

Public Document Pack



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Tuesday 3 February 2026

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

The **Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **2.00 pm** on **Wednesday 11 February 2026**.

This meeting will be live webcast. To access the webcast please go to the Council's website at the time of the meeting and follow the instructions on the page.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Lawton".

Samantha Lawton
Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Panel members are:-

Member

Councillor Andrew Cooper (Chair)

Councillor Musarrat Khan

Councillor David Longstaff

Councillor Matthew McLoughlin

Councillor Will Simpson

Councillor John Taylor

Kevin Evans (Co-Optee)

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Panel

To receive apologies for absence from those Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 6

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 7th January 2026

3: Declaration of Interests

7 - 8

Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests, which may prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items.

4: Admission of the Public

Most agenda items take place in public. This only changes where there is a need to consider exempt information, as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. You will be informed at this point which items are to be recommended for exclusion and to be resolved by the Panel.

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Panel will receive any petitions and/or deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the

Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

6: Public Question Time

To receive any public questions.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the period for the asking and answering of public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes.

Any questions must be submitted in writing at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

7: Annual Review of Flood Risk Management Activities 9 - 36

The Panel will consider the report 'Annual Review of Flood Risk Management Activities'.

Contacts:

Paul Farndale, Strategic Partnership Lead for Flood Management and Drainage

Mathias Franklin, Head of Planning & Development

8: White Rose Forest Delivery and Kirklees Woodland Creation Update 37 - 52

The Panel will consider the presentations, 'White Rose Forest Delivery' and 'Kirklees Woodland Creation.'

Contacts:

Iwan Downey, Programme Director (White Rose Forest)

Joe Robertson, Woodland Development Manager

9: Work Programme 2025/2026 53 - 58

The Panel will consider its Work Programme for 2025/26

Contact:

Jodie Harris, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement
Officer

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

Contact Officer: Jodie Harris

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 7th January 2026

Present: Councillor Andrew Cooper (Chair)
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor John Taylor

Co-optees

In attendance: Councillor Moses Crook
Will Acornley, Head of Operational Services
Katherine Armitage, Service Director - Climate Change &
Environmental Strategy

Observers:

Apologies: Councillor David Longstaff
Kevin Evans (Co-Optee)

- 27 Membership of the Panel**
Apologies were received from Councillor David Longstaff and Kevin Evans (Co-Optee).
- 28 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
RESOLVED –
That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2025 be approved as a correct record.
- 29 Declaration of Interests**
No interests were declared.
- 30 Admission of the Public**
All agenda items were considered in public session.
- 31 Deputations/Petitions**
No deputations or petitions were received.
- 32 Public Question Time**
No public questions were received.
- 33 LEVI Fund for Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Kirklees**

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel - 7 January 2026

The Panel considered an update on Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund for Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Kirklees which was introduced by Councillor Moses Crook – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport and Housing.

Jason Smith, Electric Vehicle Project Manager gave a presentation, and the Panel were advised that;

- The Electric Vehicle (EV) project included rapid charger installations funded by the market and Kirklees capital investment, the LEVI fund for localised EV hubs, CRSTS funding for EV trials, salary sacrifice car schemes, and an EV strategy to inform future planning.
- Transport for the North data projected Kirklees would require 926 public/residential charging points by 2025 and approximately 2,199 by 2030.
- Kirklees had the lowest number of charging points per 100k population in West Yorkshire.
- The Department for Transport provided £343 million capital and £37.8 million resource funding through the LEVI scheme over two financial years. Kirklees received £282,000 for Phase 1 and £2,212,389 for Phase 2, with additional capability funding for project staff.
- The LEVI fund aimed to deliver neighbourhood hubs and on-street charging, predominantly 7kW–22kW chargers, with some rapid chargers if market conditions allowed.
- WYCA led procurement and created a West Yorkshire EV Charging framework in summer 2024.
- Six providers were appointed to the framework: Zest, Ubitricity (Shell), Amey, Char.gy, Urban Fox (Balfour Beatty), and Blink. Phase 1 ITT completed in January 2025, securing an additional 58% private sector contribution, increasing the fund value from £1.41m to £2.23m.
- Phase 1 was expected to deliver 148 charging points across 25 locations in Kirklees. The contract was signed in July 2025, starting an 18-month delivery window. Ward engagement was scheduled for January 2026.
- A customer pricing strategy was agreed to maintain reasonable public charging costs. Phase 2a/b would focus on on-street charging infrastructure, as directed by Government.
- Phase 2a site selection targeted densely terraced areas using GIS data provided by the Energy Saving Trust. Green areas were identified as focus zones, excluding Phase 1 polygons.
- Capability funding for Kirklees totalled £257,000, with £87,000 expected for 2026/27. It funded the EV Project Manager (0.5 FTE) and Assistant PM (1.0 FTE), with additional revenue for Highways and Legal/Procurement roles. Funding was confirmed until April 2027, with potential extension.

The Panel noted the presentation and during the subsequent discussion, raised the following questions and points:

- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to the rationale for the locations decided for Phase 1, it was advised that Phase 1 was a pilot and funding requirements necessitated a focus on urban areas. Locations were data-driven, based on officer recommendations and an audit of car parks

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel - 7 January 2026

ranked by capacity, occupancy, safety, and other factors. It was also noted that the use of funds was considered more beneficial in densely populated areas, and that this work would be complimented by improvements in public transport in rural communities. It was confirmed that Phase 2b would aim to address gaps and utilise available capital funding to support other areas. The Panel noted the response, and it was agreed that the data showing the rationale for the chosen Phase 1 locations be shared with the Panel.

- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to maintenance, it was advised that responsibility for maintenance would sit with the provider and that contractual provisions would support this. The contract was for 15 years, with plans for this to be refreshed midway through the term to reflect the market at that time. It was also noted that a key change was the introduction of the EE Charging Regulations 2023, requiring all chargers to remain at 98% working order. The Panel noted the response, and it was agreed that the contract information be shared with the Panel.
- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to innovation and how flexibility would be maintained to adopt new advancements, it was noted that chargers were aligned with the second-hand electric vehicle market and that technology was filtering down from high-end to lower-end models. It was advised that work continued with multiple providers to introduce innovation and that providers were held accountable for maintaining an innovative approach.
- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to competition in the regulation of prices and the role this played, it was advised that the challenge in terms of competition was noted as rapid chargers being installed by fast-food restaurants and supermarkets, however many long-stay car parks in Kirklees were owned by the Council. It was noted that the pricing strategy would be updated as required, and any future charging points would need to follow the competition.
- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to enforcing compliance in relation to pricing, margin caps, and sanctions for non-compliance, it was advised that this was covered within the KPIs of the original contract.
- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to VAT and encouraging the entire population to move towards EV charging, it was advised that over the 15-year contract period, consideration may be given to ways of facilitating home charging tariffs.

The Panel noted the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund for Public Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Kirklees update, and it was recommended that:

RESOLVED:

1. The data set showing the rational for Phase 1 locations be shared with the Panel.
2. The details of the contractual information be shared with the Panel.

34 Playable Spaces Update

The Panel considered a presentation in respect of Playable Spaces which was presented by Will Acornely, Head of Operational Services.

The Panel were advised that:

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel - 7 January 2026

- The original Playable Spaces strategy was approved by Cabinet in 2019 to improve play quality across Kirklees, provide a financially sustainable network, and deliver benefits such as health, wellbeing, and community cohesion.
- Version 1 (March 2019) proposed converting local play areas to open greenspace with investment focused on Community and Destination sites; Version 2 (October 2019) allowed traditional equipment at all sites if requested by local communities.
- The programme launched in 2020 with £3.9m capital invested and £5.6m committed or allocated. Five years into delivery, expectations remained high, but resources were restrictive.
- Kirklees managed 314 play areas, significantly more than other local authorities, with 252 sites over 15 years old included in the original programme.
- Benchmarking was undertaken against other West Yorkshire authorities, and the Play Maintenance Team consisted of four inspectors, supported by a small construction team. Maintenance budgets were limited to £16,000 plus income generation.
- Achievements included 41% programme completion, with 59 sites completed and 43 in progress. Play value increased by 141% on average at completed sites, and £782k additional funding was secured.
- Challenges included:
 - Increased material and staffing costs, reducing value for money.
 - Higher expectations as traditional equipment was retained without additional funding.
 - Restricted variety of facilities due to budget constraints.
 - Reduced workforce and maintenance budgets impacting timelines and upkeep.
- Cost comparisons showed significant price increases for equipment and surfacing since 2020, with community play area costs rising by 41%.
- Next steps included gathering feedback from the Scrutiny Panel, reviewing options for remaining sites using an asset-led approach, and considering strategy modifications for Cabinet in late summer 2026.

The Panel noted the presentation and, during the subsequent discussion, raised the following questions and points.

- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to the budget and potential scope to work with Public Health to increase flexibility, it was advised that the programme had been entirely council and community- led. As a result, this was how areas had been chosen for uplift. It was noted that there was now an opportunity for flexibility and to identify whether the project could be needs-led.
- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to the role of planning, it was explained that the reshaping the strategy had to be done in partnership with the Planning Department and was being developed alongside the Local Plan. The strategy had supported the Council to prevent developers from placing play equipment within estates and to secure Section 106 funding for more appropriate locations.

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- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to Section 106 funding, it was noted that discussions had begun to improve agreements and ensure wording around children's play was appropriate to achieve better outcomes within legal agreements. The Panel noted the response, and it was agreed that work continue to explore how use of the correct wording in supplementary planning documents could support better outcomes for Playable Spaces in the development of the strategy.
- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to commitments and managing expectations, it was acknowledged that engagement with communities was impacted by capacity and resourcing and that there was a need to ensure capacity for commitment before engaging with the public or elected members to maintain positive relationships. It was agreed that it was important to set expectations and aspirations in line with available resources and that the approach should remain realistic to avoid doing too much at once and to identify any potential long-term funding gaps. Conversations with Cabinet regarding resource gaps and potential changes in direction were expected to begin after summer.
- In response to concerns raised by the Panel around elongating the programme, and how this could result in newer play areas requiring maintenance later, it was confirmed that safety could be maintained and the aspiration was for all play areas to be inviting and have good play value, however, ideal quality may not be guaranteed due to budget constraints, but these gaps would be addressed as part of the strategy refresh.
- In response to concerns raised by the Panel regarding the pace of the project, it was acknowledged that thorough engagement, high level consultations and efforts to reduce costs had contributed to the delays. The speed of the programme delivery was being assessed as part of the strategy and options included site-specific consultations and streamlining processes rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach.
- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to environmental impact, it was advised that the scheme continually identified recycling and refurbishment opportunities and explored environmentally friendly surfaces in play spaces. Biodiversity was also considered on a site-by-site basis within maintenance constraints.
- In response questions from the Panel regarding how play value was quantified, it was agreed that details of the technical assessment used for playable spaces would be shared with the Panel. The Panel noted the response and further suggested that recording visitor numbers at each play area would support robust data collection and rationale for investment. In response it was advised that discussions with other local authorities were taking place to identify effective solutions for collecting this type of data.
- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to the removal of a rope swing due to damage, it was advised that work was underway to make budgets more sustainable and that conversations with the Cabinet would begin to create direction to review budgets.
- In response to questions from the Panel in relation to play provision in town centres, it was confirmed that as part of Cultural Heart investments, consideration was being given to introducing play in town centres, ensuring safety and sustainability. Comparisons with Manchester and other cities would inform this work as part of wider town centre regeneration.

