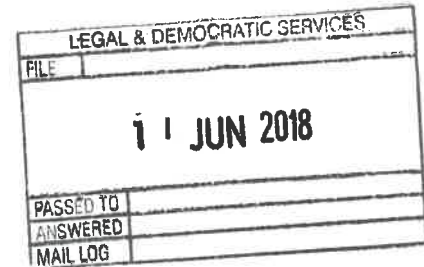


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8 June 2018

Mark Lambert
Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Carlisle City Council
Civic Centre
Carlisle
CA3 8QG



Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May 2018 regarding the lack of progress by the Environment Agency in improving the flood defences in the City post Storm Desmond.

We understand that people are very concerned and anxious that the Environment Agency is not working quickly enough to deliver schemes on the ground.

Cumbria County Council has recently sought assurances from the Environment Agency that the short list of options is progressed to delivery as quickly as possible. We have been informed that they are making good progress towards identifying the preferred combination of options required to reduce flood risk in the city and developing the programme of construction for these options. The programme through to design and construction has identified phases for delivery in different parts of the city. The latest programme sees the Environment Agency on the ground with its contractors in Rickerby in December 2018. While work in other parts of the city starts in summer 2019 and continues until 2022. Working with their specialist contractors the EA are moving towards the preferred option combination, and expect to be consulting with the public in Carlisle during July.

To deliver these improvements in the flood defences for the city the Environment Agency will require the support of partners in the city including Cumbria County Council, Carlisle City Council; United Utilities; Network Rail and wider stakeholders. You will be aware that conversations are taking place with all the relevant organisations at various levels. This is a critical period for the Environment Agency in determining the final preferred options; securing planning permissions and other required permits/ agreements.

Through my officers we will monitor progress and provide ongoing support to the Environment Agency to ensure their success in delivering improvements for the City within the timescales set out.

If you have any particular queries please contact Angela Jones, Assistant Director Economy and Environment.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Fairclough
Chief Executive

c.c. Stewart Young, Leader of Cumbria County Council