
Report to: Place Panel

Date: 14 October 2020

Subject: **Flood Risk Pipeline Refresh**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Combined Authority's pipeline of priority Flood Risk Management (FRM) schemes which form the basis of the Combined Authority's engagement with Government.
- 1.2 This report seeks endorsement of the updated priority schemes and asks that the Panel consider how the programme can be submitted to government and the role of any potential external communications.

2. Information

Background

Context

- 2.1 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority, working in partnership with the Leeds City Region Economic Partnership (LEP), plays a leading role in improving the resilience of the City Region to flood risk.
- 2.2 In collaboration with partners the Combined Authority developed the Leeds City Region Flood Review following the 2015 Boxing Day flood events. In collaboration with key stakeholders such as Partner Councils, the Environment Agency (EA) and Yorkshire Water the Combined Authority has supported the delivery of ambitious and innovative Flood Risk Management (FRM) schemes.

Climate Change & Resilience

- 2.3 The resilience of the City Region to flood risk is vitally important to tackling the climate emergency. Our communities need to be helped to become more resilient to current and future weather events, which will only increase as our

climate continues to change. The work undertaken to improve FRM provides an important contribution to the City Region's work to address the Climate Emergency, supporting the commitment made by the City Region and all its council partners to become net zero carbon by 2038 at the latest with significant progress by 2030.

- 2.4 Flood risk management is also an important component to our collaboration with partners on the Local Resilience Forum, in its work looking at wider risk and resilience from a range of sources.

Growth Deal Three FRM Programme

- 2.5 In June 2017 £20 million from Growth Deal Three was approved at programme level by the Combined Authority to reduce the flood risk of businesses (1,385 target), and safeguard jobs (11,000 target) within the city region.
- 2.6 To date £17.846 million (£15.697 million spend) has been awarded to eight projects with a total value of £195 million.
- Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme #1 (FAS1) and Scheme #2 (FAS2)
 - Skipton Flood Alleviation Scheme
 - Mytholmroyd Flood Alleviation
 - Wyke Beck Flood Alleviation
 - Natural Flood Management (NFM) Upper Aire
 - NFM Colne Calder
 - Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme
- 2.7 Programme costs of £138,000 are forecast. The remaining Growth Deal Three funds will be awarded during 2020/2021.
- 2.8 Since the last report it has emerged that the outline business case for the Brighthouse FAS, with a Growth Deal ask of £1.5m, is delayed and will no longer come forward under the Growth Deal programme. Work is underway with partners to maximise this underspend.
- 2.9 Delivery of the Growth Deal programme means the city region is better prepared than it was in 2015. Through the Leeds FAS1 scheme alone, over 23,000 jobs across 500 businesses have already been safeguarded from flood risk.
- 2.10 Earlier this year, storms Dennis and Ciara resulted in flooding across the region, disrupting progress on site. The NFM interventions already created in the Colne & Calder valley demonstrated their value during the storms, working as they were intended. Since the storms, and despite the impacts of the Covid19 crisis, the project teams have stabilised their projects and all are on track to deliver within Growth Deal timescales.
- 2.11 The programme is on track to deliver a total of 15km of linear flood defences, supported upstream by 85 hectares of restored heath and peatland, over 1000

leaky dams, and the creation of 175 hectares of woodland, all of which help to slow the flow of water before it hits urban areas downstream.

