

Flood Risk Management Action Plan 2024/25

Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

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.

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 2024/25 as set out in Appendix A;
- (b) delegate the approval of any significant changes to schemes within the approved 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) Background / Introduction

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for the budget allocations being made to support delivery of the Flood Risk Management Annual Action Plan for 2024/25 and to highlight the achievements of the team in delivering the 2023/24 Action Plan. The report will also detail the significant flooding that was experienced across Devon during 2023 and the great effort from the team in supporting those affected communities, further emphasising the need for continued support and investment in flood risk management activities.

3) Flood Risk Action Plan and Recent Achievements

As the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for our area, DCC has responsibilities for the management of surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater. The significant flooding experienced in 2023 was the worst experienced since 2012, and in terms of property flooding as a result of surface water runoff, was the worst since becoming the LLFA in 2010. Unfortunately, over 400 properties across Devon suffered internal flooding following a number of very intense rainfall events during the year, highlighting the notable effects of climate change and the important role of the Flood Risk Management team.

Following a significant flooding event, generally with internal flooding to 5 or more properties in any one location, DCC, as the LLFA, has a duty under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act to investigate which Risk Management Authority (RMA) has the powers to act and whether they intend to use those powers. A report of those

investigations must then be published. At DCC we carry out a more thorough investigation of the flood event, detailing the source and scale of the event and suggest actions that could be considered by the various RMAs. There has been increased pressure on the publication of these reports mainly due to a misunderstanding of their purpose and an expectation that they will provide details of major flood improvements that will be delivered. We have therefore had to manage people’s expectations on the content of the reports, which are to recognise that a significant event has occurred. Major investment and delivery of flood improvements can take many years from inception through the full process to achieving a cost beneficial solution and securing of funds. Where possible we will of course look for ‘quick win’ solutions within existing budgets and resources.

In 2023 we have had to produce 6 Section19 Reports, some of which are still being prepared at the time of writing this report. The table below details the number of properties reported to have internally flooded and the locations exceeding the threshold. Many other locations were also affected with less than 5 properties, however as part of our reporting for these significant events we include all flooded properties that we are made aware of.

Date	Number of Properties	Significant locations with reports of 5 or more properties internally flooded
12 – 14 January*	27	Bickleigh (8), Oakfordbridge (6) and Exebridge (5)
9 May*	124	Newton Poppleford (61), Venn Ottery (9), Colaton Raleigh (8), Tipton St John (11), Metcombe (7), and Exeter (6)
18 June*	9	Crediton (9)
17 September	247 reported	Exeter (45), Topsham (43), Kenton (30), Harberton (21), Cullompton (20), Harbertonford (14), Budleigh Salterton (10), Sidmouth (8), Newton Abbot (7), Ashill (6) and Culmstock (6)
2 November	20 at least	Ide (5)
4 & 7 December	18 (+6 twice)	Axminster (17+6)

* Already published on the DCC Flood Risk Management website: [Flood investigations, reports and studies - Flood Risk Management \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/sections/flood-risk-management). The aim is to publish the September event by the time of the March Cabinet meeting.

As a result of the major incidents in May and September the Flood Risk team, together with officers from Highways, relevant District Councils and the Environment Agency held drop-in surgeries for residents to come and speak with the authorities and share their experiences. Events were held in Newton Poppleford, Colaton Raleigh and Tipton St John following the May events and in Kenton, Topsham and Harberton for the September events. All of the information gathered has helped us gain a better understanding of the flooding in these locations and to consider the appropriate actions going forward. Despite an already overloaded programme, initial investigation studies and minor works/improvements have already been commissioned for these locations.

The commissioned studies on the 2023/24 Action Plan including those at, Exeter Northbrook, Sidmouth Town Centre, Exmouth, Teignmouth, Seaton, Totnes and Ilfracombe, have been progressing well, however those projects programmed for the completion of works at Beeson and Exeter Longbrook Street and South Pool Property Flood Resilience

(PFR) have suffered delays due to the contractors going out of business. Both were procured through either the DCC Framework or a national Environment Agency Framework. Replacement contractors have now been appointed to continue delivery of these essential flood improvements. Where viable those studies listed will continue to be developed along with the progression of more detailed investigations for the recent flood affected locations. These have been included in the ambitious 2024/25 Action Plan being presented with this report in Appendix A, together with delivery of works in Barnstaple, Colaton Raleigh, Broadhempston, Venn Ottery and Exeter Northbrook and also the delayed projects in Beeson and Exeter Longbrook Street and South Pool PFR. Further details of the current projects are included in Appendix B.

