

Report title: 2020/21 Essex Capital Flood Programme update	
Report to: Essex Flood Partnership Board	
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Date: 09 July 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 initial target of generating 25% of our annual budget from external stakeholders such as those mentioned above. The difference in 2020/21 is that the funding from ECC has been deferred for a year so we must generate all funds from external sources. We have submitted a bid to central government for £3.6m which if successful will enable us to continue with the 2020/21 as originally programmed. We should have a decision by the next flood board.

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 – Planning permission has been obtained. Work is continuing on securing the site for the storage container.
- West Horndon – Legal discussions have now progressed, and delivery is programmed for 2020/21.
- BAS17 Pitsea phase 2 – The scheme is complete and fully operational. The project has generated FDGiA funding from our EA partners.
- River Slade – Site clearance is complete, and we have a provisional start date of the 3rd August. The project has generated FDGiA funding from our EA partners.
- MAL2 Maldon Central – Work began on site on the 18th May. Connection to the AW system is complete and work has started on the detention basin.
- Wivenhoe – This is a small scale NFM project that will install 3 leaky dams. Our EA partners are also looking at upsizing culverts downstream of the dams.

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 The BAS17 Pitsea scheme is now complete. The Pitsea scheme consists of 2 earth bunds with landscaped attenuation areas behind. The bunds are connected by a swale and can hold up to a combined storage volume of 2650m³. the scheme has been designed to reduce surface water flooding to 48 properties in a 1:20yr storm event. The scheme was designed to be material neutral, which meant minimal volumes of material were imported or exported.

6 Recommendation

6.1 For Essex Flood Board Members to note the successes of the capital programme. Including this year's achievements we have reduced surface water flood risk to over 1400 properties and generated more than £9.0m worth external funding . 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.