

## **Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board Paper**

### **Quarter 4 2025-26 Enhanced Programme Performance Monitoring Report**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. Note the overall delivery status of the schemes and activities within the current SRA Enhanced Programme for Quarter 4 2025-26 and the whole year 2025-26.

#### **Purpose of the item**

To provide Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board members with an overview of project progress across the SRA Enhanced Programme.

To enable the SRA Board to oversee progress towards meeting SRA objectives and ensuring effective use of funding.

#### **Background and context**

The SRA Strategy 2024-2034 published in March 2024 sets out a reporting structure for how the SRA Board can assess what is being achieved through the SRA's Enhanced Programme.

It specifies that annually the Board will receive:

1. Total number of schemes and activities funded year on year.
2. Total number of funded schemes and activities that are new.
3. Number of partnership projects – projects involving two or more organisations.
4. A summary of schemes and activities completed in the last financial year with a statement on outputs and outcomes.
5. Analysis of the programme assessing how schemes and activities are contributing to achieving our objectives.

Quarterly the Board will receive:

1. Amount of spend per quarter on scheme delivery as a percentage of total funds available
2. Summary of total programme spend assessed against funds available and forecast future spend
3. Summary of progress on delivery of the programme assessed against originally agreed timescales.
4. A report on completed schemes and activities with a statement about outputs and outcomes

## Quarter 4 2025-26 Overview

The first two metrics for quarterly reporting are covered in Item 9a Quarter 4 Finance Report.

### 1. Summary of progress on delivery of the programme assessed against originally agreed timescales

Table A and Chart A below provide an overview of how projects are progressing compared to the project milestone deadlines they set in their Grant Agreements. Examples of milestones 1 - 4 are shown at the end of this paper, on page 9.

**Table A**

<b>Milestone Description</b> Examples at bottom of paper	<b>Milestone 1</b>	<b>Milestone 2</b>	<b>Milestone 3</b>	<b>Milestone 4</b>
<b>Completed Early:</b> Ahead of schedule				1
<b>Completed As Planned:</b> Completed within schedule	31	28	20	12
<b>On Track:</b> Not yet completed, on track to be completed within schedule			2	6
<b>Behind Schedule:</b> Not yet completed, behind schedule	2	2	6	17
<b>Completed Late:</b> Completed but behind schedule	11	13	15	8

**Chart A**

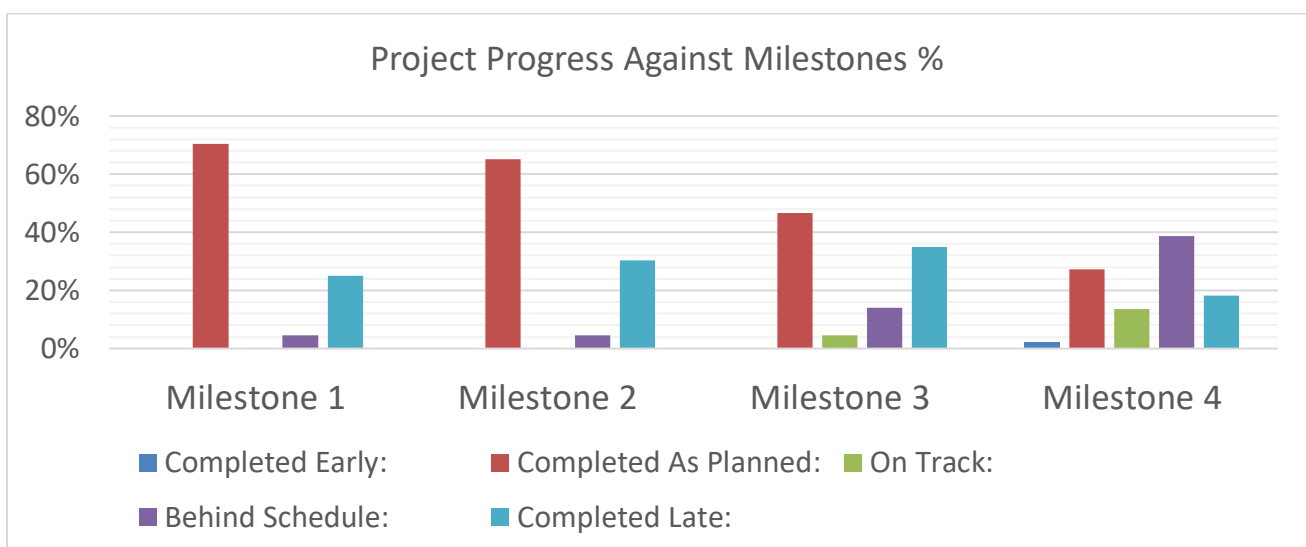


Table B below is a summary of the number of projects that are behind schedule for hitting their next milestone. For example, three projects are between one and six months behind meeting their current milestone.

