

## Notice of a public

### Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change

**To:** Councillor Widdowson (Executive Member)

**Date:** Wednesday, 6 January 2021

**Time:** 3.00 pm

**Venue:** Remote Meeting

### 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 **5:00 pm on 8 January 2021**.

\*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 **5.00 pm on Monday 4 January 2021**.

#### **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 might have in respect of business on this agenda.

## **2. Minutes**

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 16 December 2020.

## **3. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at remote meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is **Monday 4 January 2021**.

### **To register to speak please visit**

[www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings](http://www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings) to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting whose details can be found at the foot of the agenda.

**Webcasting of Remote Public Meetings** Please note that, subject to available resources, this remote public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at [www.york.gov.uk/webcasts](http://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts). During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates ([www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy](http://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy)) for more information on meetings and decisions.

- ## **4. York 5 Year Flood Plan Update** (Pages 1 - 12)
- This report provides the Executive Member with an update on the York 5 year flood plan.

## 5. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Robert Flintoft

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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)

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change
Date	16 December 2020
Present	Councillors Widdowson
Apologies	

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## 10. 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, or any prejudicial or discloseable pecuniary interests she may have in respect of business on the agenda. None were declared.

## 11. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 24 September 2020 be approved and signed by the Executive Member as a correct record.

## 12. Public Participation

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

## 13. York Climate Commission

The Executive Member considered the option to approve the establishment of a York Climate Commission. She highlighted that she was pleased with the speed at which York had acted to prepare for the creation of a Climate Commission and agreed that the collaborative work between the public, private, and civic sectors in York would play an important role in York reaching its aim of net carbon zero by 2030.

It was noted that the Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee had considered the proposal for the establishment of a York Climate Commission prior to a decision being made and recommended that Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change chair the Commission for an initial period that would not exceed 12 months from formation. At which point, the Chair would be appointed from amongst the other Commission members, with the Executive then taking up the role of

Vice-chair. The Executive Member thanked the Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee for their pre-decision scrutiny work leading to this decision.

Resolved:

- i. Approved the establishment of a York Climate Commission;
- ii. Agreed to the Commission's Terms of Reference, with the amendment that the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change will chair the Commission for an initial period that will not exceed 12 months from formation. At which point, the Chair will be appointed from amongst the other Commission members, with the Executive member for Environment and Climate Change taking up the role of Vice-chair.

Reason: To create cross city coordination towards achieving a net carbon zero York by 2030.

#### **14. York Community Woodland delivery Pathway**

The Executive Member considered the delivery platform and outlined that the project would be a great opportunity for York. They noted that this would allow for a multiuse new woodland with 50,000 new trees that would improve York's air quality, create new jobs, and help York reach its aim of being carbon neutral by 2030. It was also outlined that the project would garner a lot of support from across the city and would draw in a lot of funding from government grants.

Resolved:

- i. Noted the progress made to date;
- ii. Reviewed and approved the following:
  - a) Draft project initiation document (PID);
  - b) Draft project plan and key milestones;
  - c) Draft engagement framework and strategy;
  - d) Communications plan.

Reason: To create a new woodland for York which will help the city reach net zero carbon by 2030.



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Executive Member for Environment and Climate  
Change Decision Session

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Report of the 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, £28m has been allocated to the Foss Barrier improvements and £45m to the wider flood defences across the city.
3. An update on progress has been supplied by the EA, this can be seen in Annex 1.
4. City of York Council are leading on the development of the scheme in Fulford, approvals and contract award has been made to take this scheme through the detailed design and planning stage, work will commence this month.

### **Recommendations**

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

### **Background**

6. 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. Detailed businesses cases are being developed for 19 flood cells across the city.

7. The Environment Agency continue to work closely with City of York Council on all aspects of the York Five Year Plan, an update has been provided by the EA at Annex 1.
8. Following an outline appraisal a preferred option of defences and a pumping station have been identified to provide protection to homes and maintain access on Fordlands Road during flooding. The scheme will also aid future flood resilience on the A19. The scheme was considered in the August 2020 Executive Member for the Environment and Climate Change Decision Session:  
  
<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=870&MId=12345&Ver=4>
9. Consultants have ben procured to deliver the detailed design and to work up all planning approval submissions for the scheme. Following contract award the scheme will commence this month.

