

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION

Delivery of Environment Agency Led Severn Stoke Flood Risk Management Team (FRMS)

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| Key Decision | Yes - adds externally funded capital to the approved Capital Programme |
| Date of Decision | 12 March 2026 |
| Decision Maker | Cllr Ian Cresswell, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment & Communities |
| Brief Description of Decision | <p>(a) Noted the Environment Agency (EA) funding commitment for the Severn Stoke Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS) for 2026/27.</p> <p>(b) Authorised the Strategic Director for Economy & Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment & Communities to enter into a collaboration agreement with the EA for the provision of EA funding and the delivery of FRMS;</p> <p>(c) Authorised the Strategic Director for Economy & Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment & Communities to enter into contracts (and any other agreements) to construct and deliver the FRMS;</p> <p>(d) Noted the existing WCC capital commitment of £250k towards the delivery of the scheme; and</p> <p>(e) Recommend to Full Council that the funding from the EA for the scheme be added to the approved Capital Programme to be spent on the Severn Stoke Flood Risk Management Scheme.</p> |
| Reason(s) for Decision | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding is available - the EA has confirmed their external funding is available, the scheme requires mobilisation in March 2026 to commit a proportion of that funding in 2025/26 with the balance in 2026/27.• Benefits – The detailed design is complete and full planning permission was previously granted on 21 December 2021. The embankment and associated works will better protect homes, businesses St Denys' Church and improve resilience of the A38. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient delivery – Utilisation of the Council’s existing Infrastructure Engineering Term Contract for the delivery of the scheme and reuse of A4440 Southern Link Road material, already imported and stockpiled, reduces waste and supports value for money. • Opportunity – If the scheme does not commence now, the full funding required may not be available in the future and general inflation will likely mean the scheme is unaffordable in the future • Financial exposure – This is an EA led scheme the Council’s capital contribution is capped at £0.25m; residual construction and risk costs are borne by the EA under the proposed agreement. |
| Alternative Options Considered and Rejected | <p>The alternative delivery options of splitting the delivery between EA and Council contractors or EA-only delivery were considered and rejected due to legal complexity, cost, and the EA’s inability to secure economically viable tenders.</p> <p>Equally, the options of not agreeing to progress with the proposed scheme or to delay the scheme were rejected as full funding is unlikely to be available in the future and deferring is expected to be unaffordable.</p> |
| Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted | None declared |
| Signature of Decision Maker | Cllr Ian Cresswell |
| Date of Implementation of Decision | 12 March 2026 – The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed that paragraph 17.6 (urgency) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules applies, as any delay likely to be caused by the Call-In process would seriously prejudice the interest of the County Council. Environment Agency Funding is required to be organised to enable the scheme to go ahead in Spring 2026, to maximise value for money and reduce risk and project cost associated with further flooding events. |
| Clearance on behalf of Strategic Director | Rachel Hill |
| Clearance on behalf of Finance Officer | Steph Simcox |
| Clearance on behalf of Monitoring Officer | Tom Pollock |