

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	3 November 2016
Title:	Buckskin and Romsey Flood Risk Management Update
Reference:	7849
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

1.1. That approval is given to:

- An agreed approach as set out in the paper to develop technically and financially feasible schemes at Buckskin and Romsey; and
- Work with multi-agency partners to identify and secure contributions for the schemes subject to their technical and financial viability.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Following flooding in Buckskin and Romsey, feasibility work to identify potential flood alleviation schemes has been undertaken by the Council and its multi-agency partners.
- 2.2. Detailed feasibility of the Buckskin scheme has confirmed that subject to achieving suitable gradients, a new surface water gravity pipe at Buckskin between the Ridgeway Centre area and winterbourne north of Worting Road roundabout would reduce the risk of flooding in an event of equivalent significance to the 2014 event in Buckskin.
- 2.3. Preliminary cost estimates have shown that the scheme could cost up to £6m. Subject to the submission of a full business case, the scheme is likely to attract around 30-40% of its overall costs from Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA). This will leave a shortfall of 60-70% funding for the scheme which is to be sourced from a variety of sources including the County Council, its multi agency partners and local levy. The County Council

and the multi-agency partners' contributions will therefore be required to 'unlock' FDGiA and local levy funding.

- 2.4. An extended high level assessment of flood risk in Romsey was undertaken in 2015 and a preferred option that would deliver significant flood risk management benefits has been identified. A detailed feasibility appraisal is now being progressed to develop a scheme of works including the installation of a water control structure at the head of Fishlake Stream, river embankment work, flood storage areas and localised surface water drainage improvements.
- 2.5. The preferred option for Romsey is considered to be economically viable and potentially able to secure FDGiA. The cost of the scheme of works is currently estimated at £2.7m with £1.65m of external contributions required to secure £1.055m of FDGiA. The principal sources for external contributions are considered to be the County Council, Borough Council and local levy.
- 2.6. Further and more detailed design of both schemes are required to provide more robust costs, and to inform the applications for FDGiA and local levy funding, as well as the project appraisal.
- 2.7. A commitment from the Council to a viable scheme will also enable formal discussion with partners about contributions to commence.
- 2.8. Development and implementation of the schemes would provide substantial benefits including:
 - Reduction in floodwater depth and extent of flooding in the areas previously flooded in Buckskin and Romsey;
 - Reduction of costs, distress and disruption associated with the recovery from flooding events; and
 - Enhancement of community well-being and resilience.
- 2.9 Delivery of the schemes would contribute towards the three corporate strategy objectives, Hampshire County Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, and the catchment based approach to flood risk management in Hampshire.

3.0 Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Due to the nature of flooding in Buckskin, groundwater modelling was undertaken to confirm the effectiveness of a potential option identified by the initial feasibility study. Preliminary results have shown that an event of similar significance to 2014 could result in 2m water depth in the storage areas and would add significant costs to the project. Groundwater abstraction showed potential in reducing flooding in certain areas but the use of this option is heavily constrained by the practicalities of abstracting, using and disposing of such high volumes of water in a wet environment. Both the storage area and abstraction options may be used in extreme events but are not optimum for dealing with an event of similar significance to 2014.

- 3.2 The extended high level assessment of flood risk for Romsey looked at 6 options providing fluvial only flood risk mitigation measures, and a combination of fluvial and surface water risk mitigation measures, through increased degrees of standards of protection. The preferred option, although to be tested further through the detailed feasibility appraisal, offers the most favourable cost benefits while responding to a range of flood sources.
- 3.3 The do-nothing option was rejected on the basis that the existing flood risk in Buckskin and Romsey will remain and may worsen as a result of the impact of climate change. Long term costs to residents and local authorities may also prove much higher than the cost of a flood alleviation scheme.
- 3.4 A do-nothing option would not align with the County Council's Strategic Plan (2013-2017) to work with communities to identify local solutions that work best.
- 3.5 The option not to commit in principle to viable flood alleviation schemes was rejected because it is unlikely that multi-agency partners will commit towards the scheme if the Council does not.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

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

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

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

I thank Councillor Reid for his deputation at my decision day, which I considered and addressed before reaching my decision.

Approved by:

Date:

3 November 2016

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Rob Humby**

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