South Yorkshire Catchment Plan Update

Housing & Infrastructure Board 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

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## What does this cover?

Context and development of the catchment plan

• Purpose of the catchment plan

Catchment plan partners, themes and governance

• Catchment plan steps

## Catchment plan context

- South Yorkshire suffered catastrophic flooding in November 2019. 1600 properties were flooded and there was extensive damage to infrastructure and the economy.
- Climate change is impacting the severity and frequency of flooding. Sea levels are projected to rise and the risk of fluvial flooding will increase.
- The climate and nature emergency requires a strong collective response to reduce carbon and be more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Nature based solutions to reduce flood risk also provide opportunities to store carbon and restore nature.
- Working in partnership across South Yorkshire creates opportunities to build a stronger case for investment, to support and learn from each other, to be strategic and to identify efficiencies.
- The catchment is an integrated environmental system which requires a whole catchment approach

### Catchment plan development

- Following November 19 floods, Priority Business & Infrastructure Flood Resilience Priority
  Programme submitted to Government
  - 27x priority schemes funding gap £271m
  - Proposed to develop a SY wide catchment approach to reducing flood risk and increasing climate resilience
- Ministerial Roundtable with Mayor Jarvis, LA Leaders and MPs (Autumn 2020):
  - Agreed to prepare a South Yorkshire Catchment Plan
  - Identified 8x 'shovel ready' schemes for further investment
- Double Gov't Grant in Aid confirmed for South Yorkshire flood schemes
- Catchment Plan work commenced with representatives from MCA, Environment Agency, 4xLAs and Yorkshire Water, overseen by the SCR Housing & Infrastructure Board and South Yorkshire Flood Risk Partnership

# Catchment plan purpose

- Aim is to publish Plan by end of the Year and will provide a 'shop window' for capturing the actions partners are currently taking to reduce flood risk and build climate resilience across South Yorkshire.
- The Plan will be a 'living document' to **facilitate the development of a long term strategy** for flood risk management and climate resilience. This will enable partners and communities to incorporate emerging data, knowledge and opportunities to continue to build and shape the Plan.
- The brand for the Plan will be 'place based' and emphasise how South Yorkshire is connected and defined by it's network of rivers and rich habitats.

# Catchment plan purpose

- Provide investors with a clear programme of well developed projects to secure the remaining investment that is required to deliver the capital programme
- Create and drive opportunities to respond strategically to the climate and nature emergencies as part of a national pilot for long term strategic planning (Adaptive Pathways) and in response to the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission.
- Enable better joint working and use of expertise, technology and data to deliver improvements and efficiencies in flood risk management
- Support the delivery of carbon capture and biodiversity net gain
- Increase community awareness of flood risk and the measures they can take.
- Showcase projects to build community and political confidence in our progress and collective commitment to reduce flood risk and increase resilience.

## **Catchment plan themes**

There are four themes being developed to inform the Plan

- 1. Responding to the climate emergency
  - Reducing flood risk at source and building climate resilience
  - Using nature based solutions to reduce flood risk, aid nature recovery and support the transition to net zero carbon
  - Contributing to a climate adaptive planning process
- 2. Ensuring investment is prioritised, smart and based on evidence using the best available data and intelligence
  - Making data driven decisions to develop robust justifications and business cases.
  - Using multiple data layers across stakeholder groups to produce spatial representations of risks and opportunities.
  - Enabling scheme pipeline and bid developments to get 'shovel ready'

# **Catchment plan themes**

- 3. Strengthening the use of technology and operational management to build the capacity of Local Authorities and other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) to work together more effectively on an operational basis
  - Relationship building, i.e. networks, sharing of information & best practice, data and experience (the 'data lake')
  - transparency, i.e. clarity on key interventions and their role in wider investment across South Yorkshire
  - greater use of technology and live data
  - joining up telemetric data systems across whole of South Yorkshire
  - sharing of resources, expertise and capacity across Local Authorities and other RMAs to speed up implementation

# **Catchment plan themes**

### 4. Community engagement and resilience

- Work collaboratively across all partners ensuring a 'one joined up voice' and promoting community leadership.
- Engage with elected members and Senior Managers to build and maintain relationships and seek to promote the catchment plan through their platforms.
- Delivering a pro-active communication strategy that includes all partner organisations.
- Pro-actively engaging with all flood affected communities across South Yorkshire.
- Working with existing relationships and groups (Flood Action Groups, Flood Wardens, and Parish Councils etc) to deliver key messages.
- Producing a communication and engagement online tool kit as a 'one stop shop' for all organisations to input into and share with the public

### **Catchment plan steps**

### Jan - Mar: Initial Theme Development

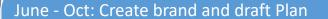
- Individual theme development work, by each task and finish groups. With each LA championing one theme, working with the EA, MCA & YW.

### April: Wider engagement on themes

- Workshop for local authorities to build awareness of and support for the Catchment Plan and secure input from wider sectors e.g planning, economic development, sustainability

### May - June: Strategic check-in

- Reporting on the initial theme development work and seeking comment and support on progress and next steps from MCA H+I Board & SYFRP



- Draft content through the task and finish groups, and bring in wider partners, organisations and communities.

- Finalise brand for catchment approach

#### Oct - Nov: Review draft Plan

- Sharing draft Plan for review, comment and agreement from MCA H+I Board and SYFRP

### Dec: Finalise and launch

- Finalise and launch Plan to promote and build wider engagement

- A 'living plan' to be reviewed and updated by the partners. Delivery scrutinised, challenged and championed