

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 06 February 2020

Report Title

Major Incident Plan, Flooding Update and Future Flood Alleviation Projects

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 and attached presentation (Appendix A) provides an update in relation to the recommendations made in respect of the Major Incident Plan (MIP), by the Improving Places Select Commission during its review in 2016. It also provides an overview of the Council's response to the recent flooding event, which impacted a number of residents and businesses across the Borough. Finally, this report gives an update in relation to future flood alleviation schemes.

Recommendations

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

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A Presentation

Appendix B Previous Report

Background Papers

Major Incident Plan Review by Improving Places Select Commission –

<https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=891&MId=13992&Ver=4>

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Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

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1. Background

- 1.1 South Yorkshire and the surrounding catchment area of the River Don suffered significant rainfall during the 7th and the 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. As a result of the scale of the impact the Council enacted its Major Incident Plan (MIP) and established a command and control structure, working closely with partner agencies. This included the establishment of a control centre, rest centre for evacuated residents and a significant logistical operation to manage infrastructure and deploy assets such as sandbags and high-volume pumps.
- 1.2 Prior to the above incident, the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC), through its Task and Finish Group, led a detailed review of the MIP and made a series of recommendations. An initial update and response to the recommendations was made to the Council Cabinet on the 19th February 2018. This report can be found attached at appendix B. In light of the above incident, it is timely to provide a further update in relation to the implementation of the relevant recommendations.
- 1.3 The Drainage team fulfils the Council's statutory role as Lead Local Flood Authority under the remit of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. This role includes taking the lead in identifying and delivering flood alleviation projects, which requires partnership working with other Risk Management Authorities, stakeholders, landowners, funders and external suppliers.
- 1.4 Several flood alleviation projects have been completed and funded since the June 2007 floods. Several more projects have been identified utilising the current levels of Council funding that is available to the Drainage team, and these are at various stages of development, including some at inception stage, some in their pre-construction stage and one at construction stage.
- 1.5 Significant funding is needed to deliver the high priority projects which the Council believes are required, with initial estimates being that £51m of external funding is needed. The presentation in appendix A provides information on the projects that have been delivered since the June 2007 floods and on those that would be taken forward should this significant external funding be made available. The Council is asking Central Government for support and funding.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The attached presentation (appendix A) provides an overview of the following key issues:
 - Major Incident Plan Recommendations
 - Flooding Response November 2019
 - Flood Alleviation Projects delivered since June 2007 floods
 - Future Flood Alleviation Projects

2.2 Major Incident Plan Recommendations

2.3 Slides 3 to 7 provide an update in relation to each individual recommendation. Whilst progress has been made in a number of areas, more work is on-going. Over a number of years the team have had to respond to or plan for a range of significant events including the Manchester Arena Bombing and subsequent escalation of various Emergency Planning arrangements, the potential for protests relating to exploratory wells for shale gas extraction and the potential for a no-deal exit from the European Union.

2.4 Flooding Response November 2019

2.5 On the 7th November and in response to the significant rainfall, the Council enacted its major incident plan and invoked full command and control arrangements, which included establishing a corporate control room, supported by various directorate control rooms, liaising with key partners and colleagues to manage the incident response and immediate activities.

2.6 Throughout the course of Thursday and Friday (7th and 8th November 2019), the Council managed around 800 calls relating to flooding, with a further 1500 calls handled in the days following, up to the 15th November 2019.

2.7 During the incident response phase, the following key activities were undertaken:

- Pumps were deployed to Catcliffe.
- A number of evacuations took place with 68 households accommodated in the Council's 'Emergency Rest Centre'.
- The Council received around 160 reports from individuals worried about or experiencing flooding.
- Forward liaison officers were deployed.
- Overall control and directorate control rooms established and staffed.
- It should be noted that whilst Parkgate shopping centre was affected, through work undertaken by the Council, it was accessible from Sunday morning.
- 30 schools closed (all but Kilnhurst reopening shortly after).
- 36 roads were closed.
- 4250 sandbags were distributed.
- Garden waste service collections did not take place on Friday 8th November, but all missed collections took place on Monday 11th November.

