

## **Appendix B**

### **Progress and Implementation Plan 23/24**

#### **The “Annual Progress and Implementation Plan”**

Progress against the 32 actions in the 2013 Strategy have previously been reported annually through the Councils Overview and Scrutiny process using a “traffic light system”. A substantial amount of work has been carried out over the last few years which has improved both the Councils evidence base and the local infrastructure to help manage local flood risk. Much of this work has not been reported through the annual review and it is appropriate now to highlight progress made with such initiatives. The approach, since 2019, has been to move away from rigid reporting against the action plan to summarising the work carried out in the previous year, with reference to the action plan. The annual reporting mechanism is now through this ‘**Annual Progress and Implementation Plan**’. The plan provides more specific details on

- The current understanding of the location and extent of local flood risk
- progress against the Local Strategy objectives
- a record of works and studies carried out in the previous year, which are relevant to the Local Strategy objectives
- Working with Planning colleagues to influence planning decisions to take account of flood risk
- priorities for the forthcoming year

**The Plan gives a clearer appreciation of what the council needs to do, how it intends to do it and what it has actually done.**

## 1. Progress against the Actions Delivering the Objectives

**Note:** The outstanding measures from the 2013 Strategy form the basis of the action plan in the updated 2019 Strategy and are outlined below:

Ref.	Measure	How will we measure success?	Timescale for the Action	Actions from February 2022	Planned Actions up to March 2024
1.1	Assessment of High Flood Risk Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the assessment of the highest risk locations</li> <li>• Have a clear understanding of the type and size of flood risk at each location</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review completed studies; options considered viable are on EA Medium Term Plan.</li> <li>• Viable options within cluster study areas 3, 4 and 5 have progressed onto the EA MTP Plan and a detailed option study to be awarded in 2023 to assist with a business case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to undertake flood studies at known locations on the highway network.</li> </ul>
1.2	Improve Skills and Knowledge of FRM Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a multi-skilled team</li> <li>• Encourage knowledge transfer from technical consultants</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New CCTV Crawler Unit and Push Road camera equipment purchased. Staff training ongoing by Supplier.</li> <li>• New CDM Client Training completed.</li> <li>• New Planning Technician appointed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue with staff training and development</li> </ul>
2.1	Publish and distribute information explaining responsibilities, local flood risk, property protection/ resilience etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify programme of community engagement</li> <li>• Produce information templates</li> <li>• Complete programme of community engagement</li> </ul>	Ongoing (2018-23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new Sandbag Leaflet has been produced on our flood risk management internet page.</li> <li>• Draft Land Drainage Consent web content and Application forms developed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise the Land Drainage Consent webpages and possible new Charges</li> </ul>
2.2	Involve local communities in local initiatives and schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an engagement programme which encourages information exchange (assets and flood incidents) with residents</li> </ul>	See above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEFRA Property Flood Resilience Grant has completed.</li> <li>• A water level monitoring trial is ongoing to monitor debris load with a local business at a debris screen to develop a local enhanced warning system.</li> <li>• Community Flood Wardens have volunteered in 4 high risk flooded areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue with the onsite trial in developing a local flood warning system as part of WY FLIP programme.</li> <li>• Formalise Community Flood Groups and support offer</li> <li>• Continue with the Sandbag trials in two most flooded areas.</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandbag trial in two areas are progressing. LRF bid of £3k was successful to purchase Floodsax</li> </ul>	
<b>3.1</b>	Identify highest risk open and culverted watercourses, highway drains and other drainage/flood features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a prioritisation process to rank watercourses and other drainage systems/assets</li> <li>• Develop a program of condition surveys on high priority assets</li> <li>• Compile a list of highest risk council-maintained drainage systems</li> </ul>	March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1 of the Debris Screen Study has completed with around 40 screens surveyed.</li> <li>• Flood Alleviation Study has been awarded to look at the causes at five highway road flooding incidents to be completed in March 2023.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commence year 2 of Debris Screen Study in detailing and costing the improvement works and seek additional delivery funding.</li> <li>• Develop an assessment process which highlights surface water drainage systems which are under capacity – ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>3.2</b>	Develop an affordable cyclical and reactive maintenance regime based on risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document the inspection/maintenance regime for trash grilles</li> <li>• Document the cleansing process for road gullies including performance management</li> <li>• Document an affordable inspection/maintenance process for significant highway culverts</li> </ul>	March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debris screens inspections were increased to reflect a risk-based approach associated with increased weather risk</li> <li>• Officer with Highway Structure colleagues have been inspecting and locating culverts to add to our database.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the work to establish a periodic low-cost inspection regime for higher priority culverts.</li> </ul>
<b>4.1</b>	Identify highest risk private flood defence and drainage assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document a process to record and risk-assess significant private drainage assets</li> <li>• Compile a list of highest risk privately maintained drainage systems</li> </ul>	Oct 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assets continue to be recorded.</li> <li>• Difficult to resource a planned programme of inspections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a process to record private drainage assets when resources allow</li> </ul>
<b>5.1</b>	Develop proposals to engage with landowners to embrace land management techniques and initiatives which help to reduce the rate of surface water run-off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support council and regional initiatives to implement NFM measures</li> <li>• Identify local landowners in higher priority areas and offer encouragement/advice and support to help them to reduce surface water run-off.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working closely with community led groups in the Holme and Colne valleys to support where possible.</li> <li>• Continue to support Our Future Landscapes Strategy partners.</li> <li>• Supporting in an advisory capacity the White Rose Forest programme in Kirklees.</li> <li>• Working with National Trust in delivering their Landscapes for Water project around March Haigh area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop longer term plans to engage with smaller landowners to share advice on implementing low-cost, high-impact NFM measures.</li> <li>• Continue to work with National Trust, Yorkshire Water and Woodlands Trust in developing NFM solutions in Kirklees.</li> </ul>
<b>6.1</b>	Develop and deliver a pragmatic programme of schemes and initiatives which are likely to be funded through the National Programme or Local Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate the outputs of the studies carried out in Item 1.1 into an affordable long-term works programme</li> <li>• Deliver the programme, optimising the use of council budgets to attract external funding</li> </ul>	March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of the priority schemes on the EA MTP programme with a value of £30m is regularly reviewed (subject to viability).</li> <li>• Southview Road, East Bierley – surface water improvement scheme to complete in 2023.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop the identified works in the programme into business cases that can be submitted through the grant funding process.</li> </ul>



