

## Flood Risk Management Action Plan 2023/24

### Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

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Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

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#### **1) Recommendation**

That the Cabinet be asked to:

- (a) approve the budget allocations made to support delivery of the Annual Flood Risk Management Action Plan for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix A;
- (b) delegate the approval of any significant changes to the Revenue and Capital allocations to the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality.

#### **2) Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for the budget allocations being made to support the Annual Flood Risk Management Action Plan for 2023/24 and to highlight the achievements made by the Flood and Coastal Risk Management team in delivering the 2022/23 Action Plan. The report will detail the increasing risk of flooding due to climate change and the need to continue our efforts in protecting the vulnerable communities in Devon. It will also show how the team has secured significant external funding now and into the future to support the delivery of essential flood improvements.

#### **3) Flood Risk Action Plan and Recent Achievements**

The Flood and Coastal Risk Management team have had another challenging but successful year in maintaining the high standard of service we strive to deliver. Over the past 10 years the team has more than doubled in size due to new legislation and a significant externally funded project.

To continue our aim of reducing the number of properties at risk from flooding we have developed a robust Annual Flood Risk Management Action Plan for 2023/24. Budget allocations have been made to support the ongoing development and delivery of our current high priority areas as well as adequate resources to fulfil our duties as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Full details of the Action Plan are provided in Appendix A.

The ongoing projects that have either been completed or are well underway through 2022/23 are reducing the risk of flooding to 111 homes and businesses in some of our flood affected areas. A total investment of £500k, which includes £240k of DCC Capital funding and a further £260k secured through external funding, has enabled the delivery of these essential flood improvements. This would appear lower than recent years due to the scale

of projects being finalised and the number of studies that have commenced. Further details of all ongoing and delivered projects are included in Appendix B.

We are still in the early years of Defra's 6-year programme for 2021-27 and have been using this opportunity to investigate the risk of flooding in our vulnerable locations to inform future investment later in the programme. In accordance with the high priority areas identified in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon the team have been focussing on gaining a greater understanding of the risk in those areas. A total of 17 detailed flood studies are underway which will aim to evidence future investment and reduce the risk of flooding to many homes and businesses across the county. A further 17 Initial Assessments are also being progressed to gain an early understanding of the risk for those communities considered below the high priority areas and whether they need to be escalated. Details of the location for all of these studies and assessments can be found in the update report in Appendix B.

Over the past 12 months we have experienced a contrasting weather pattern with a very dry summer causing drought conditions, to a very wet winter that has caused some localised flooding of properties. All flooding is devastating to those affected and we take all incidents very seriously, however the number of properties across the county was thankfully low compared to other years. In June 2022 there were 13 properties reported to have suffered internal flooding in Kingsbridge following an intense rainfall event and surface runoff. This required us to produce and publish a [Section 19 Flood Investigation Report](#), which is available to read on our website. In January of this year a significant event to the north of Mid Devon at Oakford Bridge and Exebridge affected in excess of 20 properties with internal flooding. A Section 19 Report is being produced however it is understood that the main River Exe was the source of the flood water.

As the Lead Local Flood Authority, we are a statutory consultee to the Local Planning Authorities on the surface water management for new major development. It is our duty to review the proposals for sustainable drainage (SuDS) and provide advice to the planning officers so that they can determine the suitability and inform the planning decision process. Clear guidance has been developed by DCC, in line with national standards and best practice to ensure a consistent message is provided to all applicants. Over the past 12 months the team of 2 officers have reviewed over 550 applications and have achieved a 99% return rate within the required timescale of 21 days. High volume of applications has caused the minimal delay.

We also have a duty to review proposals for works on an ordinary watercourse and provide a decision to the applicant within 2 months of submission. Many applications require us to consult further with the likes of Fisheries at the Environment Agency to ensure compliance. With the more recent focus on the delivery of natural flood management (NFM) measures we have noticed an increase in the number of applications being received over the year. In the last 12 months we have received over 160 applications, approximately 30 more than the previous year, which was also 30 more than the year before that. The team have also been assisting Somerset Council with their Land Drainage Consenting due to the demise of their Flood Risk team. Despite this we have continued to deliver with a 100% return within the required timescale.

