

## **IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION**

**Date and Time :-** Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 1.30 p.m.

**Venue:-** Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.

**Membership:-** Councillors Wyatt (Chair), Tinsley (Vice-Chair), Andrews, Atkin, Aveyard, Barley, Bennett-Sylvester, C Carter, Castledine-Dack, T Collingham, Cowen, Ellis, Havard, Jones, Khan, McNeely, Reynolds, Taylor.

**Co-opted Members:-** Mrs. K. Bacon, Mrs. M. Jacques.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view [via the Council's website](#). The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

### **AGENDA**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 July 2023 (Pages 3 - 11)**

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 July, 2023, as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

**4. Questions from members of the public and the press**

To receive questions relating to items of business on the agenda from members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

**5. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

**6. Flooding Alleviation Update (Pages 13 - 73)**

To consider an update report regarding flood risk management and priority

flood alleviation schemes in Rotherham.

**7. Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) (Pages 75 - 78)**

To consider a briefing from partner organisation Yorkshire Water and a verbal update from representatives of the Environment Agency regarding discharges of wastewater into watercourses.

**8. Work Programme (Pages 79 - 85)**

To consider and approve an updated outline schedule of scrutiny work.

**9. Urgent Business**

To consider any item which the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

**10. Date and time of the next meeting**

The next meeting of Improving Places Select Commission will take place on 24 October, 2023, commencing at 1.30 pm in Rotherham Town Hall.

**IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION**  
**Tuesday 11 July 2023**

Present:- Councillors Wyatt (Chair), Andrews, Atkin, Aveyard, C Carter, T. Collingham, Cowen, Ellis, Havard, Khan, McNeely, Taylor and Tinsley. Co-opted members Mrs K. Bacon and Mrs. Mary Jacques also attended on behalf of Rotherham Federation of Communities.

There were no apologies for absence received.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

**9. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2023**

The Chair placed on record his thanks to the Arts and Heritage volunteers and staff within the Culture, Sport and Tourism team for sharing their time and expertise at the site visit to the restored historic Keppel's Column visitor attraction on the morning of the meeting.

**Resolved:-**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 June 2023, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

**10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr McNeely declared a personal interest as a tenant of the Council.

**11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

The Chair advised that there were no members of the public or representatives of media organisations present at the meeting and there were no questions in respect of matters on the agenda.

**12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chair advised that there was no reason to exclude members of the press or public from observing discussion of any items on the agenda.

**13. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HEALTH WELFARE AND SAFETY PANEL**

**Resolved:-**

1. Councillor Rose McNeely was appointed to serve on the Health, Welfare, and Safety Panel for the 2023-2024 municipal year as a representative of Health Select Commission.

**14. DRAFT DAMP, MOULD AND CONDENSATION POLICY**

Consideration was given to a report outlining a draft policy presented by the Assistant Director of Housing and the Interim Head of Contracts, Investment and Compliance in respect of the Council's response to damp, mould and condensation in council-owned properties.

The report provided an update on the current processes in place to deal with reports of damp, mould and condensation and a summary of the Draft Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy. The Council adopts a zero-tolerance, pro-active approach to reports of damp, mould and condensation in council-owned properties and provides support to private rented tenants to address hazards within their homes.

The Draft Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy has been compiled in response to the Housing Ombudsman reports in relation to damp and mould, and the proposals for Awaab's Law which will require landlords to fix reported health hazards within specified timeframes.

In discussion, Members sought an opportunity to view the easy read leaflet which had been made available online.

Members were pleased to see a proactive approach taken, and also expressed concerns around challenges to addressing hazards in the Private Rented Sector (PRS), where the Council has limited powers. The response from the head of Community Safety referenced the government consultation and deferral of incoming legislation that will clarify additional powers for local authorities in respect of the PRS. There were two separate areas within PRS, one of which involves Selective Licensing, which are areas where the Council can have a proactive approach. In these areas the Service is able to inspect the properties. It was noted that the way the Service captured category 1 and category 2 hazards, did not distinguish between mould and damp and other types of hazards.

Some of the wider challenges were that the renter had to come to the Council, knowing how to recognise that there was a problem, being able to overcome barriers. Further, renters had to know their rights, as many renters are hesitant to report because of concerns about rising rent or eviction. The Service promoted engagement through residents' associations and newsletters. Still, these approaches did not offer a quick solution. Training front line services was also important. Early Help workers can spot challenges and know who to contact. Work in schools also promoted early intervention education and spreading the message as proactively as possible. Members acknowledged the importance of frontline staff having awareness and noted that working with colleagues in services who do home visits within the community.

Members noted that many former council houses are now in private hands, so there needed to be information made available to privately rented and owned sectors as well. The leaflet was given to repair people



with frequently asked questions and preventative advice around keeping areas well ventilated.

Members also sought further reassurances that the Service is keeping up with the 238% increase in referrals with the technical staff having increased only by 50%. The response from officers noted that technical officers have a target seven working days to take action. With the increased resource, the team was able to meet that target in almost all cases. Currently the team were looking at ways to make some processes more efficient so that the burden on technical officers reduces. Incoming law had yet to be enacted that will set a minimum response time for damp and mould issues in social housing. The thorny issue of funding for the resourcing will need to be explained. There will be a need to review the policy to ensure it aligns with the new law. It was clarified that the statistics include social housing only.

Members noted the zero-tolerance approach and the understanding that the problem should not be approached as a result of lifestyle. Members sought further information around training that is given to ensure that this is not the assumption. The response from officers noted that in all cases, the emphasis should be dealing with the problem rather than saying it is a lifestyle problem. This is because there could be other things besides drying clothes causing the issue. There can be various contributing factors such as leaks. Therefore the team rolled out training with contractors Equans and Mears emphasising that they are the Council's eyes and ears to pick up on damp and mould issues. The first contact can set the tone for the relationship around mould and damp.

Members noted that the partial picture which included social housing rather than private housing, and requested more details. The response from officers noted that the Service had reported to the Secretary of State an estimated 7% of PRS properties had a category 1 or category 2 damp issue. Regarding PRS properties, the Council had received 93 complaints specifying damp and mould at the time of the complaint in 2019/20. In 2020/21 there were 63. In 2021/22 there were 44.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the process in place to deal with damp, mould, and condensation be noted.
2. That the Service note the feedback on the approach especially in regard to the picture in the Private Rented Sector.
3. That the leaflet be circulated to members electronically and in paper format.
4. That an update on the implementation of the policy be submitted in 12 months' time.

**15. COST OF LIVING AND RENT ARREARS IN COUNCIL HOUSING**

Consideration was given to a briefing report presented by the Assistant Director of Housing and the Business and Commercial Programme Manager in respect of the impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on Housing Services and the response. In the context of high inflation, the Council kept under review whether the current housing service offer meets the evolving needs and priorities so that resources can be targeted effectively. This briefing provides an overview of the current position and changes to the Council's approach. The briefing identified three key stages in how the Housing Service supports tenants, who are some of the most vulnerable residents in Rotherham who will be affected to varying degrees by the cost-of-living crisis.

Three key stages on the tenant's journey were described. Affordability assessments and income and expenditure checks were described as part of the Housing Allocation and pre-tenancy support phase. Some checks are light touch whilst others are more in depth depending on the needs of the prospective tenant. The aim of the Service is to offer appointments for checks in greater numbers and to offer some appointments to the homelessness service.

Income collection for housing rents had been top quartile in national benchmarking for several years following the service transformation which took place in 2017. The Service had to balance the fact that it is often the housing provider of last resort against the need to maintain a healthy Housing Revenue Account to fund vital services to tenants and investment in housing growth.

Income collection is undertaken in accordance with the Ministry of Justice Pre-action Protocol. The Council had a twelve-stage process for the escalation of rent accounts in arrears. Over the past five years, there had been a significant reduction in the number of tenancies failing due to rent arrears which was reflected in the relatively small number of evictions.

Arrears recovery commences when an account is three weeks net rent or more in debt (and minimum arrears balance of £30). The recovery processes continue on a weekly basis until a Notice Seeking Possession would be served at week five unless the arrears balance is less than £355 (proportionality of debt vs costs). This is if the tenant does not engage with the Council to put a payment plan in place. Where a tenant is at risk of losing their tenancy a referral is made to the Tenancy Support team who provide holistic support to tenants.

The handling of credit balances, tenancy support provision, and the approach to tenancy health checks were also described. Referrals into the team were rising and it was expected that the complexity and the rate of referrals would continue to rise. Given the increase in rents and service

charges, alongside the significant increase in the cost of living, it was thought likely that income collection rates will deteriorate, and current tenant arrears balances will increase during 2023-24. That said, similar deterioration in performance had been expected in 2022-23, which to date had not materialised. In view of the success of collection and the extensive support that is provided to tenants through the rent recovery process, it was not intended to adjust the current process.

In discussion, Members noted the good financial performance, especially against benchmark authorities, and stressed the importance of affordability in sustainable tenancies.

Members requested further clarification around timescales reflected in the charts. The response from officers noted that the figures illustrated up to December and the and also for the full year and included the tenancy breaches. Further clarification was provided that the figures included December to May, and that the Service had 190 evictions in the last three months. This was believed to be from the Covid-19 pandemic, following a backlog of processing of evictions through the courts.

Members sought further reassurances around the approach to initiating the process when someone was three weeks or more in debt, as some people who pay weekly may not know they are behind. Furthermore, members sought reassurances that the Service took account of universal credit timelines which could take up to six weeks or more. The response from officers noted that if a tenant goes three weeks or more into arrears, they get a letter advising them that they are in arrears. If someone is not in a direct debit payment, if it is out of their normal payment cycle, this will correspond to the timescales appropriate for their individual payment cycle. The service did not get a notification if a tenant transfers onto universal credit. The Service did not have a way to know unless notification is received from the tenant or from the DUP themselves.

Members sought further reassurances that arrangements around credit balances are agreed with tenants. The response from officers provided assurances that, if a tenant calls and they are in credit, the Service will issue a refund, maintaining a one-week credit. The Service refunds between £60,000 and £70,000 per week. The campaign to refund is ongoing. Because a week in advance was desired, many people choose to be more in advance than that.

Members sought additional information around wait times between referral and appointments, and how expanding the team would bring down waiting times. The response from officers noted that wait times had been increased. Although upon the referral, there was contact immediately, and some tenants had issues that could not be delayed. Telephone triage was done immediately. Tenants get help with claimants within a few weeks. The team were in the process of recruiting and had immediately seen a drop in waits. Five referrals were promptly being handled each week.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the feedback of Members be noted.

**16. PLAY PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION**

Consideration was given to a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, the Green Spaces Manager and the Assistant Director for Culture, Sport and Tourism. The presentation summarised the responsibilities of the Green Spaces Play Maintenance Team, which provides play inspection and minor maintenance through its small play team, for equipment belonging to Green Spaces, Housing Services and some Parish Councils. The Play Manager is also able to advise services regarding options available to them when equipment requires repairing or replacing. This team is responsible for 34 Green Spaces play areas, 26 Housing sites, and 30 Parish Council sites for which a Service Level Agreement is in place to carry out monthly inspections.

Maintenance Costs were also explained as part of the presentation. Councils pay a fixed cost per play area for inspections, and they paid for repairs by agreement or undertook the repairs themselves. The Housing Service pays a fixed cost per play area for inspections but covered the revenue cost for repairs within Housing Service budgets. All Council play areas received:

- Routine visual inspections at least monthly.
- Routine maintenance inspections quarterly.
- Annual inspection by an external inspector.

All 'faults' are risk assessed and priority for maintenance is given to the highest risk faults. The highest scored risks carried by the Council, have seen a steady reduction over the last 10 years and continue to reduce. If a fault cannot be rectified within budget or within a reasonable timescale, often temporary or permanent removal of the faulty equipment is the only available option to ensure children's safety.

