

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Climate Change & Sustainability
Date:	23 September 2021
Title:	Project Appraisal: A32 Farringdon and Chawton Flood Alleviation Scheme – Phase 2
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Paul Prowting

Tel: 0370 779 7880

Email: paul.prowting@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability approve the Project Appraisal for A32 Farringdon-Chawton Flood Alleviation Scheme – Phase 2, as outlined in the supporting report.
- 1.2 That approval be given to procure, spend and enter into necessary contractual arrangements, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, to implement the proposed improvements to carry out survey and drainage works, as set out in the supporting report, at an estimated capital cost of £386,000 to be funded from the Flood Risk and Coastal Defence (FRCD) Programme budget.
- 1.3 That authority to make the arrangements to implement the scheme, including minor variations to the design or contract, be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 Lower Farringdon has a long history of repeated flooding, primarily from groundwater sources. In the winter of 2013/14, groundwater rose in Lower Farringdon and mixed with surface water run-off from extensive rainfall, discharged onto the A32, and flowed towards the Lower Farringdon crossroads. Flooding lasted from the beginning of February 2014 to the end of April 2014. During this flood incident, approximately 22 properties or their curtilage were directly impacted with 10 internally flooded, and the A32 was closed for 2 months. This caused significant access and travel disruption to local residents and businesses.
- 2.2 Further flooding issues downstream of Lower Farringdon included flood waters effectively cutting off access to Chawton House, and surface water infiltration to combined sewer overflows in Chawton resulting in impacts on

domestic sewage systems from the reduction in carrying capacity. Eight homes in the Chawton area were also affected by foul water disruption.

- 2.3 Initial measures for Lower Farringdon and Chawton have now been implemented under Phase 1 of the flood alleviation scheme.
- 2.4 A package of further proposed measures (referred to as Phase 2) for Lower Farringdon and Chawton have now been developed that, once implemented, will better protect properties and the highway network, 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 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 minimum' option was considered with the requirement to place sandbags and other emergency provisions to help protect residents, but this did not meet the objective of keeping the A32 open.
- 3.2 The option to close the A32 and invoke over-pumping has been assessed as not cost effective due to the 10 year mean frequency and long duration of recurrent flooding. Partial closure of the A32 would require signal-controlled one-way traffic, which was considered unsuitable for such a major highway.

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:

23 September 2021

**Executive Member for Climate Change and
Sustainability
Cllr Jan Warwick**