

Housing and Infrastructure Board

31 August 2022

Connected by Water Plan Update

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:

John Dowie, Executive Director of Infrastructure and Place (Interim)

Report Author(s):

Ryan Shepherd

Ryan.shepherd@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Colin Blackburn

Colin.blackburn@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Following the launch of the South Yorkshire Connected by Water Plan, the Board requested regular updates regarding its implementation. Board Members are asked to note the progress report provided at Appendix A regarding delivery of this strategy.

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

The Connected by Water Plan aims to help develop our collective response to climate change and flood risk at a catchment scale, identifying and securing additional funding and investment to reduce flood risk.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to note and comment on the Connected by Water Plan progress report at Appendix A.

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

N/A

1. Background

- 1.1 The Connected by Water Plan, launched in January 2022, is part of our region's catchment scale response to flood risk and the climate emergency in South Yorkshire. 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

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Appendix A provides a light touch update which highlights progress which has been made since the previous Board meeting, including:

- Ongoing work to identify and secure the resources required to implement the Plan, including recruitment activity for two posts:
 - a programme manager role (recruitment is underway)
 - a communications and engagement role (this post is due to be advertised shortly).
- Monitoring the delivery of actions within the Plan on a quarterly basis. The data presented represents an interim position as actions will be updated fully in Quarter 3.
- The Plan is a 'living' document and work has begun to prepare an updated version of the Plan to be published in 2023.

- 2.2 Progress has been made in both embedding the strategies and plans with partners and stakeholders, building ownership and commitment to delivery of the actions, as well as progressing key areas of activity. Further progress updates will be provided at future Board meetings. Reporting on a quarterly basis would enable better alignment with monitoring of the Plan by partners.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

This report and the progress updates at Appendix A are presented for information and discussion. No options are identified for consideration.

4. Consultation on Proposal

The Environment Agency have been consulted and have provided input into the progress updates.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

This report and the progress updates at Appendix A are presented for information and discussion.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

There are no financial or procurement issues directly arising from this report

7. Legal Implications and Advice

There are no legal issues directly arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

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

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

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

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

The Connected by Water Plan captures the 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. Improved digital infrastructure / connectivity could be an important contributor to meeting net zero reduction targets related to transport due to the shift towards hybrid working models post-Covid 19.

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

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

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice.

There are no direct communications or marketing implications arising from this report. There may be media communication opportunities when the interventions set out in the Connected by Water Plan are delivered.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A - Connected by Water Plan progress report

Background Papers

[Connected By Water Plan](#)