## 2. Summary of Flood Management Initiatives carried out in 2022/23 to support the Strategy

Many of the actions outlined in the 2013 Strategy involved establishing new council procedures to investigate flood events, introduce more robust data collection processes and to establish the LLFA as the main point of contact for the management of local flood risk.

A number of other actions in the 2013 Strategy involved improving the council's understanding of the location and size of local flood risk and developing a programme of mitigation measures to manage the risk. Some progress has been made on these actions through a variety of studies and works which have provided information and drainage infrastructure improvements. Some projects have been opportunistic, resolving immediate issues and others have formed part of a broader programme to better understand local flood risk. The latter is part of an iterative process to, ultimately, provide interventions at a local level in an informed and prioritised way.

The initiatives carried out in the last year are detailed below:

Initiative	Date Completed	Purpose	Budget (£,000's)	Funded by (Council or External)	Benefits
DEFA PFR Grant Scheme	2022	To install property level protection to reduce internal flooding	£300	DEFRA	Homeowners with properly level flood protection.
Sandbag Leaflet	2022	Education leaflet to flood risk communities	N/A	Council	To support communities in understanding the benefits and use of sandbags
EA Culvert Programme Phase 2	2022	To improve asset condition of high-risk culverts.	£102	EA	Improving the asset condition will prevent blockages/collapses which ensure neighbouring properties don't flood.
Kirklees Highway Culvert Improvement Scheme	2022	To improve asset condition of high-risk culverts.	£60	Council	Improving the asset condition will prevent blockages/collapses which ensure neighbouring properties don't flood.
South View Road – SW improvements	2023	Improve the existing drainage capacity	£58	GiA	To help better protect properties from flooding.
Multiple Flood Studies – Clusters 3/4/5, Marsden, Milnsbridge Golcar, North Mirfield Canker	Ongoing	To further develop in more detail flood alleviation options.	£52	Local Levy	To help better protect properties from flooding.
Debris Screen Study	Ongoing	To improve asset condition of high-risk debris screens	£550	Local Levy	Improving the asset condition will prevent blockages/collapses which ensure neighbouring properties don't flood.
WY FLIP - Water Level Monitoring trial in ordinary watercourses	Ongoing	To identify higher risk locations and mitigation options	N/A	Council	Support severe weather incident management and a risk-based approach to asset management
WY FLIP Programme – Mental Health	Ongoing	Establish a tiered mental health support package for flood victims like a dedicated check in service.	160	Local Levy	To provide a Mental Health care support check in service for flood victims
Sandbag Pre-Deployment Trial	Ongoing	To support flood risk communities in advance of severe weather	£5K	Council	To better protect high risk communities from property flooding
Gully Cleansing telemetry	Ongoing	To record gully cleansing operation – gully visits and gully condition	N/A	Council	Electronically recorded data can be used to better understand gully condition, gang outputs and gully round efficiency.

