



Newhaven Flood Defence

Project Summary

In 2012 the Environment Agency's River Ouse to Seaford Head Strategy recommended undertaking flood defence works to the east and west banks of the Ouse in Newhaven. This intended to reduce the chance of damage and disorder caused by tidal flooding to residents, businesses and key infrastructure that were all currently at risk. During a tidal surge event in 2013 the area became flooded. This affected around 50 residential properties, numerous commercial properties and caused significant damage to the railway.



Flood defence works were recommended along the River Ouse in order to reduce risk of flooding to residential and commercial properties and key infrastructure including the railway line and road network. In addition to flood defences along the east and west riverbanks, the defences will also decrease the risk of 'back-door' flooding along floodplains upstream of Newhaven and through to Seaford.

£3,000,000 Local Growth Fund

Project Achievements

Coast to Capital awarded the project £1,500,000 of Local Growth Fund (LGF). Additionally, this project benefited from a further award of LGF from the South East LEP (SELEP) that matched Coast to Capital, increasing the total LGF award to £3 million. This dual funding was possible because Newhaven is located in a cross-over of boundary lines between the two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP). Match funding from the Environment Agency was a total of £10,929,479.42 as of the end of 2020 which created a BCR for total LGF contribution as £1:£3.64.



Outputs expected by the works include 1,460 jobs, 106,387 sqm of commercial space and 494 homes arising from the enhanced flood protection. Additionally, 431 homes, 467 commercial properties and 4 critical infrastructures will all benefit from enhanced protection because of the measures put in place by this project.

LEP boundaries change from the 1st of April 2021 to remove any cross-over and the delivery body are confident that they will successfully achieve all outputs which will be reported to SELEP.

Project Benefits

Benefits attributed to this project have not been fully realised as yet, however the intention is clear. By providing flood protection to homes, businesses and infrastructure, this project will give the people of Newhaven the security and confidence they need for living everyday life. Flooding can reduce confidence for businesses to operate from the area and can deter new businesses from establishing themselves where there is a risk of damage to property. Flooding can also cause undue stress to residents regarding the safety of their property and reduces confidence of those relying on the local road network or railway line for work or school.

106,387 Sqm of commercial space

494 homes

1,460 jobs

With new flood protection measures in place, the people of Newhaven will be given that much needed security and peace of mind that they are safer. The reduced risk of flooding can also encourage new business and investment into the area, creating a boost to the local economy.



The Environment Agency works were built for the environment and with potential future enhancements in mind. Natural surroundings were considered and as such, measures were taken where possible to disguise flood defences, using natural material that would blend with the existing environment. Community engagement was encouraged, including realigning an embankment to provide additional area at a popular green space, Huggett's Green. Public views were also sought for the finish of the concrete flood walls adjacent to properties and public open spaces. A new 150m embankment was built and sowed with wildflower mix selected by the community and linked to an existing embankment creating a popular circuit for local walkers.



The project made environmental improvements to the east bank between the railway tracks and the river where new trees were planted and a new habitat for the protected species, the Great Crested Newt, was created in the form of a pond. On the west bank Japanese Knotweed was removed from the area, this invasive plant species if left, can cause problems for native plant species and water creatures which can reduce biodiversity.

The contractor, Jackson Hyder, has worked carefully to deliver efficiencies resulting in savings of over £1.5million through alternative and innovative solutions. This has enabled the project to deliver within the original budget despite where costs may have risen, or delays experienced. Further economic benefits resulting from this project, will be recorded by the district and borough councils who keep under review the types of regeneration made possible by the intervention.