A full-time Play & Horticulture Manager, a full-time Play Maintenance Operative, and a Play Inspector (0.8 FTE) made up the Play Team. Green Spaces Play Team undertakes minor works such as replacing parts, as well as ordering small scale new and replacement works up to £10,000. Works over £10,000 tend to be more complex in nature with regard to procurement and management (owing to Construction, Design and Management (CDM) regulations).

The Role of the Landscape Design Team was also summarised. The Landscape Design Team has the capacity and experience to undertake medium and large-scale play improvement projects. All such improvement projects have been undertaken by Landscape Design as a standard method of delivery for many years.

Decision-making around budget allocation was summarised and followed a risk management approach, with highest risks prioritised to ensure safety. Ward members were made aware, where possible, before equipment is removed, and involved through Neighbourhood Co-ordinators if new capital investment in play equipment is being made.

In discussion, further information was requested in respect of how the large scale work was programmed. The response from the Cabinet Member and officers noted that this was done for larger projects through the Landscape Design team. The Green Spaces team works tended to be on the whole more reactive, small scale and remedial. There were two funding streams that had limited time available to get the projects in place, the service believed there was time to get these projects completed through Section 106 and Infrastructure Levy funds. The smaller scale works could be done in the same way as they have been. It was noted the ward budgets do get used for individual pieces of equipment. Members were advised not to leave the arrangements for this until the turn of the year, as the site must be assessed. The lead time for ordering play equipment is usually three months up to 18 weeks. The procurement leading time is also around 9 months. These lead times must be programmed, making it not a simple task.

Clarification was sought regarding responsibility for the maintenance of the rides in Clifton Park. The children's amusement mechanical rides in the centre of the park were leased to a company called Green Space Leisure who had responsibility for the maintenance of the rides themselves, with the Service responsible for the maintenance of the surrounding areas.

Clarification was requested regarding the charges to those Parish Councils who use the Service. If the Parish Councils undertake their own repair work, the Service has a fixed price for the inspection based on the monthly charge. It does cost the Council to provide the service, and the Council wants to provide this to ensure children are safe. The Service adds 6% to enlist repairs on their behalf, which is still competitive versus private companies.

Members requested clarification around the average wait time for repairs. The response from officers noted that a repair that is medium or high risk is done either same day or within the week, some are monitored, such as the wear on a rubber grass mat. The approach taken was to manage risk.

Members requested additional reassurances that there are officers across the teams who are empowered to make decisions. The response from officers and the cabinet member noted that the landscape design team had been consulted, and that visual inspections and work with litter picking teams had continued. Managing staff absences can be uncertain and outside officers' control, altering timescales. However, nothing had stopped, and the work was progressing.

Members noted that all Council play areas receive inspections and sought further reassurances that Parish Councils and Housing play areas receive these inspections as well. The response from officers and the Cabinet Member provided assurances that guidance had been issued that they were responsible to maintain play equipment on their own land. Their staff had been trained in visual inspections or they contracted with the Service to do the inspections. The Service were still called upon to advise from time to time on play houses.

Members noted the big rises in costs of play equipment which necessitated finding additional moneys somehow. The response from officers and the Cabinet Member acknowledged that communication is important because, sometimes, when there are features taken out, this can make people very sad.

Members expressed concerns that the alternative of employing Landscape Design can add a big charge not in ward budgets. The Assistant Director of Culture Sport and Tourism offered to speak with Members about specific projects, and how to move them forward to a resolution. There is nothing to stop other officers from providing advice; however, if the request is complex, the project must be referred to Landscape Design. This team starts the year with a zero budget. Their fees are very competitive but are not revealed publicly because it is commercially sensitive.

Members suggested that the Service communicate in writing to Members to let them know about the timescales and how to escalate work where they are struggling to move forward. This was needed because the money will not be carried over to the next year. The response from the Assistant Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism noted that the sooner the Service has an understanding of the volume of works, the Service could assess the need and form a plan of what is needed to deliver the volume of projects that is desired. It was affirmed that all want to see the best provision possible for children to play, develop, socialise and enjoy being a child.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the follow up work to assess the volume of desired projects be noted along with the timescales on budgets.

**17. WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to a draft outline programme of scrutiny work for the 2023-2024 municipal year. The Chair provided an update on the progress of the Nature Recovery Review which on 21 July 2023 will conduct site visits from 10.30 am to Silverwood and Centenary Riverside, followed by a hybrid meeting to establish preliminary findings of the review.

**Resolved:-**

1. That the report and proposed schedule of work be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Governance Advisor in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair to make changes to the schedule of work as appropriate between meetings, reporting any changes back to the next meeting for endorsement.

**18. URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items requiring a decision at the meeting.

**19. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved:-**

The next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission will take place on 19 September 2023 commencing at 1.30pm in Rotherham Town Hall.

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REPORT AUDIT TRAIL				
<b>CONSULTATION</b> <i>This is important as it shows that consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of the report and provides a quick reference point for specific comments, whilst the report will not be publishable if these areas have not been completed by the named persons below. <b>You must liaise with and receive sign off from the relevant Cabinet Member(s).</b></i>				
Name/Position	Portfolio/Ward/ Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in para:
Councillor Dominic Beck	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment	04/07/23	Click here to enter a date.	
<i>Paul Woodcock</i>	Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter a date.	
<i>Rob Mahon</i> Finance	Finance and Customer Services	12/07/23	18/07/23	
<i>Stuart Fletcher</i> Legal Services	Legal Services	12/07/23	17/07/23	
<i>Kathryn Roberts,</i> Human Resources	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	12/07/23	12/07/23	
<i>Karen Middlebrook</i> Procurement	Finance and Customer Services	12/07/23	19/07/23	
<i>Levi Kangambe,</i> Equalities	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	12/07/23	19/07/23	

<b><u>REPORT APPROVAL TRACKING</u></b>			
<b>Equalities</b> Your report will not be authorised for submission to Cabinet by your Strategic Director if you have not undertaken and included an initial equalities screening. All equalities analysis documents should be included as appendices	<b>Initial Screening completed and included with report</b>	YES	19/07/23
	<b>Full Assessment completed and included with report</b>	YES	19/07/23
<b>Carbon Impact Assessments</b> Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports. Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to <a href="mailto:climate@rotherham.gov.uk">climate@rotherham.gov.uk</a> for feedback prior to your report being sent to your Strategic Director for approval.	Carbon Impact Assessment completed and included with report.	YES	12/07/23
<b>Background information</b> <b><u>MANDATORY:</u></b> Insert headings for a few main <b><u>public</u></b> documents you have used or referenced to write this report. This is a legal requirement. For Cabinet reports, <b><u>insert hyperlinks</u></b> . Do not list private documents.	Previous IPSC Presentations, as noted at the start of Appendix 1 - Presentation		
<b>Appendices</b> If appendices are essential to the understanding of the report, list titles here. Ensure that appendices have proper titles. List any appendices relevant to the decision being taken first with the Equality Analysis documents coming next and the Carbon Impact Assessment being listed as the last Appendix for all reports.	Appendix 1 - Presentation Appendix 2 - Carbon Impact Assessment Appendix 3 - Equalities – Initial Screening & Full Assessment		
<b>Cabinet Member Approval</b> You should retain an email confirming the Cabinet Member approval for your records. Strategic Directors should not authorise reports unless Cabinet Members have given sign off	YES	10/07/23	
<b>Report Authorised by Strategic Director</b>	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	
<b>Report Authorised for publication by Chief Executive</b>	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	

Public Report  
Improving Places Select Commission

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Improving Places Select Commission – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Report Title**

Update on reducing flood risk and the Council's six priority Flood Alleviation Schemes

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report builds on previous reports to Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) related to flooding, namely February 2020 (IPSC), November 2020 (Sub-group of IPSC – Flood Alleviation), September 2021 (IPSC) and October 2022 (IPSC). This report, along with the accompanying presentation, provides an update on the following areas:

- Reducing flood risk across the Borough
  - Project locations delivered since October 2022 IPSC meeting
  - Project examples
  - Connected by Water
  - Gully cleansing dashboard
  - Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Approval Body (SAB)
- The Council's six priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects
  - Flood alleviation scheme works already constructed
  - Pre-construction works – process and progress
  - Pre-construction works – finances and funding
  - Construction works – finances and funding
  - Potential advanced phases of work – the “No Regrets” approach
  - Options for RMBC Capital bids

Further details are included are in this report.

**Recommendations**

1. That Improving Places Select Commission note the content of this report.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Presentation

Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Form

Appendix 3 Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) & Equality Analysis Form (Part B)

**Background Papers**

Not applicable

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Improving Places Select Commission – 25 October 2022

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Update on reducing flood risk and the Council's Six Priority Flood Alleviation Schemes**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 South Yorkshire and the surrounding catchments of the Rivers Don and Rother suffered significant rainfall during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of November and subsequently on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019. This heavy rainfall, mainly during the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> November, caused significant flooding in both business and residential areas, with a number of roads closed and/or damaged. The rail and tram/train link through the Rotherham Central and Parkgate stations was also closed for several days due to severe flooding of approximately 2km of the tracks, an ongoing problem that is routinely experienced.
- 1.2 Since the November 2019 floods, there have been “near miss” events in these same areas from catchment wide and long duration rainfall events (e.g. in February 2020 (Storm Dennis) and January 2021 (Storm Christophe)).
- 1.3 There have also been many “localised incidents” in various areas across the borough, typically occurring from localised and short duration/high intensity rainfall events that overwhelms local drainage systems for a short time. For example, on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023, around 350 reports of flooding were received by the Council. A “Section 19 Report” that investigates this flood incident is to be prepared and published within 6 months of the incident. Initial assessment work (undertaken in June 2023) has identified that 16 homes, 2 schools and 2 businesses were flooded.
- 1.4 Storms of both long and short duration are predicted to become more frequent in the future as the impacts of climate change continue to occur.
- 1.5 The Council's Drainage Team fulfils the Council's statutory role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the remit of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The LLFA's role includes taking the lead in identifying and delivering Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) projects, which requires partnership working with other Risk Management Authorities, stakeholders, landowners, funders and external suppliers.
- 1.6 Following the November 2019 floods, many small and medium sized projects have been identified to reduce the risk of flooding across the borough. These projects typically focus on small numbers of properties and are delivered by the Council's in-house teams.
- 1.7 Six priority FAS projects have been identified to reduce risk to larger numbers of properties (i.e. residential and commercial), strategic highways, the rail networks, the tram / train network and other critical infrastructure (e.g. utility networks). Along with the initial (2020) estimates for their delivery costs that total £52m, these are:
  - Scheme A: Rotherham Renaissance FAS (£24m)
  - Scheme B: Parkgate & Rawmarsh FAS (£14m)
  - Scheme C: Whiston Brook FAS at Whiston (£4m)
  - Scheme D: Eel Mires Dike FAS at Laughton Common (£3m)

- Scheme E: Catcliffe pumping station (£5m)
- Scheme F: Culvert renewal programme (£2m)

Further information is available on the Council's website at: [The 6 Priority Flood Alleviation Schemes – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

1.8 All six projects are currently going through the design and approvals phase to reach a 'shovel ready' status, with support from external partners and Contractor supply chain, as set out in Section 2.

1.9 A summary of previous Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) presentations is provided in the presentation at Appendix 1.

## **2. Key Issues**

### 2a. Overview of progress update provided

2.1 The presentation at Appendix 1 provides a progress update on the following:

- Reducing risk across the Borough
  - Project locations – delivered since October 2022 IPSC meeting
  - Project examples
  - Connected by Water
  - Gully cleansing dashboard
  - SAB (SuDS Approval Body)
- The Council's six priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects
  - FAS works already constructed
  - Pre-construction works – process and progress
  - Pre-construction works – finances and funding
  - Construction works – finances and funding
  - Potential advanced phases of work – the "No Regrets" approach
  - Options for RMBC Capital bids

2.2 Sub sections 2b, 2c and 2d of this report provide an overview of the key issues.

### 2b. Progress update on engagement and consultation

2.3 Across all areas of work, engagement and consultation continues with individual landowners, communities, funders and other stakeholders. This is undertaken from an individual level (e.g. landowners impacted upon by the Council's proposed works) through to community forums (e.g. Town/Parish Councils) and through strategic forums (e.g. via the South Yorkshire wide "Connected by Water" initiative, South Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnership and Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee).

