

Press release: Warrington's £34 million flood defence scheme officially complete

More than 2,000 Warrington homes and businesses will benefit from the town's multi-million pound flood defence scheme, officially opened today (26 January) by Environment Agency Chief Executive, Sir James Bevan and the town's Mayor, Councillor Les Morgan.

The scheme is one of the largest value flood defence projects constructed in the region in recent times, and will significantly reduce flood risk to the town which has been no stranger to flooding – given it sits in naturally low-lying land and within the path of the River Mersey and its tributaries.

The £34 million scheme brings increased flood protection to properties in 9 residential and public areas of Warrington, better protecting the hundreds of families and businesses who have experienced flooding in the past and are aware of the destruction it can bring.

Sir James Bevan, Environment Agency Chief Executive, said:

The scheme not only brings flood risk benefits but the work in the area is also good news for walkers, birdwatchers and wildlife. It's been great to see the Environment Agency working together in partnership to better protect Warrington – a fine example of what can be achieved by working with others.

These new flood defences will not only benefit hundreds of homes and businesses in the area but will also safeguard critical infrastructure, vital in keeping the town moving.

Due to the scale and complexity of works, the scheme was delivered in 3 phases – parts of which have been effectively operating for some time. Phase one (the Knutsford Road section) was put to the test during the 2013 December high tides, preventing some 200 properties from being flooded. The predicted value of damage to properties that would have otherwise occurred, covered the actual cost of this section of the scheme.

Floods Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

Warrington's new £34 million flood scheme will reduce the flood risk to over 2,000 homes and businesses, and protect vital infrastructure helping to bring investment to the area.

This scheme is an excellent example of how working together with councils and local businesses allows us to make the most of

government funding to secure the best possible defences for communities. By 2021, we will have invested £47 million in flood defences to better protect 4,280 homes in Cheshire.

Comprising 5km of flood walls and 2.2km of embankment, the 7.2km scheme has improved amenity and recreational opportunities, as well as habitat conditions along the river corridor.

The widening and clearing of formerly impassable footpaths has improved connectivity, as well as views of the river and across the town, and extensive tree planting has created many pleasant vantage points for walkers and cyclists.

At the Twiggeries site behind Kingsway North, a 500m section of Padgate Brook has been realigned to create a more natural look and 5 hectares of reed bed habitat has been established to attract wildlife to the area.

The town's main park, Victoria Park, has seen major improvement works to the main entrance, and a 'wavy-topped' railing along the road frontage at Knutsford Road makes a strong urban design statement.

The scheme was designed not only to be functional but to be aesthetically fitting within its environment. Children from local primary schools were challenged to create the winning artworks that adorn the defence walls, from Kingsway North all the way along Knutsford Road.

Funding for the scheme came from a number of sources. The majority – £29m – came from Government Grant-in-Aid, the remaining came from the partners the Environment Agency worked with to deliver the scheme.

The Environment Agency worked closely with Warrington Borough Council, who contributed £4 million towards the scheme, of which £1 million was 'works in kind'. Scottish Power, who owns and operates a high voltage substation in the Howley area that serves almost half of the town, also contributed £2 million to the scheme to better protect this key piece of Warrington infrastructure.

As well as contributing funding, the Council was a key partner in cementing a strong relationship with stakeholders and landowners within the scheme's footprint.

Councillor Hans Mundry, Warrington Borough Council's executive board member for public realm, said:

The work done by the Environment Agency will bring peace of mind to many Warrington people as we work together to protect homes and businesses along the Mersey.

It is more than just functional though, as you will see if you take a walk by the river. It is an attractive addition to the waterfront and has improved the ecology and helped protect wildlife in the area.

You can view [aerial drone footage of the Warrington flood defence scheme on YouTube](#).

Drone footage filmed by Suave Air Photos

Guidance: Marine planning: second outputs for north east, north west, south east and south west marine plan areas Marine planning engagement events

Updated: updated page and added iteration 2 engagement summary

These documents were the second outputs of marine planning in the north east, north west, south east and south west marine plan areas (iteration 2). They followed on from iteration 1 (February to April 2017).

The Iteration 2 engagement gathered stakeholder views on:

- draft marine plan area visions
- draft options to address issues in each marine plan area

All input has been recorded and is in the process of being analysed and reviewed by the marine planning team.

The second outputs of the marine planning process for the north east, north west, south east and south west marine plan areas were presented during the Iteration 2 engagement period which ran between 29 January 2018 and 29 March 2018.

During this period 11 workshops were held over four marine plan areas in the north west, south east, south west and north east. Local coastal partnerships supported these events. partnerships Online engagement also ran simultaneously. The engagement survey links from this engagement have now been removed.

Over 350 stakeholders from a wide range of organisations attended the workshops, representing an array of national and local stakeholders, while we received 1030 online surveys and 26 email responses.

News story: Sellafield joins Northern Powerhouse

The company was confirmed as an official partner by Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry yesterday.

Mr Berry made the announcement at the Cumbria Day event in the House of Commons.

The Northern Powerhouse is designed to drive economic growth in the north via investments in skills, innovation, transport and culture.

Cumbria Day was organised by Cumbria's MPs and the county's Local Enterprise Partnership, to showcase Cumbria's businesses and produce to Parliamentarians.

Jamie Reed, head of community and development for Sellafield Ltd, said:

We're delighted to become official partners of the Northern Powerhouse.

It's fantastic to be announcing this on Cumbria Day, as Parliamentarians get to see first-hand the unlimited potential of our fabulous county.

Sellafield has long been a powerhouse in its own right. We pioneered the civil nuclear industry and we're now leading the world in nuclear decommissioning.

Our greatest challenge is ensuring we leave a positive legacy for our community by helping build a diverse and resilient local economy.

Being a partner in the Northern Powerhouse allows us to work closely with our owners the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Government, local authorities, and other partners to give us a greater chance of success.

Jake Berry, Northern Powerhouse Minister, said:

I'm really pleased Sellafield Ltd has joined the Northern Powerhouse as an official partner.

The company plays a huge role already in the north's economy, employing more than 11,000 people and spending more than £1.1bn a year in the supply chain.

The Northern Powerhouse is all about ensuring economies like

Cumbria are able to achieve their full potential by working together with other towns, cities and rural communities.

I'm looking forward to learning more about the great work Sellafield Ltd already does in and how its future plans can help drive local and national economic growth.

Transparency data: CoRWM meeting minutes, 23 November 2017

The committee holds open meetings that members of the public may attend to observe and ask questions.

National Statistics: Monthly sea fisheries statistics November 2017

The monthly landings statistics will be released at 9.30am on the 4th Friday of each month, or the next working day if this is a bank holiday.