

Open Report on behalf of Environment Agency

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 February 2019
Subject:	Environment Agency Update

Summary:

To update scrutiny committee on Environment Agency activities, including progress on key capital schemes.

Actions Required:

Members of the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the update provided and highlight any future actions for consideration.

1. Key Capital Schemes

This paper provides an update on the key schemes within the current 2015-21 consented programme for the Northern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) area. The overall programme consists of 107 schemes with the key ones being the **34** highest priority schemes based on the following criteria:

- **Outcome measures** – Schemes delivering >200 households
- **Significant expenditure** – Schemes with consented total spend >£1m
- **Contributions** – Schemes with public, private and further contributions required collectively >£300k
- **Other** projects deemed important in the Area including for reasons associated with reputational risk

Of the 34 key schemes **16** are located within Lincolnshire:

Scheme Name	Promoter
• Boston Barrier	Environment Agency
• Boston Haven Banks	Environment Agency
• Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Strategy	Environment Agency
• Lincshore	Environment Agency
• Horncastle Flood Alleviation Scheme	Environment Agency
• Louth Flood Alleviation Scheme	Environment Agency

- Wainfleet Relief Channel Environment Agency
- Black Sluice Catchment Works Environment Agency
- Work arising from Upper Witham Strategy Review (Lincoln Defences) Environment Agency
- Swaton Flood Resilience Scheme Environment Agency
- Welland Flood Banks Refurbishment Environment Agency
- Saltfleet Pumping Station Lindsey Marsh IDB
- Boygrift Pumping Station Lindsey Marsh IDB
- Wrangle Sea Banks Witham Fourth IDB
- Hobhole Pumping Station Witham Fourth IDB
- Westmere Pumping Station South Holland IDB

Of the 107 schemes in the Northern RFCC programme 17 are being promoted by Lincolnshire County Council.

This paper provides a short summary of the 11 Environment Agency key schemes on the Northern RFCC programme with Lincolnshire. More comprehensive report being provided to the Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Drainage Partnership Strategy Group and the Northern RFCC, both of which have representatives from the County Council.

UPDATE

From April 2019 the list of schemes being reported on will be reviewed.

1.1 Boston Barrier

A tidal barrier across the Witham Haven which, in conjunction with associated works to the Haven Banks, reduce the chance of tidal flooding to the centre of Boston to a 1 in 300 annual chance over the next 100 years.

The Barrier scheme remains on programme:

Start date:	May 2014
End date:	December 2019
Total Project Cost:	£105,109,685

Update since last meeting

The first phase of piling on the south bank of the Haven is now complete and the cofferdam dewatered. Excavation to start construction of the base of the barrier structure is now possible.

Work on the barrier control room is underway and the barrier gate itself is due to be delivered in spring following its manufacture in Holland.

The fishing fleet have moved to their temporary quayside downstream of the barrier. All other river traffic can now use a bypass channel created between the north cofferdam wall and the quay wall in the Port. It is over 18m wide and sufficient for all small boats to pass through.

A verbal update and presentation will be given at the scrutiny meeting.

1.2 Boston Haven Banks

Works to raise a number of low spots along the Haven banks which, in conjunction with the barrier, reduce the chance of tidal flooding to the centre of Boston to a 1 in 300 annual chance. This phase of works is the first in a series of bank raising phases to keep pace with climate change over the next 100 years.

Start Date:	October 2016
End Date:	December 2019
Total Project Cost:	£2,000,000

Update since last meeting

The Legal Agreement with LCC was signed October 2018. Tender returns expected February 2019, with a draft programme stated date of July 2019 and completion date of December 2020.

1.3 Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Strategy Review (SGPSR)

Beach nourishment remains the most cost effective solution in the short-term as we keep pace with climate change. However, this option alone will not be technically viable in the longer term. The SGPSR will indicate when an alternative approach for significant capital investment is required and the need for partnership contributions is likely.

Start Date:	February 2018
End Date:	April 2021
Total Project Cost:	£1,210,866

Update since last meeting

The success of the 2018 consultation on flood risk management options has helped us reach two preferred flood management approaches, and due to local elections we are delayed in taking the draft Strategy alongside the Strategic Environmental Assessment and HRA to full consultation, we now expect this to happen later this year.

As part of the Strategy we continue to work with Risk Management Authorities partners to ensure that all outcome measures are being appropriately apportioned between the identified schemes that will require FCRM GiA funding within the Strategy area to avoid future double counting in line with government guidance.

1.4 Lincshore (Interim Beach Management Lincolnshire Coast)

Beach nourishment scheme protecting approximately 20,000 houses, 35,000ha prime agricultural land and 30,000 static caravans as well as major tourism developments between Mablethorpe and Skegness.

