

Annex 2- Environment Agency Quarterly Update

York Flood Alleviation Scheme

June 2020

Update for Executive Decision Session

This is an update of the progress made over the last six months on the flood alleviation work in York. In this update we have provided:

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

1. Summary of city wide flood alleviation activities

The way we work and interact with others has changed significantly since our last update, as it has for people worldwide. Our offices have largely been closed with teams dispersed as we come to terms with working from home. Also, we have temporarily closed our community hub in the centre of York. This however does not mean that work in York and progress on our schemes has stopped. We have put measures in place to allow construction and preparatory work to continue where necessary. We continue to engage with our stakeholders and are reaching out to the local community. We have increased the frequency of our city wide newsletters, we have posted updates to affected residents, we are producing better signage for our sites and we are holding interactive online engagement events. In addition, we are in the process of conducting an overhaul of our webpages. These changes will make viewing this information a more user friendly and a more widely accessible experience.

B4: We have completed our work to raise the height of the North Street flood defence. This includes the replacement of each of the flood gates including a new wider gate to allow better flow for pedestrians into North Street gardens. The gates have been subjected to wet testing which identified a small amount of leakage. Minor adjustments were made to address these leaks. Since then we experienced the wettest February since records began with peak river levels at the Viking recorder reaching 9.47m AOD. During this time the gates performed well with only minimal seepage which remained within tolerable limits. To complete this flood cell

and increase the level of protection to properties in this area we still need to replace the flood gate under Lendal arch which is programmed for this September.

B7: For Skeldergate and Queen's Staith we have instructed Aecom to conduct an Options Appraisal Report. The report is now finalised and informs that PFR is the preferred option for better protecting properties in this area. Due to the implications of the coronavirus pandemic we did face initial delays in communicating with the community and the obvious restrictions on not being able to hold a traditional drop-in event. We have sent invitations out to join us for a virtual online public meeting which will be held via zoom on Thursday 18th June at 1830. There is the opportunity for anyone who wishes to ask a question on slido.com before, during and after the meeting using the event code #k184. Once we have held this meeting and reviewed any feedback we are looking to hold similar events for other areas across the city starting with Museum gardens.

B8: We are pleased with the outcome of the CYC online planning committee meeting where our application to better protect Clementhorpe properties was unanimously approved. We are working with CYC to discharge all the planning conditions this summer in preparation to starting on site this Autumn.

B10: We are investing £13 million of government funding to improve flood defences in the Clifton and Rawcliffe area and better protect 140 properties from flooding. In July 2020 we will start upgrading the Clifton Ings with our contractor BAM Nutall. This work will include raising and extending the barrier bank whilst also widening its footprint to improve stability. This work will take place over two spring/summer seasons. During this time, there will be periods when public access to Rawcliffe Meadows is limited. We have worked with CYC to overcome technical issues including obtaining physical signatures during a time of lockdown. We appreciate how CYC have taken a flexible approach to solving these problems.

B11: Last summer, our contractors started work on raising and extending the existing flood embankment in St Peter's School Fields. This work was paused for the wet winter months and has now restarted. This connects to a flood wall and gates in the gardens of Almerly Terrace which will be raised with glass panels this Summer. During this time, access to the riverside footpath along the Terrace will be restricted and a diversion put in place.

B12: We are proposing to raise the existing flood defences between Scarborough Bridge and Museum Gardens. This will include raising the flood wall and gates in the gardens of Earlsborough Terrace and the Marygate flood wall. We will install demountable panels on top of the detracting flood gate on Marygate and store these in a container attached to the dry side of the wall. We also plan to raise the embankment in Museum Gardens and extend it to meet higher ground. It is inevitable that this will cause disruption to the gardens and some trees and vegetation will need to be removed before we start work on site. We are working closely with York Museums Trust to minimise the impact of construction and agree

a landscape plan for the area. We are aiming to submit a planning application for this work to City of York Council early this summer. If planning permission is granted, we plan to start work on Earlsborough Terrace in Spring 2021, and in Museum Gardens in August 2021.

C1: We submitted our planning application for the Bishopthorpe flood alleviation scheme to City of York Council in December 2019. The CYC planning decision has been delayed, and whilst disappointing, we understand that the planning team need to make sure that all issues are resolved and that residents get an opportunity to comment on the latest plans.

Foss Barrier: Due to the ongoing pandemic, installation of the new gate at the Foss Barrier is likely to be postponed until next year. Meanwhile we are working to ensure that we have enough trained and competent staff to maintain and operate the Foss Barrier once it is fully completed.

St George's Field Car Park: We are in discussions with CYC to establish working relationship to ensure the floodwall raising around St George's Car Park takes place at same time as the multi-story Car Park construction. Jacobs, our contractors, have provided outline drawings of the wall raising and strengthening requirements which have been shared with CYC. Further trial pits are required to understand the underground details of the existing wall and what if any impact this work will have on the car park design.

