

Leeds (River Aire) flood alleviation scheme Report on the public consultation

Key findings:

Public event responses

- 75% agree or strongly agree that Leeds should have flood defences.
- 55% said the proposals were an acceptable way to protect Leeds.
- Of the 16% who disagreed, half wanted a combination of upstream storage and a by-pass channel.
- 63% of people agreed or strongly agreed that the outline designs fit in with the waterfront environment
- 60% felt the Design Vision should set the overall approach for defences
- Computer model was a critical tool to explain the scheme

Market research findings

- 76% agree or strongly agree that Leeds should have flood defences

Introduction

A flood alleviation scheme along a 19km stretch of the River Aire through the centre of Leeds will protect 4545 properties: 3,862 residential homes and almost 700 businesses. However, the implications of the scheme for the wider community, their representatives, public sector organisations, businesses and the local media meant that a widespread and on-going public awareness and consultation campaign was needed.

Background to the consultation

The need for flood defence measures in Leeds has been discussed publicly and raised in the media following recent floods in 2000, 2002, 2007 and 2008. An estimated cost of £100 million was quoted in the Yorkshire Post in January 2008.

Some consultation and awareness-raising has been carried out during 2008-9:

- Statutory consultees were asked for their views as part of the environmental impact assessment process in summer 2008. Initial views were mixed, with significant concerns about heights of raised defences. Leeds CC formally objected to the proposals.
- Environment Agency staff and consultant engineers have met with many businesses that will be affected by proposed construction works
- Leeds City Council planners and councillors have also been made aware of the emerging proposals.
- Leeds Central MP Hilary Benn has received two briefings during spring 2009.
- Government Office Yorkshire and Humber briefed 1 May 2009
- 6 MPs were briefed prior to the launch of the public consultation period.

The communications and consultation plan

The plan provided for targeted communications with the following audience groups:

- MPs, MEPs and councillors

- Landowners, tenants and businesses potentially directly affected by the proposals.
- All residential properties within the floodplain
- Statutory consultees including the Steering Group members
- Professional and community groups (eg Civic Trust, Aire Action Leeds, Chamber of Commerce and residents groups)
- Media – local and regional newspapers, radio and TV
- Market research with a statistically appropriate sample size of residents within the scheme protection zone.

The following communications methods were undertaken:

- Public drop in consultation sessions from 10am-7pm at Leeds Town Hall (May 27-30), attendance 158; Swillington Social Club (June 4-6) attendance 70; Milford Sports Club, Kirkstall (June 7-9) attendance 109. Total attendance at three events was 337
- Mailshot to 8,384 properties to promote the drop-in events
- Display at Leeds Central Library until Sept 11
- Display at the Leeds Waterfront Festival July 10-12
- Media launch with photocall jointly with Leeds City Council
- 4 press releases were distributed about the scheme and the consultation events between 7 May and 1 June. The distribution was:
 - TV: BBC Look North, Yorkshire TV Calendar
 - Radio: BBC Leeds, Aire FM, Real Radio
 - Newspapers: Yorkshire Post, Yorkshire Evening Post, Leeds Weekly News

A digest of news coverage is contained in appendix 1

- Presentations to 13 groups – *see appendix 2*
- 4 exhibition stands and 4 publications about the scheme with site specific information sheets covering Kirkstall-inner ring road, city centre, Royal Armouries-Woodlesford
- Website and email account for inquiries/comments – 901 hits recorded
- Feedback questionnaire – 135 completed forms received
- Computer model showing the current situation, area that would flood and the impact of the proposed defences
- Internal briefings for Environment Agency and Leeds City Council staff and consultants ahead of the consultation events
- Market research contract to secure interviews with 400 residents in the scheme protection zone.

Results of the consultation

NB for market research results, please see separate report.

1. Questionnaire results

135 questionnaires were returned but not everyone answered all questions.

Therefore, results are expressed as a percentage.

- 75% of respondees agreed or strongly agreed that Leeds should have flood defences. 11% were unsure and a further 14% disagreed or strongly disagreed
- 55% thought the proposals were an acceptable way to protect Leeds, 30% were undecided and 16% were against
- Of the 61 people who did not agree or were undecided, just over half - 54% - wanted to see a combination of upstream storage and a by-pass channel; 11% did not see a need for defences at all. There was some support for allowing properties to flood as they should never

have been built on a floodplain and those who flood should foot the bill. Other suggestions here were to promote sustainable urban drainage, particularly refusing permission for more hardstanding for cars in domestic properties. There was also concern that more/better defences would simply encourage more development in the floodplain

- 78% of people agreed or strongly agreed that additional public money should be spent to incorporate other benefits such as access and habitat improvements
- Of those disagreeing that public money should be used, the most popular alternative was that developers and/or business should foot the bill, followed by central government funding. There was one recommendation that MPs expenses should cover the cost!
- When asked what was the most important priority an overwhelming number wanted flood protection but riverside access and wildlife improvements were also important but there was less interest in achieving heritage or recreational opportunities
- 63% of people agreed or strongly agreed that the outline designs fit in with the waterfront environment, with 19% disagreeing and 19% undecided
- 107 people answered questions on the Design Vision with 60% of them agreeing it should set the overall design approach for defences and 80% agreed it should be the yardstick against which to assess detailed designs for planning permission.

A detailed breakdown of the questionnaire results is attached as appendix 3.

Results of the market research

Independents market research consultants, MR UK Ltd, based in Leeds, were commissioned to undertake research with a statistically valid sample of the residents at risk of flooding in Leeds. The sample size was 400 interviews carried out during June, following the public consultation events.

The key findings were:

- 76% agreed or strongly agreed that defences were needed to protect Leeds
- 8.5% disagreed and 11% were undecided
- 46% lived at ground level and are at direct risk of flooding
- 30% knew they were at risk but only 3.5% have flooded in the past
- 90% were not concerned that they were at flood risk
- 70% thought that extra public money should be spent over and above the amount that could be invested by the Environment Agency
- Well under half have flooding cover in their home insurance – 41%
- Respondents who have lived in their homes two years or less have a greater knowledge of their flood risk
- Just under 24% had children under 16
- 60% were in full or part-time employment and 18% were retired.

A copy of the full market research report is available and will be given to steering group members at the meeting on 13 July.

Other correspondence

Three letters were received from the Civic Trust (objecting), Aire Action Leeds (broadly supportive with some concerns on heights and maintaining access) and Brewery Wharf management company (supportive).

Hard copies of letters can be provided on request.

