

Notice of a public meeting of

Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment

To: Councillor Waller (Executive Member)

Date: Monday 3 July 2017

Time: 5.30pm

Venue: The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00pm** on **Wednesday 5 July 2017**.

*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any called in items will be considered by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00pm** on **Thursday 29 June 2017**.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member is asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which he may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 2)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 08 May 2017.

3. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak at the meeting can do so. The deadline for registering is at **5.00pm on Friday 30 June 2017**.

Members of the public may register to speak on an item on the agenda or an issue within the Executive Member's remit.

Filming, Recording or Webcasting Meetings

Please note this meeting may be filmed and webcast or recorded. This includes any registered public speakers who have given their permission. This broadcast can be viewed at <http://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts>.

Residents are welcome to photograph, film or record Councillors and Officers at all meetings open to the press and public. This includes the use of social media reporting e.g. tweeting. Anyone wishing to film, record or take photos at any public meeting should contact the Democracy Officer (whose contact details are at the foot of this agenda) in advance of the meeting.

The Council's protocol on Webcasting, Filming & Recording of meetings ensures that these practices are carried out in a manner both respectful to the conduct of the meeting and all those present. It can be viewed at: http://www.york.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/11406/protocol_f_or_webcasting_filming_and_recording_of_council_meetings_20160809.pdf or, if recorded, this will be uploaded to the website following the meeting.

- 4. Fulford Flood Protection Funding Petition (Pages 3 - 8)**
This report provides background, analysis and recommendations in relation to the petition which calls for additional flood defence works in the area, including protection or an alternative route for Fordlands Road residents during flood events and completion of the flood defence works for the A19.
- 5. Osbaldwick Beck Channel Improvements (Pages 9 - 20)**
This report provides suggested improvements for Osbaldwick Beck Channel. The Executive Member is recommended to approve the renewal and reinstatement of the current watercourse layout and associated structures through silt removal, weir and sluice gate renewal and works to masonry channel sides and associated structures.
- 6. Health & Safety Annual Report (Pages 21 - 28)**
This report gives an overview of the Health & Safety (H&S) governance arrangements, key risks and activity in operation during 2016/17. It also gives a progress update on the newly formed H&S shared service formed by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and City of York Council (CYC) operating under a collaboration agreement.
- 7. York 5 Year Plan Flood Scheme Update (Pages 29 - 38)**
This report gives an update in relation to the York 5 Year Flood Plan. The Executive Member for the Environment is asked to note the update report and the evidence presented by the Environment Agency in the session. Feedback is sought from the Executive Member on all content.
- 8. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Name: Bartek Wytryszczewski

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment
Date	8 May 2017
Present	Councillor Waller

34. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member was asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests which he had in the business on the agenda. No additional interests were declared.

35. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 12 April 2017 be approved as a correct record and then signed by the Executive Member.

36. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

37. A Cleaner City

The Executive Member considered a report that provided a review of the service performance in regards to street cleansing over the last eight months.

The Head of Operations gave an update and confirmed that a report was brought to the Executive Member in January 2016 which recommended a trial of new street cleansing schedules across the city and following consultation with Ward Members the trial commenced in August 2016.

The Executive Member appreciated the work that had gone into delivering the new schedules and agreed the trial had demonstrated noticeable improvements including the reduction

in the rate of weed growth. He agreed that using resources more effectively made savings within services.

He requested officers respond to all points raised in Annex 2 of the report and he thanked the team for the increased work with volunteers to productively deliver the new arrangements. He agreed that partnership working between residents and Council staff worked effectively and he felt the proposed timescales had allowed for members of the public and Ward Members to observe and comment on the new schedules.

In answer to the Executive Members questions officers confirmed they had mechanisms in place to deal with any hotspots that may emerge.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the standards of cleanliness being achieved, as a result of changes to the cleansing schedules and increased working with volunteers and Ward Committees, be noted.
- (iii) That all staff and volunteers involved in delivering the new street cleansing schedules across the city be thanked for their commitment and hard work.
- (iv) That officers respond to the feedback reported in Annex 2 of the report.

Reason: To ensure that best use is made of the available resources for street cleansing activities.

Cllr Waller, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 5.37 pm].



Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment**3 July 2017**

Report of the Corporate Director of Economy & Place

Fulford Flood Protection Funding Petition**Summary**

1. A petition was presented to CYC by Councillor Keith Aspden on the 22nd March 2017, the petition was signed by more than 150 local residents, the detail of the petitions request for CYC is detailed below:

'I/we the undersigned call for additional flood defence works to happen, following consultation with the local community. This must include protection or an alternative route for Fordlands Road residents during flood events, and completion of the flood defence works for the A19.'
2. The A19 is affected during severe flood events which can cause significant disruption to travel. Fordlands Road is similarly affected and the local community living around Fordlands Road can only access their properties through the provision of emergency response measures.
3. Works to reduce the impact of future flooding on the A19 are being developed alongside the Germany Beck housing development highways schemes, the alterations to the A19 and new signal controlled junction are currently on site and the council is endeavouring to ensure that supplementary flood protection measures are progressed during this programme.
4. No funding is currently available for works to reduce the impact of flooding on Fordlands Road, a range of measures have been indicatively developed and potential funding opportunities are being actively sought.

Recommendations

5. The Executive Member is asked to consider:

- 1) **Option 1**- the Executive Member is recommended to support and endorse the delivery of A19 flood alleviation works through the works programme of the Germany Beck housing development highways improvements.

