

Decision Session of the Executive Member for
Environment and Climate Change

2 September 2019

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. Funding has been awarded to City of York Council by the Environment Agency to lead and develop a property flood resilience pathfinder project to enable better uptake of resilience measures across Yorkshire. Details of the pathfinder project are provided in Annex 2.

Recommendations

5. The Executive Member for the Environment and Climate Change 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

6. 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.

7. 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.
8. Following a national scale competitive funding process City of York Council have developed a collaborative project drawing on the skills and experiences of all Lead Local Flood Authorities and partners across the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee area.
9. The Yorkshire Future Flood Resilience Pathfinder project is detailed in Annex 2 of this report, City of York Council will lead on the delivery of the project which aims to increase awareness, knowledge and uptake of property level resilience measures across Yorkshire. Future updates on the project will be brought to the decision making session as necessary.

Consultation

10. Public consultation on the York Five Year Plan continues through a range of flood cells, this is detailed in the update in Annex1 along with the programme of future consultation events.

Options

11. The principal options open to the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change are to comment on and review the work undertaken to date, the future work identified and the representations made by the Environment Agency.

Analysis

12. Ongoing liaison will continue between the Executive Member for Environment and the CYC Flood Risk Manager, future briefings to the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change 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

13. 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

14. **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.
15. **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.
16. Human Resources (HR) – No implications
One Planet Council/Equalities – No implications
Legal – No implications
Crime and Disorder – No implications
Information Technology (IT) – No implication

Risk Management

17. 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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Report **Date** 02/08/19
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 Sept19
Annex 2 York PFR Pathfinder Project Sept 19