Appendix 1: Media coverage

Date	Publication	Page Number
21/01/09	Radio Aire	n/a
23/02/09	Yorkshire Evening Post (Online)	n/a
26/02/09	Yorkshire Evening Post (Online)	n/a
07/04/09	BBC Radio Leeds	n/a
10/04/09	Radio Aire	n/a
11/04/09	Yorkshire Evening Post (Online)	n/a
21/04/09	BBC Radio Leeds	n/a
06/05/09	BBC Radio Leeds	n/a
07/05/09	New Civil Engineer (Online)	n/a
07/05/09	BBC News Website	n/a
08/05/09	Yorkshire Evening Post	5
14/05/09	North Leeds Weekly News	10
21/05/09	Telegraph & Argus (Bradford)	26
22/05/09	Real Radio	n/a
26/05/09	BBC Radio Leeds	n/a
27/05/09	Yorkshire Evening Post	5
27/05/09	Yorkshire Post (Online)	n/a
27/05/09	BBC Radio Leeds	n/a
27/05/09	BBC Radio Leeds	n/a
02/06/09	Yorkshire Evening Post (Online)	n/a
02/06/09	Yorkshire Evening Post	8
02/06/09	Yorkshire Post	7
04/06/09	Yorkshire Evening Post	21
05/06/09	Yorkshire Evening Post	1 & 2
05/06/09	Yorkshire Evening Post (Wakefield)	1
05/06/09	Yorkshire Evening Post (Online)	n/a
09/06/09	BBC Radio Leeds	n/a
24/06/09	BBC Radio Leeds	n/a
24/06/09	BBC Look North	n/a
24/06/09	BBC Radio Leeds, Drivetime	n/a

Appendix 2: Groups and meetings attended by the Project Team

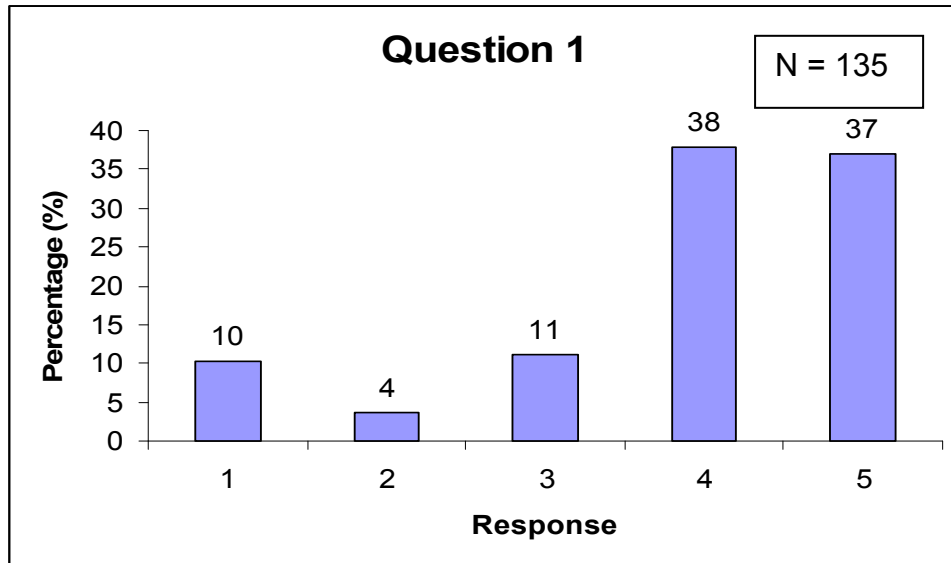
Date	Name of meeting	No. of attendees
02/10/08	Cumbria Floods – Looking Back	9
21/11/08	Holbeck Urban Developers' Forum	30
30/01/09	Aire Action Leeds: Annual Meeting	100
12/03/09	Presentation to Royal Armouries	Board of directors + 10
13/03/09	Holbeck Urban Developers' Forum	20
17/03/09	Presentation to Leeds Chamber of Commerce	100+
20/04/09	Presentation to Aire Action Leeds	20
01/05/09	Presentation to Government Office	7
10/06/09	Quality Places and Spaces - Leeds	15
13/05/09	Presentation to Leeds Property Forum	30
14/05/09	Presentation to Leeds City Council Members	7 members
28/05/09	Presentation to Leeds Forum for the Built Environment	30
1/06/09	Leeds City Council joint plans panel	27 councillors
2/0709	Leeds City Council plans panel East	
9/07/09	Leeds City Council plans panel west	
16/07/09	Leeds City Council plans panel city centre	

Appendix 3: Questionnaire results

The questionnaire asked people to rank on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is strongly disagree, 2 is disagree, 3 is unsure, 4 is agree and 5 is strongly agree.

Question 1:

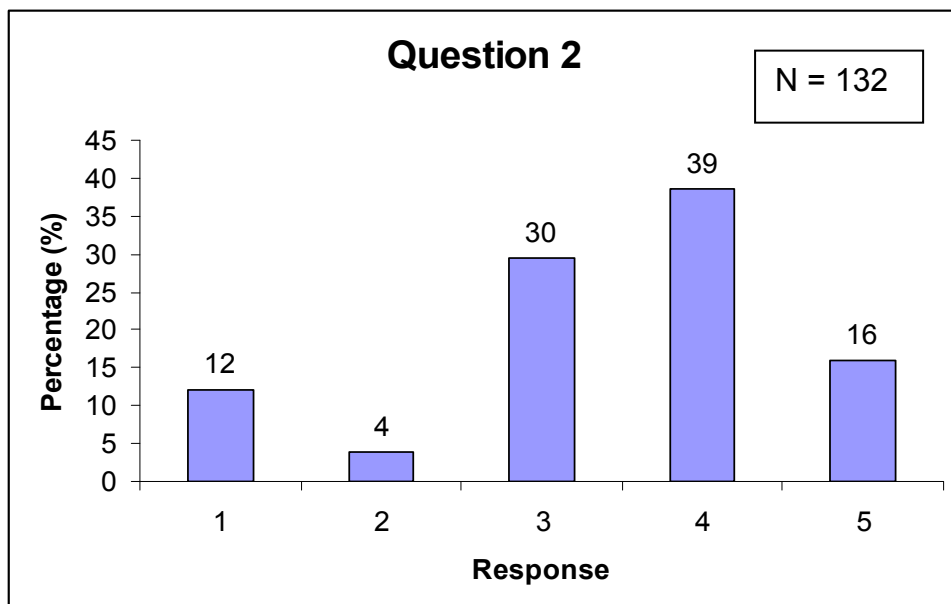
From Kirkstall, through Leeds city centre to Woodlesford there are currently no formal flood defences along the River Aire. Structures along the waterside were not built as flood defences so will not provide protection against a major flood. Do you think Leeds needs formal flood defences along the River Aire?



75% of people agreed or strongly agreed that Leeds needs formal flood defences along the River Aire.

Question 2:

You have seen our proposals and the options we investigated to get to this stage. Do you think our proposals are an acceptable way to protect Leeds from flooding from the River Aire?

