

**Decision Session – Executive Member for
Environment**

3 September 2018

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, £17m 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. An update to the additional funding allocated to gulley management is provided at paragraphs 9 to 20.
5. A summary of the work of the Emergency Planning Assistant funded as a consequence of the Independent Flood Inquiry is given in paragraphs 21 to 24.

Recommendations

6. The Executive Member for the Environment 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

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 and financial approvals have been sought and obtained from Defra. Detailed businesses cases are being developed for 19 flood cells across the city.
8. 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.
9. The gulley cleansing programme was considered by the Executive Member for the Environment at the 7th March 2016 Decision Session and further reviewed at the 4th December 2017 Decision Session.
10. Current work is focussed on the delivery of a full cleanse of all gulley assets across the network linked to a full asset data capture exercise. This is supported by additional capital funding that has been made available to the Highways Maintenance team and was the focus of the December 2017 review paper.
11. The current gulley cleansing policy aims to proactively cleanse all gullies on the gritting network annually and all other assets are reactively cleansed following reports of issues. There are more than 43,000 gullies in the CYC area and approximately half of these are on the gritting network.
12. The existing review of gulley management is based on the following strategic aims:
 - To move towards a proactive cleanse for all gullies
 - To create a risk based programme linked to highway drainage needs and surface water flood risk factors
13. CYC capital funding - £200k in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and £250k in 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 - is allowing the whole network to be surveyed, the development of an improved asset register and an effective proactive cleanse of each asset to be carried out.
14. Due to the reactive cleanse policy in recent years, approximately 53% of assets have been found to be blocked upon attendance. Over the whole programme the added investment will have ensured that in the region of

23,000 gullies were left in a free running state that were previously not draining effectively. We have observed that the work completed to date has reduced the impact of a number of significant rainfall events on key areas across the city.

15. However, more than 900 'none runner' assets have been identified where the gulley cleansing process could not ensure free drainage and significant engineering works are required to improve them. A multiyear maintenance programme and additional funding will be required to address these defects and funding bids will be prepared.
16. Work has been carried out to assess the risks that may arise from these defects, Environment Agency Surface Water Flood Map data has been used to assess the likely flood risk to people and property, although there will continue to be highway flooding in a number of locations none of the current defects were found to be in a location where property flooding could occur as a direct consequence of severe rainfall.
17. The Flood Risk Management Team is currently investigating the consequences of the 13th August 2018 storm which affected the city. More than 40mm of rain fell on the city in just over 15 minutes, Rainfall rates in excess of 120mm/hour were recorded.
18. Rainfall of this extreme nature will continue to test any drainage systems with significant ponding as the sheer volume of water cannot get into a full clear and cleansed system. We all need to consider how we can design, build, manage and live in infrastructure, homes and businesses that are resilient to such storms and the challenges we face with climatic change. The investigation outputs will be brought to the Executive Member with key recommendations in this area.
19. Progress of the programme of work is given below, following completion of the programme a needs and risk based programme of gulley maintenance will be developed to ensure available funding is targeted appropriately.

	Additional gullies cleansed and data recorded
2015/16	8,000
2016/17	15,074
2017/18	12,810
2018/19	2,468 (to date)

20. The 43,159 gullies currently recorded as part of the process will be completed by the end of the financial year. It is essential that the emerging gulley management process is funded and supported, further updates will be brought to the Executive Member.
21. The Emergency Planning Assistant role has been developed to assist in the delivery of a range of responsibilities detailed in the Independent Flood Inquiry alongside the wider development and expansion of existing Emergency Planning duties.
22. The officer is working closely with the Flood Risk Manager to support the development of the Five Year Plan with EA colleagues in all consultation events, in addition to this we have developed a property flood resilience measures showcase event on Saturday 29th September. This event will also include volunteers from the Clementhorpe community emergency plan and the promotion of personal resilience measures.
23. A review of the flood response procedures in the Duty Highways Officers plan is currently being finalised to be rolled out in the early autumn and a review of flood signs has been commenced.
24. The officer is assisting Emergency Planning in the development of Community Emergency Plans as detailed in the below table, all opportunities to expand the coverage of plans will be taken alongside the EA consultation work.

Plans in Development	Plans Under Review	Plans to be Exercised
Bishopthorpe Parish Council boundary	Earswick Parish Council boundary	Acaster Malbis Parish Council boundary
Foxwood (Acomb ward)	New Earswick Parish Council boundary	Clementhorpe (Micklegate ward)
Groves (Guildhall ward)	Rawcliffe Parish Council boundary	Naburn Parish Council boundary
Huntington Parish Council boundary	Skelton Parish Council boundary	Navigation Road (Guildhall ward)
Rufforth and Knapton Parish Council boundary		Strensall Parish Council boundary
Wheldrake Parish Council boundary		Wigginton Parish Council boundary

25. The Emergency Planning team have issued an engagement survey for community emergency plan volunteers, EA flood wardens and York CVS

Ready for Anything volunteers. The survey outputs will support the future engagement of current and potential volunteers, and the creation of our community resilience strategy.

26. A 'Speed Training' event is being planned for late Sept / early Oct to encourage residents and communities to come along and learn more about emergency planning, the work we deliver with our partners and how we can work together in an emergency. One of these sessions will be focussed on the EA and a second one will be around CYC Emergency Planning.

Consultation

27. 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. Regular formal updates will be provided to the Executive Member for Environment and the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee at quarterly and six month frequencies respectively.
28. A timetable of consultation events can be found in the EA update at Annex 1.

Options

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

Analysis

30. 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

31. 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

32. 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.
33. 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.
34. Human Resources (HR) – No implications
35. One Planet Council/Equalities – No implications
36. Legal – No implications
37. Crime and Disorder – No implications
38. Information Technology (IT) – No implications

Risk Management

39. 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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Director of Economy & Place

Report **Date** 22/03/18
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 Sept18