**Table B**

Period behind Schedule	1 to 6 months	7 to 12 months	13 to 24 months	2 to 3 years	3 years +
Number of Projects	3	3	2	5	8

Projects that are delayed for more than two years are reported as such for various reasons. In some instances, projects are largely complete but with a few small outstanding elements and until those are completed and funding claimed they cannot be ‘closed down’. Other projects are suffering from being complex and having challenging development phases. Each of the organisations leading these projects have confirmed they do intend to complete the projects.

## 2. Report on completed schemes and activities with a statement about outputs

For the purposes of this report, a ‘completed scheme’ is defined as one for which the final claim has been submitted to the SRA for payment. In some cases, project activity may have been completed in an earlier reporting quarter but the claim submitted in a later quarter. Five schemes were completed in Quarter 4 of 2025–26. The ‘Funding Year’ refers to the year in which the activity was originally approved for funding.

Table C below summarises the number of schemes and activities completed during 2025–26, with a total of 13 schemes completed over the year.

**Table C**

Completed Schemes and Activities Quarter 1 2025-26	Funding Year
River Sowy-King's Sedgemoor Drain Enhancements Scheme - Outfall Refurbishment Works	2024-25
Chard Urban Water Runoff Resilience Scheme	2023-24
Completed Schemes and Activities Quarter 2 2025-26	Funding Year
King's Sedgemoor Drain Bank Raising (Phase One completion)	2025-26
Watercourse Improvements, The Drive, Burnham-on-Sea	2022-23
Chard Reservoir Improvements	2024-25

<b>Completed Schemes and Activities Quarter 3 2025-26</b>	<b>Funding Year</b>
Structures Silt Removal Programme (Little Bridge, Stoke Trister, near Wincanton)	2024-25
Structures Silt Removal Programme (Hawkaller Bridge, A38 Blackbird Bends)	2023-24
River Sowey – King's Sedgemoor Drain Enhancements Scheme including outfalls (Environment Agency delivery)	2022-23
<b>Completed Schemes and Activities Quarter 4 2025-26</b>	<b>Funding Year</b>
Highways Enhanced Maintenance: Gully Cleansing	2025-26
Bridgwater Tidal Barrier (Contribution)	2025-26
Building Local Resilience Community Engagement Team now core staffing	2025-26
Taunton Flood Action Plan	2023-24
Main River Maintenance	2025-26

Table D provides the list of outputs from the Enhanced Programme that have been delivered between January and March (Quarter 4 2025-26) by workstream category.

The Total column provides the data for the whole year 2025-26.

**Table D**

<b>Type of Output</b>	<b>Quarter 4 2025-26</b>	<b>Total 2025-26</b>
<b>W1: Dredging and River Management</b>		
Agricultural land - reduced flood risk (ha)		<b>2197</b>
Main line rail network - reduced flood risk (km)		<b>3.5</b>
Main river maintenance - No of locations (outfall jetting and weed clearance)		<b>14</b>
Minor roads - reduced flood risk (km)		<b>11.2</b>
No of commercial properties - reduced flood risk		<b>447</b>
No of homes better protected - reduced flood risk		<b>416</b>
No of structures / bridges desilted		<b>1</b>
No of outfalls refurbished		<b>2</b>
<b>W2: Land Management Including Natural Flood Management</b>	<b>Quarter 4 2025-26</b>	<b>Total 2025-26</b>
Agricultural land with increased resilience(ha)		<b>3</b>
Attenuation storage area created		<b>4</b>
Creation of bund		<b>2</b>
Floodplain restoration (ha)		<b>1</b>
Hedge planting (m)	210	<b>1386</b>
Hedge planting locations		<b>4</b>

No of grants offered for Trees for Water Action Fund	8	21
No of Highway flooding issues referred to FWAG SW for consultation	18	26
No of Hills to Levels grant schemes completed	2	23
No of land / soil management visits/workshops	7	32
No of natural flood management (NFM) flood stakeholder groups set up	1	8
No of new grants offered for the Hills to Levels programme	4	22
No of NFM features: attenuation area, pond restoration	1	14
No of NFM features: Creation of bund		4
No of NFM features: Leaky, woody or trash dams constructed		16
No of older NFM schemes revisited/monitored	3	11
No of Trees for Water Action Fund schemes completed	4	19
No of Trees / shrubs planted	1400	8869
Peatland restoration (ha)		1
Study/Report completed		2
No of NFM features: in channel, flow spreader, bank regrading, swales, scrapes, silt traps etc	8	26
Attenuation area / ditch work desilted		4
<b>W3: Urban Water Management</b>	<b>Quarter 4 2025-26</b>	<b>Total 2025-26</b>
No of CCTV Surveys made	1	3
No of CCTV Surveys made (Wessex Water)		1
<b>W4: Resilient Infrastructure</b>	<b>Quarter 4 2025-26</b>	<b>Total 2025-26</b>
No of gullies cleansed	6376	23182
<b>W5: Building Local Resilience</b>	<b>Quarter 4 2025-26</b>	<b>Total 2025-26</b>
No of Adapting Somerset (Act to Adapt) visits / workshops (Somerset Wildlife Trust)	10	20
No of business resilience engagement / training events		1
No of Climate Adaptation Plans completed (Somerset Wildlife Trust)	1	4
No of communities visited by Community NFM adviser	27	61
No of community visits by (Community Engagement Team)	9	48
No of equipment / training grants awarded	2	11
No of Highways flood signs installed		1
No of Local Community Network, council meetings attended (Community Engagement Team)	4	20
No of Local Community Network, council meetings attended (Community NFM Advisor)	1	1
No of Moors Associations developed but require ongoing support	10	10
No of Moors Associations set up and self-governing	1	1

