

## **Somerset Rivers Authority Board Paper to Note**

### **Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Annual Report 2025-26**

The first SRA Annual Report was produced after the end of the 2015-16 financial year, primarily for Government ministers, Somerset MPs and the SRA Board to show how the SRA had spent its initial 2015-16 funding. This funding included £1.9million from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and a total of £800,000 from Somerset County Council, the five district councils that then existed (Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset, Taunton Deane and West Somerset), and the Parrett and Axe Brue Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs).

Since 2016-17, Somerset council tax payers have provided the SRA with annual funding, and the two IDBs have continued to provide £10,000 a year each. Every year it has therefore been considered important to show people the range of what is being achieved by the SRA and to demonstrate a willing attitude towards accountability. That is why all annual reports since 2015-16 have provided a detailed account of the SRA's activities, with localised facts given along with some context. Were all SRA annual reports to be put together, they would now total 509 pages.

#### **The SRA Annual Report 2025-26**

This year's report was published on 24 August. In its main illustrated form, it is 40 pages long. It concentrates on what got done between the start of April 2025 and the end of March 2026. It largely follows the pattern established in previous years but has some new features. These include a foreword by the SRA Manager to accompany that by the Chair, more feedback from residents and assessments of the observed results of works, along with some more visual elements. A simple accessible text version has also been produced, and the entire contents have been set out as separate pages on the SRA website, so they are much more visible than they would be just as PDFs.

Copies of the report are still in the process of being distributed widely. Recipients so far have included Somerset MPs, elected members of Somerset Council, Somerset town and parish councils and parish meetings, journalists and many other interested parties. The report will continue to be publicised through social media and other outlets.

Two hundred copies of the report have been printed. They are particularly valued as a resource by the SRA's community team at meetings and events across Somerset.

A copy will be given to each SRA Board member.

Members and SRA partners are asked to help in sharing and publicising the report.

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