

Working with the
Calderdale Flood Partnership



how we're reducing the risk of flooding for Calderdale



Calderdale flood action plan

Summary document
October 2016

The following organisations have participated in producing this plan:

Aire & Calder Catchment Partnership	Northern Gas Network
Calder and Colne Rivers Trust	Partnership Community Resilience Operational Group
Calder Catchment Flood Studies Group	Pennine Prospects
Calder Future	Northern Powergrid
Calderdale flood groups	Royd Regeneration
Calderdale flood warden groups	Todmorden Pride
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	Treesponsibility
Canal & River Trust	The Source Partnership
Forestry Commission	Upper Calder Valley Flood Prevention Group
Hebden Bridge Partnership	Water@leeds
Hebden Royd Town Council	West Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership
Moors for the Future	West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum
National Farmers' Union	White Rose Forest
Natural England	Yorkshire Water
Network Rail	

Foreword

by Cllr Tim Swift,
Chair of Calderdale Flood Partnership



Calderdale is a fantastic place to live and work. It is a place of outstanding natural beauty with vibrant and diverse communities. We have a strong social and economic connection to our rivers, but also a long history of flooding. This

is particularly true in the Upper Calder Valley where the frequency of flooding is typically very high, it happens very quickly and there is a real risk to life.

On Boxing Day 2015, many communities were again hit by flooding, probably the worst in living memory. Across Calderdale approximately 3,500 homes and businesses were affected in addition to schools, bridges, substations, sewage treatment works and other infrastructure. Despite the severity of the flooding, we were lucky no lives were lost.

As with previous floods, the response to the incident and immediate recovery was remarkable, with volunteers, council officers and partner organisations working around the clock to help keep people safe and offer support where they could. We know from experience that a full recovery will take time, but also that we have the community spirit and determination to come back stronger than ever.

Our work must stand alongside the ideas, enthusiasm and action of our local communities, our flood groups and wardens, and we must complement, support and inspire the activity of partners. Examples include the dedication of the Canal & River Trust in restoring and managing our man-made waterways, the initiative of Northern Power in future proofing substations and the investigations that Yorkshire Water will undertake to consider using reservoir capacity to manage floods. We believe there is no single magic bullet solution to secure flood prevention. Only by working together, and using all the tools available, can we give our communities and businesses the protection that they deserve.

I would like to thank the Environment Agency and all those that contributed to this plan. Now more than ever we must continue to work together to explore, prioritise and deliver measures at pace to reduce flood risk and support communities into the future.

by Dr Thérèse Coffey MP,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Environment and Rural Life Opportunities



Even though I was not Floods Minister when the waters tore through Calderdale on Boxing Day last year, I will never forget those horrifying images on the news and the heart-breaking stories of people who had lost their homes and livelihoods

during what should have been such a joyful time of year. The floods had a devastating impact on people's lives in Calderdale with over 3,500 homes and businesses affected. I praise the extraordinary response both from professional emergency responders and local volunteers. The way in which communities came together to help those flooded showed that the spirit of the season could never be entirely washed away. As admirable as the recovery efforts have been, it was clear that something ambitious needed to happen to reduce the risk of a similar catastrophe happening in Calderdale again.

Since last winter, the Environment Agency has been working collaboratively with partners, community groups and individuals to produce this flood action plan. It brings together ongoing activity with new initiatives to reduce flood risk and improve resilience to the communities and businesses across Calderdale. It includes a comprehensive set of actions, including natural flood management, new flood defences to protect key towns, investigations into using reservoirs to store flood water and pop-up community facilities to help with recovery.

The plan is substantial, both in scope and funding. An additional £35 million of government funding was announced in the March budget, taking our overall investment programme to over £50 million. This funding, alongside other investment is a fantastic lever, and will make a step change in reducing flood risk for many communities. For many places, this will mean an engineered solution, but there is also the knowledge, enthusiasm and willingness to use natural techniques and land management.

By delivering this action plan, we can not only reduce flood risk, but also enhance communities, protect jobs and support growth. I would like to thank all those that have worked with the Environment Agency on bringing this plan together and look forward to seeing the actions being delivered on the ground.



About this plan and how we're working together



The Environment Agency has produced the Calderdale flood action plan on behalf of the Calderdale Flood Partnership.

