

York Flood Alleviation Scheme

Annex 1 Update for 4 September Decision Session

10 August 2017

Since our last update prior to the July session, our work has been focused around planning and undertaking survey work for the first potential schemes, ensuring that progress at the Foss Barrier remains on track, and further developing the Long Term Plan.

Delivering the Five Year Plan - Survey Work

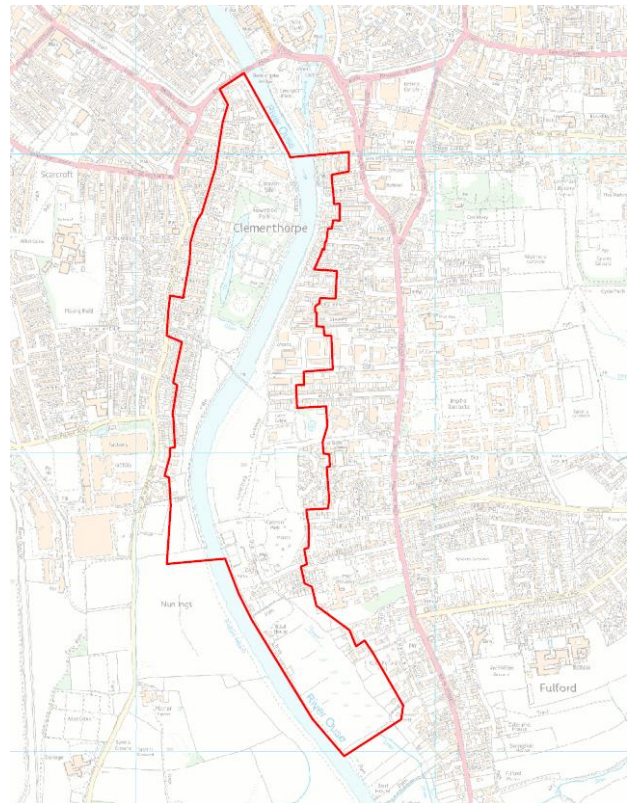
In order to develop effective flood defence schemes, we need to undertake a number of surveys to inform feasibility and design. The first of these are topographic surveys to measure exact ground levels in areas we intend to work. As was widely reported, we conducted the first phase of this work through a drone survey, which enabled us to collect very accurate data quickly, and without disturbance to residents.

On Monday 14 August, we will begin the next phase of surveying in some areas of the city, as shown on the map opposite.

Surveyors will be looking to measure the heights of doorways above ground levels. This is usually the lowest entry point for flood waters to enter so having this information will allow us to better understand the level of risk to homes and businesses across York, and design new defences to the most effective level.

The results of this survey will be combined with the outputs from the earlier drone surveys to give us a detailed understanding of the flow paths of flood waters and exactly how properties may be at risk under a range of scenarios. This, alongside ground investigation works due to follow later in the summer, will enable us to produce outline designs for new schemes in these areas which provide the maximum possible benefit to residents and the wider community.

Attached is a copy of the information sheet we are delivering to properties within the survey area, outlining the extent of the works.



Developing Options and Shortlisting

Alongside the ongoing survey work, we are also working to refine the initial options outlined within the 5 Year Plan released in November 2016. We are keen to work with residents to achieve this, and would welcome invitations to attend ward meetings and discuss progress at a local level. Last week (3 August) we met with Cllr Cannon and residents of the Hob Moor Drive area to discuss the outline options for the area.

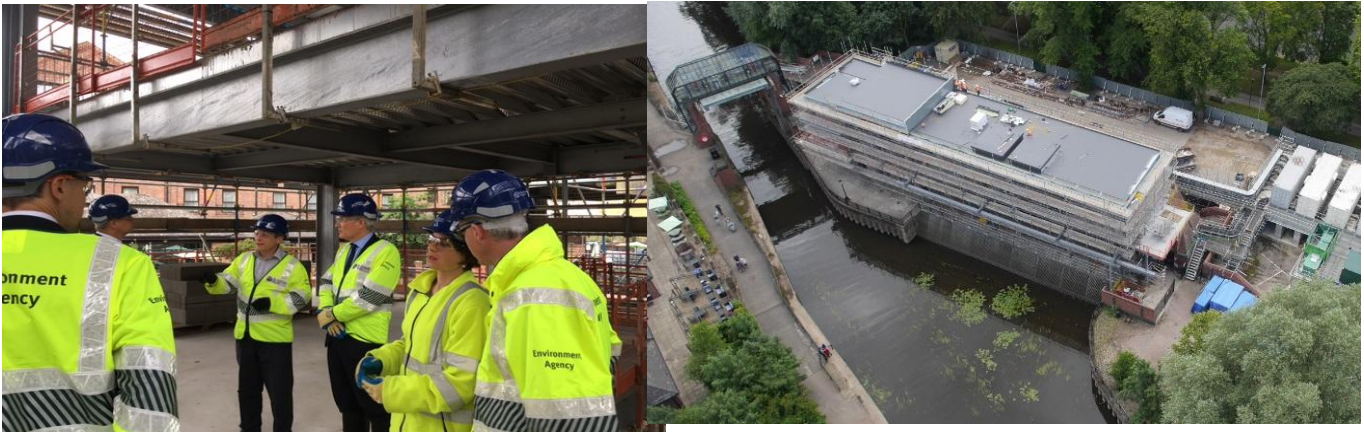
Long-Term Plan

Alongside the 5 Year Plan, which focuses on hard defences across the city itself, we are also producing a Long Term Plan which looks at what can be done to reduce flooding in York by addressing issues in the whole catchment. The first stage of this process was to undertake a detailed modelling study of the Foss catchment, to investigate where interventions could have maximum benefit, and how much impact this could have to flood risk in York. We have produced a short summary of this work which is due to be released to the public w/c 14 August. There is a detailed technical plan which underpins this, which we are already sharing with partners.

The Long Term Plan is essentially a framework for identifying and delivering improvements across the whole catchment. It is not a prescriptive list of schemes to take forward. We will be working in partnership with a range of organisations to help deliver the objectives of the plan, and will be reporting back regularly on progress.

Foss Barrier Progress

Progress at the Foss Barrier is on schedule. The steel frame is complete and the new roof is almost finished. The focus in the coming weeks will be on constructing the internal walls to allow us to begin fitting out the building. We will be operating from the new building this winter.



Left: Andrew Jones MP at the Foss Barrier. Right: New roof nearing completion

On 21 July Andrew Jones MP, the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, visited the Foss Barrier. The £17 million of investment in the project came directly from the Treasury so the Minister was keen to see how we were progressing. The Minister was impressed by the scale of the new building, and the speed at which we are progressing.

Engagement

As the scheme progresses, we want to take every opportunity to engage with the public and keep residents informed about our work, and how they can get involved. In addition to our regular newsletters, we've just set up a Facebook page to provide more regular updates. Please 'like' us on Facebook by searching @YorkFAS to receive updates.

In addition to our public engagement, we are setting up an advisory group of key partner organisations to influence the development of schemes coming forward. This will enable us to realise opportunities to deliver wider community benefits through our schemes, and maximise the value of our work for York.

