

Appendix B: Connected by Water Plan Progress Report

June 2022



BACKGROUND

The Connected by Water Plan, launched in January 2022, is a vital part of responding to flood risk and the climate emergency through a partnership-led, catchment wide approach. It sets 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. Following the launch of the Plan, the focus of partners has now turned to implementation. Progress made to date is set out below.

GOVERNANCE AND WORKING STRUCTURE

A broad working structure has been agreed between the South Yorkshire Alliance partners (SYMCA, the four Local Authorities, the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Forward). This includes:

- A Steering Group, which has met and for which a Terms of Reference is being prepared. This group will meet quarterly and provide high level direction to the work of the Delivery Group and working groups.
- A Delivery Group to oversee progress of working groups implementing the Plan.
- Working groups which have been established to take forward actions across each of the four Plan themes.

RESOURCES

Work is ongoing to identify and secure the resources required to implement the Plan, with a particular focus on short term, priority actions. SYMCA has approved the use of £0.15m of Gainshare contingency funding to help implement the Plan. This matches a successful Environment Agency led bid for Local Levy funding of £0.15m over the next three years. Yorkshire Water have also committed funding to support implementation.

Subject to approval this funding will be targeted to key priority actions, such as resources to help deliver the Plan – potentially including a programme manager and/or project co-ordinator post, and resource to deliver communication and engagement actions. Further discussion between partners will be required to refine resource proposals further.

ACTIONS

The Connected by Water Plan contains 144 actions; consisting of existing agreed actions which are in progress as well as new actions to be implemented. These are monitored on a red-amber-green basis. The latest position is:

49 actions	High confidence in delivery of action by deadline as specified in 2022 version of CBW plan
85 actions	Medium confidence in delivery of action by deadline as specified in 2022 version of CBW plan
10 actions	Low confidence in delivery of action by deadline as specified in 2022 version of CBW plan

A key reason identified for the number of red and amber rated actions is a lack of resources to implement actions (as identified above). Many of the red rated actions relate to communication and engagement actions in Theme 4, which is an area where further resources are required to progress activities.

ENGAGEMENT

A Political Engagement Plan is being developed to ensure that regional and national political stakeholders are aware of the Connected by Water partnership and its strategic aims, and to secure support to enable the delivery of the Partnership's plans. It will set out a framework for engaging with stakeholders to ensure the relevant partners are involved and/or informed.