

# North Yorkshire Council

## Richmondshire (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee

12 June 2023

### Report on the on-going work associated with the delivery of the North Yorkshire Flood Risk Strategy (2022-2027)

#### Report of the Corporate Director of Environment

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform members of the Richmondshire (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee of the on-going work associated with the delivery of the North Yorkshire Flood Risk Strategy (2022-27).

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Following the Pitt Report in 2008, one of the duties given to the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) is the development of a Flood Risk Strategy (described in the legislation as a 'Local Flood Risk Management Strategy') which the Council (NYC) as the LLFA must develop, maintain, apply and monitor.
- 2.2 The North Yorkshire County Council Strategy was first launched in 2015. Since then, there have been significant and widespread flood events across the county. Significant events include Boxing Day 2015, where over 260 properties were internally flooded across the county, July 2019 where 513 properties were flooded in Richmondshire and in 2019 and then in 2020 approximately 96 properties were internally flooded in events across the county.
- 2.3 Successive and repeated flooding events across the county from multiple sources eg main river, surface water coupled with the increasing pressure on limited resources, has underlined the importance of developing a more integrated, comprehensive and risk-based approach for managing the risks of flooding, including identifying clear lines of responsibility and targets for improvement.
- 2.4 The updated North Yorkshire Flood Risk Strategy ("NY Strategy") was introduced in 2022. It looks to incorporate the knowledge gained during the period of the first strategy into the management of flood risk within North Yorkshire.

#### **3.0 Objectives of the North Yorkshire Flood Risk Strategy.**

- 3.1 There are different approaches to managing flood risk depending on the probability and consequences, as well as the technical nature of the risk.
- 3.2 The following terms are used to group and describe the kind of actions that can be pursued:
- Prevention of risk: for example, by not building homes in areas that can be flooded we can prevent risks from arising in the first instance.
  - Protection from risk: for example, by using waterproof boards over doors and airbricks people can protect their properties from the damage caused by flood water.
  - Preparing for risk: for example, by improving awareness of flood risk, or by providing warning and forecasting for floods, people can take precautions to safeguard their property.

- Recovery and Review of risk: for example, by improving access to tradesman and other services, recovery after flooding can be improved.

3.3 The NY Strategy focuses on the development and delivery of those sources of information and delivery mechanisms, relating each action to the four broad categories of measures above, and to the six North Yorkshire Flood Risk Management priority objectives:

1. Individuals and communities are empowered to take a proactive role in managing flood risk
2. Improved knowledge and understanding of flood risk and management responsibilities for all stakeholders, communities and the media
3. Promote Sustainable and appropriate development
4. Improved knowledge of watercourse networks and drainage infrastructure
5. Flood risk management measures that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits
6. Best use of all potential funding opportunities to deliver flood risk management measures

3.4 Highlights from the work to support these objectives undertaken over the last year by the LLFA team are explored in more detail below:

### **3.5 Individuals and communities are empowered to take a proactive role in managing flood risk**

3.6 In April a community event was held in Kirkbymoorside, focussing on resilience and preparedness. Led by NYC the LLFA team attended to promote the Rye Villages and Kirkbymoorside Scheme which is currently in development and representatives from the Resilience and Emergencies Team were available to discuss preparedness. The event was also supported by the Council's consultant, JBA Associates who are providing property surveys in association with the scheme and there were also examples of installed property flood resilience measures. The event was also supported by North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and several teams from the Environment Agency, including the response team and also the local programme team which is undertaking a natural flood management scheme above Kirkbymoorside which will complement the flood resilience scheme being delivered by NYC.

3.7 It is intended to continue to deliver these events to give the community opportunity to talk to representatives from Risk Management Authorities and find out more about how they can proactively work with organisations to manage flood risk. The next event in planning is to be held in South Craven, which is also a location presently included in the North Yorkshire Council Flood Risk Programme.

3.8 The team has also been working in Bolton Percy with the community flood group as part of the lower Aire villages work, to provide additional pump capacity, the on-going maintenance for which will be managed by the local flood group, affiliated to the Parish Council. It is expected that this scheme will be delivered in the next quarter.

