
Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 19 July 2022

Subject: **West Yorkshire Flood Programme (Capital Schemes)**

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

1. To provide Committee Members with an update on the Combined Authority Flood Risk Management (FRM) Programme and to seek endorsement of the proposed programme prior to progression into the Combined Authority's Assurance Process.

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 in fall within a flood zone. Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence as a result of climate change.

WY Climate and Environment Plan

- 2.2 The Combined Authority has declared a climate emergency and committed the region to be net zero carbon by 2038 at the latest, with significant progress by 2030. The [West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan](#) (CEP) - approved by the Combined Authority in October 2021 - is the Mayor's and Combined Authority response to tackling the climate emergency, protecting the environment and achieving a net zero West Yorkshire.

- 2.3 With regard to FRM, the following critical action areas are identified:
- CR01 Climate Ready Strategy
 - CR02 Embedding Climate Readiness
 - CR03 Flood Risk and Drainage
 - BI01 Business Sustainability Support
- 2.4 The Flood Risk and Drainage critical action area (with a focus upon Natural Flood Management (NFM)) and Business Sustainability Support were prioritised by the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee on [22 March 2022](#).

Combined Authority Flood Risk Management Programme

- 2.5 The Combined Authority has previously invested just under £20m from Growth Deal 3 (GD3) funding to support delivery of flood schemes across West and North Yorkshire. This programme ended in March 2021 and provided enhanced flood protection to approximately 2,300 business, 5,100 homes and safeguarded 26,400 jobs. Headline schemes included:
- The **Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase One**: an innovative scheme which delivered the first movable weir in the UK.
 - **Wyke Beck Programme**: supported delivery of housing growth, green space and biodiversity improvements in deprived communities.
 - **Skipton Flood Alleviation Scheme** (jointly funded by our neighbouring YNYER LEP). Since completion other investments are now flowing to support housing and business growth in locations that are now more resilient and better protected.
 - **Natural Flood Management (NFM)**: a programme of interventions led by the National Trust and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in the Upper Aire and Colne/Calder catchments, designed to slow the flow of water and help protect 1,075 businesses and 2,936 homes.
- 2.6 Building on the success of the GD3 funded flood programme which ended in March 2021, the Combined Authority has been working with partners to develop a programme of priority schemes for delivery if further investment can be identified. This programme has had multiple uses. This includes using the programme to illustrate the scale of ambition within the region when engaging with Government and making the case for further investment. The Programme also provides the Authority with an agreed list of deliverable schemes that can be supported as funding becomes available.
- 2.7 To date the partnership has been successful in engaging with government to achieve additional investment over and above core DEFRA funding. This included c.£30m of additional Government funding for identified priority schemes in Calderdale and Tadcaster during 2019 and £22.32m for Leeds FAS & Natural Flood Management in July 2020.
- 2.8 The Authority's programme is now being refreshed to take account of further work that has been done to develop the schemes. There is also a potential significant allocation of funding, called 'Other Government Department

Funding'. This is indicative at the moment and final allocations will be dependant on the final scheme solutions delivered. But indicatively it is expected that approximately £30-40m of additional funding could be applied to the West Yorkshire flood programme. This has changed the shape of the programme and the quantum of further investment required.