Reason: This provides the most cost effective and efficient mechanism for delivery of the flood risk reduction works and realises the views of the petitioners.

- 2) **Option 2** – the Executive Member is recommended to support the further development of funding and design options for the delivery of the Fordlands Road flood risk management options.

Reason: Flooding of Fordlands Road will continue to cause repeat problems for the local community without further intervention; further work is needed to address the concerns of the community as detailed in the petition.

- 3) **Option 3** – the Executive Member is not recommended to endorse an approach where Fordlands Road flooding is address through emergency response led measures alone.

Reason: Flooding of Fordlands Road will continue to cause repeat problems for the local community without further intervention, emergency response led measures are cost effective but place an ongoing risk and cost to the council and do not present a wider reduction of flood risk impacts to the community.

Background

6. Historic flooding has occurred in the A19/Fordlands Road area such as the 2000 and 2015 floods when high flood levels on the River Ouse flow backwards along Germany Beck, the road can be closed for a number of days causing severe delays to road users.
7. The A19 is a key arterial route into the city and the impacts of its closure are significant to the city as a whole. Discussions have been held over a number of years to develop a range of solutions that will reduce the impact of future floods on the A19, these works, incorporating a range of walls and land raising, will block flood flows from Germany Beck from overwhelming the road.

8. The current road works to facilitate access to the Germany Beck housing development have presented an opportunity to deliver the works as part of the highway improvements; the delivery of the flood defence measures is being programmed to be completed as part of these works.
9. The impact of flooding on Fordlands Road has been assessed and a range of options have been indicatively developed, these are detailed below:
 - a) Raise the level of the road above flood level – considerable works are necessary to raise the level of the bridge and to ensure the structural stability of the bridge and any services running through it are not compromised
Cost: £750k + (costs dependant on further survey results)
 - b) Flood walls alongside the road – like the A19 works the walls would reduce the risk of flood flows from Germany Beck flowing onto the road, further structural issues may arise from adapting the existing bridge and these would need to be considered further
Cost: £500k
 - c) Formalised temporary emergency access route – an option to provide a formalised access route across the southern boundary of the playing field would present an alternative option to works to the bridge, a semi metallated road surface and temporary traffic lighting would be provided to ensure safe access and egress to Fordlands Road directly from Selby Road along this route. There would be ongoing revenue cost to implement this option and disruption to the A19 caused by the temporary signals
Cost: £200-300k
10. Links have been made with the Environment Agency regarding the potential for the Fordlands Road works and wider options to reduce the impacts of flooding from Tunnel Drain (a tributary of Germany Beck flowing beneath the Fordlands Road estate) to be assessed as part of the York Five Year Plan. Options will similarly be developed to target Local Levy funding from the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to support the delivery of works.

11. The Department for Transport have indicated possible future funding relating to the resilience of the highway network, a bid to attract funds towards the Fordlands Road options would be considered as part of any calls for bids that are confirmed.

Consultation

12. The layout and extent of the A19 flood protection measures has been discussed with a wide range of internal partners and has been presented to the Parish Council. Further consultation is needed with adjacent residents and landowners and this will commence shortly.
13. The high level options regarding potential Fordlands Road works have not been widely discussed at this stage due to the need to attract funding; further work is required to develop the options, funding routes and begin to consult with residents and others in the community.

Options

14. **Option 1** – support and endorse the continuation of the development of the flood risk management measures on the A19 as part of the delivery of the A19/Germany Beck housing development highways works.
15. **Option 2** – support and endorse the continued development of works to reduce the impact of future flooding on Fordlands Road through the development of refined costings for the three high level options, wide consultation on the options to identify support for a preferred option, development of funding bids internally and externally to progress design and delivery of the preferred option.
16. **Option 3** – continued delivery of emergency response led approaches at Fordlands Road. The flooding at Fordlands Road causes significant disruption to the local community but only occurs following significant flood events and it is not, normally, a yearly occurrence. The emergency planning led response of provision of boats or vehicles able to drive through the floodwaters has worked successfully in the past. This approach could be reinforced and continued to provide access to the community in times of flood.

Analysis

17. Option 1

Advantages – the works are being developed alongside the ongoing Germany Beck housing development highways works. This provides the most cost effective and efficient mechanism for delivery of the flood risk reduction works.

Disadvantages – the flood risk works need to be developed within a short programme, some work with landowners is still necessary to finalise and agree the scope of the works.

18. Option 2

Advantages – the option will show commitment to the local community that the impact of future floods on Fordlands Road will be better managed; the option will support the views of residents as detailed in the petition.

Disadvantages – the option does not currently have any confirmed funding, once selected the preferred option will need to be funded through external funding bids or through the application of CYC capital funding.

19. Option 3

Advantages – the option is low cost and could be delivered through minimal usage of CYC budgets, the option accepts that the likelihood of flooding is relatively low and presents a risk based approach to the management of flood risks at Fordlands Road.

Disadvantages – the risk of future flooding will remain unchanged and will likely happen more frequently/have more impact in future climatic change scenarios. The option will not support the views of residents as detailed in the petition.

Council Plan

20. Improved provision of flood defences supports a prosperous city for all and safer communities for residents, businesses and visitors.