### **Consultation**

10. Public consultation on the York Five Year Plan continues through a range of flood cells, this is detailed in the update in Annex1 along with the programme of future consultation events.

### **Options**

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

### **Analysis**

12. Ongoing liaison will continue between the Executive Member for Environment and the CYC Flood Risk Manager, future briefings to the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change 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

13. 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

14. **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.
15. **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.
16. Human Resources (HR) – No implications  
One Planet Council/Equalities – No implications  
Legal – No implications  
Crime and Disorder – No implications  
Information Technology (IT) – No implication

## Risk Management

17. 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**

**Author:**

**Steve Wragg  
Flood Risk Manager  
Highways**

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

**Neil Ferris  
Director of Economy & Place**

**Report**  **Date** 14/12/20  
**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 York 5 Year Flood Plan Update Jan21**

## Update for January's Executive Decision Session

This is an update of the progress made over the last five months on the flood alleviation work in York, as well as providing information on the current status of our work and expected timelines for delivering the remaining work. In this update we have provided:

1. Summary of city wide flood alleviation activities
2. Next steps
3. Programme information table
4. Map of the York Five Year Plan flood cell outlines

### 1. Summary of city wide flood alleviation activities

#### Engagement activity

From July to December 2020, we continued to carry out a mix of virtual and in-person engagement. Since our last update, we have:

- Hosted six online public meetings for five flood cells, with over 125 attendees in total, and over 150 questions submitted by the public and answered by our team;
- Prepared and shared 21 newsletters, either city-wide or to specific flood cells, to a combined mailing list of almost 1,500 recipients;
- Hosted a two-day, Property Flood Resilience (PFR) demonstration day which was attended by 22 members of the public with Covid-19 compliant procedures in place;
- Hosted three York FAS Advisory Group meetings; and
- Continued to share regular updates via our social media pages and our webpage, which received approximately 1,500 views in the second-half of 2020.

In addition, we receive and respond to correspondence on a daily basis via our York Flood Plan email account. However, our engagement hub remains closed to the public due to Covid-19.

#### Flood Cells Update

##### **Foss Storage Area**

Our planning application was unanimously approved by CYC on 19 November 2020. The new flood storage area will better protect 490 vulnerable homes between Strensall and The Groves area of York from flooding. This scheme, in the rural area 2km north of Strensall, will also reduce flood risk to key transport routes and result in benefits to the environment including tree planting, wetland creation and improvements to river bank habitat.

##### **Foss Barrier**

Work is ongoing to complete electronic works at the Pumping Station, the raising of the flood wall and the barrier structure, with the intention that the new flood gate will be installed in early January. The gate and pumping station have and will continue to remain operational during all the improvement work. The installation will, however, be weather dependent. Training and preparation for handover is underway.

## **Scarborough Bridge to Ouse Bridge right bank (B4)**

We have completed the majority of work in this flood cell to better protect 39 properties from flooding. We have increased the height of the flood wall and gates along North Street, built a new flood wall between Leeman Road and the Memorial Gardens and installed demountable panels across the entrances to the Gardens. We have also conducted an exercise to test the deployment of the new demountable gate. We plan to install a new flood gate under Lendal Bridge between the Easter and Summer school holidays next year, to minimise the impact of the necessary road closure on the community.

## **Coppins Farm to Scarborough Bridge (B11)**

Despite the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions and the early-November flooding on our construction schedules, we have completed the majority of work on increasing the height of the flood defences in this flood cell. We have extended and increased the height of the flood embankment in St Peters School fields, built a transition wall between the embankment and the end of Almerly Terrace, and installed glass panels and new gates at Almerly Terrace. Next Spring, we will install a short flood gate on top of the Almerly steps, and work on the Network Rail embankment to ensure it is flood proof.

## **Clementhorpe (B8)**

This flood defence scheme runs from Skeldergate Bridge to Rowntree Park, has an estimated cost of £7.7 million and will better protect 135 properties from flooding. City of York Council granted planning permission on 11th June and we are working with them to discharge any planning conditions. We are aiming to begin construction early in 2021the New Year.

## **Bishopthorpe (C1)**

This scheme will provide a continuous line of defence and a high standard of protection against flooding - directly benefiting 117 properties, at an estimated cost of £2.5m. The scheme will include the construction of a 170m wall, with 6m deep piling underneath, a flood gate across the bottom of Chantry Lane, and a new manhole chamber with a penstock mechanism. City of York Council granted planning permission on 17 August 2020. A public event was held on 4 November 2020 to update the community on the scheme. We are currently focussed on preparing the information required to discharge the planning conditions and are aiming to begin construction early in the New Year.