#### **4) Options / Alternatives**

All activities carried out by the Flood and Coastal Risk Management team are either as a statutory requirement or with a risk-based approach. The current Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, published in 2021, clearly defines the highest priorities within the Devon County Council area. The team are investigating those areas to inform the decisions required to progress any improvement options that may be necessary. All proposed flood improvements will undergo a thorough optioneering phase to agree the most cost beneficial, deliverable, and affordable scheme to be progressed, subject to securing the necessary funding.

With the continued incidents of flooding being recorded across Devon and the noticeable increase in risk due to climate change the continued delivery of flood improvements for our vulnerable communities is essential. The options to 'do nothing' or 'do minimum' have not been considered in the process.

The Annual Flood Risk Management Action Plan for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix A, identifies those areas to be invested in over the next 12 months. All projects will be at different stages in their development from initial assessment through to scheme delivery and construction.

All options will consider the most sustainable and efficient methods of delivery and operation. Opportunities for carbon reduction will also be promoted to help the County Council and Defra achieve the targets for net zero.

#### **5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data**

The highest priority 'at-risk' locations within Devon have been reported in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and are being investigated further during the current Defra funding period. In developing the Local Strategy, a full public consultation was carried out to give people the opportunity for expressing their views on the way in which DCC propose to manage the flood risk in our area.

It is essential when delivering flood improvements that all relevant stakeholders, including partnering authorities and organisations, local representatives and groups, parish or town councils and members of the public/homeowners are consulted with at the earliest opportunity. The knowledge, views and experiences of others will help determine the most viable and preferred option and will lead to a more joined up and collaborative approach.

All projects require full cost benefit justification to secure the necessary funding, so the scale of any flood improvements must be proportionate to the risk and within affordable limits. Relaying this message early in the process will help to manage expectations through development of any achievable flood improvements. The level of consultation will be determined by the scale of works and the area set to benefit. For direct property flood resilience there may only be the need to consult with the individual property owners, however for a wider community scheme that will benefit multiple properties and impact on local infrastructure then a larger consultation process will be required with the community, local stakeholders, and partners.

By collaborating with partners and informed members of the community this will help maximise multiple benefits and funding opportunities. This in turn will lead to a more holistic scheme that will not only reduce flood risk but will also enhance and protect the natural and historic environment.

## **6) Strategic Plan**

As the Lead Local Flood Authority DCC have a duty to develop, publish and maintain a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. This must align to the vision of the National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy published by the Environment Agency.

In 2015 we published our first Local Strategy and in accordance with the requirements to review every 6 years we published our second and current Local Strategy in 2021. Improvements were made to the original strategy by including a list of priority catchments that would be investigated during the strategy period 2021-2027. This has defined our priority workload and investment considerations for the team and its available budgets.

The strategic planning has enabled us to communicate and align with Defra's 6-year Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Programme to maximise the opportunity for drawing down Grant in Aid funding. This is an important function and one we are very strong in achieving, having already pulled in over £4.0million in recent years and have a further £10.0million allocated for future projects, subject to funding justification.

## **7) Financial Considerations**

The Flood and Coastal Risk Management team at DCC have developed strong relationships and best practice for securing external funding through Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) and Local Levy, managed by the South West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee. For every £1 invested by DCC a further £3 of external funding is being allocated and secured through robust cost benefit justification. The current projects being developed for the next 5-year period will require over £10.0million of investment, including £2.7million from DCC, split £1.0million Revenue and £1.7million Capital and will look to draw down in the region of £6.5million FDGiA and £1.0million Local Levy. The continued support by DCC is critical to reducing the risk of flooding to the numerous 'at risk' communities across the county.

