

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Communities

Report to:	Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	30 January 2014
Subject:	Implementing the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 – The Flood Risk Management Plan

Summary:

To brief the Committee on progress in implementing the Flood Risk Management Plan, the final key measure require under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009.

Actions Required:

To note the report and comment on the steps taken to develop a joint approach consistent with National and Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.

1. Background

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 form part of the legislation enacted in response to major surface water flooding across Europe and the UK in 2007 and 2008.

The Regulations require the following three key steps to be implemented

- A preliminary assessment of surface water flood risk by December 2011
- Mapping of hazard from surface water by December 2013
- Preparation of a Flood Risk Management Plan by December 2015

Lead Local Flood Authorities completed their Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments in 2011. The publication by the Environment Agency of new surface water flood risk maps in December 2013 fulfilled the second step. The third element, the Flood Risk Management Plan, is currently in development nationally.

A previous report to the Committee in September 2013 outlined the basic elements of the Flood Risk Management Plan. It is, however, worth re-emphasising that Lincolnshire's participation is voluntary and its aim is to make further progress in delivering the joint approach set out in the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy.

Lincolnshire's approach to the Flood Risk Management Plan is to see it as a broad strategic framework within which a locally specific assessment of flood risk from all sources can be undertaken. This in turn will act to support delivery of Lincolnshire's existing joint Strategy, by providing a stronger evidence base for deciding where and when to use available resources to best effect.

The Environment Agency will publish a Flood Risk Management Plan scoping report in February 2014, setting out in broad terms how each Lead Local Flood Authority proposes to work with the Flood Risk Management Plan, and therefore what each Flood Risk Management Plan will contain. There will then be a public consultation on the draft Flood Risk Management Plans from July to December 2014. Final development of the Flood Risk Management Plan, including detailed local arrangements for risk assessment for all sources, will be completed during 2015, in time for the statutory deadline of December 2015.

2. Conclusion

It is important that elected members steer the development of the Flood Risk Management Plan, as was the case with the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy. It is therefore proposed that

- the scoping report should be brought to members for a formal response once published
- the formal response of Lincolnshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority should be shaped by the scrutiny committee
- Members' views should guide any further consultation response that may be considered necessary by the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership

Members are asked to consider these opportunities to guide the development of the Flood Risk Management Plan, and to identify any additional means of ensuring that members remain informed and engaged throughout the process.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

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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