

## **Report of the Strategic Director, Place to the meeting of Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Tuesday 16 April 2019**

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### **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 in April 2018 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 progress made in the financial year 2018- 2019.

### **Strategic Director:**

Steve Hartley  
Strategic Director of Place

### **Portfolio:**

Regeneration, Planning & Transport

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### **Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

Regeneration and Environment.

## 1. SUMMARY

Since the Committee meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 there has been cooperation on a range of projects between Council officers in various sections 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.

## 2. BACKGROUND

During the course of the year there have been work streams and developments involving FOBB and Council Officers in relation to Bradford Beck. An update on existing and emerging projects and initiatives are discussed below:

### Local Levy Funded Projects

As discussed in previous reports, following the floods of Decemeber 2015 it was recognised that there was a need need for a long term strategic approach to managing flood risk and associated envionmental impacts across the Bradford district. In idenitifying this need the Council worked with the Environment Agency to scope and develop a Bradford Flood Programme Board. The Programme Board were able to secure local levy funding from the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Costal Committee to help deliver a range of aspirations and the following pieces of work have been funded through this govenernece structure within the financial year 2018/ 19.

- Following the success of the River Stewardship pilot project in 2016/17 and 2017/18, In collabaoration with FOBB and the Aire Rivers Trust, further funding was secured to appoint a Project Officer to work with the Aires Rivers Trust. The post was filled in Febuary 2018 and has worked on a range of projects through 2018/ 19. The Project Officer has assisted with the River Aire Care Project with an aim in creating a sustainable and active network of citizens looking after Bradford's rivers and supporting flood resilience activities on behalf of the community.
- The Shipley Canal Road Corridor Flood Risk and Benefits Study was completed in June 2018 in the form of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC). The study has investigated the multiple benefits that flood risk schemes could deliver in improving flood risk, providing environmental benefits, assisting in maintaining and achieving Water Framework Directive objectives, enhancing the transport links to and from the city centre, provide biological enhancements and creating open space to encourage social community benefits within the Shipley and Canal Road Corridor alongside Bradford Beck. The SOC has identified the Shipley Canal Road Corridor and Bradford Beck appear on the programmes of a range of project partners. The scale of any future scheme means funding is unlikely to be from a single source. This SOC provides the context for the start of discussions with a number of project partners, most notably West Yorkshire Combined Authority in relation to the Local Growth 3 fund. It also provides an opportunity to facilitate and guide discussions with the West Yorkshire Transport Fund as it becomes increasingly clear that there will be an overlap in the objectives for the transport improvements and the improvements along Bradford Beck. The SOC also improves the position of Bradford Council and assisted in its recent application for a European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) grant.

## **Bradford Beck River Restoration Project**

CBMDC, The Environment Agency (EA), The Friends of Bradford Beck and the Wild Trout Trust are working in partnership to deliver a £90,000 EA funded scheme to re-naturalise the northern length of Bradford Beck. This will include the removal of Invasive Non- Native Species (INNS), habitat creation works, pedestrian access improvements and works to improve fish passage. Fish passage works will include the installation of baffles on existing barriers to slow the flow of water in key areas. Habitat works will include the planting of wetland species in areas cleared of invasive species, together with the enhancement of woodland ecology on surrounding river banks. Improved footpaths and signage will help walkers access the beck and raise its profile amongst local residents.

## **European Projects**

The Council are within their third year of the four year BEGIN (Blue / Green infrastructure through social innovation) project which was approved in early September 2016 to EU North Sea Region Secretariat; The Lead Partner being the Municipality of Dordrecht in the Netherlands. The project is progressing and will help support the aspirations of the Councils Green Infrastructure Study. The emerging approach in respect of Green Infrastructure and flood risk is based on the creation of a Linear Park along the length of Bradford Beck, restoring the natural character of the beck, retaining areas of natural floodplain, introducing new areas and enhancing existing areas of greenspace whilst incorporating sustainable drainage within new developments. The BEGIN projects also aims to engage with communities to increase awareness of the Beck and its catchment.

The Council are also within their first year of the four year SCORE (Smart Cities and Open data REuse) project which was approved in early September 2018 to EU North Sea Region Secretariat and runs until 2022; The project is progressing and aims to improve the delivery of public services based on innovative software solutions and data sharing. Smart City Initiatives include opening up public data for productive use. SCORE has the explicit objective of increasing the quality and reducing the cost of public service delivery of local authorities by using open source solutions, particularly relating to traffic and parking, sustainable mobility, and water and waste management. The work undertaken by the SCORE team, relevant to the Bradford Beck catchment, is detailed under the 'Monitoring and Data' heading below.

## **Pollution Prevention Working Group**

To tackle the ongoing historical pollution and ecological concerns over the water quality and embankment quality within Bradford Beck, the Council alongside FOBB the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water set up a working group in 2017 to share the challenges we all face and how these might be dealt with for the short, medium and long term. The collaborative catchment approach has influenced a gradual change in the improvements necessary on Bradford Beck and increase the awareness of the issues within each organisation. The group provides a good platform for all the stakeholders to share relevant data and knowledge and has assisted in a series of investigations of pollution incidents.

## **Monitoring and Data**

The LoRaWAN (Long range wide area network) network is 'open' and available for anyone to use free of charge via 'The Things Network Leeds – Bradford'. The telemetry/communications infrastructure is still operational and is being used by Bradford College students.

The Council are in discussion with Bradford College and FOBB about future Beck monitoring including pollution monitoring. This aligns with Yorkshire Water's proposals for their Bradford Beck Catchment Investigation in Yorkshire Water's Price Review 2019 Water Industry National Environment Plan (PR19 WINEP) and the Council alongside FOBB has been consulted by Yorkshire Water in drafting these proposals.

The Council's SCORE team has released historical rainfall data and the Bradford Beck 2D Infoworks model as open data and this has been published by ICT on the Council's Datahub. The project is also currently looking at opening up and publishing near real time data from the Council's 12 rain gauges across the District and is producing a flood reporting smartphone 'app' led by the University of Bradford's Faculty of Engineering & Informatics who are also SCORE partners.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The Friends of Bradford Becks have provided an update to their work streams during 2018/19 and the report is included as appendix 1.

The Environment Agency has been approached on pollution incidents that have been reported on Bradford Beck and its tributaries during 2018/19. This data is included as appendix 2.

### **4. FINANCIAL & 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 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

None

## **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

None

## **7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

None

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

## **9. OPTIONS**

None

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1** That the Friends of Bradford's Becks and the Strategic Director, Place be requested to work jointly on studies and proposals for the Canal Road Area.
- 10.2** That the Friends of Bradford's Becks be invited to report back in a year's time.
- 10.3** That the report be noted and that the ongoing collaboration between officers and the Friends of Bradford's Becks be supported.

## **11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Friends of Bradford Becks summary of activities 2018/ 19

Appendix 2 - Environment Agency Pollution Incidents 2018/ 19

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

### **Bradford's Becks – a New Lease of Life**

**Available online from:**

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