- 2.9 The Authority has engaged with West and North Yorkshire Flood Managers and EA leads (Partnership and Strategic Overview and Environment Programme Teams) across this geography to update the programme.
- 2.10 The FRM Programme of schemes were selected based upon the following rationale:
- Contribute to meeting local and national priorities such as;
 - The City Region Strategic Economic Framework's (SEF) objectives to develop a whole catchment based flood risk reduction programme incorporating green and blue infrastructure/natural flood management.
 - National ambitions to boost productivity and increase levels of innovation
 - Alignment with the objectives of the [National Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy](#) by including a range of flood risk mitigation measures that support delivery of carbon reduction, climate resilient places and infrastructure.
 - Ability to deliver at a catchment scale across the City Region which will deliver significant economic outcomes and inclusive growth benefits
 - Ensure that the City Region's businesses are safeguarded and that the growth we need can be achieved in our strategic development and investment locations
 - Integrated and aligned investment to create better value for money by taking advantage of the opportunity to align with existing programmes and infrastructure spending
 - Alignment with infrastructure investment to improve resilience
 - Incorporate green and blue infrastructure to safeguard jobs, businesses, homes and unlock growth opportunities
- 2.11 The proposed Combined Authority flood programme comprises:
- 26 Capital¹ flood schemes with a total capital value of £245m and a funding gap of £51m, with over 3,700 residential premises and 2,700 businesses premises benefitting from enhanced protection
 - An enhanced pipeline of NFM schemes were confirmed which were prioritised into two groups:
 - CEP Wave 1 Pipeline: Consists of 9 Schemes with a Total Value of £16.5m and a funding gap of £4.9m
 - Wider NFM Pipeline: Consists of 6 Schemes with a Total Value of £5.9m and a funding gap of £5.8m²

¹ Traditional flood schemes, comprising physical barriers and flood storage areas.

² Please note that a number of these schemes are components of other schemes in the programme and therefore the costing includes an element of double counting

- 2.12 The programme level outputs for the NFM schemes are not fully developed yet but they will include:
- Enhanced flood resilience for homes and businesses
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Biodiversity and habitat improvement e.g. trees, hedgerows, soil aeration, peat restoration
 - Improving access to green space

Next Steps

- 2.13 West Yorkshire Climate, Energy & Environment (CEE) Lead Officers were presented at their Meeting on 17 June with an update on the WY FRM Programme, which they endorsed.
- 2.14 Subject to endorsement by Committee Members further work will be undertaken to confirm the programme's outputs and impact. The programme of flood schemes will then be progressed through the Authority's Assurance Process.
- 2.15 The programme can then be used as the basis for the Authority's work in this space. This will include leveraging additional funding, discussions with government for additional investment and consideration of the programme's suitability for Combined Authority support.
- 2.16 Some of the proposed NFM schemes form part of the proposed programme for the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (FLIP) – see Item 9 of this Committee agenda. FLIP support for these schemes will provide additional resource and expertise to accelerate their delivery and add innovation to enhance the range and scale of potential scheme benefits.

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 FRM Programmes outlined in this paper seeks to adapt our communities so that they become more resilient to future flood events.
- 3.2 NFM also provides wider adaptation and mitigation measures by delivering tree planting, peat restoration and wider green infrastructure activities. These measures offer a mix of benefits including carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancements and urban cooling.

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.
- 4.2 The FRM work by partners recognises the importance of the health and wellbeing benefits provided by enhanced flood protection. This is particularly

important when considering NFM measures, which can offer wider health benefits when integrated with green infrastructure.

4.3 The FRM Programme developed with partners will include stages of community engagement and co-development of schemes as they develop.

4.4 NFM projects present an excellent opportunity to collaborate across public, private and third sector. As delivery increases and COVID-19 restrictions reduce, there is scope for more focus on where volunteers come from and how these projects can develop skills and experience in an emerging sector.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

5.1 The impacts of flooding can impact community groups in differing ways, with some vulnerable communities suffering the most and taking longer to recover. The proposed flood programme will support partnership efforts to minimise the impact of flooding events in the future.

5.2 Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) will be developed as part of the project development process and consideration given the different groups when consulting on specific schemes.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Many of the FRM schemes in the Environment Agency's pipeline of schemes have significant funding gaps. The Combined Authority is working with partners to engage with government to address this issue.

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Staffing Implications

8.1 Capacity to deliver this work programme is constrained. The Combined Authority and partners are likely to have the resources to deliver but timescales can often become pressured e.g. after a major flooding event with resource being directed to crisis management.

9. External Consultees

9.1 The schemes in this programme have been endorsed by the West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnerships.

9.1 West Yorkshire District Partners have also been engaged and co-developed the proposed programme.

10. Recommendations

10.1 That Committee Members are asked to:

1. Note the work done with partners to refresh the proposed Combined Authority flood programme.
2. Consider and endorse the proposed programme prior to progression into the Combined Authority's Assurance Process

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Combined Authority FRM Programme