

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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	12 September 2017
Subject:	Water Management Plan 2015 -2040

Summary:

The issue of good quality water management is one of the most important for economic growth in Lincolnshire. This paper explains how Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) is working with partners such as the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) on a joint water plan and explains some of the next steps that are being taken.

Actions Required:

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to:

- 1) Consider and comment on the progress that has been made in establishing a water management plan and support the next steps listed in the report;
- 2) Support that LCC continues to engage effectively with Water Resources East and other initiatives which will have a positive impact on Water Management in Lincolnshire.

1. Background

Water Management is an essential component of economic growth. Water assists with the manufacturing process, it is essential for homes and communities, and it can be a substantial asset for tourism. However, it can also provide a significant risk through flooding and the supply of water does not automatically meet the demand for water.

Lincolnshire County Council and Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership have recognised this issue, and have produced the attached water management plan which sets out a way of tackling the challenge of providing water for effective economic growth. The plan is attached for members' consideration.

Recent work by LCC and GLLEP on utilities has highlighted the cost and difficulty of installing a reliable water system for economic growth; it is of a similar scale to water and gas.

The water management plan addresses:

Managing Flood Risk

Water storage for economic growth purposes / Use of water as a tourism asset.

LCC and the GLLEP have worked with partners in district councils, unitary authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, the Environment Agency to develop the first projects that meet the aims of the water management strategy.

These are two flood management schemes which are now being delivered in the Boston area (Haven and Wrangle flood banks). These projects will add value to planned investments in flood protection by the EA, thereby protecting a larger amount of land and giving confidence to investors to develop commercial and domestic property in the area.

A lobbying/engagement campaign has started to be implemented. It is an ongoing campaign, but it peaked with a reception in the House of Commons which was addressed by then DEFRA Secretary of State Mrs Andrea Leadsom MP.

Next Steps

A good sense of direction has been established, and Lincolnshire is seen as an area that DEFRA, Environment Agency, and other partners can work with on water management, but it is important to retain momentum. LCC has therefore found funding for a time-limited piece of support which will help to drive forward the water management plan in partnership with GLLEP. This work will be delivered over the next 6 months and will comprise three distinct activities:

Provide in-depth technical advice to the GLLEP water management board on which LCC sits Help the water management board to prioritise a set of projects which meet the aims of the water management plan establish a longer-term engagement plan which sets out partners with whom to work, messages to make, and which opportunities to pursue

A more detailed paper on LCC's project activity for water management, with a particular emphasis on Water Resources East, will be brought to the next meeting of the Environment and Economy scrutiny committee.

Further Engagement

Anglian Water has worked with a wide range of stakeholders to develop the Water Resources East (WRE) project. The purpose of this is to develop a long-term, multi-sector, water resource strategy that delivers better outcomes for the region, more efficiently and at a lower environmental cost than would otherwise be possible.

Within WRE a wide range of stakeholders are developing a long term regional water resources strategy, which will deliver better economic outcomes for the East, more efficiently and at a lower environmental cost than would otherwise be

possible. It is recognised that the East of England is already facing water shortages, the risk of which is projected to increase in future years due to climate change, population growth and abstraction reductions. This has clear implications for key sectors of Greater Lincolnshire's economy, particularly agricultural production and processing, the visitor economy and the environment.

Anglian Water (AW) has identified the need for additional storage capacity of approximately 50,000 mega litres to deliver the capacity expected for the near future. This equates to a new reservoir with approximately 40% of the capacity of Rutland Water, creating a circa £600m infrastructure project. The WRE project will identify and appraise the delivery options to meet future public water supply demand and select a preferred delivery option. Clearly, there could be benefits to growth to the reservoir being located in Lincolnshire but a careful approach would need to be adopted in following this approach.

2. Conclusion

In summary, water management is an essential part of economic growth in Lincolnshire. Working with Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership LCC has raised the profile of the issue and has established a plan for tackling the challenge of water management. With concerted effort LCC and GLLEP can make a real difference in implementing the plan.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Water For Growth - Water Management Plan 2015 -2040

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 Justin Brown, who can be contacted on 01522 550630 or Justin.Brown@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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