

Report title: 2020/21 Essex Capital Flood Programme update	
Report to: Essex Flood Partnership Board	
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Date: 06/10/2020	For: Discussion
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County Divisions affected: 'All Essex'	

1. Purpose of report

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

2. Background

2.1 The initial 5 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. In order to deliver schemes on the Flood Programme, we are using a number of consultants and in-house expertise to design and build individual projects.

2.2 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.

3. External funding update for capital schemes

3.1 Over the completed five 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 a number of functions, these include

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

We had an early target of generating 25% of our annual budget from external stakeholders such as those mentioned above. In 2020/21 the funding from ECC was initially deferred for a year so the expectation was that we would need to generate all funds from external sources. However through negotiation with the Essex's finance team we have secured an advance of £950,000 from next years capital programme.

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

3.2 Delivery programme

- West Mersea – Using the recently advanced £950,000 we have been able to accelerate delivery of schemes that were deferred at the start of the year. Work is programmed to start in January 2021 on phase 1 of the scheme which is the short section across The Lane. Phase 2 will then follow on in the 2021/22 financial year when our deferred flood budget is available.
- West Horndon – Legal discussions are ongoing. Delivery has been deferred until 2021/22 financial to allow for agreements to be finalised but the scheme is designed, and a contractor has been awarded the work. Should the legal situation progress quicker than expected, we can accelerate delivery.
- River Slade – There have been some design changes to the scheme which have meant delays in construction but, we have a provisional start date of the 2nd November.
- MAL2 Maldon Central – Work began on site on the 18th May. Work on the detention basin, spillway and AW connection is now complete and we started construction on the improved highway drainage in Marlowe Close. Our FDGiA application has been approved.
- Brent D Ursuline School - Using the recently advanced £950,000 we have been able to accelerate delivery of schemes that were deferred at the start of the year. Work is programmed to start in January 2021.
- 7 new detailed design projects – As part of the advanced £950,000 we have identified 7 new detailed design projects to complete before the end of this financial year. These projects will then move into delivery for the 2021/22 financial year.

4 Flood programme summary

4.1 The flood programme has finished its 5th year. 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. 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.

4.2 By the end of the current programme, if our bid to central government is successful, we will have generated £9.0m pounds worth of external funding will have been realised through the delivery of schemes and reduced surface water flood risk to over 1400 residential properties.

5 Good news story

5.1 I'm pleased to announce that the Flood Team have recently submitted four applications to the Green Recovery Challenge fund. The schemes are all aimed at delivering small scale NFM measures that will address surface water flood risk and enhance the biodiversity and ecology of our sites. We have also partnered with Trees for Cities on the bids, so that we can include areas of new tree planting. If the bids are successful, the projects will run until the end of the 2021/22 financial year and are 100% funded. The application process will take approximately five weeks to determine so an update will be available at the next flood board.

5 Recommendation

6.1 For Essex Flood Board Members to note the successes of the capital programme. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the 2020/21 capital programme was deferred for a year, but the team have continued to work on schemes and unlocking external funding. Through having shovel ready schemes, we have managed to advance £950,000 worth of capital funding that will be used to start work on the ground earlier than expected and prepare 7 schemes for delivery in future years of the programme. 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.