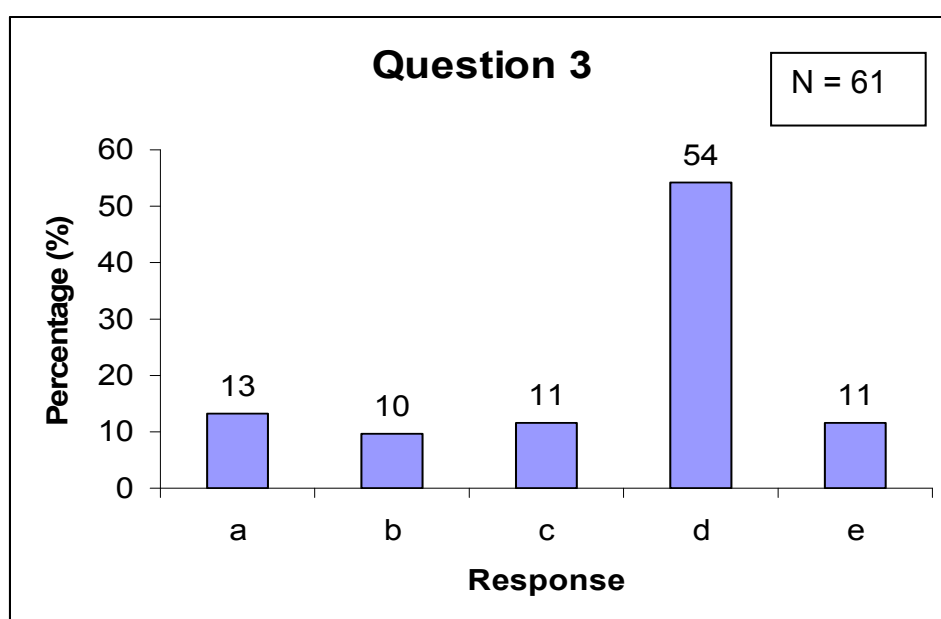


55% of people agreed or strongly agreed that the proposals are an acceptable way to protect Leeds from flooding from the River Aire.

Question 3:

If you don't think our proposed scheme is the most acceptable way to protect Leeds, what would you prefer to see? At this stage we think other ideas would still require raised defences through Leeds.

- a) Dams upstream of Leeds – 13%
- b) River Aire bypass channel – 10%
- c) No flood defence scheme – 11%
- d) A combination of the above – 54%
- e) Other – 11%



Various comments were received in relation to question 3; one opinion which seemed to be popular was that the flood plains need to be allowed to flood. Developing on this land was never popular in the first place and people are worried that defending these areas will attract further developers.

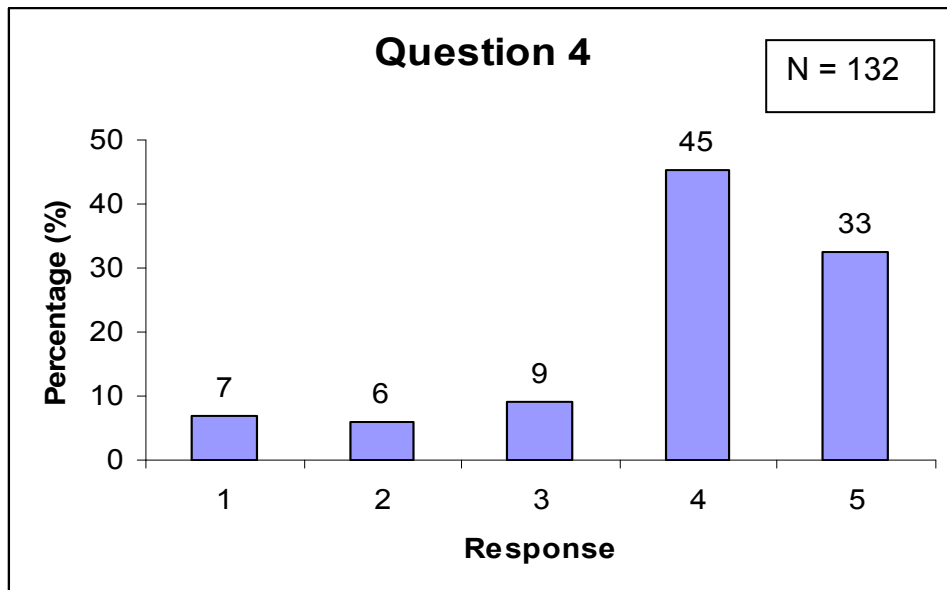
Other suggestions included planting trees, better river dredging and more water storage systems especially upstream, combined with sustainable urban drainage. These measure would reduce the flow of water and the need for high defences further downstream therefore being less intrusive.

Several responses questioned the relevance of this scheme when rising sea levels and climate change are taken into account. There were also several queries about plans for Allerton Bywater.

Question 4:

Flood defences are funded by taxpayers. Other improvements which could be incorporated into a flood defence scheme (e.g. new footpaths and riverside regeneration) would cost more and would have to be paid for through other sources

e.g. Leeds City Council. Would you agree that additional public money should be spent in this way?



78% of people agreed or strongly agreed that additional public money should be spent on the flood defence scheme.

Question 5:

If you would not be will to accept this, but still believe additional benefits should be gained, where do you think the money should come from?

NB. 35 people answered the question, some chose more than one response

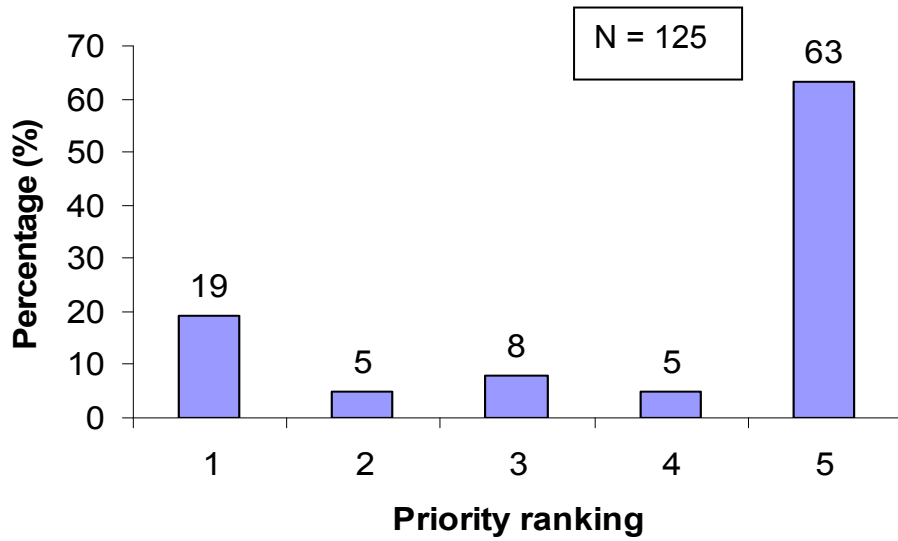
Developers/Local Businesses x 15	Central Government x 9
European Union x 4	Local Council Taxes x 3
Lottery funding x 3	Yorkshire Forward x 2
Charities x 2	Tourist Board x 1
MP's Expenses x 1	

