

19 July 2021

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE & COMMUNITIES**MANSFIELD GREEN RECOVERY FLOOD RESILIENCE PROGRAMME
UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update for Members on the latest position in relation to the successful bid to OFWAT for a £76m investment in Green Recovery Flood Resilience Measures in Mansfield by Severn Trent Water.

Information

2. Severn Trent Water (STW) have secured a Green Recovery Project to be delivered in Mansfield by 2025. This industry leading project has the support of a £76m investment from the Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The project will look to deliver sustainable flood resilient community wide benefits. The green recovery submission included proposals to use a nature-based approach to reduce the risk of future flooding, from all sources, whilst creating a green environment which will be of significant benefit to Mansfield.
3. The investment will see STW and multi-agency partner organisations leading the way in delivering the UK's first collaborative blue-green surface water management project with this level of innovation. Nottinghamshire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority with the responsibility for surface water and as such will be an integral partner in the delivery of this project. We will be facilitating a catchment-based alliance that will be able to deliver multiple outcomes (flood risk, environmental, economic growth & wellbeing). The scope of the project is to provide approx. 58,000m³ of storage through blue-green solutions, creating c15 hectares of green space and c2.5 hectares of permeable surfaces across the Mansfield catchment. As the Lead Local Flood Authority we have experience of developing and delivering this type of scheme on a smaller scale in other areas across the County which are vulnerable and at risk of flooding. Lowdham, Southwell, Hucknall, Clarbrough, Girton, Shireoaks and Retford are currently in the programme.
4. As the climate changes traditional drainage methods and drainage networks will become increasingly ineffective. Mansfield has been chosen as a pilot area due to the predicted future strain on its traditional drainage network and the increased risk of flooding this could bring. Mansfield is highlighted in the NCC PFRA (Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment) as being the most at risk town in the County from surface water flooding. Mansfield is not alone in managing the challenges of flooding, many other areas in the County are at significant risk. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, we are committed to reducing the risk of flooding across the County, providing a service for all residents, both domestic and commercial, with an aim to educate,

support, influence and empower. We look to support communities through flood resilience intelligence that is site specific and bespoke, assisting them to understand how to proactively manage flood risk and resilience measures.

5. The current NCC flood risk investment programme is facilitating the delivery of 5 significant schemes across the county with a total estimated value of £8.3m. A further 23 schemes are being considered for feasibility and design in 2021/22. Following the significant flood events in November 2019 and February 2020, the County Council identified the need to implement Property Flood Resilience measures (PFR) for properties in areas vulnerable to flooding but not covered by Central Governments Flood Protection Grants. These resilience measures are for those most susceptible to flooding and look to reduce the likelihood of water entering properties at ground level. Schemes for parts of Jacksdale, Ollerton, Cropwell Butler, Tollerton, Beeston, Plumtree, Bramcote, Girton, Rhodesia and Sutton on Trent are all currently being developed with a view to delivering agreed measures over the coming months.
6. This project proposes to use natural solutions to store surface water in both rural and urban locations to protect the traditional drainage network and protect homes from flooding. The proposals will look to make Mansfield greener.
7. Solutions are likely to include the creation of new drainage basins or ponds, green spaces and rain gardens, tree planting, installing planters in urban areas and improving the absorption of pavement surfaces. The outcomes of this pilot project will inform and support a potential change in direction towards more sustainable and environmentally beneficial projects, to manage surface water and protect communities across the country from flooding.
8. This project aligns with the Authority's Place ambitions and emerging Environment Strategy and our commitment to Green Recovery. We have an excellent track record of working in partnership with STW, delivering many joint projects and award winning schemes. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, we are committed to reducing the risk of flooding across the County. The Flood Risk Management team provides a service for all residents within the County, both domestic and commercial, with an aim to educate, support, influence and empower. We look to support communities through flood resilience intelligence that is site specific and bespoke, assisting communities to understand how to proactively manage flood risk and resilience measures.
9. STW have identified and number of key challenges and opportunities as part of the project:-
 - **Climate Change Impacts** – Could mean more intense storms +20% peak rainfall by 2050 combined with longer drier periods.
 - **Population Growth and Urban Creep** – Additional housing, more impermeable areas - paving over front gardens and extensions.
 - **Shared Flood Management Responsibilities** – Excellent existing relationship gives a real opportunity to work collaboratively with flood risk management partners to find grey to green holistic solutions.
 - **Environmental Standards** – Higher standards will help to achieve progress and lessen detrimental impacts.
 - **Social and Economic Benefits** – Creating 385 jobs, with the ambition to recruit locally. Wellbeing and amenity benefits which is estimated to be circa >£30m in wider benefits.

10. The Nottinghamshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) was implemented in 2016. This project links to the core objectives of our strategy as follows:-

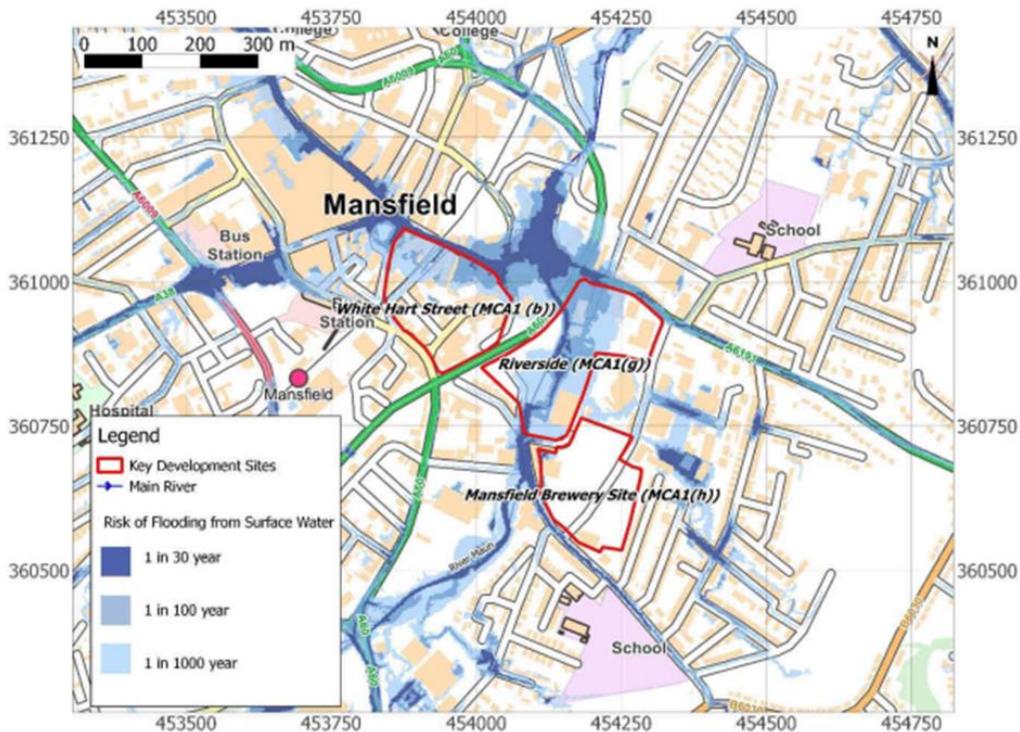
- To pursue new solutions, partnerships and alleviation schemes to manage future flood risks and adapt to climate change in Nottinghamshire.
- To increase levels of awareness and cooperation within local organisations and communities so they can become more resilient to flooding and understand their land drainage responsibilities.
- To improve delivery of flood risk management by working in partnership across functions and organisations, taking a catchment based approach.
- To integrate local flood risk management into the planning process and support sustainable growth.
- To consider the environmental impact of proposed flood risk management measures, maximise opportunities to contribute to the sustainable management of cultural heritage and landscape and deliver environmental benefits.

Mansfield's Surface Water Flood Risk Area

11. Historically, fluvial flooding has been the prominent issue from both Main River and Ordinary watercourses through the area. The River Maun flows across the district through Mansfield town centre and later joins the River Idle. Tributaries to the River Maun include Caudwell Brook, Vicar Water, Rainworth Water and Foul Evil Brook. Alongside the threat from fluvial sources the current mix of topography contributes to the increasing risk from flash surface water run-off flooding and sewer flooding. The condensed nature of the urbanised area and in particular the number of critical services and businesses in that area increases the impact of any flood event.

12. The flood hazard and risk maps for Mansfield show that there are approximately 30,600 people living in the Mansfield Surface Water Flood Risk Area (FRA) and 863 are in the high-risk category. Additionally within the FRA there are: 1,457 non-residential properties (including hospitals, schools and colleges, retail parks, community centres); 7.3 km of roads; 3.4 km of railway lines; 191 ha of agricultural land; and Areas of scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, parks and gardens, and water abstractions

13. The probability of surface water flooding is shown in the plan below. The surface water flows largely follows the River Maun channel. There are two significant overland flow routes within the Mansfield Central Area, from the north-west along Westfield Lane and Westgate, and from the west along the A38. Surface water is known to gravitate to an area to the west of the A6009 (Mansfield Town Centre), where it merges with overland flow associated with the River Maun itself. The existing road network throughout Mansfield also serves to convey surface water flows.



Next Steps

14. OFWAT and DEFRA are being very firm with their expectation that third parties who have the responsibility to deliver some of these benefits show a substantial commitment. To unlock the £76m contribution from Severn Trent customers (89% of total project costs) there is a need to secure 11% (£9.8m) of the total project cost from 3rd party contributions (including benefits in kind). Conditions around adoption of certain solutions and specifically Ofwat's expectation to see commitment from authorities that all permeable paving will be adopted and stay permeable will be a challenge to address. Agreements concerning maintenance and on-going responsibility for sustainable drainage solutions will need to be explored as will other measures that NCC and key partners currently undertake which could be a benefit in kind to the project or a direct financial contribution.
15. There will be a need for many of our internal authority functions to work closely together to support the delivery of this very ambitious project. The delivery and programme teams are currently being populated by STW and there is a strong desire for NCC to be involved. Our expertise and cooperation will be fundamental to this project being able to move forward to completion. The Flood Risk Management Team have been working with STW for some time now, not only on the bid submission but on the connectivity of external partners who could support the work necessary to deliver the project.
16. **SR20 (Defra Spending Review 2020)** – The County Council was successful in securing a total of £520k DEFRA funding to complete a number of hydraulic studies for catchments across the County at the end of last year. Mansfield was one of these with £100k allocated. It is hoped that the outputs from these studies will identify areas for potential further flood mitigation investment and will dovetail into the Green Recovery project. Our approach to delivering these studies and improvements will see us liaise with all other relevant Risk Management Authorities and communities where applicable and this can be as a support mechanism within the Green Recovery Project.

