
Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment
Date	4 September 2017
Present	Councillor Waller

14. Public Participation

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

However, the Executive Member indicated that written submissions had been received from Cllr Hayes and Dave Merrett regarding progress on the use of demountable flood defences in the Clementhorpe area (action 6 in Annex 2 to the report refers). He requested that Officers provide a written response, to be annexed to the minutes of the meeting.

15. 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.

16. York 5 Year Flood Plan Update

The Executive Member considered a report that provided an update in relation to the York 5 Year Flood Plan and sought feedback on all content.

Annex 1 to the report outlined work carried out by the Environment Agency (EA) since the last update in July. This had focused on planning and undertaking surveys for the first potential schemes, ensuring progress at the Foss Barrier remained on track, and further developing the Long Term Plan. Annex 2 set out progress on each of the 91 actions arising from the York Flood Inquiry.

An officer from the EA was present to provide further information and respond to questions, along with the Council's Flood Risk & Asset Manager and Emergency Planning Manager.

In response to questions and comments from the Executive Member, officers:

- Outlined the reasons for the time being taken to investigate options for demountable defences at Clementhorpe, confirming that a written response, including details of plans for public engagement on the options, would be provided; information would also be made available via a newsletter, social media and a drop-in centre open 2 days per week.
- Confirmed the existing flood defence procedures for the Clementhorpe area, which was not considered to be at high risk of flooding, though it was accepted that the overall frequency of severe flood events had increased in recent years. *[Further information on Clementhorpe is included in the annex to these minutes referred to in Minute 14 above]*
- Clarified the investment situation, explaining that the overall funding required would be determined as projects progressed and that a 'consenting master plan' was being developed, with a view to engaging as early as possible with stakeholders.
- Agreed that the EA would liaise with the council to ensure all members were aware of survey and investigation work being carried out in their wards, as well as communicating this information to the public via the usual channels.
- Outlined plans to recruit a council officer to deal with public engagement, linking to the community emergency plans and 'Ready for Anything' programme, and proposals to run a 'walk-through' exercise on 25 November.
- Noted the Executive Member's comments regarding the need for transparency at every stage and to ensure that information was accessible by collating it in one place, for example via links to the minutes of these decision sessions.

The Executive Member thanked council officers for their speedy response to the flash flood in Fishergate on 23 August. Officers reported that Yorkshire Water were looking into whether inadequate pipe sizes may have contributed to the flooding. A link to the Council's plans for improvements to gully cleaning was requested for the minutes and can be found here:

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=4710>

Resolved: (i) That the update report and the information provided by the Environment Agency (EA) at the session be noted.

Reason: To confirm that the Executive Member is updated on the progress of the flood risk management works programmes in York and is able to provide advice to

ensure that wider links and opportunities are considered and built into the process.

(ii) That information on the following be included in the next quarterly update:

- scientific evidence detailing potential approaches for new telemetry, monitoring and forecasting that can be used to support catchment scale flood risk interventions (action 2 in Annex 2)
- work being carried out to identify changes to the location of Silver Command in future flood events (action 31);
- work being done by Category 2 Responders (the utilities) to ensure the recommendations in the York Flood Inquiry and the National Flood Resilience Review have been considered and auctioned;
- information detailing the EA's proposals for each flood cell across the city and the methodology used to identify these measures, to be considered alongside the programmes requested in the body of the report.

Reason: To ensure that the update addresses issues raised by the Executive Member at the session.

Cllr A. Waller, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.30 pm].

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Written response to questions submitted regarding progress on the use of demountable flood defences in the Clementhorpe area

Environment Agency:

The defence work at Clementhorpe needs careful consideration and design. A demountable defence solution is complicated due to the presence of underground services and further understanding is needed of how adjacent riverside buildings will link in with the defences to provide a consistent and effective line of defence. The outline design is currently being developed and formal engagement will commence in November 2018; however, we welcome views from anyone at any time via yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk.

The North Street hub will also be open in early November, providing an opportunity for further contact with anyone interested in our work across the city. Information will also be made available via newsletter and social media. The Clementhorpe business case will be finalised by March 2018 and construction will commence in autumn 2018.

City of York Council:

Regarding the existing flood defence procedures for the Clementhorpe area, a demountable flood defence has been placed at the end of Clementhorpe by City of York Council Highways operatives to prevent flood water passing into the Clementhorpe area. The defence is constructed from 1 tonne sandbags, which reduce the impact of flooding from all but the largest events. The defence is constructed when river levels are predicted to rise 4.0m or more above summer level. Work commences at 3.6m above summer level and pumping is needed behind the defence to ensure water does not build up from the surface water system. The pumps are removed and the defence is allowed to naturally overtop in any flood events of 4.6m above summer level or greater.

Flood warning and evacuation plans would be invoked to manage any escalating situation. A risk assessment carried out following the 2012 flood event informed this; the defence was constructed higher in 2012 and significant resource was needed to pump behind the defence. However, this presented unacceptable dangers to operatives and residents if the defence were to suddenly fail; a slow overtopping and ingress into the area behind the defence presents less risk. This

approach was communicated to residents at an event at Clementhorpe Community Hall in on the 4th November 2014.

The Clementhorpe area is not considered to be at high risk of flooding with the current temporary defence arrangement managing a wide array of flood events, though it is accepted that the overall frequency of severe flood events had increased in recent years.