Implications

21. All implications are considered below:

- **Financial** – existing funding is in place for the development of Option 1, further consultation to develop approaches under Option 2 will require further funding to be sought, CYC will work with all partners to develop any required funding strategies
- **Human Resources (HR)** – there are no HR implications
- **One Planet Council / Equalities** – there are no One Planet Council/Equalities implications
- **Legal** – there are no legal implications
- **Crime and Disorder** – there are no Crime and Disorder implications
- **Information Technology (IT)** – there are no IT implications
- **Property** – works around the existing Fordland Road Bridge will need further consideration to identify future asset management and maintenance implications

Risk Management

22. All risks relating to the works and their delivery will be considered and managed throughout; no risks exist at this stage of the scheme.

Contact Details

Author:

Steve Wragg
Flood Risk and Asset
Manager
Highways
01904 553401

Chief Officer Responsible for the
report:

Neil Ferris
Corporate Director of Economy &
Place

Report
Approved

Date 23.06.17

Wards Affected: Fulford

All *tick*

For further information please contact the author of the report.



Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment**3 July 2017**

Report of the Corporate Director of Economy & Place

Osballdwick Beck Channel Improvements**Summary**

1. Hull Road Park is a traditional 25 acre park alongside Osballdwick Beck in Tang Hall, the park comprises semi natural woodland areas, tennis and basketball courts.
2. Osballdwick Beck runs in an east-west direction through the park and forms its southern boundary, the watercourse has been artificially canalised in the past and flows are dictated by a series of weirs, see annex 1. The large areas of standing water have relatively little aesthetic, amenity and biodiversity interest.
3. £60k funding has been allocated through the CYC capital process for renewal works to the beck, a range of potential improvements are identified in the Options section of the report and further details on each suite of options are discussed further in the Analysis section.

Recommendations

4. The Executive Member is recommended to:
 - 1) Approve Option 2 - the renewal and reinstatement of the current watercourse layout and associated structures through silt removal, weir and sluice gate renewal and works to masonry channel sides and associated structures. Work would then move to feasibility studies and work with key partners such as the Friends of St Nicholas Fields to explore the potential for a second phase of works to enhance the watercourse in the park.

Reason: Significant works are required to remove silt and vegetation from the site. This will provide an improved amenity for

users of the park. Phase 2 works to develop re-naturalisation of the watercourse could deliver further improvements where feasible and funding allows.

Background

5. Hull Road Park is an extensive park in the Tang Hall area of the city, a range of formal and semi naturalised areas provide recreation and amenity benefits for visitors.
6. Osbaldwick Beck flows from east to west through the park forming its southern boundary, Osbaldwick Beck carries flows from the Osbaldwick area of the city through to the River Foss and has a catchment extending as far as Murton and Holtby to the north west of the park.
7. Osbaldwick Beck has been channelised and managed through the park for many years, historic mapping can be seen at annex 2, the measures provide paved and formalised river bank sides and river levels are managed through a series of weirs.
8. The watercourse is heavily silted up and vegetation has encroached and self seeded on the islands and siltbanks through the park, extensive routine maintenance is required to reinstate the condition of the watercourse through the park.
9. Downstream of the park Osbaldwick Beck flows through the St Nicholas Fields nature reserve managed by the Friends of St Nicholas Fields. A recent funding bid has provided monies for the development of the York's Becks Project where monitoring and renewal of riparian vegetation is planned to increase and preserve the habitats of Osbaldwick Beck and Tang Hall Beck in the area within and surrounding the nature reserve.
10. The Environment Agency has assessed Osbaldwick Beck as part of the monitoring, assessment and improvement plans required by the EU Water Framework Directive. The assessments have identified that Osbaldwick Beck is in a moderate status for a range of biological indicators which has impacted on the watercourses requirement to be in 'Good Ecological Status'. It is recommended that any opportunities should be sought for the improvement and modification of in channel structures and the implementation of soft engineering measures to complement Water Framework Directive needs.

Consultation

11. Consultation has been held with CYC Public Realm, Friends of St Nicholas Fields and the Environment Agency to identify the high level options for the scheme. Further detailed consultation with these groups will be required to deliver the works detailed in option 1 and the further investigations to identify if wider solutions can be developed as detailed in option 2.

Options

12. Two potential options are provided below with further assessment made on each in the Analysis section:
 - 1) Renewal and reinstatement of the current watercourse layout and associated structures through silt removal, weir and sluice gate renewal and works to masonry on channel sides and associated structures.
 - 2) Delivery of Option 1 maintenance improvements, exploration of a possible second phase of works to reintroduce a naturalised line of watercourse, creation of increased habitat and re-establishment of riparian vegetation throughout. Phase 2 would follow a feasibility study and work with partners to design phase 2 options, further funding opportunities would need to be considered.

Analysis

13. Option 1 – Osbaldwick Beck has existed in its current channelised and heavily engineered form for c. 100 years, no significant problems are experienced with this layout but it similarly does not look to use the watercourse as a benefit as it flows through Hull Road Park.

Advantages: The existing layout presents very little maintenance liability on CYC, the layout performs well in times of flood risk and provided significant flood storage in the Boxing Day 2015 floods – see Annex 3 – this could be further enhanced through silt removal and reinstatement of the weirs and sluice gates.

Disadvantages: The heavily modified and engineered channel does not exploit opportunities to use the beck to enhance

the features and attractions at the park. This is further compounded by opportunities to link to wider initiatives such as Water Framework Directive enhancements or the work being progressed in St Nicholas Fields.

Costs for removal of the silt will be considerable and options for disposal as landscaping areas outside of floodplain in the park will be developed.

