

Housing and Infrastructure Board

01 March 2022

Connected By Water Flood Catchment Plan Launch and Implementation

Is the paper exempt from the press and public? No

Reason why exempt: Not applicable

Purpose of this report: Discussion

Is this a Key Decision? No

Has it been included on the Forward Plan? Not a Key Decision

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

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Executive Summary

Following the successful launch of the Connected by Water Plan, the Board is asked to note the content of this report regarding the launch event and the move towards implementation of the Plan.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

The Connected by Water Plan aims to help identify and secure additional funding and investment to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses, as well as improving the resilience of places to climate change and potential future flooding.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

- note the Connected by Water Plan launch event details with related media publicity and the proposed next steps for implementing the Plan.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

N/A

1. Background

- 1.1 Since the devastating flooding in November 2019 across South Yorkshire, SYMCA and key partners (the four local authorities, the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water) have been working together to respond to the flood risk and climate emergency in South Yorkshire on a catchment scale.
- 1.2 The Connected by Water Plan is a vital part of this work, setting out a strong regional ambition to reduce flood risk and build climate resilience so that people can live, work and thrive in South Yorkshire in the face of a changing climate.
- 1.3 Following approval by the MCA Board on 24th January, the Connected by Water Plan was launched on the 28th January with an online event hosted by Mayor Dan Jarvis.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 A number of high-profile speakers took part in the launch event. In addition to Mayor Dan Jarvis other speakers included the Chair of the Environment Agency; Yorkshire Water's Chief Executive; and Barnsley Council's Chief Executive. A video message from Minister Rebecca Pow was also played at the launch.
- 2.2 Over one hundred partners and stakeholders attended the launch, including a mix of local MPs, Local Authority officers and Members, and senior representatives from a range of partner and stakeholder organisations. Comments during the event praised the successful partnership working approach and supported the need for further lobbying to secure the funding required to fully implement the Plan and deliver the schemes necessary to both protect South Yorkshire homes and businesses from future flooding and build resilience.
- 2.3 The launch received widespread positive coverage by the media, and various social media posts were made by partner organisations as well as speakers and attendees. A media roundup is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.4 Following the launch, the focus has now turned to implementing the Plan, continuing the collaborative approach adopted to develop the Plan. The proposed key next steps include:
 - Establishing an officer steering group.

- Confirming the resources which the MCA and other organisations are committing to support implementation.
- Identifying the priority actions within the Plan to focus activity over the next 12 months.
- Continuing to identify and pursue additional funding opportunities.

2.5 Public consultation on the Plan is also running until 11 March 2022, via the Environment Agency's website: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/connected-by-water-south-yorkshire-action-plan/>

2.6 The Housing and Infrastructure Board has approved the use of up to £0.15m of Gainshare contingency funding to support implementation of the Plan. Discussions are also taking place with Local Authority flood leads regarding proposals for the remaining £0.35m of contingency funding to not only support any overspend with the 'shovel ready' flood schemes, but also related scheme activities set out in the Plan to support flood resilience and mitigation. Further details of how this funding is proposed to be used will be presented to a future meeting of the Board for consideration.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 This report and the attached Appendix are presented for information only.

4. Consultation on Proposal

4.1 Both the Housing and Infrastructure Board and the South Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnership (SYFRP) have jointly overseen and contributed to the preparation of the Connected By Water Plan.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Board is asked to note this report and the media round up in Appendix A.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

6.1 There are no direct financial or procurement issues arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications and Advice

7.1 There are no direct legal issues arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

8.1 There are no human resources implications directly arising from this report.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

9.1 There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

10.1 The climate and nature emergency requires a strong collective response to carbon reduction and to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change. The

Connected By Water Plan will contribute by capturing actions of partners to reduce flood risk and build climate resilience across South Yorkshire, improving information and evidence to support decision making, and support investment decisions and delivery. It may also support the delivery of net zero targets by the provision of carbon sequestration.

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

11.1 There are no IT issues as a direct result of this report.

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice.

12.1 Communication on DEFRA Grant in Aid funding is managed by the Environment Agency, with work by Local Authorities to communicate directly with impacted communities on individual schemes. There may be media communication when the proposed interventions are being delivered.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A - Connected By Water Plan Launch: Media Round Up

Background Papers

Connected By Water Plan: <https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/Connected-by-water>