

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
1	There should be whole river catchment joint bodies to co-ordinate water management, land drainage and flood defence work carried out by Environment Agency, district councils and Yorkshire Water and British Waterways.	<p>This is dependent on new legislation.</p> <p>The 'PPS25 (Planning & Flood Risk) Practice Guide', published in February 2007 reports that the Government is exploring opportunities for Local Planning Authorities to take the lead in developing Surface Water Management Plans, in collaboration with the EA and Water Companies.</p>	1	0%
2	There should be close liaison between Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and City Council and British Waterways to assess the cumulative effects of all new building and individual effects of major developments on sewer and land drainage.	<p>There is liaison between the Land Drainage Section and the development control officers of the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water through the West Yorkshire Land Drainage Liaison Group. This meets on a quarterly basis. Other liaison is organised currently on an 'ad hoc' basis for specific developments or catchments.</p> <p>Improved formal liaison on a number of fronts is to be discussed with the management of the EA and YW at a forthcoming meeting, which is being convened by the Director of City Development.</p>	4	
3	As the City Council is the only body which holds full records of culverted watercourse within its area, these should be placed on the Internet to be complementary to similarly published plans of underground pipes and cables similarly published by utility companies. These records should be kept up to date.	<p>The culvert records of the Land Drainage Section are now in an editable GIS format and are shared with Highways Services and the Bridges Section. They are still undergoing corrections arising from recent surveys, however.</p> <p>It is not true that any utility companies have published their records on the Internet.</p> <p>There is currently a craze amongst some young people for exploring underground sewer/ culvert systems and releasing video on YouTube, etc. In this situation, it does not seem wise to publish the whereabouts of the culverts indiscriminately. (see: attached example in PDF file)</p>	1	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
4	<p>Records should be made and kept of private sewers not adopted by Yorkshire Water, which do not appear on their Statutory Sewer Maps. These might be made by the Environment Agency or by City Council Land Drainage acting as its agent. Those working on underground utilities or carrying out other excavations should be pursued by the City Council if they cause culverts or watercourses to be damaged or blocked, to ensure that remedial work is done. Information should be exchanged between City Services Highways division and Land Drainage, with Highways doing the initial monitoring.</p>	<p>No changes in the law have been made requiring the EA or Councils to keep records of private sewers.</p> <p>On 22 Feb 2007 the Government announced that existing private sewers will be transferred to the Water and Sewerage Companies. DEFRA is currently consulting about the best way to implement this (closing date 19th October). Drains serving single properties will probably be excluded.</p>	1	
5	<p>Those working on underground utilities or carrying out other excavations should be pursued by the City Council if they cause culverts or watercourses to be damaged or blocked, to ensure that remedial work is done. Information should be exchanged between City Services Highways division and Land Drainage, with Highways doing the initial monitoring.</p>	<p>The Council recently successfully pursued the utility that laid a gas main through a watercourse culvert at Gildersome. The culvert has now been reinstated at the expense of the utility.</p> <p>Highways Services liaised with Land Drainage in order to identify the route of the culvert and specify reinstatement requirements.</p>	1	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
6	<p>National government should acknowledge that the historic system of riparian ownership is untenable and unworkable in built-up areas, especially where ownership is fragmented. New legislation should be introduced to place all riparian ownership in designated built up areas, whether above ground or culverted, into the hands of drainage boards administered either by district councils or the Environment Agency. It would be unreasonable to expect the City Council unilaterally to take responsibility for all riparian matters within all or part of its area without supporting national legislation or financial means. We recommend that the Chair should write on behalf of Members of the Commission to the ODPM and DEFRA, with copies to Leeds Members of Parliament to ask that appropriate legislation be drafted.</p>	<p>The difficulties brought about by this fragmentation are increasingly being recognised. It is likely that this will be highlighted in the ‘Lessons Learned’ enquiry into the June 2007 floods that is being chaired by Sir Michael Pitt.</p> <p>Leeds City Council is participating with YW, the EA, Bradford City Council and the Pennine Water Group (Sheffield & Bradford Universities) in carrying out a project looking at the solution to long-standing flooding problems at West Garforth caused by culverts that are in multiple riparian ownership. This is paid for by DEFRA and is one of its pilot projects in ‘integrated urban drainage management’. The project has already brought the problem of fragmented ownership strongly to the attention of DEFRA and the final report will reinforce this.</p>	1	
7	<p>Water Asset Management, co-ordinated by the Development department, should be recognised by the City Council as an important strategic service with manpower and budgets large enough to deal with the City Council’s water assets, monitor planning applications and strategic development proposals, offer land drainage advice to others, and deal with drainage emergencies or selected problems on land outside the ownership of the City Council. Implementation of the Council’s 33 point Water Asset Management Plan should continue with adequate budgets being allocated each year. The Water Asset Management Working Group should keep active, have a programme of work, identify the need for funding and report at least twice a year to Executive Board.</p>	<p>Without a doubt, the implementation of the 33 point Action Plan played a vital role in ensuring that the June 2007 flooding in Leeds did not end up being much worse. Since its introduction, the Water Asset Management Working Group has continued to update the original plan.</p> <p>New proposals, based on lessons learned from the June 2007 flooding, will be reported to City Development SLT on 12th September and to CMT on 25th September, before being put formally to the Executive Board on 17th October 2007.</p>	1	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
8	Combined Sewer Outfalls (CSO) to water courses should be acknowledged as hazards to health, wildlife and amenity. Yorkshire Water should address this problem with urgency.	Action for YW.	3	
9	Sustainable Drainage notes published by the City Council should be revised to match the accepted recommendations of the UDP Review Inspector, and be published on paper at reasonable cost, not just free on the Internet.	Detailed 'sustainable drainage' guidelines – homing in on a common standard across West Yorkshire – have now been placed on the Council's website.	1	
10	Work on the Local Development Framework (LDF) should outline clearly those areas at risk of flooding by the rivers Aire and Wharfe, and acknowledge the risk of less predictable though more localised flash flooding. Measures for dealing with those risks should be built into the LDF, which should cross refer to more detailed and specialised guidance and include the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.	The final draft of the Leeds Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has now been prepared and it is expected that this will be published shortly.	1	
11	Officers should obtain clarity as to who and what will trigger CONOPS (Concept of Operations) planned multi-agency responses to flooding incidents. It seems that CONOPS works well when triggered, but it has not always been clear what had to happen to trigger it.			

