

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 25 October 2022

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 related to flooding, namely February 2020 (Full Committee), November 2020 (Sub-group – Flood Alleviation) and September 2021 (Full Committee). This report, along with the accompanying presentation, provides an update on the following areas:

- Reducing flood risk across the Borough
 - Progress since the November 2019 floods
 - Examples of completed works
 - Ongoing and future needs for work
 - Upcoming actions for work to reduce flood risk
- The Council's Six Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects
 - Progress on advanced construction phases & on survey / investigation work on future phases
 - Delivery process for the "Shovel Ready" work Funding position
 - Work planned to be undertaken over the next year

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 – 07 September 2021

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 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 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.
- 1.4 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)
- 1.5 All six projects are currently going through the design and approvals phase to reach a 'shovel ready' status, with support from an external Consultant and Contractor supply chain, as set out in Section 2.
- 1.6 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:

- Previous updates to IPSC on flooding
- Reducing risk across the Borough
 - Progress since the November 2019 floods
 - Examples of completed works
 - Ongoing and future needs for works
 - Upcoming actions for work to reduce flood risk
- The Council's six priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects
 - Progress on advanced construction phases & survey / investigation work on future phases
 - Delivery process for the "Shovel Ready" work
 - Funding position
 - Work planned to be undertaken over the next year / questions

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 strategic forums (e.g. via the South Yorkshire wide "Connected by Water" initiative).

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 now available on the Council's website.

2.6 The LLFA team continues to support delivery of the "Connected by Water Action Plan", which includes the following specific actions for the Council:

- Delivery of the Council's six priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects
- Delivery of Theme 4: Communication, Engagement and Building Resilience
- Support partners in the delivery of the projects that they lead on (e.g. Environment Agency projects)

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. To the end of July 2022, work has been completed at over 60 locations.

2.8 Upcoming works are associated with:

- Communications and engagement
- Ongoing delivery of LLFA works

- Ongoing delivery of other works

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

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

2.10 By Summer 2023, approximately £15m of advanced phases of construction works are planned to 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). Construction of the last of these advanced phases along the River Don started on site in May 2022.

2.11 When this last advanced phase is complete, which is planned to be in June 2023, 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.

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 an external Consultant 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 survey/investigation and initial engagement works with landowners, funders and other stakeholders. This process is targeting achieving an "Approval in Principle" in 2023, at which stage the scale and extent of each project will be established.

2.15 At the time of writing this report, £22.5m of funding has been secured against the initial (2020) estimates of delivery of £52m, which is an increase of £7.0m of secured funding since the September 2021 IPSC meeting. A further £17.1m of funding is currently unsecured. Further detailed information can be found in Appendix 1, slide 20.

2.16 Work to develop over 20 business cases for funding is planned to start in Autumn 2022, and it is expected to take 2 to 3 years to complete this work.

2.17 Several potential funders have been identified, and the ones to be approached for a substantial proportion of the funding are the Council, Environment Agency 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.

2.18 After completion of the "Approval in Principle" stage of the projects, delivery budgets for each FAS project will need to be reassessed. This will inform the development and approval of business cases that are to be submitted to several external funding organisations. Early indications are that the initial

(2020) estimate of £52m will need to increase, however, it is not possible to present an accurate figure at this time.

2.19 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
- Start the preparation of funding bids for the 6 Priority Flood Alleviation Scheme projects

2.20 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 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 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 course of the three year 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)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.

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