

**Executive Member for Environment Decision  
Session**

**4 June 2018**

Report of the Director of Economy & Place

**York 5 Year Flood Plan Update**

**Summary**

1. 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.
2. Funding has been allocated to the Environment Agency (EA) following the floods 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.
3. An update on progress has been supplied by the EA, this can be seen in Annex 1.
4. The Community Hub on Wellington Row gives a base for co-working by EA, CYC and consultants and a drop in location for residents to visit to understand the work that we are developing across the city.
5. Formal consultation events have been held in the Clementhorpe and New Walk flood cells and with residents in the Almerly Terrace area in the last few months.

**Recommendations**

6. The Executive Member for the Environment is asked to note the updated report and the evidence presented by the Environment Agency in the session, feedback is sought from the Executive Member on all content.

## Background

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. Detailed businesses cases are being developed for 19 flood cells across the city.
8. The Environment Agency continue to work closely with City of York Council on all aspects of the York Five Year Plan, an update has been provided by the EA at Annex 1.
9. The Wellington Row Community Hub continues to be an invaluable work space, the hub is an opportunity for the EA, CYC and consultants to co-locate to ensure a joined up delivery of the works within the programme. The hub is open to the public Monday 10am-4pm, Wednesday 10am-4pm and Thursday 10am-4pm, EA and CYC officers are on hand to respond to questions and provide information on the schemes as they develop.
10. The Hub has also hosted a wide range of groups including schools, colleges, local interest forums and national and international guests. The physical flood model can be used to demonstrate the way in which a river channel can be managed to reduce flood risk, this has proven to be a popular way to convey the concepts behind hydraulic river management. A demonstration of the model can be seen in the below link:  
  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yhb1tbaFtFQ>
11. Formal consultation events have been held in the Clementhorpe (22<sup>nd</sup> May) and New Walk (23<sup>rd</sup> May) flood cells and residents in the Almerly Terrace area (7<sup>th</sup> March). A wide range of attendees have provided detailed feedback on current designs and plans and we are working with individuals and flood groups in the flood cells to further refine options. A range of specific meetings and site visits have been completed in the areas of interest throughout these cells.
12. Following the recommendations of the 5 March 2018 Executive Member for the Environment Decision Session, meetings have been held between the EA and CYC to prepare a revised approach to project endorsement by CYC.

13. A wide range of information is now available via the Citezen Space website through the below link, CYC and EA are discussing options to further host information on the CYC website.

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/yorkfas/>

14. EA and CYC are currently discussing the role of the planning system in the development of the flood schemes across all flood cells, further information will be presented in the decision session for consideration.

## **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. Regular formal updates will be provided to the Executive Member for Environment and the Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee at quarterly and six month frequencies respectively.
16. Consultation events have been held in the Clementhorpe, New Walk and Scarborough Bridge to Ouse Bridge flood cells were attended by approximately 150 people, further events are being set up to further include the communities in proposals as they are developed. Additional meetings have been held by Rachael Maskell MP in the New Walk community attended by EA and CYC officers.

## **Options**

17. The principal options open to the Executive Member for Environment are to comment on and review the work undertaken to date, the future work identified 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 Executive Member for Environment Decision Session 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.

## **Implications**

**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.

**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.

**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**

20. 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:**

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**Director of Economy & Place**

**Report**  **Date** 23/5/18  
**Approved**

**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 York 5 Year Flood Plan Update June18**