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

17 January 2018

CYC Flood Defences Action Plan – Biannual Update

Summary

1. This report presents an update on the work of the Environment Agency to renew existing and provide new flood defences across the city, following the flooding in December 2015. Members are asked to provide feedback on progress to date.

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 4000 homes and 2000 businesses flooded across Yorkshire with 453 properties and 174 businesses flooded in York.
3. Funding was allocated to the Environment Agency (EA) following the floods to renew existing and provide new flood defences across the city, £17m was allocated to the Foss Barrier improvements and £45m to the wider flood defences across the city.

Progress Update

4. The high level options in the Five Year Flood Plan are being reviewed and preferred options are being developed for each flood cell. Priority works at Clementhorpe and New Walk are being appraised and public consultation events have been held.
5. An update on progress has been supplied by the Environment Agency; this can be seen in Annex 1.
6. The recommendations from the York Flood Inquiry were debated at the 4th October 2017 scrutiny meeting, and a further update is given at

Annex 2. Further clarifications on action by all partners are being sought to finalise the outcomes of the inquiry.

7. The high level options identified for each community in the York Five Year Flood Plan have been considered, advanced and further modelling and analysis of the long list of options is currently being carried out to identify the preferred options in each location.
8. A list of feasible options will be developed following this process and a programme of further appraisal, design and build works has been included in annex 1 of this report as part of a wider update of the project.
9. A drop in centre has opened on North Street at the former Bike Hub site, this provides 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.
10. The latest updated actions from the York Flood Inquiry are available at Annex 2 of this report. All partners have been contacted to ensure we understand their current levels of preparedness and that they have acted upon the recommendations.

Consultation

11. 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. Biannual updates are received by this Scrutiny Committee and quarterly updates are given to the Executive Member for the Environment Decision Sessions.
12. 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. Events were held in Clementhorpe and the New Walk communities in December 2017.
13. Ongoing liaison will continue between the Executive Member for Environment and the CYC Flood Risk Manager, and 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.

Options

14. 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.

Council Plan

15. 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

16. **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.
17. **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.
18. 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

19. No known risks are identified at this time, detailed risk management work will be developed as the business case and detailed design works commence.

Recommendations

20. Members are asked to note the update report and the evidence presented by the Environment Agency in the session, feedback is sought from Members on all content.

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Report Approved ☒ **Date**

Wards Affected:

All ☒

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex 1 - E&P Scrutiny Flood Defences Action Plan Dec18

Annex 2 – Update on Actions Arising from Flood Inquiry