

Report of the Director of City & Environmental Services

City of York Flood Action Plan

Summary

1. Extreme rainfall in many parts of the region during November and December 2015 led to record river levels and flows through many parts of the region. Resultant flooding was widespread and many others suffered from the wider impacts of flooding during the Christmas holidays.
2. Government has made £45M of additional funding available to further reduce flood risks in the city and an action plan is currently being developed to identify how this funding will be spent.
3. Annex 1 outlines the progress so far and the process that the Environment Agency (EA) are working to, feedback from councillors is requested on the approach.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to:
 - Note the progress and process outlined in Annex 1 and the presentation.
 - Provide input and steer to aid the development of improved flood schemes across the city, and define and support the role of CYC within this process.

Reason: To improve the resilience of the city's flood defences and provide reduced flood risk to residents, businesses and visitors to the city.

Background

5. 627 properties were flooded in the city as a result of the Boxing Day floods, levels on the river Ouse were the second highest on record and record flows on the River Foss were in excess of the design

capacity of the Foss Barrier, significant flooding occurred on the Foss for the first time since 1982.

6. In addition to funding directly allocated to the upgrade of the Foss Barrier Government has given an extra £45M to the EA to improve the level of flood protection across the city. Feasibility work is currently being carried out to investigate the potential works to improve existing or provide additional flood defences across all flood risk areas of the city. The EA will produce an action plan detailing how the additional funding will be spent. The EA will present this action plan before Government in October.
7. An assessment of additional long-term catchment-wide flood protection measures is being carried out in parallel with the action plan. The results of this assessment will be available in April 2017 and will identify additional opportunities across the wider catchment to reduce flood risk in the city and other communities on the river Ouse for the longer term.
8. The EA have produced an update report on all aspects of this work, this is provided at Annex 1.

Consultation

9. Member's views and guidance on the content of this report, Annex 1 and the presentation provided are sought. Further public consultation will be carried out in response to the publication of the action plan in November. Public views were last sought at a range of events in May 2016.
10. Further consultation with councillors will be carried out in the spring of 2017 to steer the catchment-wide opportunities.

Options and Analysis

11. The principal options open to the councillors are to comment on the work undertaken to date and the future work identified to date.

Council Plan

12. 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

13. There are no, human resources, equalities, legal, crime & disorder, information technology, property or other implications associated with this report.

Financial:

14. Funding is allocated directly to the EA, the £45M 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 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 in Spring 2017.

Contact Details

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	Report Approved	✓	Date 1.9.16
Specialist Implications: Jayne Close Principal Accountant			
Wards Affected:			All ✓

Annex 1 Environment Agency Update Report

Abbreviations

CYC – City of York Council

Defra – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

EA – Environment Agency