2.4 This work will continue through to 2024 as part of the "shovel ready" process.

### 2c. Progress update on reducing flood risk across the borough

- 2.5 The Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was updated in February 2022 and is available on the Council's website.
- 2.6 The LLFA team continues to support delivery of the "Connected by Water South Yorkshire Action Plan". This has moved on from the 4 "themes" that were reported on to the October 2022 IPSC meeting, and the initiative is now more project delivery focussed via:
- Creation of Flood Risk Portals (for use by all South Yorkshire Risk Management Authorities)
  - Developing a Smart Investment Tool (to maximise investment opportunities and ensure efficient delivery of schemes)
  - Recruit and train catchment wide flood risk resources (via apprenticeships that work across the South Yorkshire region)
  - Working with Yorkshire Water Services Ltd to improve its Combined Sewer Overflows

It is hoped that the above change in emphasis will help the South Yorkshire region deliver several partnership projects, that over time, will help reduce flood risk and improve the environment across the region.

- 2.7 Small and medium sized projects continue to be delivered to reduce the risk of flooding across the borough. These projects typically focus on small numbers of properties and are delivered by the Council's in-house teams. Since the October 2022 IPSC meeting, and to the end of June 2023, work has been completed at 20 locations.
- 2.8 Upcoming works are associated with continuity of actions that:
- Support the Connected by Water initiative, across its various partnership initiatives
  - Strengthen communications and engagement
  - Consult on all planning applications in terms of flood risk
  - Continue to deliver small and medium sized projects
  - Enable ongoing delivery of LLFA works
  - Enable ongoing delivery of other works
  - Utilise the data gathered by Council's new gully cleansing dashboard
  - Set up the SuDS Approval Body (SAB) within the LLFA team

The Council will continue to respond to localised flood incidents (such as the one experienced on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023) as and when they occur.

- 2.9 Examples of the small and medium sized projects that have already been completed by the Council and further information on the upcoming works is provided in the presentation at Appendix 1.

2d. Progress update on the Council's six Priority FAS projects

- 2.10 In Summer 2023, approximately £17m of advanced phases of construction works have been completed. These are located in Rotherham Town Centre

(located along the River Don) and in Parkgate (located on 2 small watercourses that flow into the River Don).

- 2.11 Now that this last advanced phase is complete, this will provide a continuous line of flood defence along the River Don over a 1.6km extent in the upstream part of Rotherham Town Centre. This extends from the Ickles Lock area to the downstream end of the Forge Island development site, and includes public realm improvements along the vast majority of its extent.
- 2.12 This leaves a further 1.9km extent still to design and construct to complete works along the north/west bank of the River Don. The full 3.5km extent of flood defences, plus all the work on the 2 small watercourses in Parkgate, is needed to significantly reduce risk to properties, transport networks and other critical infrastructure that is located in Rotherham Town Centre and Parkgate.
- 2.13 The pre-construction works on the remaining/future works on all six priority FAS projects are in the process of being delivered, with support from external partners and Contractor supply chain that was procured in 2021.
- 2.14 The current focus for the remaining/future works on the six priority FAS projects is on completed survey/investigation and initial engagement works with landowners, funders and other stakeholders. This process is nearing completion on all six projects and is targeting achieving an “Approval in Principle” in 2023, at which stage the scale and extent of each project will be established. Planning applications, detailed design and legal agreements that follow on from this ongoing work is targeted for 2024.
- 2.15 At the time of writing this report, £23.1m of funding has been secured against the initial (2020) estimates of delivery of £52m, which is an increase of £0.6m of secured funding since the October 2022 IPSC meeting. Approximately £25m of further funding is currently unsecured. Further detailed information can be found in Appendix 1, which has this information broken down further into both pre-construction and construction funding.
- 2.16 A bid for £1.9m of additional pre-construction funding for “Local Levy” funding was submitted and approved by the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee at their July 2023 meeting. Subject to approval of the required forms, this funding can be drawn upon from the end of 2023. This £1.9m will be used on pre-construction works, including outline design and planning applications, in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Financial Years, and would top up the £5.8m allocated and approved by the Council in 2021.
- 2.17 Work to develop over 20 business cases for funding started in Autumn 2022, and it is expected to take 2 to 3 years to complete.
- 2.18 Several potential funders have been identified, and the ones to be approached for a substantial proportion of the funding are the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, the Council, Environment Agency, Network Rail and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. This is linked to the types of property and infrastructure that will ultimately benefit from the delivery of the six priority FAS projects.



2.19 After completion of the “Approval in Principle” stage of the projects, delivery budgets for each FAS project will need to be reassessed, through 2023 and 2024. This will inform the development and approval of business cases that are to be submitted to several external funding organisations. The initial (2020) estimate of £52m will need to increase, however, it is not possible to present an accurate figure at this time. These increases are as a result of several factors that are outside of the Council’s control, for example, high inflation and the complexity of the engineering requirements.

2.20 Work planned on the six priority FAS projects for the next year includes:

- Continue communications and engagement work
- Start to make agreements with over 50 landowners, with some agreements to be made via Land Agents
- Ongoing delivery of “Shovel Ready” process for the six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects
- Reducing flood risk in a timely manner where appropriate to do so – the “no regrets” approach
- Increasing confidence in programme and cost certainty – to set budgets for Business Cases
- Consider options for capital funding to support construction works in 2024/25 and 2025/26 Financial years – refer to the presentation at Appendix 1 for how this funding could be utilised
- Continue with the preparation of funding bids for the 6 Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects, with focus on the approximately £25m of Environment Agency administered funding that has been identified

2.21 The above will be reported on to a future IPSC meeting.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 There are no options to be considered because this report is a progress update to IPSC only.

3.2 Improving Places Select Commission are recommended to note and comment on the contents of this report and accompanying presentation at Appendix 1.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 This report does not represent a proposal however the FAS projects have been subject to consultation as part of previous Improving Place Select Commissions.

4.2 Consultation on specific FAS projects will be undertaken where required as the “Shovel Ready” programme progresses.

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 No decision is needed because this report is a progress update only.
- 6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)**
- 6.1 The attached presentation describes the requirement for additional funding to fully deliver the six priority FAS projects across the Borough in order to mitigate the impact of future significant flood events. This reflects a budget gap of £2.5m for the pre-construction work (i.e. up to a 'shovel ready' state). Additional funding opportunities will be required to be identified in order to progress the 6 priorities schemes to full completion. This report is an update on the current position and current funding challenges, as such there are no direct financial implications from this report.
- 6.2 As an update report, there are no specific direct procurement implications. All current projects have been procured in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rule
- 6.3 The Strategic Outline Programme (SOP), for use of £5.8m of Council funding to deliver the pre-construction process, over three financial years, was completed in July 2021.
- 7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)**
- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**
- 8.1 There are no direct implications for Human Resources arising from this report.
- 9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**
- 9.1 There are no direct implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults arising from this report.
- 10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**
- 10.1 There are no direct implications for Equalities and Human Rights arising from this report. Refer to Appendix 3 for further information
- 11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**
- 11.1 There are no direct implications for CO<sup>2</sup> Emissions and Climate Change arising from this report. Refer to Appendix 2 for further information.

- 11.2 Increase risk of flooding is clearly linked to climate change. The delivery of this work will help to mitigate the impacts of Climate Change that are associated with flooding of people, property and infrastructure.

## 12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The Council will be working closely with other Risk Management Authorities, stakeholders, landowners, funders and external suppliers. Engagement and consultation will be needed throughout the delivery of the six priority FAS projects. However, there are no direct implications for partners arising from this report.

## 13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The main area of risk for all of the six priority FAS projects is associated with the engineering complexity, environmental requirements and third party approvals with land and asset owners. These issues will be addressed over the remainder of the pre-construction process.

## 14. Accountable Officers

Sam Barstow, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Environment  
[sam.barstow@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:sam.barstow@rotherham.gov.uk)

Richard Jackson, Head of Highway and Flood Risk  
[richard.jackson@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:richard.jackson@rotherham.gov.uk)

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Rob Mahon	18/07/23
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Stuart Fletcher	17/07/23

*Report Authors:*

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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

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# **Improving Places Select Commission 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Update on:  
The Council's Flood Risk Management works  
across the borough & the Six Priority Flood  
Alleviation Schemes**

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**Richard Jackson & Andy Saxton**

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## **PART A: OVERVIEW OF ONGOING FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT WORKS ACROSS THE BOROUGH**

A1. Project locations – delivered since October 2022 IPSC meeting

A2. Project examples

A3. Connected by Water

A4. Gully cleansing dashboard

A5. SAB (SuDS Approval Body)

## **PART B: PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE SIX PRIORITY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME PROJECTS**

B1. FAS works already constructed

B2: Pre-construction works – process and progress

B3: Financial risks, cost estimates & spending to date

B4. Secured funding & further funding options

B5. Options for RMBC Capital bids

# PART A: Overview of ongoing Flood Risk Management works across the borough

## A1. Project locations – delivered since October 2022 IPSC meeting

## A2. Project examples

- a) Northlands, Harthill
- b) Ravenfield and Firbeck
- c) Environmental improvements
- d) Flood event on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## A3. Connected by Water

- a) Overview of the partnership approach
- b) Flood Risk Portal
- c) Smart investment tool
- d) Catchment wide resources
- e) Combined Sewer Overflows

## A4. Gully cleansing dashboard

## A5. SAB (SuDS Approval Body)

# A1. Project locations – delivered since October 2022 IPSC meeting

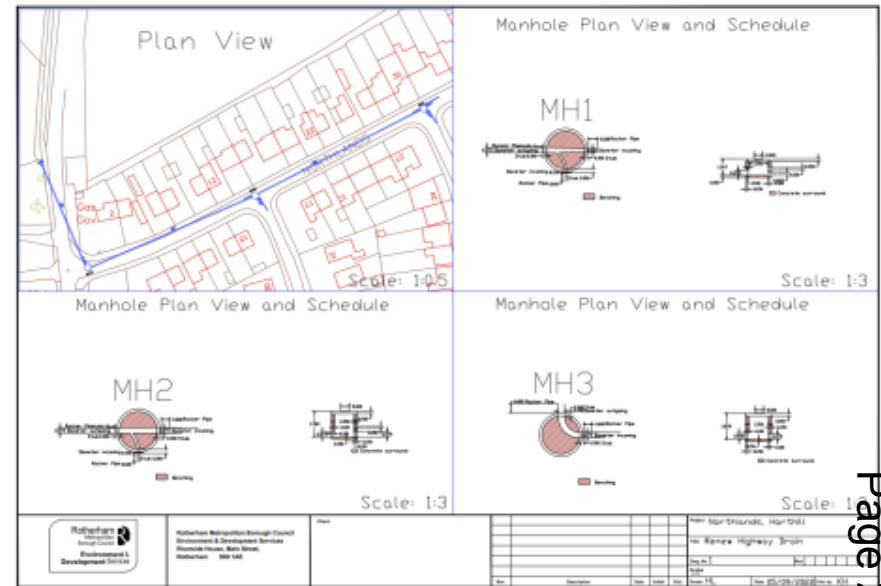
Address	Village	Ward	Scheme	Outcome
Hardwick Lane	Aston	Aston and Todwick	Highway Drainage Repair	Reduced risk of flooding to highway
Workshop Road	Swallownest	Aughton & Swallownest	Replace Manhole	Repair to Highway
Ulley Lane	Aston	Aughton and Swallownest	Cleansing of watercourse	Maintenance
Church Street	Ravenfield	Bramley & Ravenfield	Flood Reduction Scheme – increased culvert capacity and reinstatement of existing ditch.	Properties at reduced risk of flooding
Hooton Lane	Ravenfield	Bramley & Ravenfield	Remediation Works	Maintenance
Pringle Road	Brinsworth	Brinsworth	Sink Hole Repair	Repair to Highway
Carr Lane	Thrybergh	Dalton and Thrybergh	Cleansing of watercourse	Maintenance
Coach Road	Greasbrough	Greasbrough	Root cutting and new gully connection	Reduced risk of flooding to highway
Toad Lane	Brampton	Hoober	Cleansing of watercourse	Maintenance
Elme Tree Road	Maltby	Maltby East	New road gully connection.	1 property reduced risk of flooding
Yew Tree Road	Maltby	Maltby East	Bunding Works	3 property reduced risk of flooding
Tickhill Road	Maltby	Maltby East	New manhole cover and frame	Repair to Highway
Elm Tree Road	Maltby	Maltby East	Diverting Gully connection	1 property reduced risk of flooding
Warren Vale	Rawmarsh	Rawmarsh East	Repair Penstock	Stop pollution
Clay Pit Lane	Rawmarsh	Rawmarsh East	Drainage Works on Field	Reduce flooding on field
Chailliner Mews	Catcliffe	Rother Valley	Cleansing of watercourse	Maintenance
York Road	Eastwood	Rotherham East	Repair collapsed road gully connection	Reduced risk of flooding to highway
Sheridan Drive	Herringthorpe	Rotherham East	Sink Hole Repair	Repair to Highway
Oaks Lane Depot	Kimberworth	Rotherham West	Relay foul sewer	Repair to council asset
Whiston Brook	Whiston	Sitwell	Cleansing of watercourse	Maintenance



# A2a. Project examples – Northlands, Harthill

Residential properties have been affected by internal flooding on several occasions over the past 20 years.

