

Bristol Avon Flood Strategy

Neighbourhood Planning Network
Update 26/07/2022

Better protecting people and property from flooding

Future-proofing Bristol and neighbouring communities; enabling a greener, more active city; and unlocking our city's potential.



www.bristol.gov.uk/bristolavonflood



Environment Agency

Shaun Hartley, Project Director
Nick Bryant, Strategic City Planning Manager

Why is this important?



Severe flood today

Currently approx **1,100** properties near the city centre and **200** in neighbouring communities at risk of a severe river or tidal flood.

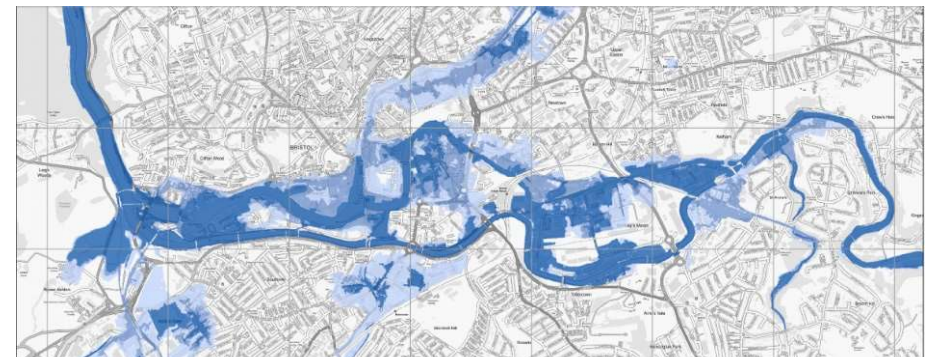
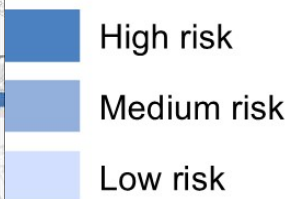
Unless we take action, ***the situation will continuously worsen*** due to climate change.

Flood risk is ***constraining development*** and new homes in more sustainable locations

Compelling case for action!
Council and EA responding

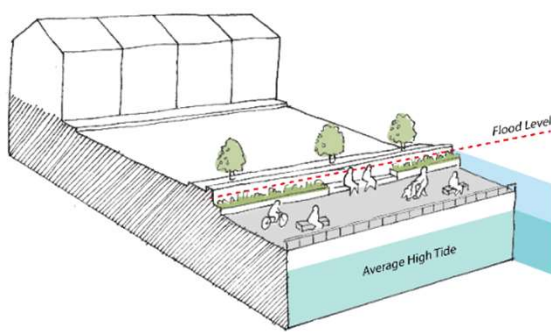


Severe flood by end of century

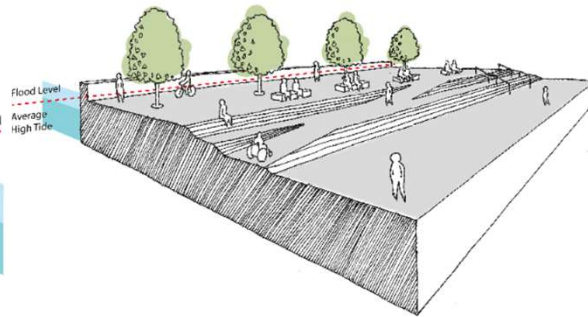


Transformational Change

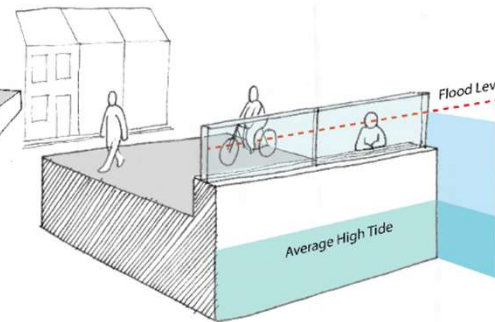
Opportunity to **integrate flood defences** sympathetically with the city. Develop active travel routes, enhance public recreation and wildlife spaces, protect historic assets, and support areas of regeneration.



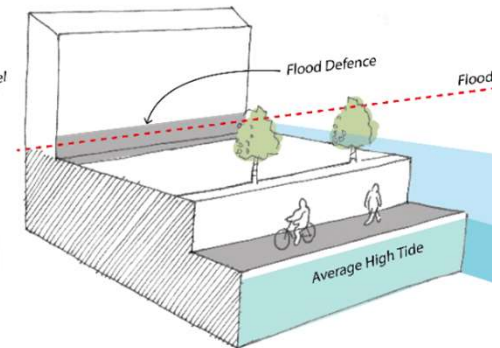
Submergible paths and parks



Terracing



Glazing



Integrated with developments

Alignment with regional planning direction

Critical to region that a coherent approach is followed, to maximise the impact
Must avoid fragmented, insular development



Background

Flood blight on new development presents a real challenge for housing delivery.
Flood Strategy is imperative to safeguard homes, but must work for Bristol.