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The Panel noted the Playable Spaces presentation, and it was recommended that:

RESOLVED:

1. Work be undertaken to explore how use of the correct wording in supplementary planning documents could support better outcomes for Playable Spaces in the development of the strategy.
2. Work be undertaken to ensure that aspirations were aligned with the available resources and that any potential funding gaps be identified.
3. Details of the technical assessment used for Playable Spaces be shared with the Panel.
4. Work be undertaken to explore how visitor numbers to play spaces can be recorded and how this data can be used to support future investment.

35 Work Programme 2025/26

The Panel reviewed its Work Programme for 2025/26 and the following items were put forward for inclusion.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that an update on progress towards net 0 targets (to include an update in relation to the Carbon Disclosure Score as well as an update on the broader strategy in the new municipal year) be presented to the Panel

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

Name of Councillor

Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed:

Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and

(b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



REPORT TITLE: Annual Review of Flood Risk Management Activities

Meeting:	Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Panel
Date:	11th February 2026
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Graham Turner
Purpose of Report: To provide an annual review of Flood Risk Management Activities.	
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note and comment on the contents of the annual review of activities of Flood Risk Management activities. 	
Resource Implications: Delivery of the programme outlined within this report will continue to place significant demands on existing staffing resources. While the service has secured external funding to support feasibility and capital development activity, internal capacity remains the principal constraint on pace of project development, risk investigation and statutory planning consultee responses. Additional pressures may emerge should Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 be enacted, due to the need for a dedicated SuDS Approval Body function.	
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	David Shepherd Executive Director for Place – 30.01.26

Electoral wards affected: All wards affected.

Ward councillors consulted: No consultation undertaken.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, no personal data is contained in this report.

1. Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of flood risk management activity undertaken by Kirklees Council during 2024/25, including statutory responsibilities, delivery of funded studies and capital schemes, emerging partnership work across West Yorkshire, and the implications of changes to national funding profiles administered by DEFRA and the Environment Agency. Significant progress has been made in securing Local Levy funding and developing feasibility studies aimed at reducing long-term flood risk. However, the removal of several Grant in Aid (GiA) allocations for 2026/27 presents a challenge to future programme delivery and necessitates the development of alternative funding routes. The report also highlights early work to establish an integrated cross-directorate network to improve co-ordination of landscape resilience, natural flood management and climate adaptation activities.

2. Background Information

2.1 Introduction

Kirklees Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), has statutory responsibilities for managing local sources of flood risk, including surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. This report outlines the progress made in discharging those duties over the past 12 months and identifies emerging opportunities and risks.

The potential enactment of Schedule 3 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 for will have significant resource implications as the Council would become an approval board for sustainable drainage schemes, subsequently adopting and maintaining drainage assets. However, there continues to be little movement from DEFRA on the subject and therefore no indication of its immediate implementation.

Statutory duties under Floods and Water Management Act 2010 – Ongoing.

- Statutory Consultee for planning applications regarding flood risk and drainage.
- Prepare and maintain a flood risk management strategy for the district.
- Maintain a register of assets.
- Investigate significant flood incidents
- Co-operate with other risk management authorities, e.g. Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water.

In addition, other roles and legal duties include:

- Providing consents for work in ordinary watercourse (Land Drainage Act 1991)
- Enforcement action for obstructions to flow in ordinary watercourses (Land Drainage Act
- Play a key role in Emergency Planning before, during and after a flood event.

2.3 Progress update

The 2024/25 year has been characterised by an increased emphasis on feasibility and early-stage design as a precursor to major capital works. The service has worked closely with the Environment Agency in promoting and developing opportunities alongside local delivery partners with shared goals. This year witnessed embedding a more structured co-operative relationship with Yorkshire Water with a focus on problem solving and better project management, with Flood Management playing a key role as a gateway to other Council departments. Internal cross department networks have been established to best prepare the Council for effective and co-ordinated investment opportunities around Nature Based Solutions and in turn provides a base to better align the Council with emerging regional priorities on managing water provision, quality, and flood risk with Yorkshire Water, WYCA, Environment Agency and surrounding districts.

Kirklees Flood Management & Drainage, having been successful in 2024/25 in obtaining grants from Local Levy funding, is now in the process of developing feasibility studies with partners and developing project scope and further procurement to expand investment activity in flood risk management.

A summary of the studies and projects is provided below.

Flood Risk Mental Health and Well Being £36,000 (Mental Health First Aid Training Completed. Partnership with Huddersfield University acquired a further £22,000 (2025) for research and project scoping, including direct involvement with Kirklees residents.

Middlemost Pond Flood Alleviation Feasibility Study £32,000 (Primary Stage Completed, detailed feasibility/development stage commenced).

Ludhill Dike Natural Flood Management Design and Landowner Engagement £55,600 – Partners River Holme Connections commenced work.

Natural Flood Management Design and Landowner Engagement (Selected Clusters) £128,000 – Procurement Stage.

In addition, the following capital scheme (Grant in Aid Funding) is in progress:

Howley Beck Capital Scheme (with Network Rail) £150,000 – Commenced.

Debris Screen Studies (2026) £670,000, maximum allocation decision imminent. Local EA board assured grant. Regional assurance decision imminent (February 2026)

The following Kirklees driven schemes have been removed from 2026/7 funding pools.

Albert Street, Lockwood (WYCA Funding) – Feasibility and timescale issues. This project can be revisited but potential cost/benefit analysis is likely to be unfavourable. The EA has had to withdraw funding for their own phase of this scheme.

The Environment Agency's £1.5m Mirfield Flood Alleviation scheme feasibility study has also been withdrawn in a reassessment of funding provision via DEFRA This does not directly affect Kirklees resources.

Also under the re-evaluation of Grant in Aid funding from DEFRA via the EA, Kirklees projects have lost funding for 2026/7 for construction phase for Middlemost Pond alleviation scheme and Cluster 4 (Linthwaite) further development study.

All Councils have had GIA projects removed that were not currently 'spade ready'. The Middlemost Pond scheme will be reapplied for 2028+ but we are exploring opportunities with WYCA to fund and offset the loss of the Albert Street scheme. In addition, we are working with the EA to look at Local Levy grants stepping in as a makeweight for loss of Grant in Aid funding.

Initial discussions are underway with Yorkshire Water, Environment Agency, WYCA and West Yorkshire Councils to explore joint working for 'Integrated Water Management' at a West Yorkshire Level. Predicted water shortages through population growth and climate change, alongside increasing flood risk, to be looked at cohesively alongside water quality, biodiversity, landscape restoration.

Kirklees Flood Management has already set up an internal network with departments under the Place directorate but with different management hierarchies and portfolio holders. The Partners are Flood Management, Landscape Architects and Woodland Management. Initial scope is to work at Kirklees level for opportunities mapping, joint bid development, multi-discipline scheme enhancement. The network will liaise with regional and local stakeholders as necessary. Skill and resource sharing, learning opportunities and developing best practice are sighted as favourable outcomes.

The Flood Management and Landscape Resilience Network will sit comfortably with early aspirations being developed by any West Yorkshire Integrated Water Management group. Further development of regional co-operation will require senior management decision making and governance input.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

Flood risk management activity contributes to the Council Plan by supporting:

- Sustainable Industrial Growth – by protecting homes, infrastructure and employment sites from flood risk.
- Inclusive Communities – through engagement with residents affected by local flooding and partnership work on mental health and wellbeing.
- Climate and Nature – by delivering schemes incorporating natural flood management, biodiversity improvements and landscape resilience.
- Efficient and Effective Organisation – ensuring statutory responsibilities are met and risks are managed proactively.

3.2 Financial Implications

There are no immediate unplanned revenue implications arising directly from this report. However, future staffing and delivery pressures linked to large-scale scheme development, recovery of GiA funding, and potential implementation of Schedule 3 may require further financial consideration. Finance colleagues will work with the service to assess long-term budget pressures as the programme matures.

3.3 Legal Implications

All activity described in this report is undertaken in accordance with statutory duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Land Drainage Act 1991 and associated Regulations. Should Schedule 3 be enacted nationally, the Council will be required to establish a SuDS Approval Body (SAB) which will have legal implications relating to governance, enforcement, adoption of assets and long-term maintenance responsibilities.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Flood risk management is a core component of the Council's climate adaptation approach. The shift toward natural flood management, multi-functional landscapes and integrated water management supports improved carbon sequestration, soil health, biodiversity and air quality. The partnership work outlined also contributes to building long-term resilience across the borough's communities and infrastructure

The projects described support wider climate adaptation objectives, helping to build resilience to more frequent and intense rainfall events. The integration of natural flood management (NFM) approaches reflects a shift towards multi-benefit interventions aligned with biodiversity, carbon capture and landscape restoration goals.

3.5 Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment

Key Risks include:

- Loss or delay of national funding impacting the delivery programme.

- Increased frequency of severe flooding events due to climate change outpacing current capacity.
- Insufficient staffing resource to meet statutory duties or deliver large-scale capital programmes.
- Dependency on external partners for shared schemes, introducing delivery and governance risks.
- Reputational risk if community expectations are not met

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Integrated Impact Assessments will be developed where required as schemes move into detailed design, reflecting environmental, socio-economic and equalities considerations associated with capital works or service changes.

4. Consultation & Engagement

Engagement continues with the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, WYCA, internal Council services, landowners, and community groups. Consultation with ward members is undertaken on a scheme-by-scheme basis. Wider public engagement will be built into feasibility and design phases, particularly for capital interventions affecting local residents.

6. Next steps

- Completion of ongoing feasibility studies and commencement of procurement where appropriate.
- Reappraisal of schemes impacted by GiA funding withdrawal and exploration of alternative funding routes (Local Levy, WYCA, partnership contributions).
- Development of the Kirklees Landscape Resilience and Flood Management Network.
- Continued participation in regional work on Integrated Water Management.
- Preparation for potential implementation of Schedule 3, including staffing and governance considerations.

