

Lower Derwent Flood Risk Management Project

Background

In the Lower Derwent there are approximately 3,600 properties at risk from a flood which has a 1% chance of occurring in any one year (1 in 100 year event), and over 6,900 are at risk from a flood which has a 0.1% chance of occurring (1 in 1000 year). Most of the flood defences in Derby were built in the 1960s and 1970s. These defences have been properly maintained but are now reaching the end of their design life. The Lower Derwent Strategy has now been approved and we are developing a business case to be submitted for approval in 2011.

The Strategy looks to manage flood risk over the next 100 years. There is no simple solution and it is not possible to provide the same standard of protection everywhere. The key components of the Lower Derwent Strategy are to:

- Promote the change of upstream land use and management where this reduces downstream flood risk;
- Construct flood defences to an optimum standard of protection along an alignment through Derby. This should allow for increased water levels under climate change and does not increase flood risk significantly elsewhere;
- Outside Derby raise defences where it is viable or continue maintenance where it is not viable to raise them.

Proposals for Derby City

We are preparing a public engagement exercise that is planned to start in September to establish an acceptable alignment for the raised defences through the city. Derby City Council are working closely with us and have agreed to review their Master Plan to allow a fully integrated approach to be taken. We call this approach the Blue Corridor Vision.

Proposals for South Derbyshire

Downstream of Derby there are several ring banked communities, including Ambaston. Constructing defences in Derby is likely to increase the depth of flood water downstream. Our proposed business case will deliver a range of solutions for Ambaston and we anticipate this will include a plan to mitigate the increase in flood water downstream by raising the flood bank. There will also be emergency access issues that have to be overcome. For Shardlow, which also floods from the Trent, we believe that it is economic to raise the defences. For the remaining 20 individual properties at various locations, we are proposing to offer flood resilience measures.

Funding

The project is funded this year and we have asked for funding to complete the business case in 2011/12. Whilst we have identified a preliminary sum for construction in our medium term programme it is not sufficiently detailed until we have identified an alignment. Additionally we will be looking for contributions and developing partnership to support this.