

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	19 September 2017
Title:	Buckskin Flood Alleviation Scheme
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 gives approval for the allocation of £2.05million to the Buckskin Flood Alleviation Scheme within the County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme to potentially secure Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA), Local Levy, and other partnership contributions, and confirms the final funding contribution as part of the Capital Programme submission to Full Council in February 2018.

1.1. 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- 2014, Buckskin and surrounding areas were significantly affected by flooding, with 45 properties flooded during the incident, 36 of these internally, and a further 43 placed at significant risk.

2.3. Following the flooding event, Hampshire County Council in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority undertook investigations in accordance with Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to establish the cause and extent of flooding. The flooding in Buckskin appeared to have been driven by groundwater and surface water exacerbated by fluvial flooding. Following completion of the report, the County Council commissioned consultants in 2016 to develop detailed proposals to reduce the risk of future flooding incidents.

- 2.4. A package of proposed measures has now been developed for Buckskin, which, once implemented, will better protect 181 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. A do-nothing option was rejected on the basis that the existing flood risk in Buckskin 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. The do-nothing option would also not align with the County Council's Strategic Plan (2017-2021) to work with communities to identify local solutions that work best.
- 3.2. The option to increase groundwater abstraction showed potential to reduce flooding in certain areas but the use of this is considered to be heavily constrained by the practicalities of abstracting, and using and disposing of such high volumes of water in a wet environment. The abstraction option may be used in extreme events but is not optimum for dealing with an event of similar significance to that of 2014.

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:

19 September 2017

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