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**Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee**  
Report of the Director of Economy & Place

**4 October 2017**

**CYC Flood Defences Action Plan – Biannual Update**

**Summary**

1. This report provides the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee with an update on the ongoing work of the Environment Agency to renew existing and provide new flood defences across the city. Members are asked to note the progress and provide feedback.

**Background**

2. 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 4,000 homes and 2,000 businesses flooded across Yorkshire, with 453 properties and 174 businesses flooded in York.
3. Funding has been allocated to the Environment Agency (EA) following the floods of 2015, 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.
4. Approvals have been granted by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) for the high level business case, and the contract has been awarded to consultants to develop the detailed business case and consequent detailed design of packages of works.
5. The high level options in the Five Year Flood Plan are being reviewed and preferred options will begin to be developed over the next few months. A list of potential measures and the programme of likely works will be brought before the Executive Member at the 4 December 2017 Decision Session and brought before the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee at the next update session.

6. An update on progress has been supplied by the Environment Agency; this can be seen in Annex 1.

### **Progress Update**

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. This is a significant hurdle for any major project.
8. The EA have appointed Capita/AECOM following a procurement process, the consultants will develop the detailed business case and design works for schemes within the 5 Year Flood Plan.
9. The high level options identified for each community in the York Five Year Flood Plan have been considered further and workshops have been held during the summer with the Environment Agency to review a range of metrics to refine the high level options to a long list of feasible measures within each flood risk area. Further modelling and analysis of the long list of options is currently being carried out to identify the preferred options in each location.
10. A list of feasible options will be developed following this process and a programme of further appraisal, design and build works will be assigned to each, this will be reviewed in the Executive Member for the Environment Decision Sessions and future meetings of the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee.
11. Site Investigations along the rivers Ouse and Foss began in the summer and will 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 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.
12. 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.

13. 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 bi-annual presentations at City of York scrutiny; quarterly updates will be brought to the Executive Member and biannual updates to the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee.
14. The York Flood Inquiry was approved by the Executive on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, the 91 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. Additional resources have been committed to develop and deliver the work identified in the inquiry, a Community Resilience Officer role is being developed and the work of the Flood Risk Manager and Emergency Planning Manager has been reinforced as a result of the paper taken to the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017 Executive meeting <http://modgov.york.gov.uk/documents/s115503/Flooding%20Community%20Resilience.pdf>

## **Consultation**

15. 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 and the newly formed Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee as detailed in paragraph 13 of this report.
16. Detailed public consultation events will be held in each community following the production of the long list of options and further refinement of the preferred options as detailed in paragraphs 9 and 10, a programme of communication events will be produced alongside this work.

## **Options**

17. The principal options open to members 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

18. Ongoing liaison will continue between the Executive Member for Environment and the CYC Flood Risk and Asset Manager, future briefings to the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee 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

19. 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.

## Recommendations

20. Members are asked to note the update report and the evidence presented by the Environment Agency in the session, and to provide feedback on the report content and progress to date.

## Implications

21. **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 2018.
22. **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.

23. 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**

24. 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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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

**Neil Ferris**  
**Director of Economy & Place**

**Report Approved**



**Date**

25 /09/2017

**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 - E&P Scrutiny Flood Defences Action Plan Oct17**