We are still in the first half of the current 6-year programme and continue to progress with the detailed assessments and early development of project proposals. Careful project programming ensures that schemes are being progressed at different delivery stages throughout the next financial year. As such, a number of studies are continuing to progress with financial support from the DCC Flood Risk Management Revenue budget. These will develop into deliverable Capital projects for future years once a preferred option has been determined and a full cost benefit justification has been completed to secure the required external funding. The table below highlights the Revenue budget required for this purpose and also shows the level of Capital expenditure with external funding that is proposed for scheme delivery. Full details of the projects being progressed can be found in the Annual Action Plan attached in Appendix A.

The financial headlines for 2023/24 are:

Item	FCRM Revenue £'000	FCRM Capital £'000	External £'000	Total £'000
FCRM Resources etc.	465			
Local Improvements, NFM, Maintenance & Contingency	122			
Studies & Investigations	275			
Capital Projects		478.5	730	
Total Budget	862	478.5	730	2,070.5

The above revenue allocations are estimates that may be subject to change as other priorities and opportunities arise. The expenditure will be over-programmed by up to 15% to account for the uncertainties with scheme development and delivery, including design challenges, resource availability, landowner agreements, notice periods and embargos, alignment of other funding sources, the weather and increased costs of materials due to the global economy. This will be monitored throughout the year to ensure the available budget is not exceeded.

The 2023/24 capital Flood Prevention budget (funded from capital receipts) is £349,000. It is anticipated that the balance will be funded by a carry forward request from the 2022/23 budget, but this will be subject to Cabinet approval in June 2023.

## 8) Legal Considerations

The lawful implications/consequences of the proposals/recommendations/proposed course of action have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of this report/formulation of the recommendations set out above and will be adhered to accordingly.

Devon County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority for their area, as defined in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and is duty bound by the roles and responsibilities set out in the Act, as well as having specific powers determined in the Land Drainage Act 1991.

All activities carried out by DCC in connection with our role as the LLFA will be in accordance with current legislation. Powers of consenting and enforcement will be used as required to ensure watercourses are maintained and flood risk minimised. All legal requirements when carrying out flood improvements will be adhered to, such as entry onto third party land or working on the public highway.

## 9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

A full Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out to support the production of the current Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, published in 2021. This will be referred to when carrying out flood improvements to ensure any impact on the environment is minimised and/or mitigated against. For major capital flood schemes a bespoke Environmental Assessment will be prepared to ensure due consideration is given to any potential impacts there may be on the environment and also to identify any enhancements that can be achieved.

The effects of climate change are proving to have a significant impact on flood risk with more intense and prolonged periods of rainfall. All schemes being delivered by DCC and those being reviewed through our statutory role for major development proposals will be required to mitigate the increased risk and to take account of current government guidance and predictions within any detailed calculations. Wherever possible we will look to secure a betterment to current conditions.

All activities by the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team will consider the reduction of carbon emissions in order to support the County Council's target to achieve a 'net zero' by 2030. Where practical, the schemes will include natural flood risk management techniques, in accordance with best practice. These have the opportunity for a net gain in biodiversity and carbon reductions.

## **10) Equality Considerations**

Where relevant, in coming to a decision the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding

in relation to the protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership (for employment), pregnancy and maternity, race/ethnicity, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).

A decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

To support the development of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy a full Impact Assessment was completed and is also available to view on the Council's website at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/flood-risk-management-strategy/>

Members will need to consider the Impact Assessment for the purposes of this item.

All flood risk management activity will be assessed and prioritised based on risk. The delivery of flood improvements will be dependent on their affordability, cost benefit justification and approval of funding.

## **11) Risk Management Considerations**

The risk of flooding to properties and businesses in Devon is considered to be high and is noticeably increasing due to the effects of climate change. Due to the rural topography of Devon one of the most significant risks is from uncontrolled surface runoff. As a result of this it is recognised as a high risk in the corporate risk register.

