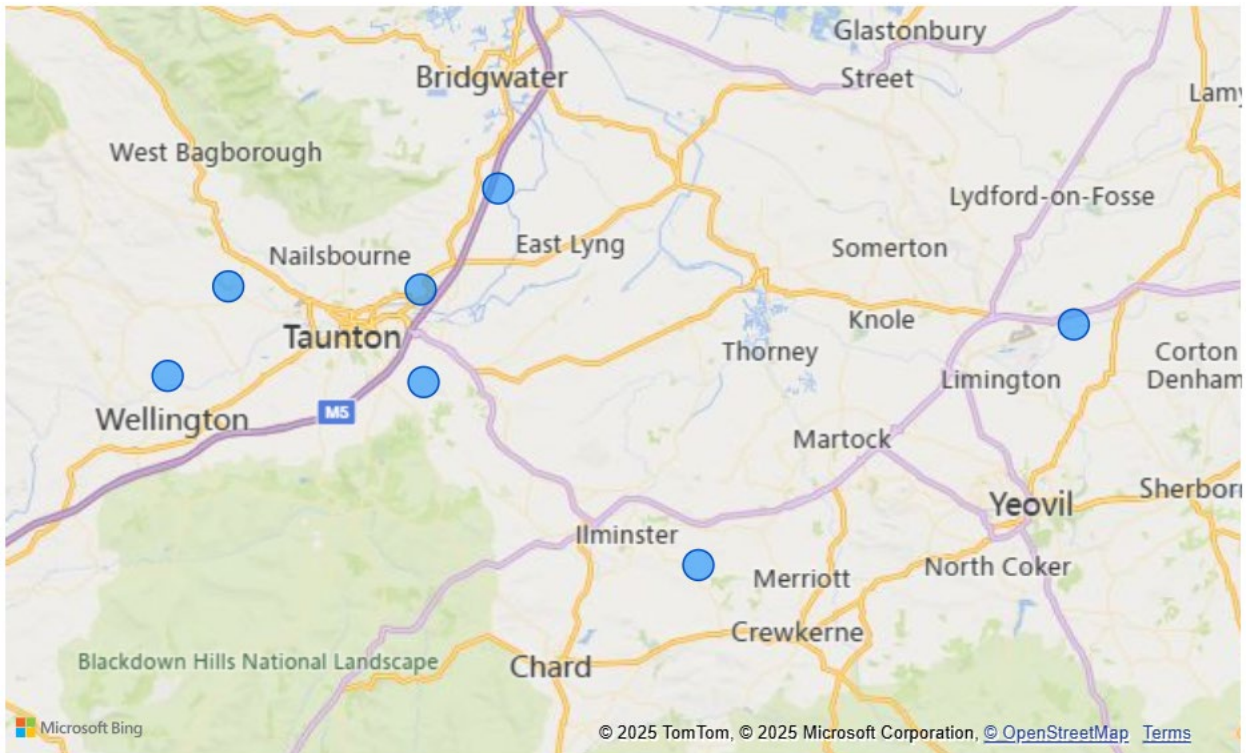
Table 3: Successful Applications

Seven applications were successful, getting grants totalling £77,349. The Fund's remaining balance is therefore £122,651.

Application Title	Total Project Cost	Grant requested	Grant award
West Camel Parish Council: River maintenance	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Long Sutton Parish Council: Knole Community Flood Relief Scheme	£15,466	£15,466	£15,466
West Monkton Parish Council: Blundells Lane Flood Alleviation Project	£7,300	£7,300	£7,300
Creech St Michael Parish Council: Mill Lane Flood Pump	£19,983	£19,483	£19,483
Cotford St Luke Parish Council: Flood plan	£26,000	£20,000	£15,000
Stoke St Mary Parish Council: Stoke Road (West) / Stoke Lane to Hayden Lane (Lower), Flood Control and Mitigation	£13,310	£12,000	£12,000

West Buckland Parish Council: Asham Lane Flood Relief	£3,656	£3,100	£3,100
Total	Total	£82,349	£77,349

Figure 1: Approximate project locations



Unsuccessful Applications

There were various reasons for applications being unsuccessful. Three applicants were encouraged to consider making some changes to their applications and resubmitting them at a later date. Three applications were redirected towards Somerset Prepared as a more appropriate source of grant funding. Three applications were assessed as not fitting with the grant application guidelines, so being ineligible for CFAF funding. Four applications were assessed as failing to establish a clear need for CFAF funding or proposing actions that were unlikely to address the problem described.

RECOMMENDATION

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

- Note the update on applications submitted to the SRA Community Flood Action Fund.

Date: 22 May 2025

Author: David Mitchell, Senior Manager, Somerset Rivers Authority