To continue the development of essential flood improvements, the emphasis of the 2023/24 Action Plan was for detailed flood studies to be carried out and inform future investment. As a result, the number of schemes being delivered, and properties protected was assumed to be low. A further 28 properties, however, have been better protected and benefit from a reduced risk of flooding, by delivering Property Flood Resilience through our unique funding scheme and the completion of works at Beeson. The latter was unfortunately delayed due to the contractor going out of business mid-contract. It is also worth noting that during the many flood events in 2023, locations where DCC has successfully delivered schemes, including Modbury, Ivybridge, Axminster, Stokeinteignhead and 100+ properties provided with PFR funding did not suffer internal flooding of properties.

The Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP), which is one of 25 projects in the government's £150 million Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP), is progressing well with 19 project partners aiming to improve flood resilience in at least 26 communities. Innovative measures such as, gully smart meters, surface water monitoring, PFR for community facilities, Natural Flood Management (NFM) at critical locations are being tested and trialled as well as other initiatives including the review of planning policy, creation of an on-line flood hub and detailed assessments through Phd students. The project is set to attract in excess of £6 million of Defra funding over a 5 year period with more than £2 million additional benefits from project partners. To follow details of the project, a dedicated web page has recently been setup at [Launch of the Devon Resilience Innovation Project website - Devon Resilience Innovation Project](#)

As well as the highly expected flood improvement and resilience works, DCC also has (a) statutory responsibilities to fulfil in terms of Ordinary Watercourse regulation and (b) the management of surface water for new major development.

- a. All works carried out on ordinary watercourses require Land Drainage Consent which we administer. Over recent years we have seen a sharp increase in the number of consents being applied for with over 160 applications received in both 2022 and 2023 compared to 43 in 2017 and 68 in 2019. We believe this is due to the number of NFM measures being installed by landowners and non-government organisation's initiatives, to slow the flow and reduce runoff.
- b. DCC is a statutory consultee to the Local Planning Authorities for the surface water management of new major development i.e. 10 or more properties. There is a constant flow of applications throughout the year with the small team reviewing over 550 planning applications with a 99% return within the required timescale. The involvement with strategic planning documents has had to be passed to other members of the team to enable the statutory element of the role to be fulfilled.

This is also a good opportunity to inform Cabinet of a forthcoming change in legislation which will have a substantial impact on the Flood & Coastal Risk Management team. The introduction of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act will impose new responsibilities on the authority for sustainable drainage (SuDS) for new development. Currently, as mentioned above, the team are a statutory consultee. However, with the introduction of this new role, which will be for all development of 2 or more properties, DCC will be required to review, approve, inspect, adopt and maintain all SuDS features. It is estimated that this will require an additional 10-12 FTE whether as new team members or resource obtained through other teams in the authority or external consultants. The proposal from government is that it will be self-funding through fee generation, but full details are yet to be announced. Despite delays there still appears to be an expectation that it will be implemented by the end of 2024. A further report will be taken to Cabinet as details and implications emerge.

4) Options / Alternatives

The actions carried out by the Flood and Coastal Risk Management team are either as a statutory responsibility or driven by high public expectations for support in reducing the risk of flooding. With the evidence of climate change and the ever-increasing risk of flooding, the ongoing assessment and delivery of flood improvements is essential. The options of 'do nothing' or 'do minimum' are not considered to be appropriate and have therefore been discounted.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon, published in 2021 and aligned with the Defra 6 year investment programme for 2021-27, detailed the high priority areas in Devon to be investigated in detail and gain an understanding of future investment requirements. All potential flood improvement options will undergo a thorough appraisal of options to achieve the most viable, achievable and cost beneficial solution for managing the flood risk in that location. Full justification of any preferred option will need to be undertaken to support the request for Defra funding and any other local contributions.

With the significant flooding experienced across Devon in 2023 it is inevitable that priorities have had to be reassessed and additional communities brought to the fore to provide them with the support they require and expect. The Annual Action Plan for 2024/25 takes into account the existing and ongoing assessment of those communities highlighted in the Local Strategy and also includes additional locations where significant flooding has been experienced and require investigating.

The selection of all flood improvements will consider the most sustainable and efficient method of delivery and where possible will pursue opportunities to minimise the impact on the surrounding area and the reduction in carbon, helping Devon County Council towards its net zero target.