Start Date	January 2015
End Date:	March 2021
Total Project Cost:	£65,792,126 (inc. previous years)

Update since last meeting

This year's campaign was completed in June 2018. Total sand placed on beach 397,636 m³.

Planning of the 2019 campaign is underway with possible inclusion of an area of beach south of Skegness and subject to monitoring results.

Detailed design works for Trusthorpe outfall improvements are nearing completion, with works planned for later in 2019.

1.5 Horncastle Improvements

This project is now complete and the reservoir operational.

1.6 Louth Improvements

This project is now complete and the reservoirs operational.

1.7 Wainfleet Relief Channel

The Steeping Catchment was a pilot for a "Partnership Approach to Catchment Management" (PACM) being promoted through the Lincolnshire Flood Risk Management Partnership.

This work has completed, with a preferred option being to ensure the maintenance and condition of the raised defences which includes toe protection works on the Wainfleet Relief Channel and the Steeping River together with exploring upstream options to reduce flood risk and siltation.

1.8 Black Sluice Catchment Works

A catchment wide review of flood risk across the Black Sluice catchment has concluded with the following key projects resulting:

- Transfer of Black Sluice Pumping Station to the local IDB
- Rationalisation of the Main River network
- Armouring to selected embankments to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure.

Start Date:	October 2016
End Date:	March 2020
Total Project Cost:	£2,163,650

Updates since last meeting

➤ **Black Sluice Pumping Station**

We are working towards decommissioning the pumping station with more detailed plans of what this included being anticipated for early summer 2019.

A weekly public drop in session continues to be held at the Boston Hub, though to date there have been very few enquiries.

➤ **Rationalising the Main River Network (RMRN) Project**

The RMRN South Forty Foot Pilot Project has now been completed. Following a formal public notice phase on gov.uk to de-main the 5 pilot watercourses there were no objections.

On the 22 November 2018 the watercourses were formally de-mained, a total of 16.8km, and maintenance responsibility (and associated Environment Agency assets) have transferred to Black Sluice IDB.

The success of this pilot project has been down to the strong partnership approach between the key partners, including Black Sluice IDB, Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England and the RFCC. This is the first of the national pilot to reach this stage.

➤ **Bank Armouring**

Bank armouring has been carried out on part of the fenland section of the Swaton Eau.

A review of evidence has identified further sites requiring armouring and these are being progressed through ongoing maintenance contracts.

1.9 Lincoln Defences (previously- Work arising from Upper Witham Strategy Review)

A catchment wide review of flood risk across the Upper Witham catchment has concluded with the following key projects resulting:

- Replacement of a section of floodwall along Fosdyke Canal, alongside Foss Bank.
- Refurbishment of sections of flood wall along the River Witham alongside St Catherines.
- Refurbishment of sections of flood wall along the River Witham between Dixon Street and Boultham Avenue.
- Mechanical & Electrical refurbishment to the three sluices in the city, at Stamp End, Great Gowts and Bartgate.

Start Date:	June 2017
End Date:	September 2021
Total Project Cost:	£6,048,000

Update since last meeting

The Full Business Case for the project has recently been approved by the National Project Assurance team. Works are currently programmed to start in June 2019.

Environmental surveys and discussions are continuing so that everything is in place. This includes discussion about eels and otter survey.

1.10 Swaton Resilience Scheme

A flood alleviation scheme for the village of Swaton. Traditional flood risk solutions are unlikely to be justifiable hence a Natural Flood Management solution is being considered, ideally reducing flood risk across the wider catchment including the villages of Threkingham and Spanby.

Start Date:	October 2016
End Date:	February 2022
Total Project Cost:	£1,237,000

Update since last meeting

The Strategic Outline Case for the Swaton Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project was approved in January 2018.

Engagement with farmers and land owners to identify suitable sites for NFM measures has been completed with most beneficial sites identified. Further discussions with these landowners are continuing.

The full business case is being prepared with a view to submit to the Large Projects Review Group by April, with a view to works on the ground commencing late summer 2019.

2. Updates on Other Items

2.1 Donna Nook Managed Realignment Site

The Environment Agency has secured permission to the diversion and stopping up of the footpath on to the realigned path.

Preparatory work to affect the breach in the defences is underway so that works can commence at the earliest opportunity, allowing for considerations such as six weeks of High Court challenge and overwintering bird restrictions.

It is hoped to carry out works on site in May / June 2019.

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.

This report was written on behalf of Deborah Campbell, who can be contacted via 03708 506 506 or deborah.campbell@environment-agency.gov.uk

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