

North Yorkshire County Council
Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee – 11 June 2021
Flood Risk Report

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee of:
- i. The investigatory work of NYCC to understand the sources of flooding in its area.
 - ii. The locations prioritised in the NYCC Flood Risk Programme for delivery during 2021/22, in particular those in the Selby and Ainsty ACC area.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 In January 2018 the Corporate Director, BES in consultation with BES Executive Members approved a method of prioritising locations where flood investigation had been undertaken by NYCC. This is used to inform the programme for scheme development and delivery, with the intention of NYCC delivering surface and ground water flood mitigation, in line with its powers to act under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010).
- 2.2 Based on this criteria, the following locations across the county are presently prioritised in the flood programme for financial year 2021/22, following the agreement of the Corporate Director, BES in consultation with BES Executive members on the 21st May 2021:
- Malton, Norton and Old Malton
 - Scarborough Town
 - Great Ayton
 - South Craven Villages
 - Saxton, Selby District
 - Rye Villages
 - Upper Dales Villages
 - Stokesley
 - Tadcaster
 - Lower Aire villages including Brotherton
 - Gildersleets
- 2.3 This report will update on those locations prioritised for work within the Selby and Ainsty ACC geography.

3.0 Programme Delivery in the Selby and Ainsty ACC area

3.1 Lower Aire Villages

In February 2020 various locations in the Aire catchment experienced flooding, resulting in the undertaking of a formal Section 19 investigation.

- 3.2 The section 19 report is available on the following link. An addendum to the report, which includes the committed actions to be undertaken by all Risk Management Authorities to address the sources of flooding in the Lower Aire is also accessible via the link:
<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fileroot/Environment%20and%20water/Flooding/201202%20Section%2019%20February-2020.pdf>
- 3.3 For ease, however, the recommended actions for NYCC, in its capacity as Lead Local Flood Authority, resulting from the Section 19 report relating to the Selby and Ainsty area included:
- Opportunities to include communities in the future North Yorkshire County Council flood mitigation programme will be explored
 - The work will include identifying critical assets to flood risk and identifying those responsible for maintenance and engaging in active response planning
- 3.4 Work has been on-going to support communities following the publication of the section 19 report. To permit continuation of the recommendations of the report, Brotherton and other impacted Lower Aire villages are included as programme commitments in 2021/22.
- 3.5 **Brotherton**
Work is required to an NYCC highway culvert to ensure it is in good working order. Given the interaction of the culvert with the wider drainage system, which is managed by the Internal Drainage Board (IDB), this will permit a wider understanding of the interactions of the receiving drainage system. Quotes have been provided for works to the culvert be undertaken by IDB on NYCC's behalf. The work to the culvert is estimated at £350k and is allocated to be taken from the NYCC Flood Risk Reserve.
- 3.6 **Lower Aire Villages Resilience Project**
Hirst Courtney, West Bank, Brotherton and Bolton Percy which were all impacted in the 2020 event. In these locations a review of the existing resilience measures in place will be undertaken with opportunities for improving or increasing the community preparedness to be identified and delivered. There is £35k allocated to the delivery of this project from the NYCC Flood Risk Reserve.
- 3.7 **Saxton**
Historic work has already been undertaken by various parties to address the risks in Saxton. It is necessary to understand the benefits of the outcomes of that work that have been delivered over the years in order to move this forward. Consequently desk top analysis of existing feasibility work and historic delivery is planned. This will then inform the future direction of work. JBA Consultancy is supporting the county council in delivering this with £25k being allocated towards project development this financial year, to be taken from the NYCC flood risk reserve.
- 3.8 **Tadcaster**
The scheme being delivered in Tadcaster is led by the Environment Agency, given it primarily addresses main river flooding, which led to the devastating events and bridge collapse in 2015. NYCC officers are supporting the work of the Environment Agency in delivering the scheme.
- 3.9 There has been a delay to the proposed Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme and this has caused significant changes to the project timeline and estimated delivery date of the scheme.
- 3.10 A recent review has highlighted inaccuracies within the existing hydrological model that is being used as the basis for developing the flood defence scheme in Tadcaster. In order to develop an appropriate scheme for Tadcaster, an accurate

model representing the flood risk situation and hydrological conditions of the River Wharfe at Tadcaster and local area is essential.

- 3.11 The model provides the basis of information for which the scheme is designed on and helps to ensure the height of any proposed defences and volumes of any storage components of the solution are correct. Were the identified issues not addressed it could result in the scheme not delivering the intended Standard of Protection to the town.
- 3.12 The EA wants to provide the community with the most effective scheme that it can. Therefore, it is paramount that the inaccuracies within the existing model are addressed and the model is as accurate as it can be before it is used to review the options for the scheme.
- 3.13 The process of updating the existing model will take a certain amount of time and it is expected that this delay will set back the construction start date of the scheme until 2024.
- 3.14 It is acknowledged by the EA that this delay will cause concern and frustration in the community, however, it is important that the time is taken to address the issues identified with the model to ensure that ultimately the most appropriate scheme is delivered for the town.
- 3.15 On the 7th May 2021 the EA issued an open letter giving an update to the Tadcaster community, to make it aware of the delay. If members have any questions regarding the scheme, they may be issued directly to the EA via its email inbox:
TadcasterFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that Members of the Selby and Ainsty ACC note:
 - i. The investigative work undertaken by NYCC to address flood risk in its constituency area
 - ii. The locations identified for scheme development by NYCC in the priority locations in its constituency area during 2021/22.

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