

**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson,
Interim Executive Director of Place**

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	28 May 2019
Subject:	Reviewing the draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy

Summary:

The report asks the Committee to review and comment on the consultation draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy.

Actions Required:

To review the consultation draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy 2019-50, and to provide guidance to officers developing the Strategy by commenting on the present draft.

1. Background

Under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 the County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is required to implement and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. This must be consistent with the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for which the Environment Agency is responsible, and which is also currently released for public consultation. Within this broad framework, however, the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy responds to local needs and circumstances, and develops local strategic priorities.

As a minimum, the Strategy must specify the following;

- The risk management authorities in the LLFA's area
- The flood risk and coastal erosion functions that may be exercised by those authorities relating to the area
- Objectives for managing flood risk in the area, including any objectives prepared under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009
- Measures proposed to meet those objectives
- How and when the measures are to be implemented
- Costs and benefits of the measures and how they are to be paid for
- Assessment of local flood risk (meaning from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses)

- How and when the strategy is to be reviewed
- How the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives

In developing the Strategy, the LLFA is required to consult the public and risk management authorities that may be affected by it. The LLFA must also publish a summary of the Strategy, including guidance about the availability of relevant information.

Progress to date

The proposals for the strategy update were supported by the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee when presented in September 2018. The Committee also emphasised the need to secure economic benefits when addressing flood risk and water related issues. This has been incorporated into the consultation draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy, which is presented to members for examination and comment.

The consultation draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy 2019-2050 is a fully revised and updated version of the existing Joint Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy, approved by the Council in 2012. The new strategy takes a wider view, not only covering partners' collaborative strategic and operational approach to flood risk management, but also strategic management of water as a resource to support economic growth and to help secure long term resilience of water supply within a new national framework.

This draft version of the strategy has been developed with key stakeholders and partners of the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership in preparation for formal public consultation. During January and February 2019 a partner and stakeholder consultation exercise was undertaken for 6 weeks, during which time a half day workshop was also undertaken to ensure we captured the views and aspirations of key partners moving forward.

These comments, together with views provided by Scrutiny Committee in and since September 2018, have been incorporated into the consultation draft of the strategy attached to this report (see Appendix A).

Scope and Timescale for the Review

Public consultation will be undertaken for an eight-week period beginning in late May 2019. Six public drop-in sessions will be undertaken as part of this exercise. At the conclusion of the public consultation, all comments and contributions will be assessed and where appropriate incorporated into a final draft version of the strategy. This will then be circulated further amongst members of the Flood Risk Partnership to seek endorsement, presented to both Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee and Economic and Environment Scrutiny Committee, prior to submission to the Executive with the results of the consultation and final draft for approval.

As indicated above the local Strategy must be consistent with the National Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Management Strategy of which a national review is underway and the eight-week consultation period for the draft FCERM strategy commenced on 9th May 2019. Officers from Lincolnshire County Council and other partner authorities in the area have been engaged in the development of the draft national strategy, which has also been analysed to ensure consistency between it and the Lincolnshire Strategy.

2. Conclusion

The consultation draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy is intended to provide the County Council and its partners in the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership with a means of outlining their collective aspirations for flood risk, water management and future water supply resilience, along with additional economic and social benefits that can be achieved for the county.

The Strategy will align closely with other key initiatives such as the Local Industrial Strategy, the Strategic Economic Plan and long term planning for infrastructure and housing provision, as well as environmental improvement and sustainability in the long term. Formal public consultation is a key element in working towards adoption of the strategy and it is requested that committee continue to support officers and the Flood Risk and Water Partnership in developing the strategy for completion and final approval later in 2019.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out??

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Strategy 2019-2050 & Strategic Vision

5. Background Papers

This report was written by Matthew Harrison, who can be contacted on 01522 555172 or matthew.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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