

Portreath: Managing flood risk from the Portreath Stream

The Environment Agency together with our delivery partners, Contractors Kier and Engineering Consultants Atkins, continue to make progress in developing the business case for the Portreath Stream flood risk improvement project.

Hydrology and Hydraulic Computer Modelling Considerable effort has been put into completing the hydrology and hydraulic computer model of the Portreath Stream. The computer model has been updated with the latest hydrology and survey information and calibrated to represent historic flood events. The Portreath catchment is extremely complex from a hydrology and hydraulic modelling perspective due to the influence that historic mining has had on how the water flows. Therefore, this exercise has been challenging. Final quality assurance checks on the model have successfully been undertaken. This provides the baseline for ongoing design work.

Natural Flood Management In addition to the proposed perched channel improvements, we are also looking for opportunities to deliver environmental improvements and additional flood risk benefits. We have commenced a review of the wider Portreath catchment by using specialists in Natural Flood Management assessment. The aim is to use nature where possible to further reduce flood risk whilst also delivering environmental benefits. This can include influencing land use in the catchment so that there is more natural infiltration.

Highways England Designated Funds Close working with Highways England (HE) has resulted in the recent approval of £75k of HE funding towards our current ongoing work. Legal agreements are now being prepared for the transfer of funds. We will continue to work closely with HE and aim to secure further partnership funding from HE as we progress through the next stages of the project.

Next Steps As part of the next step, the completed hydraulic model will now enable us to progress and develop in more detail the designs for the perched channel improvements.

Project Programme In light of the recent coronavirus lockdown restrictions, we are reviewing the project programme and we can provide future updates on key project dates.

We continue to keep Portreath Parish Council up to date with project progress at their Parish Council meetings.