

Actions proposed to take forward to stage two:

Stage one work highlighted location specific interventions as well as those which could be county wide. Below is a high-level summary of the activities planned as a part of Stage two and three.

Scheme delivery

A number of physical interventions have been proposed, ranging from quick wins to large complex flood alleviation schemes. Some have been discounted already where it is clear there are barriers to delivery, those that have passed beyond the initial high-level assessment will undergo a feasibility study and, in turn, development of options most likely to provide benefit and be deliverable. Progression of this will begin in areas where success is deemed to be most likely, but flexibility will be retained to allow for changing circumstances. Locations currently listed to be explored in further detail include; Swavsey, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Sawtry, Broughton, Buckden, St Neots, Godmanchester, St Ives and Ramsey.

Partnership working groups

Building on the existing network of multi-agency groups, develop new groups in areas where there are existing gaps, including Sawtry, Godmanchester and Bury Brook (Broughton), to discuss long term management of flood risk in the area, with a view to considering an adaptive pathway approach.

Natural flood management interventions

Preparation of a countywide Natural Flood Management Strategy, focusing in particular on assessing the potential of such schemes in priority locations including Buckden, Broughton, Offords, St Neots, and St Ives. To support and explore opportunities in wider catchments where a benefit can be demonstrated.

Use of Telemetry

Explore optimum locations where telemetry and technology may be applied to provide an improved response to flood risk, including assessing potential locations for devices, functions, possible services and types of assets to be considered. Create a scope for trialling devices.

Property Flood Resilience Strategy

Research resources and identify training needs for how the council could support an increase in property resilience to flooding. Improving our business readiness for delivering such schemes as and when funding opportunities arise, as well as ensuring communities have the information available to investigate options and make informed choices about protecting themselves and their properties.

Community engagement and resources

Using findings from the Stage 1 work to help inform and target our ongoing Community Flood Action work. Including improving existing and creating new resources available from the Flood Risk Team for communities. An example of this would be online tools.

Planning and Sustainable Drainage preparation

A review of the sub catchments feeding priority locations and potential future development in those sub catchments. Building an understanding of how

development and flood risk may align with other council opportunities such as habitat opportunity areas. This evidence will help to inform anticipated National planning reviews, updates to Supplementary Planning Documents and the coming new role of the Sustainable Drainage Adoption body in the county council.

Support of partnership and community projects

In some of our priority locations partners and communities are currently delivering schemes which address the issues we are aware of. Our support for those schemes ranges from simple financial contributions to providing professional assistance. This has helped to unlock a significant amount of funding through partners and enable projects to be delivered at a significantly reduced cost to that which we would be able to achieve. This includes schemes in Linton, Alconbury, Bar Hill and March. Throughout the programme we will focus on working with partners to explore similar opportunities across the county that improve flood resilience. These types of projects typically encourage a wider range of benefits in the solutions being created, including water resources and habitat improvements.

Watching brief

A few of the priority locations have a less common experience of flooding and/ or solutions are not readily affordable with current funding routes. In those locations flood reports, funding opportunities or recently delivered schemes will be monitored and continue to be prioritised against other locations.