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Bristol Avon Flood Strategy

G&R Scrutiny Commission – 27 November 2023

Better protecting people and property from flooding

Future-proofing Bristol and neighbouring communities; enabling a greener, more active city; and unlocking our city's potential.



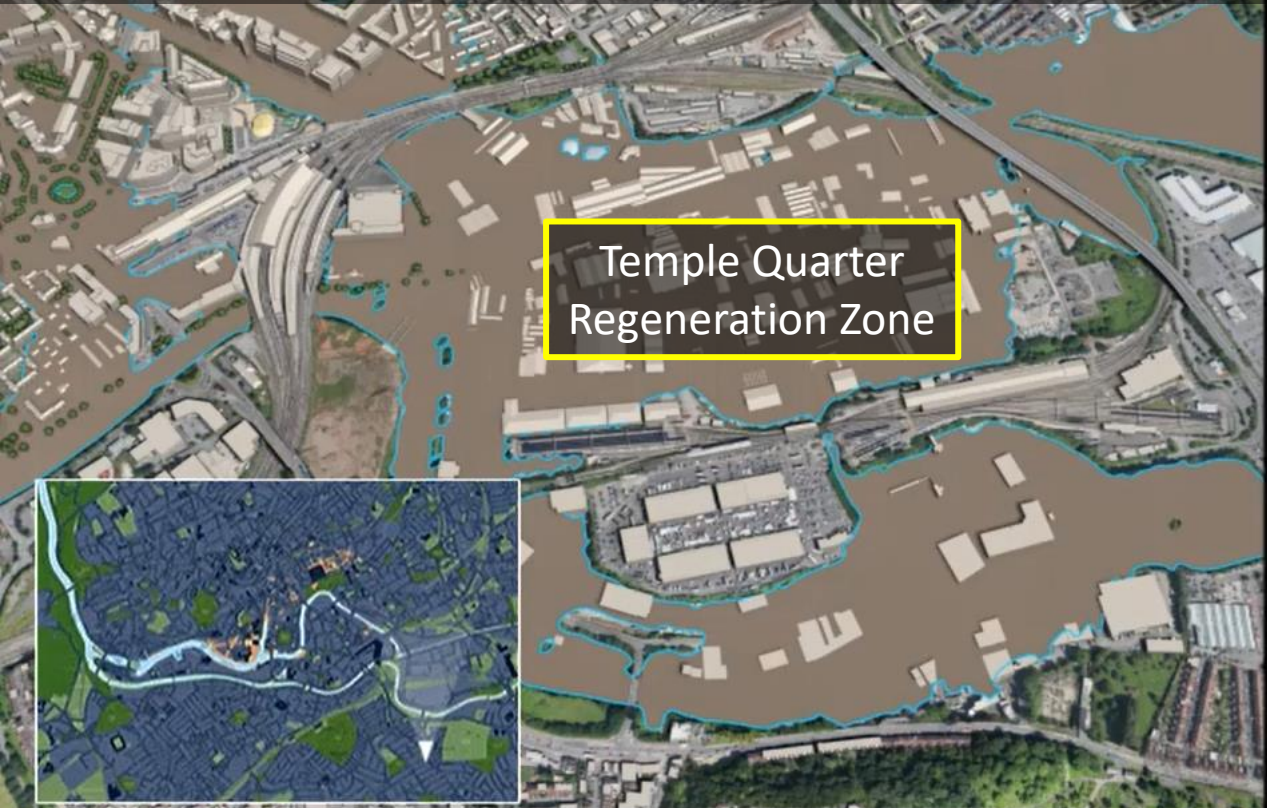
www.bristol.gov.uk/bristolavonflood




Why is the flood resilience strategy important?

Currently c.1,300 *existing* properties near the city centre at risk of a severe river or tidal flood.
Becomes c.4,500 by end of century if not protected


Flood risk is constraining development
Enabling defence infrastructure is a pre-requisite
Safeguarding long-term resilience of city region



Temple Quarter
Regeneration Zone


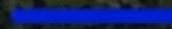


Temple Quarter
Regeneration Zone



Flood event with a 1 in 200 chance in any year, with predicted sea level rise by 2110

The same flood event with proposed flood defences

Flood defences
phase 1 
phase 2 

A Strategic Approach

Wider ambition, responding to numerous city challenges



Placemaking-led scheme

Riverside active travel corridor

Green/blue infrastructure response

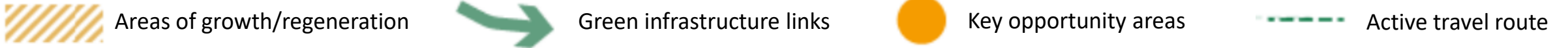
Biodiversity net gain

Enablement of ~13,000 new homes

Connecting communities

Supporting a 'just transition'