No of public events attended (Community Engagement Team)	30	<b>72</b>
No of school / college visits	8	<b>14</b>
No of Somerset Prepared Roadshows		<b>4</b>
No of training sessions / workshops		<b>7</b>
Partner / collaborator meetings		<b>14</b>
No of Adapting Somerset (Act to Adapt) visits / workshops (Community Engagement Team)	1	<b>1</b>
No of community Flood Group meetings attended (Community Engagement Team)	4	<b>22</b>
No of public events attended (Community NFM adviser)	1	<b>3</b>
No of Section 19 meetings supported by Community Engagement Team		<b>2</b>
No of communities visited by Community Engagement Team	9	<b>49</b>
No of Moors Associations Board meetings		<b>2</b>
<b>Community Flood Action Fund (CFAF)</b>	<b>Quarter 4 2025-26</b>	<b>Total 2025-26</b>
No of Community Flood Action Fund grants awarded	2	<b>11</b>
No of Community Flood Action Fund applications received	7	<b>22</b>
No of Community Flood Action Fund schemes completed	2	<b>8</b>

### 3. This section provides annual reporting as set out in the SRA 2024-34 Strategy

**3.1** Total number of schemes and activities funded year on year. Table E below provides an overview of the number of schemes and activities the SRA has delivered since its inception, including the funding source. Local Partner funding is raised annually by an additional amount<sup>1</sup> on Council Tax and direct contributions from the Parrett and Axe Brue Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs).

**Table E**

Funding Year and Source	No of Actions	Status of Action			
		Active	Complete	On hold	Withdrawn
2015 DCLG <sup>2</sup>	11	-	11	-	-
2015-16 Interim Defra	39	-	39	-	-
2016 HotSWLEP <sup>3</sup>	5	2	3	-	-
2016-17 Local Partner	36	-	27	-	9
2017-18 Local Partner	24	1	19	-	4
2018-19 Local Partner	25	1	17	-	7
2019-20 Local Partner	35	2	23	-	10
2020-21 Local Partner	27	7	17	-	3
2021-22 Local Partner	24	1	20	-	3
2022-23 Local Partner	26	4	19	-	3
2023-24 Local Partner	18	3	14	-	1
2024-25 Local Partner	18	7	10	1	
2025-26 Local Partner	14	8	5	-	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>

**3.2** Total number of funded schemes and activities that are new.

A total of 14 schemes and activities were included in the 2025-26 Enhanced Programme at the start of the year. There were no new schemes added to the Enhanced Programme during the year.

<sup>1</sup> HC791\_Alternative\_notional\_amounts.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Communities and Local Government

<sup>3</sup> Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership

**3.3** Number of partnership projects – projects involving two or more organisations. We are encouraging more working together across organisations, leading to effective delivery of projects that have multiple benefits. Table G below provides an overview of how partners and other organisations are working together in delivering projects.

<b>Table G: Delivery Organisation</b>	<b>Formal Partnership</b>	<b>Informal Partnership</b>
FWAG SW / Reimagining the Levels	1	
Somerset Council: Emergency Planning, Response and Recovery (EPRR) / Environment Agency		2
Somerset Council: Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)		1
Somerset Council: Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) / Environment Agency		1
Somerset Council: Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) / SRA Core Team		1
Somerset Council: LLFA / Wessex Water	4	
SRA Core Team		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

**3.4** A summary of schemes and activities completed in the last financial year with a statement on outputs and outcomes – Please see Section 2.

**3.5** Analysis of the programme assessing how schemes and activities are contributing to achieving our objectives. The 2025-26 Annual Report will provide a comprehensive overview of all SRA delivery by Workstream, including summaries of how these contribute to the objectives within the 2024-34 Strategy.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. Note the overall delivery status of the schemes and activities within the current SRA Enhanced Programme for Q4 2025-26 and the whole year 2025-26.

**Date:** 28 May 2025

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*Appendix: Examples of Milestones* is below on page 9.

## **Appendix: Examples of Milestones**

### Milestone One:

- Initial scoping and assessment
- Initial survey and methodology
- Define partners and stakeholders
- Development of framework
- Outline design

### Milestone Two:

- Commence programming of work
- Data Review and tender
- Procurement
- Consents and permissions
- Detailed design

### Milestone Three:

- Works tendered and awarded
- Construction start date
- Works commencement date
- Engagement and communication
- Draft report

### Milestone Four:

- Construction or works complete
- Final report publication
- Launch date