The action plan outlines how organisations and communities will work together to reduce flood risk in Calderdale. The plan is a living document. We, the partnership, will regularly check and review it to make sure that actions are delivered and new information and ideas are incorporated.

We have worked closely with partners and communities to collect information, build trust, think creatively and problem solve to develop a plan that is credible and relevant to Calderdale.

Over the summer, local residents and representatives of local organisations attended 11 workshops. Many actions were identified to reduce the risk of flooding and improve resilience across Calderdale. We have used this information, along with discussions with a wide range of organisations, to create the full action plan.

This summary document gives an overview of the work that has taken place since the flooding, and some of the key actions from the full action plan.

The Calderdale Flood Partnership was set up in response to the flooding in 2012 to lead a planned and co-ordinated approach to reducing the risk of flooding. After the December

2015 floods, the structure and purpose of the partnership was reviewed and improved to reflect the additional resources available and the increased focus on natural flood management. The partnership will be responsible for implementing the action plan and provide a public forum for reviewing progress.

To make sure this action plan is delivered, it is essential that local communities and organisations with a vested interest in the area continue to work together. The partnership is fully committed to supporting this, so that the conversation with the local community continues.

New information will be available this autumn and winter, so we will revise this plan in April 2017 and provide regular updates of the plan going forward.

We will continue to work together to join up the management of water to not only reduce the risk of flooding, but also create a better water environment for people and wildlife. Page 8 sets out how this plan is a step towards an integrated approach to the management of water in Calderdale.

The action plan is available on www.gov.uk if you search for Calderdale flood action plan.

How we're investing in Calderdale



To protect over 1,600 homes and businesses across Calderdale, the government has committed a total of over £50 million for flood defences. £35 million of this is new funding agreed since the December 2015 floods.

We are working to make sure we spend money where it can most help the communities of Calderdale prepare for and protect against the effects of flooding. This includes the following government funding:

- **£15 million** for Hebden Bridge flood alleviation scheme to improve the protection to up to 500 homes and businesses.
- **£15 million** for the Mytholmroyd flood alleviation scheme to improve the protection to nearly 400 homes and businesses.
- **£9 million** to repair flood defences and remove debris.
- **£6 million** for the first phase of the Upper Calder flood risk reduction schemes to improve protection to up to 500 homes and businesses in Todmorden, Midgley, Hebden Bridge, Elland, Eastwood and Callis Bridge.
- **£2.2 million** to reduce the risk of flooding in Brighouse.
- **£16.9 million** for the second phase of flood risk reduction schemes, investigating, and where feasible, improving the protection to homes and businesses in Sowerby Bridge, Copley, Midgley, Halifax, Elland, Todmorden, Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd, Luddenden Foot, Walsden and Brighouse.
- Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council awarded **£25 million** by the Department for Transport to undertake repairs to damaged roads and bridges.
- Over **£1.6 million** to help Calderdale's households and businesses recover from the December 2015 floods.

In addition:

- **£3 million** from Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council for flood risk and resilience projects.
- Calderdale Community Foundation has raised **£3.16 million** for flood relief.
- Yorkshire Water has committed **£36.3 million** to repair, reinstate and protect water treatment assets in Calderdale.

We will continue to seek further funding opportunities.

What we will do

Here are some of the key actions taken from the full action plan.



Strengthening defences

- 1 Continue constructing the Mytholmroyd flood alleviation scheme and complete this by winter 2019.
- 2 Start construction on the Hebden Bridge flood alleviation scheme by 2018.
- 3 Complete assessments for flood reduction schemes in Sowerby Bridge, Copley, Halifax, Midgley, Elland, Brighouse, Walsden, Todmorden, Eastwood, Callis Bridge, Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Luddenden Foot.



Natural flood management

- Produce a natural flood management opportunity map for Calderdale to show places where the risk of flooding could be reduced and water quality improved.
- Deliver a winter programme of tree planting and construction of leaky dams.



Maintenance

- Support landowners to understand their roles and responsibilities to maintain watercourses and adjacent land.
- Host an annual maintenance meeting with statutory organisations and communities to review planned maintenance work, promote a joined up approach and increase community involvement.
- Undertake community-led channel maintenance and stewardship.



