

REPORT TITLE:

Meeting:	Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee
Date:	27th February 2024
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Graham Turner
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No. This is an annual review.
Purpose of Report : To provide an annual review of Flood Risk Management Activities.	
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. This is an annual review of activities of the Flood Risk Management Department. Reasons for Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	
<p>Resource Implications: The potential enactment of Schedule 3 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 for 2024/25 will have significant resource implications. DEFRA (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) have given no indication of a fixed time frame to date and is yet to perform a national consultation exercise. This is detailed in Section 2 and Appendix C.</p>	
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	David Shepherd 1 st February 2024
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Isabel Brittain (Phil Deighton) 31 st January 2024
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft (Karl Larrard) 31 st January 2024

Electoral wards affected: All wards affected.

Ward councillors consulted: No consultation undertaken.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? YES

1. Executive Summary

Strategies, Plans and Statutory Obligations

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy : Completed subject to ratification at Cabinet on 20th February 2024 and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will be updated on this as appropriate.

Suds (Sustainable Drainage Systems) Approval Body : The enactment of Schedule 3 of Floods and Water Management Act 2010 in England is still proposed by central government with no fixed timetable. A consultation stage yet to be commenced. The Council continues to monitor the situation.

Severe Weather Plan: A revision of the Severe Weather Plan has been completed incorporating amended pre-operational flood plans for the district.

2023 Work Programmes Progress in addition to statutory duties include:-

- Commencing pre-deployment trials for Floodsax for Liversedge and Middlemost Ponds resident's flood groups.
- Culvert programme extension completed. (900 properties better protected)
- Debris Screen Study cost estimate appraisal completed, leading to Grant in Aid (GIA) funding bid 2024 for improving screens to current standards.
- Kirklees Council's plans to enhance community resilience by tackling mental health issues caused by flooding has been approved by West Yorkshire FLIP (Flood Innovation Programme) partners to progress to grant application stage.
- Site trials of watercourse level sensors at Crimble Clough, Slaithwaite, continue to give the Flood Risk Management team increased intelligence on catchment responses to rainfall and if early warnings of debris screens are feasible.
- Working with Wakefield and Leeds City Councils, Kirklees has been involved with the Discovery Phase of a scheme funded by the Department of Levelling up, Housing and Community (DLUHC) and supported by the West Yorkshire FLIP to examine the use of new remote sensing technology to provide an advanced flood warning system. If the Business Case resulting from this phase is accepted by DLUHC, it is anticipated that further funding will become available for an Alpha Stage to try out the new system in selected locations within the 3 councils.
- Partnership working with Network Rail and Environment Agency to develop a scheme to reduce likelihood of flooding by upgrading a major debris screen at Howley Beck, Batley.
- High level flood alleviation studies commenced for several cross-district locations (clusters) aimed at slowing the flow and attenuation in high-risk areas. Expect feasibility reports early to mid-2024. Our ambition to look at £2m bid, better protecting 200 properties.

- High level studies examining opportunities for natural flood management (NFM) locations across the district with the aim of slowing flows in upland catchments to reduce the flood risk to downstream communities This complements partnership working with National Trust/Yorkshire Water/ River Trusts/Woodland Trusts/etc. A Draft report anticipated January 2024 to be followed by a Stakeholder Workshop in February 2024 to finalise the study findings.
- A business case has been submitted to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) for a flood alleviation scheme at Albert Street/Queens Mill Road comprising measures of lower the consequences of flooding by allowing flood waters to recede more rapidly (flood routing), complementing a proposed additional flood storage study by the Environment Agency whereby the likelihood of flooding is reduced. Decision imminent.

2. Information required to take a decision

Kirklees Local Flood Risk Management Strategies

The current **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy** was ratified in 2012 with an update in 2019. The details of progress against the action plan identified for the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee in 2023 is included in Appendix A.

Commenced in 2022 and progressed in 2023, a new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be considered at Cabinet on 20th February 2024 and the Committee will be updated on this as appropriate.

The strategy itself was presented to Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee separately on 5th December 2023. It has been agreed with the Chair not to include a repeat of the synopsis or the body of report in this briefing. Measures and actions proposed in the updated Strategy are produced in Appendix B.

Prior to the new local strategy being adopted, the existing measures and actions against the 2019 revision have continued. It is felt these measures largely align with the themes of the National Strategy with acknowledgement of increased emphasis on preparation for the use on innovative technologies, natural flood management opportunities, community resilience, and partnership working, going forward.

SUDS Approval Body (SAB)

As reported in 2023 for the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee, Schedule 3 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 provides a framework for the approval and adoption of sustainable drainage systems, including soakaways, grassed swales and detention basins, that will rest with Local Authorities. When compared with traditional techniques to hold back water, SUDS can also offer amenity and biodiversity values, and improvement in the quality of water discharging from the site.

High level design will no longer be considered in the planning process but will run alongside it and be managed by the SAB who will consult relevant bodies.

In addition, the Council will be expected to scrutinise detailed design with the aim of forming legal agreements to adopt and maintain (taking over responsibility) the new infrastructure.

There have been delays in providing detailed guidance to Local Authorities from DEFRA for the dates and methods of implementation of Schedule 3. Kirklees Flood Management Department as a member of ASA Policy Unit (Association of SUDS Authorities), has collaborated in producing Leadership Teams within Councils across the UK, information on resource implications (Appendix C). This has been included on the Council's corporate risk register.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) leading to Local Plan 2

2024/25 will see the flood risk management department concentrate its resources more toward the concept of Place Making. This will culminate in a significant body of work providing consultations to the planning department on individual applications for land allocation in the proposed local plan.

Prior to this exercise, Flood Risk Management and Planning Policy departments will work with the Environment Agency in procuring the services of consultants to produce an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). This is a bridging document produced to inform the local plan.

Risk is a measure of the likelihood combined with the severity of potential consequences of flooding. The potential consequences are dictated by decisions in the allocating of land for specific uses.

Kirklees Council will consider whether it can first, avoid risk through allocating enough land for development in the areas of least probability of flooding, and if not, second, can we adequately mitigate the risk of flooding within the guidelines of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)?

In short, selecting the best of the rest for recommendations in the local plan which is subject to public consultation.