8. Contact officers

Paul Farndale, Strategic Partnership Lead for Flood Management & Drainage

Mathias Franklin, Head of Planning & Development

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

n/a

10 Appendices

Appendix A: Proposed action plan for 2025/26

11 Service Director responsible

David Wildman
Service Director – Skills and Regeneration
David.wildman@kirklees.gov.uk

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Strategic Theme	Ref	LFRMS Strategic Measure	Promoted Actions 2025/6
PLACE	1	Engage early with spatial planners and growth strategies to ensure new development and plans make best use of land in making space for surface water, fluvial water, sustainable drainage systems and promote the use of adaptive pathways to adapt to climate hazards. Share our understanding of flooding in the area to avoid inappropriate development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide preapplication responses to planning consultations. (ongoing) Lead on the production of a new Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform the Local Plan and its policies. (2024/26) (DRAFT SFRA COMPLETED 2025) (800-900 SITES HIGH LEVEL REVIEW FOR DRAINAGE OPTIONS COMPLETED) Potential Phase 2 – 2026
PLACE	2	Work with the Local Planning Authority, Highway Authority, Environment Agency and water companies to ensure the planning process and development design account fully for land drainage and surface water managements issues. Ensure our practices secure sound management and maintenance regimes that are proportionate and appropriate to the flood risk in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with planning and legal services to create management companies to secure separate maintenance plans for SUDS and Watercourses through section 106 T&C planning Act 1990. (Established 2024 - Ongoing) Secure safe flood routing via conditions on major applications using highway network and open space as conduits. Partner with section 38 (road adoptions) as an enforcement tool. (ongoing – good practice established with developers) Incorporate changes in SUDS guideline into Local Planning Policy and Practice 2026-7
PLACE	3	As a Lead Local Flood Authority engage with others to advise on climate change allowances for sources of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. To share and inform others of current guidance, research and best practice on sustainability and water management to inform decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide consultation advice for planning and preplanning applications reflecting the latest forecasts for location of the property and volume of attenuation required. (Statutory Task – Process Established – updates as required) Ensure information documents on our website are up to date. (annual review) Documents Up to Date – SFRA uploaded when officially approved 2026 Partner other Local Authorities and the Environment Agency through ASA workshops and West Yorkshire land drainage. (Established and ongoing for West Yorkshire, best practice meetings. ASA workshops completed 2025 – Schedule 3 on hold by government)
PLACE	4	Enhance our early engagement with developments and commit to targeted periodic inspections of new development to ensure compliance/enforcement with drainage planning conditions and Land Drainage Act legislation. Seek 106 contributions where appropriate and promote environmental net gain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide audit to key sites to ensure construction phase drainage plans are implemented on site. (Postponed due to staff retirements/skill set availability – review 2026) Audit commercial sites on an annual basis (select 10) for the fitting of private flow control devices. (Postponed due to staff retirements – skill set availability – review 2026)

PLACE	5	Improve our asset data on drainage assets within the district including highway gullies, culverts, carrier drains, debris screens and others to build our evidence base. Where considered significant make this publicly available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record additions of nodes and linear drainage features and produce a performance indicator to check monthly. (Established and ongoing) Review Asset Data on trash screens especially ownership and maintenance requirements – produce clear access to information via Kompass. (Completed 2025, asset management review on periodic clearances – Engaged with Environment Agency on mapping additional screens in the area) Presenting on debris screens. Presentations on importance of asset Recordings (Highways). (2025) Initial work completed. Working with OSAMS team on developing new asset management tool and integrating work processes (ONGOING – TENDER DUE 2026) Following website feedback, review status of significant assets available to public (2026)
PROTECT	6	Identify and develop flood risk improvement schemes for Kirklees to reduce the risk of surface water flooding and flooding from ordinary watercourses to better protect properties and the highway network in high-risk areas. Be open to new financing models. Promote a range of resilience actions and climate change scenarios.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a rolling ball programme with Environment Agency of further studies and grant application 2028+ (2026-27) Submit and develop a further studies based on NFM opportunities mapping study to acquire grant funding (Funding received for cluster studies 2025, River Holme Connection appointed for Ludhill Dike landowner engagement Work commenced to be completed 2026) Presenting on NFM Partnership work. From Debris Screen Assessments, aim to replace/upgrade Council Assets to current standards. (2025-26) GIA funding allocated subject to Outline business case approval – value £620k Presentin on Debris Screens Middlemost Pond (2027) Albert Street (2025), Howley Beck (2025), Woods Mount (2027). National and local government funding re-organisation affects Albert Street and Middlemost Pond construction. Middlemost pond 1st stage feasibility completed. Howley Beck £150k funding received 2025, clearance work commenced.
PROTECT	7	Improve the awareness, understanding and delivery of Property Flood Resilience measures to manage local flood risk within our communities. Encourage homeowners and business owners to undertake Property Flood Surveys and seek grant funding to support resilience measure installations to support a build back better approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with internal comms team to more regularly engage with public and councillors to reinforce community resilience principles (2026) Joint working with WYCA on promoting resilience grants for Kirklees businesses (2024/5) (Completed 2025). Review 2022 grant take up of surveys and Property Flood Resilience (PFR) in all areas of the district (2024/5) (Liaising with Bradford MDC work through WY Flip – Bradford work ongoing into 2026) Update website to best promote PFR in the community (2025) Connecting Kirklees established (2025). Key supporting websites selected (2025). Working with Graeme Murrel to integrate flood management with Emergency Planning – ongoing 2026

PROTECT	8	Work with our partners, learned institutions, communities to develop integrated solutions and maintenance programmes to deliver multiple benefits to reduce flood risk and look to improve economic, social and environmental benefits. Be innovative in our approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WYFLIP – Progress funding bid for Mental Health Resilience to tackle consequences of flooding for victims, involving WY FLIP, ICASP and mental health charity, Huddersfield/Leeds/York University. (2025-6) Funding received 2025, Mental Health First Aid Training delivered to staff/selected ward members 2025. Huddersfield Uni partnership established resulting in additional grant funding 2026. Interviews with affected communities 2025/26. Scoping next stages including academic journal/best practice tools 2026/7 Presenting on Mental Health • WYFLIP – Progress opportunities for funding bids for the use of cameras/telemetry to replace site inspections visits with instant remote observation. (Alpha Stage Completed) (Wakefield MDC bid rejected – focusing on alternative sources (2025) Working with ICASP directly to look at opportunities in Kirklees 2026/7 Calder View review 2026 • Form cross departmental network to maximise opportunities for nature based solutions including natural flood management. (2026) Commenced
PROTECT	9	Engage with catchment partnerships and landowners to embrace land management techniques and natural flood management to help to manage surface water runoff. Seek out opportunities to use Working with Natural Processes in managing flood risk to promote multiple benefits such as environmental net gain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit, develop a further studies based on NFM opportunities mapping study to acquire grant funding (2025-2026) Submitted and grant awarded 2025 - • Ludhill Dike catchment NFM with River Holme Connections – develop opportunities for NFM in 3rd party land. (2025-6) Grant Awarded. Work commenced 2025-6 • Internal partnership working with landscape and woodland departments for a trial sites at Rectory Park, Woods Mount, Marsden, Mellor Wood Ongoing and added to. Presenting on NFM/NBS • Biodiversity Net Gain settlement period 2025 – to pick up 2026 – see internal partnership. • Form cross departmental network to maximise opportunities for nature based solutions including natural flood management. (2026) Commenced.
PROTECT	10	Support the severe weather incident management function the Council undertakes through technological advancements to ensure it is an intelligence led approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash Screen Asset Management Review to optimize maintenance schedules (completed) Additional work required at Spring Grove, Clayton West and Crimble Clough, Slaithwaite, tendering for screen improvement commenced 2025. Presenting on Trash Screens. • Central Government funding with Wakefield and Leeds to look at level detection on watercourses and trash screen remote observation. (Alpha Stage completed) Awaiting funding for Beta stage. Funding rejected. Examining other opportunities. • Introduction of hand held devices to record before and after trash screen clearance, aiding work and asset management review (2025). Reviewed, now tied in with wider OSAMS programme – Stage ended 2025

PROTECT	11	Maintain assets based on a risk-based approach to ensure high flood risk assets are prioritised and allowances made for climate change projections are considered. Try new technological approaches. Assess which Council assets require capacity improvements as a last resort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review priority gulley list – (completed) Autumn Gulley Blitz scaled back due to resource issues. Flood Management provided intelligence behind the decision. Progress opportunities for funding bids for the use of cameras/telemetry to replace site inspections visits with instant remote observation. (Alpha Stage Completed) Initial funding bids rejected. Kirklees working with ICASP to examine trial opportunities 2026-7 Investigate potential for trialling technology for remote observation of flooding/asset performance 2026-7
RESPONSE	12	Provide intelligence to ensure policy frameworks and emergency plans are robust. Work with other services to establish the basis of the Council's response to severe rainfall events in supporting communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Gulley Blitz areas (annual) - COMPLETED Review Sandbag pre-deployment agreements after each event with a view to improving resilience (ongoing) Continue to work with Emergency Planning and Highways as a subgroup for severe weather management (ongoing) Provide 365 days a year standby cover for severe weather management (ongoing)
RESPONSE	13	Work with the local communities and landowners to increase their awareness and preparedness for flooding in Kirklees to improve flood resilience in homes, businesses and communities through education campaigns with our partners. Enhance our online content to deliver a one-stop shop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Emergency Planning for a web page review – Web Page Review, taking best practice from around the UK (2025) Completed – working with web team to update early 2026 Formalise flood hub/groups where appropriate and encourage households located close to trash screens as observers for flood management (2024-26) (Observers on hold pending recruitment) (Working with Liversedge Councillors to move from sandbag protection to property level protection 2026) Liaise with West Yorkshire Council partners regarding promoting and working with communities to improve resilience by promoting PFR via an awareness campaign on web pages and social media (2024-27) Bradford Work, own web pages work, then plan period campaigns and align with WY for good practice. Highlight key properties around high risk trash screens and provide education leaflets and source community champions 2026-7
RESPONSE	14	Encourage flood community action groups to be set up in key areas of flood risk and through this work, in conjunction with partners, provide a higher standard of community led resilience by developing a network of community resilience leads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalise flood groups, where appropriate, look to involve households close to trash screens as observers for Flood Management 2026/27 Work with Environment Agency to complement their flood warden work in the district, promoting individual and community flood plans 2026/27 Utilise opportunities through mental health project and training of spotters and flood response staff to work closer with community. 2024-26 Initial grant awarded. To be presented at committee.

