

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 07 September 2021

Report Title

Update on ongoing and future Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) 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, Acting Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Building on previous reports to Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) in February 2020 (Full Committee) and November 2020 (Sub-group – Flood Alleviation) this report, along with the accompanying presentation, provides an update on the progress of ongoing and planned work on Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) projects across Rotherham.

The report and presentation provide a progress update on the following areas:

- Previous IPSC presentations and overview of the November 2019 floods
- The Council's six priority Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) projects
- Overview of progress since the last IPSC update
- Planned work for the next three years on the pre-construction process for all six priority projects

£5.8m of capital budget was approved by Council in March 2021 to enable the six priority projects to be developed to a 'shovel ready' state. This has provided the catalyst to start mobilising the pre-construction process, which is to be undertaken across the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.

Recommendations

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

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Presentation

Background Papers

Not applicable.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Improving Places Select Commission – 06 February 2020

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Update on ongoing and future Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) projects

1. Background

- 1.1 South Yorkshire and the surrounding catchment area of the Rivers Don and Rother 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. The rail and tram/train link through Rotherham Central and Parkgate stations was also closed for several days due to severe flooding of approximately 2km of the tracks.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Six priority FAS projects have been identified, along with the initial estimates for their delivery costs that total £52m. These are:
- Scheme A: Rotherham to Kilnhurst 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 permanent pumping station (£5m)
 - Scheme F: Culvert renewal programme (£2m)
- 1.4 All six projects are in the process of being delivered, as set out in Section 2.
- 1.5 A summary of previous Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) presentations and an overview of the impacts of the November 2019 floods is provided in the presentation at Appendix 1.

2. Key Issues

2a: General progress update

- 2.1 The presentation at Appendix 1 provides a progress report on the following:
- Overview of progress since the last IPSC update:
 - 1: Securing RMBC capital funding to deliver the pre-construction process only
 - 2: Securing funding from several organisations to deliver construction works
 - 3: Progress on advanced phases located along the River Don corridor

- 4: Progress on achieving “Shovel Ready” status for all six priority FAS projects
- Planned work for the next three years on the pre-construction process for all six priority FAS projects

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

2b: Update on securing funding (Items 1 and 2 in Section 2.1)

2.3 Significant funding is needed to deliver the six priority FAS projects to completion. To support that £5.8m of capital budget was approved by Council in March 2021, to enable all the priority FAS projects to be brought to a ‘shovel ready’ state, to support future investment in the schemes and provide certainty in terms of the work that is required and the detailed costs. This pre-construction process has now begun and work will be undertaken across the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.

2.4 The Council continues to ask Central Government for support in funding all six priority FAS projects to enable them to be completed. As at August 2021, £15.5m of funding has been secured against the overall £52m initial estimated cost, leaving an estimated funding gap of £36.5m.

2c: Update on progress of phases located along the River Don corridor (Item 3 in Section 2.1)

2.5 The six priority FAS schemes are at various stages of development, with some at inception stage, some at the start of their pre-construction stage, and some with advanced phases near to being constructed, being constructed or with construction already completed. These advanced phases are only on Scheme A: Rotherham to Kilnhurst FAS and Scheme B: Parkgate & Rawmarsh FAS.

2.6 On Scheme A : Rotherham to Kilnhurst FAS, advanced phases of delivery are ongoing, as set out below:

- Phase 2A (Ickles Lock area) – pre-construction process almost complete, with construction planned between October 2021 and December 2022
- Phase 2B (Forge Island Flood wall) – construction completed in 2021
- Phase 2C (Forge Island Canal Barrier) – construction works started in August 2021 and are planned to be completed in July 2022

2.7 On Scheme B: Parkgate & Rawmarsh FAS, advanced phases of work (i.e. watercourse capacity improvement works) have been constructed in 2020.

2d: Update on achieving “Shovel Ready” status for all six priority FAS projects (Item 4 in Section 2.1)

2.8 Since the approval of a £5.8m capital budget by Council in March 2021, the mobilisation of the pre-construction process has started, with notable parts of this process being:

- Internal financial and procurement processes completed between April and July 2021
- Starting the mobilisation of the Council’s “Client Team” between July and August 2021
- Securing a market leading external supply chain to work on Council projects between May and August 2021
- Contract Award made to three “Term Consultants” in August 2021

2.9 The above work sets the framework to allow the Council to start delivering the pre-construction process on all six priority FAS projects, from September 2021.

2e: Planned work for the next three years on the pre-construction process for all six priority projects

2.10 Pre-construction delivery timescales are dictated by factors that are, in the main, outside the Council’s control. The principal factors are that complex civil engineering solutions need to be developed (involving several specialist disciplines) and environmental impacts need to be assessed. Several third party approvals will then need to be made with land and asset owners. Finally, planning applications need to be submitted, assessed and determined.

2.11 The pre-construction works will be undertaken in three stages:

- 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 procurement of construction suppliers

2.12 The indicative timescales for each stage are very dependent on the complexity and extent of the individual project.

2.13 Given the detailed technical work required, and the time for each process that will be required, delivering each of the six projects consecutively would not shorten the three-year timescale. Therefore, working to develop all six FAS projects concurrently is the only viable deliverable option.

2.14 When the complex engineering solutions have been agreed, construction funding will still need to be sought from a range of organisations and/or central Government.

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 the accompanying presentation at Appendix 1.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 This report does not represent a proposal however the FAS schemes have been subject to consultation as part of previous Improving Place Select Commissions. Consultation on specific schemes will be undertaken where required as the 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 report and 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.

6.2 A Procurement Business Case to support the delivery of work to design the six priority schemes to a 'shovel ready' state was completed in May 2021.

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.

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.

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. There are however 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 course of the three year pre-construction process.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

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Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive		Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Graham Saxton	25/08/21
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Michelle Scales Karen Middlebrook	17/08/21 24/08/21
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	John Crutchley	20/08/21

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