Over the past couple of years, we have lost 5 permanent members of the team and although we have been successful in recruiting suitable replacements it is becoming

increasingly difficult. This is apparent with other Risk Management Authorities, not only in Devon but also other parts of the country. To maintain the level of resource is therefore a risk that needs to be managed appropriately.

All flood risk management schemes are considered with a risk-based approach to ensure those communities with the greatest need are given the highest priority. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon highlights the areas that are considered to be our highest priority and are supported through our current and future actions.

The funding mechanism for flood risk management is complex and is generally aligned to the number of properties benefitting but does not cover all costs associated with delivering the flood improvements. The system encourages partnership working and expects contributions from partners to support the Grant in Aid available from Defra, subject to cost benefit justification. There are risks associated with generating the necessary partnership contributions and does heavily rely on DCC's commitment for making communities more resilient to flooding and the funding associated with that.

Delivery of flood improvements often requires negotiations with third party landowners for entry and potential construction on their land, which can be a lengthy process. There may also be the need for obtaining planning permission or listed building consent. Both of these are outside of our control and are risks that could affect the delivery programme.

The Annual Action Plan at Appendix A sets out the investment programme for 2023/24 and the proposals identified will be carried out in line with current legislation, best practice and guidance to minimise the risk and safeguard the Council's position.

## **12) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations**

The flooding of people's homes and businesses continues to be a very high risk to many communities in Devon and with the increased frequency of intense rainfall, due to climate change, it is noticeably getting worse. The continued support and commitment from Devon County Council is therefore essential to help those that are vulnerable, making them safe in their homes and protecting their livelihoods.

The Flood and Coastal Risk Management team is well structured to deliver the statutory requirements of a Lead Local Flood Authority and leads the way in delivering vital flood improvements where they are most needed. The Action Plan for 2023/24 continues to build on the work of previous years by progressing with the detailed assessments and studies for the priority catchments set out in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, leading to the design and delivery of an optimistic programme of works.

### **Meg Booth**

Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

### **Electoral Divisions: All**

Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality: Councillor Roger Croad

## Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Background Paper

Date

File Reference

<a href="#">National Flood &amp; Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy</a>	July 2020
<a href="#">Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon</a>	March 2021
Annual Flood Risk Management Action Plan	Appendix A
<a href="#">Flood Risk Equality Impact Assessment</a>	January 2021

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## Appendix A to CET/23/10

<b>Devon County Council Flood Risk Management Action Plan for 2023/24</b>						
<b>Projects/Works/Schemes</b>	<b>Lead Authority</b>	<b>Study, Design or Works</b>	<b>2023/24 DCC FRM Revenue £</b>	<b>2023/24 DCC FRM Capital £</b>	<b>Other External Funding £</b>	<b>Details of Proposal</b>
<b>Devon LLFA</b>						
Flood & Coastal Risk Management Team	DCC	-	465,000			Resources required to deliver the Flood Risk Management functions as the Lead Local Flood Authority and Statutory Consultee for SuDS.
Local Flood Improvements	DCC & Others	W	40,000			To support local area issues that require immediate attention and to gain a better understanding and reduce flood risk. An opportunity to work with other Risk Management Authorities in delivering flood improvement works.
Community Resilience and support	DCC	S/W	23,000			To support the ongoing operations of the Devon Community Resilience Forum and to aid communities for the delivery and provision of Flood Resilience Measures and Emergency Planning.

<b>Devon LLFA continued</b>						
Natural Flood Management & Nature Based Solutions	DCC & Others	S/W	45,000			To develop best practice and progress opportunities for delivering natural flood risk management techniques in partnership with other RMAs and key stakeholders, including the Devon Wildlife Trust's Northern Devon Nature Based Solutions.
Maintenance of Flood Improvements	DCC	W	14,000			Maintenance of flood defence assets, resilience measures and monitoring equipment.
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>£587,000</b>			
<b>PROJECTS</b>						
<b>Devonwide</b>						
Initial Assessments	DCC	S	20,000			
Property Flood Resilience	DCC	W		50,000	100,000	Allocation of funds for flood resilience measures through the Property Level Resilience Grant Scheme. Supported with additional £50k Flood Defence Grant in Aid and £20k Local Levy, subject to approval.
<b>East Devon</b>						
Sidmouth Surface Water Improvements (Phase 2)	DCC	W		30,000	125,000	Delivery of surface water drainage improvements in the town centre.
Colaton Raleigh	DCC	S		30,000	130,000	Delivery of PFR measures within a combined rural PFR project.
Budleigh Salterton	DCC	S	20,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.