5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

During the development of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for the period 2021-27 a full public consultation was carried out to ensure every organisation, business and

individual had the opportunity to view the proposals and provide representations on how we proposed to manage flood risk. The list of high priority communities to be investigated was clearly set out in the document and are being progressed through the Annual Action Plan.

As stated in the Local Strategy, *'prioritisation is subject to change as a result of any new data on flooding events'*. Following the significant flooding experienced in 2023 the Flood Risk Management team held local events in the worst affected areas to consult with the communities and listen to their experiences. Such open consultations provided vital information on the scale of the events and the impact to those communities leading to initial assessments being progressed in those areas and inclusion on the future Action Plans.

All flood improvement projects require very thorough and detailed technical assessment with cost benefit justification to secure the required funding. It is essential for communities, local representatives and businesses, parish, district and county councillors, non-government organisations and other Risk Management Authorities to be consulted at the appropriate stage of scheme development. The level of consultation will be determined by the scale of the interventions required and the target audience for that location. In some cases, this may require face to face public consultation whilst other more direct delivery may just require consultation with individual property owners. All consultations will be carried out at the appropriate time.

6) Strategic Plan

All actions carried out by the Flood and Coastal Risk Management team align with the vision and priorities in the Council's Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 -

- Respond to the climate emergency – The increased frequency of intense rainfall events is clear evidence of climate change. As a result, significant surface runoff is generated and local watercourses and drainage systems overwhelmed, resulting in property flooding, disruption for the communities and damage to local infrastructure. All flood improvements will help to reduce these impacts.
- Be ambitious for children and young people – Flooding is becoming more frequent affecting many towns and villages in Devon, including schools in some of these locations. This has direct risks to children attending those schools. The reduction of flood risk in these high priority locations will contribute to a safer environment for the children and their families.
- Support sustainable economic recovery – Businesses can also be affected by flooding, and in many rural locations these can provide essential services for the community. The reduction of flood risk to our vulnerable and high-risk locations will help to minimise the economic impacts.
- Tackle poverty and inequality – Flood improvements are delivered based on risk and are delivered through a robust cost benefit analysis. Due consideration is given to vulnerability and deprivation to ensure flood resilience measures can be funded and delivered to those locations where they are most needed. Opportunities for additional funding are progressed wherever possible, such as DCC's unique PFR Funding

Scheme, to support individual flood victims in making their properties more resilient and who are unlikely to receive a community wide flood scheme in the near future.

- Improve health and wellbeing, including any public health impacts – Flood water contains many contaminants including sewage from drainage systems and chemicals from field runoff. The reduction of surface water runoff and the overloading of drainage systems, through planned flood improvements, will minimise the impact on people's health and wellbeing making Devon a better place to live.
- Help communities be safe, connected and resilient. – The delivery of flood improvements to those at-risk communities will help make them more resilient to the effects of flooding, allowing them to remain connected to major services and infrastructure and most significantly to keep people safe in their properties and surrounding areas.

All actions are also in accordance with the National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, published by the Environment Agency [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/671112/national_flood_and_coastal_erosion_risk_management_strategy_for_england.pdf) delivering towards its three long term ambitions of:

- climate resilient places,
- today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate, and
- a nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change.

7) Financial Considerations

The main funding of flood improvements across England is through Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid (GiA) together with a requirement of local partnership contributions, such as Local Levy, Local Authority Capital Budgets and where possible, beneficiaries and businesses. The Flood & Coastal Risk Management team have developed an ongoing programme of flood improvements with a good track record of securing the Grant in Aid and Local Levy funding to assist in the delivery of essential flood improvement works.

Within the current Defra 6-year programme for 2021-2027 we have already drawn down £874,000 of GiA and £75,000 of Local Levy together with a capital investment from DCC of £212,000. For the remaining 3 years within the programme, including 2024/25 we estimate the need for over £4.5 million of further external funding supported by up to £1 million of DCC Capital to continue the delivery of our programme of works and reduce the risk of flooding to our high priority communities. With potential changing priorities due to recent flooding, we will look for opportunities to secure new projects on the programme as required.

For the early part of the 6-year programme, we have been undertaking a number of investigations to gain a better understanding of the flood risks in those locations and whether any cost beneficial improvements can be delivered to reduce those risks. As these investigations progress, funding bids are submitted, and the agreed projects are then added to the Capital Programme.

