

**Open Report on behalf of Phil Younge, Area Manager Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire, Environment Agency**

Report to:	<b>Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>4 December 2014</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 the 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	2015/16	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

Our suppliers VBA selected from our Water and Environment Management (WEM) framework will undertake the rest of the project including: detailed design, planning document submission and construction.

We are planning to undertake the works by agreement with land owners and are continuing our engagement with them. We have a Concept Design which we are sharing with those potentially affected by our proposals, prior to submitting a formal planning application. A change of classification of the proposed reservoir has recently been determined. The full impact of this is yet to be determined, however, it is likely to lead to some delays to the completion of the detailed design and potentially increased the cost of the works. This change may have the knock on affect of delaying our planning application submission, which is now likely to be submitted in March 2015. As we are required to translocate water voles from within the footprint of the works and this work cannot be undertaken during the summer months we, therefore, expect to start construction works in September 2015 with the anticipated completion of the scheme in spring 2016.

## Horncastle

We held the last Project Board meeting for this project on the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. Board members were updated on our progress and issues relating to delivery, including negotiations with landowners.

We have awarded a contract to VBA to undertake the detailed design, planning submission work and construction of the preferred option. The proposed option is to provide a 1 in 100 flood storage area on the Bain near Hemingby. Design work is progressing well. We are currently sharing the concept design with those potentially affected by our proposals, to gain their feedback and comment, prior to submitting a formal planning application. We are anticipating submitting a planning

application in February 2015 with a view to starting on site in early summer 2015. It is expected that we will complete the scheme by early 2016.

We are negotiating with several key land owners to discuss our plans and further meetings with landowners are planned to take place over the coming months. We will also continue to work closely with the local community providing information about our proposals.

We are also looking to provide Property Level Flood Protection (PLFP) to homes at risk of flooding from the Waring. We have appointed a PLFP specialist to assist with the delivery of this work.

We have surveyed about half of the properties eligible for PLFP measures. Unfortunately, despite concerted efforts to engage with the other residents, the remaining properties have not asked for their property to be surveyed. We currently propose to go ahead with works to those properties that we can in early 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.

This report was written by Deborah Campbell, who can be contacted on (01522) 784387 or [deborah.campbell@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.campbell@environment-agency.gov.uk)