Question 6:

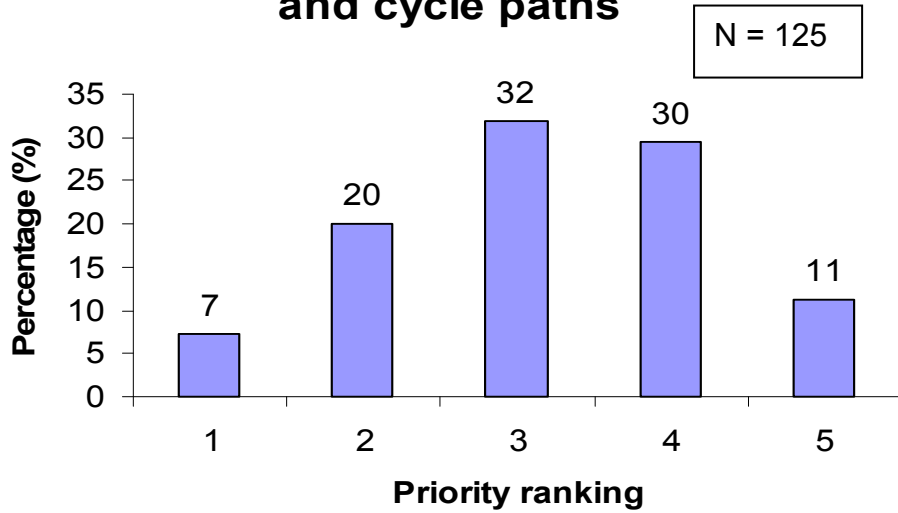
Public money can be spent to achieve a number of priorities. Please rank the priorities given to the right in order of importance to you (1 being the lower priority)

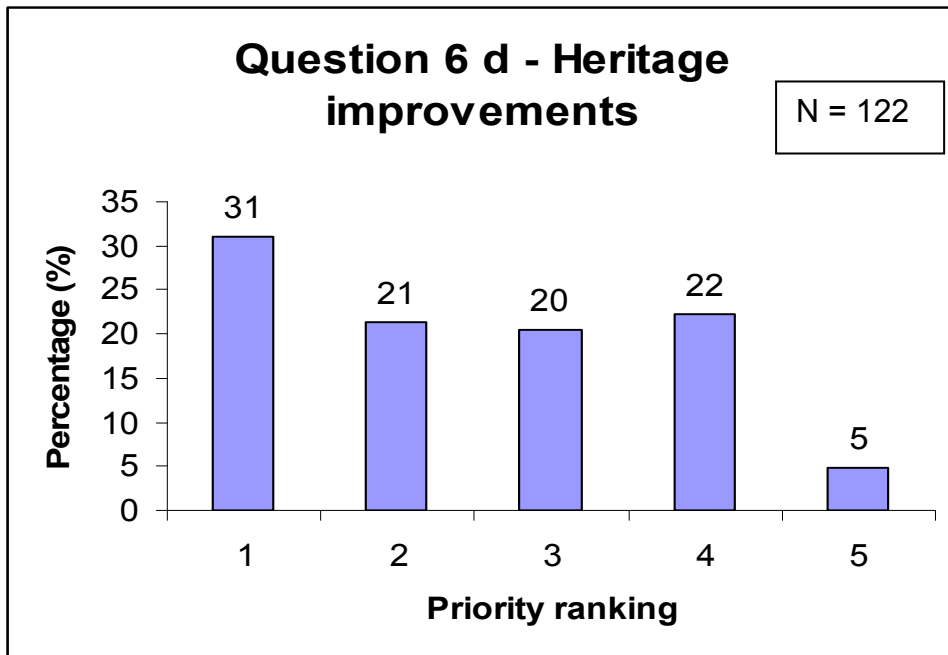
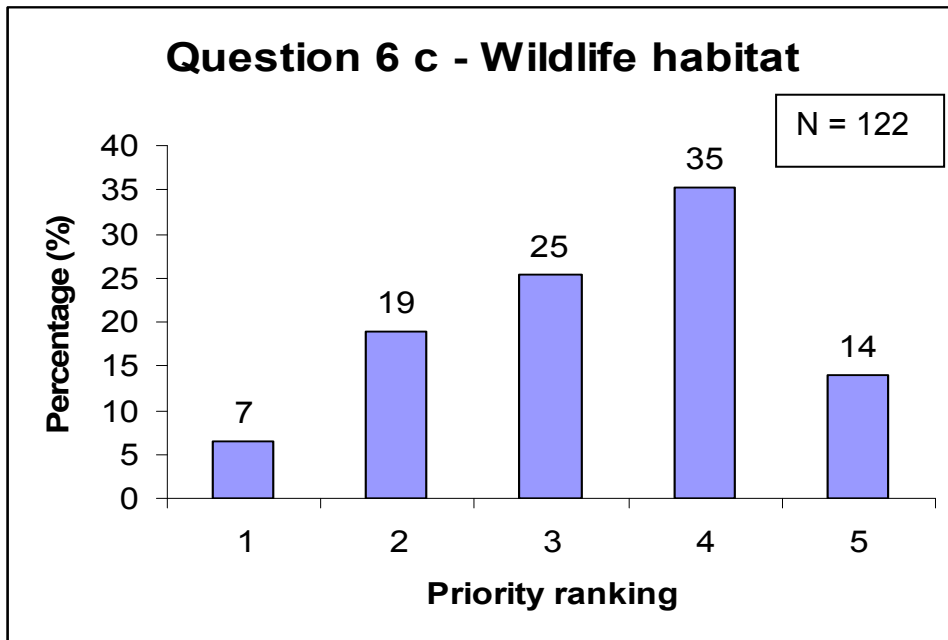
Rank by priority.