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
12	Clear advice and information should be available to owners and occupiers to maximise the likelihood of flood risk insurance being offered for any property at reasonable cost and level of excess. The City Council should give localised information on flood management to help those having difficulty with insurance due to past or potential flooding.	<p>The Land Drainage is able to offer advice and information for this purpose. Sometimes this will consist of information about the probability of recurrence, but this approach needs to be treated with caution: Flood victims currently have a very jaundiced view of claims that the return periods are to be reckoned in decades or centuries – even though such estimates might help in obtaining insurance.</p> <p>More effort needs to be put into informing at-risk residents of the individual house protections systems that can be put into place (floodboards, air-brick covers, etc) and how to make houses resilient, so that they can quickly recover from a flood. The Council is currently implementing a pilot project in house protection at the Dunhill Estate, East Leeds, in collaboration with DEFRA. It is hoped that lessons learned can be used to inform others.</p>	4	
13	City Council drainage advice leaflets should draw attention to the flood warning system set up by Environment Agency, which invites occupiers of property at risk to register to be warned by telephone, fax or pager when flooding is imminent. Warnings should also be given by the Environment Agency assisted by the Met Office when soil saturation has been reached, making flash flooding likely. Both the August and May 2005 flash floods were caused by storms following weeks of heavy rain when soils became saturated, but the Commission acknowledge that flash flooding can occur when the ground is dry, causing excessive run off.	Flood Warning Systems are a matter for the Environment Agency, but the Council is using its website to bring the EA systems to the attention of those at flood risk.	3	
14	All departments of the City Council should do their best to help victims of flooding and that an	The Council did its best to help the victims of flooding in June 2007. There is an advertised telephone number that	4	

	<p>appropriate telephone number be advertised for use in flooding emergencies. Any City Council department which becomes aware of flooded premises should inform Peace and Emergency Planning Unit without delay.</p>	<p>can be used by the general public to report flooding. One issue that was highlighted by the June 2007 flooding was that the recorded options on the automatic answering service do not correspond to requirements during a serious flooding episode. Improvements are being considered.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--