

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	19 November 2020
Title:	Hampshire Property Flood Resilience Pilot Programme
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves Hampshire County Council's contribution of £210,000 from the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management programme capital budget over a 2-year period towards the proposed Environment Agency run 'Hampshire Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pilot Programme' subject to confirmation of the availability of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Grant in Aid, Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Local levy and partnership contributions.
- 1.2. That subject to confirmation of the availability of partner contributions, approval be given to enter into necessary contractual arrangements with the Environment Agency, as lead partner in the project, including funding agreements as necessary, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to implement PFR schemes in the Pilot programme.
- 1.3. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves the exploration of potential alternative approaches to the delivery of comparable standards of protection for individual properties, including alternative financial models, such as potential contributions from property owners and insurers, and that the effectiveness and value for money of these and the Pilot Programme is reviewed with the EA and the Southern RFCC after the completion of the initial 2-year period. The outcomes of the evaluation will be subject to further reports.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Hampshire has benefitted from a significant investment in FCERM infrastructure during the current 6-year capital programme (which ends in 2020/21) with major flood alleviation schemes being delivered in Winchester, Romsey, Basingstoke and elsewhere which were judged to be viable and represent value for money. These schemes have succeeded in delivering

improvements directly benefiting not only whole communities but individual property owners providing not only peace of mind but the opportunity to seek reduced insurance premiums. However, the option of drawing down national funding, and implementing major schemes is not available to all locations at risk in Hampshire.

- 2.2. Changes have recently been made to the national partnership funding process. While this has improved the situation in a number of ways, including updating payment rates, introducing a new risk band to help manage surface water flood risk, and increasing recognition of the impacts on health and wellbeing, and critical infrastructure like highways, the partnership funding process is still largely focused on the number of houses flooded irrespective of the source of flooding. There are a large number of vulnerable properties, spread across various catchments, and located in small clusters, for which strategic capital scheme are not economically viable.
- 2.3 By presenting a programme of work covering that part of Hampshire within the area of the Southern RFCC, and operating at a scale that can leverage in national FCERM GiA and regional Local Levy, the proposed PFR Pilot Programme seeks to provide an opportunity to better protect those properties that would otherwise not benefit and therefore remain at risk.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 During the current 6-year national FCERM funding programme, works were undertaken to ascertain where flood alleviation works could potentially take place across Hampshire. Unfortunately, it is not always cost beneficial to undertake flood alleviation schemes where there are small numbers of properties affected and these locations are therefore not eligible for national grant in aid or local levy and are at risk of remaining unprotected.
- 3.2 Undertaking a similar scheme without the support of the Environment Agency or local levy funding. This option would be significantly more expensive for the County Council to implement and was therefore rejected.
- 3.3 Not undertaking a PFR scheme. This option would leave a significant number of Hampshire's residents vulnerable to the risk of internal residential flooding and the associated financial costs, risk to physical and mental health, and displacement of individuals that this causes, and was therefore rejected.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. There are no conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2. There are no conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

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 November 2020

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