- 2.8 Following the incident response phase, the Council has mounted a significant exercise in order to assess the impact. This has required the mobilisation of staff from across the Council and in particular has focussed on three elements: residential impact, business impact, and environmental impact. As a result of this work, over 400 residential properties have been assessed. Over 130 properties had significant internal flooding, which means the flooding came above the floor-board level. Around 49 households were displaced following the flooding, many of which have now returned. However some may well be unable to return for some time whilst repairs are made. Laughton Common in Dinnington suffered the most internal flooding to properties, with areas such as Kilnhurst also facing a significant impact. In excess of 400 businesses have been assessed and the Council has delivered a range of financial packages announced by the government including an emergency grant and rates relief for both Residents and Businesses.
- 2.9 The actual number of residential and businesses properties that have been directly impacted on by November 2019 floods may be higher than the figures quoted above. This is because the Council's post flood investigations are not yet complete and will likely take several months.
- 2.10 Initial investigation findings are that the largest number of properties impacted are along the River Don corridor (which are mostly businesses) including Templeborough, Town Centre, Parkgate and Kilnhurst areas. Across the borough, the largest number of properties impacted were in Laughton Common (both residential and businesses), Kilnhurst (mostly residential properties), Whiston (mostly residential properties) and Rawmarsh/North Parkgate (residential property and businesses). Additionally, several isolated properties or small groups of properties were impacted.

2.11 Future Flood Alleviation Projects

2.12 The tables below provide an overview of the flood alleviation projects that have been completed and funded since the June 2007 floods, as set out in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 below. Table 2.1 relates to the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme (RRFAS), which is being delivered along the River Don corridor. Table 2.2 relates to other FAS projects which are being delivered across the borough, which are not part of RRFAS.

TABLE 2.1: Capital works delivered since June 2007 floods on Rotherham Renaissance FAS (RRFAS) Project - £17.1m works delivered to date.

Project name	Funding already spent	What this funding has already delivered	When this work was completed
RRFAS Phase 1	£15.7m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New flood defences in the Templeborough area, bridge raising, bridge removal and creation of 5ha of urban wetland that forms an additional floodplain area • Creates catalyst for future phases of RRFAS that reduce risk to Town Centre and Parkgate areas 	2008
Removal of Old Don Bridge at Parkgate	£0.5m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed a significant obstruction to high flows in the River Don in the Parkgate area, and reduces risk to adjacent areas 	2009
Chantry Bridge & Bus Interchange flood defences Phase 1	£0.8m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New flood defences in a busy part of the Town Centre, immediately adjacent to Rotherham Bus Interchange 	2011
Rotherham United FC & RMBC Riverside House development	Developer led project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land raising undertaken for this development delivered a £3.5m section of RRFAS that would otherwise have had to utilise RMBC, flood risk management or Sheffield City Region funds 	2012/13
Chantry Bridge & Bus Interchange flood defences Phase 2	£0.1m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to highway drainage behind flood defences, immediately adjacent to Rotherham Bus Interchange, as part of public realm improvement works 	2018

TABLE 2.2: Capital works delivered since June 2007 floods across the borough (i.e. non RRFAS related) - £1.2m works delivered to date

Project name	Funding already spent	What this funding has already delivered	When this work was completed
Catcliffe pumps	£0.1m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of temporary pumps that can be deployed to reduce flood risk from ordinary watercourses to residential properties, provided the River Rother is not overtopped 	2008
Laughton Common FAS Phase 1	£0.3m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of new drainage ditches to intercept overland flows and small scale improvements to existing watercourses and culverts 	2009
Aston FAS	£0.5m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of small flood storage areas and installation of property level protection to residential properties 	2014
Wath trash/debris screen improvements	£0.3m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to trash/debris screens to reduce the impacts of them becoming partially blocked during a flood event 	2014
Miscellaneous minor works	Not known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine maintenance tasks associated with ordinary watercourses and land drainage, small scale remedial and repair works, trash/debris screen improvements 	2007 to date

2.13 Several more projects have been identified within current levels funding and are at various stages of development, with one nearing construction and one being constructed, as set out in Table 2.3.

