

Flood Risk Management Action Plan 2017/18

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

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.

Recommendation: It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) approves the implementation of the County Council's 2017/18 Flood Risk Management Action Plan;**
- (b) delegates to the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highway Management and Flood Prevention, any changes to the programme and related expenditure of less than £50k.**

1. Summary and Purpose of Report

Over the past 12 months the Flood & Coastal Risk Management Team has continued with the delivery of a number of major capital flood improvement schemes prioritised in accordance with the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. National and local funding has been secured to facilitate the implementation of these. The aim of this report is to advise Cabinet on the progress of these schemes and other projects highlighted in the 2016/17 Flood Risk Management Action Plan and to gain approval for the 2017/18 Action Plan. A delegation process is proposed, similar to that of previous years, to enable actions to be amended or reprioritised in an efficient manner, as required.

2. Update on Achievements for 2016/17

The Action Plan for 2016/17 was a significant programme of works targeted at some of the highest priority locations in need of flood improvements. These included major works requiring partnership funding from Defra, Local Levy and other Risk Management Authorities and also a number of minor schemes or resilience measures that have been delivered and funded through the County Council's own flood management budgets.

The delivery of the major capital works at Braunton and Axminster has highlighted the practical challenges of implementing schemes of this type, such as justifying the capital investment in line with government funding criteria or gaining the necessary approvals for working on Network Rail property; these factors have caused significant delays in progressing the works at Axminster. The management of public expectations is another key factor when delivering large flood improvement schemes and requires careful and ongoing communication with the Parish/Town Councils, Community Groups and representatives for the affected residents and businesses.

Details of the work undertaken by the Flood & Coastal Risk Management Team during 2016/17 is set out in Appendix I. Once completed, these major schemes will provide protection to well over 250 properties. In addition, minor improvements at locations countywide will have reduced the risk of flooding to a further 30 properties.

The current projection is for approximately £1.6 million to have been spent on the provision of flood management measures by DCC in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority in the

current financial year. This includes grants and contributions from Defra, Local Levy and other Risk Management Authorities.

3. Proposed Action Plan for 2017/18

The proposed Action Plan for 2017/18 is attached as Appendix II. It includes the completion of existing major schemes started in the current financial year, as well as works at new locations requiring investment that have been prioritised through the criteria set out in the Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. In line with the Local Strategy, there is also recognition that all new flood schemes should consider a catchment wide approach to include any natural flood management measures that will have a lasting benefit and reduction in runoff to ease flood risk downstream.

This investment in 2017/18, along with that anticipated for the remainder of Defra's current 6 year programme, through to 2021, should provide a high level of flood protection for a further 300 properties (i.e. beyond those referred to in Section 2).

In line with the Local Strategy, support will continue to be provided to the Devon Community Resilience Forum to assist communities in establishing self-help local measures to protect against the risk of flooding. In addition, it is proposed that a grant scheme is set up to enable individual property owners to request support from Devon County Council for the provision of property specific measures to prevent water entering the property (known as 'Property Level Protection'). The funding for this will be derived from Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA), Local Levy and allocations from DCC's own flood risk budget. The requests will be prioritised, based on defined criteria, and will be limited to £5,000 per property, to mirror similar opportunities provided by the government following major flood incidents. A copy of the intended protocol for the proposed grant scheme is included in Appendix III

4. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

The delivery of local flood improvements will require regular consultations with residents, local businesses, community groups, Parish/Town Councils, Local Members and other relevant Risk Management Authorities, to ensure good engagement and to appropriately manage expectations. For the major capital projects, such as Braunton and Modbury, public exhibitions have been delivered to share the scheme proposals and invite valuable comments and/or concerns from the local community. The liaison with other Risk Management Authorities will, also, assist in joined-up planning and prioritisation and the identification of opportunities for partnership working and shared funding arrangements.

5. Financial Considerations

The funding required to cover the flood risk management activities identified in the 2017/18 Action Plan will be allocated from DCC's dedicated flood risk management revenue budgets (i.e. the dedicated Flood Risk Management budget held by Planning, Transportation and Environment Service and an associated corporate flood prevention budget)

Similar to previous years, the new Action Plan shows an over spend of c.16% against 2017/18 budgetary allocations in order to provide flexibility in the programme for any efficiencies made or delays encountered. This will be closely monitored throughout the year to ensure delivery is kept within the available budgets. Where appropriate, DCC revenue allocations are capitalised.