### **3.9 Improved knowledge and understanding of flood risk and management responsibilities for all stakeholders, communities and the media**

3.10 The LLFA team continues to work closely with stakeholders and the community in managing flood risk. In the last year, the team has continued to work closely with various communities including those in the Dales where a scheme covering various villages in Wensleydale and Swaledale is in preparation.

3.11 The LLFA team has worked with the Communications team to raise awareness of preparedness and resilience relating to the event in the Rye Villages. Although the scheme in preparation is principally aimed at specific villages, the associated messages regarding preparedness are nevertheless applicable to all living at flood risk. It is intended that there will be information about preparedness in the next Council newsletter.

### **3.12 Promote Sustainable and appropriate development**

3.13 The LLFA team is a statutory consultee to the planning process on surface water drainage. The team reviewed 459 planning applications during financial year 22/23.

3.14 The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) carried out a review for the implementation of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and published its findings in January 2023. It recommended implementation of Schedule 3 subject to final decisions on scope, threshold and process. A consultation will be carried out by the Government in 2023 for views on the regulatory impact assessment, national standards and statutory instruments. Implementation of Schedule 3 is anticipated to commence in 2024. This will see the Council become a SuDS approval body, independently of the planning process and will significantly alter the work of the LLFA team towards the delivery of new development. The team is therefore working both in house, to prepare for the implementation and also working with colleagues regionally to ensure there is consistency in approach across LLFA's in the wider Yorkshire region.

### **3.15 Improved knowledge of watercourse networks and drainage infrastructure**

3.16 The LLFA is currently working with City of York Council to deliver the York and North Yorkshire Flood Innovation Scheme. The scheme is described in detail in table one within section 5 below however in brief, the scheme aims to explore opportunities for natural flood measures using a whole catchment approach. The scheme concentrates on delivery in the upper Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse catchments, with the aim of providing benefits across a wide area. This will see North Yorkshire and York communities benefit. At present, the catchment is being modelled so the appropriate locations and interventions can be understood and will offer significant understanding of watercourse networks in a large part of North Yorkshire. This will also give potential benefits into the future.

3.17 The team is also supporting the work of the Environment Agency to deliver the Humber Strategy, which is a long-term plan relating to the management of the Humber Estuary, however the management of the Humber has far reaching implications for its tidal reaches which extend into North Yorkshire. This work is offering a detailed understanding of the Humber.

3.18 Elsewhere, the team continues to undertake investigations as part of its duty to investigate following flood events. This often includes drainage studies, and the team has worked to map locations where investigations have been undertaken.

3.19 The team is presently working on a Scarborough town model looking at drainage infrastructure which has caused historical annual flooding and a drainage study in an area of Ripon with on-going issues.

### **3.20 Flood risk management measures that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits**

3.21 The programme of the flood risk management team is based on a criteria which prioritises locations where flood investigation has been undertaken based upon the social, economic and environmental benefits that can be achieved. For example, the number of properties impacted, the number of incidents of flooding, the wider economic implications of the flood

event (impact on access to shops and other facilities, businesses affected etc.) The team always considers natural flood measures in options assessment, given the wider environmental benefits that can be achieved.

3.22 Based on this criteria, the team programme is generated. Locations where work has been on-going over the last year is listed in table one below with a status update.