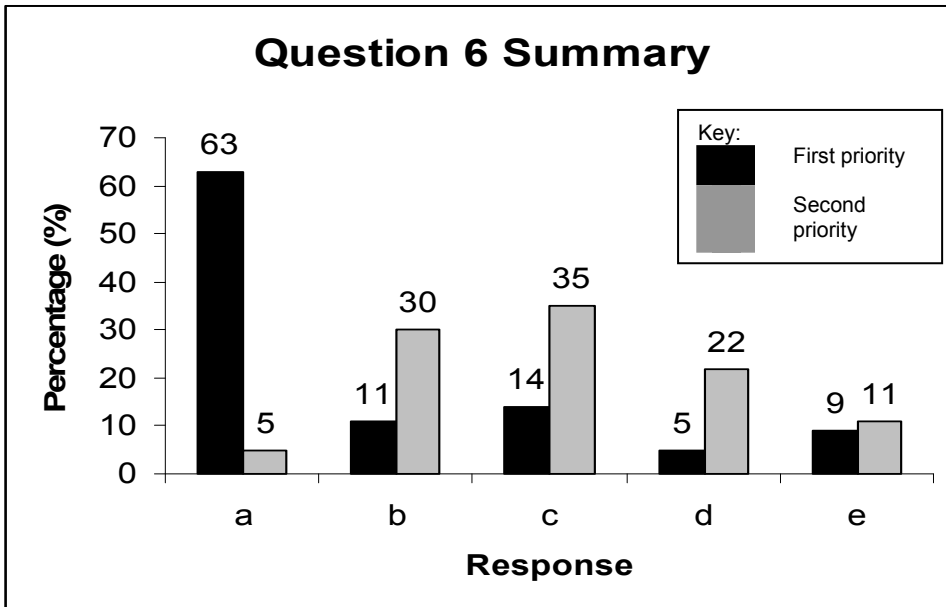
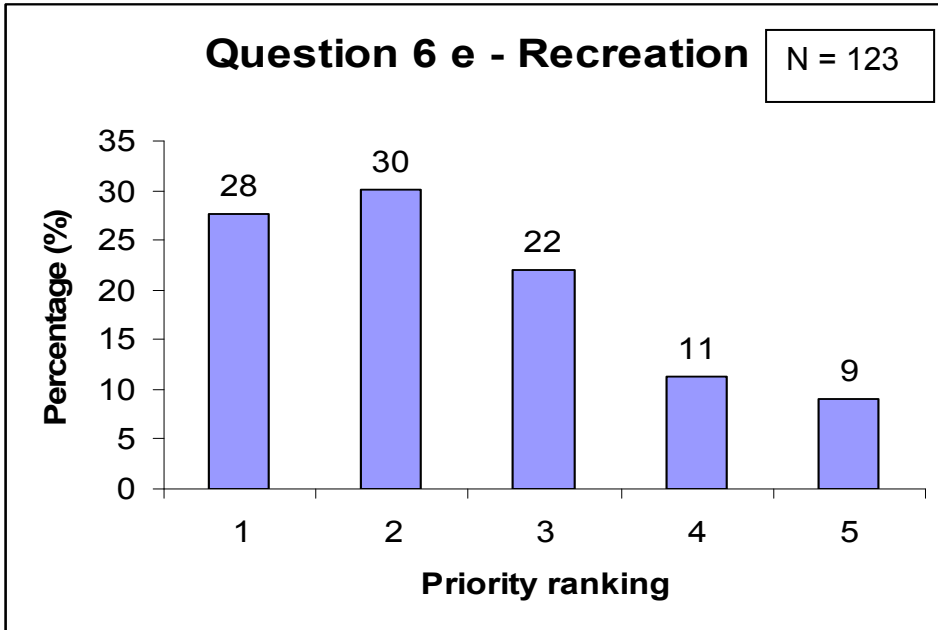
Question 6 a - Flood defences



Question 6 b - Riverside walkways and cycle paths



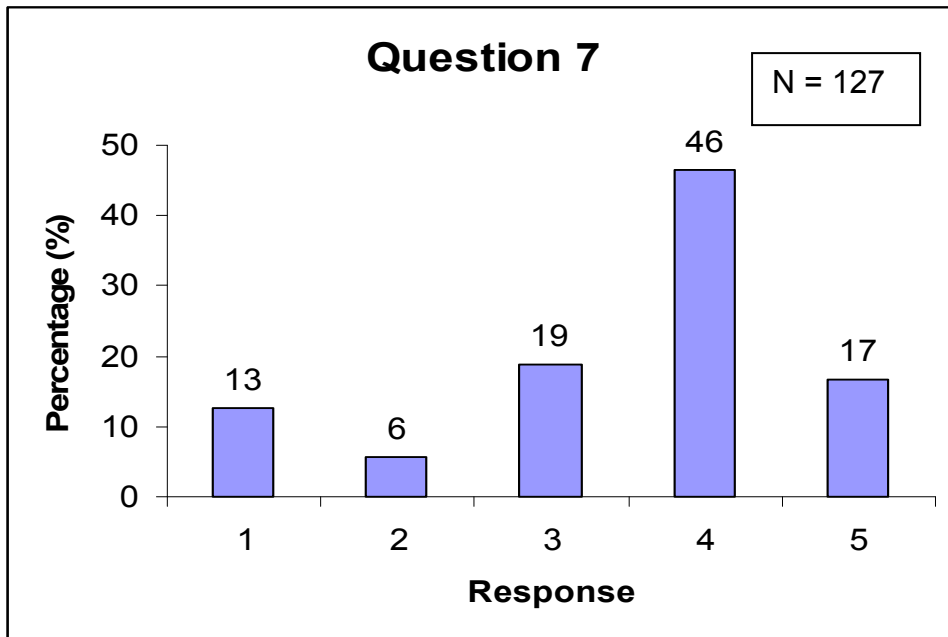




N.B. These figure do not add up to 100% because some respondents ranked more than one option as their top priority.

Question 7:

Detailed design work has not begun but you have seen some outline concepts of the Flood Alleviation Scheme. Do you agree that our outlined designs fit in with the waterfront environment? If you have other priorities, please use the space at the bottom of this table to tell us about them and how important they are to you.

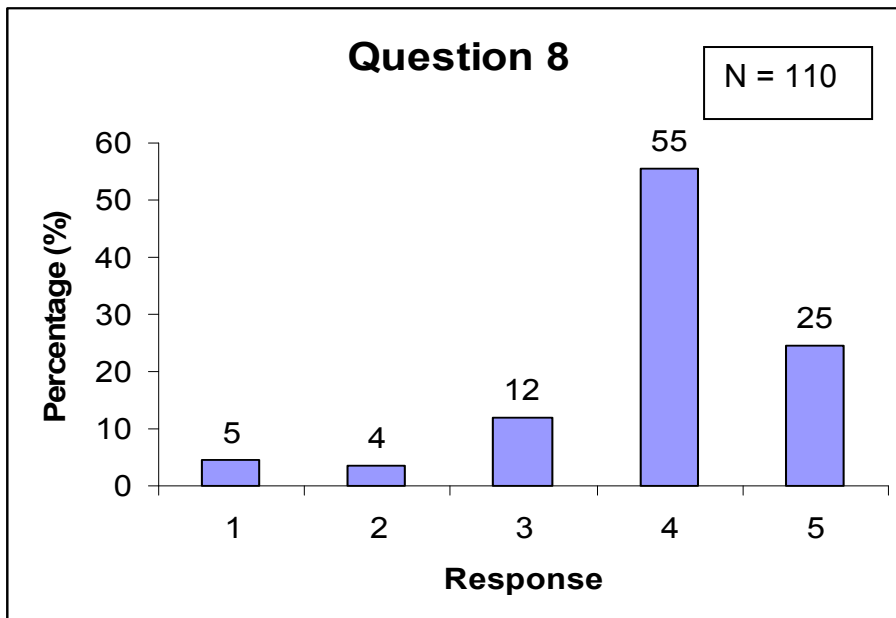


63% of people agree or strongly agree that the outlined designs fit in with the waterfront environment.