Opportunities for collaborative working with other Risk Management Authorities will be considered for all schemes. The larger capital schemes will be delivered through partnership funding opportunities including Defra's FDGiA, the Local Levy (administered by the South West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee) and, where possible, with additional funds from

local sources such as other Risk Management Authorities, developers, businesses and other scheme beneficiaries (including local residents). As a result, overall expenditure on flood management issues during 2017/18 is likely to be well in excess of £2.5m.

Every effort is made to limit the required maintenance liabilities associated with schemes delivered by DCC, to ensure that future opportunities for investment in new flood risk management measures are not compromised.

6. Sustainability, Equality and Public Health Considerations

All flood improvement schemes will be developed in accordance with the Equality and Environmental Assessments produced in support of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Each individual scheme will be assessed at the appropriate stage using the corporate, integrated assessment tool, with relevant equality and environmental impacts identified and acted on as necessary.

The works outlined by the Local Strategy and the 2017/18 Action Plan are all designed to improve the protection afforded to communities and individual properties currently at particular risk of flooding and, thereby, support health and wellbeing. More than just protecting the properties alone, it should be noted that flood water has the potential for transporting contaminants, such as sewage; so, reducing flood risk has clear health benefits.

7. Legal Considerations

All works will be carried out in accordance with the powers and duties assigned to DCC under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Land Drainage Act 1991 and any other relevant legislation. The lawful implications and consequences of the proposals and relevant actions will be taken into account through their development.

8. Risk Management Considerations

It should be noted that flooding is already identified as a high risk in the corporate risk register and that this programme is intended to address that. As each scheme is progressed, it will be assessed to ensure that all necessary actions are carried out to safeguard the Council's position.

It has been previously reported that there is a lack of resources available to many of the District Councils, with the resulting risk of them being unable to address local flood issues, with an increased reliance on DCC. There is a need for close ongoing engagement, both politically and at officer level, to maintain partnership working and deliver against key priorities, whilst managing public expectations.

9. Discussion

The government's target is to reduce the risk of flooding to 300,000 properties within Defra's 6 year programme. It is Devon County Council's role as the Lead Local Flood Authority to investigate and promote flood improvements and help achieve this target. The proposed Action Plan for 2017/18 has identified a number of major works already well advanced, together with opportunities to progress some minor, but vital, flood improvements. In addition to the proposed works there are also proactive studies to be carried out that will inform future Action Plans or localised 'quick-win' improvements that will benefit an increased number of properties beyond the c.300 already anticipated for the period through to 2021.

Throughout this next investment period all of the Risk Management Authorities will continue to meet and liaise to share their action and investment plans to look for collaborative and joint working opportunities.

10. Options/Alternatives

In view of the large number of communities having suffered flooding in recent years and the growing expectation for assistance, the option to do nothing has been discounted.

The scheme proposals identified in the 2017/18 Action Plan (Appendix II) have been prioritised based on the specific criteria set out in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon. Due to issues outside of our control, such as inclement weather conditions, funding limitations or landowner approvals, it is highly likely that the programme will need to be changed or reprioritised. It is therefore proposed that decisions on any changes up to a £50k limit are delegated to the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highway Management and Flood Prevention. Each scheme will undergo an options appraisal to identify the preferred option that will achieve the maximum benefit for the community within the available budget.

11. Reason for Recommendation/Conclusion

The constant threat of flooding experienced over recent years highlights the need for both reactive and proactive measures to be implemented to reduce the risk of flooding to hundreds of communities across the County. Over 2300 properties in Devon have suffered internal flooding in the last 5 years and many more thousands shown to be at risk from at least one source of flooding. Through a prioritised approach to invest in flood risk management we can start to reduce these numbers of properties at risk.

The devastating effect of flooding to people's homes and businesses impacts the health and wellbeing at the heart of those communities and the overall economy of Devon. It is essential therefore for DCC to demonstrate their commitment as the Lead Local Flood Authority by adopting and implementing the proposed Action Plan for 2017/18 and support the reduction of flood risk across the County.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Highway Management and Flood Prevention: Councillor Stuart Hughes

Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity: Dr Virginia Pearson

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
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Nil

Update on Achievements for 2016/17

1. Devon wide

Highway related flood improvements – The Flood & Coastal Risk Management Team liaise closely with the local Highway Neighbourhood teams to look for opportunities of joint working to protect the highway against flooding and reduce the risk to properties. Schemes at Luppit, Woodbury Salterton and Aylesbeare have been completed in 2016/17, protecting at least 6 properties.