RESPONSE	15	Ensure flood risk management actions reach out and remain inclusive in our approach within our diverse communities and areas of deprivation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although flood studies concentrate on areas of risk, flood management will ensure diversity is always considered in terms of location and make up of population. This can be tested through looking at integrated impact assessments as part of the brief. Consider Equalities Act for Grant In Aid/Local Levy Opportunities for flood alleviation schemes in deprived areas will be promoted due to the incentivised cost benefit analysis weighting for Grant in Aid Funding (ongoing) REVIEW
RESPONSE	16	Establish and maintain a Communication Plan in line with national and other Council services to provide coordinated and timely information to communities at flood risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe weather plan and communications – provide intelligence alongside Highways and Emergency Planning partners for communications on Kirklees Website and Social Media (ongoing). Utilise the role of spotter to convey live information back a central hub. (reviewed and ongoing)
RECOVERY	17	Provide follow up recovery support and advice to residents, business owners and communities that have been affected by flooding on funding, wellbeing support and signpost to affordable flood insurance to help them recover quicker.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Emergency Planning to formalise post flood action plan (completed). Will seek opportunities to develop appendices incorporating advice to residents (2026) Ensure Web site has latest information regarding Flood Re from Association of British Insurers. Verified 2026 Work with communications on promoting this on social media and targeted letter drops. (see above) 2026 WYFLIP – Progress funding bid for Mental Health Resilience to tackle consequences of flooding for victims. (2024-6) Initial funding secured 2025 – Subsequent funding via Huddersfield University to expand the project, Research fellow employed to analyse interview, determine future scope, scientific journal article, develop best practice toolkit. To be presented. Work with ward members to promote better resistance and resilience techniques using property level protection grants where available as an improvement to sandbag usage. (2025-26) Engaged with Liversedge Councillors 2025/26
RECOVERY	18	Investigate flood incidents of all sources and establish flood outlines with our partners to validate existing flood models to help inform future grant fundings and flood risk management projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to follow up incidents with investigations and record flood incidents and findings (cause and effect) – ongoing. This incorporates published Section 19 investigations where appropriate (ongoing) Partner Yorkshire Water on investigation reviews where appropriate – Established 2025 Continue to offer support to our partners at the Environment Agency post fluvial flood events, establishing wrack marks and sharing knowledge from the community as to the extent of flooding. (ongoing). Carry out social media and traditional media searches for reports of flooding to properties not reported to the Council. media. (ongoing) Record on site reporting of flood extent information gathered from community spotters. (ongoing) Support and encourage the wider use of PDA's for Kirklees Staff to provide photographic validation of flood extents. 2024-

RECOVERY	19	Work with Partners and health bodies to ensure mental health impacts from flooding are factored into long term recovery planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WYFLIP – Progress funding bid for Mental Health Resilience to tackle consequences of flooding for victims utilising experience and knowledge of mental health experts. (2024-6) Initial funding secured 2025 – Subsequent funding via Huddersfield University to expand the project, Research fellow employed to analyse interview, determine future scope, scientific journal article, develop best practice toolkit. To be presented. • Work with Emergency Planning to formalise post flood action plan (completed) opportunity to work on appendices 2025/6 • Train staff on psychological first aid (2025) COMPLETED
RECOVERY	20	Support Review Briefings and feedback learning from communities to inform our plans and policies to ensure a more efficient and effective response in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support Emergency Planning in flood event debrief with various internal Kirklees partners including Highways and communication departments to see what was successful and what could be improved... Ongoing. • Investigate the effectiveness of the use of sandbags/gelbags as a first line of defence with community flood groups/councillors. Ongoing. • Take opportunities to promote property flood protection/resilience on the back of major flood events....ongoing. • Review severe weather action plan after each event with Emergency Planning... ongoing.

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Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

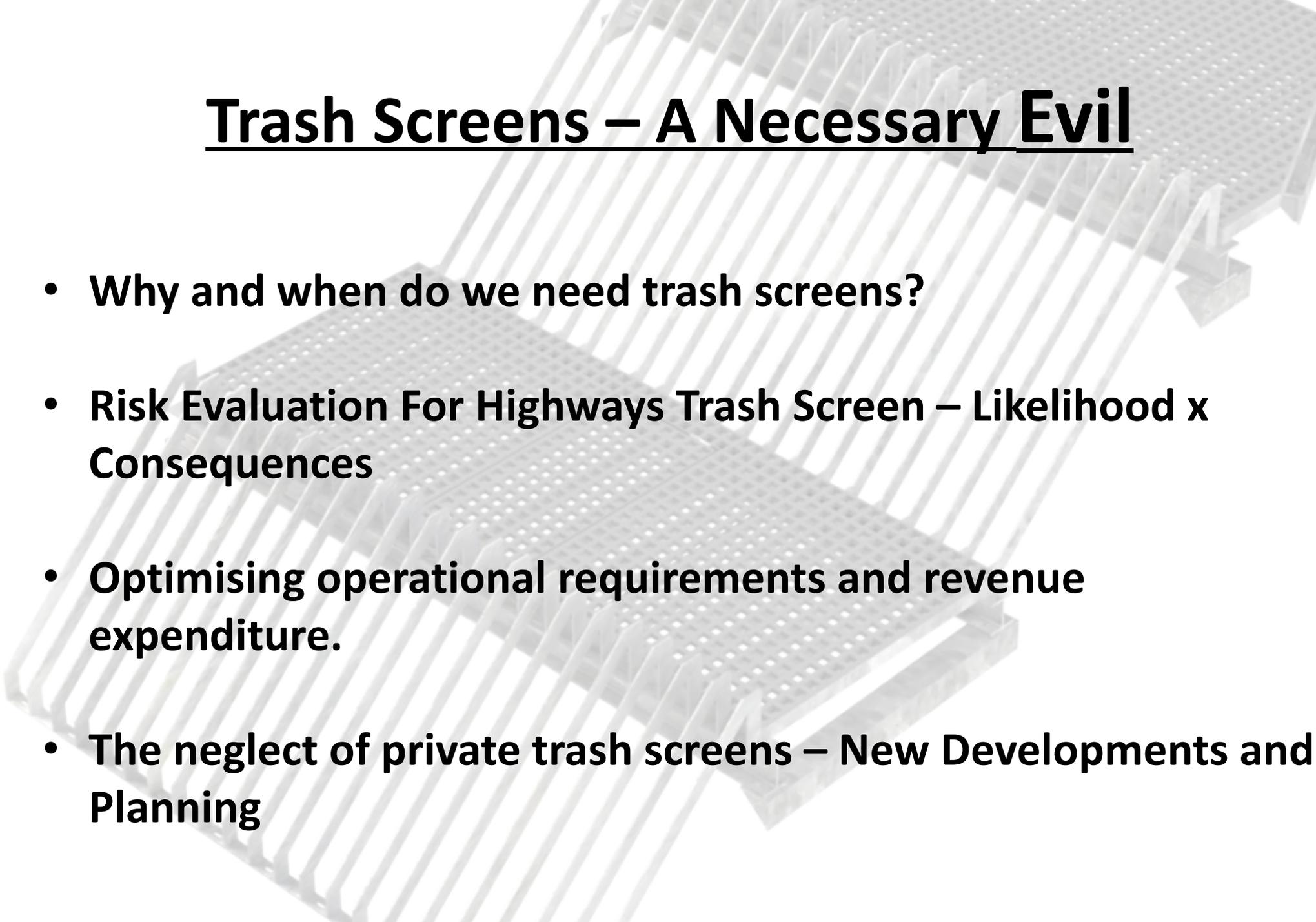
Flood Management & Drainage Annual Review

12th February 2026



- **Avoiding the bullet – No time for complacency.**
- **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment & the Local Plan Progress – Avoiding Risk.**
- **Asset Management – Trash screens – a necessary evil?**
- **Natural Flood Management – Working with delivery partners.**
- **Community Resilience– Kirklees and University of Huddersfield, developing best practice for mental health support.**

Trash Screens – A Necessary Evil



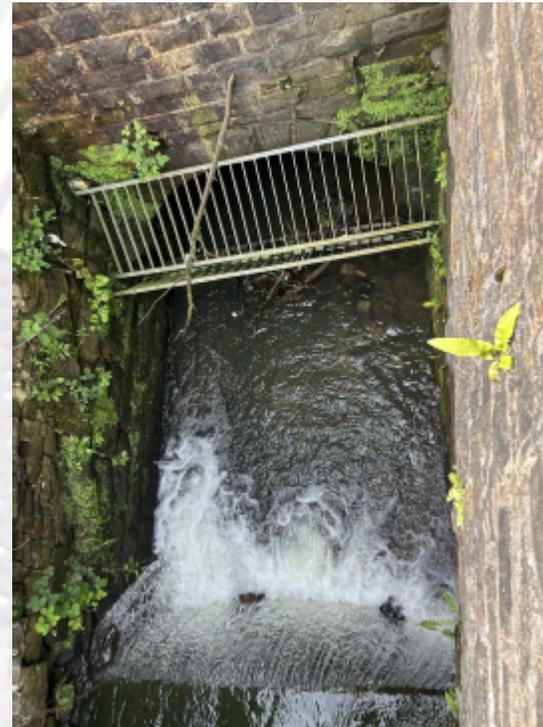
- **Why and when do we need trash screens?**
- **Risk Evaluation For Highways Trash Screen – Likelihood x Consequences**
- **Optimising operational requirements and revenue expenditure.**
- **The neglect of private trash screens – New Developments and Planning**

Trash Screens – Upgrading Design

Grant in Aid Funding Bid (upto 670k) + Kirklees Funded Schemes

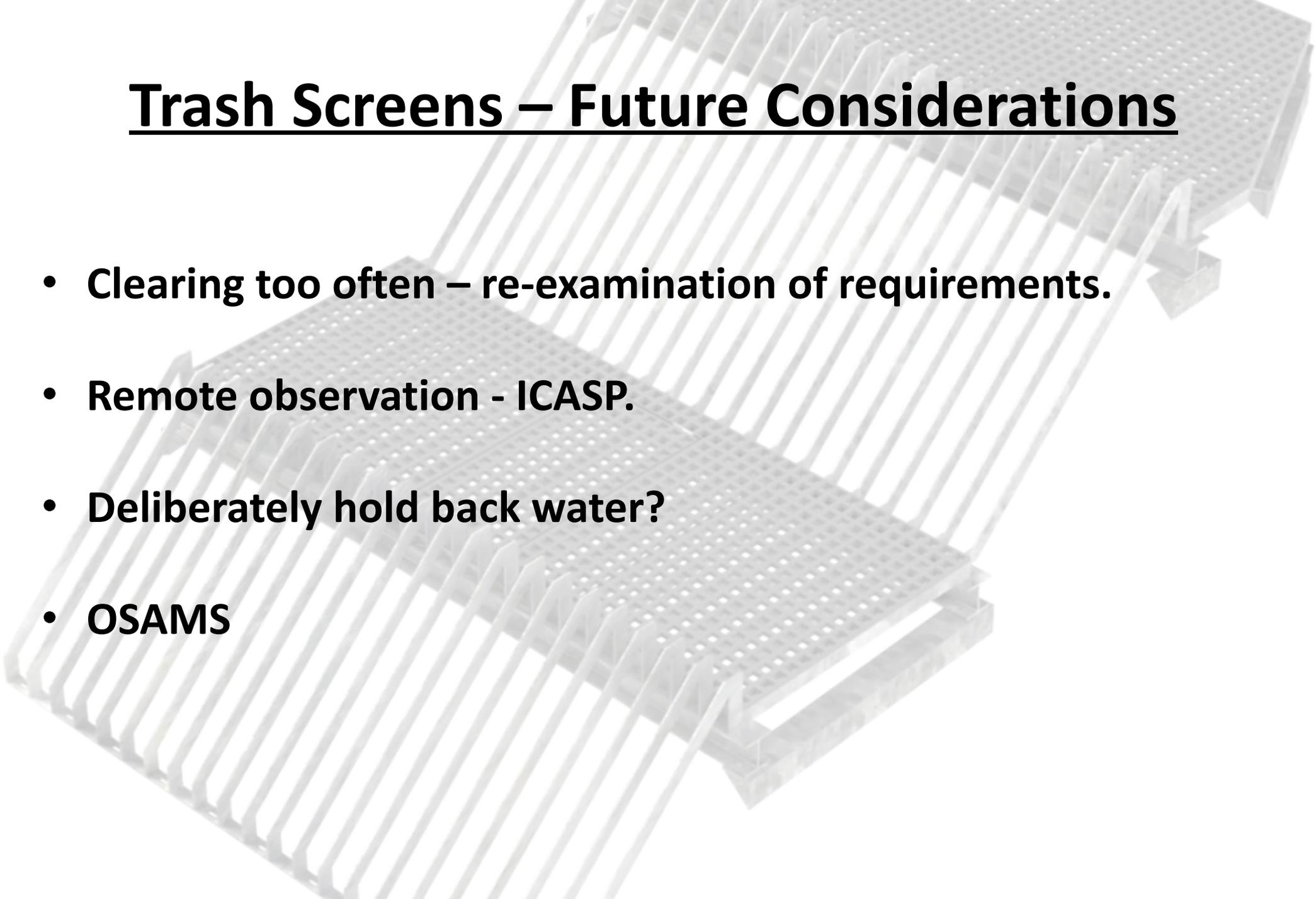


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Narrow Spacings**



Access Issues

Trash Screens – Future Considerations



- **Clearing too often – re-examination of requirements.**
- **Remote observation - ICASP.**
- **Deliberately hold back water?**
- **OSAMS**

