

# Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Report

March 2021

Honorary Alderman Tony Kennedy

## **Scrutiny Report**

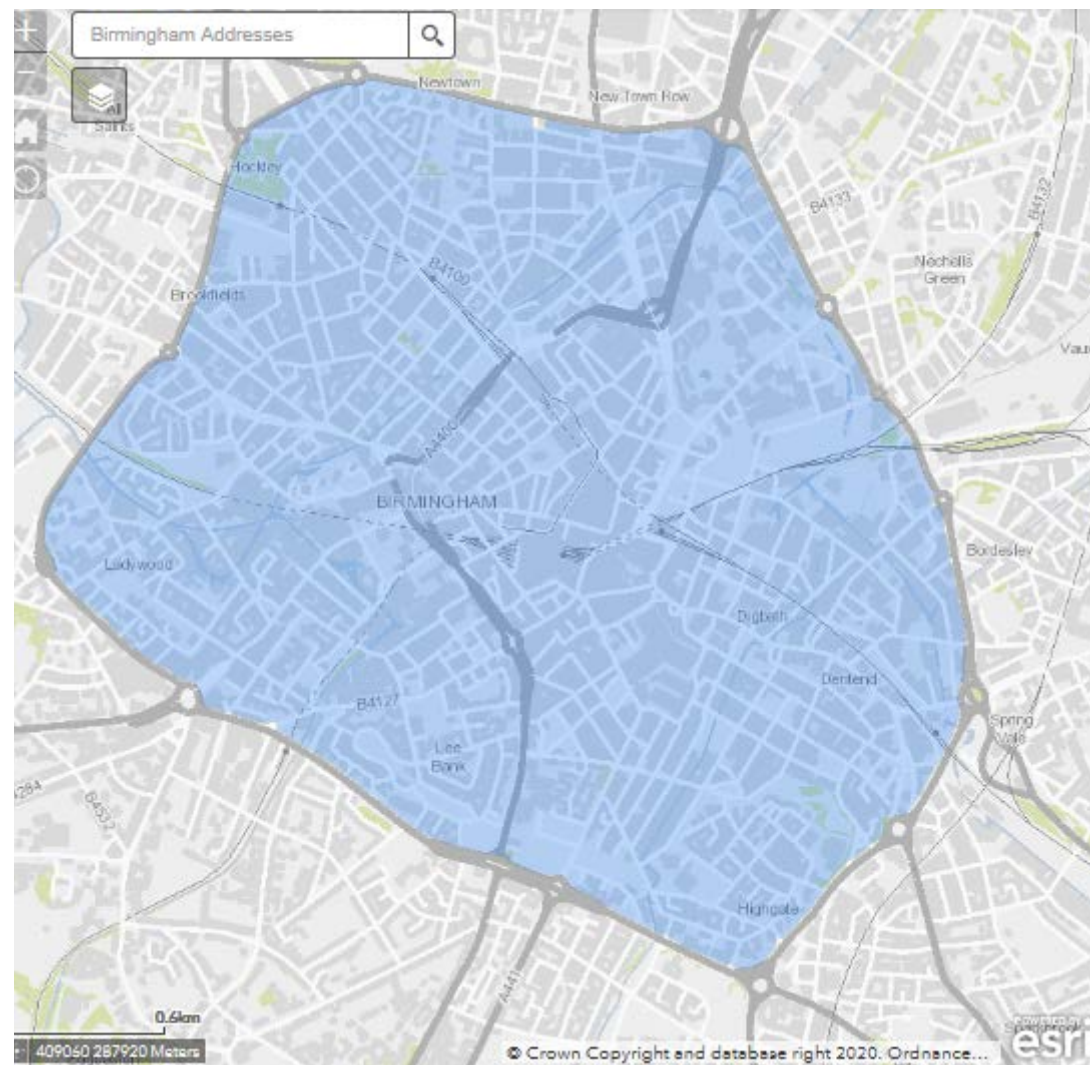
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## Climate Emergency and Clean Air Zone

In June 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency and made the commitment to take action to reduce the city's carbon emissions and limit the climate crisis. The ambition was set for the council and city to become net zero carbon by 2030.

The Clean Air Zone will go live in **June 2021**, implementing daily charges for the most-high polluting vehicles travelling within the A4540.

It will tackle dangerous levels of air pollution responsible for chronic and fatal health conditions including cancer, lung and heart disease which contribute to 900 deaths in Birmingham every year.



## Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The BCC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 2017, states the strategic direction for the management of flood risk across Birmingham. This is being updated for 2021 in light of the publication of the Environment Agency's National Strategy published late September 2020.



Update will reflect recent flood events, future pipeline of schemes and states our intent to work with partners to address, manage and mitigate against flood risk.

## **Strategic Flood Risk Management Board & Birmingham Water Group meetings**

- Partnership approach and regular meetings involving Birmingham City Council, Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Kier to address all sources of flooding and endeavours to find cost-effective alleviation schemes
- 27 projects put forward in the new 6 year pipeline – areas targeted on a risk based approach, with best chances of attracting funding
- The pipeline is anticipating to better protect approx. 700 residential and commercial properties over 6 years
- The programme is currently valued at £5m, subject to business cases being submitted to the Environment Agency



## ‘Selly Park North’ Flood Risk Management Scheme

The Environment Agency worked in partnership with Calthorpe Estates, Birmingham City Council and other organisations to develop the scheme to help reduce the risk of flooding. The scheme is now fully operational with only landscaping to be completed.

The EA, STW and FRM team are continuing to look at the residual risk of surface water flooding.



## ‘Selly Park South’ Flood Risk Management Scheme

Construction now complete on the Environment Agency’s £2.4 million scheme, with landscaping to follow.

The scheme included the construction of an embankment on public open space, immediately upstream of Dogpool Lane bridge to help hold water during extreme heavy rainfall events. Bank levels were also raised downstream of the bridge to reduce the risk of flood water getting into properties.

BCC Flood Risk Contractors are also likely to undertake weir removal works on behalf of the EA near First Avenue in 2022/23 as experienced and cost-effective suppliers.

Both schemes now protect over **350 homes and businesses**.



## Upper Bourn Brook Study

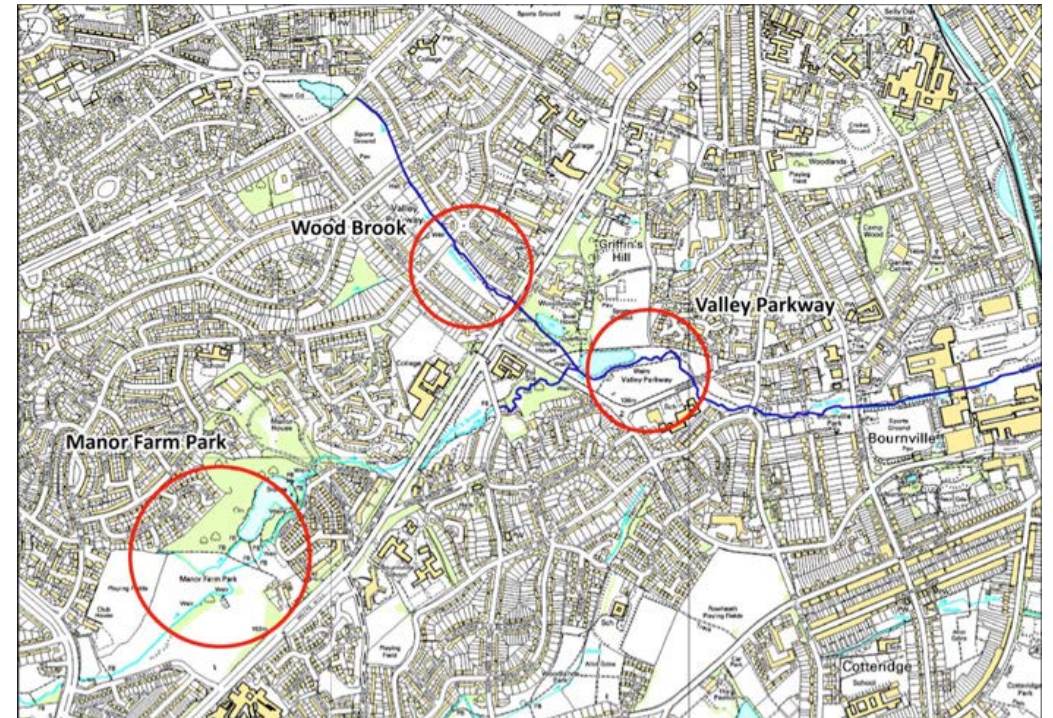
The Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Birmingham City Council are working together on a catchment wide study to understand the flood risk and develop flood mitigation options for the upper Bourn Brook catchment.



