

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	13 November 2018
Title:	Project Appraisal: Romsey Flood Alleviation Programme
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves the Project Appraisal for the Flood Alleviation Programme in Romsey, as set out in the supporting report.
- 1.2 That, subject to the Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding being confirmed by the Environment Agency, approval is given to procure and spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements to implement the proposed measures for the Mainstone area and Middlebridge Street as part of the overall flood alleviation programme in Romsey, as set out in the supporting report, at an estimated cost of £1,427,000 to be funded from a £708,000 contribution from Hampshire County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Capital Programme, and investment from Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid.
- 1.3 That, subject to the Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding being confirmed by the Environment Agency, approval to spend is given to support the implementation of the proposed measures for the River Test by the Environment Agency as part of the overall proposed flood alleviation programme in Romsey, as set out in the supporting report, at an estimated total cost of £5,257,000 to be funded from a £791,000 contribution from Hampshire County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Capital Programme, and investment from Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid, Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Local Levy, EU Funding and Test Valley Borough Council.
- 1.4 That authority to make all the necessary arrangements to implement the programme, including Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Partnership Funding Agreement, financial arrangements and minor variations to the design or contracts, be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 In September 2017, approval was given by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport for the proposed procurement and delivery strategy for the flood alleviation measures for the River Test and Mainstone area, and Middlebridge Street in Romsey. The Executive Member for Environment and Transport also approved further work with Southern Water and the Environment Agency to identify and agree a strategy to fund, procure and implement works in Winchester Road, and to submit these for approval at a later decision day.
- 2.2 In the winter of 2013/14, Romsey was significantly impacted by flooding, with up to 36 residential and 44 commercial properties reported as flooded from sources including groundwater, sewer, surface water and fluvial. The flood event damaged the local economy, led to the closure of parts of the highway network, and disrupted critical infrastructure and services.
- 2.3 Following a series of investigations and assessments, in partnership with the County Council acting as Lead Local Flood Authority, and Test Valley Borough Council, the Environment Agency commissioned consultants in 2016 to develop detailed proposals to manage flooding from all sources in Romsey.
- 2.4 A package of proposed measures for the River Test and Mainstone area and Middlebridge Street in Romsey has now been developed that, once implemented, will better protect 158 properties. In addition, the improvements will ensure that the highway network can remain open, minimise the impact on the local economy, and reduce costs, distress and disruption associated with any future flood event.
- 2.5 A business case for the proposed works in Middlebridge Street was submitted to the Environment Agency in August 2018 and was successful in securing 100% funding, £500,000, from Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid for this element of the overall Romsey Flood Alleviation Programme.
- 2.6. Delivery of the measures would contribute towards three of the Aims in the County Council's Strategic Plan, Hampshire County Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, and the catchment based approach to flood risk management in Hampshire.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 A high level assessment of flood risk for Romsey looked at 6 options providing fluvial only flood risk mitigation measures, and a combination of fluvial and surface water risk mitigation measures, through increased degrees of standards of protection. The proposed measures for the River Test and Mainstone area and Middlebridge Street in Romsey offer the most favourable cost benefits while responding to a range of flood sources.

3.2 The do-nothing option was rejected on the basis that the existing flood risk in Romsey will remain, and may worsen as a result of the impact of climate change. Long term costs to residents and local authorities may also prove much higher than the cost of a flood alleviation programme.

3.3 A do-nothing option would not align with the County Council's Strategic Plan (2013-2017) to work with communities to identify local solutions that work best.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

13 November 2018

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Rob Humby**