Surface Water Management Plans / Drainage Assessments – The programme of Surface Water Management Plans and Drainage Assessments, as recommended in the initial strategic review of Devon, has now been completed, with recent drainage assessments carried out in Ottery St Mary, East Budleigh, Newton Abbot, Shaldon and Teignmouth. These are less detailed than full Surface Water Management Plans, but focus attention on specific issues within these areas. The recommendations from these reports will be prioritised and help to target future investment.

Catchment Flood Risk Database – A new database using ArcGIS (i.e. a software package used to manage spatial data) has been produced to gather all flood related information into one location. This will provide great benefits when considering scheme prioritisation and will also assist in reviewing the severity and sources of flood risk for any location within Devon.

Community Resilience – DCC has continued to support the Devon Community Resilience Forum through its Emergency Planning and Flood Risk Management teams. Over £15k in contributions have been made to Devon Together, who host the forum, which have been passed on to various parish and community groups in the form of grants. Initial grants are paid to support the development of community emergency plans and subsequent grants are available to equip the community with self-help measures, such as signs, sandbags, tabards and torches for the volunteer wardens.

North Devon Nature Improvement Area (NIA) – The Flood Risk Management team has supported the NIA over recent years in the delivery of practical measures that limit surface water runoff and assist in the reduction of flood risk. The NIA has developed a project to pilot the use of culm grassland in managing flood risk and diffuse pollution and has received grant support from the EU through Interreg 2 Seas, as well as funding from the Environment Agency and Exeter University. DCC will continue to support the NIA and will be a partner in the Culm Grassland Project over the next 3 to 4 years, as part of its increasing focus on natural flood risk management.

Property Level Protection (PLP) – The provision of PLP for those properties that have either suffered internal flooding or considered to be of significant risk is becoming a frequent ask, but Devon has not benefitted from the government scheme released following the severe flooding in the north west early in 2016. Instead, DCC has obtained an allocation from Defra's 6 year programme of £50k per year which, together with a matched allocation from DCC and an additional £10k from Local Levy, will enable an ongoing number of properties across Devon to benefit from PLP. During 2016/17 there were 15 properties that benefitted from PLP measures and a further 15 are at an advanced stage of planning, with this latter work led by Exeter City Council.

Statutory Consultee for Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) – Before taking over this new role in April 2015, it was estimated that we would be consulted on approximately 400 applications

per year; however this has been far exceeded with almost 1300 consultations received in 22 months (550 in 2015/16 and 750 so far in 2016/17). This work is vital in ensuring that flood risk issues are appropriately handled in planning for new development.

2. East Devon area

Axminster Millbrook – Phase 2 of the proposed improvements to reduce the risk of flooding from the Millbrook in Axminster is to start in earnest mid-March 2017. Advanced works, including channel widening improvements, downstream of the railway, and the installation of a ‘tree-catcher’, upstream of the old culvert, were completed early November 2016. It was hoped that the main project itself would continue on directly, but had to be put on hold while final approvals were achieved with Network Rail and additional funding sought for the increase in estimated construction costs.

A report was submitted to DCC Cabinet in December 2016, which provided approval and support for the delivery of a scheme valued at £998k. At the same time, a variation was submitted to the EA for an additional £321k of FDGiA, making a total of £561k national funding to support the scheme; this was approved. An additional £50k was approved by DCC, to top up its own contribution to over £337k which, together with the £50k Local Levy and £50k from East Devon District Council (EDDC), makes up the required balance. A further request to the SWRFCC Finance Sub-Group for an additional £50k reserve, beyond the £100k already set aside for contingency, has also been agreed in principal.

As reported previously, the scheme aims to reduce the risk of flooding to 161 residential properties, 40 of which suffered from significant internal flooding in 2012.

Sidmouth Surface Water Management Plan – The recommendations of the completed surface water management plan are being developed and modelled into a scheme design for delivery in 2018/19, subject to the funding justification being approved. Minor works have also been completed to better manage a surface water flow path in Bulverton, to the west of Sidmouth.

Whimble – The Environment Agency is continuing to explore opportunities for funding these important flood improvement works. The DCC budget allocation, set aside to support the project, has not been required in 2016/17; so instead, a similar budget will be earmarked in 2017/18 as a partnership contribution, if the EA is successful in bridging the current budget shortfall.

