

Improvement Priority – ENV-1c. Undertake Actions to improve our resilience to current and future climate change

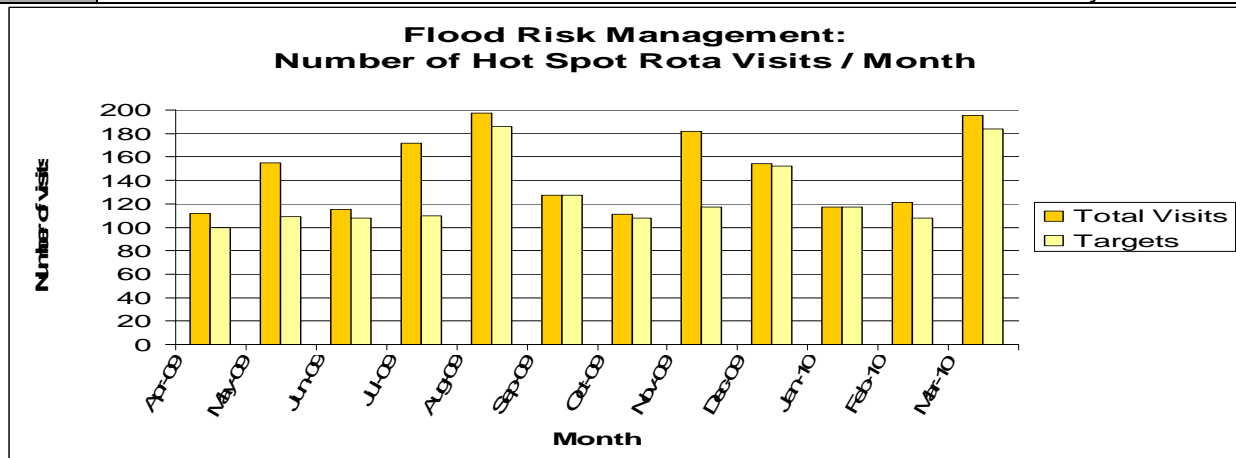
Accountable Officer – Jean Dent, Director City Development

Overall progress



Why is this a priority?

The impact of climate change can clearly be seen in Leeds and will be an increasingly critical issue for the city. Most significantly, parts of the city have been flooded in separate incidents between August 04 and January 08. Consequently, we are working with our partners to undertake flood alleviation works and to secure an effective flood defence system for the city



Overall Progress to date and outcomes achieved - 1st October 2009 - 31st March 2010

Overall Summary - Although good progress has been achieved in a number of areas listed below, failure to achieve the NI 188 target is a concern and a priority, and is expected to be achieved by Oct 2010.

Work on the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) is progressing, however further significant external funding is required to progress to approvals.

(Due to close association between this improvement priority and ENV1a, the two sets of information should be read together and regarded as mutually supportive)

Achievements since the last report

- LCC Climate Change Action Plan approved by Executive Board in Dec 2009
- Successfully acquired Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership funding of £12.5k, this funding is being used to produce a West Yorkshire Adaptation Action Plan. Currently working in partnership with Kirklees, the action plan should be finalised by Sept 2010
- Successfully tested revised sustainability appraisal methodology on New Generation Transport (NGT) objectives
- 100% performance on beck inspections and 'hot spot' grid clearances in 2009/10
- Completed internal consultation on Building Tomorrow Today, the Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- Opened Garforth Library which includes a number of ground breaking green elements for a public building and which engaged the public in discussion on such issues
- The LCC Environment Programme Board has been established and governance arrangements formalised
- The Climate Change Partnership discussed adaptation in detail and conducted a workshop to highlight areas of weakness, opportunity and collaboration
- The Highways Agency has applied their Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to high priority areas of business and assigned actions to those key climate change risks, thereby ensuring all areas of business have considered the possible risks of a changing climate. HA have used the latest scenarios from the UK climate impacts programme to further inform their work on adaptation, as well as contribute to internal guidance ensuring that changes in climate is factored into any new advice, technical standards and specifications
- An Environment Agency engagement officer is working with the community in Wortley to raise awareness and to make preparations for potential future flooding
- Natural England is working with Leeds planners to influence green infrastructure in Urban Eco settlement in the Lower Aire Valley.

Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS)

- The Environment Agency's National Review Group approved the business case for the FAS on 25th Jan 2010. EA Board approval is expected in Spring 2010
- The External Funding Sub group has met a number of times to discuss the way forward for the External Funding Strategy and proposals to obtain contributions through the planning system and other mechanisms
- The Design Vision and Guide Working Group met on the 12th Feb 2010 to discuss updates to the outline

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design. These are currently with Directors for final approval before submission to the Agency's Board in early Summer 2010

Wyke beck - Preparation work has been done for the next phase of works to widen and deepen the channel, in conjunction with property owners. Designs have also been produced for potential upstream flood storage at Killingbeck Fields.

Challenges/Risks

- Climate Change is currently rated as a very high risk on the corporate risk register (prob = 4, impact = 5). This is due to be reviewed at the Environment Programme Board in June 2010
- Work on national indicator 188 has not progressed as expected and we have not achieved our target of level 2 this year. A successful restructure of the Environment Policy team has released a vacancy for internal recruitment and work will continue to secure the release of appropriately qualified staff to take forward NI 188 tasks.

Flood Alleviation Scheme:

- Significant external funding will be required to enable the FAS to progress to construction, currently estimated at £50 – 60 million. Gaining further approvals from the EA Board, Defra and Treasury
- Leeds remains vulnerable to major flooding
- Wyke Beck – planning permission would be required for flood storage option.

Council / Partnership Groups	Environment Agency, Highways Agency, Environment Programme Board		
Approved by (<i>Accountable Officer</i>)	Jean Dent	Date	19.05.10
Approved by (<i>Accountable Director</i>)	Jean Dent	Date	19.05.10

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Key actions for the next 6 months				
	Action (Desired Achievements)	Contributory Officer / Partner	Milestone / Actions	Timescale
1	Recruit Adaptation Officer and complete remaining four NI 188 Level 2 tasks	Tom Knowland	Adaptation Officer recruited Level 2 tasks completed	Jun 2010 Oct 2010
2	Ongoing development and completion of West Yorkshire Adaptation Action Plan in collaboration with Kirklees	Dave Cherry / George Munson	Completed Adaptation Action Plan	Sept 2010
3	Eco-settlement/Growth Points - continue to support and guide LCR in development of Water Cycle Study	PL/AEP (EA)	On-going	Ongoing
4	Remain active in the development of LDF policy	PL/DFR (EA)	Formal Consultation LCC Preferred Option – ensure published policies reflect discussions to date and influence where necessary	Ongoing
5	The network is a dynamic and resilient asset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Highways Agency weather information service Publish the winter 2009/10 lessons learnt review 	Peter Godfrey Highways Agency	Service provided Lessons learnt review published	Mar 2011 Aug 2010
6	Leeds FAS – submit business case to EA board, DEFRA and Treasury	Environment Agency (EA)	Flood Alleviation Scheme approved	Summer 2010
7	Leeds FAS – canvass interested parties for external contributions. A meeting of the External Funding Group planned post submission to the EA Board to plan how this is taken forward	EA/LCC in partnership with others	Meeting of External Funding Group held	Summer 2010
8	Wyke Beck	Environment Agency	Planning permission secured Pre-construction planning Flood storage pool construction	Apr 2010 May 2010 Oct 2010

Performance Indicators aligned to the Improvement Priority									
Reference	Title	Owner	Frequency & Measure	Rise or Fall	Baseline	2008/09 Result	2009/10 Target	Full Year Result	Data Quality
NI 188	Planning to adapt to climate change	Sustainable Development	Quarterly Level	Rise	Level 0 (2007/08)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	No concerns