The SFRA brings together the latest river (fluvial) and surface water (pluvial) models to inform the Local Plan of areas of greater risk, and looks to future proof decisions made by incorporating the estimated effects of climate change in increasing flood risk.

For river flood risk, the supporting document sets out areas 'where water has go, or be stored' using set parameters that examine the likelihood of flooding through its definition of 'functional floodplain'.

The functional floodplain is limited to essential infrastructure or water compatible development only. This therefore acts as strict flood avoidance tool and sets a marker not only for housing and commercial allocations within the local plan, but also for planning applications (windfall sites) submitted in the years to come.

The public consultation feedback on Kirklees's proposed Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was clear. Stakeholders wanted as strong a stance as possible on land allocations in relation to flood risk avoidance.

In production of an updated SFRA we will therefore seek to have a stricter definition of functional floodplain than was promoted in the 2016 version which was in accordance national standards defined in NPPF at that time.

Additionally, the SFRA will advise on how to avoid inappropriate and unsustainable development outside the functional floodplain (as defined by NPPF) using the sequential test process.

The sequential test process is a comparative tool that aims to steer commercial and housing allocations to areas of least risk. Sites that fail this test when compared to others will not be allocated in the proposed local plan.

Where sufficient land is unavailable to allocate in the lowest risk zone, certain sites may pass a sequential test but then be subject to an exceptions test.

The exceptions test is not an avoidance tool as it accepts some risk. It is defined as a risk mitigation tool which will be subject to debate through public consultation. Such allocations will be expected to lower risk to acceptable standards as defined in NPPF.

We recognise of course that there are several additional factors at play when developing the local plan. Debates over allocating land for development in areas of low flood risk may receive scrutiny for other reasons, e.g. green belt land. Such factors may carry more weight than flood risk when difficult decisions are made.

The SFRA will also inform policy development and related guidance documents. This will include examining the impacts of development on existing flood risk through management of surface water flood risk on site, the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems, and the potential for additional measures including the use of Natural Flood Management.

We envisage additional advice for opportunities to link sustainable drainage to biodiversity net gain and amenity aspects of development.

Yorkshire Water has received an initial invitation to examine how Kirklees can help its risk management partner through the SFRA, in reducing contamination spills in severe weather from combined sewer overflows, thus helping prevent pollution via flood risk mitigation measures.

Emergency Planning.

Last year has seen the production of a revised **Severe Weather Plan incorporating Pre-Operational Flood Plans**. The Flood Management department provides intelligence on high risk areas and informs operational requirements within the plan in collaboration with our Highways Colleagues and the Emergency Planning Department.

The review of the effectiveness of previous versions of plans and their execution has seen development in the following areas:-

- Advanced deployment of sandbags in key locations
- Training of volunteer staff from multiple departments as 'spotters'.

- Revised observation locations for spotters in line with flood risk intelligence and risk assessment.
- Revised Trash Screen priority list using principles of asset management.

The use of spotters evolves from public feedback on Council presence during previous extreme storms, notably boxing day 2015, where events proved more severe than forecasts predicted. Their role has evolved subsequently after debriefs and reviews of operational performance of the Council, in discussion with the Environment Agency and emergency services.

The role extends beyond being a Kirklees presence on the ground within our communities to answer questions and provide feedback to a central command from residents. They provide live information by checking river levels and other areas where flooding is predicted, and feedback intelligence used to direct our resources efficiently.

There will be a presentation to committee on Flood Events - Emergency Planning and our Communities to support this report. Slides from the presentation have been included in Appendix D.

Community Flood Resistance and Resilience Work

A summary of flood management initiatives carried out in 2023/24 to support the strategy is included in Appendix A, including a synopsis of purpose and potential benefits.

Examples of work direct with the community includes the sandbag pre-deployment trial with the Middlemost Ponds and Liversedge Community Group. In these two cases the stock is always available.

Although there is no legal obligation for Councils to provide sandbags (or gel bag alternatives), Kirklees Council has elected to continue to offer assistance subject to resources being available, and prioritised based on vulnerability for any resident caught unawares as flooding has never occurred previously. Unfortunately, this is not often practicable in a reaction to district wide event.

Where residents know that they are at risk, they are encouraged to purchase their own stock ready for instant deployment. This is encouraged in official recommendation to government in the Pitt Report 2008 for communities to become self-reliant and more resilient.

Kirklees Council has elected to continue to assist specific communities of known risk. This is either done by a sandbag drop off when flood warnings are received or a pre-deployment trial in the case of Liversedge, where a central stock is provided and permanently stored for the community in a container located in the grounds of a local church.

Kirklees Flood Management have agreed to work with Liversedge ward Councillors going forward to promote better resistance and resilient opportunities due to the limitations of sandbags as a flood prevention method. An improved form of community resilience lies in the promotion of property flood resilience that can slow the entry of water into a property, and work in conjunction with submersible pumps for the duration of the flood.

Schemes have been available in Kirklees where national grants have been offered subject to the severity of flooding in a region.

In the case of Middlemost Ponds, an engineered scheme is being promoted in consultation with the Environment Agency and residents and the original developer of the estate, whereby alterations in local land levels could encourage an overland flow route away from vulnerable properties. This would negate the need for sandbags.

Hurst Lane in Mirfield has now been removed from our Severe Weather Plans list of pre deployment of sandbags upon receiving flood warnings. In this instance the community has benefitted from the installation of a flood gate to the walled courtyard of the vulnerable properties. The gate was secured using from grant funding from central government and provides more certainty of protection than sandbags can offer. The closing the gate acts as instant and easy action for residents to better defend their properties.

Kirklees Council, with the support of West Yorkshire Flip, is applying for funding to tackle the impact of flooding of homes on the mental health of residents. This aspect of community well being has been neglected in the past and is seen as pioneering work in the support of community resilience (ability to recover).

A presentation on the proposals will be given to Committee to support this presentation. The presentation slides have been included in Appendix E.

Working on surface water flood risk at the boundaries with other West Yorkshire districts

In response to queries raised by the Overview Scrutiny and Management Committee 20th December 2023 on the Kirklees Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, the Flood Management Department has raised the issue with our West Yorkshire colleagues.

Opportunities for working with other Councils are already present through collaboration via West Yorkshire FLIP and the discussion of business case development for Grant in Aid and Local Levy flooding bids at Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meeting.