Natural Flood Management (NFM) in Kirklees (Slow the Flow)

Ludhill Dike, Honley – design & landowner engagement

NFM Cluster - design & landowner engagement

NFM Schemes on Kirklees Council owned land

Ludhill Dike: (ongoing project – Local Levy funded)

Working with River Holme Connections (RHC) within the dike catchment.

RHC has successfully engaged with 9 landowners who would like to have NFM interventions with their land.

Total area: 67 hectares (165 acres).

Types of interventions considered: Tree planting, hedgerows, attenuation basins, leaky dams, fascines, etc.

Next phase: to produce design drawings suitable for contractor tendering for the agreed interventions

NFM Cluster (Local Levy funded)

KC in the process of producing tender documents to issue to local organisations for design and landowner engagement services. These projects will try to achieve the same outcomes as Ludhill Dike.

Catchments included:

Crimble Clough, Slaithwaite (165ha); Dean Bottom Dike, Kirkburton (254ha) & Stubs Beck, Cleckheaton (172ha)

NFM schemes within KC land (ongoing projects – KC funded initially, further funding to be sought)

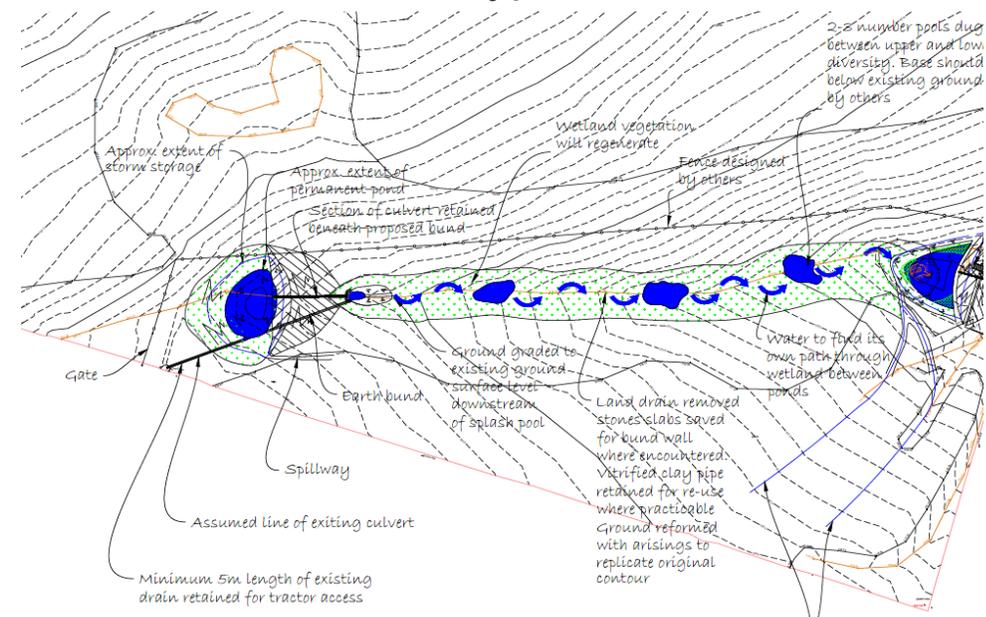
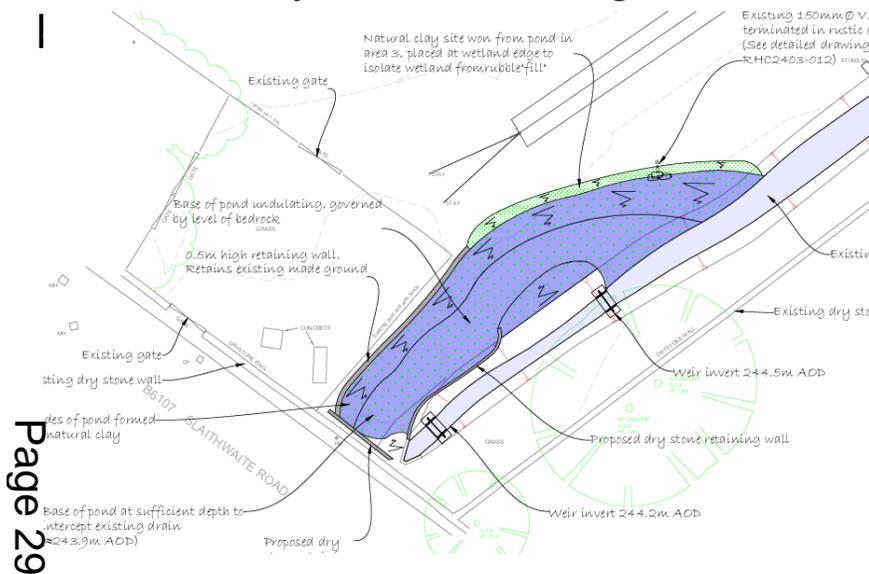
Woods Mount , Marsden : design of bunding to store and divert overground flows away from houses that have been flooded. Once the design is completed, tenders will be issued for the construction of the bund.

Mellor Woods, Almondbury: Working with KC Woodland Development, an NFM scheme to introduce leaky dams and attenuation scrapes to an area of former farmland where trees are proposed to be planted.

Rectory Park, Thornhill: Also working with KC Woodland Development, to compliment a tree planting scheme in the park, several NFM measures will be considered to help reduce flooding to areas of the park.

Further projects

Working with River Holme Connections to seek WYCA funding (£250k) for 4 “spade ready” NFM schemes in the Honley area where agreement with landowners has been obtained – typical schemes are shown



The West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme

Mental Health and Wellbeing for Flood Risk Communities



Supported by



Background Review

‘Poor mental health is already an important health problem in many communities and flooding is likely to exacerbate this’

‘The odds of having these mental health issues was approximately 6 times higher in this group than in those who were unaffected by flooding’

The English National Study of Flooding and Health – Public Health England 2020

Aim of the Project

Increase Flood Resilience by Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing in Flood risk Communities



WEST YORKSHIRE
FLOOD INNOVATION
PROGRAMME



Where we were last year

Early development stage – Aiming to paint a picture of what is happening in flood risk communities now and how we can help

Funding Secured

Searching for partners to help develop the project

Mental Health First Aid Training Announced and was about to begin



Mental Health First Aid Training ✓

- Developed in partnership with Emergency planning and severe weather plan
- 100 frontline staff members now trained
- Improved awareness for staff
- Improved wellbeing support not just in severe weather, but also on a day-to-day basis



Academic Research Partnership



Partnership with Huddersfield University formalised

To help develop the research phase of the project, develop and analyse data gathering

COLIF Funding Secured – Allowing additional academic resources

Large-scale online survey amongst people who have been flooded is currently underway. Gather evidence which can be used to develop what is needed to improve mental health services for people affected by flooding. Conducting 50 in-depth interviews with some of the respondents



Early Findings

1. Chronic anxiety and trauma linked to rain and repeated flooding

Flooding is experienced not as isolated events but as an ongoing cycle of threat, fear and anticipation. Heavy rain alone was enough to trigger heightened tension: ***“The tension rises when we get all those near misses, not just for me but for everybody around the town”*** and ***“Even the window cleaner sets me off, it’s the water straight on the window that’s triggering for me”***

2. Long-term loss, disruption and financial strain deepen emotional distress

The emotional impact is compounded by repeated property damage, slow recovery and lack of financial capacity to rebuild. The cycle of loss and repair creates exhaustion and a sense of being worn down over time: ***“Trying to juggle a full-time job, insurance, builders, gas, electric, water... there was just too much to do for one person to do it on their own”***

3. Preparedness becomes an exhausting personal burden

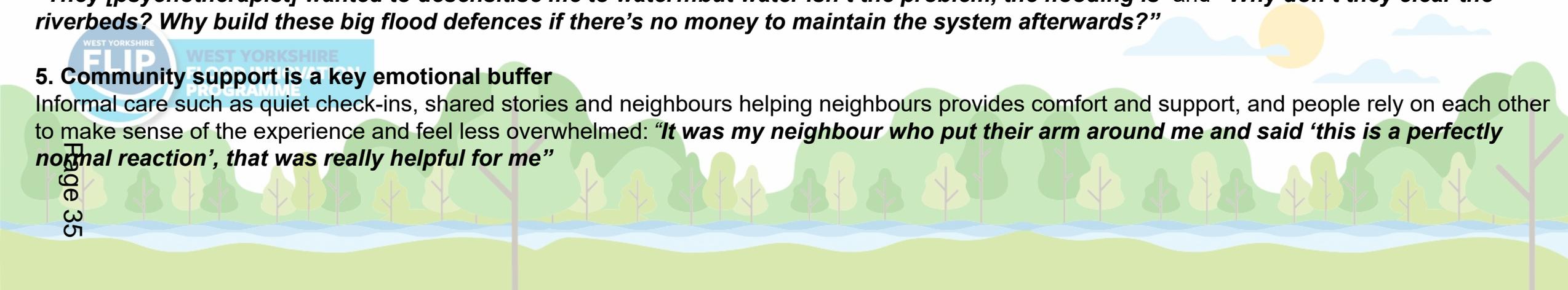
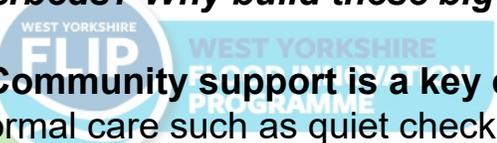
Participants described taking extensive steps to protect their homes. Preparedness becomes a form of hypervigilance that’s emotionally and financially draining: ***“I’ve done everything I can to stop my house being ripped out again...underfloor heating, a coal fire, all of it. I’ve had to do it myself and its exhausting”***

4. Weak or mismatched services and perceived poor infrastructure add to stress

Mental health support often feels ill-suited to the realities of flooding, while perceived local underinvestment in infrastructure amplify risk and frustration: ***“They [psychotherapist] wanted to desensitise me to water...but water isn’t the problem, the flooding is”*** and ***“Why don’t they clear the riverbeds? Why build these big flood defences if there’s no money to maintain the system afterwards?”***

5. Community support is a key emotional buffer

Informal care such as quiet check-ins, shared stories and neighbours helping neighbours provides comfort and support, and people rely on each other to make sense of the experience and feel less overwhelmed: ***“It was my neighbour who put their arm around me and said ‘this is a perfectly normal reaction’, that was really helpful for me”***



Academic Research Partnership

Outputs

- Concise report on the mental health needs assessment and workshop findings.
- Policy briefing/good-practice guide
- Establishing a new academic–policy network on climate-related mental health and resilience

- Future funding bid.