F4/F5: We are investigating whether it is feasible to create a new channel for Osbaldwick Beck through St Nick's nature reserve. We have completed ground investigations at the reserve and are now in the process of detailed design ahead of submitting a planning application in Autumn this year.

Foss Flood Storage Area: We are planning on investing £14m to construct a flood storage area on the River Foss north-east of Strensall to better protect almost 500 properties from flooding. We have submitted a planning application to City of York Council and Ryedale District Council. We are currently in discussions with Natural England to find a resolution to their objection to our planning application. If we are unable to resolve these issues quickly then due to other constraints, including relocation of Water Voles, the project may suffer up to 12 month delay to starting construction.

PFR: Implementation of our Property Flood Resilience (PFR) scheme in York has not progressed as smoothly as we planned. We have conducted a thorough review of product suitability, costs, maintenance and installation methods. We have developed a Product Directory and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) document and are providing a monthly progress summary to the residents. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus outbreak, we had to cancel the demonstration event at a local venue which was designed so that homeowners could view and interact with the products they have been recommended. Instead we have been communicating with our residents through letters, emails, telephone and video calls

to address any concerns or questions and progress the scheme as swiftly as possible.

Next steps

- We are planning on starting work on four additional sites this Summer/Autumn, these are:
 - Clementhorpe (B8) – To reduce the risk of flooding to 148 properties we have planning permission to install a new bi-fold floodgate, build flood walls and embankments, some road raising and an underground cut-off to prevent flood water from bypassing our defences by seeping through the ground. This scheme is estimated to cost £8 million.
 - Clifton and Rawcliffe (B10) - To reduce the risk of flooding to 140 properties we have planning permission to raise the height and extend the embankment whilst also widening its footprint to improve stability and install a new pumping station. This scheme is estimated to cost £12 million.
 - Bishopthorpe (C1) - To reduce the risk of flooding to 117 properties we are proposing to build a new flood wall complete with a flood gate. This scheme is estimated to cost £2 million.
 - Foss Storage Area (F8, F10 and F11) - To reduce the risk of flooding to around 490 properties we are proposing to build a flood storage area. This scheme is estimated to cost £13 million.
- We are developing our Property Flood Resilience process. We are preparing to roll out PFR to other areas of the city, where eligible residents can benefit from up to £7,500 of bespoke measures to better protect their home from flooding.
- We continue to develop our long-term plan which looks at the catchment as a whole. We are investigating what impacts can be had on river flows through the city through upstream storage areas and 'Natural Flood Management'.

2. Key concerns

Clay procurement

We are currently unable to procure the necessary quantity of clay of the right consistency to meet our requirements. Our contractors are pursuing every avenue to source the required materials to proceed with the programme.

Trees

Our tree strategy states that:

- Where possible, we will adapt the design of each scheme to avoid removing trees or minimise the number which need to be removed. This will be our first priority.

- Where removing trees is essential for the completion of flood defence work and cannot be avoided, we will plant replacements. For every tree lost as a result of our work, we will plant five new ones.
- We will, where possible, plant replacement trees on or near to sites of loss.
- We will work with City of York Council, the Woodland Trust and other organisations to find the best sites for tree planting around the city and surrounding areas.
- Where possible, we will choose sites for tree planting that deliver multiple benefits, rather than simply replacing trees felled. Other benefits include maintaining or creating new habitats, linking areas through ecological corridors, and improving the health and wellbeing of local residents.
- We will protect any trees that stand close to our construction sites or routes. We will use specialised protective material to better disperse weight of passing vehicles over tree roots and specialised equipment which is able to delicately expose tree roots that we can then avoid damaging when piling.

Despite this there is raising concern over the number of trees we will unavoidably need to remove and in particular rare species such as the True service tree within Museum Gardens. We are currently investigating all options for Museum Gardens and will be discussing further with partners at our Advisory Group in March with further workshops planned in April with stakeholders.

3. Programme Information Table

| Flood Cell | Estimated total cost (£k) | Full Business Case | Planning Permission | Construction Start and est. period | No. of properties better protected |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 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 Sep - Oct | 39 |
| B7 - Queen's Staith and Skeldergate | 291 | Approved by LPRG Apr 2019 | Not required | TBC | 50 |
| B8 - Clementhorpe South Bank | 8,079 | Approved by LPRG Jun 2019 Approved by LPRG Aug 2019 | Planning application was Approved June 2020 | Planned Autumn 2020 12 months | 135 |
| 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 | Planned Autumn 2020 2 construction seasons | 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 |

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|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|-----|
| B15 - King's Staith to Skeldergate Bridge | If PFR: 405 | If PFR: Approved by LPRG Aug 2019 | Not required | If PFR: Property surveys planned 2020 followed by installation | 24 |
| 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 Oct 2020 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