The financial headlines for 2024/25 are:

Item	Flood & Coastal Risk Management Revenue £'000	Flood & Coastal Risk Management Capital £'000	External Funding £'000	Total £'000
FCRM Resources	447	0	0	447
Local Improvements, Natural Flood Management, Maintenance & Contingency	115	0	0	115
Studies & Investigations	260	0	0	260
Capital Projects 2023/24	0	77	0	77
Capital Projects 2024/25	0	340	1,018	1,358
Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP)	0	0	1,664	1,664
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Schedule 3 Implementation	124	0	0	124
Total Budget	946	417	2,682	4,045

Details of the above Revenue figures are shown in the Flood Risk Management Annual Action Plan for 2024/25, which can be found in Appendix A of this report. At times there may be the need to change allocations due to flooding experiences or insufficient evidence to continue delivery. All projects are subject to cost benefit justification and therefore may not be affordable to progress. The allocations will be monitored throughout the year to ensure the available budget is not exceeded and will defer projects as required.

The Capital budget shown includes the previously approved figure of £340,000 for 2024/25 together with a further £77,000 proposed carry forward from 2023/24. This is subject to Cabinet approval at outturn and relates to projects at Colaton Raleigh and Barnstaple already commenced but unlikely to be completed by the financial year end. Externally funded capital projects will be funded through Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy. Allocations have been made on the Defra programme but are yet to be secured. The budgets will be added to the Capital Programme once formal approvals have been received.

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 its 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 its 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, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

The purpose of this report is to identify how the Flood Risk Management Annual Action Plan is delivering on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, published in 2021 and provides details of investment priorities. A full [Strategic Environmental Assessment](#) was carried out to support the production of the Local Strategy and 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. These need to be produced as part of the scheme development when details are known, therefore the strategic Environmental Assessment supports this report.

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 experienced throughout 2023 proved to be one of the worst years since DCC became the LLFA in 2010 and with the effects of climate change the risk to Devon's communities will continue to rise. It is vital therefore that Devon County Council continues to provide the level of support and investment in making those communities more resilient to the ever-increasing risk of flooding.

The Flood & Coastal Risk Management team is a small team that is committed to reducing the risk of flooding to those high priority communities set out in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and where possible, those affected during the recent events in 2023. The Annual Action Plan for 2024/25, set out in Appendix A, continues to progress ongoing works and studies and incorporates new areas of investment that have been identified through the recent floods.

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 Papers

National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy	July 2020
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon	March 2021
Annual Flood Risk Management Action Plan	Appendix A
Flood Risk Equality Impact Assessment	January 2021

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Appendix A to CET/24/16

Devon County Council Flood Risk Management Action Plan for 2024/25

Projects/Works/Schemes	Lead Authority	Study, Design or Works	2024/25 DCC FRM Revenue £	2024/25 DCC FRM Capital £	Other External Funding £	Details of Proposal
Devon LLFA						
Flood & Coastal Risk Management Team	DCC	-	447,000	0	0	Resources and operational costs required to deliver the Flood Risk Management functions as the Lead Local Flood Authority as detailed in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon.
SuDS Schedule 3 Implementation	DCC	-	124,000	0	0	Funding provision to support the implementation of Schedule 3 for the review, approval, adoption, inspection & maintenance of SuDS.
Local Flood Improvements	DCC & Others	W	50,000	0	0	To support local area issues that require immediate attention in order to gain a better understanding and to reduce flood risk. This may provide an opportunity to work with other Risk Management Authorities in delivering flood improvement works.
Community Resilience and support	DCC	S/W	15,000	0	0	To support the ongoing operations of the Devon Community Resilience Forum providing assistance to communities for the delivery and provision of Flood Resilience Measures and Emergency Planning.

Natural Flood Management & Nature Based Solutions	DCC & Others	S/W	40,000	0	0	To develop best practice and progress opportunities for delivering natural flood risk management techniques in partnership with other RMAs and key stakeholders, including the Dartmoor Headwater Project and Devon Wildlife Trust's Northern Devon Nature Based Solutions.
Maintenance of Flood Improvements	DCC	W	10,000	0	0	Maintenance of flood defence assets, resilience measures and monitoring equipment.
Sub Total			£686,000	0	0	
PROJECTS						
Devonwide						
Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP)	DCC	S/W	0	0	1,663,797	Delivery of the DRIP work packages in collaboration with all of the project partners. Further info on project webpage. www.devon.gov.uk/drip .
Flood Investigation Studies	DCC	S	100,000	0	0	Detailed flood investigations following significant flooding in 2023 to include Newton Poppleford, Kenton, Harberton, & Cullompton.
Property Flood Resilience - Funding Scheme	DCC	W	0	50,000	70,000	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.
PFR Project – Exeter Longbrook Street and South Pool	DCC	W	0	0	140,000	Delivery of property flood resilience measures to dedicated properties in Exeter Longbrook Street and South Pool.
PFR Rural Project - Colaton Raleigh & Broadhempston	DCC	W	0	50,000	397,000	Delivery of property flood resilience measures to dedicated properties in Colaton Raleigh & surround area and Broadhempston. Projects have been merged for efficiency savings.