Community resilience

- Hold an annual flood emergency day throughout Calderdale to practice flood plans.
- Increase number of flood warden groups and create a network to share learning and good practice.
- Hold a workshop for the insurance industry, businesses and community stakeholders to consider how to improve access to flood insurance.



Existing water assets

- Investigate changes to the operation of Yorkshire Water reservoirs to provide flood storage areas.
- Investigate changes to the operation of canals and canal ponds to reduce the risk of flooding.

What we have already done

Flooding has devastating effects on lives and livelihoods. Over 3,500 households and businesses across Calderdale were impacted by the December 2015 floods and they have spent much of this year dealing with its effects.

We continue to work tirelessly to repair damaged flood defences and other infrastructure, support those affected by flooding, and help make sure Calderdale is better protected and prepared for the coming winter and beyond.

£55m
flood defence
investment programme



£9m
spent on repairing
damaged defences

5000 
volunteer hours given to
repair and improve canal

January

- Started repairing flood defences and temporary defences.
- Engaged with communities in worst affected areas.
- Inspected 3,138 flood defences.
- Inspected damage along canal network.

April

- Held a public meeting to update the community on recovery progress.
- Installed new pump out station at Hebden Bridge.

August

- Held workshops to prioritise actions within the plan.
- Completed work to reduce the risk of flooding at Gauxholme.
- Calderdale Flood Partnership formed Natural Flood Management Operational Group.
- 5,000 volunteer hours given to repair and improve canal.

February

- Appointed catchment directors and built on the existing Calderdale Flood Partnership to develop an integrated catchment approach.
- Cleared all high risk channel blockages.
- Completed all the required culvert inspections in Calderdale.
- Worked with volunteers to repair 9 scoured lock ramps.

May

- Published the Mytholmroyd flood alleviation scheme action plan.
- £10 million scheme announced for Mytholmroyd.
- Completed 3 culvert repairs.

September

- Burnley Road School reopens.
- Since January a total of £1,660,000 has been paid in hardship and property resilience grants.
- Commenced vegetation clearance in the river channel in Mytholmroyd.
- Completed repairs at 90 sites along the river, with work at another 35 sites underway.
- 700 metres of flood defence wall rebuilt or repaired, and 6,000 tonnes of gravel removed from key locations.

March

- Removed a collapsed building in Mytholmroyd.
- Cleared the remaining channel blockages - making 63 in total.
- Approved £9 million to repair flood defences in Calderdale.
- Had an additional £35 million allocated from government for flood defences, taking total funding up to over £50 million.
- Completed emergency repairs to 17 Yorkshire Water pumping stations and waste water treatment assets.
- Reopened the navigation and towpath between Sowerby Bridge and Hebden Bridge.

June

- Completed flood risk reduction work on Bacup Road, Todmorden.
- Opened the Mytholmroyd flood information centre.
- Started community workshops to create the Calderdale flood action plan.
- Removed 19,000 tonnes of gravel from the Rochdale Canal.