14. Option 2 – The re-naturalisation of Osbaldwick Beck would provide a watercourse with renewed and enhanced interest to users of the park and an important habitat for wildlife. Flood storage potential could similarly be enhanced.

Advantages: The works would introduce a variety of flora and fauna into the park and provide a new attraction for the park. The works would enhance and work in close partnership with the activities being carried out by the Friends of St Nicholas Fields. Further opportunities for enhancement could be identified through the Water Framework Directive and works programmes being developed by the EA.

Disadvantages: The flood storage potential in the park is essential to manage flood flows in Osbaldwick Beck. The current layout of the watercourse provides a high level of storage and this would need to be carefully designed into the works to ensure betterment. Maintenance liabilities would be considerable and management and maintenance of the improved habitat and marginal vegetation would place an additional burden on CYC.

All of the measures identified in Option 1 would be delivered to return the watercourse to its original state before further enhancements could be developed. Wider funding would be required to achieve the additional outcomes.

Council Plan

15. Improved provision of flood defences and the development of renewed and improved public parks supports a prosperous city for all and safer communities for residents, businesses and visitors.

Implications

16. All implications are considered below:
- **Financial** – existing funding is in place for the development of Option 1, further consultation to develop phase 2 approaches under Option 2 will require further funding to be sought, CYC will work with all partners to develop any required funding strategies
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – there are no HR implications
 - **One Planet Council / Equalities** – there are no One Planet Council/Equalities implications
 - **Legal** – there are no legal implications
 - **Crime and Disorder** – there are no Crime and Disorder implications
 - **Information Technology (IT)** – there are no IT implications
 - **Property** – consultation has began with Public Realm regarding the approach to the works and the outputs to be delivered

Risk Management

17. All risks relating to the works and their delivery will be considered and managed throughout; no risks exist at this stage of the scheme.

Contact Details

Author:
Steve Wragg
Flood Risk and Asset
Manager
Highways
01904 553401

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Neil Ferris
Corporate Director of Economy & Place

Report **Date** 23.06.17
Approved

Wards Affected:

All tick

Hull Road, Heworth, Osbaldwick, Fishergate, Guildhall

For further information please contact the author of the report.

Annexes: Annex 1 Hull Road Park Watercourse Works Site Plan
Annex 2 Hull Road Park Watercourse Works Historic Maps
Annex 3 Hull Road Park Watercourse Works Flood Mapping

Annex 1 – Site Plan



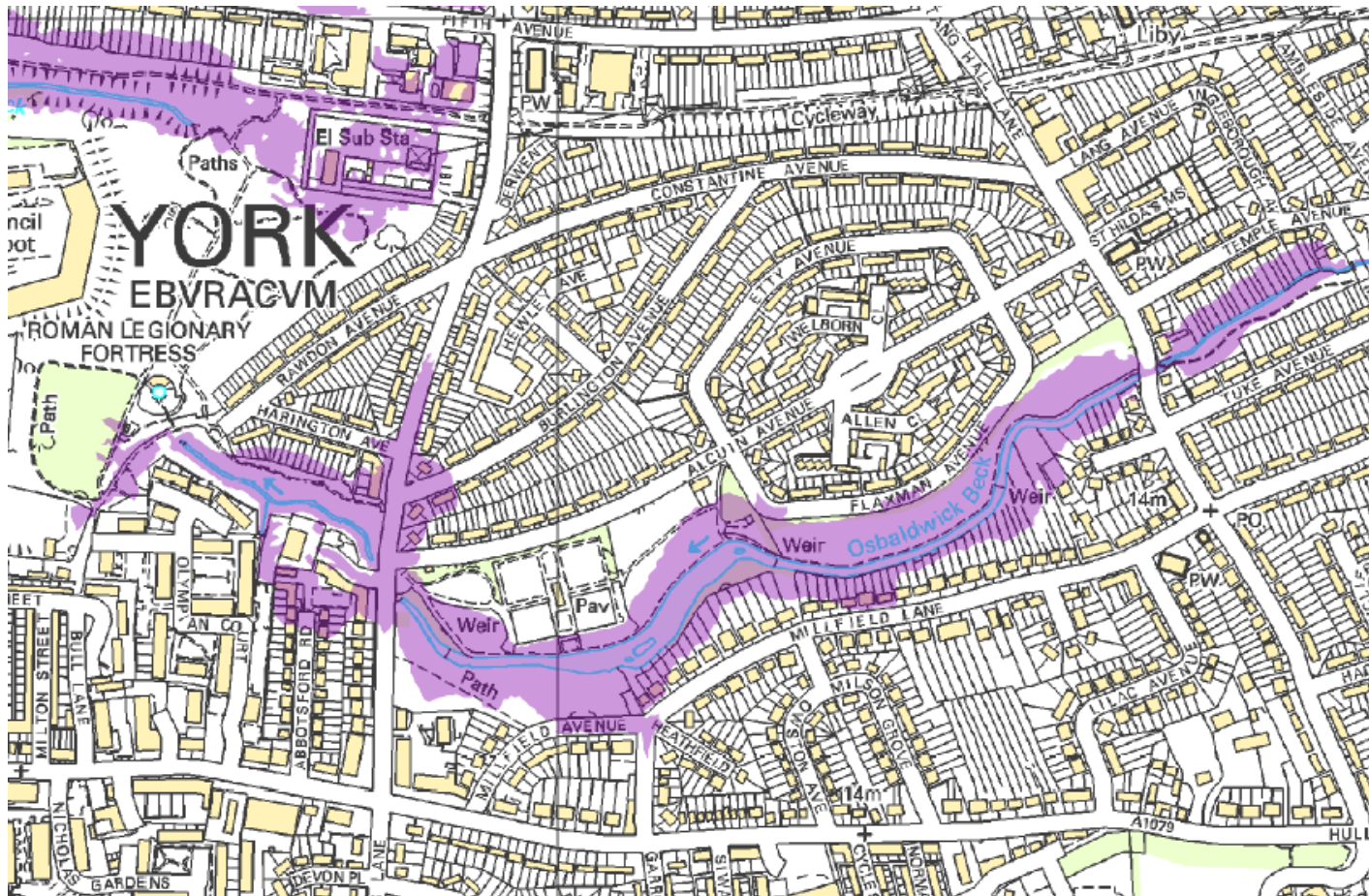
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Annex 2 – Historic Maps