East Devon						
Sidmouth Town Centre	DCC	W	0	50,000	0	Delivery of surface water drainage improvements in the town centre.
Venn Ottery	DCC	W	0	50,000	100,000	Delivery of flood improvement works following the significant flooding in 2023.
Exmouth	DCC	S	0	50,000	0	Detailed design of preferred option for flood improvement works.
Seaton	DCC	S	0	50,000	0	Detailed design of preferred option for flood improvement works.
Exeter						
Exeter Surface Water Management Plan	DCC	S	30,000	0	0	Continued review of surface water flood risk in the urban area.
Exeter - Northbrook Phase 3	DCC	D	0	80,000	70,000	Continue investigations for Phase 3 of the surface water management improvements for the Northbrook and Larkbear.
Mid Devon						
Tiverton	DCC	S	30,000	0	0	Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.
North Devon						
Barnstaple - West	DCC	S		37,000	241,000	Delivery of PFR improvement schemes.
Barnstaple - East			30,000	0	0	Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses leading to delivery of local flood improvements.
Ilfracombe	DCC	S	40,000	0	0	Review of Surface Water Management Plan and potential options.
South Hams						
Totnes	DCC	S	30,000	0	0	Assessment of flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses and consider options for potential improvements and funding opportunities.

Sub Total			£260,000	£417,000	£2,681,797	
Total Budget Allocation			£946,000	£417,000	£2,681,797	£4,044,797.00
<p>The above budget allocations are estimates that are subject to change or maybe deferred as other priorities and opportunities arise. All projects are subject to cost benefit justification and therefore may not be affordable to progress. The allocations will be monitored throughout the year to ensure the available budget is not exceeded and will defer projects as required.</p>						
Incoming Budgets						
CCET Flood Revenue Budget			822,000	0	0	To fulfil requirements as the LLFA as defined under the Flood and Water Management Act.
SuDS Schedule 3 Implementation			124,000	0	0	Funding provision to support implementation of Schedule 3 for the review, approval, adoption, inspection & maintenance of SuDS.
CCET Flood Capital Budget 2024/25			0	340,000	0	DCC Capital funding for Flood Risk Management.
CCET Flood Capital Budget 2024/25			0	77,000	0	Continuation of commenced projects in 23/24 now due to be complete in 24/25, subject to approved carry over of Capital budget.
FDGiA / Local Levy			0	0	1,018,000	Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy.
Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP)			0	0	1,663,797	Delivery of the DRIP work packages in collaboration with all of the project partners. £48k recharge for staff costs. Further info on project webpage. www.devon.gov.uk/drip
Total Budget			946,000	417,000	2,681,797	£4,044,797.00

Appendix B to CET/24/16

Update on Flood Risk Management Achievements in 2023/24

1.0 Progress of Flood Improvement Projects

1.1 Property Flood Resilience (PFR)

The Devon County Council PFR funding scheme is still live and operating well, providing essential support to those isolated at-risk properties that are unlikely to benefit from any wider catchment improvements. This is a bespoke funding opportunity unique to Devon to enable individual properties to get support over and above our high priority workload. As such the onus is on the property owner to do much of the legwork for delivery. With well over 400 properties suffering internal flooding in 2023 there has been much demand for this funding exceeding the available budget and resource. For those locations, such as Newton Poppleford, Harberton and Kenton it is not appropriate to support individual applications as a more joined up community approach needs to be considered. For 2023/24 at least 23 properties are set to benefit from this funding opportunity.

Details of the PFR Funding 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/>

1.2 Exeter Longbrook Street, and South Pool PFR Schemes – Following the appointed supplier going out of business DCC have had to re-engage with PFR suppliers to get the job finished. The tender process is now complete, and the work has been awarded to Lakeside Flood Solutions.

