

Report of the Corporate Director - Economy and Place

## **Flood Risk in York – the York 5 Year Plan Update**

### **Summary**

1. Government have made funding available to improve the Foss Barrier and other flood defence assets in the city. The Environment Agency (EA) is leading on the development of a 5 year flood plan for York. City of York Council are working closely with the EA on the development of this plan.
2. An update to the plan is given at Annex 1 and a further presentation will be made at the meeting. Feedback and guidance is sought from Members on the progress of the plan to date and the way in which the plan should be developed through its next stages.

### **Background**

3. The flooding in late December 2015 followed an intense period of rainfall across November and December, due to the impact 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.
4. A range of reviews and recovery programmes have been initiated by all relevant authorities and these have helped shape the development of the York 5 year flood plan and the delivery of Government funding that has been secured since the floods.

### **Consultation**

5. The latest quarterly newsletter relating to the flood risk improvements in the city is provided at Annex 1, giving details of the consultation events that were held in late 2016. This Scrutiny Committee was previously consulted at its September 2016 meeting and future updates can be provided at the Committee's request.

## **Options and Analysis**

6. This report is for information only, but the Committee may choose to comment on the work undertaken to date and the planned work detailed in Annex 1.

## **Council Plan**

7. 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**

8. Financial - Funding is allocated directly to the EA; the £60M funding is available to be directed towards key flood risk projects in the City in the short term. The extent of required works will likely require wider funding and Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (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.
9. There are no human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.

## **Recommendations**

10. That the report be noted.

Reason: This report is for information only as there are no recommendations associated with the update provided at Annex 1 to this report.

## Contact Details

**Author:**

Steve Wragg  
Flood Risk and Asset  
Manager  
Highways  
(01904) 553401

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Neil Ferris  
Corporate Director - Economy & Place

**Report Approved****Date**

02/03/17

**Wards Affected:****All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

**Annexes:**

Annex 1- EA York Spring 2017 Newsletter