Lympstone – Further investigations are being progressed on a catchment wide basis to develop a number of recommendations that can be considered for future investment, possibly through Flood Defence Grant in Aid.

Exmouth – DCC has continued to work in partnership with South West Water to consider flood improvement measures for future investment. A number of recommended options are now being developed.

Old Feniton – DCC is working in partnership with South West Water and East Devon District Council to review the flood risk associated with surface water run-off and to consider options to reduce the risk of flooding in the village. The preferred options are currently being developed for potential scheme delivery, subject to funding.

Uplyme – Scheme development by DCC is progressing. In the interim, a number of ‘quick-wins’ have been installed, including silt traps and raising the soffit of a pedestrian footbridge, to decrease localised flooding. In addition, natural flood risk management measures are

being developed for installation upstream of Uplyme, including installation of woody debris dams.

3. Exeter area

Exeter Flood Defence Scheme – Phase 2 of the Environment Agency led scheme is well underway, with construction progressing at various locations along the river. Works around the Quay area have been the most intrusive, with a few issues relating to underground obstructions, such as services, lumps of concrete and archaeological interests, which have caused some delays. Flood gates to be installed at Station Road will block off the level crossing during flood conditions and it has been agreed that DCC will operate the closing and opening of the gates, as and when required.

Exeter Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) – As a result of the completed SWMP, a number of properties requiring property level protection measures have been identified and these are being progressed by Exeter City Council on behalf of DCC. Opportunities for collaborative working with South West Water are being developed, as well as a number of other surface water flood improvements, that will be delivered through the Defra 6 year programme of works.

4. Mid Devon area

Cullompton Study – Flow figures provided by the Environment Agency have changed the scale of the scheme dramatically and has exceeded the tolerances of cost benefit. Other options are being pursued to enable a cost effective solution to be delivered. DCC Highways are considering improvement to the Exeter Road culvert, which is likely to present an opportunity for joint working and a greater standard of protection to be provided.

Tiverton – The Flood Risk Management team has been giving technical advice to Public Rights of Way colleagues regarding the new overflows to be installed on the Grand Western Canal to reduce the risk of a future breach. Flood improvements in the Atherton Way area of Tiverton are also being developed by DCC in partnership with Mid Devon District Council and South West Water.

5. North Devon area

Braunton Surface Water Management Plan – Further to the report approved by Cabinet in November 2016, Phase 1 of the flood improvements in Caen Street is underway and progressing well. This will provide the much needed improvements to the highway drainage achieved through a new gravity pipe system. Phase 2, which includes the provision of a small pumping station, should follow on after the completion of phase 1, immediately after the Easter break, with final completion anticipated prior to the summer embargo period. Concerns have been raised by the local businesses over the disruption associated with the necessary road closure, but every effort is being made by the whole project team to minimise the disruption and impact of the works.

The Parish Council has undictated its full support for the works and has agreed to take over the future ownership and maintenance of the pumping station.

Barnstaple – A jointly funded and managed study between DCC, North Devon Council and the Environment Agency was completed in summer 2016. The recommendations of the study, intended to reduce the risk of flooding from tidal and fluvial sources as a result of climate change, are now being developed. In addition, investigations into ground water flooding of residential properties in Carrington Terrace have been completed by DCC.

6. South Hams area

Ivybridge Flood Improvements – A detailed assessment of the flood risk, development of recommendations and selection of a preferred option is nearing completion. Detailed design of the preferred option will commence shortly and an associated business case will be developed to provide the necessary funding justification. It is anticipated that scheme construction will commence at the latter end of 2017/18, subject to funding approval.

Kingsbridge Study – DCC has been working in partnership with the Environment Agency and South West Water to develop a full integrated hydraulic model to understand the impact and sources of flood risk. This will be progressed as a collaborative project, which is likely to be led by the EA, as the main sources of flooding have been identified as Main River and tidal.

Modbury Flood Management Scheme – Detailed design of the scheme proposals is nearing completion and will, soon, be submitted to South Hams District Council for planning permission. Ecological surveys, a landscape assessment and ground water monitoring have been completed to inform the design, in particular for the storage attenuation and earth dam. A business case is being prepared to support the bid for Flood Defence Grant in Aid which is to be submitted shortly. It is anticipated that works will commence September 2017 and completed early 2018.

Yealmpton – A Property Level Protection scheme has been delivered by DCC, on behalf of the Environment Agency, providing resilience measures to 13 properties affected by the flood events of 2012.

