

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy

Report to:	Economic Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2015
Subject:	Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership Coastal Vision and Water Management Plan

Summary:

This report outlines recent initiatives led by the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) to develop a clear set of objectives for Lincolnshire's coastal areas and to establish a Water Management Plan as a channel for accessing a wider range of Government and European funding for flood risk and water resource management in Lincolnshire. A first draft of the Coastal Vision is presented for Members to consider and on which their comments and views are invited. The report concludes by outlining timescales and process for completing both pieces of work.

Actions Required:

The Economic Scrutiny Committee is invited

1. to consider and comment on the draft Coastal Vision (version 1.1), attached as Appendix A.
2. to note the timetable for completing the Coastal Vision by March 2016.

1. Background

The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) has prioritised agri-food and the visitor economy as the key sectors for economic growth in Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire. Effective flood risk and water resource management is considered a fundamental element in realising these opportunities. The GLLEP has therefore established a Water Management Board, reporting to the LEP Board.

The Water Management Board is responsible for developing a Water Management Plan during 2015 with clear objectives and actions to achieve economic growth through water management.

GLLEP Water Management Plan

While flood and drainage risk management is well understood and catered for by the present partnership in the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy, there is currently no equivalent approach to managing water resources, beyond the strategic and operational responsibilities of the Water and Sewerage Companies.

A GLLEP Water Management Plan is therefore being developed to promote alignment between the well-developed flood risk agenda and a broader approach considering water supply and management in the interests of promoting business sustainability and opportunities for further expansion. In particular it will act as a channel opening up access to a wider range of funding streams, through the GLLEP, to enable strategic scale flood risk and water management schemes.

The scope and broad content of the Water Management Plan has been developed through discussion with partners, the LEP's Water Management Board and a stakeholder workshop in June. A further workshop was held on 22 September to develop greater detail on potential solutions and specific schemes, with the intention of submitting a final draft of the Water Management Plan to the GLLEP Board in early November.

The Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy Group has been engaged throughout this process, and is supportive of the approach which embeds key elements of the Joint Flood Risk Management Strategy within a framework of actions demonstrably promoting economic growth in Greater Lincolnshire.

Funding

Both the Humber LEP and the Greater Lincolnshire LEP have been seeking to provide compelling business cases for the importance of funding flood risk management as a contributor to economic growth. For the Humber this is largely on the basis of the future opportunities for industrial growth on the South Bank, while for Lincolnshire this is represented by the need to maintain and grow the visitor economy on the east coast, and the production and processing of food in the Fens and elsewhere.

The GLLEP, in particular, has undertaken preliminary research to help define more precisely the economic benefit accruing to the nation from investing in flood risk management to protect these activities, and is now interested in taking this work further by exploring the potential economic growth in the future that could be unlocked by continuing with effective flood risk management.

This is an innovative approach, which has great significance for key issues such as future funding of major coastal schemes (for instance Lincshire and its future equivalents) as well as for flood risk from all sources across the county. In effect, as the channel for most of the European funding available to Lincolnshire, the GLLEP represents a major opportunity for the Flood Risk Partnership to explore

new ways of attracting a wider range of funding sources beyond the existing mechanisms of Grant-in-Aid and other traditional routes.

A Coastal Vision

As a separate, but linked development, the Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership, working with the GLLEP Water Management Board, has been considering initial ideas for a co-ordinated Coastal Vision. As outlined, the purpose of the Coastal Vision is to take advantage of the opportunities offered through the LEP's Growth Strategy and the strong partnership relationships existing between flood risk management authorities to provide a succinct articulation of partners' and stakeholders' ambitions for the coastal zone of Lincolnshire.

The intention of the Coastal Vision is to provide a focal point to draw together the key themes that have emerged from the full range of existing initiatives and prior public consultation in this area as coherent, mutually supporting objectives for the coast. This would include providing a strategic framework within which, for example, the conclusions of the Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Review could be taken forward along with any new approaches to funding that might be implemented.

In effect, as an overarching framework, the Coastal Vision would act as a touchstone to support future initiatives in the coastal zone in activities including spatial planning, bidding for funding, flood risk management and economic development, amongst others.

2. Conclusion

The coastal vision does not seek to establish yet another strategy or plan, but rather to codify and distil the key elements that have already been agreed for the future of the coast, bringing these together in one place under the banner of the GLLEP and in the interests of promoting the longer term economic growth of the coastal area.

The primary focus of the coastal vision is provided by the unifying theme of sustainable economic growth, and it is anticipated that the document will be completed by March 2016. It is important that members' views shape the scope and content of the final version, and a new draft will be prepared and circulated to partners and stakeholders incorporating comments received through scrutiny.

A further consultation with partners will then follow, before seeking endorsement for the final version of the vision through the GLLEP Board in the first quarter of 2016.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Draft Lincolnshire Coastal Vision 1.1

5. Background Papers

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

This report was written by David Hickman, who can be contacted on 01522 554809 or david.hickman@lincolnshire.gov.uk .