Preserving heritage



Indicative timeline



Outline Business Case and EA approval —————→
Early 2024 (Cabinet Jan 24)

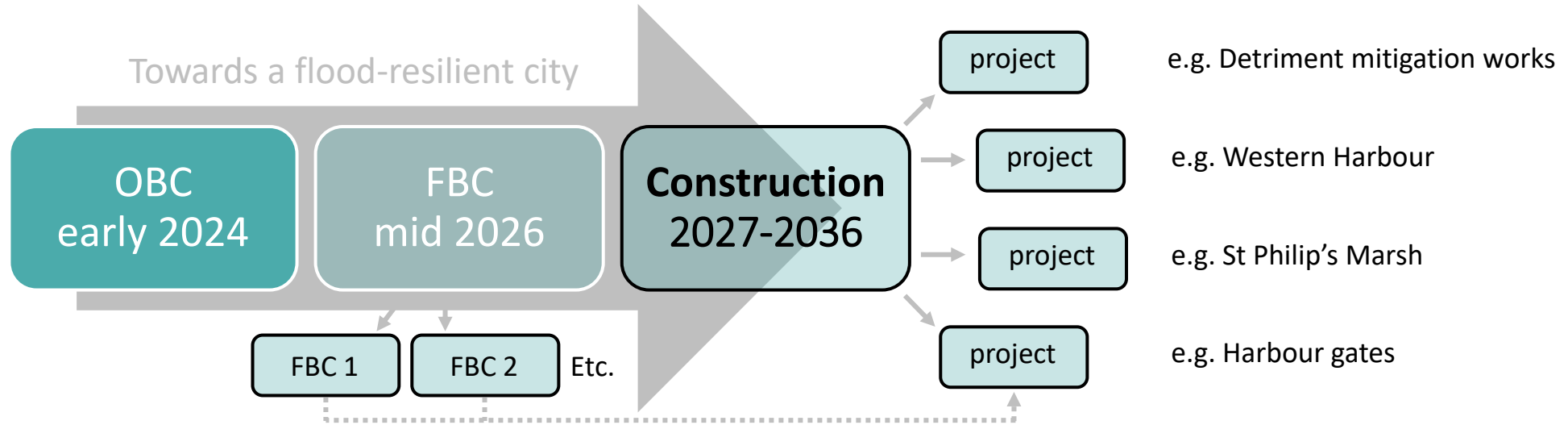
Key delivery issues
Credible funding sources to be identified
Planning policy updates emerging

Full Business Case, plus consenting —————→
Mid-2026

Planning/consenting route to be determined
Interfaces with other masterplans

Construction, phased across city —————→
2027-2036

Phasing plan will be developed through OBC and FBC
Significantly influenced by regeneration projects



Key Issues



Planning

Piecemeal development leading to missed opportunity at city level

BCC+EA working together to try to influence development (pre-app engagement) ahead of policy

BAFS delivery underpins the growth strategy in the Local Plan. Local Plan includes BAFS policy.

Funding

Significant capital gap remains – upward pressure on costs since SOC figures in 2020

Exploring role of DEFRA, DLUHC and West of England Combined Authority to influence/enable

Council also studying options to contribute to capital cost

Timing

Alignment with regen masterplans essential – must avoid ambiguity and understand delivery phasing

FBC likely to be split to address phasing, but need to maintain momentum overall

Consultation

Next public consultation during FBC stage, as detailed designs are developed

OBC work

Developing preferred approach of adaptive, raised defences as identified in the SOC

Increasing confidence in technical solution by:

- refining flood model with more accurate data
- acquiring site information to better understand constraints
- embedding constructability advice to inform costing

Providing a reference case for costing purposes

Exploring opportunities to close funding gap

Does not:

- define detail of final solution (incl. appearance and exact location)
- predetermine masterplanning work at strategic regeneration sites



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Funding Position



Emerging OBC work reflects upward pressure on construction costs since 2020

Also suggests enhancement of grant funding likely

Approximately half of the capital cost has been identified as met in principle

Work continues to identify remainder, from public and private sources

Demonstrating viability of funding is essential to build confidence and enable development

Notwithstanding the significant investment needed to deliver, the benefits far outweigh the cost

Estimated £7.7bn GVA to local economy, including from regeneration, damage/disruption avoided, job creation and enabling sustainable transport infrastructure