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Annex 3 – Flood Mapping (December 2015 Flood Outline)



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Executive Member for the Environment

3 July 2017

Report of Assistant Director, Customer & Digital Services

Health & Safety Annual Report 2016/17**Summary**

- 1) This report gives an overview of the Health & Safety (H&S) governance arrangements, key risks and activity in operation during 2016/17. It also gives a progress update on the newly formed H&S shared service formed by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and City of York Council (CYC) operating under a collaboration agreement.

Recommendations

- 2) The Executive Member is asked to:
 - a) note the governance arrangements in place, in addition to the key H&S risks together with the council's response to managing and responding to those risks;
 - b) note the progress made in establishing and commencing the H&S shared service; and
 - c) note the focus of current and future work and agree that a follow-up report summarising any H&S activity following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower is considered at a future Decision Session under this portfolio.

Reason: To ensure the Executive Member and residents are assured that H&S services are resilient and the council has proper arrangements in place for managing and responding to H&S risks.

Background and Summary Conclusions

- 3) The H&S governance arrangements are the main driver for the council's improvements in health and safety management, and continue to come from the commitment of the Chief Executive, supported by the Council Management Team (CMT) and Heads of Service. Integral to this is the work undertaken by colleagues across the council to ensure services are delivered in a safe and healthy manner.

- 4) This is further improved by elected member oversight of the management of health and safety undertaken by the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, and the Audit and Governance Committee who have requested reports in the past year in order to effectively scrutinise the activities of the council in relation to health and safety.
- 5) The council continues to have an on-going emphasis on a sensible, risk-based approach which minimises the risks to staff but is also mindful that council services also need to be delivered in a cost effective way. The attitude of all staff and those with management responsibilities in adopting this approach is to be commended particularly considering the current challenging financial climate. It should be noted that it has been proven that effective health and safety management can have financial benefits due to reduced sickness absence and lost time. It can also minimise damage to equipment.
- 6) This report covers the council's financial reporting period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

Main Activities 2016/17

- 7) The council's Health & Safety Policy is what drives our commitment to health and safety and is reviewed, in accordance with best business practice, at least annually. The latest version was adopted in August 2016 following the appointment of the new Chief Executive. The policy is implemented through the work of CMT, individual directors and the Health and Safety Champions for each Department. The Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) which consists of health and safety champions for each department with Trade Union colleagues drive forward the health and safety agenda.
- 8) In addition to the work of council employees and partners there is independent scrutiny of health and safety activity and performance. Each year an activity in relation to health and safety is audited independently by Veritau and these audits are considered by the Audit and Governance (A&G) Committee. A report was provided to the A&G Committee during the financial year and a follow up is planned for July 2017 demonstrating a clear commitment to continually improve with clear progress in implementing all recommendations.
- 9) To assist in easy and accurate recording of incidents and monitoring of H&S performance, in April 2016 a new accident reporting system was launched which allowed people to report accidents, incidents and near misses directly and securely through the use of smart technology (e.g. using their mobile phone). The application is then used to track

investigations and more importantly ensure actions to minimise a similar incident occurring are adequately achieved. As with all new systems there have been initial glitches but it has had a significant beneficial impact in ensuring incidents are reported, recorded and actioned. Work is continuing to ensure all staff are aware of the system and that it is used fully.

- 10) As a result of the murder of a Member of Parliament during the year, a review of security arrangements in West Offices was undertaken and revised briefing developed and circulated using a learning/compliance system to ensure staff are familiar with the arrangements. In addition specific good practice guidance on personal safety was circulated to elected members in order to minimise risk but ensuring access is maintained. Policies, processes and risk control for officers working alone or in risk areas have been reviewed over recent months.
- 11) Following terrorist attacks further afield and more recently here in the United Kingdom, the Health and Safety Team have approved over 700 school educational visits and some of these are to areas that have suffered from attacks. The Team advise or issue guidance to schools on whether these trips should go ahead depending on the information received from either the Foreign Office or Home Office.

Employee Wellbeing/Occupational Health

- 12) A significant current part of the work of the service in protecting health and safety is employee wellbeing and as such the occupational health service is managed through the Health and Safety Service until 1st July 2017, after which it will be managed by Human Resources. The Team are currently working with CMT, the JHSC and over the next few months Departmental Management Teams and joint departmental meetings with trade unions, to understand trends in referrals to Occupational Health and access to support on offer through the council's wellbeing Employee Assistance programme.