Frogmore – DCC's Flood Risk Management Team has progressed a number of surveys to inform the development of scheme proposals and continued to liaise with the Parish Council to assist delivery.

Ugborough – A catchment study has been produced of the flood prone area of Lutterburn Street. This has been expanded in scope to ensure the risk of flooding is not passed downstream as a result of any local improvements.

Chillington – A local catchment study for the Coleridge Lane area of Chillington has identified a scheme requiring a new culvert to drain down a low spot that floods approximately 10 properties in the area. This culvert is now in a detailed design phase, with its installation anticipated in 2017/18, subject to funding approval.

7. Teignbridge area

Stokeinteignhead – Outline design of Phase 2, which includes upstream storage options, is ongoing. The scheme will involve up to 3 earth embankments being constructed across the valley to retain flows upstream. To ensure ground conditions are suitable for constructing the embankments and to store the flood water, essential ground water monitoring is being carried out for a 12 month period until November 2017. Detailed design will follow on, once the results have been assessed and a full business case produced to secure Flood Defence Grant in Aid. Construction is programmed to commence late summer of 2018, subject to funding.

8. Torridge area

Bideford, Moreton Park – A collapsed culvert on an ordinary watercourse has created a large sink hole in a private garden. The full length of the culvert, which is the responsibility of the various private landowners, is in a poor state of repair and needs replacing. The 600mm diameter concrete culvert is over 90m long and up to 3m deep and is estimated to cost

approximately £200,000 to repair. It was considered unrealistic to serve notice on the property owners to remove the blockage; instead, DCC has worked closely with the landowners and their representatives, as well as South West Water and Wales & West Utilities, to plan an approach to resolving the issue. It is hoped that a solution and appropriate funding can be achieved through the various parties.

Devon County Council Action Plan for 2017/18 to Support the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Projects/Works/Schemes	Lead Authority	Study, Design or Works	2017/18 DCC (PT&E) Flood Risk Management Budget £	2017/18 DCC Flood Prevention Budget £	Details of Proposal
Devon					
Flood Risk Management Team	DCC	-	250,000		Resources required to deliver the Flood Risk Management functions as the Lead Local Flood Authority and Statutory Consultee for SuDS
Strategic Catchment Flood Risk Database and Prioritisation	DCC	S	10,000		Continued development of the flood risk database to improve knowledge of the risks across Devon and to support scheme prioritisation
Minor Works and Improvements	DCC/ Others	W	50,000		Delivery of minor flood improvement works, subject to resources and in accordance with the DCC priority list and opportunities with other Risk Management Authorities (Chillington and Frogmore)
Minor Flood Investigations/Studies	DCC/ Others	S	50,000		Delivery of flood investigations, surveys and studies, subject to resources. Priority areas include Beeson, Broadhempston, Buckfastleigh, South Pool, Ugborough and Woodbury Salterton
Property Level Protection	DCC/ Others	W	50,000		Allocation of funds to support Property Level Protection Grants and supported with additional Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy
DCC Highway related flood improvements	DCCH	W	30,000		Contributions from the FRM budget to support various minor highway improvement works where the risk of flooding to property can be reduced
Community Resilience and support	DCC	W	20,000		To provide assistance to communities for the delivery and provision of Flood Resilience Measures
North Devon Nature Improvement Area	NIA	W/S	20,000		DCC contribution to support the Culm Grassland Project and benefits of Natural Flood Management
Natural Land Management	DCC/ Others	W/S	50,000		To develop best practice and progress opportunities for delivering natural flood risk management techniques in partnership with other RMAs and key stakeholders

