

**Decision Session - Executive Member for
Environment**

4 September 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 have been granted for the high level business case and the contract has been awarded to consultants to develop the detailed business case and consequent detailed design of packages of works.
4. The high level options in the Five Year Flood Plan are being reviewed and preferred options will begin to be developed over the next few months. A list of potential measures and the programme of likely works will be brought before the Executive Member at the 4 December 2017 Decision Session and will be refined and reviewed in subsequent meetings.
5. An update on progress has been supplied by the Environment Agency, this can be seen in Annex 1.
6. Joint meetings with the Environment Agency have been held to develop the recommendations from the York Flood Inquiry, an updated action list can be seen in Annex 2.

Recommendations

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

Background

8. 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 and financial approvals have been sought and obtained from Defra. This is a significant hurdle for any major project.
9. The EA have appointed Capita/AECOM following a procurement process, the consultants will develop the detailed business case and design works for schemes within the 5 Year Flood Plan.
10. The high level options identified for each community in the York Five Year Flood Plan have been considered further and workshops have been held during the summer with the Environment Agency to review a range of metrics to refine the high level options to a long list of feasible measures within each flood risk area. Further modelling and analysis of the long list of options is currently being carried out to identify the preferred options in each location.
11. A list of feasible options will be developed following this process and a programme of further appraisal, design and build works will be assigned to each, this will be reviewed in the Executive Member for the Environment Decision Sessions.
12. Site Investigations along the rivers Ouse and Foss began in the summer and will 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 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.

13. 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.
14. 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, quarterly updates will be brought to the Executive Member and biannual updates to the Economy & Place Policy & Scrutiny Committee.
15. The York Flood Inquiry was approved by the Executive on the 9th February 2017, the 91 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. An update on the actions is provided in Annex 2.
16. Additional resources have been committed to develop and deliver the work identified in the inquiry, a Community Resilience Officer role is being developed and the work of the Flood Risk Manager and Emergency Planning Manger has been reinforced as a result of the paper taken to the 29th June 2017 Executive meeting
<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/documents/s115503/Flooding%20Community%20Resilience.pdf>

Consultation

17. 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 and the newly formed Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee as detailed in paragraph 11 of this report.
18. Detailed public consultation events will be held in each community following the production of the long list of options and further refinement of the preferred options as detailed in paragraphs 10 and 11, a programme of communication events will be produced alongside this work and reviewed at the 4 December 2017 Decision Session.

Options

19. 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

20. 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

21. 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

22. **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.
23. **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.

- 24. 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

- 25. 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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Report **Date** 22 August 2017
Approved

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes:

Annex 1 & 2 York 5 Year Flood Plan Update September 17

Abbreviations

EA – Environment Agency