

Report to: Essex Flood Partnership Board	Report Number: Agenda Item 5 (EFPB/3/19)
Date of report: 10/01/2019	County Divisions affected by the decision: All
Title of report: 2018/19 Essex Capital Flood Programme update	
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1. Purpose of report

1.1. To update the Flood Board on the 2018/19 Capital Flood Programme.

2. Background

2.1 The Capital Flood Programme has a £19 million ECC budget broken down over 5 years. It has an ambitious programme in 2018/19 of £4.125 million for grants and projects. To deliver schemes on the Flood Programme, a variety of consultants and in house expertise are being employed to design and build individual projects.

2.2 The Capital Flood Programme is broken down into three elements:

- 1) Property Level Resilience (PLR) is a scheme that offers residents of previously flooded properties an opportunity to apply for individual property protection. The applications are then vetted and prioritised.

- 2) The Community Flood Improvement Fund (CFIF) is aimed at assisting other authorities, charities, community groups, farmers or landowners committed to delivering projects resulting in the reduction of flooding to Essex resident's properties.
- 3) Capital funded Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) forms the bulk of the programme; this focuses on delivering projects on the ground in the areas most at risk of surface water flooding. Below is more specific detail on the Capital Programme FAS.

3. External funding update

3.1 Over the past three years, as a result of partnership working with a wide range of stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and district councils, the Flood and Water Management team has attracted external contributions and income to support a number of functions. These include

- Feasibility and assessment studies
- Delivery of capital flood alleviation schemes
- Delivery of the Property Level Resilience projects

Each year as part of the capital programme, we have a target to achieve 25% of the budget through external contributions. The forecast for this year's income generation is £1,34m which equates to 33%. The contributions are as follows:

- Flood Defence Grant in Aid £656k
- Local Levy £541k
- External stakeholder contributions £140k

This is in addition to

- £125,771 generated in 2014/15;
- £225,227 generated in 2015/16;
- £436,490 generated in 2016/17 and;
- £1.63m generated in 2017/18

3.2 Delivery programme

- COL2B The Hythe – Work is complete.
- HAR2 Kingsmoor – Work is complete.
- HAR10 Nettleswell – Work is complete.
- HAR6 Brays Grove phase 1 – Work is complete.
- HAR6 Brays Grove phase 2 – Work is complete.
- ROC7 Ashingdon – Due complexities over the proposed development this scheme is now on hold.
- MAL2 Maldon Central – Planning application has been submitted, tender process has started.
- BAS17 Pitsea – Detailed designs are complete and the tender has been awarded. Construction is programmed to start on the 28th January.
- B3 Braintree – Construction is programmed to start on the 21st January.
- W6 Witham – Construction is due to start on the 14th January.
- EPP2 Loughton – Planning has been approved and tender process is complete.
- Sponge project – Both onsite and offsite phases of this project are complete.

3.3 The total forecast no. of properties benefitting from reduced surface water flood risk as a result of the schemes on the 2018/19 capital programme is 329; this is above the 298 target set at the start of the year.

4. Community Flood Improvement Fund (CFIF) - Update

4.1 Each year £400k of the capital budget is set aside to fund CFIF schemes. At present there are eight schemes in progress, these schemes are as follows:

- Ipswich Road, Tendring;
- Wickham Bishops;
- Thrift Green
- Hardy's Green

- Church End Lane, Runwell
- Williams Drive, Braintree
- Nettleswell Pond, Harlow
- Howbridge Road, Witham

The total value of these applications is £420k with the additional 20k being provided from the bigger scheme pot.

5. Future flood programme

5.1 The flood programme is currently in the fourth year of a five year programme. During the current programme we hope to demonstrate the success achieved and the benefits delivered to residents of Essex. The current programme has seen over 75 sites investigated for the potential to deliver capital schemes.

Unfortunately, not all potential sites on the list will be investigated before the end of the current programme. In order to continue with this valuable work, the flood team are in the process of producing a business plan to identify a way forward to continue the capital programme beyond the 2019/20 financial year.

The new business plan will outline outstanding sites on our current list and include new sites raised through the Clacton and Sawbridgeworth Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) that are being carried out this year.

By the end of the current programme it is hoped over £5.9m pounds worth of external funding will have been realised through the delivery of schemes. The knowledge gained from these projects will help to unlock more funding in the future and reduce the risk of surface water flooding to more residential properties.

Despite the successes of the programme, it is worth noting all future capital funded projects at ECC will be under scrutiny, due to the size and cost of the Capital Programme. It is likely the overall Capital budget will reduce in 2019/20 and projects going forward will be expected to project substantial returns on investment.

ECC officers will be highlighting the funding generated so far from this programme and the importance of this work to Essex residents at risk from flooding to secure longevity.

The business plan for the 2019/20 floods capital programme has been authorised and has a budget of £3.7m. In terms of income generation this will be our biggest year with a forecast target of £2.1m. In order to achieve this target, we have worked extensively with our Environment Agency partners to align our programmes and deliver the schemes that most benefit the residents of Essex.

6. Recommendation

6.1 For Essex Flood Board Members to note the successes of the capital programme. Including this year's forecast achievements we have reduced surface water flood risk to over 1000 properties and generated more than £3.8m worth external income. Using the lessons learned, combined with developing stronger partnership working the aim is to continue the upwards trend and we hope to retain this level of service, and where possible improve it for future years.