

Ms M Mooney
Chief Executive
Carlisle City Council
Civic Centre
Carlisle
Cumbria CA3 8GQ

Our ref: KN/ACF

Your ref:

Date: 11 August 2006

RECEIVED

cc: M. Batts

Dear Maggie

Thank you for your recent letter.

I am pleased to be able to confirm that the funding for the Carlisle scheme remains unchanged and has not been affected by the recent Defra cutbacks.

As you will be aware the Eden and Petteril flood alleviation scheme has now reached the construction phase which started on site exactly as planned in May this year. It is currently running two weeks ahead of schedule. As part of this programme we are working closely with Carlisle City Council to go beyond flood alleviation and help to develop greener open spaces around Melbourne Park. Despite the early stage of this construction we still plan for work to be completed by Spring 2008.

The second of the Carlisle schemes – Caldew and City Centre – is still in the planning phase. This is progressing well and we expect to confirm our final proposal by December 2006. As previously stated, work is planned to start in Spring 2008 and complete one year earlier than originally expected in 2010. There is no change to the funding plan for this part of the Carlisle scheme. However, I need to restate what we have emphasised for the past 18mths; that the final decision on funding will not be made until May 2007. This is completely in line with the funding timetable for all Environment Agency capital schemes. However at this time we remain confident that funding will be available.

We are working closely with a number of partners including the City and County Council along with United Utilities and English Nature to ensure we provide as much integration as possible in the final construction.

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Please contact me again if you require further information or contact Glyn Vaughan,
Area Flood Risk Manager on 01768 215759.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

KIM NICHOLSON
Area Manager - North