After hydraulic modelling and design, a substantial scheme was carried out to increase the drainage capacity and remove a backfall in the pipework to reduce the risk of future flooding.



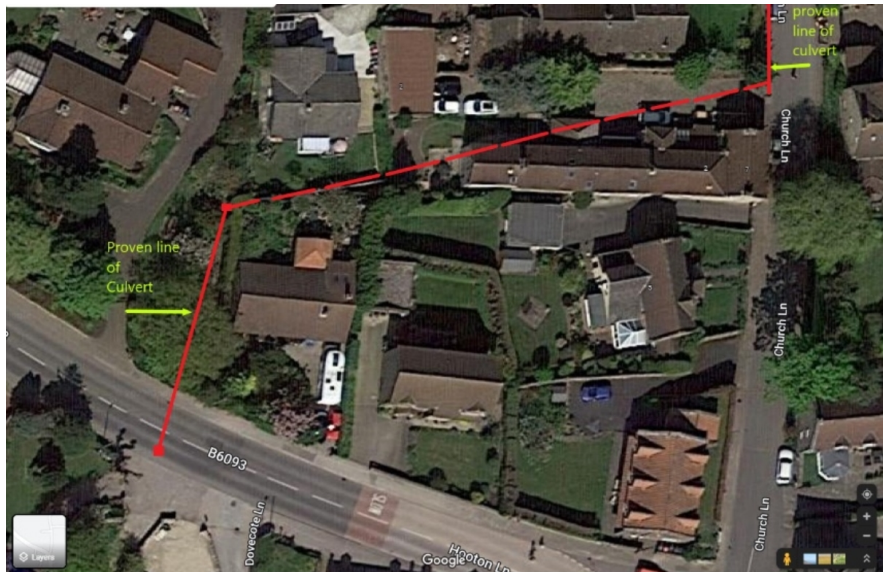
# A2b. Project examples – Ravenfield & Firbeck

## Ravenfield

A drainage scheme has been carried out to increase the size of existing culverted watercourse from 300mm to 600mm in diameter.

The scheme includes a new inlet bay with a trash screen and a new manhole for access to maintain the system.

Following the drainage scheme, a section of the field will be landscaped to divert water into the existing watercourse and remove the flow route to the highway.



## Salt Hill, Firbeck

Regular surface water flooding occurs to residents on Salt Hill, Firbeck over the past few years due to collapsed highway drain in third party land.

A solution was designed to install 2x 4m diameter soakaway rings within the highway, then re-route half of the drainage from the defective pipe into the soakaway.

With the other half of the impermeable area being diverted to an existing highway drain.



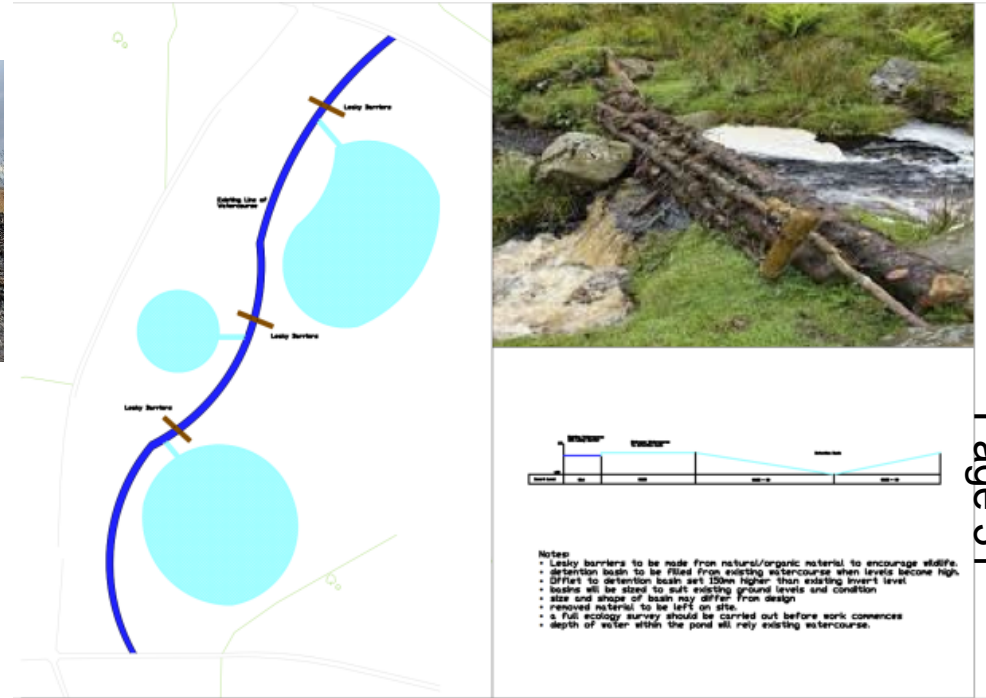
# A2c. Project examples – Environmental improvement



Two new schemes have been carried out at Brookfield Park, Manvers and Firsby Reservoir.

The schemes are in place to allow water to hold in specific areas, increase bird activity and allow additional plant growth and improve water quality.

The schemes have been run with input from the national wildlife trust and the local bird association.



## Flood Risk Benefits

- Attenuated water
- Reduction in silt deposits downstream
- Slowing the flow of water to “Main River”

# A2d. Flood event on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023

A rainfall event took place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023, causing widespread surface water flooding across the borough. Impacts included:

- Over 300 flooding reports received
- 15 residential dwellings (with internal flooding)
- 2 commercial properties flooded
- 2 primary school class rooms flooded

Note: No properties were affected by flooding in which a drainage scheme was recently carried out. Ravenfield, Harthill and Firbeck have had property flooding on moderate rainfall on several previous occasions, which was before recent drainage work was carried completed.



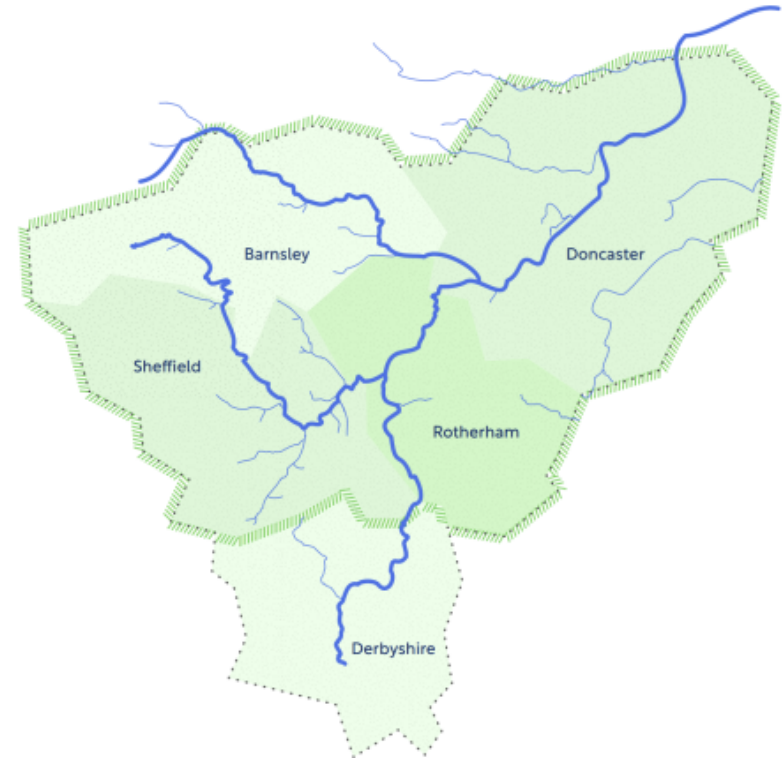
# A3a. Connected by Water – overview of the partnership approach.

The flooding in November 2019 provided the catalyst for the creation of the “Connected by Water South Yorkshire Action Plan”. One of the wettest autumns on record led to unprecedented river levels, and widespread flooding across South Yorkshire.

Communities were evacuated from their homes, precious belongings ruined, businesses devastated, infrastructure severely disrupted and people unable to return to their homes for many months. As the flood water subsided, communities, businesses and senior leaders asked how can we reduce the risk and impact of flooding across the region

Connected by Water have now moved away from the themes and have now focused on specific projects that will make true partnership working across the catchment.

<https://connectedbywater.co.uk/>



A South Yorkshire alliance working with communities and businesses to build flood resilience and improve the impact of climate emergency



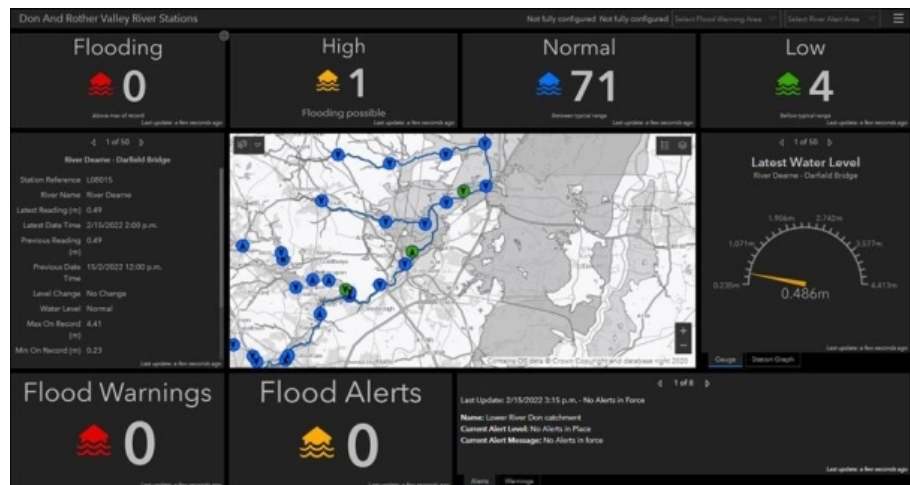
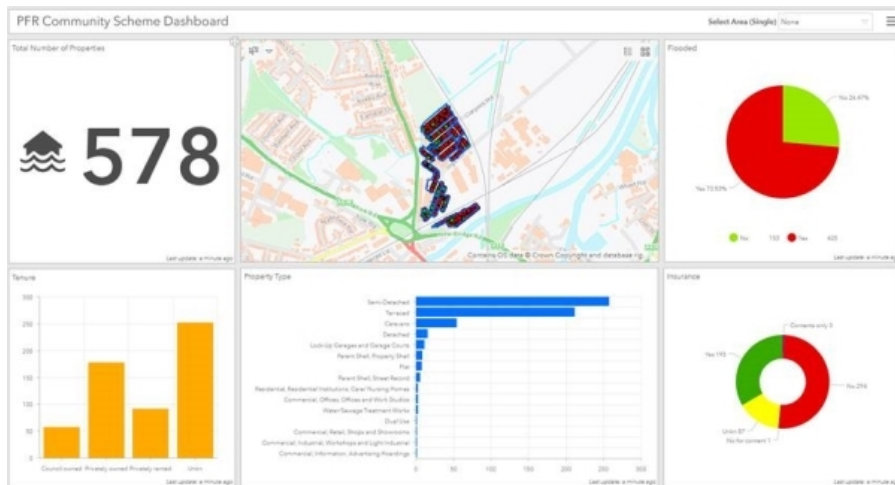
# A3b. Connected by Water – Flood Risk Portal's

Several Dashboards have been created to make a user friendly, easy access to all data across South Yorkshire.