A couple of additional studies are ongoing to understand the surface water flood risk (cause of the flooding in the areas) with outline recommendations being made. A programme of mitigation measures can now be developed to address the locations at highest risk with greatest impact. These will require further detail assessments and grant funding for these will be sought but often do not generate all the funding required.

In broad terms, the risk of flooding is such that major flood defence schemes to reduce the risk to property are likely to be unaffordable. Whilst a substantial number of residential properties in the district are at risk from river flooding, and a significant amount of historic industrial buildings lie adjacent to the river, the funding formula for the national Flood Grant in Aid programme is such that it won't generate significant amounts of grant funding to make such schemes affordable.

Funding opportunities are regularly considered and developed where resources permit as alternative funding means to bridge funding gaps or to act as standalone initiatives. WY FLIP is a **collaborative programme** which aims to enable local authorities, academia, industry and the third sector to increase the **resilience of the region to flooding** and the impacts of climate change. The focus of the Programme will be to collaboratively develop innovative funding bids to attract significant funding to West Yorkshire over the next 6 years, bringing resource to the region as a national flagship for collaborative working, innovation and resilience. It has secured £160K springboard funding to establish and develop the Programme over the next 2 years. More information can be found [here](#). One of the WYFLIP projects being by Kirklees Council is the Mental Health support that can be established, working with partners that currently operate in this area, with a focus on our flood communities.

Natural Flood Management is key part of the solution to flood risk management and compliments wider Council and partner organisations priorities. Hence, the approach being taken is done on a catchment wide basis using a multi-agency approach to gain multiple benefits such as flood risk mitigation, supporting biodiversity, carbon sequestration, impact on Climate Change. The key partners include Environment Agency, River Trusts, White Rose Forest (covering West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire) and Our Future Landscapes Partnership (covering the Holme and Colne catchments).

Improved management of the Council's own drainage systems (culverted watercourses and highway drainage) has continued to make optimum use of limited budgets. As part of this a priority gullies list has been established which records indicate have historically resulted in property flooding. These gullies will be prioritised in our flood risk response activities.

### **3. Priorities for 2023/24**

Much of the groundwork to establish information, assessment and performance management processes has been completed and future work will concentrate on making best use of our greater knowledge base. Remain abreast of emerging new climate science to ensure the Council is in the best position to respond. It is important to not only respond to flood mitigation using engineering defences but seek out sustainable options such as opportunities to slow the flow. National priorities and policies for flood risk management are developing with an emphasis on managing flooding at source (natural flood management), ensuring that new developments minimise flood risk and that current climate change predictions are factored into hydraulic assessments. Enhancing community resilience is a key part of the solution to the managing local flood risk so building volunteering capacity in our flood communities is key.

The main priorities for 2023/24 are therefore:

- Adopt a new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Continue our efforts in S19 and flood investigations to enhance our flood risk and asset knowledge.
- Continue the high-level area flood risk assessment programme to help understand the location and size of flood risk in our highest risk areas
- Continue with our engagement/information-sharing programme with local ward members and at-risk communities
- Continue planning compliance on recent development sites in flood risk areas.
- Support regional initiatives around developing discussions with major landowners on land management practices which minimise surface water run-off
- Work with communities to building resilience by establishing local flood groups.
- Map out NFM opportunities in Kirklees with partner organisation.