

**Economy, Place, Access and Transport
Scrutiny Committee**

25 June 2024

Report of the Director of Transport, Environment and Planning

Yorkshire Water - sewage dumping / performance / improvement plans

Summary

1. Members of scrutiny have invited Yorkshire Water to attend Scrutiny, they have prepared the report attached at Annex 2.
2. In February 2024 this scrutiny committee received a background report to investigate the issues further or influence City of York Council or partners actions.
3. The February report focused on two key aspects:
 - Report on the cleanliness of York's rivers/becks, sewage management and the management/support of biodiversity around them
 - Report on the state of York's drainage infrastructure; covering capacity to meet demand in urban and rural areas, insight into recent and forthcoming investment into repairs/upgrades and the scale of the challenge faced.

Recommendations

4. This report is a briefing documents to aid the committee's discussion with Yorkshire Water.

Reason: The Committee have invited Yorkshire Water to discuss the cleanliness of York's rivers/becks and Yorks drainage infrastructure.

Background

5. The management of drainage networks across our city relies upon the actions and investment from a wide range of partners. In many cases

these responsibilities are long standing and are underpinned by a number of different legislative sources bestowing powers and duties on organisations or landowners.

6. City of York Council acts in numerous roles to manage our existing drainage infrastructure – Lead Local Flood Authority, Highways Authority and as a landowner.
7. The Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Internal Drainage Boards all manage and maintain drainage assets within the City of York Council area.
8. Yorkshire Water are responsible for supplying drinking water and dealing with wastewater. The way water is managed can impact on river quality.
9. The Council does not have a regulatory role with regards to river quality, but can play its part as landowner and planning authority.
10. Annex 1 of the February Report is repeated as an Annex 1 here as it provides an overview of the key issues and the role of the council and that of all partners to contribute to the cleanliness of our waterways and the effectiveness of our drainage systems.

Consultation

11. Ongoing consultation with all partners is undertaken through the range of actions detailed in Annex 1:
 - a. Local Planning Authority consultations – Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water are statutory bodies in the planning process and are consulted in accordance with the potential impact that may arise within a development site. Internal Drainage Boards, although not a statutory consultee are widely consulted. Internal teams including Lead Local Flood Authority, Highways Regulation and frontline Highways and Public Realm teams are also consulted.
 - b. City of York Council work closely with Yorkshire Water on the development of their strategies and their rolling 5 year investment plans. City of York Council have worked with the Yorkshire Leaders Board and Yorkshire Water to develop a process to allow local authorities to help form their new long-term-strategy and business plan.
 - c. City of York Council officers and councillors sit on the board of the 4 Internal Drainage Boards that serve the city, all scrutinise and

assess the work of the boards to ensure an effective approach is taken to manage our drainage systems.

- d. Highways drainage budgets are published annually and are scrutinised through the Executive Member for Highways Decision Session meetings, our approach to manage highway drainage assets is defined in our Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan and it's supporting guidance documents.

Options

12. This report is to aid the discussion with Yorkshire Water and put this discussion into context given the role the Council has. Recognising this is an important issue to members and many residents.

Council Plan

13. Healthy rivers and an effective drainage system in our city will deliver a wide range of benefits and safeguard our communities from flood risk or environmental harm. City of York's Council Plan, One city for all, details 7 key priorities to be developed from 2023 through to 2027, the actions and programmes of work detailed in this report and its Annex deliver against the following priorities:
 - a. A fair, thriving, green economy for all
 - b. Sustainable, accessible transport for all
 - c. Cutting carbon, enhancing the environment

Implications

14. This report and it's annex do not make any recommendations or changes to existing approaches or policies for City of York Council, our partners or our communities. As such no implications have been recorded below. Any recommendations from members of the Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee would be developed and taken through the appropriate governance processes with implications considered for all recommendations.

- **Financial**
None
- **Human Resources (HR)**
None
- **Equalities**
None

- **Legal**
None
- **Crime and Disorder**
None
- **Information Technology (IT)**
None
- **Property**
None

Risk Management

15. There are no known risks with the content of this report.

Contact Details

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

James Gilchrist
Director of Transport, Environment and Planning

Report **Date** [03/06/24]
Approved

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: 27 February 2024, Economy, Place, Access and Transport Scrutiny Committee - York's Waterworks – a health check

Annexes: Annex 1 Health of our Waterways Scrutiny Report Feb24
Annex 2 Yorkshire Water Scrutiny Report

