



**FLOOD AND DRAINAGE
MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
5 SEPTEMBER 2013**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C L STRANGE (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors Mrs V C Ayling (Vice-Chairman), A M Austin, C J T H Brewis, T Bridges, M Brookes, R G Fairman, J R Marriott, C Pain, R A Renshaw, I G Fleetwood (West Lindsey District Council), District Councillor R F Leggott (Boston Borough Council), District Councillor Mrs F M Martin MBE (East Lindsey District Council), District Councillor B Russell (South Kesteven District Council) and District Councillor M D Seymour (South Holland District Council)

Councillors D C Hoyes MBE, J P Churchill and A H Turner MBE JP attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Matthew Harrison (Highways Officer), David Hickman (Environmental Services Team Leader (Strategy and Partnership)), Liz Jones (Scrutiny Officer), Jonathan Learham (Anglian Water), Mark Robinson (Environment Agency), Mark Welsh (Floods, Water and Major Developments Manager), Mr D Sisson (Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board), Steve Willis (Assistant Director, Environment, Planning and Customer Services) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N M Murray (Lincolnshire County Council) and Councillor D Jackson (City of Lincoln Council).

An apology for absence was also received from Councillor C J Davie, Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment, Planning and Tourism.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

**14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
19 JULY 2013**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 July, 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15 SURFACE WATER FLOOD MAPPING

Consideration was given to a report which briefed the Committee on surface water flood mapping and the progress made to date in producing the maps before the deadline of 22 December 2013.

It was reported that the Flood Risk Regulations required flood maps to be produced and published for rivers, the sea, reservoirs and surface water by 22 December 2013. Lead Local Flood Authorities were working with the Environment Agency to produce surface water maps.

Members of the Committee received a presentation which provided them with detailed information in relation to the following areas:

- Recent history of surface water flood mapping;
- uFMfSW in the Context of the Local Strategy;
- Local Surface Water Flood Risk information;
- PFRA Data Gathering and Outputs;
- Insufficient Evidence to Determine Local Flood Risk Areas;
- Draft Flood Risk Assessment Report (1) – PFRA review and data collection;
- Draft Flood Risk Assessment Report (2) – Target Areas;
- Draft Flood Risk Assessment Report (3) – Increase flood risk evidence;
- Draft Flood Risk Assessment Report (4) – Report and map outputs;
- Draft Flood Risk Assessment Report (5);
- uFMfSW National Coverage and Improved Science;
- Local Model Parameters;
- Lincolnshire Percentages for Rural run-off;
- First Impressions – Very good;
- uFMfSW in the Planning Process;
- Properties at risk, comparison of County Councils, December 2009;
- The need for uFMfSW in the Planning Process;
- Role of the Local Planning Authority (LPA);
- Site Specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs);
- Key Messages

Following the presentation, Members were provided with a practical demonstration of the updated Flood Mapping for Surface Water (uFMfSW).

The Assistant Director Environment, Planning and Customer Services informed the Committee that the County Council had responded to a consultation regarding flood insurance. It was reported that the proposed scheme had the support of the insurance industry and that there would be a cap on the amount that could be charged, linked to Council Tax banding. It was explained that the proposed scheme would work in a similar way to car insurance.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and presentation, and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

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- There were maps which showed the impact of coastal flooding in Lincolnshire, however, the maps being discussed only showed the impact of flooding from surface water;
- There was a need to assess all the flood risk together, as it did not matter to a community whether the flooding was caused by surface water or the sea/rivers;
- The 'run off' percentages related to the permeability of the land, and what percentage of the water was running off and not soaking into the ground;
- The condition of the land had an impact on whether the water would run off or not;
- Members were pleased that these maps were being shared with drainage boards;
- There was a need to make use of local knowledge, as district councillors had turned down planning applications in the past as it was known the area was prone to flooding, but these decisions were then overturned by planning inspectors;
- The maps had been produced based on data from an average year and 2012 had not been an average year;
- Surface water flooding tended to be driven by convective rain fall;
- When the County Council became the SUDS approving body, it would become a key consultee in the planning process;

Demonstration of the mapping technology:

- The maps showed excellent detail;
- A scheme to improve Stamp End in Lincoln was being considered through the Flood Defence grant scheme;
- There was a need to be able to differentiate between topographical and infrastructure issues on the maps;
- Members were pleased that there was more awareness and preparedness around flooding, but there was a need to stop building on flood plains;
- There had been a lot of new development in Horncastle, and there were concerns about how up to date the maps were;
- There was no cost to the authority for these maps as they had been produced nationally;
- The public would be able to use these maps to see if their property was at risk of flooding, and the authority would be able to use it to determine which communities were vulnerable;
- Members were informed that if they contacted their local highways officer they would go through their own wards with them using this technology;
- It was noted that these maps would not pick up on any flooding issues which had been caused by drainage issues, as the mapping was done using planes which would only see what was on the ground;

RESOLVED

That the presentation be received and the comments made be noted.