The Dashboards will highlight rivers at risk of over topping (with an alert function). Areas that have received flood defences (image to left). Footage of all flood events. Plus many more. These dashboards are to be rolled out to all RMA's in the coming months.



A South Yorkshire alliance working with communities and businesses to build flood resilience and improve the impact of climate emergency

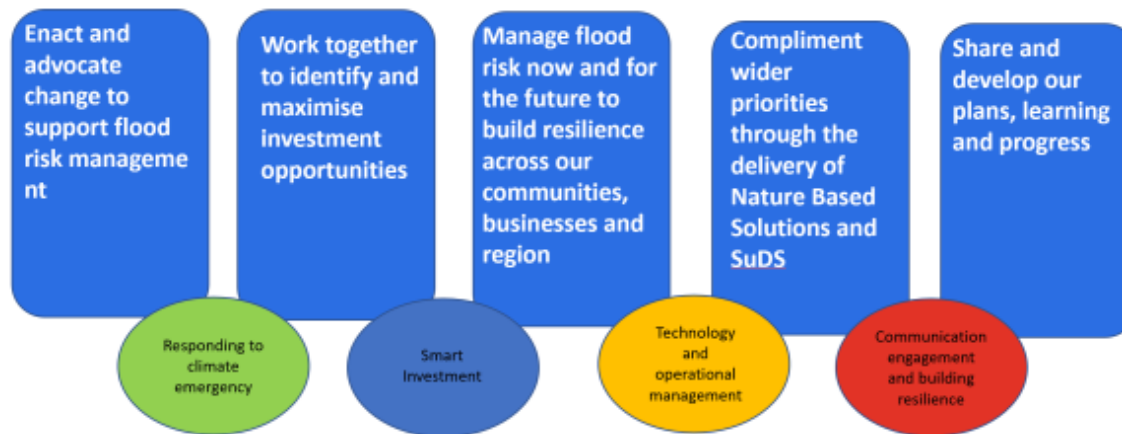
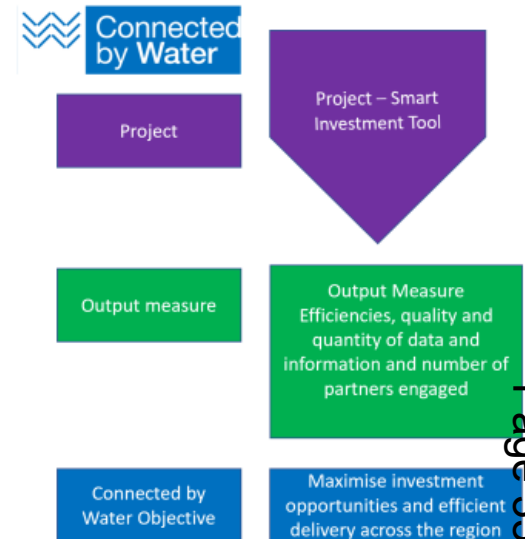


# A3c. Connected by Water – Smart investment tool



## Connected by Water Smart Investment Tool

- Smart investment is looking at maximising investment opportunities and ensuring efficient delivery of schemes across the region.
- The tool will allow us to map all aspects of modelling, flood risk, previously completed schemes and funding opportunities within the catchment.



# A3d. Connected by Water – catchment wide flood risk resources.

**Connected by Water are proposing to provide a new resource for catchment wide flood risk engineer apprentice/graduate**

- Aim is to create a pool of shared resource with understanding of the whole catchment and flood risk engineering expertise
- This would respond to the resource issues currently experienced by partner organisations in these key roles
- Idea is a 6-month placement with each RMA creating a unique catchment wide experience and skill set
- Currently scoping out ambition and practicalities in all organisations

**Leadership by Rotherham and Barnsley councils on behalf of the partnership**



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**Connected  
by Water**

A South Yorkshire alliance working with communities and businesses to build flood resilience and improve the impact of climate emergency



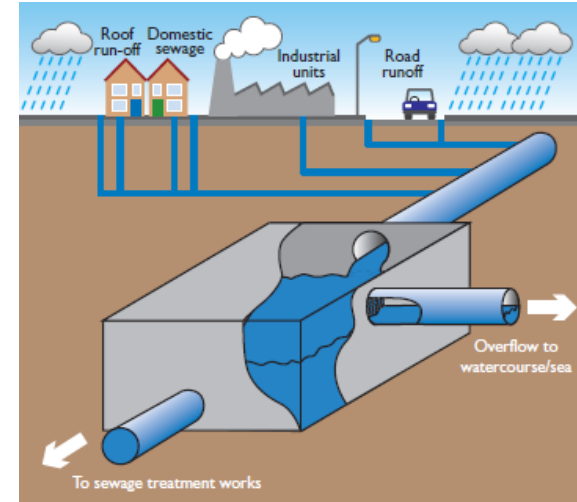
# A3e. Connected by Water – Combined Sewer Overflows

The £180m plan is targeting overflows that discharge the most often or for the most time as we look to reduce its impact on water quality in the region's rivers. Over 180 overflows have been earmarked for investment before 2025.

The investment can broadly be split into four different types of work:

- Increasing storage within Yorkshire Water's wastewater treatment works
- Preventing surface water entering the sewer system
- Reducing infiltration into sewers
- Small changes to the operation of treatment works

**Leadership by Yorkshire Water and Rotherham Council on behalf of the partnership**



# A4. Gully Cleansing Dashboard



The gully cleansing schedule is now fully electronic, the team are collecting data on all gullies that are cleansed with information on:

- Silt Levels
- Defects
- Cover and Frame Data
- Location

This information will be collected over the next 2 years to give an informed decision on moving to risk based approach

Cleansing the right gullies at the right time.

Other data is also being collected – manholes, soakaways, interceptors etc



Ready

1688m Selection

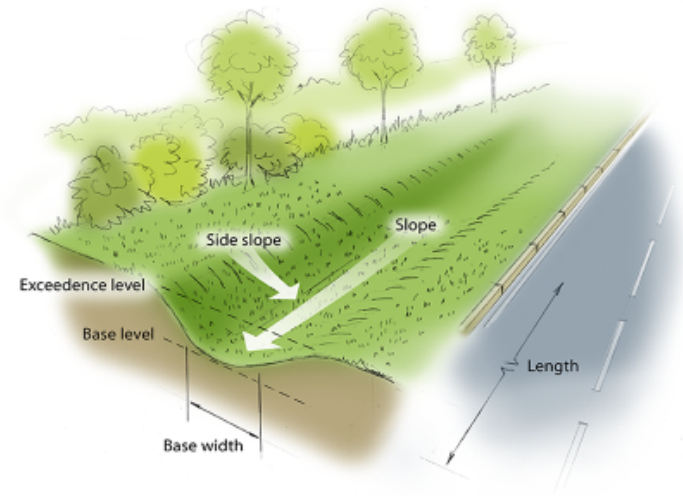
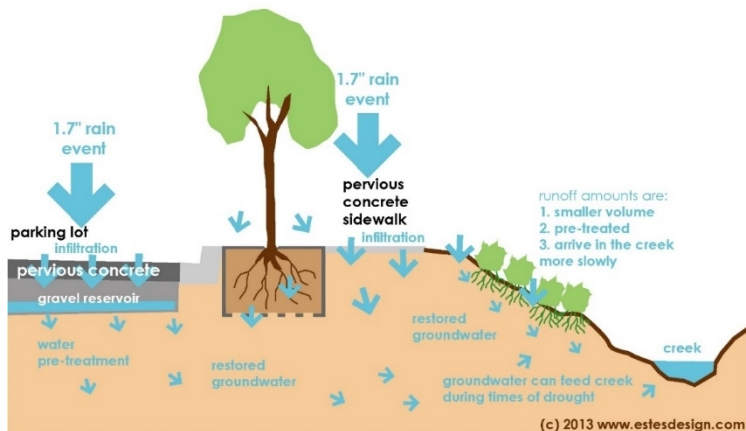
## GULLIES 130 NORTHFIELD LANE

Activity	GCX	19/05/2022 (Done)
	Parameters	Done
Defect	GCL Inspection	
Gully Inspect	Cleansed	
Silt Depth	50%	
Location	O/S no 65	
Description	Cover cracked and needs a re	

# A5. SAB (SuDS Approval Body)

The SAB was first introduced in 2010 as schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act. The schedule was not enacted at that time due to constraint issues.

A cabinet report will be brought forward at the end of 2023 to outline the plans for introducing the SAB within Rotherham.



The SAB is now to be enacted in 2024 as stated in the FWMA 2010. This involves:

- All major planning applications will have to implement SuDS features
- Must be approved by the LLFA
- Must be adopted by the LLFA
- Must be maintained going forward by the LLFA

# PART A: Questions

**Questions on Part A?**

# PART B: Progress update on the six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme Projects

## **B1. FAS works already constructed**

## **B2. Pre-construction works – process and progress**

- a) Design and approvals process overview
- b) Estimated completion
- c) Progress examples

## **B3. Pre-construction works – finances and funding**

- a) Overview of initial (2020) estimates & new (2023) estimates
- b) Funding position
- c) Funding bids

## **B4. Construction works – finances and funding**

- a) Overview of initial (2020) estimates & new (2023) estimates
- b) Funding position
- c) Funding bids

## **B5. Potential advanced phases of work – the “No Regrets” approach**

## **B6. Options for RMBC Capital bids**



# B1: FAS works already constructed

**Work completed since November 2019 floods in Rotherham Town Centre and in Parkgate using Partnership Funding secured to date (from a several organisations):**



