



:
Policy and Scrutiny

Open Report on behalf of Phil Younge, Area Manager Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire, Environment Agency

Report to:	Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	29 May 2015
Subject:	Louth and Horncastle Flood Alleviation Schemes

Summary:

To outline progress on implementing flood alleviation schemes for Louth and Horncastle.

Actions Required:

That the Committee consider and comment on progress made towards implementing flood alleviation schemes for Louth and Horncastle.

1. Background

Louth and Horncastle have suffered historic flooding from main rivers, most recently in 2007.

Louth is a “rapid response” catchment situated on the River Lud with a low standard of protection from flooding. The preferred flood risk management option is to build two flood storage reservoirs to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses in Louth.

Horncastle is situated on the confluence of the rivers Bain and Waring. Flooding occurs due to high flows in both watercourses. The town has a significant number of properties with a low standard of protection. Flood events have been recorded in 1920, 1960, 1981, 1993 and 2007.

In March 2009 it was concluded that external contributions would be necessary to make any scheme viable. A partnership approach to funding was therefore adopted by; The Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board and the Witham Third Drainage Board to deliver flood storage schemes at both locations. Both Town Councils have agreed in principle to fund future maintenance of the completed schemes. Negotiations are also continuing with potential additional contributors to maximise funding opportunities that could benefit both schemes.

Key Information

	Louth	Horncastle
Current probability of Main River flooding in any year	5% (1in20) 20%(1in5) Waring	10%(1in10) Bain
Probability following construction works*	0.67% (1in150)	1% (1in100)
Number of properties benefiting from scheme	355	288
Estimated construction completion	2015/16	2015/16
Capital Cost including contingency (today's prices)**	£6.5 million	£8.2 million

* the figure quoted for annual probability of river flooding post-construction works is based on current river flows. For Louth, the probability is expected to increase to 1.25% (1in80) over the 100 year life of the scheme based on the latest climate change guidance. We have not yet undertaken the climate change calculations for Horncastle but similar changes should be expected.

** includes additional £430,000 acceleration funding, secured for potential Property Level Flood Protection (PLFP) works.

We held the last Project Board meeting for both these projects on the 15th May, 2015. Board members, which included funding partners, were updated on our progress and issues relating to delivery, including negotiations with landowners.

Louth

Planning permission for the scheme was received from East Lindsey District Council on 21st April, 2015. Our suppliers VBA selected from our Water and Environment Management (WEM) framework started enabling works in Spring this year. This work included vegetation clearance, water vole trapping and access track construction. VBA are currently doing the final details of the design so that they can start works summer this year.

We are planning to undertake the works by agreement with land owners and are continuing our negotiations with them.

Horncastle

VBA have also been awarded the contract to undertake the detailed design, planning submission work and construction of this scheme. The proposal is to provide a 1 in 100 flood storage area on the Bain near Hemingby. Design work is progressing well. A planning application was submitted on 25th March 2015, with a view to starting on site this summer. It is expected that we will complete the scheme by early 2016.

We are planning to undertake the works by agreement with land owners and are continuing our negotiations with them about our proposed works. If these negotiations haven't concluded before we wish to enter the land to start our works, the Water Resources Act 1991 give the Environment Agency the power to take possession of land to undertake flood defence works. Negotiations can then continue during construction.

Property Level Flood Protection (PLFP) to 16 homes at risk of flooding from the Waring was completed in March this year.

2. Conclusion

The approach taken by partners to implement flood alleviation schemes for both Louth and Horncastle is to treat the individual projects under a joint funding arrangement. In this way, there is greater flexibility to support both projects to ensure works occur at the earliest opportunity.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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