

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	11 July 2014
Title:	Response to the Flood Investigation in Romsey and Sub-Catchment Flood Risk Management.
Reference:	5957
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Clare Williams

Tel: 01962 846727

Email: clare.williams2@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), co-ordinates the response to the actions and recommendations from the Romsey Section 19 Flood Investigation report.
- 1.2 That the County Council works with partners to develop sub-catchment pilots for the Test Valley and Winchester (Itchen) to develop a programme of flood risk management, with consideration to the development of a wider pathfinder approach to flooding in Hampshire as a whole.
- 1.3 That authority be given for the development and implementation of a programme of early actions on flood risk management using local resources within approved funding allocations, where funding is unlikely to be achieved via Flood Defence Grant in Aid or Local Levy mechanisms, and that delegated approval be given to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to finalise the programme and implement schemes within approved budgets.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. To provide a clear response to the recent Section 19 Investigation into the flooding in Romsey during the winter of 2013/14.
- 2.2. To investigate and develop a more holistic approach to flood risk management at a sub-catchment level to overcome the restrictions of the current funding criteria for flood risk management, and consider the development of a future pathfinder programme for Hampshire as a whole.

2.3. To develop and deliver a programme of small scale early action for flood alleviation measures that will not attract funding from existing external funding sources.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Consideration was given to adopting a stand-alone approach to the Romsey flooding, which would not be linked to the existing flood risk management governance structure and plans. This option was rejected as this does not represent a co-ordinated or catchment based approach to managing flood risk. There are also existing mechanisms in place such as enforcement powers in relation to maintenance, funding and bidding processes that can be used to undertake the recommendations from the plan.

3.2. Consideration was given to do nothing as a result of the Section 19 Investigation in Romsey. This option was rejected as there is a clear need to respond to the potential for a further similar incident and reduce the risk of future flooding to homes and businesses in the town.

3.3. Consideration was given to only progressing flood alleviation schemes through the current mechanisms of funding. This option was rejected as it was recognised that there are many potential schemes that could deliver benefit to Hampshire, but that the current funding criteria would mean that these schemes would be unlikely to be successful in securing funding.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by: ----- Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment Councillor Seán D T Woodward	Date: 11 July 2014
---	---