With a new contractor it is hoped the works can be closed out in the summer of 2024 and a total of 16 properties better protected with 12 in South Pool and 4 in Longbrook Street, Exeter.

1.3 Barnstaple West PFR scheme – This project aim is to deliver PFR to 40 properties in the Clifton Street and Sticklepath Terrace area, to the west of the River Taw. These properties all suffered from internal flooding in the August 2020 surface water flood event.

Following approval of the business case and a successful tender process, DCC have employed the PFR supplier Whitehouse to deliver the works. It is hoped that the project will be completed in the summer of this year.

1.4 Beeson – The works at Beeson have been significantly impacted and delayed by the contractor R+W going out of business part way through construction. However, we have now engaged with and employed a new contractor, Marine and Civil solutions to finish the scheme.

Works commenced back on site in late November 2023 and made good progress, despite the poor weather. Following the Christmas break works were restarted, with the aim of completion late February. The scheme will reduce the risk of flooding to 5 properties.

1.5 Rural PFR Scheme for Colaton Raleigh and Broadhempston – As previously reported DCC have decided to join these two locations together to make a more viable PFR project that will be of greater interest to a supplier and will also provide better cost benefit. As a result of the flooding that occurred in May of this year the decision was made to expand the Colaton Raleigh element of the scheme to make sure that those that flooded were included and better protected moving forward. The process was delayed whilst information was gathered, and further surveys undertaken of the flood affected homeowners. However, this has increased the number of properties benefiting in Colaton Raleigh from 9 to 25. The overall scheme will now deliver protection for 30 properties.

The Business Case is now with the Environment Agency (EA) for review, and it is hoped to a positive outcome shortly will be received shortly.

The aim is for the project to utilise the EA's new PFR framework, however little information has been made available to determine whether this is a suitable vehicle for delivery at this moment in time. A user agreement has been supplied to sign and return and this has been sent to DCC's procurement and legal colleagues to review. Given the lack of information that has been made available to RMAs outside of the EA about the Framework, there is concern that this sign-off could take a considerable amount of time and delay the delivery of the works further.

1.6 Initial Assessments – Following the extensive surface water flooding in May and September of 2023 DCC have engaged with the consultant WSP to undertake a series of initial assessments to determine whether there are any quick wins that can be developed or whether a longer-term solution needs to be considered.

These assessments have taken place in Venn Ottery, Newton Poppleford, Harpford and Harberton, with further assessments proposed for Kenton and Cullompton in the very short term.

So far, a proposed solution for the flooding at Venn Ottery has been identified and is being developed in house. This will likely require Local Levy funding to aid its delivery, with the initial hope being that this could be as soon as Summer 2024.

2.0 Devon Resilience Innovation Programme (DRIP)

The project is progressing well with all of the project partners fully engaged with their relevant activities. Engaging with external organisations and landowners is always challenging as we compete with other priorities and aspirations/understanding. This is a valuable lesson for the overall project which is all about testing and trialling interventions and understanding of what works well or faces considerable effort. Some delays have been experienced and the cause and reason behind these will be reviewed and reported as part of the learning. The delivery model may need to be adjusted to take account of this as it is unlikely that any carry-over of funding will be available.

Highlights:

- Smart Gully trials are now underway with installations taking place in Ottery St Mary and Kingsbridge. Real-time data will be available to monitor the performance of the selected gullies.

- Natural Flood Management proposals are being progressed for Exton to reduce runoff from land affecting the main A376. The landowner is well engaged and surveys have been carried out on the land. Further discussions are also taking place with landowners in Stokeinteignhead to enhance the recently completed PFR scheme and help reduce the 'muddy' flood.
- The project is supporting three PhDs at the University of Exeter and the University of Plymouth, who will be assisting with the monitoring and evaluation work of DRIP. They will be studying the hydrological and wider environmental benefits (carbon storage, water quality, biodiversity) of natural flood management, and the social science impacts of these interventions on communities. The Project Team has recently been on site with some of the PhD students to plan the baseline surveying and monitoring of natural flood management interventions that will be delivered soon.
- A dedicated web page has recently been setup for the Devon Resilience Innovation Project at [Launch of the Devon Resilience Innovation Project website - Devon Resilience Innovation Project](#)
- There will be regular postings on the 'Latest News' page with updates from the project partner organisations and their individual pilot projects to improve flood resilience across Devon.
- For further updates please follow the Instagram @devonfloodresilience and Facebook page Devon Resilience Innovation project.