The following questions are to be answered if you saw the Design Guide document:

Question 8:

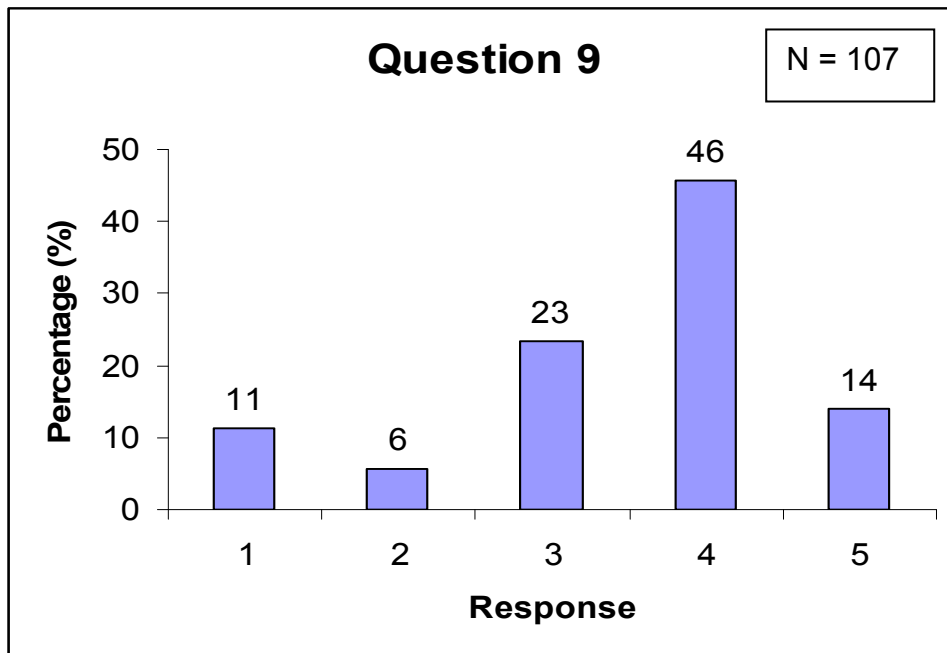
Do you think that the Design Vision is useful in helping you to judge our draft proposals?



80% of people agree or strongly agree that the Design Vision is useful in helping to judge the draft proposals.

Question 9:

The 'Design Guide and Vision' sets out an overall approach that any Flood Alleviation Scheme for Leeds (River Aire) would have to follow. How much do you agree with the approach set out in the Design Guide and Vision?



60% of people agree or strongly agree with the approach set out in the 'Design Guide and Vision'.

The Questionnaire

Give us your views – Leeds (River Aire) flood alleviation scheme

On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is strongly disagree, 2 is disagree, 3 is unsure, 4 is agree and 5 is strongly agree, please rate the following:

From Kirkstall, through Leeds city centre to Woodlesford there are currently no formal flood defences along the River Aire. Structures along the waterside were not built as flood defences so will not provide protection against a major flood. Do you think Leeds needs formal flood defences along the River Aire?	1	2	3	4	5
You have seen our proposals and the options we investigated to get to this stage. Do you think our proposals are an acceptable way to protect Leeds from flooding from the River Aire?	1	2	3	4	5
If you don't think our proposed scheme is the most acceptable way to protect Leeds, what would you prefer to see? At this stage we think other ideas would still require raised defences through Leeds	a) Dams upstream of Leeds b) River Aire bypass channel c) No flood defence scheme d) A combination of the above e) Other (please explain below)				
Flood defences are funded by taxpayers. Other improvements which could be incorporated into a flood defence scheme (e.g. new footpaths and riverside regeneration) would cost more and would have to be paid for through other sources e.g. Leeds City Council. Would you agree that additional public money should be spent in this way?	1	2	3	4	5
If you would not be will to accept this, but still believe additional benefits should be gained, where do you think the money should come from?					
	Rank by priority below				
Public money can be spent to achieve a number of priorities. Please rank the priorities given to the right in order of importance to you (1 being the lower priority)	a) Flood defences				
	b) Riverside walkways & cycle paths				
	c) Wildlife habitat				
	d) Heritage improvements				
	e) Recreation				

Detailed design work has not begun but you have seen some outline concepts of the Flood Alleviation Scheme. Do you agree that our outlined designs fit in with the waterfront environment? If you have other priorities, please use the space at the bottom of this table to tell us about them and how important they are to you.	1	2	3	4	5
The following questions are to be answered if you saw the Design Guide document:					
Do you think that the Design Vision is useful in helping you to judge our draft proposals?	1	2	3	4	5
The 'Design Guide and Vision' sets out an overall approach that any Flood Alleviation Scheme for Leeds (River Aire) would have to follow. How much do you agree with the approach set out in the Design Guide and Vision?	1	2	3	4	5

If you have any additional comments please use the space below to tell us:

Additional comments

Of the 135 questionnaires we received, 66 people provided additional comments.

Would be willing to be involved in further consultation.

How does this effect people living in Lower Aire/ Allerton Bywater? Are flood defences up to spec to handle additional flood levels?

Flood defences will introduce structures of what ever form to an environment not intended for such structures and thus such environment both visual/ environmental and use/ access. Perhaps the only acceptable solution is a combination of forestation and dams high up in valley. Plus building regulation to reduce/slow water run off lower down the valley. Dams must have a very good natural habitat to control flies, especially if average temperatures rise.

All this work is now being proposed to protect properties, developments built on the flood plain which should not have been built in the first place. These developments are an eyesore, encourage traffic and litter and I really don't feel upset if they are flooded. They should not have been built there then the flood plain would flood naturally and we would have no need for the proposed scheme. I fear it will encourage more building alongside the river if it is developed and so then this beautiful natural valley will be completely undervalued even more. Taxpayers should not be paying for this - owners of properties on flood plains who are worried about flooding should as they should never have been granted permission in the first place.

I think nature should be left to itself and that if this wall is built then it allows property developers to build houses on it - I feel strongly about this. It will also disrupt the local wildlife. Should leave the flood plain (up by the ring road) to do what it is there for.

No info from EA till going to Milford Club.

