

<b>Report to:</b> Essex Flood Partnership Board	<b>Report Number:</b> EFPB/10/19  <b>AGENDA ITEM 5</b>
<b>Date of report:</b> 13/06/2019	<b>County Divisions affected by the decision:</b> All
<b>Title of report:</b> 2019/20 Essex Capital Flood Programme update	
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## 1. Purpose of report

1.1. To update the Flood Board on the 2019/20 Capital Flood Programme

## 2. Background

2.1 The Capital Flood Programme has a £19 million ECC budget broken down over 5 years. The 2019/20 capital programme has an ambitious budget of £3.7 million for projects with a view to obtain £2.1 million in external funding. 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 3 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) The Community Flood Improvement Fund (CFIF) was aimed at assisting other authorities, charities, community groups, farmers or landowners committed to delivering projects resulting in the reduction of flooding to Essex resident's properties. However this programme has ended due to existing financial challenges.
- 3) 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 four 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 2019/20 is that we were tasked with increasing external contributions, I'm pleased to report that we have been able to secure £2.1m from our Environment Agency colleagues to support the £1.6m contribution from ECC thereby resulting in generating 65% of our annual capital budget from external funding.

This is in addition to

- £125,771 contributions secured in 2014/15

- £225,227 contributions secured in 2015/16 and
- £436,490 contributions and income secured in 2016/17
- £1.63m contributions secured in 2017/18
- £1.57m contributions secured in 2018/19

### 3.2 **Delivery programme**

- B3 Braintree – This scheme is complete and fully operational. This project has generated funding from our EA partners.
- W6 Witham – This scheme is complete and fully operational. This project has generated funding from our EA partners.
- West Mersea – The Community Emergency Group has been set up and design is being finalised. The first phase of the project is in the public highway. The second phase requires listed building consent, which we are in the process of obtaining.
- West Horndon – This scheme has been granted planning consent and a contractor has been appointed but has previously been put on hold due to legal negotiations. Legal discussions have now progressed and delivery is programmed for 2019/20.
- BAS17 Pitsea phase 2 – This phase was on hold until legal covenants had been explored. These have now been reviewed and delivery is programmed for 2019/20.
- EPP2 Hillyfields – The tender has been awarded, planning application has been approved and all conditions have been discharged but works have not started on site as we are finalising the legal agreement with Loughton PC and the Corporation of London.
- River Slade – We were initially approached by the EA to make a contribution to this scheme but due to changes in scope and difficulty in the EA delivering the work, ECC are now delivering the project.

- MAL2 Maldon Central – Planning application has been approved and design is being finalised.

3.3 The total number of properties benefitting from reduced surface water flood risk as a result of the schemes on the 2019/20 capital programme is 337.

## **4 Flood programme summary**

4.1 The flood programme has finished its 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

By the end of the current programme it is estimated that over £6.0m pounds worth of external funding will have been realised through the delivery of schemes and reduced surface water flood risk to over 1300 residential properties.

## **5 Good news story**

The completed Basildon Hospital scheme has been shortlisted for two awards. The first is the EA's Flood and Coastal award and the second is the British Construction Industry Awards. More updates on the awards will be available on the day of the meeting.

## **6 Recommendation**

5.1 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 1000 properties and generated more than £3.9m worth external income. 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.