## **Clifton and Rawcliffe (B10)**

This scheme involves raising the height of the Clifton Ings Barrier Bank and extending it at both ends to reduce flood risk for 140 properties in York. Following approval of our planning application in 2019, the focus has been on discharging the planning conditions. Whilst progressing with these, we have continued to develop detailed designs for the scheme and also negotiate with our contractor to agree a contract for the work. Subject to reaching agreement on this, work will start on the site in the first half of 2021.

## **Scarborough Bridge to Lendal Bridge (Museum Gardens) B12**

Our planning application to increase the height of and extend the flood embankment in Museum Gardens was approved by City of York Council on 26 November. This forms part of a wider scheme to increase the height of the existing flood defences in Marygate, the remainder of which we will do under permitted development. Next summer, we will install glass panels and flood gates, similar to those we have installed at Almerly Terrace, on Earlsborough Terrace. We will increase the height of the flood wall between Esplanade Court and Museum Gardens with brick and install demountable panels. As part of this work, we will adjust the lip of the flood gate next to Scarborough Bridge to improve ease of access.

## **Tang Hall Beck and Osbaldwick (F4/F5)**

This scheme proposes to 'daylight' (i.e. remove) approximately 800 meters of an existing culvert running underneath St Nicholas Fields nature reserve, reducing flood risk to over 250 properties. Work on this scheme is

progressing from the outline design stage towards a detailed design. The next step is to engage with CYC’s Transport and Highways department, seeking their advice on access to the site through the pre-application process.

**St George’s Field**

A project start-up meeting was held on 2 December 2020, with a project manager appointed to the scheme. We are aiming for the wall raising and construction of a demountable cut off on Tower Street to be carried out in 2021.

**PFR**

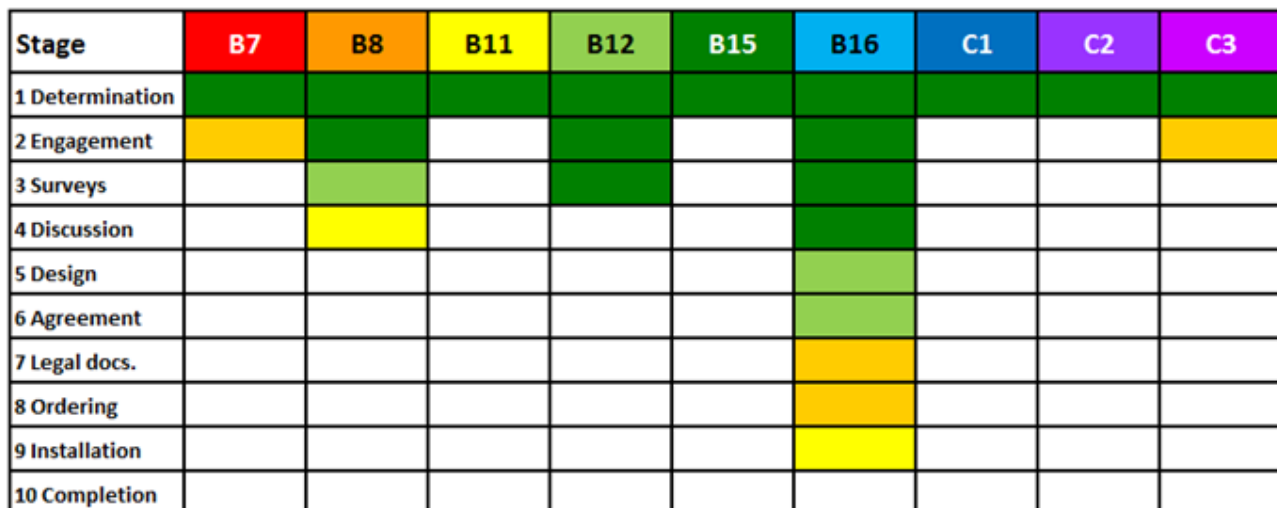
After experiencing many difficulties which has caused delays, we are beginning to make progress. We have conducted: analysis to help determine which flood cells are to be prioritised fairly; created a ten-stage pathway to help residents to understand how far along in the process they are (see Figure 1 below) : and installed PFR measures on our first properties. Table 1 below provides a high level statistical overview of the status of PFR across York as at 30 November 2020:

Description	Quantity
PFR cells (approx.)	11
Eligible properties (approx.)	400
Property surveys	99
Legal Agreements signed	28
Installations	10

Table 1- PFR data (cumulative)

Of these 11 cells, 9 have passed determination. The progress of PFR within these cells is summarised in Figure 1 below.

