

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 are being agreed for the high level business case and a procurement process has been ran in parallel to appoint consultants to develop the detailed business case and consequent detailed design of packages of works.
4. A range of questions have been received from CYC scrutiny sessions a formal response has been made to these by the Environment Agency in Annex 1 and 2.
5. Joint meetings with the Environment Agency have been held to develop the recommendations from the York Flood Inquiry, an update will be brought to the September Executive Member for the Environment Decision Session.

## Recommendations

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

## Background

7. 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, approvals are expected shortly for investigation and design works to commence for all schemes on the programme.
8. The EA have undertaken a procurement process to appoint a consultant to develop the full business case and the preferred bidder will be appointed after the approval of the Strategic Outline Business Case.
9. Site Investigations along the rivers Ouse and Foss will begin in the summer and 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 EA will engage and inform residents and businesses once the programme is confirmed and this will be agreed with CYC. 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.
10. 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. It is likely that this will open in the summer.
11. 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 Committee's, the

project team last attended the Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017. A range of questions were raised by councillors, a formal response has been made to these in Annex 1 and 2.

12. The York Flood Inquiry was approved by the Executive on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, the 90 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. Updates on this work will be brought to the Executive Member for the Environment, a paper will be made available for the September 2017 Decision Session.

### **Consultation**

13. 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 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 meeting and regular formal updates will be provided to the Executive Member for Environment in accordance with the project governance arrangements agreed with Executive on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

### **Options**

14. 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**

15. 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**

16. 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**

17. **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.
18. **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.
19. **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**

20. 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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**Corporate Director of Economy & Place**

**Report**  **Date** 23.06.17  
**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** Environment Agency Briefing July 2017  
**Annex 2** Environment Agency Naburn Weir Briefing July 2017