

**Report to:** Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

**Date:** 19 July 2022

**Subject:** **West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the Climate, Energy & Environment Committee Members with an introduction to the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (FLIP) and to outline its alignment with the Climate and Environment Plan (CEP).

## 2. Information

### Context

- 2.1 Around 5.2 million properties in England (or one in six properties) are at risk of flooding. In West Yorkshire approximately 39,000 residential properties and 13,000 commercial properties fall within a flood zone. Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence as a result of climate change.
- 2.2 FLIP aligns with the CEP's proposals to enhance flood and climate resilience across the region. The programme seeks to enhance, accelerate and add innovation to a range of flood schemes, including some Natural Flood Management (NFM) schemes that are currently being considered for CEP Wave 1 funding. The WY FLIP is an emerging programme of work that has buy in from the WY Flood Risk Partnership. The programme team are now in a phase of engagement to promote the benefits of the programme to a wide range of stakeholders.

- 2.3 The programme will imbed innovation and best practice into a range of flood projects and schemes. This will contribute towards our overall objectives to increase the resilience of our communities and provide enhanced flood protection to homes and businesses. The scale and impact of the outputs and outcomes from the FLIP are dependent on the amount of additional funding secured.
- 2.4 The Combined Authority is working with partners to find additional funding to extend the programme, but the consideration of this paper by the Committee does not mean that the Combined Authority is committing to fund FLIP at this stage.

### **What is the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme?**

- 2.5 The WY FLIP is a collaborative, innovative programme to reduce the impact of flooding and climate change in West Yorkshire through increasing resilience. The Programme was launched by the region's five lead local flood authorities, the University of Leeds and the Environment Agency (EA) to work at catchment levels across administrative boundaries.
- 2.6 This ambitious programme will explore new ways of working including bringing together people who do not normally work together. Collaboration is key and representatives outside of the flood risk and environment sectors will be involved including the finance and insurance sector, transport, education, technology and health to ensure a holistic approach and realise additional benefits for our communities.
- 2.7 The programme was granted Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) springboard funding for 2 years, until March 2024, to start the work and attract significant investment and funding to continue the work past March 2024. A Programme Board has been set up, currently chaired by Leeds City Council and the Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme (iCASP) and includes representatives from the five local authorities, the EA and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). The Programme links to the Yorkshire RFCC and the region's Catchment Partnerships through the established West Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnership, which plays a strategic role in the Programme.
- 2.8 The Programme has buy in from an extensive number of stakeholders and partner organisations across the region. Earlier this year partners collaborated to create a Roadmap setting the priorities, aims and principles of the programme. The Roadmap is hosted on the iCASP website and can be found here: <https://icasp.org.uk/projects-2-2/west-yorkshire-flood-innovation-programme-flip/>

### **Programme Aims & Priority Themes**

- 2.9 The aims of the FLIP are to:
- Increase the region's resilience to flooding and impacts of climate change

- Foster collaborative working between local authorities, the environment agency, academia, industry and the third sector
- Embed the latest research in its activities
- Attract significant investment to the region for innovative flood resilience activities

2.10 The Programme addresses flood innovation through five priority themes:

1. Integrated water management solutions (IWMS)
2. Nature based solutions (NBS)
3. Property flood resilience (PFR)
4. Helping the community and voluntary sector (CVS) to be better prepared and recover more quickly
5. Enhanced flood warning systems (EFWS)

2.11 The Programme will work by the following overarching principles:

1. Empowering local communities
2. Developing education and skills across West Yorkshire communities at risk from flooding and climate change
3. Transferring knowledge by building on existing partnership and networks, peer to peer support, co-production and developing new innovation
4. Monitoring and evaluation of activities and outcomes

2.12 A presentation will be provided as part of this item to provide further detail on the FLIP (see Appendix 1).

### **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

3.1 Climate change drives extreme weather events such storms and prolonged periods of wet weather which cause floods. The programmes outlined in this paper seeks to adapt our communities so that they become more resilient to future flood events.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

4.1 Climate change drives adverse weather events such as floods and heatwaves, which significantly affect health and are likely to worsen health inequalities.

### **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

6.1 The impacts of flooding can impact community groups in differing ways, with some vulnerable communities suffering the most and taking longer to recover.

6.2 The FLIP work programme will support partnership efforts to deliver an enhanced flood risk management programme to minimise the impact of flooding events in the future.

### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The FLIP workstream received Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) springboard funding for 2 years to start the work.

6.2 The Combined Authority and partners are working collaboratively to find additional funding to enhance the proposed work programme and continue the work past March 2024. No funding commitments or decisions are sought at this stage.

## **7. Legal Implications**

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

## **8. Staffing Implications**

8.1 Subject to additional funding being confirmed the FLIP is being resourced by the University of Leeds and our partner councils. The FLIP Board has officer representation from the Combined Authority's Place and Environment Team.

## **9. External Consultees**

9.1 The work outlined in this update has used an extensive partnership approach. This includes industry, public sector, business and academia.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That Committee Members are asked to:

1. Note the work on West Yorkshire FLIP; and
2. Consider how the work aligns with the WY CEP.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – West Yorkshire FLIP Presentation