East Devon					
Axminster Millbrook Phase 2	DCC	W		50,000	Contribution towards construction of phase 2 of the flood improvement works in conjunction with Flood Defence Grant in Aid.
Old Feniton	SWW	S	10,000		Scheme optioneering and business plan preparation in partnership with South West Water
Sidmouth Surface Water Improvements - Design	DCC	D	60,000		Development of the preferred options leading to detailed design and preparation of Project Appraisal Report for FDGiA
Uplyme Flood Study	DCC	S	20,000	30,000	Preparation of scheme design and collaborative working with Highways and East Devon District Council
East Budleigh	EA	W	10,000		Continuation of minor improvements as recommended in the flood study
Lympstone	DCC	W	15,000		Development of catchment wide flood improvements
Exmouth	SWW/ DCC	S	15,000		Continue to work in partnership with SWW and consider options for flood improvements and any funding requirements
Ottery St Mary	DCC	W	30,000		Develop options for delivery with a strong focus on Natural Flood Management techniques. Works subject to funding
Whimble	EA	W		100,000	To provide a partnership contribution and support the Environment Agency in delivering these essential works if other funding opportunities can be realised
Exeter					
Exeter Flood Defence Scheme (2013 - 2018)	EA	W			DCC to be actively involved as a project partner at Project Board and Project Team levels to ensure DCC's interests are managed accordingly and to provide support for the ongoing delivery of the capital works. Note DCC partnership contribution of £3million
Exeter Surface Water Improvements - Design	DCC	D	40,000		Development of scheme options and production of PAR to support funding bid for surface water flood improvements and delivery of any minor works
Topsham Flood Improvements	ECC	W		20,000	Contribution to Exeter City Council towards surface water element of proposed flood improvement works
Mid Devon					
Cullompton Flood Improvements	DCC	D/W	10,000	80,000	Progression of recommendations from catchment study in partnership with the EA and potential opportunity with Highways
Tiverton, Atherton Way	MDDC	W		20,000	Contribution towards surface water improvements in partnership with Mid Devon District Council and South West Water
North Devon					
Braunton Surface Water Improvements	DCC	D/W	20,000	160,000	Construction of Phase 2 of the flood improvements for Caen Street to provide a small pumping station to complement the improved gravity drainage system in Phase 1

Bishops Tawton	EA	W		20,000	Contribution from DCC to EA to incorporate surface water improvement works into main scheme
Barnstaple	DCC	S	30,000		Surface water management study. To follow up from Strategic SWMP
South Hams					
Modbury Flood Management Scheme	DCC	D/W	100,000	100,000	Completion of business case to support funding bid, submission of planning application and commence construction of the proposed flood improvements
Ivybridge Flood Improvements	SHDC	D/W	50,000	50,000	Delivery of detailed design and business case to achieve FDGiA and progression of recommended flood improvements
Kingsbridge Study	SWW	S	20,000		To continue working in partnership with other RMA's to assess potential flood improvements and develop options
Dartmouth	DCC	S	15,000		To progress optioneering and scheme proposals in partnership with SWW and EA to reduce flood risk in Victoria Road area, subject to appropriate cost benefit and funding
Teignbridge					
Stokeinteignhead	DCC	D/W	50,000	50,000	To continue site investigations and ground water monitoring to inform the final detailed design and business case to support funding request for FDGiA
Torrige					
Bideford, Moreton Park		D/W		100,000	Funds to be earmarked to support the delivery of essential improvements to remove a collapsed culvert and reduce flood risk to many properties in the vicinity
West Devon					
					There are currently no ordinary watercourse, surface or ground water schemes identified, in the West Devon area, on the DCC priority list. Other schemes relating to other flood sources may be considered by the EA or the District Council
Total Budget Allocation			1,025,000	780,000	£1,805,000
<p>The above budget allocations are estimates that are subject to change as a result of scheme amendments and delays or any necessary re-prioritisation of the action plan. The total expenditure currently shows a 16% over-allocation to allow for such changes and efficiencies. This will be monitored throughout the year to ensure the budget is not exceeded, with incomplete projects deferred if / as required.</p>					
Incoming Budgets					
LLFA Flood Risk Management Budget			940,000		Lead Local Flood Authority burdens fund from Defra together with DCC financial support
DCC Budget for Flood Prevention Works				615,500	DCC Revenue support budget for the delivery of flood prevention works
Flood Risk Management Budget			£940,000	£615,500	£1,555,500 Total budget

Policy for determining the eligibility for Property Level Protection Grants

Introduction

Devon County Council (DCC) is committed to increasing community resilience in Devon and is supported by DEFRA to deliver property level resilience measures. Working closely with a number of partners, DCC aims to help communities be better equipped with the tools and basic defence measures they need to be able to deal with flooding. The purpose of this report is to set out a number of criteria that will be used to determine whether a homeowner is eligible for a property level protection grant of up to £5000.

There is limited funding, with an annual allocation to be made available each year. Other opportunities will be considered throughout the year as and when they arise. Applications will be prioritised based on the criteria set out below in order to maximise the number of properties benefitting from this opportunity.