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Forest

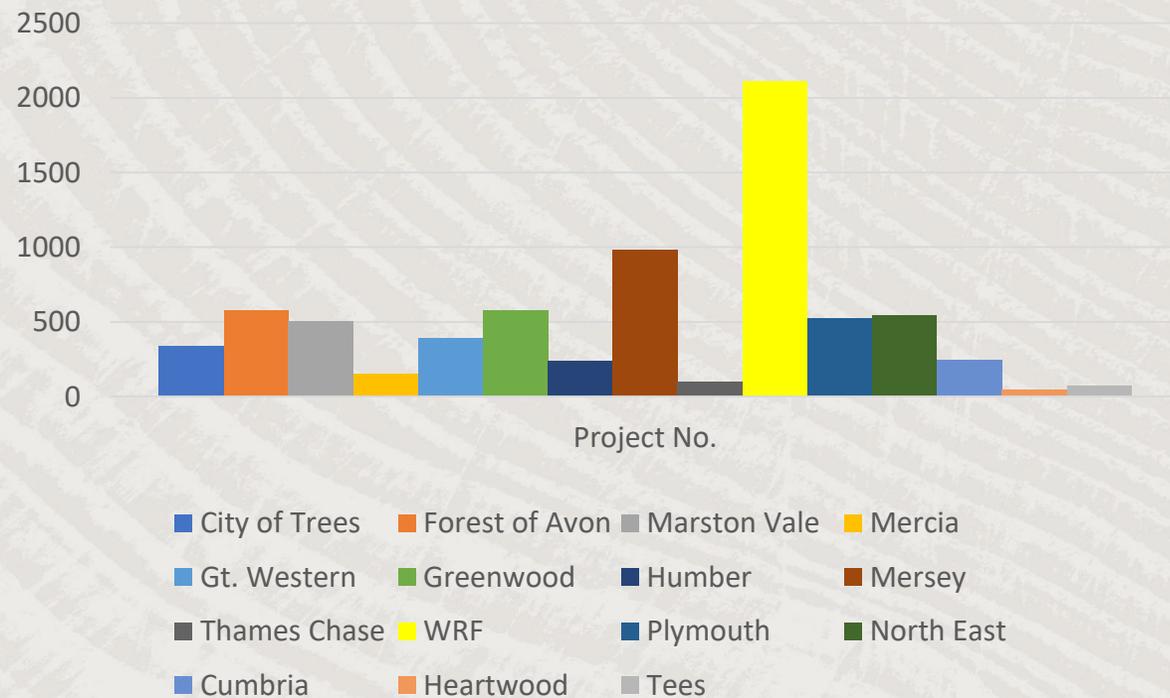
White Rose Forest – Delivery



Trees for Climate Delivery by Community Forest up to March 2025

England's Community Forests

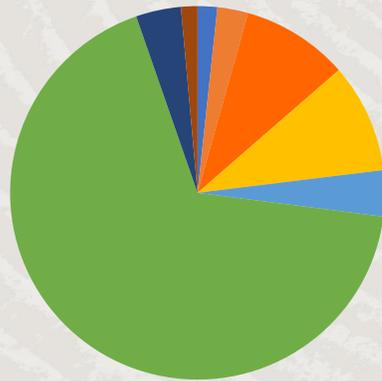
Total hectares supported by CFs



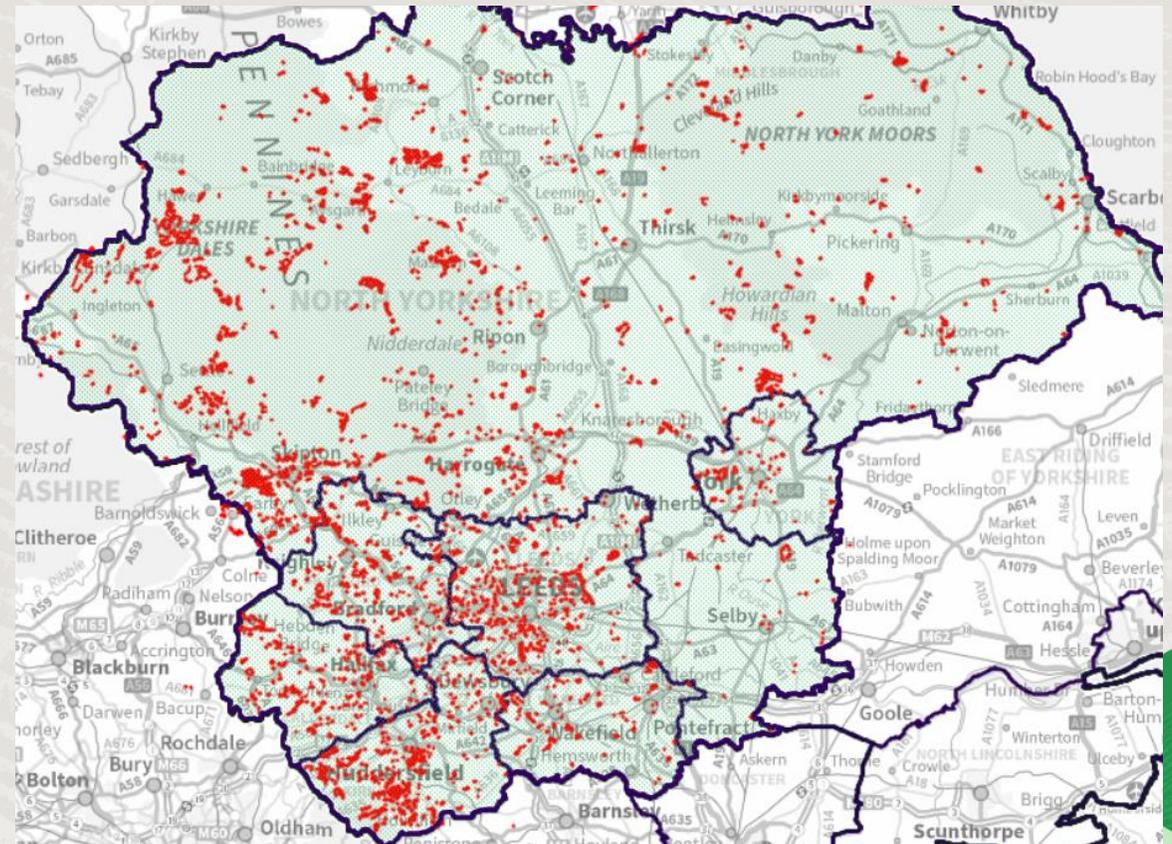
Trees for Climate Delivery by LA Area up to March 2025

Location of WRF Total Delivery & Pipeline

Total hectares by WRF LAs & Halo

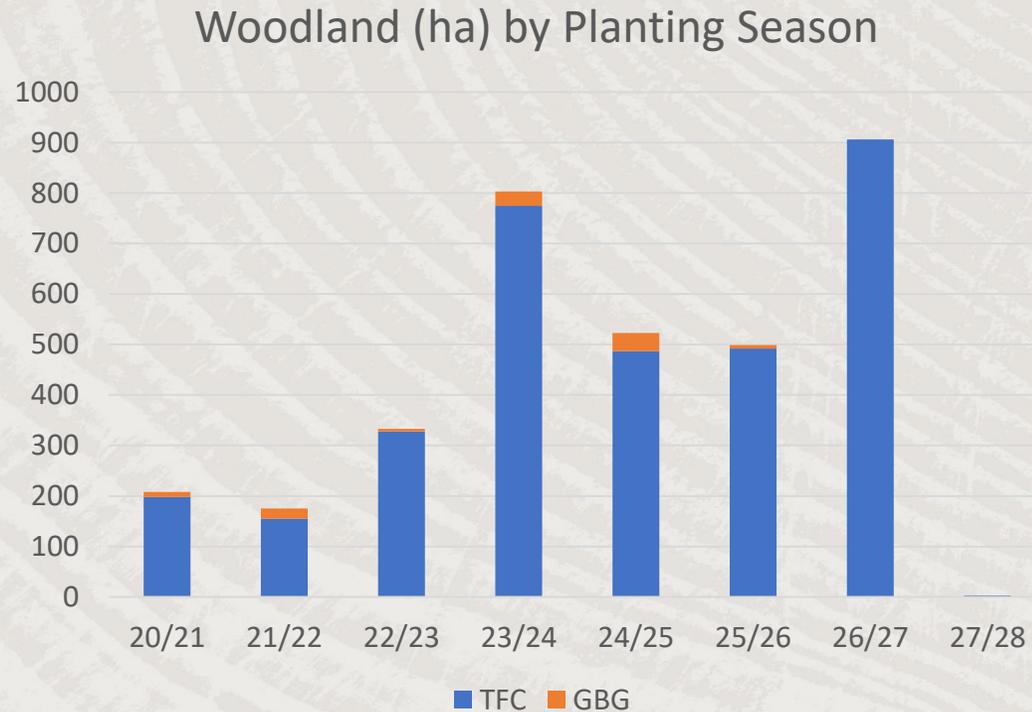


- Bradford
- Calderdale
- Kirklees
- Leeds
- Wakefield
- North Yorks
- York
- WRF Halo