**Percentage complete**



scale: 0-30% [yellow] 31-60% [orange] 61-99% [light green] 100% [dark green]

Figure 1 - Progression of PFR with flood cells where works has been determined

Tree Replanting

Since the last CYC Decision Session, we have appointed a project manager to oversee the replanting of trees as required by our Tree Strategy. The project manager’s role is to co-ordinate communications regarding landscape

delivery and maintenance within the boundary of those flood cells where landscaping is required (this may include tree planting, shrubs, perennials, bulbs and seeding) and the additional offsite mitigation planting (this will primarily be tree planting). Their responsibilities will include:

- Working with relevant teams within the Environment Agency and our landscape partners, to establish, for example, how many excess trees each cell will have (due to the 5:1 rule for replacing those trees which have been removed);
- the budget they have available for the off-site planting; and
- Assisting with the identification of other suitable planting sites, assessing their suitability and liaising with the relevant stakeholders.

It is expected that the Project Manager will help to provide an holistic view of landscaping activities associated with the flood cells, so that the works can be carried out in a more cost effective and efficient manner.

To date, we have planted 22 trees and are in negotiations with landowners for the replanting of an additional 50 trees. In total, we anticipate that we will need to replant 879 trees across York. We continue to welcome any suggestions from the public as to suitable locations to plant trees.

## 2. Next steps

- We are planning on starting work on three sites towards the beginning of the year, these are:
  - Clementhorpe (B8);
  - Bishopthorpe (C1); and
  - Foss Storage Area (F8, F10 and F11).
- We are continuing the rollout of the PFR, where eligible residents can benefit from up to £7,500 of bespoke measures to better protect their home from flooding.

## 3. Programme Information Table

Flood Cell	Estimated total cost (£k)	Full Business Case	Planning Permission	Construction Start and est. duration	No. of properties better protected (approx.)
B4 - Scarborough to Ouse Bridge (Right Bank)	2,321	Approved by Large Projects Review Group (LPRG) Apr 2019	Planning application was Approved March 2019	New Lendal Arch gate planned install Easter to Summer 2021	39
B7 - Queen's Staith and Skeldergate	291	Approved by LPRG Apr 2019	Not required	TBC	50
B8 - Clementhorpe	7,700	Approved by LPRG Jun 2019	Planning application was Approved June 2020	Planned early 2021 with a duration of 18 months	135
South Bank		Approved by LPRG Aug 2019			52
B9 - Fulford	CYC to lead on delivery and funding				
B10 - Clifton & Rawcliffe	12,428	Approved by LPRG Jan 2020.	Planning application was Approved Sep 2019	TBC	140
B11 - Coppins Farm to Scarborough Bridge (Left Bank)	3,664	Approved by LPRG May 2019	Planning application was Approved March 2020	July 2019 – ST Peters School field 2 construction seasons	156
B12 - Scarborough Bridge to Lendal Bridge (Left Bank)	1,672	Approved by LPRG May 2019	Planned submission Summer 2020	Planned Jun 2021 3 months	57

B15 - King's Staith to Skeldergate Bridge	405	Approved by LPRG Aug 2019	Not required	Property surveys planned 2020 followed by installation	51
B16 - New Walk	750	Approved by LPRG Aug 2019	Not required	Installation start ASAP	55
C1 - Bishopthorpe	2,300	Planned submission Aug 2020	Planning application submitted Dec 2019. Planning Committee TBC	Planned Jan 2021, with a duration of 9 months	117
C2 - Acaster Malbis	226	Approved by LPRG Aug 2019	Not required	TBC	14
C3 - Naburn	627	Approved by LPRG Aug 2019	Not required	TBC	51
F4 - Tang Hall Beck F5 - Osbaldwick Beck	8,200	Planned submission Aug 2020	TBC	Planned Spring 2021	263
F8 - Groves to Haley's Terrace F10 - Haley's Terrace to Link Road F11 - Link Road to Ring Road	13,640	Planned submission Apr 2020	Planning application submitted Dec 2019. Planning Committee TBC both Ryedale and CYC	TBC 18 months	490
F12 - Westfield Beck	3,533	Planned submission April 2021	TBC	TBC	56