Accident/Incidents

- 13) Over the last financial year there were 389 work related incidents and the top 5 causes were:
 - Slip/trip/fall
 - Physical violence/aggression/verbal abuse
 - Handling/lifting/carrying

- Falling/moving/flying object
 - Injured/infected/affected by persons accidentally.
- 14) Where an accident is serious these must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive via the Incident Contact Centre under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013. The council had to report 24 of these accidents using this system.
- 15) A key element to avoiding accidents, particularly in relation to handling and carrying activities, is to ensure staff are competent to undertake their activities in a safe and healthy manner. In CYC this is a mixture of on the job support through line managers/supervisors and formal off the job training. During 2016/17 the council provided 14 H&S related courses to 413 staff including for example Risk Assessments, First Aid, Asbestos Awareness, Manual Handling and Conflict Management.

Looking forward to the Year 2017 /18

- 16) From 1st July 2017 a Shared Health and Safety Service has been created by merging the staff providing health and safety advisory services from NYCC and CYC. The new service will deliver services across the region including to over 450 schools, a number of other councils and council-owned companies. This combined service will allow for duplication to be minimised, to be far more resilient and flexible to respond to peaks and troughs in demand, and allow for the development of knowledge in specialist areas.
- 17) The work of the H&S Shared Service, and compliance with the collaboration agreement will be monitored by a client officer group consisting of senior managers from both councils. The agreement was being finalised at the time of the publication of this report and when available will be published in due course on the council's website. Performance measures have been developed in relation to resources for the service the key priorities for the service have yet to be finalised, however for CYC they will include:
- **Asbestos** –Review of asbestos management arrangements;
 - **Lone Workers** – Review arrangements for the protection of lone workers;
 - **Contractors** - Review arrangements for the control of contractors undertaking construction work;
 - **Audits and Inspections** – Deliver a programme of pulse and detailed audits and inspections to provide assurance on health and safety performance;

- **Fire Risk** – Review the implementation of fire risk assessment actions, particularly in high risk (sleeping) locations.

- 18) Following the tragic events at Grenfell Tower it is appropriate to provide a short update on how CYC has approached the management of fire risk in CYC property. Fire risk is considered at the design stage for any project in consultation with building control and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service as appropriate. Staff from CYC undertake fire risk assessments of CYC property and provide action plans to managers where these are required. Where there are significant risk or the costs involved are substantial then appropriate action plans are developed so the risks can be appropriately addressed.
- 19) Prior to these tragic events CYC was already reviewing its fire safety arrangements and currently chairs a Local Government Fire Safety Sub Group to ensure we are fully aware of best practice and consider ways of minimising fire risk. A special meeting of this group has been scheduled for 12th July to consider any early learning points from the fire at Grenfell Tower.

Consultation

- 20) The Council Management Team have received the detail from this report.

Options

- 21) There are no options in this report given that the recommendations are to note the content only.

Analysis

- 22) All information is contained in the body of the report.

Council Plan

- 23) Outcomes achieved by the activities covered in this report help to deliver priorities in the Council Plan 2015/19 in support of 'A prosperous city for all', ensuring that as an employer the council sets a positive example of supporting employees to achieve their full potential.

Implications:

24)

a. Financial: None

b. Human Resources (HR): The report relates to all employees of the council. The H&S shared service is hosted by NYCC.

c. Equalities: None

d. Legal: The content of this report contributes to evidence that the council is complying with H&S legislation.

e. Crime and Disorder: There are no crime and disorder implications to this report.

f. Information Technology (ICT): None

g. Property: None

h. Other: No known implications.

Risk Management

25) The shared service collaboration offers an opportunity to deliver efficiencies and economies of scale, it reduces the risk of either councils' services becoming unsustainable. The controls and evidence in this report mitigate/minimise risks associated with any breach of H&S regulations.

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Report Approved

Date 22/06/17

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial: Ian Floyd, Director of Customer & Corporate Services

Legal: Andrew Docherty, AD for Legal & Governance

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

Background Papers:

Report and decision record from Executive Member for Environment Decision Session on 9th May 2016. The record is [here](#).

Report and decision record from Executive Member for Environment Decision Session on 28th November 2016. The record is [here](#).

Report and decision record from Executive on 9th February 2017. The record is [here](#).

Report and decision record from Executive Member from the Environment Decision Session on 12th April 2017. The record is [here](#).

List of abbreviations used in this report:

CYC	City of York Council
NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council
HR	Human Resources
H&S	Health & Safety
CMT	Council Management Team
A&G	Audit & Governance Committee

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Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment**3 July 2017**

Report of the Corporate Director of Economy & Place

York 5 Year Flood Plan Update**Summary**

1. The flooding in late December 2015 followed an intense period of rainfall across November and December due to the impacts of Storms Desmond and Eva. Record river levels were observed in many river catchments across the north of England. More than 4000 homes and 2000 businesses flooded across Yorkshire with 453 properties and 174 businesses flooded in York.
2. Funding has been allocated to the Environment Agency (EA) following the floods to renew existing and provide new flood defences across the city, £17m has been allocated to the Foss Barrier improvements and £45m to the wider flood defences across the city.
3. Defra approvals are being agreed for the high level business case and a procurement process has been ran in parallel to appoint consultants to develop the detailed business case and consequent detailed design of packages of works.
4. A range of questions have been received from CYC scrutiny sessions a formal response has been made to these by the Environment Agency in Annex 1 and 2.
5. Joint meetings with the Environment Agency have been held to develop the recommendations from the York Flood Inquiry, an update will be brought to the September Executive Member for the Environment Decision Session.