However, to specifically target potential border issues for surface water and ensure they are captured, it has been discussed and agreed to place this item on the agenda for meetings of senior West Yorkshire Flood Risk practitioners, where general issues and best practice are discussed and shared. Agreed actions resulting from discussions will then be followed up and development as appropriate.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The strategy has and will have an increasing focus on community resilience to mitigate the consequences of flooding reflects national strategy. Consequences and the management of that aspect of risk should not only concentrate on property, but individual and community

safety and well-being. We continue to focus on community engagement both strategic level with public consultation and workshops on our strategy, and at community level, aiming at encouraging better preparedness before a storm event, better property level protection during, and improved recovery outcomes after flood events.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Council will continue to work pro-actively with other risk management authorities, including the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water, to share information, develop joint initiatives and provide clarity on the responsibilities of management of flood risk.

Our partnership networks include large landowners such as The National Trust and several 'special interest groups' with shared or complementary goals such as the Woodland Trust and Moors for the Future.

Best practice is sought through regular meetings with other West Yorkshire Councils and National associations such as ASA.

3.3 Place Based Working

Our work continues the diversity of the district and actions identified in the strategy pay regard to the needs of each community. Our new Local Strategy will aim to priorities areas of high-level flood risk but also recognise areas of social deprivation.

Our focus will be to work with local Councillors to better understand the issues that exist in our communities. Flood Community groups have been established and we continue to liaise with them on a strategic and local level. Such groups and individuals are crucial to gain information and knowledge and therefore better understanding of specific risk, seeking to use these relationships lead to effective solutions.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

We will deliver a catchment approach to managing the impacts of climate change in relation to flooding. Grant funded flood mitigation schemes include allowance for increased rainfall associated with climate change. An increasing emphasis on Natural Flood Management schemes, including ponds, detention basins, leaky dams, tree planting and use of water retaining plants ensure benefits of biodiversity and carbon sequestration in addition to flood risk management.

We continue in our role as statutory consultee to the Local Planning Authority for surface water flood risk. Conditions are set for approved applications that slow the flow from new development and temporarily store volumes of rainfall on site. Designs for attenuation include provision for increased rainfall in the future.

The implementation of Schedule 3 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 (Suds Approval Board) places the Council as the lead authority in ensuring sustainable drainage systems are prioritised, including their adoption and maintenance, a key step in tackling climate change with benefits in reducing carbon footprint.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

Not applicable.

3.6 Financial Implications

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been financed within Flood Management Revenue budgets for 2023/24. Local Authorities are obliged to produce such a document under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 to reflect changes at national level with the aims and policies of the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.

To bring together aims and aspirations of other Risk Management Authorities and stakeholders, including local communities and individuals, targeted and public consultations have been integrated into this document.

The strategy produces measures and actions to reduce flood risk in the district; to property; businesses; and infrastructure, with the benefit of reducing the financial impact of storm events, both in terms of the likelihood of a flood occurring, and the severity of the outcomes.

The average private insurance payout for a flooded property according to the Association of British Insurers is over £33,000, and can run into millions for businesses in terms of stock damage, physical damage and operational recovery.

The production of a new Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is a mandatory requirement of National Planning Policy Framework. A typical cost of a level one SFRA is around £40,000. However, a significant part of the cost is based on hydraulic modelling requirements. It is our proposal to combine a stricter definition of functional floodplain using models above the minimum stated requirement, that are largely available already. In addition, surface water modelling has already been produced for the LFRMS. The benefits of the SFRA in informing the local plan is to steer development away from the higher risk flood areas where reasonably practicable. In doing so the number of properties listed at risk from flooding as quoted in the LMRMS, will have limited or no increases through the use of this funded intelligence. Thus, concentrating on the principle of establishing safer communities.

3.7 Legal Implications

No legal implications. Kirklees Flood Management continues to carry out its statutory duties.

3.8 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed (awaiting ratification). It is being presented to cabinet on 20th February 2024 in accordance with council procedures.

4. Consultation

The flood risk management service will continue to consult members, local communities including flood groups, and our partners when developing flood mitigation projects.

The development of our new local strategy consulted Councillors, Parish Councillors, Flood Groups and residents and business owners, through direct contact, posters, letter drops, web and social media advertising. Documents were developed into accessible formats and an online survey (with support) was developed for opinions to be shared.

5. Engagement

Flood Risk Management will continue to engage our local communities when developing flood mitigation projects as a service provision.

Working alongside the Environment Agency continues to be crucial in the bidding for and progressing grant funded schemes. The EA will play a partnership role as a risk management authority and critical friend in developing a new Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Kirklees, which acts as a bridging document to inform the development of the Local Plan, its allocations, and policies.

We continue to engage with Highways and Emergency Planning for severe weather management.

6. Options

6.1 Options considered.

To progress the measures in the action plan through 2024/25 (Appendix), subject to Cabinet Approval of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, hearing 20th February 2024, and to consider the views expressed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

The paper is a presentation for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee's annual review of Flood Management activities against measures in the current 2012 strategy (updated 2019).

7. Next steps and timelines

The proposed new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is due to be presented to Cabinet on 20th February 2024 and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will be updated on this as appropriate.

Similar actions for statutory functions against the 2012 (updated 2019) plan will continue where appropriate. Additional actions for 2024/24 will reflect the change in emphasis partnership working, natural flood management, innovation in flood risk management.

8. Contact officer

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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 5th December 2023 Report

10. Appendices

- **Appendix A:** Progress and Implementation Plan 2023/4
- **Appendix B:** Proposed Action Plan 2024/5
- **Appendix C:** ASA Guide to implementation of Schedule 3
- **Appendix D:** Presentations Slides (Emergency Planning – Working with our communities.
- **Appendix E:** Presentation Slides: (Mental Health and Well Being)

11. Service Director responsible

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Appendix A

Progress and Implementation Plan 2023/4

The “Annual Progress and Implementation Plan”

Progress against the 32 actions in the 2012 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 2012 (revised) 2019 objectives.
- Action areas proposed against the new draft Local Strategy 2024 to be examined at cabinet 20th February 2024
- 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.

