

## **Hull Drainage Area Plans – a case study of a multi-agency approach**

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### **Background**

In the summer of 2007, the UK experienced unprecedented flooding, which unfortunately claimed 13 lives, one of which was in the Yorkshire Area.

In response to the floods, Sir Michael Pitt was asked by Ministers to conduct an independent review of the flooding emergency. The Government asked that the process be both thorough and independent; a fair assessment of what happened and what we might do differently. His report, issued in June 2008, contained 92 recommendations and led to the Government producing the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. This, together with the European Flood Risk Regulations 2009, form the backbone of the Flood Strategy Partnerships, which are key to a multi-agency approach.

Since 2007, Yorkshire Water has played an active role in developing a multi-agency approach to water management planning and flood emergency response, in partnership with both regional local authorities and the Environment Agency and is believed to be still the only water company to fund a dedicated flood strategy Team. The Company believes a multi-agency approach is the best way to deliver improved flood protection and management for the future, despite concerns raised by local authorities about lack of funding for their new responsibilities.

Hull, together with Leeds and Sheffield were identified by the Company as surface water studies, a proposal fully supported by the Environment Agency. The Hull catchment being 'a-typical'. A major contributing factor being areas of the catchment are below sea level. In addition there is a high degree of interaction between inland watercourses and the sewers. The fact the majority of 'surface water' within the Hull catchment is also connected into the public sewer network also contributes to the complexity.

As a result of this, a more detailed modelling approach was identified as being required in order to understand the inter-relationships and their impact on flooding, helping us fulfil our aspiration to have zero flooding of homes and businesses within the next 25 years as a result of our assets failing.