

REPORT AUDIT TRAIL**CONSULTATION**

*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. **You must liaise with and receive sign off from the relevant Cabinet Member(s).***

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	

REPORT APPROVAL TRACKING

<p>Equalities 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</p>	<p>Initial Screening completed and included with report</p>	YES	19/07/23
	<p>Full Assessment completed and included with report</p>	YES	19/07/23
<p>Carbon Impact Assessments Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports. Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback prior to your report being sent to your Strategic Director for approval.</p>	<p>Carbon Impact Assessment completed and included with report.</p>	YES	12/07/23
<p>Background information MANDATORY: Insert headings for a few main public documents you have used or referenced to write this report. This is a legal requirement. For Cabinet reports, insert hyperlinks. Do not list private documents.</p>	<p>Previous IPSC Presentations, as noted at the start of Appendix 1 - Presentation</p>		
<p>Appendices 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.</p>	<p>Appendix 1 - Presentation Appendix 2 - Carbon Impact Assessment Appendix 3 - Equalities – Initial Screening & Full Assessment</p>		
<p>Cabinet Member Approval 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</p>	YES	10/07/23	
<p>Report Authorised by Strategic Director</p>	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	
<p>Report Authorised for publication by Chief Executive</p>	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 19th 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 7th and 8th of November and subsequently on the 14th November 2019. This heavy rainfall, mainly during the 7th and the 8th 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 18th 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 18th 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 CO₂ 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

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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

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