

**Open Report on behalf of Sue Longstone, Area Manager Anglian Region  
(Northern Area), Environment Agency**

Report to:	<b>Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>01 November 2013</b>
Subject:	<b>Louth and Horncastle Flood Alleviation Schemes</b>

**Summary:**

To outline progress on implementing flood alleviation schemes for Louth and Horncastle.

**Actions Required:**

To consider and comment on progress made towards implementing flood alleviation schemes for Louth and Horncastle.

## **1. Background**

Louth and Horncastle have suffered historic flooding from main rivers, most recently in 2007.

Louth is a “rapid response” catchment situated on the River Lud with a low standard of protection from flooding. The preferred flood risk management option is to build two flood storage reservoirs to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses in Louth.

Horncastle is situated on the confluence of the rivers Bain and Waring. Flooding occurs due to high flows in both watercourses. The town has a significant number of properties with a low standard of protection. Flood events have been recorded in 1920, 1960, 1981, 1993 and 2007.

In March 2009 it was concluded that external contributions would be necessary to make any scheme viable. A partnership approach to funding was therefore adopted by; The Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board and the Witham Third Drainage Board to deliver flood storage schemes at both locations. Both Town Councils have agreed in principle to fund future maintenance of the completed schemes. Negotiations are also continuing with potential additional contributors to maximise funding opportunities that could benefit both schemes.

## Key Information

	<b>Louth</b>	<b>Horncastle</b>
Current probability of Main River flooding in any year	5% (1in20) 20%(1in5) Waring	10%(1in10) Bain
Probability following construction works*	0.67% (1in150)	1% (1in100)
Number of properties benefiting from scheme	355	288
Estimated construction completion	2015	2015/16
Capital Cost including contingency (today's prices)**	£6.5 million	£8.2 million

\* the figure quoted for annual probability of river flooding post-construction works is based on current river flows. For Louth, the probability is expected to increase to 1.25% (1in80) over the 100 year life of the scheme based on the latest climate change guidance. We have not yet undertaken the climate change calculations for Horncastle but similar changes should be expected.

\*\* includes additional £430,000 acceleration funding, secured for potential Property Level Flood Protection (PLFP) works.

### Louth

The business case for the scheme has been submitted to our Large Project Review Group and the approval process is expected to be completed this year.

In anticipation of achieving approval, we are using our new Water and Environment Management (WEM) framework to procure one supplier to take us through the rest of the project including: detailed design, planning and construction. This approach is expected to minimise programme and maximise savings.

We are working with Anglian Water to understand the interaction of river and surface water flooding issues and optimise the design. We are planning to undertake work by agreement with land owners and will continue our engagement with those who will be directly affected by the proposals, once our suppliers for the next phase are appointed. We continue our engagement to inform residents and land owners of our proposals, prior to submitting a formal planning application.

A Project Board meeting, including all our funding partners, is expected to be held later this year, once we are close to business case approval and commencement of the detailed design stage. Key points in the programme for further meetings will also be planned. We still anticipate completion of the scheme in 2015.

### Horncastle

We have recently held a project board meeting for this project and this was attended by all funding partners. Board members were updated on our “light touch” review of previous options and it was reported that flood storage on the River Bain still appears to be the best solution pending the full development of the business case.

We are also looking at the viability of providing Property Level Flood Protection (PLFP) to properties flooded from the Waring and have appointed a PLFP specialist to assist with the appraisal of this option. This will ensure we have a good degree of confidence in any such recommendations in the business case. We will also be ensuring the compatibility of this solution with any proposals to address surface water issues in the area.

We are continuing to work closely with the local community. We have also met with several key land owners to discuss our plans and meetings with other landowners are planned to take place over the coming months.

In September we again de-silted the river Waring and Bain at key locations in the town centre to keep the river channels clear. Our programme is to start PLFP works, subject to them being part of the preferred option recommended in the business case, in September 2014, with the flood storage works starting in March 2015.

## **2. Conclusion**

The approach taken by partners to implement flood alleviation schemes for both Louth and Horncastle is to treat the individual projects under a joint funding arrangement. In this way, there is greater flexibility to support both projects to ensure works occur at the earliest opportunity.

## **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.

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