

In partnership with:



## **Preston & South Ribble Flood Risk Management Scheme**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why do we need new Flood Defences in this area?**

The current flood defences were built between the 1920s and the 1990s and are reaching the end of their design life. New defences will reduce flood risk to properties and infrastructure in the area.

#### **How many homes and businesses will you better protect?**

The proposed scheme will better protect around 3,600 residential properties as well as over 300 businesses from direct flooding from the River Ribble and the River Darwen.

#### **Will the proposed scheme increase my flood risk from other forms of flooding?**

The Environment Agency and Lancashire County Council are working closely together and with other partners including United Utilities, South Ribble Borough Council and Preston City Council to ensure that flood risk associated with surface water and sewer flooding is not increased as part of the proposed scheme. This means existing pockets of surface water flood risk may still remain after construction.

#### **How much will this scheme cost?**

The proposed scheme is likely to cost in the region of £45m.

#### **Who are you working with to secure funding?**

- European Regional Development Fund
- Direct Government funding and Flood Defence Grant in Aid
- Professional partners and local businesses

#### **What are the impacts of Brexit on the EU funding?**

We have secured £6.525m European Regional Development Funding (ERDF), the contracts have been signed and contracted subject to expected funding conditions. We don't currently expect any Brexit scenario to change this. ERDF will also create 4 full time equivalent posts locally and we will employ local people and contractors to undertake the works.

### **When are works likely to start and finish?**

Initial Ground Investigation works started in March 2019 although actual construction is not expected to start until 2021. Construction is likely to take place in phases and take 3-5 years to complete.

### **What will the scheme look like?**

Any proposed defences will be built higher than existing and will likely be made up of flood walls, localised use of glass panels and embankments. By default our designs will be sympathetic to the character of local areas and through good design we hope improve the look and feel of the riverside environment. The appearance of the defences has not been agreed and we welcome feedback on this.

### **How can I provide feedback and keep updated about the scheme?**

We will continually seek to engage with residents, businesses and the wider community throughout this project. A series of Community Drop-in sessions have been held so far and these will continue throughout the project. In addition there will be a downloadable newsletter and regular updates provided on TheFloodHub.co.uk website.

You can also sign-up to receive important updates via the following email address:-

[cmblnc-psy@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:cmblnc-psy@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Feedback forms are provided at all the drop-in events we hold and are shared with relevant members of the project team.

### **What if I don't have the Internet or have accessibility requirements?**

We aim to be as inclusive as possible and ensure that everyone has chance to access key information related to the scheme. If you do not have direct access to the internet you may be able to access it via your local library. Alternatively you can post any feedback to:-

Preston and South Ribble Scheme – PSO Team  
Environment Agency  
Lutra House  
Bamber Bridge  
Preston  
PR58BX

Our aim is to make all of our materials and events are accessible to all. To find out more details please either write to us or email us via the details shown above.

### **Are there any plans for dredging / gravel removal?**

The bed of the river at Broadgate is rock and therefore there is limited material which could be removed from this area. Additionally, the size of the Ribble Estuary means the volume of material that would need to be dredged to reduce flooding would be very large and not cost effective. To be effective dredging / gravel removal would need to be done frequently which also has cost implications.

### **Would the scheme provide other benefits to the community?**

Some of the most deprived wards in Central Lancashire are located within the scheme boundaries including within Broadgate and Frenchwood. We are working with partners to understand how the scheme could benefit these areas. The amount of government funding (Flood Defence Grant in Aid) is calculated and weighted towards areas of deprivation.

### **Future proofing: How is climate change built in and will the scheme last long enough?**

Climate change predictions are included in all of our modelling work, and the new guidance is currently being used to guide our scheme design. Our scheme will be built to last in to the future in line with climate change projections and we typically make sure we design defences that can be topped up at some future date if need be.

### **Insurance: How will the scheme reduce impacts on homes and businesses?**

The will protect many homes and businesses at risk of flooding. These figures will change as modelling improvements are made and the impacts of flooding in Preston and South Ribble better understood. If this scheme is too big and intrusive to be acceptable to local communities we will try and provide a smaller scheme that will have reduced numbers of homes and businesses benefiting.

### **New development: Have we taken new development into account and have all new areas been identified?**

We are working with Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council and South Ribble and other partners to look at planning as a whole. We have a specific group to look at this. The scheme could make future earmarked development sites more viable. There may be opportunities to look and extended development opportunities in future meetings. Any planned developments cannot be taken into account for our economic analysis due to rules set by government. All new developments should take place away from areas of flood risk. Development in an area of flood risk will be subject to planning permission which should ensure the development only proceeds if it does not increase flood risk or create additional flooding.