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 2012 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 in 2023
1.1	Assessment of High Flood Risk Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the assessment of the highest risk locations • Have a clear understanding of the type and size of flood risk at each location 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cluster studies of high risk locations completed, with Clayton West/Scissett to come, leading to further feasibility studies for attenuation of water.
1.2	Improve Skills and Knowledge of FRM Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a multi-skilled team • Encourage knowledge transfer from technical consultants 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV Crawler Unit and Push Road training completed. • SUDS training courses. • Planning Technician training ongoing. • Various seminars attended, including partnership funding, SUDS and NFM.
2.1	Publish and distribute information explaining responsibilities, local flood risk, property protection/ resilience etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify programme of community engagement • Produce information templates • Complete programme of community engagement 	Ongoing (2018-23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land drainage consent can be applied for online.
2.2	Involve local communities in local initiatives and schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an engagement programme which encourages information exchange (assets and flood incidents) with residents 	See above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovery phase of DLUHC funded early flood warning using remote sensors on watercourse completed. (Kirklees/Wakefield/Leeds/ICASP Partnership). • Community Flood Groups consulted on Local Flood Risk Management Strategy workshop. • Pre-deployment trials of Floodsax with Middlemost Pond and Liversedge flood groups commenced.
3.1	Identify highest risk open and culverted watercourses, highway drains and other drainage/flood features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a prioritisation process to rank watercourses and other drainage systems/assets 	March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 2 study of debris screens commenced. 17 screens identified for improvement to current standard. Topographical surveys

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a program of condition surveys on high priority assets • Compile a list of highest risk council-maintained drainage systems 		<p>commissioned to inform detailed design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline design possibilities for flood mitigation of high risk highways and public open space completed.
3.2	Develop an affordable cyclical and reactive maintenance regime based on risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document the inspection/ maintenance regime for trash grilles • Document the cleansing process for road gullies including performance management • Document an affordable inspection/ maintenance process for significant highway culverts 	March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debris screens analysed as part of an asset management improvement programme to optimise maintenance cycle completed.
4.1	Identify highest risk private flood defence and drainage assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document a process to record and risk-assess significant private drainage assets • Compile a list of highest risk privately maintained drainage systems 	Oct 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assets continue to be recorded as a routine part of the inspection process. Significant assets declared on webpages as required under Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
5.1	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"> • Support council and regional initiatives to implement NFM measures. • Identify local landowners in higher priority areas and offer encouragement/advice and support to help them to reduce surface water run-off. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFM opportunity mapping study across multiple land ownership completed and issued for consultation to stakeholder (Yorkshire Water, National Trust etc.)
6.1	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"> • Formulate the outputs of the studies carried out in Item 1.1 into an affordable long-term works programme. • Deliver the programme, optimising the use of council budgets to attract external funding 	March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with Environment Agency in managing business cases for funding in a 6 year cycle. • Southview Road, East Bierley – surface water improvement scheme completed 2023. • Albert Street/Queens Mill Road Flood Alleviation Scheme business case completed to obtain WYCA funding. Decision expected Feb 2024

2. Summary of Flood Management Initiatives carried out in 2023/24 to support the Strategy

A number of other actions in the 2012 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. 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 in the table below.

Initiative	Date Completed	Purpose	Budget (£,000's)	Funded by (Council or External)	Benefits
South View Road – SW improvements	2023	Improve the existing drainage capacity	£58	GiA	To help better protection properties from flooding.
Sandbag Pre-Deployment Trial	2024 (Ongoing)	To support flood risk communities in advance of severe weather	£15	Council	To better protect high-risk communities from property 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 protection 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	Develop a project that aims to tackle the issue of elevated rates of mental health illnesses in high-risk locations.	£400	Local Levy	To provide a Mental Health care support check in service for flood victims Improve overall resilience to flooding. Improve physical and mental wellbeing
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.
Middlemost Pond Study	Ongoing	To develop a feasible flood alleviation scheme at Middlemost Pond	£32	Local Levy	Better protect the local community from flooding
Albert Road	Ongoing	To construct a flood alleviation scheme in partnership with the Environment Agency and Highway Department.	£500	WYCA	To better protect businesses and key road network from flooding
Environment Agency Future Programme	Ongoing	An ongoing programme of proposed works that require feasibility and competitive bid writing to secure.	£6000	GiA + Local Levy	To secure a consistent funding stream to better protected properties in the medium to long term.

Several high level 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 detailed assessments to scope a project from which grant funding will be sought, through outline and detailed business cases, but often do not generate all the funding required.

In broad terms, experience shows that 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 defence 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, 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. Proposals have been agreed with WY FLIP partners in 2023 to be put forward as a business case for further funding.

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 Councils own drainage systems (culverted watercourses and highway drainage) has continued to make optimum use of limited budgets. As part 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 2024/25 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.
- Publish a revised Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform Local Plan 2.
- Work with communities to building resilience by establishing local flood groups.
- Map out NFM opportunities in Kirklees with partner organisation.
- Look at innovative technologies to aid in the monitoring of flood risk.

Strategic Theme	Ref	LFRMS Strategic Measure	Promoted Actions 2024/5
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. • Lead on the production of a new Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform the Local Plan and its policies.
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. • 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.
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. • Ensure information documents on our website are up to date. • Partner other Local Authorities and the Environment Agency through ASA workshops and West Yorkshire land drainage meetings.
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. (2024) • Audit commercial sites on an annual basis (select 10) for the fitting of private flow control devices. (2024)
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. • Review Asset Data on trash screens especially ownership and maintenance requirements – produce clear access to information via Kompass. • Presentations on importance of asset Recordings (Highways).

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"> • Submit and develop a further studies based on NFM opportunities mapping study to acquire grant funding (2024-5) • Application for funding through an EA initiative for 3 new opportunities for funding for NFM. (2024-5) • From Debris Screen Assessments, aim to replace/upgrade Council Assets to current standards. (2024-5) • Provide training on grant funding applications and incorporate the use of Grant Finder to access different funding pots and partnership funding (2024-5)
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 West Yorkshire Partners on 'information sources promoting Build Back Better' in terms of property flood resilience (2024/5) • Review 2022 grant take up of surveys and Property Flood Resilience (PFR) in all areas of the district (2024/5) • Sandbag review for key areas with the aim of promoting better resilience options.
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. (2024-6) • WYFLIP – Progress opportunities for funding bids for the use of cameras/telemetry to replace site inspections visits with instant remote observation. (2024-6) • Review Calder View, Mirfield, with Kirklees Highways and Gleeson Homes in terms of the estate road design and opportunities for the use of automatic flood warning signs.
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 and develop a further studies based on NFM opportunities mapping study to acquire grant funding (2024-5) • Combined the opportunities identified from studies with National Trust and Yorkshire Water schemes, working in harmony with White Rose Forest and Moors for the Future for a comprehensive district wide NFM funding pipeline. • Form a working group with internal partners, such as landscape architects, ecology, arboriculturists, climate change officers and planners to examine opportunities for SUDS and NFM to combine with biodiversity net gain targets.
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 (ongoing) • DLUHC funding with Wakefield and Leeds to look at level detection on watercourses and trash screen remote observation. • Use of extended Spotters list for information gathering covering wider areas (2024) • Review of Spotter Locations and Health and Safety Assessment to facilitate the above (2024)

