

BELFAST TIDAL FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

INFORMATION LEAFLET

May 2018

Introduction

Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Rivers is undertaking a scheme of works that will provide a long-term approach to tidal flood risk management for Belfast and the tidal River Lagan. The engineering consultancy, Atkins, has been appointed to undertake the outline design of the scheme, which will require, among other things, access to land and negotiation with landowners.

Why are we doing it?

The highest sea levels recorded within Belfast Harbour have occurred within the past 20 years, with the most recent significant event in early January 2014. A study of the flood risk has estimated that some 560 residential and 460 non-residential properties are currently at risk of tidal flooding. This study has further concluded that the impact of climate change, causing sea level rise, will significantly increase the estimated number of properties at risk.

What are we doing?

The proposed scheme will extend from Belfast Lough to Stranmillis Weir and will comprise glass flood barriers, flood walls, flood gates and demountable defences, as well as property level protection. The exact line and form of flood defence has not been confirmed and will be subject to negotiations with stakeholders such as Belfast City Council, the Department for Communities and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners along with private landowners.

When are we doing it?

The outline design of the scheme will be completed towards the end of 2018 with the appointment of a contractor to finalise the design and undertake construction in spring 2019. It is anticipated construction will commence in summer 2019 with completion the following summer 2020.

How may the scheme impact upon you?

If you live or work within the predicted flooded area you will directly benefit from the enhanced flood protection of the completed scheme.

If you are a landowner or occupier along the river you may be impacted by the construction of the flood defence within or adjacent to your property. If this is the case, we will discuss with you any works that may be required to ensure that you continue to benefit from the use of your property.

The social, economic and environmental value of the river environment for the citizens of Belfast is well recognised. Consequently, it is a key part of the scheme to consult with stakeholders and undertake public consultation to ensure that the

scheme meets the city's needs and opportunities to integrate the project with other developments along the river are realised.

What happens next?

Discussions with property owners and stakeholders are ongoing. As part of the outline design process a number of surveys will be undertaken which will require access to land. If these affect your property we will discuss this with you in advance. During summer 2018 the outline proposals will be displayed for public comment.

If you want to find out more?

If you wish to find out more at this stage please contact:

Patrick Aldridge

Atkins

71 Old Channel Road

Belfast

BT3 9DE

Phone: 028 9078 8600

Email: Patrick.Aldridge@atkinsglobal.com