July

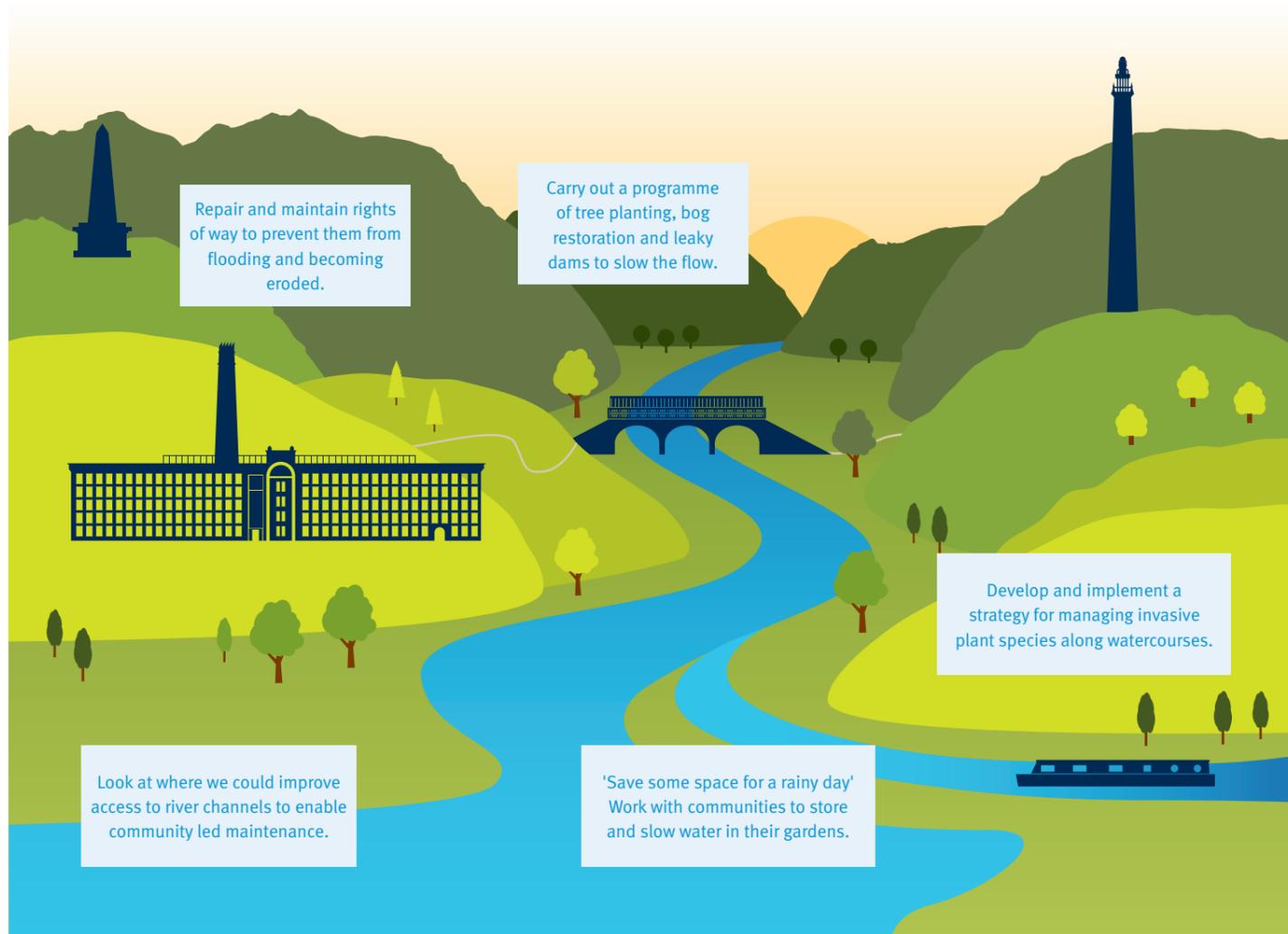
- Published the Calderdale Flood Commission final report.
- Completed the wall repair at Central Street School in Hebden Bridge.
- Calder & Hebble Navigation reopened and the Rochdale Canal re-connected to the main network.

October

- Published the Calderdale flood action plan.
- Rochdale Canal reopened.
- Repairs completed to A646 at Hebden Bridge.
- Held Operation Calderdale emergency response practice day.

How we're doing more for water, people and wildlife in Calderdale

Water is at the heart of the Calder Valley. Our use of water in the form of rivers, canals and reservoirs has shaped the industrial history and landscape of the area for centuries. Water is vital for life – for both people and wildlife, and having too little or too much is challenging. Water, therefore, needs to be managed in a joined up way, whether that be planning for floods, water supply, water quality, a home for wildlife or places for us to enjoy. This means we will make sure that actions to reduce the risk of flooding also provide wider benefits for people and wildlife through improving water quality and biodiversity:



What's next

Here are some important things you can do now:

Sign up for flood warnings by calling Floodline on

0345 988 1188

or log on to

www.gov.uk/flood

Make your home or business more resilient

- Don't wait for a flood, think about what you can do now.
- Think about what you would want to move to safety during a flood.
- Check your insurance cover.
- Know how to turn off your gas, electricity and water mains supplies.
- Prepare a flood kit of essential items and keep it handy.
- Understand our flood warning codes and what to do when they're issued.



Advice is available at www.gov.uk/flood

To comment on the plan and share your local knowledge, suggestions and ideas for water management, email the Calderdale Flood Partnership at calderdalefloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk

**Would you like to find out more about us,
or about your environment?**

Then call us on

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