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"> • Trash Screen Asset Management Review to optimize maintenance schedules – 2024 • Review priority gulley list – 2024 • Exploring the use of LoRaWAN for monitoring flood risk remotely • Review of culvert capacity beyond above screens subsequent to upgrading of trash screens. 2026 onward. • Modelling assessments on ordinary watercourses for capacity and attenuation incorporated into NFM Studies 2026- onward.
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 of Spotter Locations with a risk assessment for safety. Provide training for new volunteers (2023-4) • Review Gulley Blitz areas (annual) • 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) • Work with Emergency Planning to Review Post Flood Plans (2024-5) • 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 (annual) • Formalise flood groups where appropriate and encourage households located close to trash screens as observers for flood management (2024-26) • Liaise with West Yorkshire Council partners regarding promoting and working with communities to improve resilience by 'building back better' via an awareness campaign on web pages and social media (2024-25) • Work with WYCA on specifically looking at business resilience grant opportunities – target Mirfield and Albert Street 2024-26
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 2024-2026. • Work with Environment Agency to complement their flood warden work in the district, promoting individual and community flood plans 2024-6

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. Opportunities for flood alleviation schemes in deprived areas will be promoted due to the incentivised cost benefit analysis weighting for Grant in Aid Funding.
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).
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 2024-25 Ensure Web site has latest information regarding Flood Re from Association of British Insurers. Work with communications on promoting this on social media and targeted letter drops. (see above) WYFLIP – Progress funding bid for Mental Health Resilience to tackle consequences of flooding for victims. (2024-6) Work with ward members to promote better resistance and resilience techniques using property level protection grants where available as an improvement to sandbag usage.
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 for significant flooding where the cause is not immediately obvious, leading to requests for relevant flood risk management authorities to take this further. (ongoing) 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. 2024-2025

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) • Work with Emergency Planning to formalise post flood action plan 2024-25
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. 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.

Guide to implementation of Schedule 3

What is Schedule 3 and what does it mean for my local authority?

Schedule 3 originates from the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. Schedule 3 was not enacted with the rest of the Act. Instead, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in addition to making LLFAs statutory consultees to planning, to require the use of SuDS, seeking to implement the intentions of Schedule 3 using the current planning system. The [Jenkins review](#) (2020) concluded this approach was not working. DEFRA undertook a [review into the implementation of Schedule 3](#), published in January 2023, concluding that Schedule 3 should be implemented as written, with unitary or county councils as approving bodies. This conclusion was accepted by ministers with government now considering how to implement, alongside final scope, threshold and process, ahead of public consultation later this year (expected November) and implementation in 2024.

Schedule 3 provides a framework for the approval and adoption of drainage systems, an approving body (SAB), and national standards on the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of SuDS. Also, it makes the right to connect surface water runoff to public sewers conditional upon the drainage system being approved before any construction work can start.

DEFRA has acknowledged implementation of Schedule 3 will require professionals with the skills and knowledge to design, construct, assess and maintain SuDS. This would also extend to administrative and back-office functions. The review recommends that actions are developed to ensure there is sufficient access to the right skills and capabilities to deliver and maintain SuDS.

Construction work that meets the SAB threshold cannot begin until SAB approval is received. This is separate to planning permission. The SAB threshold and any staged rollout is likely to form part of the public consultation.

Schedule 3 implementation would lead to local authorities having new duties. The net additional cost of all new burdens placed on local authorities by central government must be assessed and funded. These costs will fall under the New Burdens Doctrine and a new burdens funding assessment will be required.

New workload:

- Back office review of roles and structure (management of the activities)
- Customer enquiries
- Receiving, validating, and taking payments for SAB pre-applications and full applications
- Discussions with applicants
- Site visit for initial assessment
- Technical evaluation of all new surface water drainage systems in accordance with national and local standards
- Managing the application process from validation to adoption
- Liaising with consultees (consideration and determination), both internal and external
- Ensuring a consistent response to both the SAB and Planning Application, for the same development proposal
- Calculating and processing non-performance bonds and commuted sums (arrangements TBC)
- Writing letters of refusal with reasons, letters of approval with conditions and letters requesting additional information
- Preparation for, and representation at appeals, hearings and inquiries
- Inspecting on site, all new surface water drainage during construction and discharging SAB approval conditions
- Enforcement issues (stop notices / legals / records) – note, LPA enforcement costs are not funded through application fees, with the cost borne by central budgets
- Statutory undertakers remedial work
- Negotiating and securing legal agreements (easements, transfer of land, maintenance, access etc)

- Recording assets on systems / designating assets
- Adopting, maintaining & inspecting all new “SAB adoptable” drainage systems, inc. managing S106 contributions (in accordance with Flood & Water Management Act 2010, Section 17.

Whilst costs to set up the SAB will come from New Burdens funding. Running costs are envisaged to be covered from the applications and approval processes.

The three main costs and funding are around:

a) The costs to set up the SAB :

The net additional cost of all new burdens placed on local authorities by central government must be assessed and funded.

b) The running costs of the SAB :

As part of the application process, the developer will pay an application fee, which will provide a means of funding the SAB’s operational costs. This is expected to result in a net-zero cost for the local authority. A DEFRA-led review of the SAB arrangements enacted in Wales reported SABs rely heavily on charges for technical assessment of pre-applications (including provision of advice and negotiation etc.) but are generally running at a loss.

c) The operation and maintenance costs of SAB adopted SuDS:

This may form part of the consultation. Various views on where this funding should come from including the following suggestions by DEFRA:

- Developers to provide means of funding, e.g. commuted sum
- There is a charge for surface water drainage as part of water bills. This amount for each house on a new development that drains rainwater to a SuDS could be transferred by the water company to the SAB
- Or, the household could get rebate on their water bill and instead pay a service charge of the same amount of the rebate to the SAB.