TABLE 2.3: Forecast delivery outcomes with current level of funding and resources

Project name	Funding already allocated	Funding soon to be allocated	What this funding will deliver	Target completion date
Rotherham Renaissance FAS (incl. Kilnhurst village)	£5.7m	£0.3m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business case and conceptual design of preferred solution for RRFAS • Construction of RRFAS Phases 2A/2B in Town Centre that are already funded • RRFAS Phase 2C pre-construction investigation, design and approvals 	2021 (studies) 2021 (2A/2B construction only)
Parkgate and Rawmarsh FAS	£0.06m	£0m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business case and conceptual design of preferred solution only 	2020 (studies only)
Eel Mires Dike FAS (incl. Laughton Common)	£0.03m	£0m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study only 	2020 (studies only)

2.14 Table 2.4 describes the priority flood alleviation projects that have currently been identified across the Borough. Significant funding and resources are needed to deliver these seven high priority projects (Note: The RRFAS project has multiple phases). Initial estimates are that £51m of external funding is needed.

2.15 The allocation of capital funding set out in Table 2.4 would allow the Council to significantly accelerate delivery. Typically, and with suitable internal resources already in place, a flood alleviation scheme will require around 3 years of pre-construction work to deliver funding bids, external supplier procurement, survey/investigation, feasibility, design and planning permissions.

TABLE 2.4: Forecast delivery outcomes if £51m funding and additional resources were to be made available.

Project name	Funding already allocated/ being sought	Additional funding needed to deliver project	What this funding will deliver	Target completion date
Rotherham Renaissance FAS (incl. Kilnhurst village)	£6m	£24m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of RRFAS Phases 2A/2B in Town Centre that are already funded • Construction of RRFAS Phases 2C in Town Centre adjacent to Rotherham Central • Significantly reduced risk to properties, businesses, infrastructure and transport networks that were impacted on by November 2019 floods 	2021 (studies) 2025 (all phases of construction)
Parkgate and Rawmarsh FAS	£0.06m	£10m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of works that complement the RRFAS project, located in Parkgate and Rawmarsh areas • Significantly reduced risk to properties, businesses, infrastructure and rail network impacted upon by November 2019 floods 	2021 (studies) 2025 (all construction)
A633/A6123 Highways Resilience works	£0m	£4m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction works to significantly reduce risk to key section of highways network impacted upon by November 2019 floods 	2020 (studies) 2022(all construction)
Whiston Brook FAS (Note: Environment Agency led main river scheme)	£0.08m	£4m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction works to significantly reduce risk to community 	2021 (studies) 2024(all construction)
A6178 Sheffield Road Highways Resilience works	£0m	£1m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction works to significantly reduce risk to key section of highways network impacted upon by November 2019 floods 	2020 (studies) 2021(all construction)
Eel Mires Dike FAS (incl. Laughton Common)	£0.03m	£3m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction works to significantly reduce risk to community 	2020 (studies) 2022(all construction)
Catcliffe Pumping Station	£0m	£5m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction works to significantly reduce risk to community, enabling temporary pumps to be deployed elsewhere in borough 	2020 (studies) 2022(all construction)

3. Recommended proposals

- 3.1 A further review of the MIP to be scheduled with Improving Places Select Commission for 2021.
- 3.2 Improving Places Select Commission notes the work already undertaken on flood alleviation projects since the June 2007 floods and the flood alleviation work that could be progressed should significant capital funding be made available.

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 4.1 The scheduling of any further review of the MIP will be led by the Council's Democratic Services in consultation with the Chair of Improving Places Select Commission.

5. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 5.1 The proposal outlines the requirement for an additional £51m of funding to deliver priority flood alleviation schemes across the borough to mitigate the impact of a future significant flood event. The schemes represent a significant programme of work to be delivered and as such the projects will need to include funding to resource the delivery of the programme.

6. Legal Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

8. Accountable Officer(s)

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