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16 IMPLEMENTING THE FLOOD RISK REGULATIONS 2009 - THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to a report which briefed the Committee on the next statutory measures to be implemented under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, and outlined the ways in which partner organisations in Lincolnshire were engaging with the early stages of this work.

It was noted that officers were still in the early stages of developing the Flood Risk Management Plan and would keep Members involved in the plan as it developed.

RESOLVED

That the report and steps taken to develop a joint approach consistent with National and Local Flood Risk Management Strategies be noted.

17 LINCSHORE AND SALTFLEET TO GIBRALTAR POINT COASTAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW - UPDATE

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Environment Agency's Area Coastal Manager which provided a summary of the approaches to be considered for the future flood risk management of the coast between Saltfleet and Gibraltar Point.

Members received a presentation which provided them with detailed information in relation to the following areas:

- Introductions;
- Strategy Objectives;
- Partnership Funding;
- Evaluation of Options;
- High Level Approaches;
- Annual Beach Nourishment (With Present Management)
- Annual Beach Nourishment (present quantities);
- Annual beach nourishment (present standards);
- Annual beach nourishment (WPM);
- Alternative open beach management options;
- Different nourishment option – example;
- Change beach material;
- Alternative open beach management options;
- Seawalls only;
- Seawall raise;
- Seawall widen;
- Seawalls;
- Beach management with control structures;
- Compartmentalisation;
- Embayments example;
- Mixture of approaches;
- Compartmentalisation;

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- Hybrid of approaches;
- Attractive 'natural' areas;
- What are coves?
- Hardpoints;
- Other parts of the frontage;
- Hybrid Approach;
- Next steps;

Members of the Committee were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the presentation and report, and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- The user friendliness and effectiveness of any system put in place would need to be considered;
- The beauty of the Lincolnshire coastline was that it was relatively untouched, and a compromise would need to be found which would retain the natural beauty of the area;
- There was a need for a balance between what could be done and what the authority could afford;
- Both coastline and agricultural land was at risk of flooding, whatever option was chosen would affect tourism;
- This issue of funding improvements in sea defences needed to be looked at from a national and not just county council perspective, as it would help investment and protect agricultural land;
- The way that the government provided funding was changing, and the more benefits to an area which could be shown then the more likely that the funding would be awarded. There would however, still need to be a county council contribution, but the level of that contribution would be the issue;
- A lot of progress had been made since the floods of 1953, but there was a need to look at cheaper ways of protecting the coastline which would be more affordable at the moment;
- The aggressive nature of the sea on the Lincolnshire coast needed to be considered;
- It was important to work with the local community to find out what they wanted, and how they wanted to see the coast in the future;
- Funding was in place for one more year of work on the current Lincshore project, so in the next 12 months work needed to be progressed on how the project would move forward after this;
- The challenge was the scale and extent of the defences needed, as well as the number of businesses to interact with;
- There was a strong case for Lincolnshire to received national funding for sea defences;
- The weather conditions in 2013 which had caused large quantities sand to blow off the beach had been exceptional;
- A combination of approaches would probably be the best solution;
- In terms of the volume of material which was added to the beach as part of Lincshore, very little of it made up the sediment which was being deposited in the Wash;

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- It would be more beneficial if sea defences were attractive and had a tourism function, such as a route for walking or cycling along the coast;

RESOLVED

That the comments made in relation to the approaches presented be noted.

18 FUNDING FOR WATER MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the current arrangements for funding flood and drainage management.

It was reported that overall public funding for flood risk and drainage management in Lincolnshire would amount to about £38.4m in 2013-14, and would include expenditure on major fluvial and coastal works, schemes to manage local flood risk, maintenance of flood risk assets, management of data and strategic planning, among other initiatives. However, it was noted that this did not include Environment Agency costs or investments from water and sewerage companies.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

**19 FLOOD AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S
WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered a report which enabled it to consider its work programme for the coming year.

The Committee was reminded that the next meeting would be taking place at the East Lindsey District Council Offices at Manby, which would be followed by visits to sites of interest in the East Lindsey area with the Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board and the Environment Agency.

It was requested that an itinerary for the November meeting be circulated.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm