

Agenda for a meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Tuesday, 18 October 2022 at 5.30 pm in the Banqueting Hall - City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Committee – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN	BRADFORD INDEPENDENTS GROUP
Mohammed Kamran Hussain Cunningham Dearden Hussain Rowe	Herd	Watson	Elahi

Alternates:

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN	BRADFORD INDEPENDENTS GROUP
Choudhry Mukhtar Shafiq Walsh Wheatley	Davies	Warnes	Sajawal

Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.
- On the day of the meeting you are encouraged to wear a suitable face covering (unless you are medically exempt) and adhere to social distancing. Staff will be at hand to advise accordingly.

From:

Asif Ibrahim

Director of Legal and Governance

Agenda Contact: Su Booth - 07814 073884

Phone: 07814 073884

E-mail: susan.booth2@bradford.gov.uk

To:

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

The Interim Director of Legal and Governance will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members Code of Conduct – Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) *Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:*

Type of Interest	You must:
<i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i> OR <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Affects)</i> OR <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward, and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest; in which case speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not do not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting</i>

unless you have a dispensation.

- (2) *Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (3) *Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (4) *Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

3. MINUTES

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

(Su Booth – 07814 073884)

4. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Any referrals that have been made to this Committee up to and including the date of publication of this agenda will be reported at the meeting.

5. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Su Booth – 07814 073884)

B. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES

6. BRADFORD BECK PILOT STUDY

1 - 16

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “I”**) will be submitted to the Committee as the annual update on the work undertaken within the catchment since the previous report in September 2021.

Recommended –

- 1. That The Friends of Bradford’s Becks and the Strategic Director, Place be requested to work jointly on studies and proposals.**
- 2. That The Friends of Bradford’s Becks be invited to report back in a year’s time.**
- 3. That this report be noted and that the ongoing collaboration between officers and the Friends of Bradford’s Becks be supported.**
- 4. That the Committee express Bradford Council’s support and appreciation to Friends of Bradford’s Becks for the work to tackle pollution, promote community engagement and restore and improve the beck and its catchment.**

(Edward Norfolk – 01274 433905)

7. WATER MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT

17 - 46

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “J”**) will be submitted to the Committee following the resolution in October 2021 that a report which provides an update on all the Council’s water management and resilience initiatives and also includes information on flood alleviation equipment available to communities be presented to the Committee in 12 months.

Recommended –

That Bradford Council’s Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers this report and provides comments, and will request a report back before the end of October 2023 that provides an update to the Councils progress of all Water Management and Resilience initiatives within the District.

(Edward Norfolk – 01274 433905)

8. **IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING THROUGH GREEN SPACE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

47 - 62

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “K”**) will be submitted to provide an update on the use of green spaces in the District to improve health and wellbeing, with a focus on communities in areas of high deprivation. The report outlines the current position, opportunities and challenges.

Recommended –

That Members consider the health and wellbeing value of green space.

(Angela Hutton/Mick Priestley – 01274 437345/432685)

9. **WORK PROGRAMME - 2022/23**

63 - 68

The report of the Chair, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (**Document “L”**) and presents the Work Programme for 2022/23.

Recommended –

That the Work programme 2022-23 continues to be regularly reviewed during the year.

(Caroline Coombes - 07970 413828)



Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 18th October 2022.

Subject:

Bradford Beck Pilot Study

Summary statement:

The Bradford Beck Pilot Study was first discussed by members in April 2013 and has been before the Environment & Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis since then. It was resolved on 28th September 2021 that the ongoing collaboration between officers and Friends of Bradford Beck be supported; also that the Friends of Bradford Beck be congratulated for the work they have undertaken throughout the years. This report outlines the work undertaken within the catchment since the previous report in September 2021.

Strategic Director:

Jason Longhurst
Strategic Director of Place

Portfolio:

Regeneration, Planning & Transport

Report Contact:

Edward Norfolk
Principal Drainage Engineer
Phone: (01274) 433905
E-mail: edward.norfolk@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Regeneration and Environment.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

The public sector equality duty in s149 of the Equalities Act applies to the Council in the exercise of its functions. Those functions will include most, if not all, of the proposals and other measures referred to in this report. The duty is to “have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under [the 2010 Act], (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.”. In summary, this includes the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons that are connected to that relevant protected characteristic and taking steps to meet the needs of persons who do not share it and encouraging persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to take account of disabled person’s disabilities and makes it clear that compliance with the duties ‘may involve treating some persons more favourably than others’. It is evidence that all of the schemes and proposals referred to in this report have the potential to impact on persons who share one of more of the relevant protected characteristics.

1. SUMMARY

The Bradford Beck Pilot Study was first discussed by members in April 2013 and has been before the Environment & Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis since then. It was resolved on 28th September 2021 that the ongoing collaboration between officers and Friends of Bradford Beck be supported; also that the Friends of Bradford Beck be congratulated for the work they have undertaken throughout the years. This report outlines the work undertaken within the catchment since the previous report in September 2021.

2. BACKGROUND

Since the Committee meeting of September 2021 there has been cooperation on a range of projects between Council officers of various services and Friends of Bradford’s Becks (FOBB). This report outlines the work carried out over the last year in collaboration to the catchment plan produced by FOBB that was supported by the Environment and Waste O&S Committee in 2013.

The Friends of Bradford Becks have provided an update to their work streams over the last year and their report is included as Appendix 1.

The Environment Agency has been approached on pollution incidents that have been reported within the Bradford Beck catchment over the last year. This data is included as Appendix 2.

3. REPORT ISSUES

Throughout the course of the year there have been work streams and developments involving FOBB and Council department in relation to Bradford Beck. An update on existing and emerging projects and initiatives are discussed throughout this section.

Sustainable Drainage Systems

Retrofitting sustainable drainage systems into our urban landscapes is now seen as a priority and is the strategy used on redevelopment projects in the Bradford Beck catchment. One scheme currently being constructed is the Top of Town public realm improvements that includes high quality upgrades to the conservation area in the form of highway improvements and sustainable landscaping works at North Parade, Rawson Square, and Northgate. A network of rain gardens is being implemented and these are areas of planting designed to temporarily soak up rain water to reduce pressure on storm water drains, help tackle climate change and reduce flood risk. The scheme will create a safe, healthy, attractive and community friendly environment with high quality public spaces which supports and new and existing businesses. The Council will promote these sustainable drainage solutions in all future city centre regeneration schemes as they provide multi benefits.

By reducing surface water runoff into local sewerage networks, schemes will help reduce the discharge from Yorkshire Waters Combined Sewer Overflows that connect to the Beck improving the water quality of natural environment. Preliminary discussions have begun between the Council and Yorkshire Water at identifying areas where the implementation of nature based drainage solutions will reduce flood risk, improve urban water body quality and reduce combined sewer overflow discharges.

Bradford Beck River Restoration Project Phase 1

CBMDC, The Environment Agency, The Friends of Bradford Beck and the Wild Trout Trust worked in partnership to deliver a 3 year £90,000 EA funded scheme to re-naturalise the northern length of Bradford Beck. The project included measures to improve fish passage, facilitate public access and deliver habitat creation measures on a length of beck between Briggate B6149 and the River Aire. The project is now complete and the all outputs have been delivered. The scheme has delivered valuable improvements to support the Naturalising Bradford Beck scheme.

Naturalising Bradford Beck Scheme

CBMDC secured £3.25m of funds from the Wet Yorkshire Transport Fund and the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) to 'daylight' a length of Bradford Beck between Poplar Road and Briggate. In March 2021 WSP were appointed to work in partnership with the Council to design and deliver the project. Following the testing of various options, a preferred outline design was developed. This allowed hydrological modelling to be completed which indicated the scheme would deliver the flood mitigation outputs required by ESIF. This was to reduce the incidence of flooding on the A6037 Valley Road from 20% in any one year to less than 2%.

Following this modelling and cost estimating work the design was taken forward to the planning stage ahead of the detailed design being developed. As such a full application was submitted for planning at the end of August. We anticipate the major application will be determined in around 12 weeks.

In August this year BAM Nuttall were appointed to provide early contractor involvement on the scheme. This has allowed their experience on the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme to be used to ensure proposals are deliverable on the current budget and programme. CBMDC, WSP and Bam Nuttall will now work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop the detailed design whilst the planning process progresses. Depending on the outcome of the planning process we hope to be on site in December with completion in June next year.

Pitty Beck Environmental Improvements

CBMDC is working in partnership with JUMP to deliver a range of environmental improvements across the district to promote physical activity in the 5-11 age group. The lottery funded project is one of 12 local delivery pilots currently being implemented across the country. The Pitty Beck scheme has a value of £100k and involved developing a network of paths and supporting infrastructure aimed at encouraging young people to take part in active outdoor recreation. In addition to crushed stone paths and a footbridge a number of seats, a picnic area, signage and habitat creation was implemented. The phase 1 scheme was completed last year with the installation of a new footbridge. We are currently in the early stages of a second phase to install informal play facilities on the site.

Land Drainage Investigations

Bradford Councils Land Drainage Team regularly investigate reports of blocked or collapsed watercourses within the Bradford Beck Catchment. Blockages can lead to an increased risk of flooding, risk of environmental pollution incidents and impacts on the amenity quality of an area.

Land drainage law is complex and is covered within the Land Drainage Act 1991. The Council is able to offer advice about problems associated with land drainage, including ditches, streams, rivers and other watercourses. Essentially, a landowner is responsible for the drainage of their land. If a watercourse passes through land, under the Land Drainage Act 1991, the landowner is classified as a 'Riparian Owner' and is responsible for maintaining the flow within the watercourse and to ensure an impediment to that flow does not exist.

The Council only has a responsibility for watercourse when the Council is the landowner. Other than that, the Council do have powers to act in certain circumstances, to mitigate against the effects of flooding generated from land drainage matters.

If a landowner fails to carry out necessary maintenance on a watercourse, the Council can serve notice and carry out works if ditches have become blocked resulting in a flood risk or health hazard. These powers are contained in the Land Drainage Acts 1991 and Sections of the Public Health Act 1936, but are not instantaneous - the process between first notification of a problem and serving a notice can take years, and further stages are required if the landowner defaults on the notice.

Occasionally investigations reveal blockages on land that is unregistered. In these

instances, the Council conduct a review to understand the risk posed by any defects and if quick interventions will reduce the risk and avoid on-going issues that can take up large amounts of resource. Land Drainage investigations have led to the removal of abandoned vehicles in Bull Greaves Beck, a tributary to Bradford Beck, helping to reduce flood risk, improve amenity and prevent pollution to the watercourse.

LIFE Critical

The Council have started to work on the LIFE Critical European project at Horton Park. LIFE Critical is an EU project that adapts older city neighbourhoods so they are equipped for the effects of climate change. Westbrook Beck, which flows through the ponds and water features of Horton Park, stopped flowing a few years ago. With support from the University of Bradford, the project is trying to find the problem by investigating the reasons why the water volumes have reduced. The Council will work with FOBB to find solutions to this issue during the development of the project. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) will also be installed in the park. These are a more natural way to reduce the likelihood of flooding by transporting surface water elsewhere, slowing the flow of water or using materials to encourage the water to soak into the ground or evaporate.

Sediment Control

Following a series of sediment pollution incidents involving new developments, the Council met with FOBB to discuss if there were any opportunities through the development control and planning process to help prevent future pollution incidents. Although the policy and responsibility for sediment control is complicated, it was agreed that guidance and warnings could be included in pre planning application advice and as footnotes on planning application decision notices with the intention of raising awareness to developers of these types of pollution incidents. It was also agreed that planning condition requiring the details of temporary site drainage runoff would be used where there is a risk of sediment pollution being generated during the construction period of a development.

Bradford Beck Hydraulic Modelling

Bradford Beck is a heavily culverted, non-main river, watercourse and given the urban nature of the watercourse, it is important to know the current and future flood risk that the Beck poses. Managing flood risk in the catchment is a key tool in reducing pollution incidents but also to manage biodiversity and ecology within a watercourse that is heavily modified from its natural course.

The Council have recently commissioned a specialist consultant to create a new build computer model of Bradford Beck and its tributaries. The completed model will be ready early next year and will provide computer generated flood outlines and depths in the Bradford Beck Catchment. The model will be used as the evidence base for the emerging Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment updates for this catchment and the Council will also use the new model for evaluating flood risk management options in future capital works schemes. As part of the project the Council will be undertaking a full structural and geometric survey of the culverted sections Bradford Beck. This will be achieved by using remote laser scanning technology that will provide a full three dimensional computer model

of the culvert structure allowing this data to be used for a multitude of projects. This 3D model can be incorporated into the Virtual Bradford 3D city model helping visualise flood risk scenarios and engage with elected members and the public.

Respecting our Rivers Motion

Members of Bradford Council earlier in the year approved a motion “Respecting Our Rivers”,. The report for the motion noted every river in England is now polluted beyond legal limits and The Environment Agency rated only 14% of rivers as ‘Good ’in 2019. This pollution is mostly caused by sewage discharges from water companies, the run-offs of nutrients from farms and persistent organic chemicals. 36% of English rivers have been damaged by water companies. that had released untreated human waste directly into our waterways over 400,000 times for a total of 3 million hours in 2020 alone.

Government funding to the Environment Agency to monitor river quality, and regulate farms and water companies has dropped 75% since 2010/11 and in 2020 just 3.6% of pollution complaints made to the Agency resulted in penalties.

In addition, tyre particles, metals from brake pads, and hydrocarbons from vehicle emissions wash off road surfaces and into rivers introducing potentially carcinogenic material into the water supply.

The Council commended the work of the Aire Rivers Trust, the Friends of Bradford Becks, partners and the many volunteers who are working hard to meet the Good Water framework Directive status or Good Ecological Potential for all of the Aire Water bodies by 2027.

Within the motion the Council report stated that, the UK Government should commit to:

- Restoring Environment Agency budgets to deliver the necessary oversight.
- Increasing inspection regularity of water companies and farms, taking rigorous enforcement action against offenders.
- Ring-fencing fines for water pollution events to be spent on river quality improvements. Funding local and highways authorities to introduce systems to prevent road pollutants from entering our water courses. Council resolves to request the Chief Executive write to:
 - The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for the Government to make these commitments and to revise down the consents that allow sewerage discharge into our rivers.
 - The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee to advocate for greater enforcement of existing regulatory powers.
 - The Chief Executive of Yorkshire Water calling for urgent action to address the impact of waste-water discharges on our local rivers.
 - The Regional Director of the National Farmers ’Union requesting clarification on the action being taken locally by farmers to prevent nutrient run-off.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

None

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

None

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

None

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None

7.5 TRADE UNION

None

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

None

**7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

Not applicable

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

None

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

None

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

None

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that:

1. The Friends of Bradford's Becks and the Strategic Director, Place be requested to work jointly on studies and proposals.
2. The Friends of Bradford's Becks be invited to report back in a year's time.
3. This report be noted and that the ongoing collaboration between officers and the Friends of Bradford's Becks be supported.
4. The Committee express Bradford Council's support and appreciation to Friends of Bradford's Becks for the work to tackle pollution, promote community engagement and restore and improve the beck and its catchment.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Friends of Bradford Becks summary of activities 2022.

Appendix 2 – Environment Agency's reported pollution incidents 2022.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Bradford's Becks – a New Lease of Life

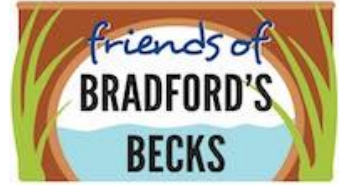
Available online from:

<http://bradfordbeckdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/bradfordsbecksfinalweboptimised.pdf>

NIRS Reference	Notification date	Location	NGR	Substantiated	Incident category	Cause type	Incident cause	Pollutant type	Pollutant
1953228	#####	Peel Park	SE 16424 33885	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Cause Not Identified	Not Identified	Pollutant Not Identified	Not Identified
1960330	#####	Bradford Beck at Ambler Mills	SE 16422 33887	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Cause Not Identified	Not Identified	Pollutant Not Identified	Not Identified
2040668	#####	Manningham	SE 15757 34284	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Fires	Other Fire	Atmospheric Pollutants and Effects	Smoke
2040668	#####	Manningham	SE 15757 34284	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Fires	Other Fire	Contaminated Water	Firefighting Run-Off
1968217	#####	Bolton Woods	SE 15061 35327	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Natural Causes	Algal Activity	Pollutant Not Identified	Not Identified
2023405	#####	Middle Brook SWO @ Glenbrook Dv	SE 13488 33099	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Containment and Control Failure	Wrong Connection	Sewage Materials	Crude Sewage
1995555	#####	Haworth Scouring At Eastbrook Beck	SE 17845 32773	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Cause Not Identified	Not Identified	Pollutant Not Identified	Not Identified
1939099	Sunday, May 16, 2021	Chellow Dene Reservoirs Allerton	SE 11892 34748	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Natural Causes	Algal Activity	Contaminated Water	Other Contaminated Water
1915870	Friday, April 2, 2021	Crossley Hall	SE 13165 33064	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Cause Not Identified	Not Identified	Pollutant Not Identified	Not Identified
1927474	Friday, April 23, 2021	Middlebrook Misconnection	SE 12988 32970	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Containment and Control Failure	Wrong Connection	Sewage Materials	Grey Water
1961052	#####	Bradford Beck at Leeds Rd Bridge	SE 15132 37620	Yes	Category 3 (Minor)	Cause Not Identified	Not Identified	Pollutant Not Identified	Not Identified

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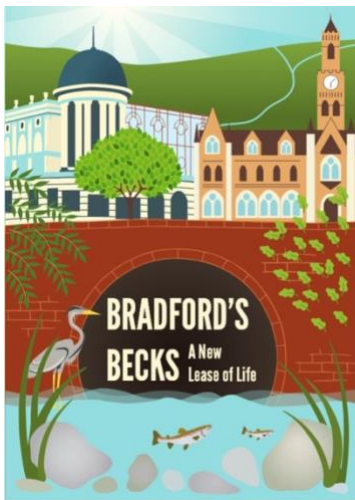
Friends of Bradford's Becks summary of activities 2021-22



Friends of Bradford's Becks report to Regeneration and Environment O&S Committee, October 2022

Introduction

The Friends of Bradford's Becks (FOBB) is a community group of Bradford based residents and ecologists. We are keen to see the eventual restoration of the Bradford Beck river system as a contribution to the quality of the city. FOBB was formed to achieve the six visions in the catchment management plan¹ which was written after widespread consultation during 2011. The visions are:



- clean (i.e. free of pollution)
- visible
- accessible
- thriving (i.e. good ecologically)
- cared for becks
- in a water wise city

The catchment plan was supported by the Environment and Waste O&S Committee in 2013, and officers were requested to give FOBB assistance with the resulting projects. We have reported back to the Committee in each year since; this is our report for the last 12 months to Sept 2022.

Good news stories from 2021-22

Respecting our Rivers

We were gratified that the Council passed a resolution entitled 'Respecting our Rivers' which called, among other things, for:

- Environment Agency funding for pollution investigations be restored
- FOBB to be thanked for their work on behalf of the rivers of Bradford
- The Chief Executive to produce a report detailing the action the Council is taking to enforce the rules for water protection on the land it owns

We had a nice letter from Kirsten England and continue to have good working relations with Council officers.

¹ Aire Rivers Trust, 2012. Bradford's Becks: a new lease of life. Available from <https://bradfordbeckdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/bradfordsbecksfinalweboptimised.pdf>

Bull Greave Beck

A combined team from Aire Rivers Trust, FOBB and Bradford Council undertook 4 days of clean-up around Bull Greave Beck, a delightful but neglected green valley between Clayton and Scholemoor Cemetery. 300+ bags of rubbish and 100+ tyres were taken out. Council staff have arranged barriers to prevent unauthorised access by quad bikes, car thieves and flytippers, and have even managed to remove the rusting car hulk from the beck.



1 Top: the car (now removed) in Bull Greave Beck. Bottom: Some of the team with their spoils. Right: Fly-tipping at Hunters Park Ave

One of the worst flytipping spots is on Hunters Park Ave, on a piece of land owned by Yorkshire Water (see photo). Can they be persuaded to put up an anti-tipping fence? Could a letter be written to their Chief Executive?

Eastbrook – blockage and pollution

The blockage which was causing flooding around Gibson St has finally been removed – well done to the Drainage Dept, especially Wasim Siddique for organising this.

We reported last year that the Premier Inn was sending sewage directly into Eastbrook; this fault in the drainage dates back until the conversion of the building to a hotel and possibly back to the initial construction. We understand that they have finally agreed to correct the sewer alignment and connect to the foul sewer. This example shows how important it is to have a final building-inspector check on the sewer connections from all new developments and major changes of use.

Yorkshire Water £1.6M fine for pollution

In July 2022, Yorkshire Water were fined £1.6M (after reductions for pleading guilty) for a 22-month series of pollution incidents and permit breaches. This culminated in a sever discharge of sewage into Eastbrook and thence to Bradford Beck which killed all fish and most invertebrates. FOBB reported the pollution in August 2018. YW were found to have been reckless, and to have not reported the problems to the Environment Agency during the 22 months when pumps were not working.

This may not sound like a good news story, but it has had the benefits showing that FOBB's watching, reporting and pestering can have results; giving YW a serious kick; and starting a higher level dialogue between YW and FOBB.



2 Bradford Beck upstream (Tumbling Hill St) and downstream (Ambler Mill) of the sewage release into Eastbrook, Aug 2018

Natural Flood Management projects

As part of their Climate and Environment Plan, WYCA are minded to make contributions of £30k, £102k and £78k towards work on three projects in the Bradford area – at Chellow Dene, Pitty Beck and on Red Beck/Northcliffe Dyke. They are agreed in principle and are essentially natural flood management projects that also offer substantial other water quality and environmental benefits. The Aire Rivers Trust is currently writing Business Cases to allow the money to be drawn down as soon as they receive formal approval and Friends of Bradford's Becks will be involved in the final design and delivery of the projects.

New and on-going issues

Should Bradford Beck be main river?

There is a growing problem with flooding in Bradford. In February 2020, houses were inundated for the first time in living memory in the Fairweather Green area. Problems will only increase with climate change and the continuing impermeabilization within the city.

The Environment Agency (EA) designates all watercourses as either "main river" or an "ordinary watercourse". Main rivers are the responsibility of the EA and ordinary watercourses are the responsibility of the local council. As well as the obvious rivers (Aire and Wharfe), many smaller becks with Bradford are main river such as Backstone Beck (Ikley), Silsden Beck, River Worth and North Beck (Keighley) and Nab Wood Beck. But not Bradford Beck, despite the size of the city and the flood risks!

Our analysis shows that Bradford is probably the only city in England with a river where the local council is responsible for managing flood risk. We understand the Council receives no significant funding for this. Isn't it time to make a case to the EA to make Bradford Beck main river?

One of our members raised this issue with the Chief Executive. He received a reply on behalf of Jason Longhurst to say that it would be considered after the summer and taken to a committee – what is the timetable for this?

City of Culture

Bradford Beck is a big part of the 'origin story' of Bradford so there must be a role for a celebration of the Beck in the City of Culture activities in 2025. But what? Suggestions welcome!

Valley Rd deculverting

This is the project to deculvert and renaturalise a short reach on the Beck alongside Valley Rd. This is jointly funded by ESIF (EU funds) and the Council to the tune of £3.25M. As well as daylighting the beck, there will be footpath and landscape enhancements. There will be no impact on the cycleway.

Design seems to have taken a very long time and is still not complete. A planning application was recently submitted has since been withdrawn. We are concerned that the scheme will start so late that it will miss the funder's deadline for completion, and the Committee might like to seek reassurance from Officers.

Planned deculverting (the new location may change from this 2021 sketch). Map/image from Google



PollutionWatch22



3 Pollution from a surface water drain on Bolton Beck (photo Joy Crampton)

Our volunteers went out hunting for pollution sources from June-August 2022 in a collaborative project with Yorkshire Water (YW); this follows on from the longer survey in 2021. They recorded water conditions on 302 occasions, found pollution 102 times of which 25 were serious enough to report to the Environment Agency and/or YW. Polluting outfalls were found on: Red Beck, Bolton Beck (multiple locations), Pinch Beck, Barnsley Beck and Middlebrook.

All of these are being investigated initially for misconnections by YW and then reported to the Environment Agency, Bradford Council or householder as appropriate. We have a good working relationship with YW over such pollution and this system of burst of volunteer monitoring gives them plenty of work to do.

Despite the relative success of the PollutionWatch project, FOBB does not believe that we have found the main problems. We believe that illegal effluent disposal, misconnections or faulty sewer overflows in the extensive culverts in the city are significant (see for example the Premier Inn case above). Bradford Beck and its tributaries will not become an asset to the city until more systematic investigations are undertaken.

Signage and information boards

With the help of the Council Signs workshop, an information board has been installed on the Beck on Valley Rd, and naming signs put on eight bridges; FOBB has paid with funds from the Coop.

Pollution hazard from unknown culverts

Last year we noted the absence of mapping of the many becks and small streams that were culverted during the building of Bradford over the last 200 years. These are pollution hazards, for example from chemical spills and fire-fighting water. There is also a flood risk because they are never inspected or maintained.

Awareness raising

We continue to push the Bradford Beck (good and bad!) in the conventional media and on social media. Mentions include:

Sandy Toksvig had a segment about the culverted beck and FOBB in her show at St George's Hall on May 12th.

The 'Mucky Beck' is the title of a chapter in a new book about rivers by Amy-Jane Beer, 'The Flow'. She will be talking at the Ilkley Literature Festival on October 9th.

Articles in the T&A

- 8th Oct 2021, Premier Inn pollution
- 16th April 2022, Bull Greave Beck cleanup
- 23rd April 2022, Bull Greave Beck cleanup
- 4th May 2022, PollutionWatch22
- 8th May 2022, Bull Greave Beck cleanup
- 18th July 2022, Yorkshire Water fine

We held 2 litter picks in addition to the Bull Greave Beck days.

We ran two stalls in Community Centres for Bradford Science Festival in October 2021, a stall at Scholemoor Beacon, and 4 school events.

FOBB has over 900 followers on [Facebook](#) (do join them!).

The coming year

We will continue to campaign to make the Beck and its tributaries assets to Bradford and the environment. We will:

- hunt out pollution and work as closely as possible with Yorkshire Water, Bradford Council and the Environment Agency to stop it.
- seek opportunities re-naturalise and improve access to the beck, especially engaging with the proposed de-culverting along Valley Rd.
- campaign to make the Beck main river.
- look for ways to include the Beck in the City of Culture.

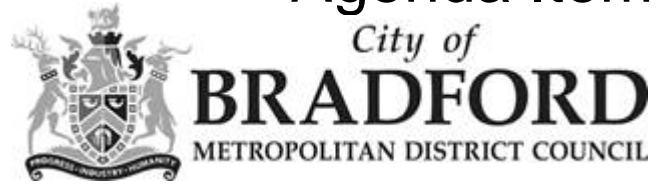
Support in the coming year

We ask for continued support in our campaign to improve Bradford's Becks for both the city's and the environment's benefit. We appreciate the continued engagement with the Drainage and Landscape teams.

We have three specific requests:

1. Write to Yorkshire Water and encourage them to fence off their land on Bull Greave Beck to reduce fly-tipping.
2. Support our campaign to make the Beck main river.
3. Back our efforts to include the Beck in the City of Culture.

Barney Lerner
Chair, Friends of Bradford's Becks
BradfordsBecks@gmail.com



Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 18th October 2022

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Subject:

Water Management and Resilience in the Bradford District

Summary statement:

The Environment and Waste Management Overview Scrutiny Committee undertook a wider scrutiny review into water management across the District following the devastating winter 2015 floods. The Water Management Scrutiny Review was endorsed by the Environment and Waste Management Overview Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 4th July 2017 where it was recommended to be considered by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in their meeting on the 26th October 2017 where it was subsequently endorsed.

Following its adoption, The Water Management Scrutiny Review included twenty-six recommendations and a report has been brought to the committee on an annual basis to highlight progress made against each recommendation. The majority of the recommendations raised in the original Water Management Scrutiny Review Report are now deemed satisfied.

Within the October 2021 meeting it was resolved by the Regeneration and Environment Overview Committee that a report which provides an update on all the Council's water management and resilience initiatives and also includes information on flood alleviation equipment available to communities be presented to the Committee in 12 months.

Strategic Director:

Jason Longhurst
Strategic Director of Place

Portfolio:

Planning, Transportation and Highways

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Regeneration and Environment

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

The public sector equality duty in s149 of the Equalities Act applies to the Council in the exercise of its functions. Those functions will include most, if not all, of the proposals and other measures referred to in this report. The duty is to “have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under [the 2010 Act], (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.”. In summary, this includes the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons that are connected to that relevant protected characteristic and taking steps to meet the needs of persons who do not share it and encouraging persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to take account of disabled person’s disabilities and makes it clear that compliance with the duties ‘may involve treating some persons more favourably than others’. It is evidence that all of the schemes and proposals referred to in this report have the potential to impact on persons who share one of more of the relevant protected characteristics.

1. SUMMARY

The Environment and Waste Management Overview Scrutiny Committee undertook a wider scrutiny review into water management across the District following the devastating winter 2015 floods. The Water Management Scrutiny Review was endorsed by the Environment and Waste Management Overview Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 4th July 2017 where it was recommended to be considered by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in their meeting on the 26th October 2017 where it was subsequently endorsed.

Following its adoption, The Water Management Scrutiny Review included twenty-six recommendations and The report has been brought to the committee on an annual basis to highlight progress made against each recommendation. The majority of the recommendations raised in the original Water Management Scrutiny Review Report are now deemed satisfied or are dealt with as day to day activities by a host of council services. In this respect, the original report has achieved its objectives.

Within the October 2021 meeting it was resolved by the Regeneration and Environment Overview Committee that **a report which provides an update on all the Council's water management and resilience initiatives and also includes information on flood alleviation equipment available to communities be presented to the Committee in 12 months.**

2. BACKGROUND

The floods of December 2015 inundated over 1,000 homes and businesses across a wide swathe of Bradford District and turned the lives of many hundreds of local people upside down. The cost of the damage to residential and commercial property is estimated to have been around £34 million. The broader social, environmental and economic impacts were even greater in scope as residents struggled to cope with the upheaval to their everyday lives through the months that followed.

Water management in Bradford was again unfortunately put to the test in 2020 by the wettest February on record when Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis caused widespread incidents across the district. Approximately 300mm of rainfall fell in a four-week period. To put this in context the average annual rainfall for Bradford is circa 950mm. This caused a reported 71 residential properties and approximately 60 businesses to succumb to internal flooding. This also caused four schools to flood and be forced to close plus large lengths of the highway network becoming impassable. In total over 900 flooding incidents were reported through the contact centre during the period. This was a stark reminder of the importance of flood risk and water management within the district.

In January and February of 2021, several storms caused widespread disruption and incidents across the district. These events again highlighted where existing processes in the response to flood risk had improved but also where further work was required.

Storm Franklin brought around 90mm of rainfall in a 24 hour period during February 2022. The Rainfall landing on an already saturated catchment causing local drainage infrastructure to stress and at times be overwhelmed. To put this level of rainfall in context,

the average monthly amount of rainfall for the whole of February is 75mm, since records began.

The larger main rivers the River Aire, River Worth and River Wharfe peaked at high levels but no reports of property flooding from these river systems were raised. There were a large number incidents recorded from non-main river and surface water flooding, (including a landslip on Westlea Avenue, Riddlesden and surface water flooding in Low Moor and in East Morton). In total the Council received 60 incidents to investigate surface water flooding of properties. Fifteen properties were recorded to succumb to internal flooding.

Articulate road closures were put in place due to surface water flooding of the highway network and many minor roads and rights of ways were also unpassable. Power cuts affecting more than 1000 properties in the district. The Thackley Railway Tunnel (Airedale Line) flooded (water seeping through roof and walls) – which resulted in the Leeds / Bradford / Ilkley / Shipley lines being closed temporarily.

The flood events over the last 8 years have highlighted that Water Management is still a key challenge and how the Council engages and approaches this challenge over the coming years will be critical to providing a prosperous and sustainable district that allows individuals, households and businesses to adapt, change and innovate to address the tests presented by climate change. High quality water management requires a multitude of organisations and stakeholders to collaborate effectively.

3. REPORT ISSUES

Bradford Council's Capital Flood Risk Programme

Since the major floods in 2015 the Council have recognised the need for a long term strategic approach to managing flood risk across our district. The Council have worked with the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water to scope and develop a Bradford Flood Programme Board ('the Board'). The Board objectives alongside ongoing scheme development, is a priority to focus on identifying and delivering cost-beneficial solutions for communities at risk of flooding within the district. The Board was established in January 2017 and have progressed and supported the emergence of a capital flood risk programme of works for the District. The work conducted by the Council in recent years has provided the tools and knowledge to develop a healthy and progressive capital flood risk management programme. Not only have projects advanced within areas initially impacted by Storm Eva in 2015, but largely due to the many partnerships and relationships formed in creating the programme, this has provided a springboard towards unearthing a multitude of multi organisation flood risk management schemes in the district.

The Board was established in January 2017 and have progressed and supported the emergence of a capital flood risk programme of works for the District. Presented in Appendix 1 is a copy of the latest Bradford Council Capital Flood Risk Programme. This programme details the capital works schemes to better protect properties from flood risk in the district.

The programme illustrates the spread of projects between the Aire and Wharfe Catchment. The programme shows the forecasted delivery of projects and where currently

funding gaps exist based on their eligibility to attract Flood Defence Grant in Aid from the Department for Environment, Flood and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), this being the main source of government funding to fund projects to reduce flood risk. Further to the establishment of the Board the first project within the programme was delivered and ready for service in February 2021. The Esholt Surface Water Flood Alleviation Project provides a high standard of protection to 20 properties within Esholt that have suffered repeated flooding in the past. The next scheme in the programme to be progressed was a surface water flood reduction scheme in the village of Goose Eye in Keighley. Funding for the scheme was granted in November 2021 and the scheme was ready for service in April 2022. The project provides a high standard of protection to 32 properties within Goose Eye that have suffered repeated flooding in the past. Further information on these two schemes can be found in Appendix 2.

It is essential that the schemes in the Councils programme continue to be progressed collaboratively to ensure our high risk communities are resilient to future climate changes and an increased risk of flooding.

Flood Resilience

Members of the Silsden Emergency Planning Group, together with Members of Wharfedale Mens Shed, have combined to put together a proposal for an easily installed and removed barrier to replace the sand bags which are currently deployed to the east side of the ford in St John's Street when there is a flood risk. Sand bags are not considered to be effective barriers against flooding (with the exception of diverting flow) and deploying the sand bags involves several members of the SEPG and the use of motor vehicles to move the bags from the storage area at the rear of Silsden Methodist Church to the ford site. They are heavy, particularly when wet, and have become a playground for children causing a nuisance for neighbours at the storage area. The sand bags typically weigh 20Kg and around 40 have to be moved to create an effective barrier a total weight of 800Kg over $\frac{3}{4}$ ton.

The Council are supportive of this community effort but appreciate that a Flood Risk activity permit needs to be sought from the Environment Agency. Emergency Planning have agreed to cover the cost of the permit application and the Land Drainage & Flood Risk Management team are reviewing the evidence provided by the group before the application is submitted.

Community Engagement

There is a need for Bradford Council to play a part in helping to develop the ability of communities to look after themselves to a greater degree than they currently do. Bradford Council's Emergency Planning Team have developed local Flood and Emergency plans with Parish and Town Councils within Bradford District. Bradford Council have provided Flood Packs for properties at risk and have secured funding for river stewardship works in collaboration with partners and community groups through the Bradford Flood Programme Board Flood Resilience Group. Bradford Council will continue to identify, work with partners and deliver cost-beneficial solutions for communities at risk of flooding whilst enhancing local knowledge of contributory issues.

The River Aire and its tributaries in Bradford are extensive and flood risk is widespread.

There is a need to engage with multiple communities within Bradford District in regard to the risk they face and their role in mitigating that risk and being more resilient. The Council recognise that this a considerable undertaking and something that the Council do not have the resources to do on what we would consider to be an effective level. This is however what we need our communities to be. River Aire Care provides a mechanism to support residents and businesses to deliver direct improvements to their communities. This in turn provides a sense of wellbeing, pride and ownership of their immediate environment. The Council recognise the value of this work and consider that Local Levy can be used to ensure that resilience building within communities continue its current momentum.

River Aire Care is a programme of raising community resilience to flooding throughout the River Aire catchment through awareness raising, community clean ups, volunteer opportunities, group support and an apprenticeship for a young people/person. This programme builds on existing work and ensures its continuity as future funding plans are developed.

A staff member from the Aire Rivers Trust will support local volunteer groups to raise flood awareness, care for their rivers and improve local biodiversity. These include supporting existing groups (i.e. River Worth Friends) and helping newer ones grow (i.e. Friends of Silsden Beck). This project will grow capacity for environmental conservation and river stewardship within the catchment and within the Trust, through a Countryside Worker apprenticeship.

The staff member will also support the delivery of an apprenticeship as part of the wider programme.

The project will provide outreach work and awareness raising with targeted communities, such those in the vicinity of the Keighley and Stockbridge Scheme, to improve flood resilience. This will include the updating of a flood awareness pack for the Bradford district.

Climate Change and Adaption

According to the 2018 UK Climate Change Projections average sea level could increase by over a metre by the end of the century (Met Office, 2019) and at 2C global warming without adaptation between 10% and 125% more people could be affected by river flooding worldwide. Limiting global warming to 1.5C approximately halves the increase in flooding impact (Met Office 2018) underlining the importance of acting now to adapt to flooding and coastal change. According to the World Health Organisation climate change is one of the greatest threats to global health in the 21st century (WHO, 2015). The climate emergency is the defining issue for local government over the next ten to twenty years and The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and joined the Leeds City Region Climate Coalition which is aiming for a net zero carbon region by 2038.

A climate resilient district will not be effectively delivered by Bradford Council working on their own. We all need to take action now so that we are ready for what the future will bring. We need all Risk Management Authority's (RMA's), individuals, communities, the third sector, businesses, farmers, land managers and infrastructure providers to contribute

to planning and adapting to future flooding in the authority area so that Bradford District is a flood resilient district. The government's Environment Bill (Parliament 2020a) and Agriculture Bill (Parliament UK, 2020b) recognise that we need to make nature's power part of our solution and support farmers and land managers to take a more integrated approach to flood risk and water resource management. Our work to date has enabled us to develop good working partnerships and it is our intention to grow those partnerships further to enable us to deliver the flood alleviation projects and resilience measures that the district needs. The consultation on the emerging [National Resilience Strategy](#) (December 2021) reports that the majority of respondents believe that more can be done to assess (82%, 268 respondents) and communicate (80%, 261) risk, whilst 76% (246) consider that everyone has a part to play in improving the UK's resilience.

The Council are currently updating its Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) in line with new guidance released this year. Within the update maps of predicted flood risk will be published from detailed computer flood mapping. This will inform the flood risk aspects and policies of the site allocations process. The latest climate change allowances will be considered to identify flood risk extents from all sources of flooding. The mapping outputs will assess the effects of climate change on all sources of flooding and identify areas where it is expected climate change to increase flood risk. The maps will also determine where the effects of climate change will make existing development unsustainable. This process will help identify any development that may need to be relocated to sustainable locations.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out how the planning system should help minimise vulnerability and provide resilience to the impacts of climate change. Making allowances for climate change in flood risk assessments is a way of achieving this. NPPF and supporting planning practice guidance on flood risk and coastal change explain when and how flood risk assessments should be used. This includes demonstrating how flood risk will be managed now and over the development's lifetime taking climate change into account. Local planning authorities refer to the published guidelines when preparing local plans and considering planning applications.

Advice on climate change was previously set at a national level however research suggested that future guidelines for changes to peak river flows as a result of climate change might be more appropriate if considered on a regional scale. New allowances were produced by the EA in April 2016 (Flood Risk Assessments: Climate Change Allowances) and there are different allowances for different periods of time over the next century. Bradford District lies within the Humber river basin district and allowances for changes to peak river flows range from 10 to 50%. Peak rainfall intensity is set nationally at a range of 5 to 40%.

It is imperative that the effects of more extreme flooding in Bradford District are mitigated against and plans and schemes are developed to better manage and adapt to any increased risk of local flooding as a result of climate change. This affects the functions of all RMA's and all Council departments.

Whole Catchment Approach

The whole catchment approach is central to any scheme being successful and funding bids are increasingly being submitted on a catchment-wide basis encompassing multiple projects through a number of local authority administrative areas.

For the River Aire in Bradford, Local Levy Investment was used to develop a study to help identify a short list of the most viable options to reduce flood risk for communities including Bingley, Baildon, Shipley and Apperley Bridge. Using the latest available hydraulic model of the River Aire, produced as part of the Leeds FAS scheme, the study tested both direct interventions and more catchment wide solutions for flood alleviation. The Bradford Aire Catchment Flood Alleviation Study considered a whole catchment solution for flood risk on the River Aire which was a priority for the Board. The study investigated the use of upstream storage solutions within Craven and the western parts of the district. The early results show levels can be reduced however the cost of implementing these measures are proportionally high and therefore current funding arrangements sourced through DEFRA do not fully fund any of the measures. Further catchment wide discussions are now taking place with the Environment Agency and wider partners already engaged in the project such as the Aires Rivers Trust to see where multi benefit schemes across the catchment could help fill the funding gaps.

The Wharfe Flood Partnership meets quarterly to review FRM and related matters on the Wharfe catchment. It is attended by the EA, North Yorkshire County Council, Bradford Council, Leeds City Council, Yorkshire Water and the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust (YDRT). The Wharfe Flood Partnership secured Local Levy funding to progress projects throughout the catchment and following on from the Addingham 4 Becks project, YDRT have secured funding to undertake NFM farm plans with landowners. Due to resource constraints this funding is being reprofiled to the 23/24 financial year.

Working with Natural Processes (WwNP) in Bradford

Working with Natural Processes (WwNP) or Natural Flood Management (NFM) is a type of flood risk management used to protect, restore and re-naturalise the function of catchments and rivers to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk.

WwNP has the potential to provide environmentally sensitive approaches to reduce flood risk in areas where hard flood defences are not feasible and to increase the lifespan of existing flood defences. WwNP and NFM are used interchangeably in the UK though the term WwNP is now used by Defra. Bradford Council work with RMA's and other partners to deliver WwNP projects across the Bradford district.

Bradford Council have contributed to the evidence base for WwNP by undertaking pilot projects in Bradford District on both the Aire and Wharfe Catchments on Harden Moor and Ilkley Moor. Further detail so these projects are included in Appendix 2. Whilst the primary objective is flood risk reduction, the nature of WwNP means that it is multidisciplinary and requires input from multiple fields to ensure that measures enhance the existing environment rather than irrevocably changing it to the detriment of other environmental, social or economic objectives. For these reasons, WwNP projects are very much partnership efforts, from the landowners, to the communities, to organisations already working in the area and to the organisations delivering the projects. For Bradford Council,

WwNP projects as a landowner requires the Land Drainage team to work with Countryside and Rights of Way and Parks and Green Spaces Team.

Bradford Council is a partner in the Natural Environment Research Council funded Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme (iCASP) which is funded until 2026. The aim is to use research to make a difference to the environment, economy and society and to promote Yorkshire as a global leader in implementing resilient catchment management. Bradford Council has been involved in a number of iCASP projects involving modelling of WwNP and takes part in the Community of Practice, a group set up by iCASP to bring together people working on different natural flood management projects across Yorkshire. Bradford regularly attends the iCASP Community of Practice (CoP). The meetings provide a forum for networking, learning and disseminating best practice: they are designed to build regional capacity amongst WwNP practitioners through sharing knowledge and discussing challenges and opportunities. The meetings enable participants to undertake informal continuing professional development (CPD). Many of the meetings take place on sites where WwNP interventions have been installed to allow a tour guided by those who have designed and installed the WwNP measures.

Bradford Council is also part of the [White Rose Forest](#) Partnership. The White Rose Forest is the community forest for North and West Yorkshire, working in partnership with local authorities, landowners, businesses and communities to increase woodland across the region and improve our natural environment. Through the partnership millions of trees are being planted in urban centres and countryside that will help manage flood risk, mitigate the impact of climate change, create jobs and provide happier and healthier places for us all to live, work in and enjoy. The vision of White Rose Forest is 'to create a genuinely sustainable and well wooded landscape in North and West Yorkshire which will benefit local people, the economy and wildlife'.

A series of best practice manual in regards to Natural Flood Management has been put together by the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and this is regular used by the Council in pursuing WwNP opportunities. A link to the guide is below;

[Natural Flood Management - Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust \(ydrtr.org.uk\)](http://ydrtr.org.uk)

This year CIRIA have also published the Natural Flood Management Manual (C802F) which is available to download on their website www.ciria.org

The approaches that have been implemented in these projects are all replicable on other catchments within the district and Bradford Council as LLFA and a landowner will continue to work with partners to realise more WwNP projects across Bradford district.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places a statutory duty on the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority for Bradford District, to develop a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. This Strategy must detail the Risk Management Authorities and the functions that they can exercise within the authority area, assess flood risk, the objectives for managing that risk and the measures undertaken to implement those objectives.

of the scheme. The scheme is identifying with landowners, which land is suitable for NFM measures. Also as part of the scheme, potential areas have been identified and shared with partners and the Leeds FAS2 project team. A substantial land bank is required to deliver the Leeds FAS NFM programme, and requires a significant amount of buy in from numerous landowners. The Leeds FAS2 project team are very keen to continue to work with large landowners throughout the River Aire Catchment and have continuously engaged with the Council on the potential to implement NFM measures within the district.

West Yorkshire has launched an innovative programme to make the region more resilient to flooding and climate change. The five Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA's), Environment Agency and West Yorkshire Combined Authority are partners and they have support from local stakeholders including academic partners, community based groups, Third Sector organisations and Yorkshire Water. The Programme will work at catchment level and across administrative boundaries.

The WY FLIP will focus on innovation, exploring new ways of working including bringing together people who do not normally work together such as representatives from the private sector, community groups, charities and volunteers with a keen interest in flood resilience. Collaboration is key and representatives outside of the flood risk and environment sectors will be involved including the finance and insurance sector, transport, education, technology and health to ensure a holistic approach and other benefits for our communities. Learning from the programme will be shared across organisations to help others deliver similar projects successfully across the region, nationally and internationally.

WY FLIP has been kick-started with 2 years of funding from the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to develop core activities, establish a governance structure and attract more funding to deploy projects and sustain the Programme into the future.

Property Level Flood Resilience

Property Flood Resilience, also widely known as Property Level Protection (PLP), provides property owners and professional partners with practical and cost-effective steps to help lower flood risk, through the use of affordable bespoke products.

These offer an innovative and effective response which 'plugs the gap' that previously existed between engineered flood protection schemes, and either sandbags or the 'do nothing' option. The approach aims to identify products and measures that are appropriate for the person, flood and property together, helping to reduce flood damage and increase peace of mind.

Following the floods in February 2020 this year, The Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) issued guidance for Local Authorities to facilitate the delivery of the Property Flood Resilience Recovery Support Scheme 2020 (PFR 2020) in October 2020(dealy due to impact of COVID19 Pandemic).

Bradford Council were eligible for the PFR 2020 grant funding from the government because it was impacted by Storm Ciara and/or Dennis and 25 or more properties were severely affected.

The purpose of the scheme was to assist flood impacted property owners to improve the flood resilience of their individual properties when they repair them after a flood. The outcome from the funding was that if flooding were to reoccur, damage levels would be considerably lower and householders and businesses could return to their properties much more quickly. The scheme ran from October 2020 and closed in July 2022.

The Council facilitated the delivery of the Property Flood Resilience Recovery Support Scheme [2020]. This included the management of all aspects of the grant to ensure eligible properties had suitable mitigations measures installed to assist owners to improve the flood resilience of their individual properties when they repaired them after a Storms Ciara and Dennis. The objective of the funding was that if flooding were to reoccur, damage levels would be considerably lower and householders and businesses could return to their properties much more quickly.

The scheme involved a range of work activities including,

- Promotion of the scheme including preparation of documents to be uploaded on communication platforms
- Making contact with property owners including providing information and advice to help them understand the benefits of making their properties more resilient.
- Procurement and commission of Independent Surveyors
- Arranging flood and building surveys of impacted properties
- Procuring a list of suitable local contractors/ installers
- Working with insurers, loss-adjusters or builders to integrate resilient repair into the recovery process
- Working with other Council departments and external organisations
- Quality Assurance – developing a robust process to administer the scheme and to carry out risk-based inspections to check the quality of the installation and to assist property owners to follow-up cases of poor workmanship
- Supporting property owners to understand the concepts and future management of the installations.
- Administrating payments and reporting

The Land Drainage and Flood Risk Management service managed the grant scheme including the procurement and commissioning of independent surveyors to undertake survey's and appraisals of the installed mitigation measures. In total there were 135 application forms issued to both residential and business properties. From this, 60 applications were submitted for consideration and 54 were deemed eligible. Recently installed property flood resilience measures to these 54 properties will ensure the impacts of any future flood events will be greatly reduced, assisting with the costs and mental distress caused by a flood event within the newly protected communities.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in Bradford

A key component of climate change mitigation for Bradford will be flood resilience, and much the schmes that are promoted and developed need to explores innovative solutions for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Nature Based Solutions (NBS). Retrofitting sustainable drainage systems into our urban landscapes is now seen as a priority and is the strategy used on redevelopment projects in the district.

The West Yorkshire Transport Fund Programme currently includes highway improvements works in recently delivered at the New Line Junction and Hard Ings, Keighley. The programme and Bradford to Shipley Corridor. The design and implementation of the drainage solutions that serve these scheme are all being delivered, in-house, by the Land Drainage service. As a result, all these highway schemes incorporate measures to reduce quantities of surface water and improve the quality if runoff from the new carriageway areas through the use of SuDS.

Bradford Council has secured funding to carry out highway improvements and sustainable landscaping works to an area of the City Village locally known as the 'Top of Town', focused on North Parade, Rawson Square and Northgate. A network of 'rain gardens' will be established as part of a drainage system designed to help mitigate local flooding risks for the project. Rain gardens are areas of planting designed to temporarily hold, filter and soak away any rain water that runs off buildings and paved areas in a more sustainable manner rather than straight into sewers not preventing overloading the sewers. Whilst planting semi-mature trees will contribute to the physical landscape, it will also create new habitats and increase biodiversity. Providing wildlife corridors and connections between green spaces. Providing options for wildlife to travel is extremely important to urban biodiversity.

The Council are applying SuDS to a number of Council schemes, including an ongoing [Life CRITICAL](#) project at Horton Park, part of the EU Life Programme supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action, for which community engagement is a vital part of the project innovation. The award winning [Interreg North Sea Region BEGIN - Blue Green Infrastructures through Social Innovation](#), looked at how together with the community we can build more resilient and liveable cities.

Water Quality Improvements

Although not falling under the same regulations in terms of flood risk management there can be considerable overlap between water quality and flood risk. Members of Bradford Council earlier in the year approved a motion "Respecting Our Rivers",:

By reducing surface water runoff into local sewerage networks, schemes will help reduce the discharge from Yorkshire Waters Combined Sewer Overflows that connect to the river networks within the district, improving the water quality of natural environment. Preliminary discussions have begun between the Council and Yorkshire Water at identifying areas where the implementation of nature based drainage solutions will reduce flood risk, improve urban water body quality and reduce combined sewer overflow discharges.

Land Drainage Investigations

Bradford Councils Land Drainage Team regularly investigate reports of blocked or collapsed watercourses within the Bradford Beck Catchment. Blockages can lead to an increased risk of flooding, risk of environmental pollution incidents and impacts on the amenity quality of an area.

Land drainage law is complex and is covered within the Land Drainage Act 1991. The Council is able to offer advice about problems associated with land drainage, including

ditches, streams, rivers and other watercourses. Essentially, a landowner is responsible for the drainage of their land. If a watercourse passes through land, under the Land Drainage Act 1991, the landowner is classified as a 'Riparian Owner' and is responsible for maintaining the flow within the watercourse and to ensure an impediment to that flow does not exist.

The Council only has a responsibility for watercourse when the Council is the landowner. Other than that, the Council do have powers to act in certain circumstances, to mitigate against the effects of flooding generated from land drainage matters.

If a landowner fails to carry out necessary maintenance on a watercourse, the Council can serve notice and carry out works if ditches have become blocked resulting in a flood risk or health hazard. These powers are contained in the Land Drainage Acts 1991 and Sections of the Public Health Act 1936, but are not instantaneous - the process between first notification of a problem and serving a notice can take years, and further stages are required if the landowner defaults on the notice.

Occasionally investigations reveal blockages on land that is unregistered or where emergency works are necessary. In these instances, the Council conduct a review to understand the risk posed by any defects and if quick interventions will reduce the risk and avoid on-going issues that can take up large amounts of resource. Recent investigations have led to a collaborative project to stabilise the culvert under the Bradford Live project where major civil engineering works were necessary to the total of £1.3m. This scheme had been project managed by the Councils Land Drainage and Flood Risk Management Team.

Data and Technology

The collection, review and reuse of data is becoming increasingly important and a necessary tool to analysing water management, responding to flood events and providing evidence to prioritise resources and initiatives. The Council has worked within a wide range of projects that support better water managements through the use of data and technology

Flow monitoring (funded through the EU Smart Cities and Open Data Reuse project (SCORE)) was put in place to establish baseline flow rates on Backstone Beck and this monitoring has remained beyond the completion of physical works to determine the efficacy of the natural flood management project. This has been published as open data and has been used to inform studies by iCASP and Yorkshire Water. Fixed point photography posts are also in place on the moorland allowing visitors to submit photos of the landscape in order to monitor changes. The images captured are enabling us to see the change in the landscape where interventions are in place. Dales Land Net have a series of soil moisture content monitors installed in the upper catchment and Moors For The Future have installed three cameras and three water pressure loggers behind dams in each of the three main tributary channels to Backstone Beck to determine how the dams respond to high water flows – pairing time-lapse with pressure files. In addition, dipwells were installed near the Dales Land Net equipment plus cameras with views of Ilkley. These will remain in place until the end of this year. The flow monitors will be in place for a further 18 months to enable us to undertake post-intervention assessment.

Money granted through the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, the Council have purchased a flood forecasting application called Meniscus MAP Rain. The application enables the Council to look at patterns of historical rainfall events in the district where we know that we have experienced historical flooding issues and forecast the progression of rainfall events in the future providing user defined forecast rainfall alerts. The product will assist the Council to identify where localised events are most likely to occur and therefore where to prioritise and target activities such as gully and trash screen clearance prior to a forecasted event and where Council resources may need to be focussed during an event. The tool will also be used to alert Parish and Town Councils or groups that hold Community Emergency and Flood Plans, and residents in known hotspot areas of surface water flood risk therefore continuing to build on and support community resilience to flooding.

The Council have recently commissioned a specialist consultant to create a new build computer model of Bradford Beck and its tributaries. The completed model will be ready early next year and will provide computer generated flood outlines and depths in the Bradford Beck Catchment. The model will be used as the evidence base for the emerging Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment updates for this catchment and the Council will also use the new model for evaluating flood risk management options in future capital works schemes. As part of the project the Council will be undertaking a full structural and geometric survey of the culverted sections Bradford Beck. This will be achieved by using remote laser scanning technology that will provide a full three dimensional computer model of the culvert structure allowing this data to be used for a multitude of projects. This 3D model can be incorporated into the Virtual Bradford 3D city model helping visualise flood risk scenarios and engage with elected members and the public.

iCASP have undertaken a project to assess the effectiveness of the recently implemented NFM measures on Ilkley Moor. An open-source rain-on-grid catchment and river model has been built that takes into account rainfall and river flow monitoring data collected over the last three years. The work has built on previous iCASP NFM projects such as Hardcastle Crags in Calderdale, but with the advantage of access to a significant quantity of monitoring data at the site. Backstone Beck has provided an ideal NFM test case for integrating multiple stakeholder issues in one model and draws together separate pieces of iCASP NFM project work and staff experience in one project.

There are many flood risk management authorities, asset owners and local authorities invested in the outcomes of the modelling, but none have responsibility for the whole catchment. The aim is to provide partners with a better holistic understanding of how changes will impact on the surface water in the catchment. Partners will be encouraged to co-develop and co-fund a mutually beneficial open model that transcends individual interests. It will help assess what proposed changes to drainage arrangements within the catchment might mean for the Beck, for example, helping to explore a potential diversion of Ilkley Tarn outflows from the combined sewer. Work such as this is valuable to wider water management issues such as water quality and the Wharfe at Cromwheel Bathing Water Designation. Bradford Council are working with Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency to better understand all pressures on the river at the Bathing Water designation point and other LLFA's for the wider Wharfe catchment.

The Council offers an electronic stay connected email bulletin service to residents. The Stay connected is one of the Council's corporate communication channels. One service that can be signed up to is the delivery of up to date weather warning and flooding alerts and information about preparing for flooding before, during and after an event.

This service can be signed up to at the following link,

[Stay Connected - sign up for email alerts | Bradford Council](#)

To ensure the districts residents can prepare themselves for flood events and to improve their resilience, the Council offer advice on their website about property flood resilience measures and plans. This advice can be viewed at the following link

[Flooding information and support | Bradford Council](#)

Maintenance funding for water management assets

The Land Drainage & Flood Risk Management service do not receive capital funding to undertake maintenance works on Council owned drainage infrastructure. The responsibility of drainage infrastructure will depend on which department or service manages the function of each individual asset. The Land Drainage & Flood Risk Management service work with the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and other organisations to identify and progress flood risk schemes within their capital works programme to address property flooding, and is actively looking for match funding to reduce the pressure on existing drainage systems.

The Highways Service manages a range of existing drainage infrastructure including assets such as the carrier drains that serve the highways, road gullies, road side ditches, drainage outfalls, and culverted watercourses that pass under the highway. Budgets used to maintain these assets are limited and base revenue budgets have decreased over recent years due to the spending constraints the Council is facing. Some sections are reported to use revenue budgets to undertake emergency maintenance projects however no capital budgets are available to implement a periodic asset maintenance programme.

With a reduction in base budgets for maintenance, the Highways Service have applied for other 'ad hoc' funding streams managed by the Department for Transport (DfT) to maintain assets.

The Council maintain 25 trash screens that protect downstream culvert systems from becoming blocked. The Trash Screens therefore provide protection to many key highway networks works plus approximately 250 residential properties. The maintenance works to keep the trash screens cleared are currently funded through Council staff revenue budgets.

Another flood risk management asset that is maintained using staff revenue budgets is Bradford Beck Overflow tunnel. The overflow tunnel was built in in the early 1990's and provides a standard of protection to 77 residential properties plus 158 businesses located within Bradford City Centre. Its operation and maintenance are vital to the City Centres viability.

As the Council promotes and delivers more flood risk management projects through its Capital Flood Risk Management Programme to meet the needs of a changing climate, there will be additional funding stresses in maintaining these assets. For example, recently built schemes in Esholt and Goose Eye do not have capital budgets available to implement a periodic asset maintenance programme. The Government do not provide revenue funding to local authorities for the maintenance of flood risk management schemes. All authorities will be facing this increasing challenge after the impact of years of austerity and budgetary pressures meaning more innovative ways to manage assets will need to be explored.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

The measures being undertaken by the Council and its partners through these funding streams are being delivered through a range of specific capital grants and revenue budgets. Over the last year the service managed to deliver a programme of works of circa £3.5m across its portfolio of programmes.

With the progression of the flood risk capital programmes the service has had to procure additional support for delivery of its programmes to supplement its own internal resources. As the intensity of delivery for these programmes ramps up over the next couple of years this is likely to be a maintaining trend.

The Government do not provide revenue funding to local authorities for the maintenance of flood risk management schemes. All authorities will be facing this increasing challenge after the impact of years of austerity and budgetary pressures meaning more innovative ways to manage assets will need to be explored.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The programmes of schemes and proposals described in this report are subject to robust risk management and governance arrangements to ensure their delivery is effectively managed at both Environment Agency and Council levels. Individual programme boards, comprising representatives of the Council and their EA counterparts meet on a monthly basis to review progress of individual schemes. A rigorous risk management process is applied to these projects and programmes with comprehensive risk registers being developed and maintained at both project and programme levels.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places a duty on Local Authorities to prepare The Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Under section 9 of the 2010 Act the Council has a duty to and put in place strategies for managing flood risk from groundwater, surface water and ordinary watercourses in their areas, and to monitor the application of a local flood risk management strategy in its area. The programmes of schemes and proposals in this report forms part of the work required to develop an effective flood risk strategy and to discharge the consequential duties arising under Section 9.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The requirements of these policies have been adopted as far as possible across all schemes which are at an advance stage of delivery (Outline Business Case or later) within the delivery programmes and are fully adopted in schemes which are in the early stages of development.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

In the context of the Climate Emergency declared by the Council in January 2019, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a priority for the district. The projects described in the programme of works in this report are required to report and value their carbon impact.

The Environment Agency uses a net carbon benefit approach to capture the carbon costs, carbon emissions avoided and any carbon sequestration of flood risk management schemes. This uses the [Green Book](#) approach to carbon costing combined with specific research on the carbon emissions avoided and carbon sequestration that flood risk managements can provide.

Flood risk management schemes provide carbon avoided benefits as their implementation, offsets the carbon spent in emergency and repair works in recovery after a flood event. This carbon avoided is calculated over the lifetime of the flood risk management intervention.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Any Human Rights implications arising from schemes described in this report are taken into account in the development of that scheme.

7.5 TRADE UNION

There are no trade union implications associated with this report.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards in the district are impacted by flood risk and water management. The wards in which the measures described in this report are implemented will generally benefit from the improvements. Appropriate consultation has, and will continue, to take place with Ward Members and local communities during the development of individual projects.

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

Not applicable

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

There are no implications arising as a consequence of this report.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

Not applicable

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

Members are asked to consider the report and provide views and comments.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Bradford Council's Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers this report and provides comments, and receives a report back before the end of October 2023 which provides an update to the Councils progress of all Water Management and Resilience initiatives within the district.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Bradford Councils Capital Flood Risk Programme

Appendix 2 Flood Risk Management Projects Highlights

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Water Management Scrutiny Review Report 2017

[Env2MayDocAMAppendixDraft Report - Water Management Scrutiny Review KW.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Bradford Councils Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

[Evidence Base | Bradford Council](#)

Bradford Councils Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2016

[bradford-lfrms-final.pdf](#)

Appendix 1 Bradford Councils Capital Flood Risk Programme

Bradford Councils Capital Flood Risk Programme: September 2022 funding and delivery summary

Scheme	Funding Summary £k						Total Funding £k	Scheme Cost £k	Funding Gap £k	Ready for Service	Homes Better Protected	Non-homes Protected
	FDGiA Eligibility	Defra Booster	CBMDC	ESIF	Other	Local Levy						
COMPLETED SCHEMES												
Bradford Resilience Group						155	155	155	0	Jan-18	80	50
Harden Moor NFM (Leeds FAS2)			10		167		177	177	0	Oct-19		
Esholt Village Surface Water FAS	225		10			50	285	285	0	Feb-21	20	1
Backstone Beck NFM		225	30				255	255	0	Aug-21		
Goose Eye Surface Water FAS	380		15			25	453	453	0	Apr-22	27	1
Property Level Flood Grants 2020		250	10				260	250	0	Jul-22	50	3
TOTAL	605	475	75		167	230	1,565	1,565	0	Total	177	55
FORCASTED SCHEMES												
Redcar Lane Flood Alleviation	50		25				72	75	0	Dec-22	3	0
Skipton Road, Keighley	453		10				463	463	0	Jun-23	35	1
Bingley and Shipley PLP	77						77	600	523	Jul-23	42	
Apperley Bridge SW FAS	200		10			60	270	480	210	Oct-23	22	1
Haworth FAS	186		5				186	560	374	Apr-25	12	14
Bradford Beck FAS	1,741		5			55	1,801	3,650	1,849	Jul-25	77	158
Cottingley, Gill Wood FAS	249						249	350	101	Jan-27	17	
Menston Dicks Garth Road	261						261	450	189	Jan-27	24	
Oakworth Beck FAS	200						200	346	146	Jan-27	47	2
Silsden Beck Flood Alleviation	400		5			50	455	3,067	2,612	Mar-27	56	20
Addingham	134						134	410	276	Mar-27	82	
Bradford District Culvert Refurb Programme	1,610		5			60	1,675	2,000	325	Jul-27	322	0
Baildon Drainage Study	120		5			30	155	275	120	Jul-27	55	5
Keighley and Stockbridge Flood Alleviation Scheme	4,891		10			328	5,244	14,818	9,574	Jul-28	497	280
Burley in Wharfedale SW Study	142		5			30	177	410	233	Mar-28	82	4
Ilkley Denton Road FAS	1,921						1,921	4,825	2,904	Jul-30	51	
Ilkley Backstone Beck Culvert	19						19	200	182	Jul-31	4	
Bradford Aire Catchment FAS	1,036		10			157	1,203	15,781	14,578	Jul-33	80	46
TOTAL	13,690	0	85	0	0	710	14,552	48,760	34,196	Total	1685	586

Figures in **GREEN** shade indicate schemes led by the Environment Agency

Appendix 2 Flood Risk Management Projects Highlights

Esholt Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme

Recognising the need for a long term strategic approach to managing flood risk across our district, Bradford Council worked with the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water to scope and develop a Bradford Flood Programme Board. The Board agreed that alongside ongoing scheme development, it is a priority to focus on identifying and



Boxing Day 2015 Flooding

delivering cost-beneficial solutions for communities at risk of flooding within the district. Further to the establishment of the Board the first project to make it to construction within the Bradford Capital Flood Risk Programme was the Esholt Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme. The project was first established using £50k of local levy money drawn down from the Yorkshire Region Flood and Coastal Committee. This allowed the project team to develop a business case for £225k of Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding from DEFRA to construct the

scheme.



Installation of flood relief pipework

Work started at Esholt in October 2020. The main bulk of the works is the installation of approximately 150 metres of flood relief pipework to reduce the risk of surface water flooding within the village. Our contractor Peter Duffys Ltd have been progressing the scheme during the Covid-19 pandemic and have

adapted how we work in line with government guidance to ensure we continue to focus on critical activities.

Esholt Village is a small confined Yorkshire settlement with tight working room within the historic streets. This has made the logistics of the scheme challenging, especially keeping a local livestock haulage business running during the works, and having a materials compound half a mile from the main works. The combination of these factors has made progress steady but early engagement by the project team with all local residents and stakeholders has ensured the works have not disrupted the day to day flow and operation of the village.



Restricted working room casued logistical challenges

The scheme is now complete and was ready for service in March 2021. The scheme provides a high standard of protection to 20 properties within Esholt Village that have suffered repeated flooding in the past.

Goose Eye Water Flood Alleviation Scheme

Further to the establishment of the Board one project to make it to construction within the Bradford Capital Flood Risk Programme was the Goose Eye Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme. The project was first established using £25k local levy investment from the YRFCC. This allowed the project team to develop a business case for a fully funded Flood Defence Grant in Aid scheme to the value of £450k



Flood Water destroys arch window in 2015 event.

Goose Eye is a small village located outside Keighley attracting the local residence to the scenic village. The village had flooded in recent times during the 2015 and 2020 flood events. The first stage of the project was the installation of flood relief pipework which needed to be complete promptly. Flood relief pipes were installed across the Turkey Inn car park and this had meant that parking had been reduced therefore this would have impacted the business. To reduce any impact on the business the contractor had closed half of the car park leaving some parking bays for the customer to use.



Resurfaced Turkey Inn Car Park

The second phase of works was undertaken on Lund Lane where a new drainage system has been installed. The drainage system role was to collect all of the surface water and springs. This reduces flooding as the surface water is diverted in to Todley Clough, the local watercourse. Lund Lane was resurfaced as part of the scheme providing a much improved road surface to this unadopted highway.



Lund Lane Resurfaced with flood channel installed

This scheme has now been completed within the budget at a high standard and protects 32 houses within the Goose Eye Village that have been exposed to flooding in the past.

Backstone Beck Natural Flood Management Project

Backstone Beck was a WwNP project that was part of the Defra funded National WwNP program. The aim of the project was to slow the flow from the circa. 170 hectares (ha) upper catchment and thus mitigate against flooding in the lower reaches near the confluence with the River Wharfe where properties, businesses and roads in Ilkley have been historically impacted and are at risk. The project is complete but Bradford Council are undertaking further flow monitoring and gathering images from the public using the fixed point photography posts.



Leaky Dam Structure

The majority of funding was allocated to peatland restoration works; slowing the flow and re-wetting the moor through grip blocking and sphagnum planting. Footpath works were also undertaken to divert flows back onto the moorland to mitigate against erosion and disrupt flow paths.

Works started in 2021 but were postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic and were complete in April 2022. Grips on the moor have been modified to hold water during heavy rainfall events. One method was using igneous rock to create leaky dams to reduce the flow into

Backstone Beck and to improve the moor biodiversity by creating new habitats.

Other works included the installation of wooden dam structures to create mini storage and wetland areas. Sphagnum moss was also planted to persevere biodiversity and also holds a purpose to absorb any surface water. This scheme has now been completed at a high standard which reduces the flow of the Backstone Beck. Bradford Council are observing the beck by flow monitoring and images from the public.



Timber Dams

The approaches that have been implemented in these projects are all replicable on other catchments within the district and Bradford Council as LLFA and a landowner will continue to work with partners to realise more WwNP projects across Bradford district.

Harden Moor NFM Project

Leeds City Council and the EA, in partnership with Bradford Council undertook a WwNP project on Harden Moor as part of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme phase 2.

Harden Moor contains active blanket bog which is permanently wet due to high levels of rainfall. This helps peat to form, which absorbs carbon and stores it more effectively than trees.



Horse power was used to transport NFM measures

High levels of rainfall have increased due to global warming, which can cause flooding in the valleys. Keeping our moors wet and encouraging blanket bog assists with flood reduction and will also make these sites more resilient to wildfire, which is also an increasing threat.

Harden Moor was identified as one of five pilot NFM projects being implemented throughout the River Aire catchment, funded by Leeds City Council. The design was developed by Bradford Council through the White Rose Forest and includes interventions aimed at 'slowing the flow' of water into Harden Beck, which

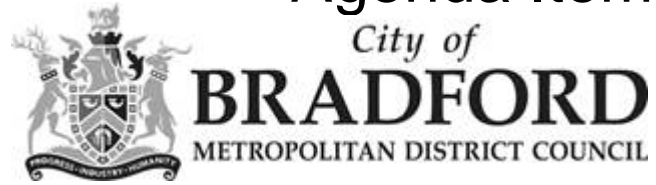
is a major tributary to the River Aire. The natural methods undertaken were:

- blocking drainage features and leaky dams to reduce water run-off and re-wet land
- woodland creation and sphagnum planting to increase water absorption
- land management to maximise woodland cover through natural regeneration and re-wetting of heathland where feasible, so that the runoff is reduced, and the landscape can hold more water in times of flood

Existing habitats were kept, and minor amendments made to reduce surface water runoff and erosion and improve water absorption in the area.

This scheme has now been completed with the logistical challenges now overcome with the NFM measures working in full effect.

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Report of the Director of Place and the Director of Health and Wellbeing to the meeting of Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 18th October 2022

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Subject: Improving health and wellbeing through green space and green infrastructure.

Summary statement:

This report provides an update on the use of green spaces in the District to improve health and wellbeing, with a focus on communities in areas of high deprivation. The paper outlines the current position, opportunities and challenges.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

People who share some protected characteristics under the Equality Act are more likely to be affected by lack of green space.

- **Age;** the District's most urban areas have less formal green space and house a higher proportion of children and young people
- **Low-income;** people on low income are more likely to live in urban areas, and to lack gardens or other private outdoor space;
- **Race;** people who share a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background, who are more likely to live in urban areas where there is less green space.

Jason Longhurst
Strategic Director - Place
Iain Macbeath
Strategic Director - Health and Wellbeing

Portfolio:

**Regeneration and Environment
Healthy People – Healthy Places**

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

**Regeneration and Environment
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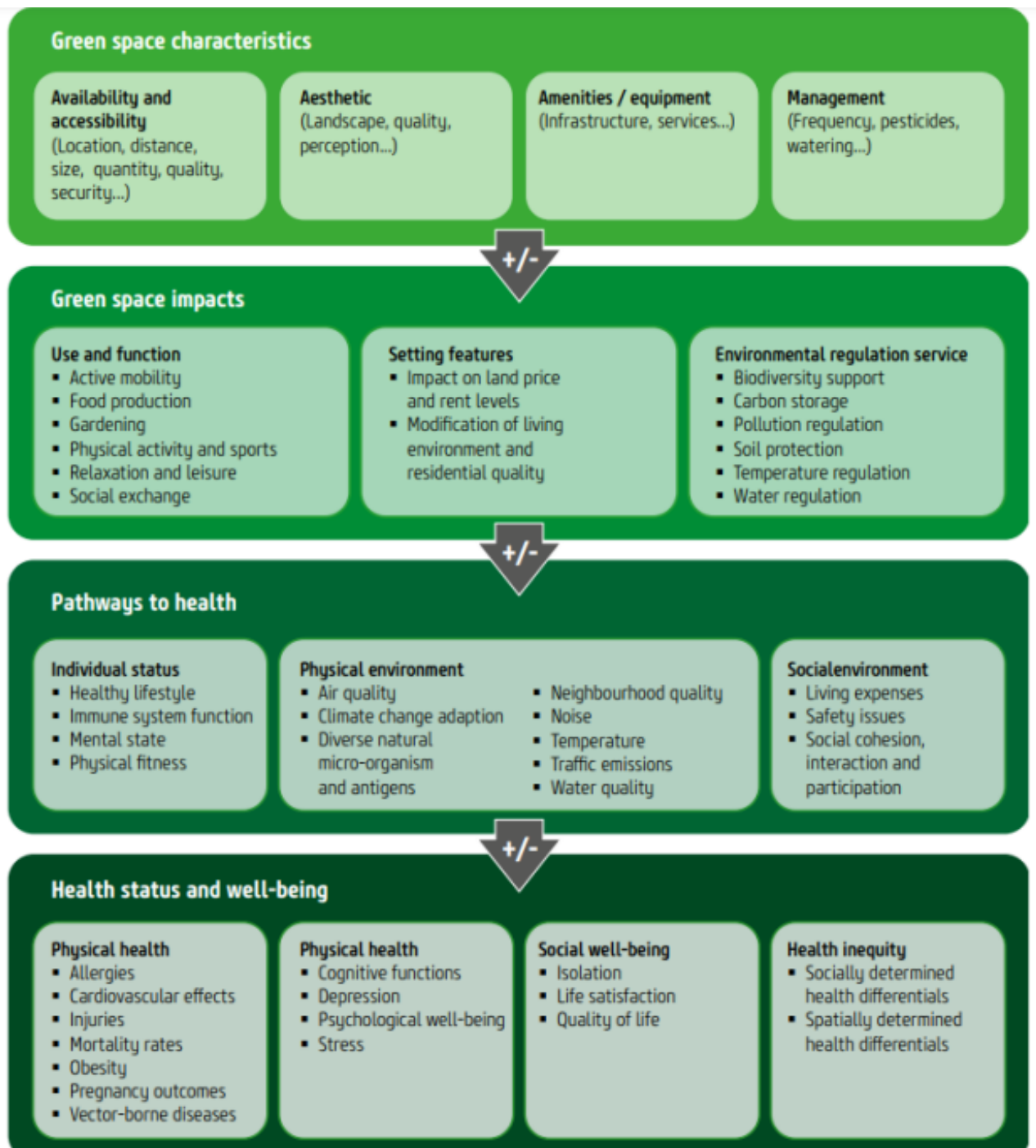
1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the use of green spaces for health and wellbeing in the District. It follows a report to Overview and Scrutiny in 2019, listed as a Background Paper and a briefing to the chair in autumn 2020 in lieu the next update.
- 1.2 It is well established that health inequalities are shaped by wider factors such as poverty, insecure employment, unemployment, poor housing and environmental conditions; as well as by lifestyle factors such as levels of physical activity, diet, smoking and excess alcohol. However, lifestyle factors are also shaped and influenced by these wider factors.
- 1.3 It is easier and cheaper for people to keep physically active when there is safe, accessible greenspace to play, walk, scoot, cycle and exercise in, near to where they live. Both physical activity and time spent in greenspace also bring mental wellbeing benefits.
- 1.4 In the 2 years before the Covid-19 pandemic the committee heard evidence from national and local studies to show that:
 - on average the most urban parts of Bradford District have fewer green spaces for leisure and play than suburban or rural areas of the District
 - people living in some of the lowest income areas have less access to green spaces than in higher-income areas
 - Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities have less access to greenspace as they are more likely to live in the most urban areas of the district
 - on average people living in low-income areas spend fewer years of their lives in good health and have reduced life expectancy on average
 - the quality, maintenance and perceived safety of local greenspace also influences how willing people are to use it.
- 1.5 In addition to the direct impacts of COVID-19 in terms of illness and deaths, there have been wider impacts on families and communities. These included reduced access to family and friends during times of lockdown and restriction, interruption to social and support activities leading to increased social isolation; increased unemployment and loss of livelihood, increased poverty, restricted access to healthcare and the impact on mental health, particularly increased stress, depression and anxiety.
- 1.6 The paper outlines progress and challenges to develop and maintain green spaces and infrastructure across Bradford District, in order to support wellbeing for members to consider.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The benefits of parks and green space for health have been well documented (Twohig-Bennett and Jones, 2018). Figure 1 summarises the vast impact and pathways in which green space can contribute to our health and wellbeing.

Figure 1: Causal model of the impacts of green spaces on health and well-being (Roué-Le Gal, 2020)



2.2 In addition to human health, wellbeing and social benefits (as per Figure 1), green space is noted to benefit the physical environment, for example:

- Helping to reduce flood risks, which has devastating impacts for communities.
- Improving air quality, and provides less polluted areas for people to spend

- leisure time.
- Reducing the impact of urban heat.
- Reducing the impact of noise ‘annoyance’ (Lund et al, 2015).
- Mitigation against climate change effects.

2.3 Green spaces play a role in how the District secures a long-term future for its people and communities. Importantly, green spaces contribute to the [Council Plan priority outcomes](#), namely:

- Better Health, Better Lives
- Safe, Strong and Active Communities
- A Sustainable District

3 REPORT ISSUES

COVID-19 Pandemic

3.1 Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic access to green and natural space has played an important role in supporting the wellbeing of local communities. For example; in July 2020 almost half of the population said they were spending more time outside; 42% of adults reported that ‘nature and wildlife’ was important to their wellbeing, and 35% reported visiting local green and natural spaces more often than before the pandemic ([Natural England, 2021](#)).

3.2 A national survey representative of the population noted that inequalities in the use of green space were likely to have been exacerbated during the ‘lockdown’ phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that many of these inequalities have been sustained ([Burnett et al, 2021](#)). This work also noted that people from more disadvantaged areas were less likely to visit green spaces both before and after the ‘lockdown’ periods. We continue to learn about the impact of the pandemic, and will consider the on-going recovery process for our communities.

Community views and use of green space

3.3 The Council’s Open Space Needs and Demands Assessment ([Knight, Kavanagh and Page, 2020](#)) sought to identify the views and expectations of residents, communities and stakeholders on the provision of open spaces (including green spaces) across Bradford District. The assessment noted:

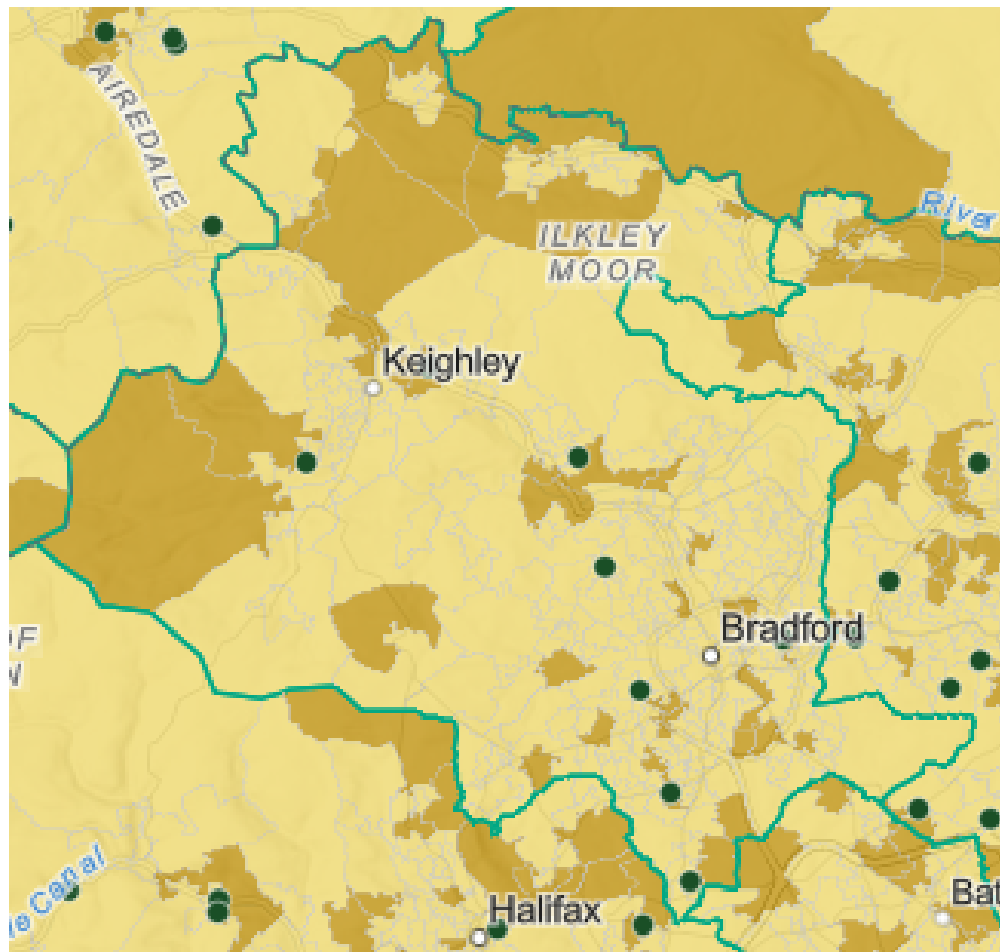
- 80% of respondents reported being either ‘very’ or ‘quite satisfied’ with the amount of open space provided in the area where they live
- 77% of respondents reported being either ‘very’ or ‘quite satisfied’ with the quality of open spaces
- The top improvements that people would like to see being made to open space sites are: better maintenance (34%), better cleanliness (33%), better security (31%) and more wildlife and habitat promotion (27%).
- Of those survey respondents who do not use open space the main barrier to usage is fear of crime/personal safety (41%).
- Most types of open space are accessible by walking.

- 3.4 In terms of usage of green space, research by the Born in Bradford team shows that, in Bradford South Asian children spend less time playing in green spaces than white British children do. This is likely to be because South Asian families have less green space in their local environment, and the green space that is there is of poorer quality.
- 3.5 An interesting finding from Born in Bradford's research is that it is the **quality** of green space that is a better predictor of wellbeing, than the quantity of green space ([McEachan et al, 2018](#)). They have also conducted research looking at which park characteristics improve satisfaction the most, these included amenities such as seating, litter bins, shelters, picnic tables, drinking fountains and public toilets. The absence of anti-social behaviours was also important, such as an absence of vandalism, littering and dog mess (Roberts et al, 2019).
- 3.6 The main issues relating to quality of provision included:
- Litter
 - Dog fouling
 - Site maintenance
 - Toilet provision
 - Creative play options (including provision for older ages including teenagers)
 - Inclusive play equipment for all including wheelchair users
 - Changing facilities in parks

Unequal access to green places and spaces

- 3.7 Green infrastructure such as street trees, planters, and rain gardens collect water and can support biodiversity. They also help to make our streets and neighbourhoods greener and provide shade which is an indicator of a Healthy Street. These things can encourage people to use local facilities and see their street in a positive light. Providing 'Green Streets' is one of the priorities of our neighbourhood design guide for planners and developers.
- 3.8 Map 1 below, based on the [Green Space Index](#) shows us whether people live within the recommended ten minute walk of green space. The lighter shaded areas show areas where this standard is not met, and the darker shaded areas show areas with the recommended standard of a 10 minute walk or less. The map demonstrates that large parts of the Keighley urban area and the Bradford city area are lighter in colour, providing less than the minimum standard of access.

3.9 Map 1: Proximity to green space across Bradford district (2022)



Parks and Woodland

- 2.1 The council manage and maintain across the District:
- 37 public parks, one more than previously reported as Kashmir Park in Toller ward opened last year.
 - 118 recreation grounds, some of which include outdoor sports facilities which are being enhanced and developed as part of the council's Sports Pitches Investment Programme which includes the newly built Wyke Community Sports Village multi-sports hub, opened in September this year.
 - 116 Woodlands
 - 25 cemeteries and 45 closed churchyards
- 2.2 New woodlands have been created, with 85,000 woodland trees planted since 2015. An additional 540 street trees have also been added in the same time period. As part of Bradford Council's plan to plant a tree for every child in the district, 55,000 trees will have been planted by March 2023, this will include the creation of 40 new school orchards.

Open countryside and rights of way

- 2.3 The Council currently manages approximately 1300 Hectares of “open country” (principally moorland) across Ilkley, Baildon, Harden Moors and Penistone Hill. We are also responsible for the practical maintenance, legal management and promotion of 1000 kilometres of public rights of way.

Small urban pockets of informal greenspace

- 2.4 The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) team manages a range of smaller natural greenspaces, many of them within the more urban parts of the District – some of which are recognised and formally designated for their biodiversity value as well as public access. These include:

- Bingley South Bog Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Trench Meadows SSSI
- Bingley North Bog
- Keighley Tarn
- Boars Well Nature Reserve
- Ryeloaf Meadows
- Reevy Mill Dam
- Raw Nook Local Nature Reserve
- Toad Holes Beck
- Haycliffe Meadows
- Damems Country Park
- Baildon Floodable Meadow.

- 2.5 In addition, green infrastructure such as street trees, urban planting and rain gardens are being designed into improvements in town and city centres, for example in paved areas and alongside road schemes. These help to soften the appearance of urban environments, provide some urban greenery and help to absorb rainwater to reduce surface flooding.

Improvements and developments since 2019

- 2.6 Many groups use our green spaces on both a formal and informal basis. They include:

- ‘Friends of’ groups and Community Orchards
- Bradford Forest Schools Network
- Brass bands and musicians
- A wide range of sport and leisure activities:
 - Park runs, orienteering, cross country, keep fit challenges, tai chi, forest yoga.
 - Organised competitive sports (football, bowls, cricket, tennis, rugby etc)
- Active Travel for leisure and commuting: cycling, walking, equestrians
- Fun fairs, galas and events
- Organised play including Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) events and activities for children with a particular focus on children entitled to free school meals. This programme has seen a major expansion over the past two summers, through government funding for activities and food provision for children and young

people as part of COVID-19 recovery. In summer 2021 Living Well and the local Sport England pilot scheme 'JU:MP' sponsored the 2021 HAF events as a 'Summer of Fun' Play in Parks led by Bradford Council Sport and Leisure Services. During all 42 days of the school summer holidays in 2021, local communities were provided with healthy and creative experiences across 30 parks and community green spaces, prioritising areas of Bradford district with a higher proportion of children registered for free school meals. The free active play sessions were delivered to over 14,000 children across the district during the summer holidays. Figures for the 2022 programme are being finalised.

Sports and fitness

- 2.7 A new-build multi-sports hub, Wyke Community Sports Village opened in September. This provides closed loop and cyclo cross cycle tracks, an artificial grass football pitch and grass pitches.
- 2.8 A public, open access cricket practice facility with nets has been completed at Myra Shay Recreation Ground, with a further facility scheduled to go on site this autumn at Marley Activities and Coaching Centre in Keighley. In addition, 7 artificial cricket wickets have been installed in parks and recreation grounds across the District.
- 2.9 Nine new outdoor gyms have been installed. In Keighley these are in Devonshire and Victoria Parks and at Surrey Street. In Shipley at Crowgill, Northcliffe and Windyhill Parks and at Hirstwood Recreation Ground. In Bradford at Lister Park and at Bradford Moor Park.

Play and Leisure

- 2.10 In addition to the replacement playground in Lister Park opened last summer as part of the Playable Spaces Refurbishment Programme, an additional 35 play areas across the District are being refurbished, 33 of these in the current phase of the funding programme with completion on all sites to be achieved by early 2023.
- 2.11 There has been installation of play equipment aimed at 0-3s, playful sculptures, seating for parents and grandparents with planting to invite wildlife in Jane Binns Pocket Park. Bowling Park has a new wheelie track (balance bikes, bikes, scooters and prams), natural play area, story trail, beautiful new wooden sculptures installed and improved access to paths and entrances.
- 2.12 The Mayfield Centre, Horton Park natural play area and Burnett Avenue pocket park have also had play improvements made. Kettlewell Snicket has new paving for better access, engraved alphabetic and numerical stepping-stones and lovely stone sculptures – a ladybird and snail. A toddler play area has been added at the Woodroyd Centre including specific toddler play equipment to an existing pocket park and added off-street access via shallow steps to avoid the only other access through a busy car park.
- 2.13 Partner organisations such as Join Us:Move Play (JU:MP) who are delivering our Sport England pilot programme and the Lottery funded Better Place programme are involved in community engagement and design and delivery some schemes.

- 2.14 22 large trees have been planted and bat and bird nesting boxes have been installed. Seven new outdoor gyms have been installed in parks across the District. Three parks in Shipley and Keighley now have new activity trails and new Arts Courts, created through refurbishment of existing courts. An exercise route pathway has been refurbished at Hirst Wood Shipley.

Active Travel

- 2.15 As part of the Department for Transport Active Travel Fund programme (now led by Active Travel England) new footpaths have been added across Silsden Park, to link to the new Silsden school and across the green space adjacent to Ashlands School, Ilkley to provide a route for children and families to walk to Ashlands and Sacred Heart primary schools. Footpath improvements have been made in Pitty Beck. All these additions are being well used.

Community Safety and Accessibility Improvements

- 2.16 Lighting has been added to the path across the top of Myra Shay from Killinghall Road and Beechgrove Greenway. Additional bike racks have also been added at the following parks and green spaces: Myrtle Park, Bingley; Riverside Gardens, Ilkley; Northcliffe Park, Shipley; Harold Park, Low Moor; Lister Park, Manningham and Shipley Glen Baildon.

Remaining Challenges/Barriers

- 2.17 At a strategic level, further work needs to be done to collect data on the *quality* of green spaces to add to our understanding of how much greenspace there is within the District. This could then be used to pull together a programme of action to improve and enhance spaces of poor quality.
- 2.18 Safety in parks and greenspace particularly in regards to anti-social behaviour relates to policing and monitoring to enable public and users to feel safe and confident in accessing. These have resource implications, as would use of CCTV provision and lighting to extend daily and seasonal usage. There is a potential conflict with wildlife and biodiversity if artificial lighting is deployed at most sites.
- 2.19 There are some barriers to handing over further control and ownership of appropriate sites and facilities to community groups and the third sector. This relates to the skills base in parts of the sector, and the need to grow this from its current capacity to take on and manage sites.
- 2.20 There is a general lack of resource within the Council to properly manage, maintain and develop the potential of the District's existing sites as staff resource, skills base and revenue funding is currently limited and spread thinly. As a direct impact of this, the day to day management and maintenance of sites suffers. Managing natural and semi-natural habitats alone requires specialist conservation expertise and equipment and sufficient resource to ensure that sites and habitats do not degrade. Simple repairs, the removal of litter and fly-tipping are examples of activities that are neglected as a result. For example, the CROW team manages the approximately 1300 Hectares of natural and semi-natural greenspace and 1000kms of public right of way mentioned

above with 5 full time equivalent (FTE) trained staff, and the Play Team manage and maintain 292 play facilities with 2.6 FTE staff.

- 2.21 Delivery of the council's current and future funding programmes including the Sports Pitches and Playable Spaces improvement programmes is subject to pressure due to rising costs of materials and delivery and the short-term nature of some funding streams. The Playable Spaces programme is not supported by any specific external capital funding programmes. Some activities are supported by grant funding – either capital or revenue but these are generally time-limited and will not provide long term revenue funds to enable high standards of maintenance. One example is the Lottery funded joint “Bradford Urban Discovery” project with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT). This funded two YWT staff for 3 years to carry out practical conservation work on a number of CROW managed sites, and to engage local people in these activities whilst encouraging their use for recreation, play and learning. This comes to an end in October 2022 and at present it is not clear whether this successful project can carry on beyond the cessation of funding.
- 2.22 Anti-social activities which impact on sites and communities (fly-tipping, litter, vandalism, anti-social use of vehicles etc). There are regular reports of fly-tipping, and at certain sites, this happens at least monthly. This diverts staff resource from more productive work to dealing with these anti-social activities.
- 2.23 There is an increasing rate of climate emergency related events (e.g. wildfires and flooding). The impacts can be significant, for example a large wildfire event such as the one which affected Ilkley Moor in May 2019 required significant resource from Fire and Rescue Service, Police, Council. The environmental impacts of these events include loss of water, worsens air quality, biodiversity loss, carbon release into atmosphere, erosion, loss of amenity and visitor economy, and potential damage to domestic and commercial property.

Upcoming opportunities

- 2.24 The emerging Greenspaces Strategy will help to bring together the different datasets which have been collected over the last few years. This will provide a comprehensive review of the District's green spaces and provide a better understanding as to how they are used and how they can be better managed in the future. In addition, the strategy could also be used to explore options for how the management and maintenance of these green spaces are to be funded in the future.
- 2.25 The third and final phase of the council's Playable Spaces Refurbishment Strategy will refurbish and improve the remaining play areas that require improvement.
- 2.26 The council's Sports Pitches Investment Programme will, in conjunction with each individual's sport's National Governing Bodies, continue to look to provide funding to improve the sports pitches and their facilities across the District.
- 2.27 As a District we have been selected to receive £85k total from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for the creation of a new or significantly refurbished urban green space within the district.

- 2.28 There may be opportunities from the introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain on all planning approvals (due November 2023) to help fund the management of some greenspaces for biodiversity enhancements.
- 2.29 Further moorland restoration works (subject to funding) will expand the approaches already tested and completed on Ilkley Moor to other moorland assets.
- 2.30 Landscape-scale nature recovery project (funded by Natural England) to commence – further detail awaited but this could support the habitat bank/net-gain aspirations of the Council.
- 2.31 There is an appetite amongst our many ‘Friends of’ groups and volunteers to engage with a Bradford Parks Forum in order to safeguard current provision and help shape the future.
- 2.32 The council applied for, but unfortunately did not receive any funding for further improvements to green space and green infrastructure through Tranche 3 of the Active Travel Fund. The team will apply for Tranche 4 funding, and we will be looking at bidding for funding for further footpath improvements through greenspaces to improve access to schools, to be funded from 2023/24.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

As set out above, budgetary pressures and pressures due to cost-inflation may affect delivery of planned Council programmes outlined in the report.

The neighbourhoods Parks and Greenspaces (operational) service is devolved to the area committees which direct the revenue spend to meet the needs of the service. The overall budget for P and G maintenance for the district is £ 2.66 million net a reduction of over 50 % from 5 years ago.

Parks Technical manage the capital programme as well as the recreational section 106 /Cil deposits on behalf of colleagues in planning. Current projected budgets include. Sports Pitch Improvement Programme at £ 15 million, Playable Spaces at £ 6.4 million and other capital programmes in the region off 2.5million

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The upcoming strategic work outlined in the report will ensure that governance arrangements benefit from close working between different parts of the council, and with partners, so that priorities are aligned. Risk management relates to the risk to programmes from the current budgetary pressures and cost inflation outlined in the report.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The Open Spaces Act 1906 provides a duty on any local authority which has an interest in open space or burial ground which has been acquired under or pursuant to the Act to hold and administer the open space or burial ground in trust to allow the enjoyment thereof by the public as an open space and for no other purpose.
- 6.2 The authority is also under a duty to maintain and keep the open space or burial ground in a good and decent state. Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875 also provides the Council with authority to acquire and maintain public open spaces, “public walks and pleasure grounds” and to make byelaws which govern how these are accessed and used.
- 6.3 Byelaws which regulate conduct and activities within the Council’s parks and open spaces are variously made under provisions of Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875, Section 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906, and Sections 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906. Public spaces protection orders enforced under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in respect of dog fouling apply to all of the Council’s parks and green spaces and other dog control requirements including in relation to dogs on leads in certain parks or in certain parts of parks (for example near some water courses and ponds), number of dogs and proper control of dogs are similarly controlled by public spaces protection orders which the Council is responsible for enforcing. There are numerous duties and functions which impact upon the proposed strategy for parks and green spaces and any implementation thereof – due to their volume, these are not addressed below.
- 6.4 In seeking to implement specific plans, specific legal advice will need to be obtained by the relevant officers to ensure that associated risks and implications are addressed, including ensuring that the relevant statutory processes are adhered to, before proposals are progressed.
- 6.5 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides powers for a local authority to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions. However, in relation to proposals to generate income from parks and green spaces, attention is specifically drawn to the restrictions on what the Council may charge for in relation to discretionary services. Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 provides that the Council may charge for discretionary services provided that taking one financial year with another the income from charges for discretionary services does not exceed the cost of provision. In other words, the Council may not make a profit from the delivery of these discretionary services and to the extent that the strategy relates to charging for services which the Council does not have a statutory duty to provide – in other words those which the Council may provide rather than must provide – this restriction applies unless there is a separate statutory charging regime within the governing legislation for that service or discretionary function.
- 6.6 Officers are most aware of Part 1 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) places legal responsibility for Public Health within the Council, specifically Section 12 of the Act which created a new duty requiring local authorities to take such steps as they consider appropriate to improve the health of the people in its area. Council

officers are consequently working closely with colleagues to support them to shape and deliver programmes that will improve the health and wellbeing of local communities and help to reduce health inequalities, which in general are more concentrated in the urban areas of Bradford District.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Each of the funding streams, applications and plans for the work areas outlined above address sustainability, seeking to have a positive impact on the environment. The interventions outlined in the paper have a positive impact, making spaces more attractive to communities by seeking to improve the quality, accessibility and public experience of our green spaces and infrastructure.

Green spaces contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable', noting the target that *by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.*

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

District green spaces contribute to cleaning air pollution and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and its impacts.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

It is important that people feel safe in their local green spaces, that they are well-lit and well-maintained. Local evidence indicates that this is integral to communities' willingness to use and to allow their children to use local green spaces and assets. The programmes, activities and improvement works outlined above make a positive contribution to community safety.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS

Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child includes '... the right to a clean and safe environment to live in.' Article 31 states that 'Every child has the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities.'

7.5 TRADE UNION

None

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The Parks and Greenspaces team will be contributing to the five emerging neighbourhood plans to ensure that these reflect and draw on the potential for local parks and greenspace assets to contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities at both neighbourhood and ward level.

**7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

N/A

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The report refers to national and local evidence on the importance of green space for health, including for children and young people, of whom some will be children and young people where the Council has corporate parenting responsibility. Age is identified as one of the protected characteristics potentially affected by unequal access to green space. Children have the right to play

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

N/A

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

To note the link between health and wellbeing, and the provision of quality green spaces.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

For members to consider the health and wellbeing value of green space.

11. APPENDICES

None

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Overview and Scrutiny reports

Agenda Item 5- Improving health and wellbeing through green space and green infrastructure with a focus on areas of high deprivation ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 09/10/2019 17:30 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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Roberts H, Kellar I, Conner M, Gidlow C, Kelly B, Nieuwenhuijsen M, et al. *Associations between park features, park satisfaction and park use in a multi-ethnic deprived urban area.* Urban For Urban Green. 2019;46.

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Report of the Chair of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the meeting to be held on Tuesday 18 October 2022

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Subject:

Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022-23

Summary statement:

This report presents the Committee's Work Programme 2022-23

Cllr Kamran Hussain
Chair – Regeneration and
Environment O&S Committee

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Portfolios:
Regeneration, Planning & Transport
Education, Employment and Skills
Healthy People and Places

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Committee's Work Programme 2022-23.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required by the Constitution of the Council to prepare a work programme (Part 3E – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Para 1.1). The Committee adopted its work programme at its meeting of 28 September 2021.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 of this report presents the Work Programme for 2022-23.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the responsibility for "the strategies, plans, policies, functions and services directly relevant to the corporate priorities about creating a more prosperous district and about improving waste management, neighbourhood services and the environment" (Council Constitution, Part 2, 6.5.1 and 6.6.1).
- 3.2 Best practice published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests that 'work programming should be a continuous process'. It is important to regularly review work programmes so that important or urgent issues that come up during the year are able to be scrutinised. In addition, at a time of limited resources, it should also be possible to remove projects which have become less relevant or timely. For this reason, it is proposed that the Committee's work programme be regularly reviewed by Members throughout the municipal year.
- 3.3 The Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022/23 reflects the priority outcomes of the Council Plan in particular: 'better skills, more good jobs and a growing economy', 'decent homes', 'better health, better lives', and 'a sustainable district' (Our Council Plan: Priorities and Principles 2021-25).
- 3.4 The work programme as agreed by the Committee on 22 June 2022 forms the basis for the Committee's work during the year, but will be amended as issues arise during the year.

4. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE APPRAISAL

None

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

None

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

None

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

None

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None

7.6 TRADE UNION

None

7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

None

7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY ASSESSMENT

None

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Work programme 2022-23 continues to be regularly reviewed during the year.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1 – Regeneration & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022-23

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Bradford Council Constitution.

Democratic Services - Overview and Scrutiny

Regeneration and Environment O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Caroline Coombes tel - 432313

Work Programme

Agenda	Description	Report	Comments
Tuesday, 15th November 2022 at City Hall, Bradford			
Chair's briefing 31/10/22 Report deadline 02/11/22			
1) Climate and sustainability	Update	Andrew Whittles	Resolutions of 23 Nov 21 (to include single use plastics, problem plastics / plastic waste) and 22 Feb 22
2) Economy and Development Update	To include information on the Economic Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy	Angela Blake	Resolution of 4 March 2020
3) City of Culture 2025	To include information on governance structures	Nicola Greenan	
Tuesday, 6th December 2022 at City Hall, Bradford			
Chair's briefing 14/11/22 Report deadline 23/11/22			
1) Active Bradford	Update along with details of the 'Accelerator Phase of the JU:MP programme	Zuby Hamard	Resolution of 4 March 20
2) Museums and Gallery Service	Update	James Steward	Resolution of 23 Nov 21
3) Libraries	Update - Public Health to be invited	Christine May	Originally due Sept 2020 - resolution of 10 March 2020
Tuesday, 17th January 2023 at City Hall, Bradford			
Chair's briefing 19/12/22 Report deadline 04/01/23			
1) Fly-tipping in the Bradford District	Annual update	Amjad Ishaq / Stuart Russo	Resolution of 11 Jan 22
2) Biodiversity	Update to be presented following the enactment of the Environment Act 2021	Danny Jackson	Resolution of 4 March 2020
3) Pavement Parking	Council resolution of 14 Jan 2020	Richard Gelder	Deferred from Dec 21 - briefing note provided
4) Waste Services Contract Review	Update to include to include the findings of the WRAP service review	Susan Spink / Richard Galthen	Resolution of 11 Jan 22

Regeneration and Environment O&S Committee

Scrutiny Lead: Caroline Coombes tel - 432313

Work Programme

Agenda	Description	Report	Comments
Tuesday, 31st January 2023 at City Hall, Bradford 1) Use of pesticides / glyphosates herbicides	Further details TBC	TBC	Council motions of 16 July 2019 & 14 July 2022
Tuesday, 21st February 2023 at City Hall, Bradford Chair's briefing 30/01/23 Report deadline 09/02/23 1) Affordable Housing / Accelerating Growth	Progress updates to include information on the Housing Revenue Account and the Housing Delivery Test	Lorraine Wright	Deferred from February 2022
2) Active Travel - school streets and play	Update on school streets projects and to include information on the development of a Play Streets policy	Caroline Tomes /Andrew Smith / Michael Bunting	Resolution of 22 March 2022
3) Housing Standards Team / Empty Homes	Update	David North / Angela Blake	Resolutions of 10 March 2020
Tuesday, 21st March 2023 at City Hall, Bradford. Chair's briefing 27/02/23. Report deadline 08/03/23. 1) TBC			