<b>East Devon continued</b>						
Exmouth	DCC	S	40,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Seaton	DCC	S	30,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
<b>Exeter</b>						
Exeter Surface Water Improvements (Phase 3)	DCC	D	40,000			Continue investigations for Phase 3 of the surface water management improvements for the Northbrook and Larkbeare catchment areas.
<b>Mid Devon</b>						
Tiverton	DCC	S	30,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
<b>North Devon</b>						
Barnstaple - West	DCC	W		125,000	275,000	Delivery of PFR improvement scheme.
Barnstaple - East	DCC	S	25,000	25,000		Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses leading to delivery of local flood improvements.
Ilfracombe	DCC	S	25,000			Review of Surface Water Management Plan and potential options.

<b>South Hams</b>						
Beeson	DCC	W		75,000		Final completion of scheme delivery.
Kingsbridge	EA	S	10,000			Continue flood investigation study in partnership with EA & SWW.
Totnes	DCC	S	25,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Modbury	DCC	W		3,500		Scheme completion and monitoring of performance.
<b>Teignbridge</b>						
Broadhempston	DCC	D/W		60,000	100,000	Detailed design and delivery of PFR focussed flood improvements.
Dawlish	DCC	S	10,000			Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
Teignmouth	DCC	S		80,000		Review of Surface Water Management Plan and potential options.
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>£275,000</b>	<b>£478,500</b>	<b>£730,000</b>	
<b>Total Budget Allocation</b>			<b>£862,000</b>	<b>£478,500</b>	<b>£730,000</b>	<b>£2,070,500.00</b>

The above budget allocations are estimates that are subject to change or maybe deferred as other priorities and opportunities arise. The revenue expenditure will be over-programmed by up to 15% to allow for delays, efficiencies, rounding, reprioritising and contingency. This will be monitored throughout the year to ensure the available budget is not exceeded and will defer projects as required.

Incoming Budgets						
PT&E Flood Revenue Budget			859,000			To fulfil requirements as the LLFA as defined under the Flood and Water Management Act.
Miscellaneous Income			3,000			Estimated fees for consents and recharges etc.
PT&E Flood Capital Budget 2023/24				349,000		Capital funding for Flood Risk Management included in the capital programme.
PT&E Flood Capital Budget pre 2023/24				129,500		Subject to 2022/23 carry forward approval, from Cabinet in June 2023.
FDGiA / Local Levy					730,000	Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy.
<b>Total Budget</b>			<b>£862,000</b>	<b>£478,500</b>	<b>£730,000</b>	<b>£2,070,500.00</b>

## **Appendix B to CET/23/10**

### **Flood and Coastal Risk Management – Project Update for 2022/23**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

This report provides an update on the flood improvement projects being delivered or progressed by the Flood and Coastal Risk Management team for the period of 2022/23.

#### **2.0 Projects Update**

##### **2.1 Property Flood Resilience (PFR)**

DCC are continuing to provide the opportunity for individual homeowners to make their properties more resilient to flooding by offering up to £5,000 towards Property Flood Resilience measures. The current uptake and progression of these projects is noticeably reducing, which we believe is due to the increased costs of providing PFR. Our £5,000 limit was set as an average amount based on national estimates of £3k- £7k per property, however recent estimates we have received have been in excess of £10k per property. It is accepted that we were offering a contribution towards the measures, however the property owners' percentage of the costs are now becoming unaffordable to most.