Recommendations

6. The Executive Member for the Environment is asked to note the update report and the evidence presented by the Environment Agency in the session, feedback is sought from the Executive Member on all content.

Reason: The Executive Member is updated on the progress of the flood risk management works programmes in York and is able advise to ensure wider links and opportunities are considered and built into the process.

Background

7. Following the development and publication of the York Five Year Plan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/york-5-year-flood-plan>) the EA have developed the Defra Strategic Outline Business Case, approvals are expected shortly for investigation and design works to commence for all schemes on the programme.
8. The EA have undertaken a procurement process to appoint a consultant to develop the full business case and the preferred bidder will be appointed after the approval of the Strategic Outline Business Case.
9. Site Investigations along the rivers Ouse and Foss will begin in the summer and last for around 3 months, these will provide detailed information on ground and site conditions and any constraints and inform the detailed design work. The EA will engage and inform residents and businesses once the programme is confirmed and this will be agreed with CYC. The works will not cause significant disturbance, but in a small number of situations there will be a need to access private land, early engagement with landowners will be carried out to minimise concerns.
10. A drop in centre is being developed on North Street at the former Bike Hub site, this will provide a place where all partners working on the schemes can co-locate and work together and we can invite residents and businesses in to discuss the schemes in more detail. It is likely that this will open in the summer.
11. The governance of the York 5 Year Flood Plan calls for formal updates to the Executive Member for the Environment Decision Session in addition to presentations at City of York Scrutiny Committee's, the

project team last attended the Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee on the 15th March 2017. A range of questions were raised by councillors, a formal response has been made to these in Annex 1 and 2.

12. The York Flood Inquiry was approved by the Executive on the 9th February 2017, the 90 recommendations have been considered by CYC and the Environment Agency in a range of meetings and joint work is planned to deliver any outstanding areas of work that are contained in the recommendations. Updates on this work will be brought to the Executive Member for the Environment, a paper will be made available for the September 2017 Decision Session.

Consultation

13. Public consultation on the York Five Year Plan was held in late November 2016 and quarterly newsletters have been developed by the EA to further inform on progress. The Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee received a paper detailing progress at their 15th March 2017 meeting and regular formal updates will be provided to the Executive Member for Environment in accordance with the project governance arrangements agreed with Executive on the 9th February 2017.

Options

14. The principal options open to the Executive Member for Environment are to comment on and review the work undertaken to date and the future work identified to date and the representations made by the Environment Agency.

Analysis

15. Ongoing liaison will continue between the Executive Member for Environment and the CYC Flood Risk and Asset Manager, future briefings to the Executive Member for Environment Decision Session will be made to ensure key outputs and decisions are supported by CYC and to provide formal opportunities for members and the public to consult. Further recommendations will be made for agreement at these sessions.

Council Plan

16. Improved provision of flood defences supports a prosperous city for all through safer communities for residents, businesses and visitors, a wide range of consultation events will ensure this is in line with the needs and expectations of local communities.

Implications

17. **Financial** – Funding is allocated directly to the EA, the additional funding of £45M is available to be directed towards key flood risk projects in the city in the short term. The extent of required works may require wider funding and Defra funding bids will be developed. There are likely to be contribution requirements as part of this wider work. This will be developed further and consulted upon later in 2017.
18. **Property** – The Site Investigation programme will include sites under CYC ownership and/or control, consultation will be carried out with Estates teams and all relevant agreements will be put in place.
19. **Human Resources (HR)** – No implications

One Planet Council/Equalities – No implications

Legal – No implications

Crime and Disorder – No implications

Information Technology (IT) – No implications

Risk Management

20. No known risks are identified at this time, detailed risk management work will be developed as the business case and detailed design works commence.

Contact Details

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Neil Ferris
Corporate Director of Economy & Place

Report **Date** 23.06.17
Approved

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all **All**

For further information please contact the author of the report.

Background Papers: None

Annexes: **Annex 1** Environment Agency Briefing July 2017
Annex 2 Environment Agency Naburn Weir Briefing July 2017

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York Flood Scheme

Environment Agency Briefing July 2017

Over the past few months the Environment Agency have been busy progressing with work around our 5 Year Plan, primarily the appointment of consultants for the shortlisting and outline design stage of new flood defence schemes.

We have also been engaged in a number of other issues within the city, and whilst we have been unable to communicate this widely during the pre-election period, we want to provide you with an update.

Clifton Ings

We are currently finalising the outline design options for the Barrier Bank tie ins to both the north and south ends of the embankment. When this outline design is completed towards the end of summer, we can begin discussions and detailed design work to ensure the necessary improvements can be implemented with the minimum impact on neighbouring landowners and the SSSI habitat in the Ings. Due to the complexity of this, we expect work to start onsite in spring 2019. Construction of the works is expected to be complete by 2021.

We are also proposing to build a pumping station at Blue Beck to reduce the current operational need to supply pumps to the site. It should also give greater reassurance to the community.

Hob Moor/York Central

Following the release of the 5 Year Plan, we received correspondence from residents of the Hob Moor Drive area concerned about the proposal for a new flood defence on Hob Moor. We met with residents back in January to explain that the 5 Year Plan outlined potential options, and that we were not seeking to impose schemes on communities.

This satisfied the majority of residents, however a small group have contact us subsequently with further questions. We have offered to meet with this group to allay any concerns they may still have, and are in the process of arranging this. Cllr Mary Cannon has been kept up to date with these discussions.