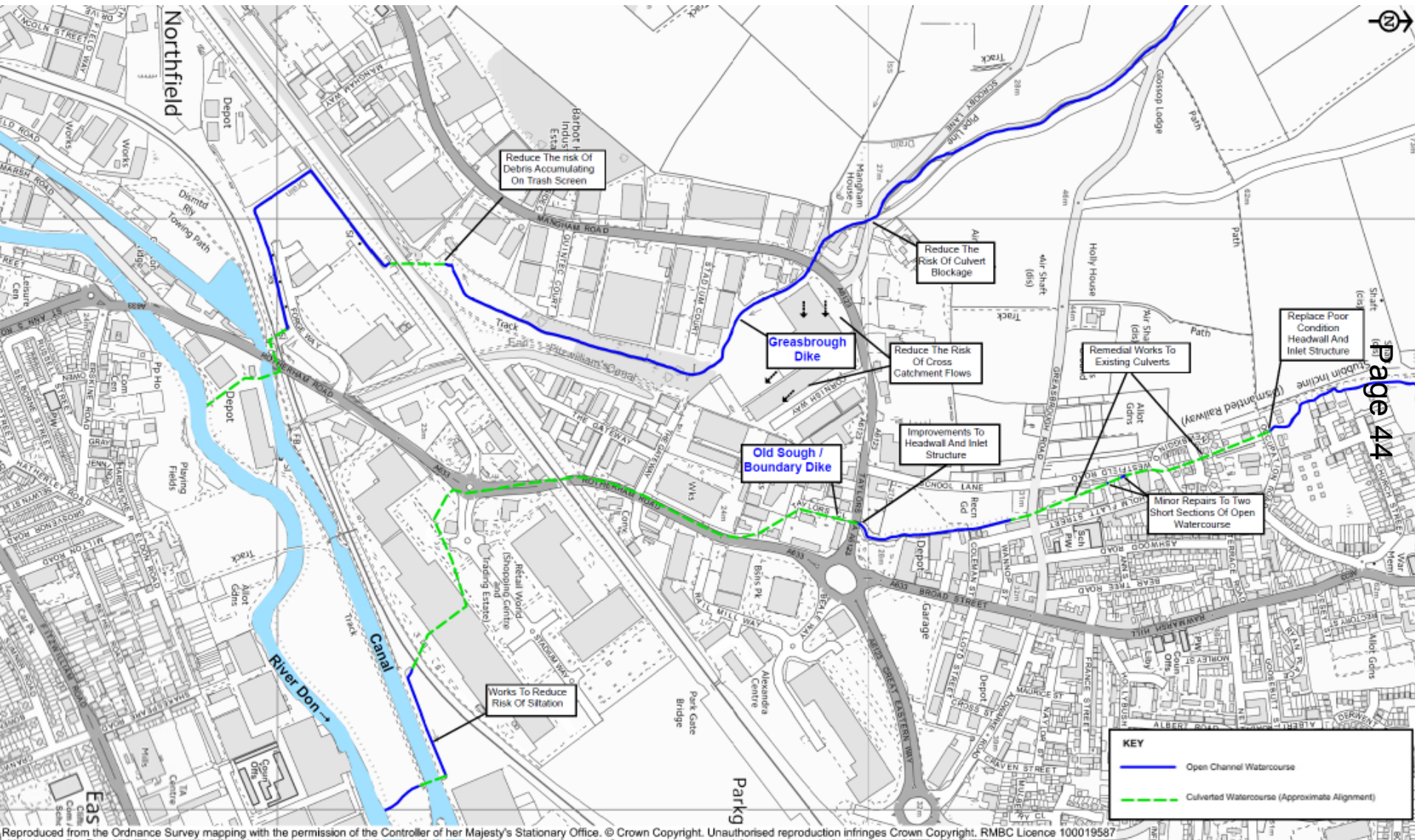
# B1: FAS works already constructed

Work completed since November 2019 floods between Ickles Lock and Rotherham United FC stadium using Partnership Funding secured to date (from a several organisations):





# B1: FAS works already constructed





# B1: FAS works already constructed

Site access issues at downstream end of Boundary Dike, at Parkgate:



Before, during & after the main clearance works of Boundary Dike, at Parkgate:



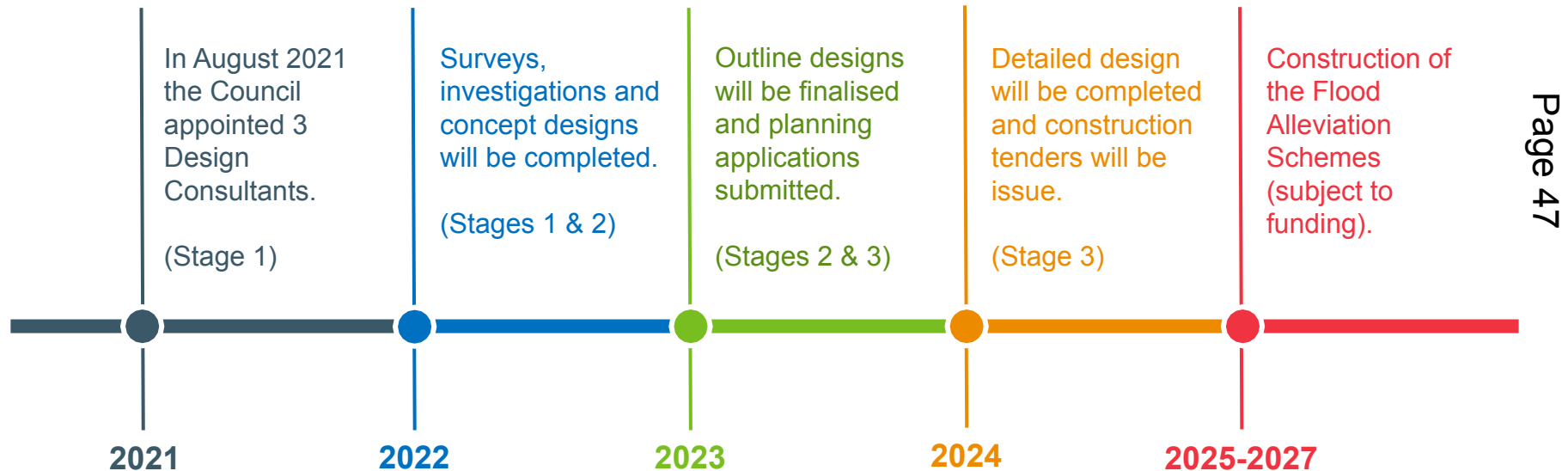
# B2a: Pre-construction progress – design and approvals process overview

**The October 2022 IPSC meeting provided information on the early phases of work on:**

- Delivering a three staged approach for each of the six priority FAS projects to achieve “Shovel Ready” status in 2024, with concurrent working across the six projects
  - Stage 1: Mobilisation of resources, surveys and investigation
  - Stage 2: Initial design work and engagement with third parties
  - Stage 3: Detailed design, finalisation of third party approvals and work up to procurement of construction suppliers
- Working with stakeholders and landowners on these complex FAS projects
- Attracting funding to fully deliver the schemes in future and protect residents, businesses and road/rail/tram-train networks from flooding in the future

# B2a: Pre-construction progress – design and approvals process overview

On programme to complete the “Shovel Ready” process in 2024, but there are still significant risks that need to be managed over the last 2 years of the programme (more detail later)



# B2b: Pre-construction – estimated completion

Scheme	Stage 1: Mobilisation of resources, surveys and investigation	Stage 2: Initial design work and engagement with third parties	Stage 3: Detailed design, finalisation of third party approvals and work up to procurement of construction suppliers
Rotherham Renaissance FAS (Note: multiple phases)	Completed	Autumn 2023	2024
Parkgate & Rawmarsh FAS (Note: multiple phases)	Autumn 2023	Winter 2023	2024
Whiston Brook FAS	Autumn 2023	Winter 2023	2024
Eel Mires Dike FAS	Completed	Autumn 2023	2024
Catcliffe Pumping Station	Autumn 2023	Winter 2023	2024
Culvert Renewal Programme (Note: 13 Nr culverts)	Spring 2023	Winter 2023	Subject to Business Case

Note: Where Stage 1 work is set out as “Completed”, this is in relation to all of the major survey and investigation work. It is likely that the design teams will need to do additional localised “infill surveys” as part of the Stage 2 and/or Stage 3 work to be able to complete the detailed design.



# B2c: Pre-construction – progress

Various surveys, investigations and landowner/stakeholder engagements are ongoing for all six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects.

Survey and investigation allows the Design Team to establish the extent, scale and size of each FAS project – i.e. the work up to “Approval In Principle” through 2023.

So far positive feedback has been received from landowners alongside watercourses and with other people and organisations impacted upon by flooding.

## Ongoing design work and engagement with third parties

- Consultant's working on outline engineering drawings of new flood defences
- Key part of this work is to establish how new flood defences will interact with all of the adjacent asset owners and landowners
- Detailed engineering and environmental studies/surveys that are needed to support planning applications
- On track to complete Approval in Principle (AiP) documentation in 2023

## Significance of completing the AiP documentation

- Sets the standard of protection of the scheme (aiming for a 1 in 100 year plus climate change, with a design life of 120 years)
- Assists discussions with stakeholders, funders, asset owners and landowners
- Gives a basis on which legal and funding agreements can start to be progressed
- Facilitates updated estimation of construction costs (and associated risk allowances)



# B3a: Financial Risks

There are several risk factors outside RMBC's control that are emerging across both the pre-construction and construction phases, with typical examples being:

- Inflation and increased labour costs within the external supply chain
- Busy supply chains and high staff turnover in some parts of the Consultancy sector
- Complexities of the engineering requirements – e.g. utilities and poor ground conditions
- Number and type of asset owners and landowners – many approvals to secure
- Delivery can only progress at the pace of the “slowest cog in the wheel” – this is a particular issue when trying to get approvals from large external organisations (who have different priorities to RMBC)
- Legacy impacts of the Covid pandemic and the war in Ukraine

Due to the forementioned risks factors, the costs of the pre-construction and construction phases are likely to differ from the initial (2020) estimates.

# B3b: Cost estimates & spending to date

## Updated cost estimates for pre-construction and construction phases

	Pre-Construction (to achieve “Shovel Ready” status)		Construction	
Scheme	Initial (2020) cost estimate	New (2023) cost estimate	Initial (2020) cost estimate	New (2023) cost estimate
Rotherham Renaissance FAS	£2.0m	£2.7m	£22.0m	TBC during 2023
Parkgate & Rawmarsh FAS	£2.0m	£2.6m	£12.0m	TBC during 2023
Whiston Brook FAS	£0.5m	£1.0m	£3.5m	TBC during 2023
Eel Mires Dike FAS	£0.6m	£1.0m	£2.4m	TBC during 2023
Catcliffe Pumping Station	£0.6m	£0.9m	£4.4m	TBC during 2023
Culvert Renewal Programme	£0.1m	£0.1m	£1.9m	TBC during 2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5.8m</b>	<b>£8.3m</b>	<b>£46.2m</b>	<b>TBC during 2023</b>

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## Current spend to the end of June 2023 is £2.1m

	Rotherham Renaissance FAS	Parkgate & Rawmarsh FAS	Whiston Brook FAS	Eel Mires Dike FAS	Catcliffe Pumping Station	Culvert Renewal Programme
Total spend to end of June 23	£910k	£520k	£140k	£440k	£80k	£30k

Various high cost items will be incurred in 2023 – i.e. the remaining surveys/investigation costs, core design team costs, design documentation and drawing production costs.

# B4a: Secured funding

## Pre-Construction

£7.8m of pre-construction funding has been secured to date. Additional funding bids are being prepared to try to secure the remaining £0.5m through Environment Agency (Yorkshire & Trent) to match the new (2023) cost estimate of £8.3m.

Funding source	Funding secured to date
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)	£5.8m
<b>Yorkshire Regional Flood and Costal Committee (Local Levy)</b>	<b>£1.9m</b>
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA)	£0.1m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7.8m</b>

## Construction

£17.2m of construction funding has been secured, and used to deliver advanced phases of the Rotherham Renaissance FAS, against the initial (2020) estimate of £46.2m (i.e. £29.0m still needed on this basis) to deliver ongoing construction works.

Funding source	Funding secured to date
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)	£5.95m
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	£4.35m
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA)	£3.3m
Yorkshire Regional Flood and Costal Committee (Local Levy)	£0.7m
Levelling Up Fund	£2.5m
Network Rail	£0.4m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17.2m</b>



# B4b: Further funding options

## **Funding bids in preparation (i.e. funding identified, but not yet secured)**

Bids and business cases will still need to be submitted before funding could be drawn upon to construct the FAS projects.

- £11.7m of Other Government Department (Additional Grant in Aid) funding for Rotherham Renaissance FAS
- £2.9m of Other Government Department (Additional Grant in Aid) funding for Whiston Brook FAS
- £2.4m of Department for Education funding for the Kilnhurst phase of Rotherham Renaissance FAS
- Approximately £8.0m of “Standard” Grant in Aid across all six priority FAS projects
  - Note: The allocations on the current version of the Environment Agency Medium Term Plan only total £3.2m, so this will need to be updated in the Spring 2024 “MTP refresh”.

