

Report title: 2020/21 Essex Capital Flood Programme update	
Report to: Essex Flood Board	
Report author: David Chapman Project Delivery Manager	
Date: 18 th February 2021	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: John Meehan (Head of Environment and Climate Action)	
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 but in September 2020, we were able to advance £950,000 to deliver projects and develop schemes for delivery in 2021/21. 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. Due to COVID restrictions, temporary works design changes and inclement weather, the construction start date has been rescheduled for March 2021. Construction will continue into the 2021/22 financial year when the rest of the deferred flood budget is available.
- West Horndon – More detailed flood modelling has been made available by the landowner and their consultants, and a revised economics assessment has been carried out. Unfortunately, the revised economics for the site had failed to produce a financially viable option and construction of the Flood Alleviation Scheme has now been cancelled.
- River Slade – Construction is now in its 11th week. We have lost around 6-7 days of construction due to inclement weather and COVID restrictions, but as things stand, we are scheduled for completion in mid-April.
- MAL2 Maldon Central – Work on this scheme is complete and the flood storage area is now fully operational.
- Brent D Ursuline School – Due to design and access issues, the need for revised construction details has delayed the start of this project. It is currently estimated that work will start in April 2021.
- Make rain happy project – This is a retrofitting SuDS project that is being delivered in partnership with Anglian Water.
- Laindon – The BAS8 Laindon scheme has been delivered in partnership with Colchester Borough Council. The scheme consists of water course upgrades, additional storage, vegetation clearance, reconnection of lost highway drainage and improved hydraulics of the system.
- 3 new optimisation projects have been started and will be complete by the end of April 2021. 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, 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.

5 Good news story

5.1 The Thorndon Country Park project was shortlisted for two awards at the November 2020 British Construction Industry Awards ceremony. Unfortunately, we were not successful in winning either of the categories we were nominated for, but we did make the top 3 nominations on the night. In February we will also be submitting two applications for the Environment Agency's Flood & Coastal awards

6 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 10 schemes for delivery in future years of the 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.