Foss Barrier Progress

Works at the Foss Barrier are progressing well and the project is on schedule. All demolition works have been completed and the steelwork for the new first floor has been erected. Work is currently focussed on constructing the internal structure of the new building prior to cladding the exterior.

By the end of the year, the new building will be operational and the electrical equipment housed on the temporary platform will be relocated inside. The station will remain fully operational throughout.

The budget for the project currently stands at £17M but with approval for £19.4M. We will use some of this additional funding for the wider elements of the project such as raising the flood defence wall around St George's Field Car Park and downstream mitigation.

Fishergate & Clementhorpe

The Foss Barrier modelling scenarios show that the increase in pumping capacity from 30 to 50 cumecs could lead to increased river levels on the Ouse immediately downstream of the barrier of 8cm during a worst case scenario. This could have implications for low-lying properties in the Fishergate area and across the river in Clementhorpe.

Mitigation for any potential increase in risk will be delivered through the Foss Barrier project. We expect to be undertaking topographic surveys in these areas in the coming weeks, followed by full site investigation works over the summer. Detailed design and community consultation can then take place during Autumn/Winter with the intention of construction taking place in 2018.

Fulford Petition

We are aware of the petition from Cllr Aspden calling for flood defence works to the Fordlands Road area, and have received correspondence on this issue. City of York Council (CYC) are leading on developing a solution to the access issues which occur during flood events. Our 5 Year Plan also identified the area as having the potential to benefit from a flood defence scheme. We will be working closely with CYC to deliver an appropriate solution.

Hull Road Park

Over recent years, the Environment Agency, along with City of York Council (CYC) and St Nick's have been looking to set up a York Becks Project to improve wildlife habitat along Tang Hall and Osbaldwick Becks, as well as to introduce natural flood management measures where possible. St Nick's have had some success in clearing invasive species and replanting areas along Tang Hall Beck in Holme Road Park.

Alongside this, CYC have secured £60k to clear and improve the section of Osbaldwick Beck in Hull Road Park. The channel here is concrete lined and there are a number of weirs present. It has always been an aspiration to naturalise this channel through the park. Recently there has been discussion as to whether this funding could be used alongside funding from the Environment Agency for the York Becks Project. This discussion is ongoing.

Naburn Weir

Naburn Weir Briefing July 2017

The Environment Agency have recently modelled the effect of removing or lowering the weir at Naburn. The modelling shows that complete removal of the weir would result in a small reduction of water levels in York during a large flood event. The benefit gained by lowering Naburn Weir is unlikely to justify the cost of the work.

Naburn Weir and flood risk

The operation of Naburn Weir to reduce flooding has been reviewed several times, by both the Environment Agency and predecessor organisations.

A study in the 1950s looked at lowering the weir, but concluded that ‘the meagre improvements obtained seem quite out of proportion with [the] expenditure’. In 2005 an Environment Agency study found even less impact, reporting that “our models indicate that neither Linton nor Naburn Weirs have a significant effect on levels during large floods”, but in 2015 the draft York flood model noted that opening both lock gates at Naburn in advance of a flood did appear to reduce the peak flood level in York. Confidence in this finding was low, but it was considered worthy of further investigation.

In 2016 work was carried out using the Ouse and Wharfe Washlands model to investigate 3 possible scenarios:

- With complete removal of the weir and lock structures and favourably low tides downstream, river levels in a large flood would be reduced at Acaster Malbis by 10-20cm and in central York by 2-10cm.
- If the weir was reduced to half its current height, representing a more realistic scenario that could come from using a variable weir like those being installed in Leeds, water levels in a large flood would be reduced by less than 2cm in central York.
- Opening both sets of lock gates in advance of a flood showed a similar result to the second scenario above, with a reduction in flood levels of around 2cm in central York in a large flood.

In normal river flows any change to Naburn Weir could have a dramatic effect. If levels were allowed to fall below the current ‘normal summer level’, even temporarily in advance of floods, this could be to the detriment of navigation, bank stability, biodiversity, and aesthetic value. It would also have an adverse effect on riverside businesses and boat users. There are operational issues around the opening of two sets of lock gates at the same time, and doubts about the stability of a lock structure when subjected to sustained fast through-flows.

Changes to Naburn Weir for flood alleviation purposes remain an option, but the results noted above suggest that the benefits achieved are very unlikely to justify the related cost. We are aware that a hydropower company is interested in the site and we have been sharing information with them to look for any joint benefit.

The physical structure of Naburn Weir

In the mid-20th century the upper part of the weir was wooden boards, and these could be lowered in times of high flows. It is not clear quite when this system went out of use, but the last wooden boards were replaced with concrete in the late 1990s as part of the remedial work to compensate for mining subsidence in the area.

We understand that the intention was that as mining progressed and subsidence occurred new wooden boards would be added on top of the concrete to maintain the crest-level of the weir, but this was never required. Although some boards were in place at the side of the weir in recent years there are now none present.

Our latest survey in 2015 showed the top of the weir to be at a height of 4.91m above sea level (Ordnance Datum Newlyn). This is consistent with the long-standing 'normal summer level' of 5m above sea level in York and equates exactly to the 16.5ft above Ordnance Datum Liverpool recorded for the weir crest in the 1950s.

Conclusion

The latest modelling has shown that:

1. There is a small benefit upstream by lowering or removing Naburn Weir.
2. The benefit gained by lowering Naburn Weir is unlikely to justify the cost of the work.

It is unlikely that we will be able to take this option forward, however we will continue to review the information as we develop our plans for York and we will inform interested parties if this changes.