## Lower Rea and The Bourn

The Environment Agency is working on a catchment wide study to understand the flood risk and develop flood mitigation options for the Bourn and Lower Rea catchment.

It's currently at Strategic Outline Case development stage (funded by Government Grant in Aid) to find a preferred way forward and viable scheme.



### **‘Perry Barr and Witton’ flood risk management scheme**

There are approximately 1,400 properties at risk from this section of the River Tame, including 950 residential properties. properties from flooding in May 2018. Construction work for Phase 2 started in late January 2018. The work here will increase flood storage capacity in the Sandwell Valley and is expected to be completed by the end of 2021. Birmingham City Council made a contribution of £600k to this scheme in early 2019.



### **‘Bromford and Castle Vale’ flood risk management scheme**

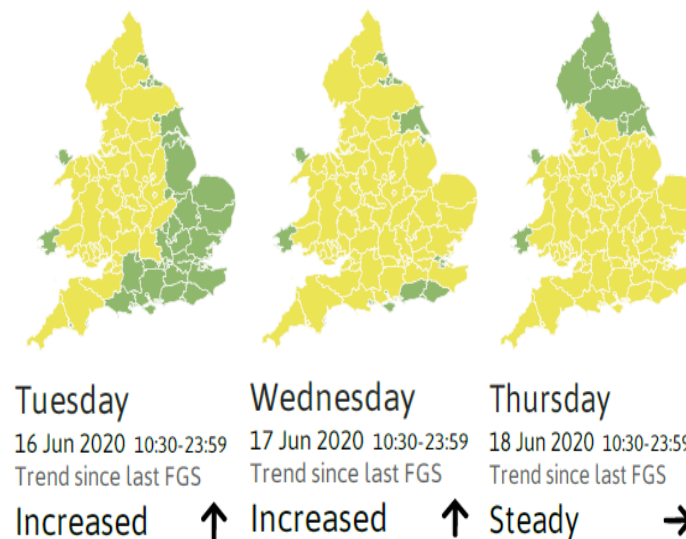
This scheme will better protect more than 900 homes and businesses from flooding and has attracted a sizeable contribution from Homes England. The scheme involves raising flood walls and constructing new ones and earth embankments, . A cycling route will be provided along the south bank linking up with the existing networks at Bromford Road and Chester Road.





## June 2020 Flood Event

- 2020 was warmer than average and ranks as the third warmest year in a series from 1884. it was the sixth wettest year in a series from 1862 and eighth sunniest year since 1919
- 153% of the Long Term Average rainfall was recorded in the Trent Basin in June – much of which fell in thunderstorms between 16<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> June
- Widespread flooding of gardens / highways
- Sewers surcharged from intense rainfall and flood alerts issue
- Indoor Market, Rag market, Bullring and the Custard factory flooded
- Twenty+ properties flooded in sporadic locations across Birmingham
- Site visits and flood response by Flood Risk Management Team, Kier and Resilience Team to flooded locations and areas added to 6 year pipeline for alleviation proposals.



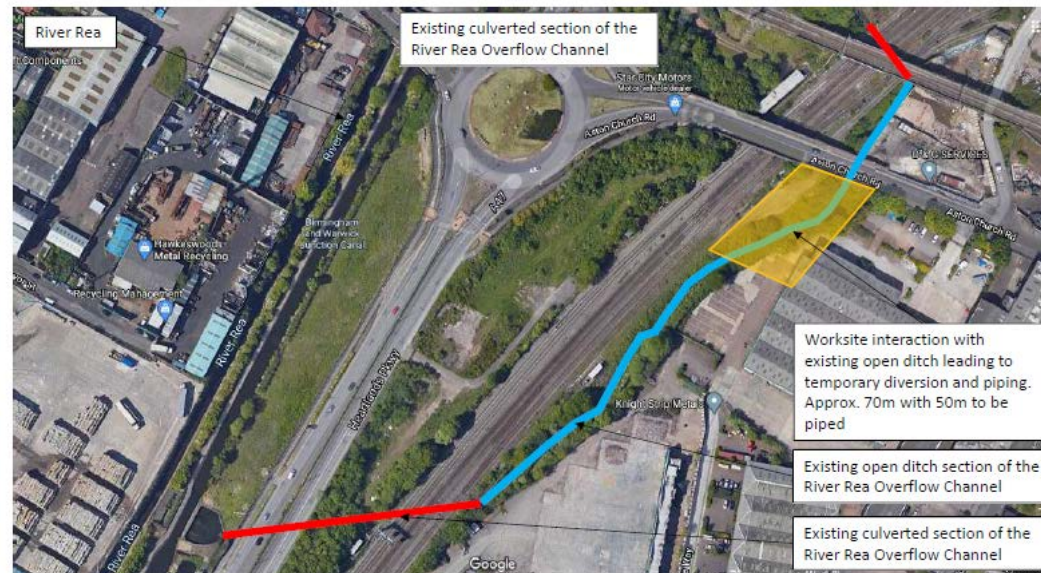
## Consenting Works on Ordinary Watercourses