We are programmed to spend between £100k and £120k this financial year to better protect more than 20 individual properties with DCC contributing up to £50k and the remainder from Local levy and Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid. Based on current estimates we will need to consider increasing the level of funding per property being offered and either reduce the number of properties being protected or increase the budget required for delivering this initiative. This will be reviewed in the Business Case for Defra funding.

Details of the scheme can be obtained from the DCC FRM website at the following link: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/flood-resilience/property-flood-resilience-funding-scheme/>

**2.2 Harbertonford PFR** – DCC are continuing to deliver this scheme on behalf of the Environment Agency to provide property resilience to 3 properties. Due to the delays in manufacture and PFR delivery generally across the country we are still progressing these works to completion.

**2.3 Axminster PFR** – Despite the issues being experienced with PFR delivery the project at Axminster is progressing very well. Residents affected by the flooding in October 2021 have been very responsive to our support in delivering a PFR project in the area and have taken up the opportunity to be involved.

The consultant ARCADIS, who were appointed through the Environment Agency's PFR Framework, are continuing to manage the delivery of the PFR measures. A total of 11 properties will be better protected through this project. The first 9 properties not requiring listed building consents will be delivered initially to avoid unnecessary delays. The 2 properties requiring listed building consent will be progressed in parallel and delivered as soon as the bespoke measures are approved.

With the increasing costs of materials and manpower for the delivery of PFR measures the cost of the works are estimated to be just under £110k which is close to £10k per property as an average, inclusive of delivery and management fees.

**2.4 Stokeinteignhead** – As previously reported the drainage improvements have been completed and the PFR installation were continued over the past 12 months. Whilst it was envisaged that the installation phase of the PFR in Stoke would be completed last financial year, delays were experienced in obtaining Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission from the LPA. This was compounded by supply chain issues due to global factors beyond the control of the contractor, however the scheme is now complete with the remaining 20 installs having taken place in 2022/23.

**2.5 Barnstaple West** – The Property Flood Resilience project for Barnstaple has been well received by the residents of Sticklepath Terrace and Clifton Street area with 47 property owners having registered for inclusion in the project.

We have appointed a contractor under Lot 1 of the EA's PFR Framework for obtaining surveys to the 47 properties. Once these have been completed and surveys received, we will then be in a position to prepare and instigate a tender through Lot 2 for the manufacture and installation of the PFR measures. Delivery is likely to be mainly, if not all, in 2023/24.

**2.6 Beeson** – In June 2016 at least 4 properties in the village suffered internal flooding. The main source of flooding was as a result of the excessive flows in the watercourse unable to be conveyed in the channel and through existing culverts. This was worsened by the additional surface runoff from the steep catchment above.

The detailed design of proposed flood improvements, which includes culvert enlargement, property flood resilience and natural flood management in the upper catchment are being finalised and a road closure notice has been submitted for the month of March 2023. Site compound areas are an issue and therefore likely to be within the road closure area. The project will likely straddle into the next financial year but should be completed within April 2023.

**2.7 Broadhempston** – After further engagement with the community there was very little appetite for involvement in the project and only 6 property owners have come forward for consideration of PFR. With such low numbers it has the potential for not being a viable project or practical in terms of justification and administration. The decision has therefore been made to package Broadhempston with Colaton Raleigh, below, under a new Rural PFR scheme, so that those who are interested in protecting their properties can be included.

**2.8 Colaton Raleigh** – Following a public engagement exercise with the residents of Colaton Raleigh a total of 16 property owners have come forward for inclusion. At least 11 of these properties were flooded in November 2012. To improve scheme justification and to improve efficiencies we have decided to package these works with Broadhempston under a new Rural PFR scheme for delivery likely to be now in 2023/24. Current delays in the PFR market will dictate the delivery start dates.

**2.9 Ongoing Studies** – Flood studies in the following locations are continuing to be developed. High level options will be considered for any further investment in detailed investigations and/or development.