Scheme Delivery Partners

17. NCC are actively engaged with a number of key flood risk partners to enable better scheme delivery and communication across the county. We will be looking to utilise these networks to develop the proposed flood risk management works in collaboration.

- The Environment Agency
- Mansfield District Council
- Local Flood Forums
- Local Residents and Businesses
- Canal and River Trust
- Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
- Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
- Association of Drainage Authorities
- Trent Rivers Trust
- National Flood Forum
- Nottingham Trent University
- Via East Midlands Ltd.
- Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT)
- Midland Service Improvement Group (MSIG)
- Specialist Service Providers

Summary

18. Flooding devastates communities and since taking on the role of Lead Local Flood Authority, Nottinghamshire County Council has strived to protect and serve our vulnerable communities. There is a good level of partnership working between STW and the Flood Risk Management Team in NCC, with regular discussions and opportunities to explore collaborating to achieve good outcomes for our customers and residents. The relationship with STW is one of the strongest partnerships we have in our role as Lead Local Flood Authority.

19. There is a lot of common ground between the two organisations. We share commitment and desire for better services, better value for our customers and strive to help create a healthier environment. Although our business drivers and cultures come from different worlds, we share many common values and our skillsets and resources benefit one another's, allowing delivery of mutually beneficial outcomes. As organisations we bring together a range of services to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Nottinghamshire. There is an awareness of each partner's strategies and operating context which helps land good outcomes.

20. The Flood Risk Management team have been working closely with STW in the planning of the Mansfield Green Recovery proposals and will continue to do so as the Lead Local Flood Authority, as proposals are further developed. The draft determination is very positive and the final determination is due at the end of July. The level of support needed for this project will require an additional Principal Officer Flood Risk Management (Band C) to be added to the establishment for the duration of the project.
21. The outputs and learning from this project will help inform the future delivery countywide of natural flood mitigation measures and help to lessen the impacts of flooding on our communities.

Other Options Considered

22. To do minimum works which would leave communities at a significant risk of future flooding.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

23. The recommendations are designed to ensure the most effective and efficient route towards the management of surface water flood risk across the County.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. The County Council has several statutory duties and powers under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 including duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities.
25. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

26. The cost of the additional staffing resource mentioned in paragraph xxx will be met by STW. The County Council is currently exploring our potential contribution to the 11% third party funding as detailed in paragraph xxx including options around benefits in kind. It is intended that our contributions is kept within the current capital approvals (£600k) per year.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

27. It is anticipated that the recommendations will ultimately result in delivery of sustainable projects that reduce flood risk across the county whilst also reducing the negative impacts the flooding has on the environment, the economy and our communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) The Committee endorses the work outlined in the report and supports the recruitment of a temporary Principal Officer post which will be funded by the Green Recovery Project bid.
- 2) Committee approves a regular six-monthly update on countywide flood risk matters.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

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Constitutional Comments (SJE – 21/06/2021)

28. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Transport & Environment Committee to whom responsibility for a) the exercise of the Authority's functions relating to flood risk management and statutory flood risk management scrutiny; and b) for approval of the relevant departmental staffing structures, have been delegated.

Financial Comments (RWK 21/06/2021)

29. The report provides an update on the latest position in relation to the successful bid to OFWAT for a £76 million investment in Green Recovery Flood Resilience Measures in Mansfield by Severn Trent Water. As part of the implementation of these measures the County Council will need to employ an additional Principal Officer Flood Risk Management (Band C) for the duration of the project at an estimated cost of £56,000 per annum. The costs of this post will be funded by STW.

30. The County Council may also be required to make contributions to the £9.8M third party funding required for the project to proceed. These contributions can be either cash or in-kind contributions. Any cash contribution made by the County Council will be met from the annual allocation of £600,000 included within the Capital Programme up to 2024/25.

HR Comment (JP 28/06/2021)

31. This initiative will require the establishment of an addition temporary post as noted at para 20 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Mansfield East – County Councillor Robert Corden and County Councillor Nigel Moxon
- Mansfield South – County Councillor André Camilleri and County Councillor Stephen Garner
- Mansfield North – County Councillor Ben Bradley and County Councillor Anne Callaghan

- Mansfield West – County Councillor Sinead Anderson and County Councillor Paul Henshaw
- Warsop – County Councillor Bethan Eddy