## **Other ongoing external funding discussions (i.e. funding opportunities not yet quantified)**

- Network Rail developing their own funding bids within their next internal “Control Period” (which is from 2024 to 2029)
- Environment Agency (Yorkshire) and South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority are in the early stages of discussions about economic growth funding
- Discussions with Yorkshire Water Services Ltd for locations where risk to their pumping station network could be reduced
- Environment Agency (Trent) with regards to funding for Eel Mires Dike FAS
- Meetings to be held with large businesses about contributions

# B5: Options for RMBC Capital bids

**Currently considering the options that could be presented for use of RMBC funding, and if pursued, these will need Council support:**

## **1) To fund construction works on advanced phases of projects (ideally, in 2024/25 and 2025/26)**

- Could target at the areas where flooding is of a greater frequency or has the most adverse impacts
- Could be utilised to construct some of the “No Regrets” works (some prioritisation needed)
- These are typically small to medium sized capital works projects that can easily be procured

## **2) To enable RMBC funding to be set out within business case documentation (ideally, in 2024/25)**

- All six priority FAS projects will need funding to be sourced from several organisations
- External funding organisations will expect to see a commitment from RMBC before they contribute
- To help lever in in external funding from partners, early commitment from RMBC is advantageous
- Business cases are more likely to be approved if a fully funded situation is presented
- Scale of RMBC commitments needs to be worked though in 2023/24 and 2024/25 Financial Years
- Actual spend would be for the 2025/26 Financial Year and beyond

Note: The Environment Agency’s Medium Term Plan will be refreshed in Spring 2024. This is an ideal place to set out the profiling of external funding, because information on the MTP is shared between funding organisations and used within the lobbying process.

# PART B: Questions

**Questions on Part B?**

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**Appendix 2 – Carbon Impact Form – Improving Places Select Committee - Update on reducing flood risk across the Borough and the Council’s Six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) projects.**

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact.	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts.;	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out.
<b>Emissions from non-domestic buildings?</b>	No impact	-	-	-	-
<b>Emissions from transport?</b>	Increases emissions	Increased transport movements will occur during survey/investigation and construction works.	N/A – only localised impacts anticipated	Where practical, reduce travel during survey/investigation works; target use of locally sourced materials during construction works; and dispose of wastes to local sites.	-
<b>Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?</b>	Increases emissions	Demolition and clearance works would result in additional emissions during such works.	N/A – only localised impacts anticipated	Where practical, materials from demolition and clearance works will be re-used within the permanent works.	-
<b>Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?</b>	No impact	-	-	-	-
<b>Emissions from construction and/or development?</b>	Increases emissions	<p>The Council has a statutory duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to investigate flood risk.</p> <p>The Council seeks to reduce flood risk where possible for the benefits of Rotherham’s communities, businesses and infrastructure operators.</p>	N/A – only localised impacts anticipated	Where practical, FAS assets should be designed to reduce emissions from construction, including targeting the use locally sourced materials during construction works. In previous construction works, the Council has used alternative construction materials such as Ultra-Low Carbon Concrete, where practical and affordable, to mitigate embodied carbon	-

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact.	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts.;	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out.
		Both the above can increase emissions in the short term.		emissions. Discussions will be held with Contractors during pre-construction phases, to see if the fuel used on site during construction can be reduced, and the quantity/type of materials can be estimated (to estimate embodied carbon emissions)	
<b>Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?</b>	Reduce impact	Whilst some trees will need to be removed to construct FAS assets, this loss will be mitigated through replacement tree planting.	N/A – only localised impacts anticipated	The Council is targeting Biodiversity Net Gain across the FAS projects, and this will include proposals to plant new trees (in addition to those required as replacements for lost trees).	-
<b>Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:</b>  The long-term benefit of reducing flood risk will reduce the overall impacts on emissions because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property/infrastructure will be flooded less frequently, requiring less frequent property and infrastructure repair works to be undertaken</li> <li>Emergency response during flood events that is provided via the Council and its Partners will require less travel and material use</li> </ul> Managing the risk of flooding from rivers through flood alleviation schemes will increase the climate resilience of the Borough and its residents through climate adaptation, which should complement the Council's efforts to mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions.					

**Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:**

In the short term, emissions will increase during the survey/investigation and construction phases of the FAS projects, with only localised impacts anticipated. Medium- and long-term impacts would be a reduction in emissions, because flooding will be less frequent, reducing the impacts associated with carrying out repair works and delivering an emergency response.

<b>Supporting information:</b>	
<b>Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).</b>	Richard Jackson, Head of Highways and Flood Risk
<b>Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].</b>	Nil, at this time
<b>If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.</b>	Nil, at this time.
<b>Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]</b>	Tracking reference: CIA113  Arthur King, Principal Climate Change Officer

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## PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
<b>Title: Rotherham Flood Risk Management projects</b>	
<b>Directorate:</b> Regeneration and Environment	<b>Service area:</b> Community Safety and Streetscene
<b>Lead person:</b> Peter Henchley	<b>Contact number:</b> 01709 254485
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy / Policy</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service / Function</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>	
<b>If other, please specify: The Council's Flood Risk Management projects, located across the Borough, and including the pre-construction phase of the Council's six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects (i.e. up to them becoming "Shovel Ready")</b>	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The report reviews works being undertaken across the borough to reduce flood risk through a number of localised/maintenance led works and major capital intervention projects. Flood Risk Management projects therefore vary in size from small localised works to multi-million pound Flood Alleviation Scheme projects.

This report considers the pre-construction (“Shovel Ready”) phase of the Council’s six Priority Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) across the Borough, which aim to reduce flood risk to residents, businesses, and infrastructure. The six schemes are:

- Rotherham Renaissance FAS
- Parkgate and Rawmarsh FAS
- Whiston FAS
- Eel Mires Dike FAS
- Catcliffe pumping station FAS
- Borough wide culverts renewal programme

### 3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council’s strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	✓	
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>	✓	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>		✓
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>		✓
Could the proposal affect how the Council’s services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		✓
Could the proposal affect the Council’s workforce or employment practices?		✓

*(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

N/A

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

#### 4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

The Council's Flood Risk Management projects will provide a reduction to flood risk for residents, businesses and critical infrastructure, including schools, highways, and other public transport links within the Borough.

All residents, businesses, local Councillors and relevant stakeholders are consulted prior to the delivery of schemes, which includes the submission of planning applications where needed. All queries relating to access to properties or businesses are considered in the provision of the works. All additional requirements required to meet any specific needs of a group or individual during the delivery of our works will be accommodated, where practical and appropriate.

The Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed works, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the schemes.

The Council has already engaged with communities through Parish/Town Councils in workshops, distributed newsletters to residents and businesses previously affected by flooding, as well as engagement with stakeholders, landowners and residents where applicable in the environmental and engineering surveys for the schemes.

Accessibility and mobility have already been considered and is being incorporated for an advanced phase of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme. The remaining phases of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme and the other 5 Flood Alleviation Schemes are still within the early stages of their design. However, during the detailed design phase (i.e. before construction starts), Organisations

and Community Groups will be identified and liaised with to help improve equality and diversity aspects (such as mobility and accessibility) of the design where possible.

*(think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)*

### • Key findings

We have not identified any issues or actions to date but will consider further as the various projects proceed.

The long term benefit of reducing flood risk will reduce the overall impacts for communities because:

- Property/infrastructure will be flooded less frequently, requiring less frequent property and infrastructure closure and repair, reducing the effect on the community
- Requirement for emergency response during flood events that is provided via the Council and its Partners to vulnerable groups will be less frequent

In the short term, disruption will increase during the survey/investigation and construction phases of the Flood Risk Management projects, with only localised impacts anticipated. Medium and long term impacts would be a reduction in disruption, because flooding will be less frequent, reducing the impacts associated with carrying out repair works and delivering an emergency response.

*(think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)*

### • Actions

Accessibility and mobility have already been considered and is being incorporated for an advanced phase of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme. The remaining phases of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme and the other 5 Flood Alleviation Schemes are still within the early stages of their design. However, during the detailed design phase (i.e. before construction starts), Organisations and Community Groups will be identified and liaised with to help improve equality and diversity aspects (such as mobility and accessibility) of the design where possible

*(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/reduce negative impact)*

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	September 2023
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	September 2023
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Kyle Heydon (Manager of Flood Risk Management works across the borough) and Peter Henchley (Manager of the six Priority FAS projects)

### 5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Andy Saxton	Highway Asset and Drainage Manager	12/07/2023
Richard Jackson	Head of Service for Highways and Flood Risk	12/07/2023

### 6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk) For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	19/07/2023
Report title and date	Improving Places Select Commission (19 <sup>th</sup> September 2023): Update on reducing flood risk across the Borough and the Council's 6 Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a	Cabinet Decision date: N/A

<b>significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication</b>	
<b>Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement</b> <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	12/07/2023



## PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
<b>Equality Analysis title: Rotherham Flood Risk Management projects</b>	
<b>Date of Equality Analysis (EA): Regeneration and Environment</b>	
<b>Directorate: Regeneration and Environment</b>	<b>Service area: Community Safety and Streetscene</b>
<b>Lead Manager: Peter Henchley</b>	<b>Contact number: 01709 254485</b>

<b>Is this a:</b>	
<input style="width: 40px; height: 25px; border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strategy / Policy</b>
<input style="width: 40px; height: 25px; border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Service / Function</b>
<input checked="" style="width: 40px; height: 25px; border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other</b>
<b>If other, please specify: The Council's Flood Risk Management projects, located across the Borough, and pre-construction phase of the Council's six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects (i.e. up to them becoming "Shovel Ready")</b>	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Sam Barstow	RMBC	Assistant Director
Richard Jackson	RMBC	Head of Service
Andy Saxton	RMBC	Highway Asset and Drainage Manager

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance
<p><b>Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)</b>            This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)</p> <p>The Council's Flood Risk Management projects will provide a reduction to flood risk for residents, businesses and critical infrastructure including schools, highways, and other public transport links within the Borough.</p>
<p><b>What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)</b></p> <p>The Council has already engaged with communities through Parish/Town Councils in workshops, distributed newsletters to residents and businesses previously affected by flooding, as well as engagement with stakeholders, landowners and residents where applicable in the environmental and engineering surveys for the schemes.</p> <p>The Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed works, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the schemes.</p>



<p><b>Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?</b></p> <p>Not that we are aware of, but all parts of the Council can improve their ability to communicate with the various user groups both Corporately and individual services.</p>	
<p><b>What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?</b></p> <p>Monitoring arrangements are not currently set up due to the FAS projects being in a pre-construction phase.</p>	
<p><b>Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b></p>	<p>Laughton Common Parish Council meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021          Whiston summer festival – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022          Kilnhurst information and roadshow event – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022</p>
<p><b>Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)</b></p>	

#### 4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

**How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups?** (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The Council's Flood Risk Management projects aim to reduce the flood risk to residential properties, businesses, visitors, the highway network, and other critical infrastructure including the rail network and schools in the Borough.



This reduction in flood risk makes positive changes to wellbeing and reduction in disruption to disadvantaged groups in access to services and transport. For example, for an advanced phase of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme (which is split into approximately 10 phases) will also provide a betterment for visually impaired and wheelchair users at Ickles Lock with an improvement to the Canal towpath access ramp.

All of the 6 Priority Flood Alleviation Schemes will consider and incorporate mobility and accessibility issues where possible during the design phase.

**Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?** No

**Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?**

The reduction in flood risk across the Borough makes positive changes to wellbeing and reduction in disruption to disadvantaged groups in access to services and transport. For example, for an advanced phase of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme (which is split into approximately 10 phases) will also provide a betterment for visually impaired and wheelchair users at Ickles Lock with an improvement to the Canal towpath access ramp.

All of the 6 Priority Flood Alleviation Schemes will consider and incorporate mobility and accessibility issues where possible during the design phase.

**What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations?** (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

The Council will look to minimise disruption to all groups in the scheduling and within the construction phases of the Flood Risk Management projects.