**Table One: Update on the LLFA Programme**

Scheme	Description	Status
Malton and Norton	Drainage work to assist and quicken emergency response to flood alerts, which had been identified made a significant difference to the outcome of events. Property level resilience measures provided to houses and businesses at highest risk.	Complete. Subject to delays due to delivery over covid and requirement for access to over 100 properties during this time.
Rye Villages	Options work identified property resilience was most appropriate measure for most locations.	About to move to delivery phase. Working with EA to potentially fund through FDGIA. Survey consultants engaged, presently working to procure contractors.
Kirkbymoorside	NYC will deliver Property level resilience to homes and businesses at highest risk. The EA will deliver a natural flood management project in the higher catchment to complement this work. it is expected that the reduced flows and protection at individual property level will reduce the risk of flooding in affected areas of the town. Drainage survey also in planning to ensure system is in good maintenance.	As above.
Scarborough Town	Surface water model built. Scenarios to be tested in the model to understand blockage consequence and where work may be best targeted.	This has been on hold to permit other projects to be accelerated. Work to resume in 2023-24.
Dales Villages	Options reports completed 2022. It was recognised the need to deliver flood routing and the improvement to trash screen and gullies in some locations to improve drainage. This is presently being developed.  In addition to this property flood resilience was identified as an option for most communities. At a community event in February 2022, it was stated that it could be between 12 and 18 months before this would be rolled out. The team is presently working to secure contractors on frameworks to deliver this commitment. It has however been necessary to deliver this alongside other projects with similar themes across county, given there are opportunities for efficiency by looking at the projects holistically and therefore the dates of rollout are subject to progress in other locations. Our intention is to start in	

Kirkbymoorside, moving onto other villages in the Rye catchments, before moving on to the Dales.

In addition to the above we are also continuing to work with the City of York Council on the York and North Yorkshire Catchment Solutions Project which provides an opportunity for funding and a facilitation of project delivery in the locations identified through the use of existing relationships built between the Dales to Vales Rivers Network members and local landowners.

The project is innovative, with a requirement to challenge existing national policies on flood management and how we go about managing risk on a catchment-based approach. There are 4 workstreams for the project being led by the City of York Council, this includes looking at

- 1) Hydraulic, environmental and economic modelling,
- 2) Physical natural Flood Management (NFM) demonstration projects
- 3) Engagement, visualisation and interpretation
- 4) Delivering flood risk investment opportunities.

By its very nature, there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed, with assurances provided to DEFRA through outline and full business cases.

As part of workstream 2, Circa £2 million of the £5.8million allocated has been earmarked for pilot projects where the innovations will be delivered. The project team have been working hard with partners and consultants to devise a grant criteria which will prioritise areas for investment. Again, as an innovative project the emphasis is on devising new ways of funding natural flood management that provides benefits locally and across the whole catchment, where these areas such as Upper Dales may not have otherwise attracted such investment. There is a vast number of variables that need to be brought into a simplified approach using modelling and existing funding rules and this will take time.

The overarching objective of the project is to provide benefits across the catchment, from the Upper Dales to York. There are a number of challenges in delivering catchment-based approaches, particularly in respect of engagement, there is therefore a package of work looking at how engagement is to be targeted and rolled out.

At the moment the team continues to work with the City of York Council on all the workstreams and once a grant scheme has been approved, there will be a rollout of the pilot projects across North Yorkshire and the Dales.

South Craven Villages	Options assessment completed during 22/23. Multi-disciplinary community engagement event presently in planning to share ideas with the community.	On-going.
Bolton Percy	The team has been working with the community flood group following the 2019 floods, to provide additional pump capacity, the on-going maintenance for which will be managed by the local flood group, affiliated to the Parish Council. It is expected that this scheme will be delivered in the next quarter.	Nearly complete.
Great Ayton	Partnership work delivered through the Northumbria Independent Drainage Partnership. Surface Water systems modelled. Northumbria Water taking forwards some actions. Necessity for NYC to apply for EA Flood Defence Grant in Aid to support partnership elements during 23/24	On-going
Easingwold	Options appraisal to commence 23/24	Not yet started

### **3.23 Best use of all potential funding opportunities to deliver flood risk management measures**

3.24 The team is working with the Environment Agency to secure funding for Kirkbymoorside and Rye Villages. It is however anticipated that all projects will be supported by either Flood Defence Grant in Aid or the local levy, administered by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

### **4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 The work of the LLFA is undertaken as part of its statutory duties under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) so therefore no alternative options are considered.

4.2 The flood programme is delivered under the Council's powers to undertake work to address surface water flooding contained in the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). Locations included in the programme based on their score against a criteria agreed by BES Executive Members in 2018. All locations are subject to detailed options appraisal, with those viable options delivering the optimum cost -benefit then being progressed.

### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report which is for information only.

### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) provides that the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Flood Risk Strategy. This report seeks to update members on the work undertaken over the last year to support the NY Strategy.

It is acknowledged further consideration of any legal implications will be required during the delivery of Strategy.

### **7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report, which is for information only. An Equalities Impact Assessment is included as Appendix A to this report.

## **8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report, which is for information only, however the delivery of flood mitigation supports the council's objectives towards the addressing of the implications of climate change on its communities. A copy of the Climate Change Screening Report is included in Appendix B.

## **9.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The report is for information only. Members are therefore recommended to note the content of the report which details the on-going work to support the fulfilment of the NY Flood Risk Strategy, 2022 - 2027.

## **10.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 10.1 It is recommended that Members note the content of the Report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: NY Flood Risk Strategy.

Karl Battersby  
Corporate Director – Environment  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
12 June 2023

Report Author – E Mellalieu  
Presenter of Report – E Mellalieu

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

<b>Initial equality impact assessment screening form</b> This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
<b>Directorate</b>	Environment		
<b>Service area</b>	Highways and Transportation		
<b>Proposal being screened</b>	Update to the Richmond ACC members on delivery of the NY Flood Risk Strategy		
<b>Officer(s) carrying out screening</b>	E Mellalieu		
<b>What are you proposing to do?</b>	Update Members on the work of the LLFA team to deliver the NY flood risk strategy		
<b>Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?</b>	That there is a raised awareness of the progression of work to support the strategy.		
<b>Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.</b>	No		
<b>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics</b> As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?</li> <li>Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?</li> <li>Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?</li> </ul>			
<b>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your <a href="#">Equality rep</a> for advice if you are in any doubt.</b>			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		X	
Disability		X	
Sex		X	
Race		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender reassignment		X	
Religion or belief		X	
Pregnancy or maternity		X	
Marriage or civil partnership		X	
People in rural areas		X	
People on a low income		X	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		X	
<b>Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.</b>	No		



<p><b>Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.</b></p>	No		
<p><b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b></p>	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full EIA:
<p><b>Reason for decision</b></p>	The report is for information only so does not impact upon any protected characteristics.		
<p><b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b></p>	B Mason		
<p><b>Date</b></p>	25/05/2023		

**Climate change impact assessment**

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk)

**Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:**  
 Planning Permission  
 Environmental Impact Assessment  
 Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk) for advice.

<b>Title of proposal</b>	<b>Update to Richmond ACC on delivery of the North Yorkshire Flood Risk Strategy</b>
<b>Brief description of proposal</b>	<b>As above</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Environment</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Network Strategy</b>
<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Emily Mellalieu</b>
<b>Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment</b>	
<b>Date impact assessment started</b>	<b>25/05/2023</b>

**Options appraisal**

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

**No alternatives were considered. This is an update report to members of the Richmond ACC**

**What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?**

Please explain briefly why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible.

The proposal has no impact on council budgets as it is a report for information only

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p><b>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</b></p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Minimise <b>greenhouse gas emissions</b> e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	Emissions from travel	X		The report is for information only		
	Emissions from construction	X		As above		
	Emissions from running of buildings	X		As above		
	Other	X		As above		
<p>Minimise <b>waste</b>: Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic</p>		X		As above		
<p>Reduce <b>water</b> consumption</p>		X		As above		
<p>Minimise <b>pollution</b> (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>		X		As above		

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Ensure <b>resilience</b> to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>		X				
<p>Enhance <b>conservation</b> and wildlife</p>		X				
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of <b>North Yorkshire's landscape</b></p>		X				
<p>Other (please state below)</p>		X				

**Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal?** no

**Summary** Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.  
 There is no impact on climate change arising from this report which is for information only. The delivery of the flood risk strategy does however have positive impacts upon reacting to the consequences of climate change.

**Sign off section**

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Emily Mellalieu</b>
<b>Job title</b>	<b>Development Management Team Leader</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>H&amp;T -Network Strategy</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>BES</b>
<b>Signature</b>	<b>E Mellalieu</b>
<b>Completion date</b>	<b>25/05/2023</b>

**Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature):** Barrie Mason

**Date:** 25/05/2023