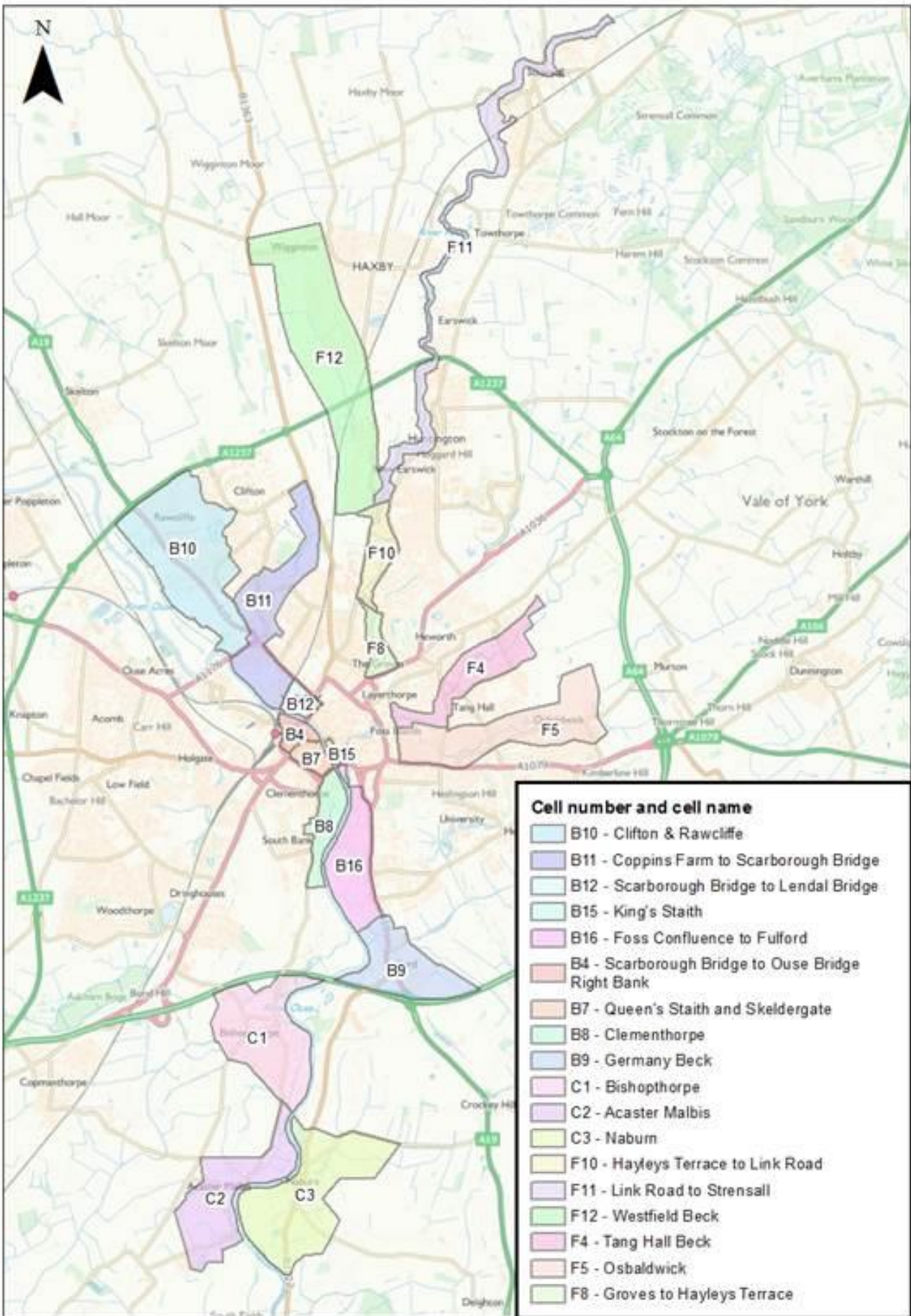
Key

Confirmed

Planned/expected



4. Map of the York Five Year Plan Flood Cell Outlines



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