Birmingham City Council as Lead Local Flood Authority is responsible for regulating activities on ordinary watercourses in Birmingham and legally responsible for determining s23 Land Drainage Act 1991 consents.

In 2020, twelve applications were received, plus advising on internal works and HS2 crossings / exempt activities.

### General Layout Plan

Interaction Between Worksite and the Existing River Rea Overflow Channel



#### Key:

Existing Culvert  
Existing Open Ditch  
Worksite



Co-Ordinates:  
409733, 288919

## Works provided for other organisations

**River Cole works Formans Road to Station Road** – Re-profiling existing channel by widening/meandering, installation of flow deflectors, bank stabilisation for Environmental, habitat and Flood improvements (**The Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust**)

**Woodgate Valley Bourn Brook** – Naturalisation works, abandonment of major weir structures and gravel augmentation/introduction, construction of new ford crossing – improve morphology, improve channel capacity and flow conveyancing to reduce flooding. (**Environment Agency**)

## Works provided for other BCC Departments

- Fisher Close;
- Merrits Brook;
- Perry Common Public Open Space;
- Westley Brook, Oakhurst Channel;
- Handsworth Cemetery, Handsworth;
- Chestnut Drive, Erdington;
- Clay Lane, Yardley;
- Clifton Road, Sutton Coldfield
- Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston;
- River Cole, Sparkhill;
- Sparkbrook, Sparkhill;
- Westley Brook, Olton;
- Ward End Pool and Small Heath Pool;
- Cole Hall Lane (River Cole).

## **Reservoir Works provided for BCC Leisure Services**

- **Keepers Pool, Sutton Park**
- **Lifford Reservoir, Kings Norton**
- **Longmoor Reservoir, Sutton Coldfield**
- **Manor Farm Park Pool, Shenley Fields**
- **Powells Reservoir, Sutton Park**
- **Reservoir Act 1975 Section 10 and 12 Inspections**
- **Salford Reservoir, Aston.**
- **Shenley Fields Pool, Shenley Fields**
- **Swanshurst Reservoir, Springfield**
- **Trittiford Reservoir, Billesley**
- **Valley Parkway Pool, Bournville**
- **Witton Reservoir, Erdington**

- **Wyndley Reservoir, Sutton Coldfield**





## Statutory Consultee Role for Planning

The statutory consultee role ensures that proposed developments and surface water drainage schemes are future-proofed in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with appropriate climate change allowances and conforms to the Council's planning policies, Birmingham Development Plan, Big City Plan, and other planning documents.

Year	Total No. of Applications	Major Planning Applications	Pre-App/General Enquiries	Discharge of Condition
2017	405	185	94	126
2018	392	140	83	169
2019	577	274	59	322
2020	613	285	32	210

- Major applications which are sent to the LLFA are up by 54% when compared to 2018
- HS2 and enabling works also require LLFA input
- Informing drainage and flood risk for Commonwealth Games sites

## Flood Risk Management Audit

In 2020, the Flood Risk Management team were audited for all aspects across the service:

- Co-ordination and monitoring arrangements within the Directorate and Council wide;
- Partnership working arrangements established with all relevant Risk Management Authorities and external organisations;
- Arrangements for ensuring a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Birmingham has been established and is being kept up to date;
- Systems established to identify and prioritise any maintenance or improvement works required on the Council's watercourses;
- Mechanisms in place to ensure planning applications / new development schemes are considering and identifying all appropriate measures to address potential flooding risks;
- Processes for identifying and obtaining appropriate sources of external funding to help support the Council in achieving its responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority and Land Drainage Authority.

**We are awaiting recommendations from the audit to help improve the level of service and to consider resourcing levels, given the incredibly varied nature and enormous volume of our work**

## Summing Up

Thank-you for your time today

Are there any questions or queries?