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Alan Menzies Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration

Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)

By email only:

waterdetermination2020@cma.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Enquiries to: Alan Menzies

Date: 20 May 2020

Dear Sir or Madam

Yorkshire Water OFWAT Determination and Appeal

As a Corporate Director and Deputy Chief Executive of East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Living with Water Partnership Board member, I am writing to express my support for Yorkshire Water's appeal to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) following the OFWAT final determination in December 2019.

The East Riding of Yorkshire and City of Hull region is unique. Over one fifth of England's land drains through the Humber Estuary. 100% of the urban areas sit less than 10m above sea level. The topography coupled with the higher level docks and estuarine defences create a bowl in which the city and surrounding area sits and water flows.

Therefore, the region of Hull and Haltemprice is 100% reliant on pumping to reduce flooding. A staggering 84% of surface water landing on the City of Hull and surrounding area flows into the combined sewerage system. This system's resilience is heavily tested by rainfall. The East Riding and Hull remains the second biggest flood risk in the UK outside of the Thames estuary area. We must meet this challenge against the backdrop of climate change and the need for 12,500 new homes over the next 15 years.

The Council believes that full funding of the proposals set out by Yorkshire Water in their business plan and continued collaboration between all Living with Water (LwW) partners is the only possible way to ensure that the East Riding and Hull area becomes more resilient to extreme weather events.

The LwW Partnership aims to support improvements to physical infrastructure, ensure a coordinated operational response to flooding, and to improve the resilience of local businesses and the community through relationship building and education outreach.

As a partnership we have chosen to direct secured funding to integrated management solutions which collect and treat storm water run-off at source rather than conventional sewerage infrastructure. We have begun reprofiling the regions green spaces to provide health benefits as well as reducing pressure on the sewer systems, through the delivery of the three surface water schemes totalling £56m. We strongly believe in delivering schemes that will also provide wider benefits to our residents and businesses.

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Caroline Lacey
Chief Executive

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We have achieved investment for innovative MOCA and MAGIC projects with the University of Sheffield and delivered to date over 3,000 hours of educational lessons in primary schools about the vulnerability of our region, helping to prepare our children for future floods.

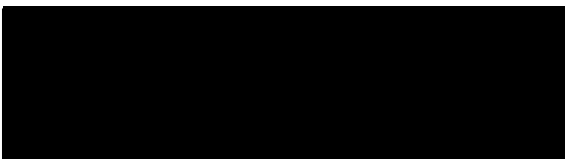
The partnership has quite rightly gained international recognition for its innovative and collaborative approach. Funding was also awarded to establish a City Water Resilience Index that is being trialled in Hull alongside major cities across the world. We urge the regulator to consider the objectives of the partnership alongside the key themes of draft National FCERM Strategy, expected to be formally published this year. Living with Water will collaborate and innovate to deliver these national objectives locally through visionary solutions that build thriving resilient communities.

We understand that considerable investment is required to tackle the huge challenges East Riding and Hull faces. The Final Determination jeopardises our ability as a partnership to deliver crucial sustainable urban drainage schemes and innovative community engagement which takes time but will make a significant difference to personal resilience. We worked alongside Yorkshire Water to shape their business plan and are fully committed to delivering on the shared ambitions of the LwW Partnership.

A reduction in funding is a major loss to the residents of East Riding and Hull who must deal with the devastating and repeated impact of flooding.

We look forward to continuing to work with Yorkshire Water and our other risk management authority partners on the development and delivery of this important work stream. If Council officers can provide any additional support please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

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Alan Menzies
Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration and Deputy Chief Executive