



# Leeds

## Flood Alleviation Scheme

### Phase 2

#### Consultation on options for phase 2

Results of the updated hydraulic modelling is on course to be analysed over the coming months meaning we will be in a position to run a consultation by late September. The consultation will give people the opportunity to share views on the different options proposed for phase 2 of the scheme.

We think that this consultation will be of particular interest to

- anyone who lives in the scope of the phase 2 area
- anyone who owns land or property in the area
- anyone who works in the area
- local communities who have been affected by flooding
- anyone with an interest in the city's waterways, navigation, local wildlife and ecology, or just flooding and flood defences in general

**Please look out for our September newsletter where we will provide details of consultation events. You will also find this information updated on our website and twitter page @Leedsfas**

#### Flap Valve Replaced at Kirkstall Bridge

In our last newsletter we informed you of potential quick wins. Quick wins are small scale works that can be completed quickly to reduce flood risk ahead of the main project construction works. An un-flapped outfall is likely to have contributed to the partial flooding of the Kirkstall Bridge Shopping Park in December 2015. Yorkshire Water are due to receive and install the new flap valve shortly.

BMMjv, the construction contractors working on the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme have provided advice on reducing the effects of flooding to flooded businesses.

Some other quick wins include: potential removal of redundant features such as bridges which may increase flood risk; installing flap valves on discharging pipes; improving the level of resilience to train lines affected by flooding and working with partners including emergency services to give more warning time and ensure a clear understanding of likely impacts of flooding.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on possible quick wins please contact us at [lfas@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:lfas@leeds.gov.uk)

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#### June 2017

#### BUSINESS RESILIENCE SURVEY

Open Source Arts, carried out a survey on behalf of Leeds City Council (LCC) to understand the impact of flooding to 160 businesses in the Kirkstall area. Below is a summary of the findings.

- Mainly small or independent businesses severely impacted. 57% of these reopened within 3 months of the flooding.
- 15 businesses closed permanently or moved out of the area as a result of storm Eva.
- Some businesses struggled to reopen because of the speed in which insurance companies dealt with their claims.
- Awareness of council grant schemes was high for the flood clean-up and resilience grants.
- The grants were used for four main reasons: the retention of staff, keeping business open, re-opening more quickly and to retain customers.
- Businesses feel more aware of flooding and prepared to take responsibility to improve their readiness against a future flood.



### Would you recognise invasive species?

There are several types of invasive weeds found in the UK. Some of these are native plants and others are plants introduced to this country from overseas. All cause problems, but those introduced from overseas are the most difficult to control. These plants spread quickly, grow rapidly, and can take over an area completely replacing the native vegetation. These weeds will grow on riverbanks and in water, and can cause significant damage, choking rivers and leaving the banks bare of vegetation in the winter. This increases the risk of erosion, resulting in an increased risk of flooding.



Giant Hogweed



Himalayan Balsam



Japanese Knotweed

The River Aire catchment has 3 main invasive non-native species which are colonising along riparian land mainly spreading via the rivers which quickens the spread. It is important to wear gloves and avoid skin contact with Giant Hogweed as the chemicals in the sap can cause skin sensitivities and blistering. The River Stewardship Company, on behalf of the Environment Agency are treating areas of Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed along the River Aire in Leeds. Team Kirkstall are also continuing their programme of volunteer days tackling Himalayan Balsam. As this invasive management work is taking place in the scope of phase 2 of the scheme, it will help to reduce costs and reduce delays associated with contaminated soils removals and increased biosecurity measures before any potential construction work starts.

### Leeds Waterfront Festival

The Leeds Flood Alleviation project team were at the festival on 24 and 25 June, demonstrating the moveable weir technology behind the phase 1 scheme with a specially commissioned model and virtual reality headsets. A performing arts team (introduced by a one-man-band mad scientist singing 'weir are family') led visitors on six tours of the flood alleviation scheme over the weekend. We had some brilliant feedback from visitors, which were captured in a live art mural.



A water safety children's book called 'Cones on the Waterfront', was also launched at the event. The book was commissioned by contractors Bam Nuttall and copies signed by author Chris Madeley, were exchanged for charitable donations to raise money for the Leeds Children's Charity. From the donations we raised a fantastic £338.55! **Thank you to everyone who donated.**

### Upcoming Milestones

September – Phase 1 fully operational

Late September – Phase 2 consultation

Mid December – Submission of business case

Throughout – Quick wins

### Where are we now?

The below diagram shows the steps we are taking to develop phase 2 of the Flood Alleviation Scheme. We are currently at feasibility & business case stage and are on track to submit this is December.

