

**Yorkshire & Humber Board**  
**Wednesday 08 January 2025 @ 15:00, via Microsoft Teams**

**In attendance:**

Karl Battersby – chair	Hannah Bartram - ADEPT	Jonathan Moxon - Leeds
Kate Martin - Sheffield	Kylie Russell - ADEPT	Linda Marfitt - NYC
Paul Farndale - Kirklees	Joshua Clark - NYC	Maureen Wilson (minutes)
Helen Todd - EA	Jenny Longley - EA	

Item	Agenda Item and Notes	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Connected by Water Partnership in South Yorkshire</b></p> <p>Jenny Longley, Area Flood Risk Manager, South Yorkshire, Environment Agency, introduced the Connected by Water partnership in South Yorkshire. This partnership, formed in response to the devastating 2019 floods, includes seven key partners: the four South Yorkshire Councils (Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield, and Rotherham), the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. The partnership aims to address the significant flood risks in the region, which have impacted thousands of residential properties, infrastructure, agricultural lands, and local businesses. With three major floods in the last 16 years and approximately 24,000 properties at risk, the partnership focuses on mitigating these challenges and preparing for future risks exacerbated by climate change, such as rising sea levels and increased river flows.</p> <p>Following the widespread flooding in 2019, senior leaders, local MPs, and the mayor of South Yorkshire came together to form the Connected by Water partnership. This initiative aims to take a comprehensive approach to flood risk management and resilience. In 2022, the partnership published its first action plan, developed by dedicated staff from all seven partner organisations despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. The partnership's vision, purpose, and mission focus on integrated water management, climate resilience, and the benefits to health, well-being, and public spaces.</p> <p>The partnership has developed a series of portfolios and priorities, including strategic investment, nature-based solutions, combined sewage overflow pilot programs, and community resilience enhancements. They have also launched a Connected by Water website to provide resources and information to the public. The partnership faces challenges due to differing timelines and funding cycles among the partners, but they are working to establish a shared evidence base and advocate for aligned funding cycles.</p> <p>A governance structure has been established, including a core team, a delivery group, a steering group, and an executive board. The partnership has also engaged in joint education lessons, public events, and campaigns, and secured funding to support its initiatives. They continue to learn from and collaborate with other regional partnerships to improve their approach to flood risk management.</p> <p>One of the challenges faced by the Connected by Water partnership is the political boundary of South Yorkshire, which does not include Derbyshire, despite the River Don catchment area extending into Derbyshire and Chesterfield. This area is crucial for flood risk management, especially considering the impacts of recent storms. Although Derbyshire and Chesterfield are not formal partners, the partnership collaborates with them to address upstream water flow and its effects downstream in Rotherham and Doncaster.</p>	

	<p>The partnership has created a video on their website that explains the Don catchment in South Yorkshire, highlighting the uplands, industrial heritage, lowlands, and agriculture. This resource is recommended for colleagues and residents to better understand the catchment approach. Jenny Longley concludes the presentation by inviting questions and noting that Helen will address some national messages in the next part of the agenda.</p> <p>During the follow-up Q&amp;A session, Karl Battersby reflected on the devastating floods in Rotherham in 2007 and praised the Connected by Water partnership as an inspiration for the North Yorkshire Rivers Catchment Forum. Hannah Bartram inquired about the governance structure of the partnership, specifically the representation of various services. Jenny Longley explained that the heads of services involved vary across councils, with some including highways and others focusing on environmental services. Hannah also asked about the resilience website, to which Jenny responded that it aims to educate the public about flood risk and the River Don catchment.</p> <p>Linda Marfitt, expressed interest in how the partnership engages with local planning authorities, especially in terms of green infrastructure and policy development. Jenny explained that representatives from the delivery and steering groups bring in perspectives from their councils, and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority plays a significant role in regional planning. Linda highlighted the importance of influencing development plans given the high housing targets in North Yorkshire.</p> <p>Kate Martin emphasised the challenge of aligning different funding cycles and infrastructure plans to support regional growth objectives. She noted the difficulty in coordinating various funding sources and the need to communicate these challenges to policymakers. The discussion underscored the importance of collaboration and shared learning among different regions and partnerships.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Humber Estuary: Dealing with sea level rise</b></p> <p>Helen Todd, the Environment Agency's Humber Strategic Manager, presented on the current and future flood risks in the Humber region, emphasising the need for a long-term strategic plan. The Humber, which drains one-fifth of England's land, faces significant tidal flood risks that are expected to worsen with sea level rises of up to 1.4 meters over the next 100 years. This will increase the frequency and severity of extreme flooding, putting pressure on defences and impacting the region's population, economic assets, and environmental designations.</p> <p>To address these challenges, the Environment Agency and 11 local authorities have formed the Humber 2100+ partnership. This initiative aims to develop a sustainable approach to managing tidal flood risk, focusing on resilience and adaptation to climate change. The strategy involves ongoing investment in flood defences, but also emphasises the need for flexible, adaptive measures that can respond to changing conditions, including governance and policy shifts.</p> <p>Helen highlighted the Humber Adaptation Pathway (HAP) as a key component of this strategy, designed to reduce uncertainty and improve governance. The HAP will test various methods to enhance resilience, such as using land to store water and improving emergency planning. The approach requires collaboration across communities, businesses, and individuals to build a comprehensive understanding of flood risks and implement effective measures.</p>	