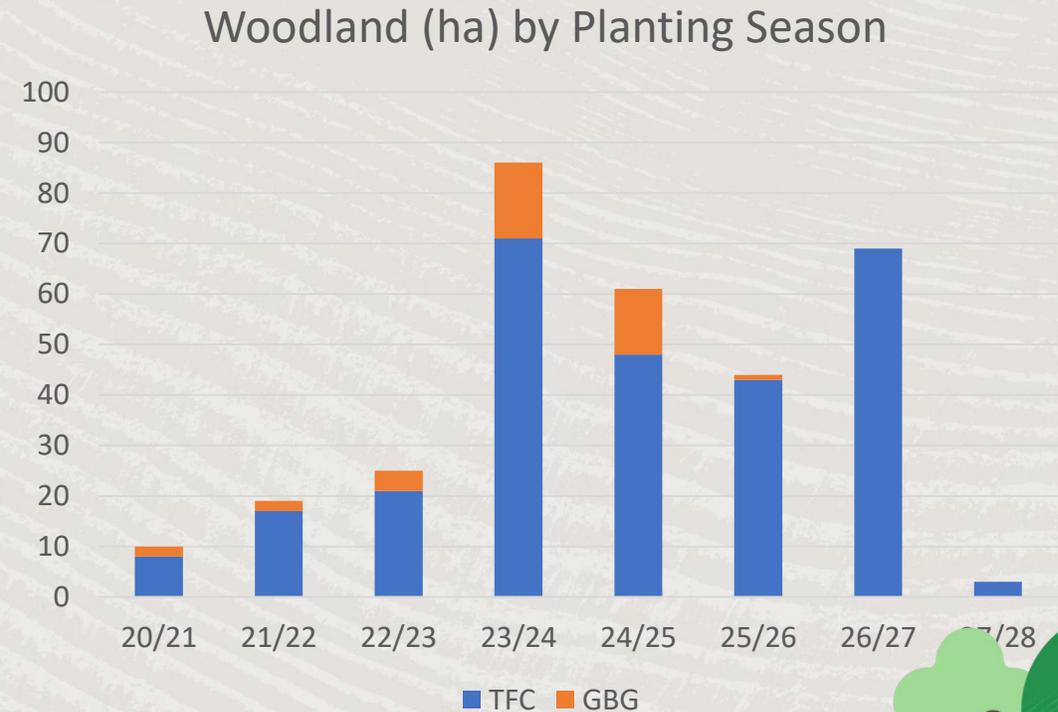


WRF's Programme Analysis- Delivery by Planting Season

WRF's 6-Year TFC/GBG Programme (Total)



WRF's 6-Year TFC/GBG Programme (Kirklees)



WRF's Programme Analysis – £ WRF Benefits *ECF/LJMU*

WRF Programme Benefits – Total WRF Area

Feature	Benefit Description	Benefit £
Accessible Woodland	53,344 Households	£9.13m To date
Carbon	23,623 tCO2e	£6.81m Total
Flooding	1429 Hectares	£0.28m To date
TOTAL		£16.22m To date
WRF INVESTMENT		£23.5m To date

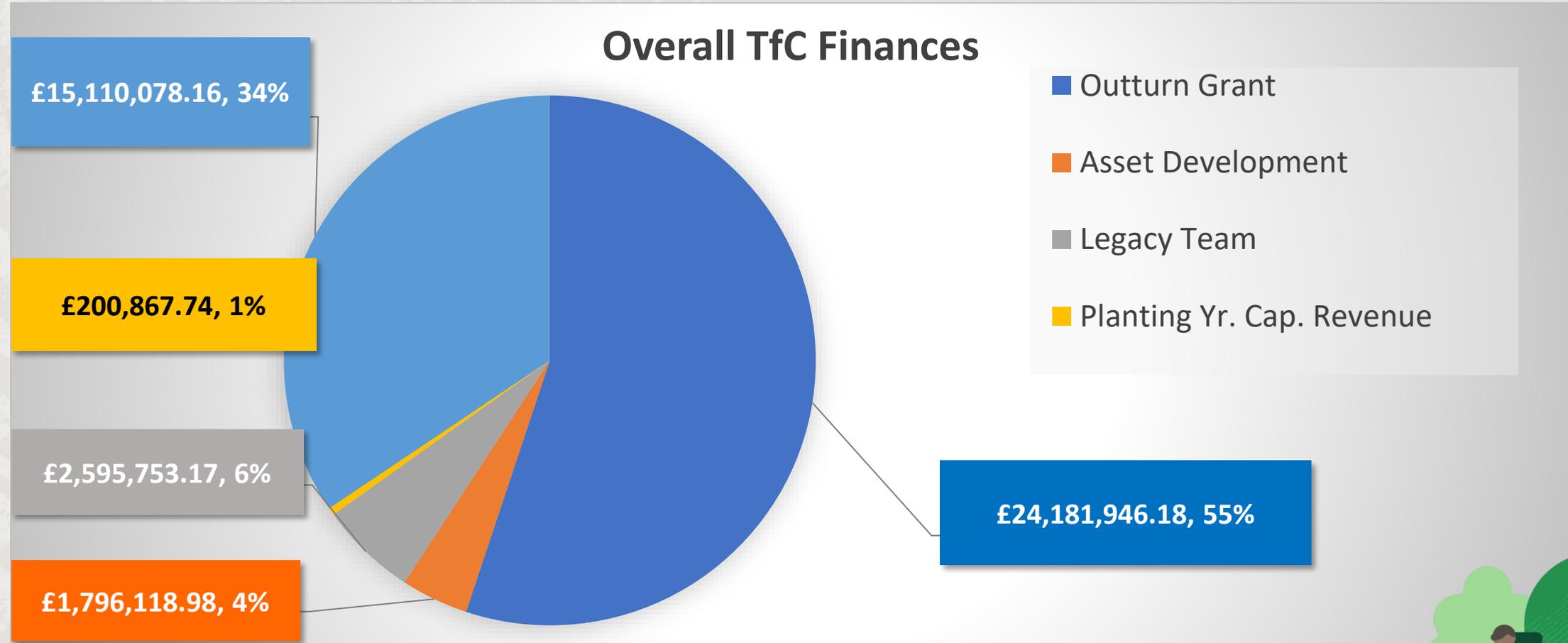
WRF Programme Benefits – Kirklees District

Feature	Benefit Description	Benefit £
Accessible Woodland	7,366 (14%) Households	£1.50m (16%) To date
Carbon	2,089 (9%) tCO2e	£0.58m (9%) Total
Flooding	137 (10%) Hectares	£0.02m (7%) To date
TOTAL		£2.1m (13%) To date
WRF INVESTMENT		£2.6m (11%) To date



WRF's Programme Analysis – £ WRF Investment

Overall TfC Finances



White Rose Forest – New Trees for Climate Programme *2026/2027 to 2029/2030*

WRF Expected TFC Allocation

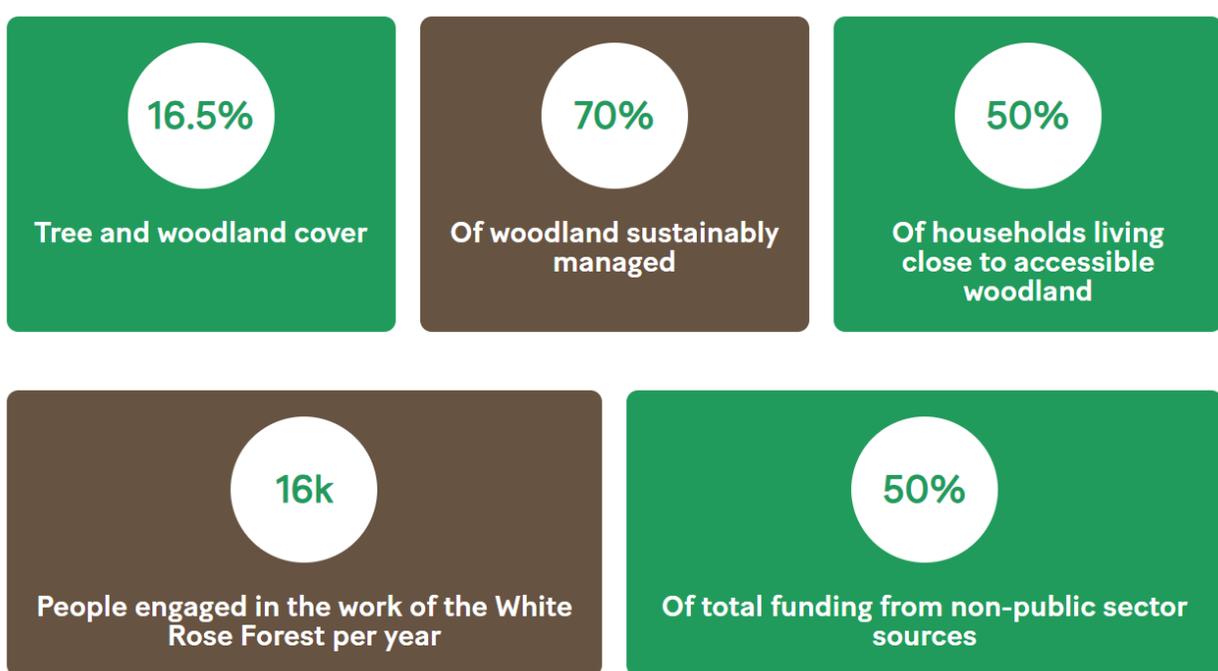


WRF – Key Issues

- Reduced Revenue Funding
- Need to Capitalise revenue to meet WRF team costs (increased capital funding is available).
- Working with Woodland Trust & National Trust
- New Grant Funding Agreement expected March/April 2026.



White Rose Forest – 2025-2050 Strategic Plan



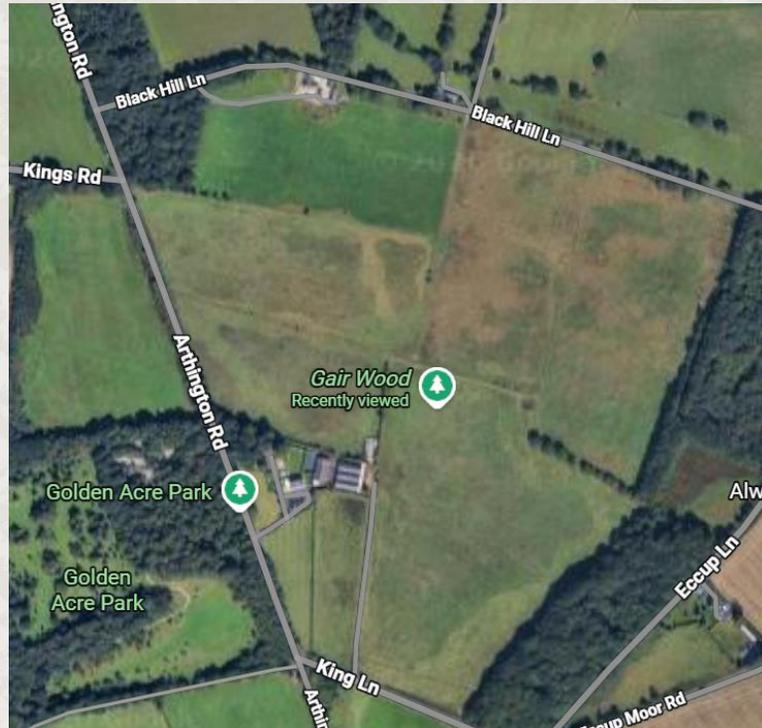
Our Vision for 2050

The White Rose Forest partnership is leading landscape transformation in North and West Yorkshire, creating a vast and varied treescape that connects and permeates our towns/cities and countryside. Our work has made our region more prosperous and resilient to a changing climate, improved health & wellbeing and supported nature recovery.



White Rose Forest – Creating a Legacy

Gair Wood, Leeds – already on the map!



