

Report title: Essex Floods Capital Programme		EFPB/03/21
		AGENDA ITEM 6
Report to: Essex Flood Board		
Report author: David Chapman Project Delivery Manager		
Date: 20 th October 2021		For: Discussion
Enquiries to: John Meehan (Head of Environment and Climate Action) john.meehan@essex.gov.uk David Chapman (Project Delivery Manager) dave.chapman@essex.gov.uk		
County Divisions affected: All Essex		

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update the Flood Board on the 2020/21 Capital Flood Programme

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 For Essex Flood Board Members to note the successes of the capital programme. Using the lessons learned, combined with developing stronger partnerships, 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.

3. Summary of issue

3.1 The initial 6 years of the capital programme is now complete. Over this period, we have delivered several projects ranging in size and complexity, been nominated and won awards but we continue to push the boundaries in terms of design interventions and achievable benefits.

3.2 During the current programme we have demonstrated 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.

3.3 By the end of the current programme, we will have generated £7.2m pounds worth of external funding will have been realised through the delivery of schemes on the capital programme and reduced surface water flood risk to over 1400 residential properties.

3.4 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 in Essex. To deliver schemes on the Flood Programme, we are using several consultants and in-house expertise to design and build individual projects.

3.5 The Capital Flood Programme is broken down into 2 elements

- 1) Property Flood Resilience (PFR) 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) Capital funded Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) forms the bulk of our programme; this area 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.

- West Mersea – Works have started on the delivery of the temporary defence barrier scheme. Site compound and ancillary works are complete with a start date for main construction of the 8th November 2021.
- River Slade – Construction is now complete, and the scheme is fully operational. Phase 2 of the project is being looked at with a view to being delivered in conjunction with planned highway improvements in 2023/24.
- Brent D Ursuline School – Planning has been approved, subject to conditions and a provisional start date of November 2021 has been agreed.
- Make rain happy project – This project is now complete and fully operational.
- 7 new optimisation projects have been started and will be complete by the end of February 2022. These projects will then move into delivery for the 2022/23 financial year.

To note this project will contribute towards ECC's ambitions to meet climate change commitments by delivering schemes that offer flood mitigation, Green Infrastructure, habitat creation and biodiversity net gain. The following strategic policies will also be met when delivering the floods capital programme;

- Improve the health of people in Essex
- Help to secure stronger, safer, and more unneighbourly communities
- Help to secure sustainable development and protect the environment
- Facilitate growing communities and new homes
- Develop the capability, performance, and engagement of our people

4. Links to Essex Vision

4.1 This report links to the following aims in the Essex Vision

- Strengthen communities through participation
- Develop our County sustainably
- Connect us to each other and the world

- Share prosperity with everyone

For more information visit www.essexfuture.org.uk

4.2 This links to the following strategic aims in the Organisational Plan:

- Help create great places to grow up, live and work
- Transform the council to achieve more with less

5. Financial implications

5.1 Over the completed six years of the programme, we have developed strong working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and District Councils. During this process the Flood and Water Management team has been able to attract external contributions and income to support several functions, these include

- Feasibility and assessment studies
- Delivery of capital flood alleviation schemes
- Delivery of the Property Level Protection project

5.2 We have a target of generating 25% of our annual budget from external stakeholders, but this year we aim to raise this to 50%.

Previous contributions to the flood programme are as follows;

- £125,771 contributions secured in 2014/15
- £225,227 contributions secured in 2015/16
- £436,490 contributions and income secured in 2016/17
- £1.63m contributions secured in 2017/18
- £1.57m contributions secured in 2018/19
- £1.53m contributions secured in 2019/20

6. Equality and Diversity implications

6.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

- 6.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 6.3 The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic. *(Describe the specific equality and diversity implications of the proposal, any adverse findings from the equality impact assessment and your proposed mitigation measures)*

7. List of appendices

- Equality Impact Assessment

8. List of Background papers

- 2020/21 FBC

I approve the above recommendations set out above for the reasons set out in the report.	Date
Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	
Andrew Cook interim Executive Director for Place & Public Health	