Protecting buildings that have been built on known flood sites in full knowledge is nonsensical and more care should have been taken to compensate at least by providing alternative wetlands and planting trees. There is plenty of scientific data providing information on using a varied approach egg planting trees, in land and water management. Anyone proposing something to the contrary has not done enough research. Overall the proposals are disappointing and lack an emotive inter-agency approach that could have been taken.

Think the event needed more publicity and should be more widely available - not just a couple of days - I only heard about the event on the morning Look North news

The data already available in other countries should be drawn upon in relation to ways to alleviate flooding via use of wetlands/ never building on flood plains/ planting of trees. Nature is the best teacher and to work in harmony with nature rather than against it is best solution. The madness of protecting buildings via more concrete - therefore leaving less earth for the water to be absorbed must stop at some point - why not now? More creative, imaginative, environmentally aware designs are needed.

How can you be sure your climate change predictions are correct?

Concern that flood defence wall will be unsightly and restrict view out over the river, will reduce property value, restrict light into buildings and affect waterfront environment/ atmosphere.

Use flood plains far more to manage water levels in the river.

All land is capable of absorbing flood water until people build on it. The more tarmaced driveways and vast supermarket buildings are constructed the less land there is to absorb water. Stop building! Get back to basics!

The defences should follow the higher ground along A65 and allow area bounded by the canal and mill race to act as a flood cell.

The part of this scheme that most concerns me is the possibility that high walls through Leeds City Centre could undo a lot of the good work of the last 20 years that has opened up and regenerated Leeds Waterfront. If 1 in 200 is the right standard for the scheme the urban design issues will be very challenging; possibly alternative options such as upstream storage should be re-examined to reduce wall heights if possible.

I feel the most important aspect is to provide more 'green' space and recreation (not shops and cinemas!) areas along the riverside.

What about Allerton Bywater? The river Aire floods the village every year, sometimes twice. If you improve the flood defences from Kirkstall to Woodlesford this will push even more flood water onto our village. The flood wash lands around our village can only take so much flood water. When will St Aidans spill-way be constructed? And the site open to the public?

Need more time to look into this.

Need to see details on what any wall would actually look like. Also if we do have a 200 yr flood, how long would it take to resolve and at what cost. Have you asserted this and evaluated the risk against the cost of the defences.

We need "education" to stop people concreting their gardens and more staff to 'police' gutters which are often blocked by grass etc.

Urban water front seems to lack trees.

I would need to see detailed plan for committing support or preparing any potential objections. The current proposals would be a major set back for the growth of this city.

Agree with the designs so long as they are not changed with the budget.

Despite potentially costing more I believe less intrusive method of flood alleviation would be more appropriate/ better in the long term (i.e. better water management further upstream).

Proposed scheme good - but need to ensure sufficient budget is in place to follow through and the defences are incorporated aesthetically well.

£100m is not enough.

Leeds is a major city without primal flood defences, any scheme is better than nothing. However the structures built for this scheme will affect the long term appearance of the riverside through Leeds. Steps taken to use more subtle structures to retain flood waters are a good idea however every means possible should be utilised to reduce the defence height including diversion channels and flood storage reservoirs. It is worth investing more now for long term benefits even if funds need to be raised from other sources including council tax.

The flood defence improvements should be used to achieve the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (i.e. good ecology in the River Aire). The consultation process for the WFD has revealed fish passage to be a major issue in Leeds (also see Leeds Council's Executive Board Report on fish passage dated 14th January 2009). The LFAS should be tied in with the Aire Valley Leeds AAP to provide a fish pass at Knostron Lock and other passes in the Kirkstall/Newlay area as a mitigation feature. Ultimately the LSAS could be seen as the project which returned salmon to Leeds following a 200 year absence.

Hurry up and get it done.

Keen to see the riverside area retained as an "open" facility. Leeds needs to make more of the riverside not hide it behind a wall.

More planting behind/ adjacent to walls e.g. planting within walls if possible. Not clear as to what is needed in tributaries - this will have a crucial effect on the rest of Leeds so full impact cannot be assessed. Flood Plain info seemed to be similarly restricted to that of the Aire and not its tributaries.

When will St Aidens Former Open Cast Site be used to take the flood water? What about Allerton Bywater flood alleviation?

Initially my concerns were the impact on the Lower Aire Valley of enhancing the protection to Leeds i.e. would this make things worse for far villages. I was reassured that this would not happen and that the planned St Aidan's scheme would be in place long before the Leeds scheme came into effect.

Continued prosperity of Leeds depends on enhancing its status as a city which is exciting and inspiring to live and work in. The accessibility, enjoyability and "wow-factor" of the waterfront are crucial parts of this and every effort is required to enhance them.

Concerns about Rodley.

The areas along the river - especially near the city centre - are underused. Flood defences could unlock their potential.

On viewing the design brief I noticed that nothing is proposed at the moment for higher up stream than Kirkstall Abbey. I feel it would be beneficial to have water storage higher up and was informed this had been considered at Rodley Nature Reserve, but the building of walls etc would prove too costly. So I guess it is up to the individual householder to provide their own flood defence and clean up the mess (sewage, sanitary towels etc). Another point I would like to raise is that of the debris in the river, we have had a tree on the weir at Newlay in Horsforth for months and months. The whole of the rootball is stuck fast in front of the weir with the branches down the weir. There are also other trees stuck both before the weir and after,

resulting in other debris collecting and blocking the flow. If such obstructions were removed the water could run freely and feel river management/ maintenance should be implemented. Surely dredging would also be beneficial, as we see people throwing large pieces of stone or bricks, branches etc from the Newlay Bridge.

If it is possible, more 'green' terraced approach to flood defences would be good. A lot of space in the city centre is hardstanding, it would be good if the river corridor and flood defences proposed could be 'greener'.

Very important that any defences are sensitively designed. Use flood plains and bypasses in preference to concrete.

Not very well advertised in city centre - difficult to find.

Just need to ensure the downstream effect of these defences (i.e. the fast channelling of the water) does not affect other communities. This is why I prefer some use of water storage (dams/ by pass channel) as well as raising the defences by the river.

Impressed with the plans and ideas but worried about when these proposals might actually be put into place. Ideas of creating more open recreational space in the centre of Leeds very welcome and vital for the future development of the city centre is a place for families to live as well as just singles. Need to use these ideas to create communality in the centre.

Excellent display and very helpful attendants.

Should plan for 100 minimum in protecting centre of city. Should employ other complementary options i.e. dams/ bypass channel/ permeable surfaces/ planting as possible. Should achieve highest quality landscape/ land surface design possible to protective measures.

Much more publicity required, seemingly small efforts could help: e.g. cleaning drains out. This used to be done regularly!

Aesthetically pleasing, but fail to see how small breakwater/seating would impact in times of high tide levels.

Be sensitive to each specific location particularly with historical buildings. Give help for individual buildings. The presentation seems to promise this.

Great models and presentation.

