

### Background:

- Meanwood Beck runs through the north of Leeds from Golden Acre Park at the top of the catchment through the city centre meeting the River Aire at Crown Point Weir.
- There have been major flooding events in the Meanwood Beck Catchment in 2002, 2007 and 2015. This has affected commercial properties at Sugar Well Road, Meanwood Close and residential properties at Monk Bridge and Boothroyd Drive.
- Funding for a study into a flood alleviation scheme has been secured from the Environment Agency through local levy and flood defence grant in aid.
- An online community engagement event took place in Summer 2021 allowing residents to comment on the initial longlist of options for the scheme.
- In 2022 the current flood mapping for Meanwood Beck was refined to confirm areas at significant flood risk. Extensive topographic surveys, hydrological assessments and hydraulic modelling were undertaken during this stage.
- The results of this work are currently being reviewed by the Environment Agency and will soon be finalised. Following this, the flood zones for planning will be updated. It is expected that this will show a reduced area at flood risk from Meanwood Beck particularly in the city centre.

### Progress:

- In our January 2023 update we produced a shortlist of potential flood mitigation options in locations across the catchment for further assessment. These were the areas at Scotland Wood, Woodhouse Ridge and Meanwood Valley Urban Farm, along with some natural flood management in the upper catchment.
- Subsequent assessments have shown us that there are significant environmental and buildability issues at the shortlisted locations. These issues would outweigh the flood reduction benefit. Therefore, we are unlikely to take forward flood mitigation in these locations at this stage.
- The assessments have also highlighted that there is no single solution to resolve flooding within the catchment. Our revised strategy is to reduce flood risk by considering smaller interventions at multiple locations within the catchment. In addition, we are considering how to incorporate wider scheme benefits with catchment partners and community groups. This will enable us to find best value catchment solutions, maximise flood mitigation potential, improve watercourse habitat and support Leeds City Council's Net Zero ambitions.

- Interventions now under consideration include:
  - Flood walls around the Buslingthorpe area
  - Flood storage areas at key points within the catchment
  - Natural flood management solutions like tree planting, land management, leaky dams, habitat enhancements and wetland areas across the wider Meanwood Beck catchment

#### Next Steps:

- We are currently assessing several locations across the catchment against several flood mitigation interventions. This work is due to be completed by January 2024.
- From January 2024 onwards we will develop the outline business case and preferred catchment solution(s)
- We will provide a further update in Spring 2024
- We expect to consult the public in the Spring/Summer of 2024