What can we expect?

DEFRA are currently undertaking multiple pieces of work prior to a public consultation. Current discussions on National Standards have looked to align with the changes proposed in the [review of the non-statutory technical standards](#) alongside a seventh standard to cover fees, adoption and maintenance. This is part of ongoing discussions and is expected to form part of the public consultation.

Schedule 3 was implemented in Wales in 2019. [Wales have recently published their lessons learnt](#) and DEFRA are keen to incorporate this learning into the implementation of Schedule 3 in England. We can learn a lot from Wales and we would encourage all Councils to take the time to familiarise themselves with the [Welsh statutory guidance](#) and [statutory standards](#) documents along with some of the local processes which can be found on each local authorities website.

What can we do now?

Internal briefings

Ensure that senior leadership and councillors are briefed on what Schedule 3 is and what the impacts are likely to be. Some of these will be consistent across all Councils, whilst some may have more specific concerns. It is encouraged to include Schedule 3 implementation on local Business Risk Registers

Think about your local standards

Whilst National Standards will be set, there may still be a requirement for local standards in some areas. It may therefore be prudent to delay any planned updates to local guidance until we have further clarity on Schedule 3. Alternatively, you may wish to discuss this with neighbouring LLFAs to collaborate on any future local standards to develop regional standards, as is the case for some LLFAs already.

Investigate local adoption processes

Talk to your Highway Authority and Water and Sewerage Company (WaSC). Both of these organisations already have adoption processes (from validation through to adoption and maintenance) and skilled staff. Now is the perfect time to understand how they work, the systems they use (case & asset management) and the skills their staff need. There could be opportunities for secondments, internal training or resource sharing.

Encourage team members to attend relevant CPD sessions and undertake further training

This could include free CPD sessions looking at new products/materials/software, specialist training from organisations such as CIRIA and CIWEM, or informal training internally/with partners looking at biodiversity, landscape etc.

Explore options for a paid advice service

Welsh SABs have experienced a very high uptake for pre-application/paid advice. This is an additional source of income for SABs which is reported to help reduce the workload of applications once they are made as officers are aware of sites and any issues have already been identified and hopefully resolved. Does your service already offer a paid advice service? If not, could this be easily implemented? What would it look like? Do your local planning authorities currently offer a paid advice service? If you already offer paid advice, could this service be easily adapted for the SAB role?

Engage with local with Developers & Consultants

The SAB journey will have lots of hurdles for local authorities, but it's important to remember it will be a big change for other stakeholders too. Are you talking to your local Developers & Consultants about these changes? What more could you do to improve working relationships and keep them updated on the changes at a national and local level? Mailing lists, developers forums and regular 'catch-ups' are options currently being used by some LLFAs.

Build links with Local Planning Authorities, Highways, Internal Drainage Boards, Open Space

Whilst the SAB role will be a standalone function, it's important to build relationships with other stakeholders where possible. These stakeholders may have valuable expertise/advice they can offer to help with establishing and running the SAB process, along with resources to help with the longer-term inspection and maintenance of adopted SuDS.

Construction training and experience of being on live construction sites

Most LLFAs do not currently inspect SuDS during construction. Working with partners (including housing developers) will help to identify knowledge gaps and opportunities for further informal training and identify where more formal training is required. It will also help staff to become more familiar with working on live construction sites, which only comes with experience.

Think about the number of staff you will need and where these people will come from

There's no obvious answer as to how many new staff each SAB will require and this will no doubt vary between authorities. Some LLFAs have estimated the need to expand staff numbers (which includes specialists in other teams, such as ecology & landscape) by a factor of between 2-4, however this estimate can only be refined further once we have a better idea of what the national standards and thresholds look like, and this will of course need to be calculated within future budgets. CIWEM has undertaken a review of local authority capacity to deliver current and future surface water flood risk management function: ['Surface water management – A review of the opportunities & challenges'](#).

It would be a worthwhile exercise to view your LPA Monitoring Report and national statistics, alongside any internal statistics, to see the number of major sites you're currently being consulted on. This number, multiplied by the application fee (once decided) could be a quick way to estimate annual income at an early stage and as such the number of people that could be employed. It could also help to identify any shortfall in funding/staff which can be flagged with DEFRA, or help to influence the fees charged for pre- applications and paid advice.

Commutated sums for SUDS

Work with other departments to understand how commuted sums may be calculated for SUDS assets, in line with the ADEPT (formerly County Surveyors Society) guidance document 'Commutated Sums for Maintaining Infrastructure Assets', with an accompanying design standards document to support this. Some authorities may already have relevant examples where the Highways authority adopt SUDS under Sections 38 and/or 278 of the Highways Act 1980.

Update your local webpage

Updating your local webpage so it's ready to host SAB information and updates to the development community could be a quick win and is [something Warwickshire have done already](#).

Flood Events – Emergency Planning Working with Our Communities

Martin Jordan

Kirklees Council Emergency Planning Team

February 2024

Kirklees Council Severe Weather Plan

- Activation
- A range of weather types and impacts, inc. rain and flooding
- Action cards
- Formal command structure and WhatsApp Group
- Training, exercising and debriefing activations
- Other Emergency Plans
- The Plan provides a framework for the response, but equally as important is good quality communication between everyone with a response role.



During a Flood – Communities

- Work collaboratively with multiple Council teams and partner organisations
- Share information with members of the public via appropriate communication channels (e.g. @KirkleesWinter and community resilience literature)
- Intelligence led response



During a Flood – Flood Spotters

- In Oct 2023, Emergency Planning and Flood Management jointly trained 44 staff from Communities, and KHN to work as Flood Spotters.
- Role:
 - Observe river levels, drainage assets and impacts at mapped locations.
 - Be a visible presence on site to answer questions from the public and gather information on community needs.
 - Provide information to the command structure and operational response teams to ensure the response is intelligence led. This ensures the best possible deployment of Council and partner resources, and a proportionate response to impacts.
- Also, if appropriate, we can obtain intelligence from 130 ‘Emergency Volunteers’ who will observe and report on flooding and impacts in the short term, close to where they live.