Seaton	Sidmouth
Budleigh Salterton	Barnstaple East
Exmouth	Teignmouth
Newton Abbot	Tiverton
Crediton	Totnes
Bideford	Exeter
Kingsbridge	Ilfracombe
Okehampton	Dartmouth
Dawlish	

With regards to **Seaton**, we have had a public engagement event involving a local flood action group, Parish Council representatives, District and County Councillors, South West Water and East Devon District Council. The meeting was well received, and relevant actions are now being considered or progressed.

**2.10 Initial Assessments** – Our programme of initial assessments is continuing to be progressed in the following locations:

Bampton, Shillingford	Lynmouth
Kennford, Kenn	Westwood, Broadclyst
Salcombe	Lee
Bovey Tracey	North Tawton
Uffculme	Kerswell, Dulford
Rockbeare	Woodbury
Newton Poppleford	Kingskerswell
Ashburton	Newton St Cyres
Beer	

### **3.0 Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme – Managing Big Problems in Small Places**

#### **3.1 Background**

In 2020 the government announced a £200 million budget for innovative flood risk management projects with £150 million of this budget to be allocated to the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme. DCC’s Flood & Coastal Risk Management team took the opportunity to bid for one of the 25 partnership projects across England and were successful in receiving an allocation of over £7 million to deliver the project detailed below, which will run from April 2021 to March 2027.

#### **3.2 Project Information**

Devon’s ‘Managing Big Problems in Small Places: Rapid Response ‘type’ Catchments’ project focuses on rapidly responding catchments in predominantly rural areas. The project takes a multi-partner submission approach which aims to build upon many pre-existing initiatives across Risk Management Authorities, infrastructure operators, and academic institutions. Throughout the project, communities identified at risk have been selected to

engage with proposed pilot activities which aim to develop and deliver flood resilience interventions in collaboration with the project partners.

The project is formed of four Work Packages, delivering catchment-based flood resilience, providing Property Flood Resilience (PFR) to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) properties and local infrastructure buildings, informing spatial planning and developing a South West Flood Resilience Hub which will provide communities with resources to enhance their education and develop empowerment so that they can make informed decisions around resilience in their catchment.

One of the key requirements was to show a true partnership approach in delivering flood risk management activities. In preparation of the bid a large number of partnering authorities and organisations were drawn together to support the DCC proposal.

**3.3 Delivery Partners:** Blackdown Hills AONB, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Devon Communities Together, Devon County Council, Devon Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Exmoor National Park Authority, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission, National Trust, North Devon Biosphere Foundation, North Devon Council, Plymouth Council, South West Water, Teignbridge District Council, Torbay Council, Torridge District Council, University of Exeter, University of Plymouth, Westcountry Rivers Trust.

### **3.4 Project Benefits**

'Managing Big Problems in Small Places: Rapid Response 'type' Catchments' aims to deliver many resilience and learning benefits which include:

- Improved flood resilience within communities
- Individual residential, community infrastructure and commercial properties are better protected from and/or adapted to flooding which will improve recovery time
- Developing an evidence base, learning, and sharing of that learning, about how to implement flood resilience, response, and adaptation within different kinds of communities in Rapid Response 'type' Catchments
- Planning policy and guidance incorporate flood resilience and adaptation considerations at a local, regional, and national level
- Communities, business owners, and farmers/landowners have a sense of ownership of the resilience, response, and adaptation measures implemented in their location
- Improved visibility, coherence, and alignment of adaptation and flood resilience information in an accessible format.

The project seeks to build community flood resilience through community-based actions which aim to identify a range of replicable low-cost resilience actions that can be delivered by local authorities or/and local communities of different sizes/settings where traditional flood defences are shown not to be appropriate or cost beneficial. The project will develop financial models that ensure local resilience measures remain self-sustaining, maintainable and effective in the long term.

The project delivers on innovation to achieve the core ambition to build community flood resilience in Rapid Response 'type' Catchments in Devon. This is achieved through the combinations of three aspects of resilience: Place making, Protect and Respond. In turn, these aspects lead into the development of the South West Flood Resilience Hub.