The Council will liaise with the various media outlets and social media portals, including the Council website, to make the wider community aware of the proposed works, provide a method for interested parties to influence works and allow regular updates during the progress of the schemes.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

## **5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan**

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

<b>Title of analysis:</b> <b>Rotherham Flood Risk Management projects</b>
<b>Directorate and service area:</b>  <b>Regeneration and Environment, Community Safety and Streetscene.</b>
<b>Lead Manager:</b> <b>Peter Henchley</b>
<b>Summary of findings:</b> <b>The Initial Equality Screening (Part A) and Equality Assessment (Part B) processes note that the six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects will benefit people, property and infrastructure by reducing flood risk in the long term. There are no specific actions arising from these assessments.</b>

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)


\*A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups

#### 6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Sam Barstow	Assistant Director	24/07/2023
Levi Karigambe	Policy Officer	19/07/2023

#### 7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy should also be sent to [equality@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk) For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

<b>Date Equality Analysis completed</b>	19/07/2023
<b>Report title and date</b>	Update on Flood Risk Management and Priority Flood Alleviation Schemes – Initial Equality Screening (Part A) & Equality Analysis (Part B) 05/06/2023

Date report sent for publication	TO BE ADDED
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement <a href="mailto:equality@rotherham.gov.uk">equality@rotherham.gov.uk</a>	12/07/2023

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## **Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council: Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) briefing**

### **Introduction**

We understand public concerns regarding discharges from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). Whilst CSOs have been in use for many decades, electronic monitoring has allowed a better understanding of the performance of these assets.

This briefing provides background to the use of CSOs, as well as outlining our plans to reduce the number of discharges from our network.

### **What are CSOs?**

Combined sewers collect effluent from homes and businesses, as well as surface water (i.e. water that runs off pavements, roads, etc). During normal operations the combined effluent is treated and discharged into water courses as final treated effluent.

However, during heavy rainfall, or if there are blockages in our network, the sewer network can reach capacity. In this case, once the network and emergency storage are full, CSOs act as a relief valve and discharge effluent into a watercourse. In the majority of cases, effluent will pass through a grill to prevent large items leaving the sewer.

The use of overflows therefore stops sewage escaping into homes, gardens, and streets.

### **Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) i.e. Discharge Data**

The recording of discharges has increased as we have installed Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) devices on our network. At Yorkshire Water we have some of the best monitoring in the water sector, with 98.1% of Yorkshire's overflows already monitored compared to an industry average of 89%. We will have 100% coverage by the end of the year.

Increased monitoring has naturally led to an increase in the number of recorded discharges, rather than the number of actual discharges. The distinction is important because whilst increased monitoring has allowed a greater understanding of performance, it does not necessarily mean that the situation has deteriorated.

Recognising the public desire for increased transparency, we have joined the wider water sector in a commitment for near-to live reporting of Combined Sewer Overflow data by January 2024. This is ahead of the timeline set down by Government. The data is near-to live because there will be an approximately 1-hour gap before publication while we conduct collation and verification.

This data will be accessible to the public and interested stakeholders via an online public map. At present we publish our discharge performance annually, with the information accessible for previous years on an interactive map on our website.

### **Investment before 2025**

Under the 2020–25 Yorkshire Water business plan approved by our regulator, £147million of capital investment was included to ensure permit compliance at our wastewater treatment works. This investment focussed on ensuring treatment works have the required capacity to handle flows of effluent, as well as meeting requirements for storm tank storage. Effluent is stored in storm tanks until demands on the treatment works have dropped and the effluent can be treated. This investment is helping to reduce discharges to waterways.

However, we understand the increased public focus on overflows since our business plan was approved, and therefore our owners committed an extra £100million to the business, to allow an additional £180million to be invested in discharge reduction. This additional investment should see an average 20 per cent reduction in total discharges (from 2021 baseline figures), and is due to be completed by the end of this business plan period in 2025.

The work to identify which CSOs will be improved before 2025 is underway and all CSOs discharging more than 40 times in 2021 have been investigated. We have now narrowed down the prospective sites to circa 180 sites, and the priority is reducing total discharge numbers in the shortest time.

### **Investment from 2025 onwards**

Asset Management Period (AMP) 8 begins in 2025 and we will submit our business plan for 2025–30 in October 2023. The Government's Storm Discharge Overflow Reduction Plan (SODRP), published in August 2022, has shaped our planning for investment in storm overflows in AMP8 and beyond.

The SODRP focuses not just on reducing the number of discharges, but prioritises reducing the impact of discharges on sensitive sites, including those of biodiversity or recreational importance. For this reason our investment in AMP8 isn't focussed solely on reducing total discharge numbers, but on tackling those sites with the highest impact.



Within our draft AMP8 business plan, there are 210 overflow sites proposed for investment across Yorkshire, totalling investment of £1billion.

### **Bills and customer impacts**

Whilst our business plan is yet to be finalised and assessed by our regulators, we are conscious of the need to ensure customer bills are affordable and we have been carefully monitoring the impact of our plan on customers' bills.

Under the proposals within our business plan for 2025–30, we aim to increase the number of customers on our main social tariff, WaterSupport, from approximately 66,000 in 2023 to 90,000 per year during 2025–2030. This has already increased from approximately 43,000 in 2022.

Additionally, we plan for WaterSupport to evolve into a three-banded means-tested tariff as opposed to a flat-rate payment. This will ensure that support is targeted to the lowest income households, who we expect may receive a bill reduction in 2025–26 under this new system

We will also maintain successful our debt support schemes to enable customers to access support when required.

Yorkshire Water's total expenditure on customer support will increase from £46million in 2023 to £52million per year (before inflation), with the total number of households supported increasing from 125,000 in 2023 to 146,000.

### **Outcome for river water quality**

The Environment Agency stated that storm overflows are a reason why 7 per cent of waterbodies fail to reach 'good' ecological status. This is compared to 40 per cent for agriculture and 18 per cent for Urban and Transport reasons. Therefore, while it is important that we reduce overflow discharges through investment as set out above, it is not the case that reducing discharges alone will result in good ecological status for waterways.

### **Other work around river health**

While the health of waterbodies is often the responsibility of the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water does have a direct interest in areas where we collect raw water for treatment and distribution as drinking water. For that reason, in specific areas of our region we support schemes such as peatland restoration and sustainable farming practices.

We have recently launched a new River Health team, which will be a team of approximately 30 once recruitment is completed. The team will engage with interested stakeholders to improve river health.

We have a significant history of working in partnership to improve water quality, particularly at our coastal bathing water sites. In 2012 nine of our coastal bathing water sites were classed as below 'good', whereas that number is now only two.

We are committed to continuing our partnership working on this issue, and look forward to continued engagement with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

**Tim Myatt**  
**Head of Corporate Affairs**

Public Report  
Improving Places Select Commission

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**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Improving Places Select Commission – 19 September 2023

**Report Title**

Work Programme

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

To provide an updated outline schedule of scrutiny work.

**Recommendations**

1. That the report and proposed schedule of work be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Governance Advisor in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair to make changes to the schedule of work as appropriate between meetings, reporting any changes back to the next meeting for endorsement.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Work Programme – Improving Places Select Commission 2022/23

**Background Papers**

Minutes of Improving Places Select Commission meetings 2022/23

Minutes of Improving Lives Select Commission meetings 2022/23

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meetings 2022/23

Minutes of Council meetings 2022/23

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

None

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **IPSC – Work Programme 2023/24**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The remit of the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) is to undertake scrutiny activity in respect of all matters pertaining to the borough of Rotherham as a place. In broad terms, this remit relates to business and economic development, employment, emergency planning, environment, housing, climate change, leisure, culture and tourism, transport and highways, as well as regulatory services such as trading standards and environmental health. The breadth of functions and services that fall within the Commission's remit is significant.
- 1.2 The way in which the Commission discharges its scrutiny activity is a matter for itself, having regard to the provisions of the Constitution and any direction from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The IPSC has chosen to scrutinise a range of issues through a combination of pre-decision scrutiny items, policy development, performance monitoring, information updates and follow up to previous scrutiny work.
- 1.3 The IPSC has eight scheduled meetings over the course of 2023/24, representing a maximum of 16 hours of scrutiny per year – assuming 2 hours per meeting. Members therefore must be selective in their choice of items for the work programme. The following key principles of effective scrutiny are considered in determining the work programme:
  - Selection – There is a need to prioritise so that high priority issues are scrutinised given the limited number of scheduled meetings and time available. Members should consider what can realistically and properly be reviewed at each meeting, taking into account the time needed to scrutinise each item and what the session is intended to achieve.
  - Value-added – Items had to have the potential to 'add value' to the work of the council and its partners.
  - Ambition – the Programme does not shy away from scrutinising issues that are of greatest concern, whether or not they are the primary responsibility of the Council. The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities the power to do anything to promote economic, social and environmental wellbeing of local communities. Subsequent Acts have conferred specific powers to scrutinise health services, crime and disorder issues and to hold partner organisations to account.
  - Flexibility – The Work Programme maintains a degree of flexibility as required to respond to unforeseen issues/items for consideration during the year and to accommodate any further work that falls within the remit of this Commission.
  - Timing – The Programme has been designed to ensure that the scrutiny activity is timely and that, where appropriate, its findings and recommendations inform wider corporate developments or policy development cycles at a time when they can have most impact. The Work Programme also helps safeguard against duplication of work undertaken elsewhere.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Members are required to review their work programme at each meeting during the 2023/24 municipal year to give focus and structure to scrutiny activity to ensure that it effectively and efficiently supports and challenges the decision-making processes of the Council, and partner organisations, for the benefit of the people of the borough.
- 2.2 An updated draft work programme for Improving Places Select Commission is appended to this report.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 Members are recommended to discuss potential areas of scrutiny work to be added to the work programme.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The work programme is subject to consultation with the Chair and Members of the IPSC. Regular discussions take place with Cabinet Members and officers in respect of the content and timeliness of items set out on the work programme.

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 The decision to develop a work programme is a matter reserved to the Commission and will be effective immediately after consideration of this report.
- 5.2 The Statutory Scrutiny Officer (Head of Democratic Services) is accountable for the implementation of any decision in respect of the Commission's work programme. The Governance Advisor supporting the Commission is responsible on a day-to-day basis for the Commission's work programme. Members are recommended to delegate authority to the Governance Advisor to make amendments to the programme between meetings.

### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

### **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The authority of the Select Commission to determine its work programme is detailed within the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Responsibility for Functions parts of the Constitution. The proposal to review the work programme is consistent with those provisions.

### **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

### **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 There are no implications for children and young people or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

### **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 Whilst there are no specific equalities implications arising from this report, equalities and diversity are key considerations when developing and reviewing scrutiny work programmes. One of the key principles of scrutiny is to provide a voice for communities, and the work programme for this Commission has been prepared following feedback from Members representing those communities.



## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 There are no implications for CO2 emissions or climate change directly arising from this report. Members will have regard to the Climate Emergency when selecting potential items for scrutiny and in developing recommendations.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1 The membership of the Commission includes co-opted members from RotherFed who contribute to the development and review of the work programme. Where other matters are being considered for inclusion on the work programme, relevant partners or external organisations are consulted on the proposed activity and its timeliness.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report.

## **14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

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**Appendix 1: Improving Places Select Commission – Work Programme 2023-24**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
Summer 2023	Review: Nature Recovery
06 June 2023	Cost-of-Living and Rent Arrears (deferred) Environment Act 2021 Update
11 July 2023	Draft Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy Cost-of-Living and Rent Arrears Playground Equipment: Procurement and Installation
19 September 2023	Site Visit to Ickes Lock Flooding Alleviation Update Combined Surface Water Overflows
24 October 2023	Neighbourhood Working Annual Report Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Update Scrutiny Review Recommendations: Nature Recovery
Winter 2023/24	Review: Household Waste Recycling - Reusable Items
12 December 2023	Bereavement Services Annual Report Road Safety and Cumwell Lane Update
6 February 2024	Markets Redevelopment Update
19 March 2024	Allotments Annual Update Tenant Communications Update

Items to be scheduled:

Planning White Paper

Anti-social behaviour workshop

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