

<b>Report title:</b> 2021/22 Essex Capital Flood Programme	AGENDA ITEM 6 <b>EFPB/02/22</b>
<b>Report to:</b> Essex Flood Board	
<b>Report author:</b> David Chapman Project Delivery Manager	
<b>Date:</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	<b>For:</b> Discussion
<b>Enquiries to:</b> John Meehan (Head of Environment and Climate Action) <a href="mailto:john.meehan@essex.gov.uk">john.meehan@essex.gov.uk</a> David Chapman (Project Delivery Manager) <a href="mailto:dave.chapman@essex.gov.uk">dave.chapman@essex.gov.uk</a>	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update the Flood Board on the 2021/22 Capital Flood Programme

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The 2021/22 capital programme was made up of schemes and funding that were previously deferred because of capital funding reprioritisation at the start of the 2020/21 financial year. The reprioritisation meant that the initial funding and property benefits set for 2020/21 have been split over the last 2 financial years. Our targets were to better protect 185 residential properties and generate £1.75 million from external sources. I'm pleased to confirm that we have achieved 392 properties better protected and generated £2 million worth of external funding. We have also managed to achieve £150k in efficiency savings.
- 2.2 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 Floods capital programme has now completed 8 years. 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. During the life of the programme, the team have investigated more than 85 sites for the potential to deliver capital schemes.

3.3 By the end of the current programme, we will have generated £7.5m 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 1500 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 bespoke mitigation 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 – Construction is in week 23. We have experienced delays as result of inclement weather, unforeseen design changes and the dissolving of the Old City Flood Gate Group. As a result of these issues, the scheme is being reviewed and changes to the scope of the project may occur.
- Brent D Ursuline School – Work on site is in its 11<sup>th</sup> week. Some delays have been caused by wet weather recently and this has meant that the delivery programme has been extended. As it currently stands the project is forecast for completion in June 2022.
- Urban Tree Challenge Fund - Is designed to support the planting and maintenance of more mature trees and understand better their flood resilience benefits in an urban setting. The project is scored favourably in an area such as Canvey Island owing to the lack of canopy cover and high levels of surface water flood risk, the density of people and the levels of social deprivation in the area. We have partnered with Castle Point Borough Council and Town Council on the project.
- Polstead Close, Rayleigh - This scheme was identified through the S19 flood investigation process. Several properties have been previously flood by surface water runoff from surrounding land. A small bund with toe drainage was installed to channel the surface water away from the properties, into a nearby drainage system. This work was carried out on land owned by the Wildlife Trust.
- Western Esplanade, Canvey - This scheme is being delivered in partnership with Essex Highways. Work had already begun on improving the surface water drainage in the area when an opportunity was identified to create additional storage and install new gullies to benefit properties from a long history of surface water flooding. The flood team have provided funding for the

additional work to be delivered and benefits to be provided. This is a project that demonstrates the great working relationship between highways and the floods team.

- Telford Place, Chelmsford - This was a previous CFIF scheme that has been delayed through legal and design complications. Failure of an existing soakaway system has put 17 residential properties at risk of surface water flooding. Following a feasibility study, it was decided the following mitigation measure would be installed; lockable manhole covers, new pipe connections, pump installation, new soakaway, and silt trap.
- The 7 optimisation projects are now complete. 4 of these projects have identified viable solutions that are moving into design and delivery for the 2022/23 financial year.

To note this programme 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](http://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 8 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 Property Flood Resilience projects

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
- £1.68m contributions secured in 2020/21

## **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

<b>I approve the above recommendations set out above for the reasons set out in the report.</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport</b>	
<b>Mark Ash, Executive Director for Climate, Environment and Customer Services</b>	