

Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change

Wednesday, 12 August 2020

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Decision Session Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change held on Wednesday, 12 August 2020. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in a decision, notice must be given to Democratic Services no later than 4pm on the second working day after this meeting.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Louise Cook.

4. York February Flood Review

Resolved: That the report and the update at Annex 2 be noted and the following be agreed:

- i. Emergency Response Procedures – co-location of internal officers worked well and should be reinforced in the flood plan, linkages to the York Flood Group should be reviewed.
- ii. Emergency Response Procedures – further awareness sessions for key duty officers across agencies are to be considered to ensure awareness and understanding of their roles.
- iii. Operational – acting early to deploy temporary measures was successful, this should be recognised and supported as best practice and all teams be encouraged to act in this way.
- iv. Operational – The flood resilience measures under consideration for Fulford are to be developed further and additional funding be sought to enable their

delivery.

- v. Operational – Sandbags were deployed in accordance with risk and forecast, this worked as an effective use of resource but need to communicate this better to affected communities so they know what to expect.
- vi. Warning and Informing – Forecast levels were included for Viking recorder on the .gov.uk website as part of a trial. This functionality was not available on all EA level gauges. The website includes a statement to refer to alerts and warnings for information. Better understanding was needed by all users of this service to explain its limitations. All communications should provide supporting information to explain this, Environment Agency were supportive of this and example text was provided at Annex 1 of the report.
- vii. Communications and Media – The Single Version of The Truth worked well to provide a rolling update on the forecasts, escalation and impacts of the flooding. The consequences of River Ouse flooding were well known and responses rehearsed, messaging and communication can be developed in advance of flooding and built into the flood plan.
- viii. Impact – Environment Agency led schemes in areas affected by the event were essential to provide future flood resilience, all involved were to commit to their effective and timely delivery.
- ix. Impact – The funding available for flood signage updates should be informed by feedback from the event to ensure it was targeted effectively and has maximum impact.
- x. Impact – Council teams and partners support affected businesses wherever possible, businesses will be encouraged to ensure they were prepared for future flooding and business continuity planning takes this into account.

Reason: To confirm that the Executive Member was aware of the current position and to ensure that progress continues to be made on flood alleviation and prevention in the City of York.

5. Germany Beck Flood Scheme Update

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the development of the next stage of appraisal, as detailed in paragraphs 31 & 32 of the report, be agreed.
- (iii) That the funding needs be considered by Executive for further consideration.

Reason: To confirm that the Executive Member was aware of the current position and to ensure that progress continues to be made on the Germany Beck Flood Alleviation Scheme.