We must keep pressing national government to stop all building on flood plains instead of building flood proof buildings there. These plains can be used to provide natural defences through reeds/trees/logs etc.

Our converted warehouse is a listed building. It was designed about 1900 for barges to unload and possibly enter the lower levels. Currently the Aire Bar enjoys a riverside terrace (we are two floors above) and a solution should be possible to retain the terrace and install glazed doors and windows to withstand exceptional floods; all as discussed today.

Difficult to prioritise above as people use waterways in different ways; possibly need a bit of all. Aesthetics are clearly very important.

To elevate this problem with a diverse approach because of old Victorian underground culverts that are not listed on many planes - But something has to be done.

Important to keep the continuity and integrity of the Trans Pennine Trail and the link to the Aire Valley Towpath Route, improving the standard of the route where possible. Encourage developers to fund parts of the scheme. I have concerns re funding from Leeds City Council Ratepayers.

It may seem pie in the sky at the moment, but with the growing interest in freight by water as a greener form of transport, don't prejudice future decisions by restructuring the Aire above Leeds in such a way as to prevent the extension of the Aire & Calder Navigation above Leeds (following the river rather than the heritage canal) I have to declare my interest as a freight barge operator.

More access to the riverside from Leeds City Centre down to Woodlesford requires as is the footbridge over canal and river at fishponds rock to connect Rothwell Millennium Park with Temple Newsham via Skelton Lake. It has been promised for years - planning permission has been granted.

Good luck!

More detail needs to be provided on the use of flood plains to disperse flood water.

Leeds city centre needs flood defences but my worry is where will the flood water flood to? Will it flood property downstream? I would prefer a detour channel because this idea would last longer, the water would have more space to go and a detour will take more water as I think flooding will get worse in years to come.

I would like to see improved access along the waterfront between Woodlesford and Horsforth. In terms of access improvements, priority should be given to ensuring that access is maintained adjacent to the river at all time and for them to be as wide as possible to ensure that they are safe routes.

Leeds centre and other urban areas plus sites like Thwaite Mill are irreplaceable sites of built heritage (with natural environment to a lesser extent as it is robust and can resuscitate). More effort needed to reduce the problem.

I have concerns about the effect of the scheme on the lower Aire valley at Allerton Bywater. The model used for 1 in 100 year event needs revising as these events are occurring on a more frequent basis.

Robust flood protection is VITAL for the future prosperity and livelihood, life blood of people of Leeds and wider field. Doing nothing is NOT an option. Leeds has come too close to flooding too often. Must keep connectivity between river and communities. Needs a visionary approach. Need to find win/win solutions - protection, landscape, regeneration, recreation, and place for wildlife.

At the exhibition for the scheme I attended in Kirkstall a young woman explained the proposals to me with great clarity (for which I thank her immensely) There is little choice on offer - build or be damned seems to be the thing. As one person put it - we are where we are - but we only got where we are by adopting that attitude. Nowhere was there made mention of the

idea of clearing the floodplain, albeit gradually, this giving the river its life back. Without that option the river has (along with its wildlife) a future of diminishing, chipping away, until it becomes nothing but water. This is not a "Design Vision" - it is a scheme... and an expedient one at that. Design?... probably, Vision?...err...NO!

I feel strongly that flood plains should not be developed or used in any way other than for wildlife, and flooding if necessary. The building of flood defence walls would cause immense disruption, as large foundations have to be laid. The wall itself would cause a huge barrier to the free movement of existing wildlife, so that even in designated wildlife areas the habitat would be damaged irrevocably. The sums of money involved are too great to warrant protecting buildings/ developments which SHOULD NOT be there in the first place.

I do not think that Kirkstall is that bad at all where flooding is concerned. Also it would only encourage developers into this valley if they thought that there was going to be no flooding at all. Our valley just needs leaving alone.

The store water upstream plan would benefit farmland lower down the Aire than Leeds so it is a better option. Why not take the weirs out altogether except where fish/salmon ladders are already in place

Additional Comments on Question 3:

Accept nature and that pre industrial revolution large areas flooded. Let those areas flood. Also given in next 250 years sea level rise will render all such work futile

Properties and developments should not have been allowed in the place

Apart from railways which need standard protection ways of thinking how water can get absorbed rather than diverted would be far better

The gradual clearing of all riverside development thereby allowing the river to drain naturally along its floodplain obviating any building

Ways in which the water is absorbed rather than diverted. Less not more concrete.

Nature usually has the answer

Tackle climate change -active rather than passive

And a reduced height wall if necessary

Maximise use of flood plains above Leeds

Widen the canal and stop building on land

Rodley dam plus allow BHS and Morrison sites to flood. If necessary build defences along A65 from Abbey to St Ann's Mill to utilise the mill race and existing geography

Possibly also the proposed standard of protection could be reviewed to reduce impact of walls

What about Methley and Allerton Bywater flood defences, will we get them and when

More trees, chances to store water, pumps to control water etc. etc. etc.

What is the cost of the "do nothing" option

The land management/tree planting scheme looks good in the long term

And a flood defence scheme for the centre

More SOH engineering up/down stream

Better water management upstream which will be less intrusive, particularly further downstream

also should still focus on work upstream - at the source in Malham
Flood storage reservoirs
Plus better dredging of the river
What about lower down the Aire?
combined with lower defences
It is really important to have a combination
Complimentary options should be pursued
whatever works
Making space for a number of storage areas upstream of Leeds similar to those
around Lincoln
Flood plains above Leeds if possible to take the pressure off. Swillington bridge is a
bottle neck, you need to find a way to get all the water you have channelled together
into St Aidans
Plus surge tanks etc
combined with current raised defence proposal
Identify better storage facilities which can be pumped out levels fall
No mention of reducing quantities of water in uplands and sustainable urban drainage
reducing flows and need for such high defences
Catchments measure upstream storage "making as much space for water" in
developed areas

Further suggestions on question 5:

Developers in the area
Morrisons, Owners and Developers
Government
MP's Expenses
Yorkshire Forward/ Tourist Board
Businesses and Industry
Businesses. Enforce major planning process
Government
Government
Developers
Developers
Planning office
Lottery funding, industries with premises along the flood plain
Central Government
EU
Private businesses
Happy to contribute
Developers/ Local Businesses
Local Council Taxes
Riverside Business
Businesses and other enterprises within the flood risk area that will also benefit hugely
from the defences. Public donation schemes etc to hit commuters and RWB users as
well
s.106 contributions (planning)
Leeds rates to high now!

Government & EU

Yorkshire Forward/Heritage Lottery Fund.

Developers

Private support where relevant

Businesses aligning river

Private businesses

Treasury - incorporated in original scheme

Government/EU

Europe/Central Government

Government especially money 'claimed' back from E. C. 'Billions'

Lottery, charities (RSPB?)

'Portion pays' principal