

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

Report to:	Flood Risk and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	26 February 2016
Subject:	GLLEP Water Management Plan & Coastal Vision

Summary:

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP has approved a Water Management Plan and is supporting the development of a coastal vision for Lincolnshire. The report provides the Committee with details of the Water Management Plan and an update on progress towards the coastal vision.

Actions Required:

To consider and comment on the Water Management Plan as detailed in Appendix A of this report.

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 Greater Lincolnshire. Effective flood risk and water resource management is considered fundamental in realising these opportunities.

The Water Management Board has overseen the development of a co-ordinated plan for action to capitalise upon existing strengths in Greater Lincolnshire and to maximise access to new funding in the interests of promoting economic growth.

The resulting Water Management Plan (Appendix A) was approved by the GLLEP Board on 28th January.

In addition, the Water Management Board has supported the development of a Coastal Vision as a framework overview to help co-ordinate initiatives and strategies in the coastal parts of Lincolnshire. The report updates Members on progress in developing the Coastal Vision.

The GLLEP Water Management Plan

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 and its equivalents in North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire. There is currently no equivalent approach to managing issues of water supply and resources, beyond the strategic and operational responsibilities of the Water and Sewerage Companies.

A GLLEP Water Management Plan has therefore been developed in discussion with partners and a wide range of stakeholders. The purpose of the Water Management Plan is to align the well-developed flood risk agenda with a broader approach that considers water supply and management, and to support the GLLEP's objectives in 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, elected member scrutiny, the GLLEP's Water Management Board and stakeholder workshops held in June and September 2015. The Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy Group has been engaged throughout this process, as have representatives of the North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire flood risk partnerships.

The Water Management Plan takes the form of an explanatory section, followed by a table providing outline details of a programme of projects for the immediate, medium and long term. These are focused on initiatives that demonstrably facilitate economic growth, and provide a means of co-ordinating such activity across a number of important contributory strategies and plans. Its final version, appended as Annex A, was approved by the GLLEP Board on 28th January.

A Coastal Vision

Many of the issues that are relevant to the Water Management Plan, particularly the ability to make a compelling case for funding water and coastal management, are most prevalent in Greater Lincolnshire's coastal areas.

The scale and scope of flood risk and water supply, along with the attendant risks and opportunities for the visitor economy, agri-food industry and associated supply chains, are wholly interdependent in the coastal context.

For this reason, on behalf of the Water Management Board officers from partner authorities have drafted a Coastal Vision with the aim of succinctly expressing an overarching common approach to coastal issues, with a focus on achieving sustainable economic growth for the GLLEP's area.

The intention of the Coastal Vision is to draw together key themes that have emerged from a wide range of existing initiatives and prior public consultation as coherent, mutually supporting objectives for the coast. Successive drafts of the

Coastal Vision have been the subjects of comment through this and other Scrutiny Committees, alongside consultation with stakeholder and partner organisations.

As a result of this engagement, the previous draft version (draft 3.1) is currently being rewritten, with the aim of completion in March. It is anticipated that the main changes from previous drafts will be to focus more on the Lincolnshire coastal area, while linking to existing high level strategies covering the Humber Estuary.

Copies of the new draft will be provided to members and partner organisations during late February, with the aim of presenting it to Committee at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

2. Conclusion

The Water Management Plan is designed to establish a pipeline of projects that can be developed for successive rounds of funding opportunities. Approved by the GLLEP Board on 28th January, the Plan is now ready for implementation, with outline bids already in progress for priority stretches of coastal and fluvial defences.

As a result of comments received on the present draft of the Coastal Vision, the document will be focused more tightly on the Lincolnshire coast, with links to the Humber Estuary Strategy and Humber Strategic Economic Plan as an equivalent covering the Humber. It is intended that a final draft will be presented to the GLLEP Water Management Board in March, with subsequent approval by the GLLEP Board.

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	Water Management Plan for Greater Lincolnshire

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.

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