	<p>During the Q&amp;A session, Karl Battersby inquired about the integration of the East Coast inundation plan with the Humber strategy. Helen confirmed that the plans are linked and that flood risk information from the Humber will inform multiple Local Resilience Forums (LRFs). Kylie Russell raised concerns about engaging local authorities in long-term adaptation planning, noting the challenge of political churn and the need for a common understanding of risk. Helen acknowledged these challenges and emphasised the importance of strong partnerships and a shared evidence base to ensure continuity and effective decision-making.</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>National ADEPT Update</b> Hannah Bartram will circulate a comprehensive update to all invitees shortly, however did highlight the below activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Devolution White Paper:</b> A significant policy announcement for local government, intertwined with local government reorganisation. County councils must decide by the end of the week if they want to postpone May elections to become a mayoral combined authority.</li> <li>2. <b>Consultations:</b> Numerous consultations were published before Christmas with deadlines at the end of the month, including topics like SEND reform, water sector reform, and the national planning policy framework.</li> <li>3. <b>Collaborations:</b> Ongoing work with other associations, including quarterly meetings with Presidents of Adult Services, Children's Services, and Public Health. They published a joint position on local government finance and responded to the NHS 10-year plan.</li> <li>4. <b>Events:</b> Several upcoming events, including Environment Agency webinars, a Spring Conference on May 22, and an exposition for the Live Labs 2 program, which focuses on decarbonising local roads.</li> <li>5. <b>Leadership Development Program:</b> A program for aspiring place directors with a deadline of January 17 for applications.</li> <li>6. <b>SEND Home School Transport:</b> A major financial pressure on local government, with ongoing work to manage and reform policies related to SEND transportation.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Roundtable and AOB</b> <u>Environment Agency National Update provided by Helen Todd</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Flood Risk Assessment (NAFRA): A new report has been launched. Local authorities are encouraged to review and check the data.</li> <li>• National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping: Updated maps were launched in December. Local authorities should invest time in reviewing these maps. Data will be released in phases throughout 2025, starting at the end of January.</li> <li>• Government Consultation: The government is consulting on FCA flooding, coastal erosion, and risk management investment policy, announced by Emma Hardy. The Environment Agency is supporting Defra in this. The new policy aims to be simpler and support a broader range of resilience actions.</li> <li>• Call for Evidence: The Environment Agency is providing evidence for the Environmental Audit Committee's call for evidence on flood resilience in England. Local flood authorities are encouraged to contribute.</li> </ul> <p><u>ADEPT - Kylie Russell advised:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood and Water Management Group: The chair, is coordinating a response to the call for evidence.</li> </ul>	

- Webinars: There are upcoming joint webinars on the new NAFRA and rural resilience. One webinar had 750 attendees before Christmas, and another is scheduled for next Friday. Links can be provided for those interested in attending.

North Yorkshire Local Plan

Linda Marfitt proposed presenting an update on the North Yorkshire Local Plan at a future meeting to coincide with the launch of the consultation. This update is expected to be presented at the meeting on 12 March 2025.