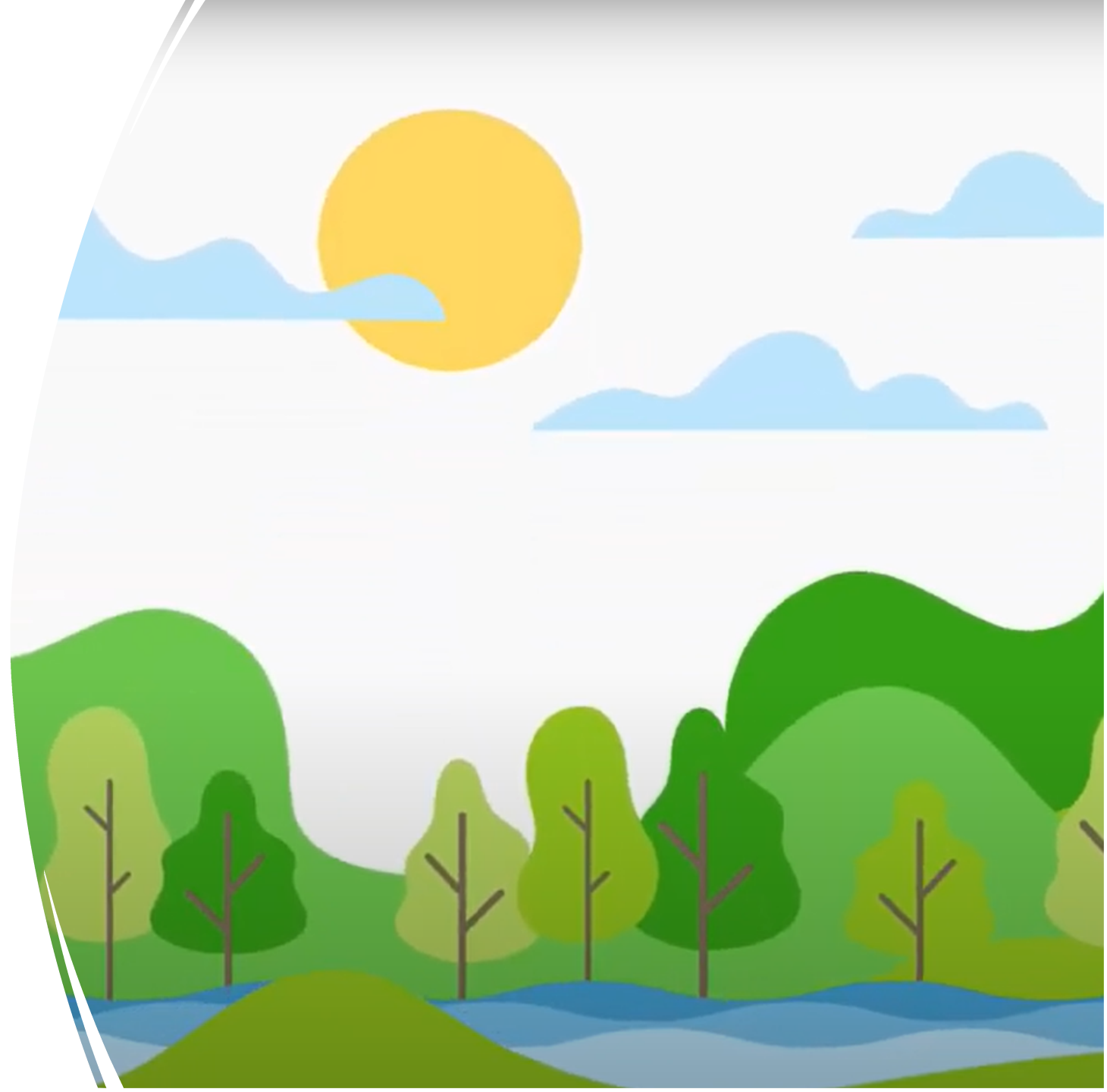


Storm Babet



Mental Health and Wellbeing Project

In Partnership with
West Yorkshire FLIP
and ICASP





The West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Project – WY FLIP

All 5 Local authorities have come together to seek new innovative ways to secure investment into flood resilience

The authorities share in the support of ICASP a support service that links to universities

They also provide support to each other and encourage cross district partnership

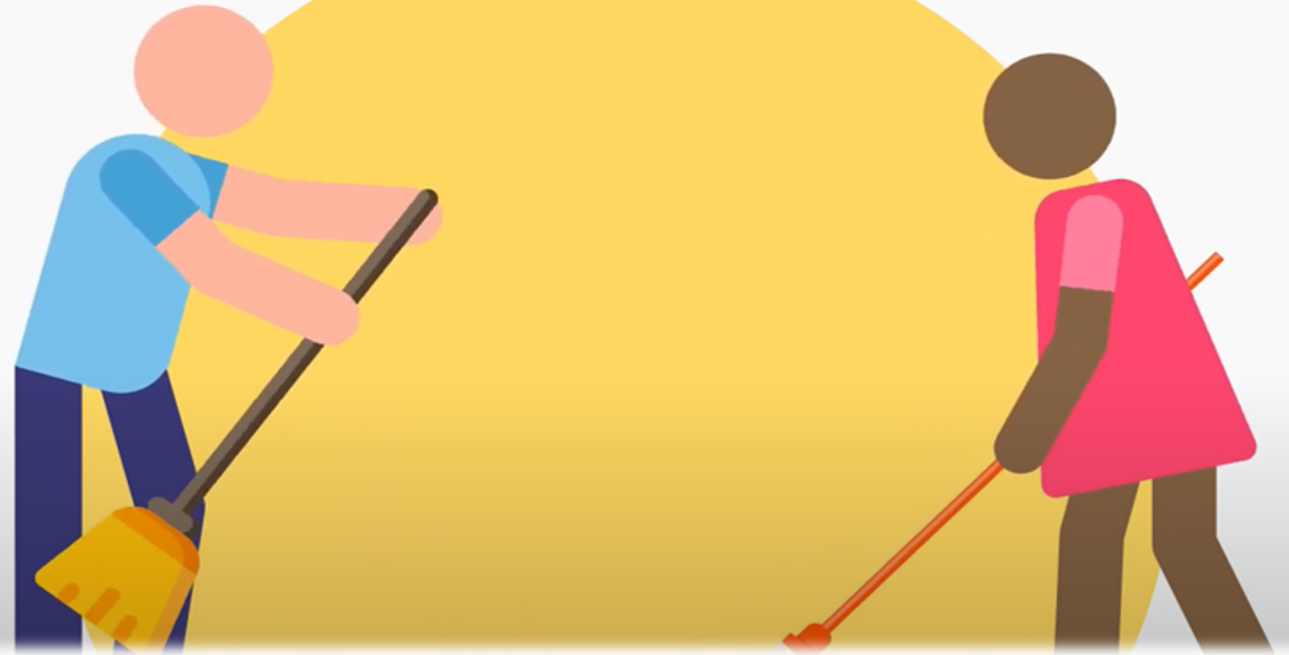
Each Authority has its own theme



Community and Voluntary Theme

‘Helping the community and voluntary
sector to be better prepared and
recover more quickly’