Economic Growth

Est. £7bn GVA to local region's economy by enabling growth and avoiding disruption

New homes in sustainable locations

Release 13,000 potential dwellings on brownfield sites, easing pressure elsewhere
Significant opportunity for affordable housing supply

Environment Agency

EA position opposes development where at unacceptable risk of flooding

Significant funding challenge

Strategic Outline Case forecast cost of £216m (not adjusted for inflation)
Strategy being devised to secure funding commitments (public/private sources)



Current Position

Gaining alignment with stakeholders. Building confidence of delivery.

Key priority for Council

Recognised as a key priority for the City

Moving towards public statements of commitment to endure political change

WECA support

Co-funding Outline Business Case work

Supportive and recognising the need but not yet in position to offer capital funding

Environment Agency partnership

Journey of increasing confidence in delivery

Aim for EA to take a more supportive approach to planning applications ASAP

Working together on funding strategy, EA connections may support some opportunities

Planning position statement being drafted to support interim approach



Engagement with Developers

Incorporating flood defences into development

Risk of piecemeal development recognised

Ambition for holistic, integrating approach, bringing opportunity

Local Plan review just starting

Planning Position Statement to bridge gap and work with developers

No new policy, but reinforces Council's approach

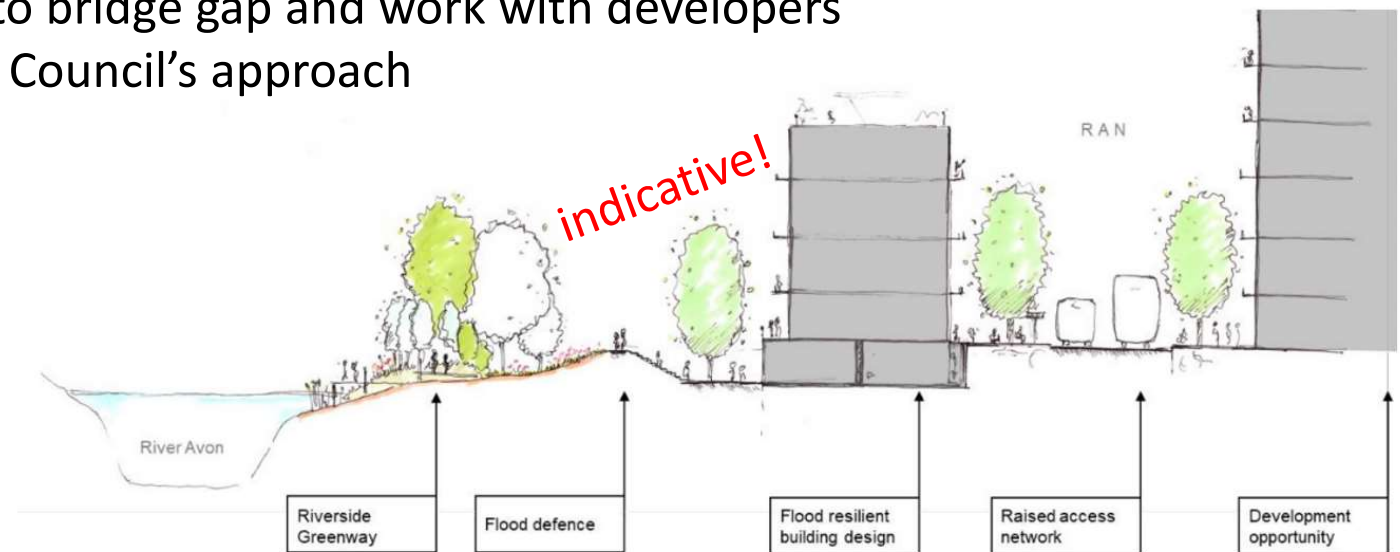


Figure 25: Example of how flood defences can be incorporated into BTQ development²⁰



Progress and Next Steps

Project is moving forward, with funding commitments

Outline Business Case underway, due Autumn 2023

Flood modelling being refined to establish protection levels and areas

Phasing of works in line with development masterplanning

Alignment with other Harbourside projects ongoing

Planning Position Statement to be endorsed by Council in Autumn 2022

Funding Strategy being updated

Final Business Case follows on – complete by early 2026

Construction start 2026

