

Flood Risk Management Strategy 2006-12: Report May 2012

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide update information regarding:

- the Council's flood risk reduction (FRR) works across the district,
- flood risk reduction costs and the need for continued investment,
- the Council's new duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

This report is based on information presented to Wakefield Council's Liveability Scrutiny Panel on 27/03/12 and Wakefield Council Members on 18/04/12.

What does this mean for the district and its people?

Wakefield district covers an area of about 240km² (92 square miles). There are about 120 watercourses across the district with a combined length of over 300km (190 miles).

Flooding has a devastating impact on communities and the storm events of June 2007 seriously affected about 1800 residential properties, together with businesses, infrastructure, highways, farmland and gardens across the district. The flood was of a size expected to only occur once every 100 to 400 years. This is known as a **1 in 100 year to 1 in 400 year return period storm event**.

The risk of flooding is predicted to increase in the future due to climate change and potential development in areas of flood risk.

The FRR work undertaken by the Council is intended to reduce the risk of flooding. A total of 39 watercourse catchments have been identified across the district, and each rated depending on flood risk. All work is undertaken on a priority basis focussing on the seven highest priority flood risk catchments.

From 2006-12, the Council created an additional total of about 110,000 cubic metres flood storage. Overall flood risk across the district has been reduced by about 10%.

The Council provided a number of budgets totalling £3.5M for this FRR related work. These budgets have allowed an additional £2.9M match funding to be secured. A further £2M has been secured from developers.

Between 2013-17, funding to create a further 325,000 cubic metres flood storage has been secured.

FRR work and the new duties involve:

- watercourse network audit
- developing FRR catchment strategies,
- making space for water during flood events by creating flood storage,
- inspection and management of highway drainage and watercourse culverts,
- reservoir inspections and safety works,
- working with landowners across the district in accordance with their riparian watercourse management and drainage responsibilities.
- working with the Council's Planning Policy Section on land allocation and the Council's Planning Authority and developers to mitigate additional impact from development
- implementing new duties of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010,
- setting up and attending Strategic and Technical Flood Risk Partnership groups within the district and across West Yorkshire,
- community engagement, publicity, public flood related meetings and setting up flood warden groups.

Continued future investment will allow the Council to make bids for additional external funding and further reduce the impact of flooding on the economic growth and development of the district.

Future partnerships between the Council, local communities and other flood risk management authorities, such as the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Internal Drainage Boards are intended to increase the work that can be carried out.

New duties under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 will also provide a more robust and co-ordinated approach to flood risk management. From 2012/13, Government is providing an additional £192,000 per year to enable the Council to resource and undertake the additional duties.

No guarantee that flooding will not occur can be given. A storm event larger than can be accommodated is always possible.