

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	19 September 2017
Title:	Romsey Flood Alleviation
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Simon Cramp

Tel: 01962 832348

Email: simon.cramp@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives approval for the proposed procurement and delivery strategy for the flood alleviation measures for the River Test and Mainstone, and Middlebridge, as set out in the supporting report.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives approval for 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.
- 1.3. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives approval for the allocation of £1.35 million to the flood alleviation measures for the River Test and Mainstone, and Middlebridge, within the County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme to potentially secure Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) and Local Levy, and confirms the final funding contribution as part of the Capital Programme submission to Full Council in February 2018.
- 1.4. That approval is given to proceed with the submission of the business case to Defra.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. In November 2016, approval was given by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport for the approach set out in the Buckskin and Romsey Flood Risk Management Update report, to develop the schemes and work with multi-agency partners to secure contributions subject to their technical and financial viability.
- 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 Romsey has now been developed that, once implemented, will better protect 183 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. 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. The extended 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 preferred option, although to be tested further through the detailed feasibility appraisal, offers 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 scheme.
- 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. The option not to commit in principle to viable flood alleviation schemes was rejected because it is unlikely that partners will commit towards the scheme if the County Council does not.

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: ----- Executive Member for Environment and Transport Councillor Rob Humby	Date: 19 September 2017
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