Future Funding

- 2.12 Building on the success of the Growth Deal Three funded programme, the Combined Authority worked with partners to develop a programme of priority schemes for the 6-year programme for post 2021 delivery. In 2019 a £125m programme was identified, comprising 27 priority schemes with a funding ask of £119m. A further £6m was identified to support a Natural Flood Management programme.
- 2.13 These schemes have been selected on the basis of a combination of the following points:
- Strategic value in terms of flood protection, growth/economic outputs or environmental protection;
 - Enhanced protection to business areas that have generally struggled to gain access to funding from other sources.
 - Innovation or emerging best practice that could be used to drive forward FRM delivery across West Yorkshire and UK.
- 2.14 Place Panel (28 July 2020) received a Report noting the intention to update the Combined Authority's priority schemes.
- 2.15 The Combined Authority and partners are now refreshing this programme and scheme updates have been received from all stakeholders. Combined Authority officers are now assessing the updated schemes.
- 2.16 The main changes to the programme are summarised below:
- **Geography:** it is proposed that the Combined Authority develops its flood programme using a clearer catchment based approach rather than administrative boundaries. This is in line with the recommendations of the Leeds City Region Flood Review. This will need to be developed further with other partners across the Yorkshire and Humber region via the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Flood and Coastal Committee later in 2020.

At this stage the proposed pitch outlines how this would be operate for the Combined Authority and our support for this way of working in the future as part of our efforts to plan for flood risk strategically and address the climate emergency.

The Plan at Appendix 1 illustrates how West Yorkshire's two principal catchments relate to West Yorkshire districts. It is proposed that in the future the Combined Authority could seek to support schemes within catchments which drain into West Yorkshire, even where they call outside West Yorkshire. There are the:

- Wharf and Lower Ouse Catchment; and
- Aire and Calder Catchment.

- **Covid19 Recovery:** an additional section has been developed to outline the role of FRM investment in assisting the economic recovery following current public health issues. This section also provides a link between the flooding pitch and the Combined Authority's Economic Recovery Plan.
- **Natural Flood Management Programme:** additional content has been added to enhance the case for investment in these measures. This includes highlighting some of the best practice and innovation already delivered by partners and outlining how the proposed programme could be delivered. The total NFM programme has changed from £6m to £10m. In addition, the wider programme includes two dedicated NFM projects in Calderdale and Leeds. Other priority schemes also include an element of NFM within them. This has the potential to deliver significant benefits in terms of air quality, biodiversity and carbon capture.
- **Priority Programme Headline Outputs:**
 - There are 29 schemes in the priority programme spread across all West Yorkshire council partners.
 - Total capital value of these schemes: £176.4m
 - Total funding gap of schemes: £109.7m
 - Across the programme enhanced flood protection can be provided to 3,475 homes and 2,689 businesses.
- **Total Programme Funding Gap:**
 - The financial 'ask' to form the basis of our engagement with government is now £120.8m.

Next Steps

- 2.17 Subject to the feedback from Place Panel, the programme of priority schemes will be considered by the West Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnership (16 November) with final amendments sought at that meeting.
 - 2.18 The final priority programme will then form the basis for the Combined Authority's engagement with government and other partners on flood risk management issues.
 - 2.19 The Panel are invited to consider what level of external communications would be appropriate alongside this engagement process.
 - 2.20 The Combined Authority will be considering the operation of its Single Investment Fund (SIF) and its relationship with all the Authority's pipelines of schemes as the organisation moves towards becoming a Mayoral Combined Authority.
- 3. Clean Growth Implications**
- 3.1 Clean growth is a cross cutting theme and is an integral part of FRM activities, particularly in relation to natural flood management, tree planting and peat restoration which provide flood protection and wider environmental benefits.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

6. Staffing Implications

6.1 Additional Delivery Directorate resources may be required if additional funding for FRM infrastructure is given to the Combined Authority. The potential revenue costs will be included in the final submission to Government.

7. External Consultees

7.1 A programme of external engagement has been undertaken to support our emerging FRM programme. This includes engagement with partners and central government departments.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That the Panel:

- notes the progress made and endorses the updated Combined Authority's programme of priority flood risk management schemes for investment; and
- considers what level of external communications would be appropriate alongside the Combined Authority's engagement with government.

9. Background Documents

None.

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – PLAN SHOWING WEST YORKSHIRE RIVER CATCHMENTS & PROPOSED PRIORITY SCHEMES

Appendix 2 – PROPOSED COMBINED AUTHORITY PRIORITY FLOOD PROGRAMME (FINAL DRAFT)