

# £20million Canvey flood boost



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MORE than £20million is set to be spent on [Canvey](#)'s flood defences.

The huge cash investment is a part of a £2.3billion Government flood defence programme which is to be rolled out over the next six years.

It also includes £240,000 to be spent on construction work at Scarhouse Dyke, on Canvey, by April 2016 to protect 25 homes and £400,000 to be spent in Thundersley to protect 250 homes.

A further £50,000 has been earmarked towards a £470,000 flood and drainage scheme at Northwick, on Canvey.

In July, Castle Point MP Rebecca Harris met with ministers from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Communities and Local Government to make the case to get more cash to protect Castle Point.

Chancellor George Osborne said: "Castle Point was severely impacted again by flash flooding this summer, a reminder of the threat families and businesses here and across the country face from flooding.

"That's why we are setting out a clear investment programme in the flood defences, and we are spending more than ever before.

"And I am delighted to commit over £20 million to boost flood defences.

“The case for this funding has been brilliantly championed by Rebecca Harris, the Conservative MP, who has led a strong campaign.

“She has secured vital investment for the families and businesses she represents.” Mrs Harris said: “The flood damage we have seen in the last two summers has been devastating, and we need long-term investment in our flood defences.

“I have been making that argument loud and clear in Westminster.

“So I’m delighted the Chancellor has committed to this investment.

“It will have a real impact, bringing more security and peace of mind over the coming years.”

[Ray Howard](#), councillor for flooding, said: “I think it is excellent news the fact the Government has taken on that flooding is a serious matter that has got to be addressed and it is putting the money where its mouth is.

“Obviously it is money that we desperately need for the protection of the island and to keep the standards of our seawall protection up to what it is now.”

Further details of specific schemes are yet to be announced.

Dave Blackwell, chairman of Castle Point Council’s flooding scrutiny committee, said if the money does come to Canvey it will be as a result of hardwork by all politicians, residents and agencies.

He added: “My concern is it is all right saying the money is available – which is welcome – but we need the money now. We don’t need it in five to six years because it could be a new Government by then and we might not get the money.”

A senior Defra official said: “The Thames Estuary Phase 1 project will receive £196m Government funding over the next six years, to address the tidal flooding risk.

“The business case for the TEP1 project estimates that around £20million of work will take place on Canvey Island.

“These figures will obviously need to be firmed up as the project develops, but this is our best current estimate.”