

Item 12 Appendix A: Connected by Water Action Plan Progress Report

August 2022

BACKGROUND

The Connected by Water Plan Action 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.

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 capital funding to help implement the Plan. This matches funding secured by the Environment Agency from Local Levy funds. Proposals for how the SYMCA funding will be utilised will be considered by the Board under a separate agenda item, and include:

- A contribution towards funding a programme manager role to assist partners in implementing the Connected by Water Plan (including development and delivery of capital schemes).
- A contribution towards developing a SMART investment tool and GIS dashboard.

The partnership Steering Group will consider the need for further resourcing proposals to deliver the Plan in due course; however, in the interim two posts are being recruited to help implement the Plan:

- a programme manager role (recruitment is underway)
- a communications and engagement role (this post is due to be advertised shortly).

Both posts will sit within the Environment Agency but will work on behalf of all partners, including working from partner offices.

ACTIONS

The Plan contains existing agreed actions which are in progress as well as new actions to be implemented. These are monitored on a red-amber-green basis, updated each quarter. The latest position is below (this represents an interim position as actions will be updated fully for Q3).

34%	High confidence in delivery of action by deadline as specified in 2022 version of CBW plan
59%	Medium confidence in delivery of action by deadline as specified in 2022 version of CBW plan
7%	Low confidence in delivery of action by deadline as specified in 2022 version of CBW plan

As previously noted, a key reason identified for the level of red and amber rated actions is a lack of resources to implement actions. The current recruitment process to secure dedicated

officer resource to help implement the plan will assist in enabling activities to progress, and to reduce the number of red and amber rated actions going forward.

ANNUAL PLAN UPDATE

The Plan is a 'living' document and work has begun to prepare an updated version within office oversight by the Steering Group. A proposed revised draft will be presented for consideration by both the South Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnership and the Housing and Infrastructure Board in due course. The updated Plan will aim to be published in early 2023.