KIRKLEES



Why is the project needed?

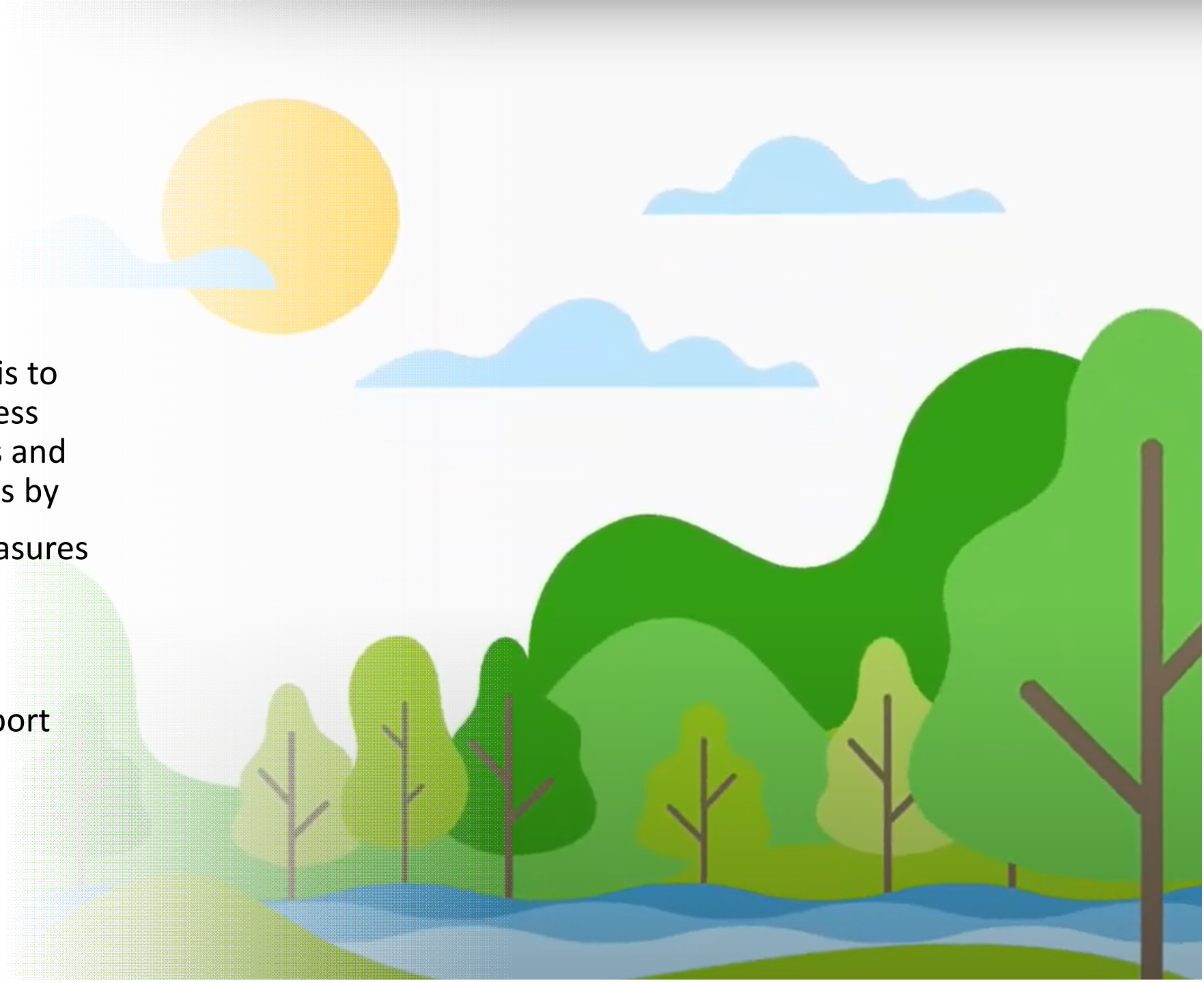
- People whose homes had been flooded were up to 6 times more likely to have probable PTSD, depression and/or anxiety than people who had not been flooded.
- This study found that people who had experienced flooding were more likely to have symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety between 6 months to 3 years following the event.
- The study also found elevated symptoms of mental health disorders in those who lived in the vicinity of flooded homes or in a community affected by a flood event



Project Aims

The purpose of this project is to raise mental health awareness amongst flood communities and address mental health issues by

- providing prevention measures
- educational support
- check in services
- psychosocial first aid support



Project Aims



- **Psychological First Aid** - Training to a selection of front-line staff. These staff members will be able to help residents on a day-to-day basis and will also be able to link members of the community to the project.
- **Check in Service** – This is often a first point of contact with the Mental Health Charity. Residents can either be referred or self-referred to this service.
- **Regular Community Events** – Events will be organised in high-risk communities. The events can be tailored to meet the needs of the community and will have a flood resilience focus at its core.
- **Larger Nature Based Events + NFM** – Each year there will be a smaller number of large events that will focus on being out in nature and if possible, linking in with NFM projects.
- **School Focused Events** – Specific events will be aimed at families in school holidays.
- **Ward Information Packs** – Ward specific packs will be made in partnership with the FM Team + MHC. These packs will include a wide range of information, ranging from information about local events, how to get out in nature, walks ect, and flood focused information.
- **Research and Improvement** – As this is a unique project aimed at a growing issue, the project will invite research into its findings.





Thank You!