About the Grant

The Property Level Protection (PLP) Grant can be used to help fund the provision of resistance measures that will help reduce the risk of flooding to individual properties. The grant will be paid retrospectively to the homeowner's chosen contractor, on completion of works, providing approval from DCC has been sought. DCC cannot recommend a specific contractor, however, a list of contractors can be found at <http://www.bluepages.org.uk>.

Any costs over and above the maximum grant amount must be topped up by the homeowner. Decisions regarding the eligibility of homeowners will be made by DCC's Flood & Coastal Risk Management team, with Devon Communities Together providing advice and direction to those wishing to apply. Information on community resilience can be found at <http://www.devoncommunities.org.uk>.

A survey will be required prior to agreement of works, which will be funded by DCC from the Grant, following the Selection Process. Homeowners are welcome to carry out the survey prior to application, at their own expense, if they feel that it would benefit their application.

While DCC will be able to provide advice and support with regards to choosing the most suitable protection for the homeowner, it should be noted that the homeowner is free to select whichever option they prefer, subject to cost approvals by the Council. However, this is done entirely at the homeowner's own risk, and DCC is not liable if the chosen PLP is not suitable in preventing flooding in the future. Unless approved by the Council in advance, the homeowner should always select the most cost effective option quoted to them.

DCC will endeavour to package works in nearby locations to ensure efficiency and the possibility of delivering PLP to a greater number of properties. If there are a number of applications for a specific area, it may be beneficial for DCC to consider alternative improvements or minor works, as opposed to providing PLP.

Some of the types of PLP equipment that could be installed using funding provided by DCC are as follows.

1. Flood resistant doors
2. Temporary or demountable barriers
3. Pumps
4. Airbricks/Airbrick Covers
5. Passive flood barriers
6. Flood safety doors

However, there is scope for homeowners to use the funding towards other alternatives, pending Council approval.

If for any reason, your circumstances change, following submission of an application (i.e. you have experienced additional flooding, you have received PLP from elsewhere, etc.), then please update DCC on floodrisk@devon.gov.uk.

Criteria

In order to qualify for Property Level Protection and the Grant, a homeowner must meet a certain number of criteria. DCC will then ask for more information that will allow prioritisation of applications, ensuring that those who are in greater need of PLP will be allocated funding for it. If a homeowner qualifies for the scheme, the Council will provide the agreed amount direct to the contractor upon completion of the works and evidence has been received.

PLP is normally considered a last resort, but if the homeowner meets all the eligibility criteria, and is high on the prioritisation list, then the provision of funding can be justified.

In order to be eligible for PLP, you must meet the following criteria. Applications that do not meet these criteria will not be considered:

1. You must have been affected by internal flooding or be considered to be at very high risk of flooding
 - a. Internal flooding is defined as water flowing into a building or household. A garage may only be included in this definition if the garage is integral to the house and not separate. Gardens and driveways are classed as external property flooding.
 - b. External flooding is not considered a priority for DCC.
2. You must be willing to top-up the given grant if the quote for PLP is more than £5000
3. You must be able to provide photographic proof of the extent of the flooding.
4. You must not also be applying for PLP funding through another scheme or grant.
5. You must be willing to obtain at least two quotes from contractors and seek approval from DCC before installation commences.

Prioritisation

Eligibility does not guarantee that you will be given funding. With the limited budget available each year, DCC must prioritise each application to ensure those with the highest risk are allocated funding first. Priority will be given to those homeowners who:

1. Have flooded at least once in the last five years.
2. Do not have a flood management scheme nearby, or one soon to be delivered, that does/will provide direct benefit to the property
 - a. Consideration will be given to those who have a flood management scheme nearby that will not be constructed in the near future.
3. Are in Flood Zones 2 or 3, as shown by the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea)
 - a. <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby>
4. Are determined to be at high risk of flooding, as shown by the Environment Agency's Risk of Flooding maps (Rivers and Sea, Reservoirs and Surface Water).
 - a. <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby>
5. Have not had PLP before.
6. Have vulnerable people in the household
7. Live in a high risk community, as determined by DCC.
8. Live in an area where neighbours have benefited from PLP in the past.

What is not covered by this policy

DCC maintains no responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the PLP provided, and any defects arising, following the installation, should be taken up with the contractor who supplied the protection. In the event of a flood warning, it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that their PLP is well maintained and working efficiently. With regards to this scheme, the Council exists solely to provide funding and advice.

Please refer to the disclaimer attached to the application form for more information about the responsibilities of both DCC and the homeowner.