WRF – Actions

- Creating new programme **RESTORE** to support more woodlands into management – but no funding in place at present.
- Trees for Climate funding means WRF will have a reduced team in place for next 15-20years.
- Connecting communities with these new woodlands e.g. naming, wardens, activities etc



White Rose Forest – In Summary

- **A successful Trees for Climate (TfC) programme for the WRF team.**
 - Establishing a national profile for WRF.
 - Delivering huge benefits for communities across Kirklees (and the rest of N & W Yorkshire).
- **New WRF Strategic Plan to kick-start a new era**
 - Building an effective WRF partnership
 - Securing support from a broader range of funding
- **New TfC programme will help WRF maintain its resources and manage the transition to a more sustainable WRF partnership**



Thank You - Any Questions?



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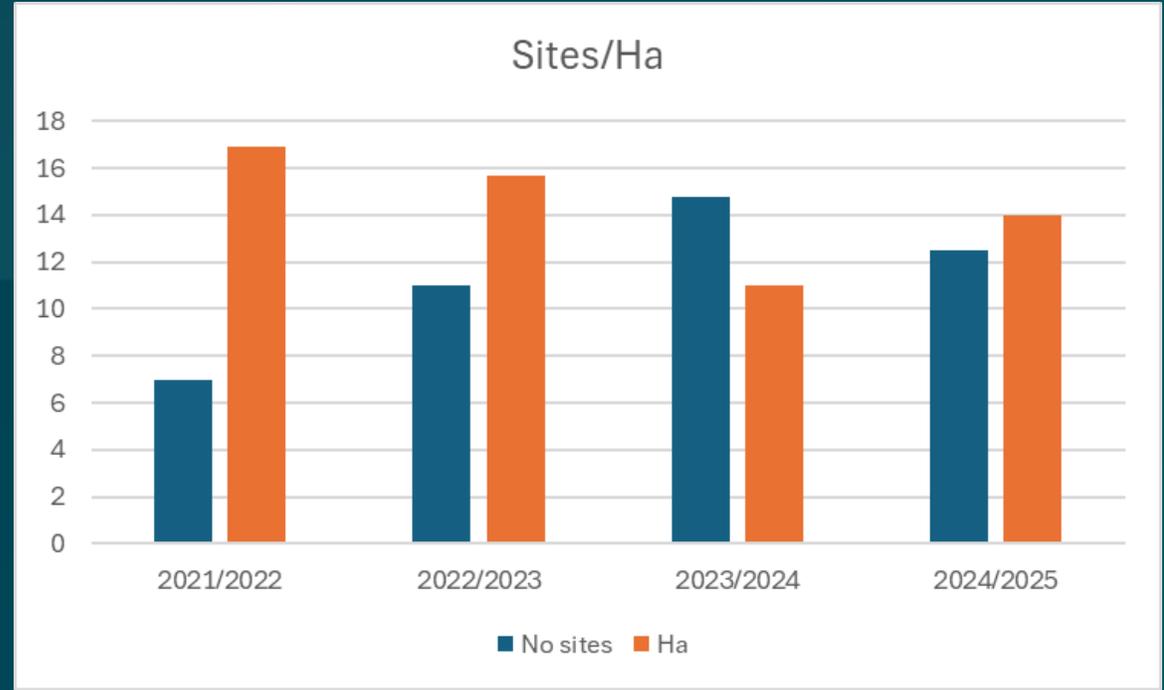


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Kirklees Woodland Creation

2021-2026

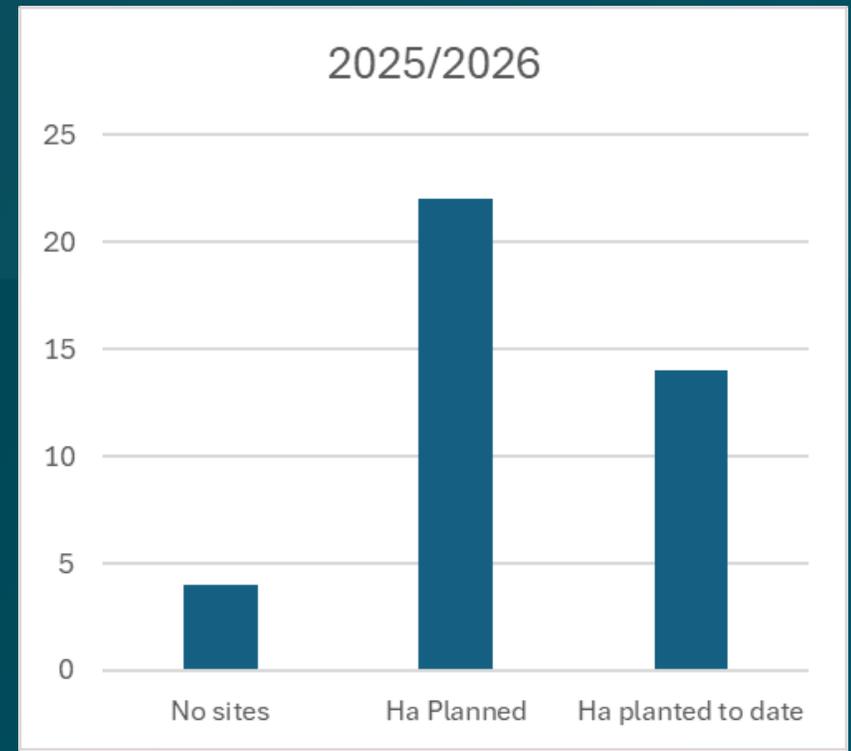




	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total Volunteers	933	627
Schools	6	5
Scout groups	3	1
Community groups	2	4
Public sessions	20	16
Delivery Partners	5	4



2021-2025 Seasons



	2025/2026
Total Volunteers	705
Schools	13
Scout groups	14
Community groups	13
Public sessions	23
Delivery Partners	4

Aftercare

- Funded for 15 years
- Alternate annual series of condition checks (stakes guards etc) > Beat up (restocking)
- Thinning planned year 10-15 (subject to growth rates)
- Currently developing Volunteer involvement/delivery of aftercare

Planting Season	23/24				24/25				25/26				26/27				27/28				28/29				29/30				30/31				31/32				32/33				33/34				34/35			
	Condition check	Beat up	remove guards	Thinning	Condition check	Beat up	remove guards	Thinning	Condition check	Beat up	remove guards	Thinning	Condition check	Beat up	remove guards	Thinning	Condition check	Beat up	remove guards	Thinning	Condition check	Beat up	remove guards	Thinning	Condition check	Beat up	remove guards	Thinning	Condition check	Beat up	remove guards	Thinning	Condition check	Beat up	remove guards	Thinning	Condition check	Beat up	remove guards	Thinning								
21-22		x			x					x					x		x						x		x								x															
22-23	x					x			x					x					x		x								x																			
23-24					x					x								x																														
24-25									x					x			x																x															x

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY PANELWork programme 2025/2026

Members: Cllr Andrew Cooper (Chair), Cllr David Longstaff, Cllr Musarrat Khan, Cllr Will Simpson, Cllr John Taylor, Cllr Matthew McLoughlin, Kevin Evans (Co-Optee), VACANT (Co-Optee)

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
THEME/ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES / ACTIONS
Simpler Recycling and Split Collections	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 13th August 2025</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on Simpler Recycling and Split Collections following changes to Kirklees Council's collections as per government policy</p>	<p>RESOLVED: The Panel noted the report Simpler Recycling and it was recommended that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement with the third sector and adult social care be held to reach vulnerable groups and support inclusive engagement. 2. Inclusive design features, such as labelling on the inside of bin lids, be considered to support residents with dementia. 3. Engagement with schools be maintained to ensure alignment between household and school recycling practices.

	<p>September Meeting Cancelled</p>	
<p>Snow Wardens Scheme Update</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 8th October 2025</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on the Snow Wardens Scheme.</p>	<p>RESOLVED: the Panel noted the presentation, and it was recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Guidance on use of shovel's be provided to volunteers. (2) The service give consideration to the prioritisation of snow wardens in in areas without access to grit bins or network gritting, as a potential means of addressing service coverage gaps. (3) The Portfolio Holder provide a follow-up response to the Panel regarding how the Council intended to support residents of new housing developments during challenging winter weather. (4) Nick Jenkin, Business development Manager would meet with Councillor Andrew Cooper regarding the promotion of the Snow Warden Scheme in areas of lower take up. (5) Helpful feedback demonstrating the value of the scheme be collated and shared with the panel in future years.

<p>Fly-tipping Update</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 26th November 2025</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on Fly-tipping Update.</p>	
<p>Keeping Britain Tidy</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 26th November 2025</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider a presentation from Keeping Britain Tidy.</p>	<p>RESOLVED: The Panel noted the update and it was recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The final outcomes of the ‘Love Where You Live’ Heckmondwike project be shared with the Panel on completion. 2. Contact be made with the LGA ‘Neighbourhoods Policy Committee’ to identify how they may work in partnership with Keeping Britain Tidy to amplify similar messages on a national level.
<p>Playable Spaces</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 7th January 2026</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on Playable Spaces</p>	<p>RESOLVED: The Panel noted the update Solutions to fly-tipping, and it was recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Communications in relation to ‘Bulky Waste’ Collections discounts be refreshed to raise awareness of the offers. (2) Will Acornley meet with Councillor Taylor in relation to the member engagement workshops. (3) Data showing the number of fly tipping incidents/volume of rubbish in each fly-tip be included and provided to the Panel. (4) Engagement with scrutiny continue throughout the development of the strategy and prior to Cabinet approval (5) Concerns around sentencing be fed back to the LGA to support raising the voice of local government.

		<p>(6) Keeping Britain's Tidy Fly-Tipping-Action Plan be shared with the Panel.</p> <p>(7) A Panel visit to the Enforcement team be arranged via the Governance Officer.</p>
LEVI Update	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 7th January 2026</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider the LEVI Update</p>	
Annual Update on Flood Risk	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 11th February 2026</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider the Annual Update on Flood Risk</p>	
White Rose Forest (Delivery) and Kirklees Woodland Creation Update	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 11th February 2026</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider presentations on White Rose Forest (Delivery) and Kirklees Woodland Creation Update.</p>	
Net 0 Update (TBC)	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 17th March 2026</u></p>	

Lane Rental Update / Moving traffic offences (tbc)	<u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 17th March2026</u>	
<u>Informal Briefings</u>		
TBC	Air Quality Update	

Golden Threads:

The Panel will consider and would like to receive information around the following themes throughout its programme of work

- Climate Impact
- Risks and Opportunities
- Partnership work, links to other opportunities and engagement
- Communications; i.e.- how is the council using communications to deliver messaging, raise awareness of issues and provide information

Items /themes not yet scheduled:

- Pollution Update
- Lane Rental Update
- Moving traffic offences (tbc) try to line up with lane rental
- Parks and Green spaces Update
- Huddersfield District Heat Network (progress update on the full business case and additional delegations)
- LEVI
- Waste Strategy Update
- Net 0 Update