

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director of Environment and Economy**

Report to:

**Flood Risk and Drainage Scrutiny Committee**

Date:

**04 December 2014**

Subject:

**Public Consultation on Draft Flood Risk Management Plans**

**Summary:**

This report outlines the purpose, scope and content of the consultation draft Flood Risk Management Plans, placing them in the wider context of flood risk management legislation and the implications for local partnership working. Members are invited to share their views on the draft Flood Risk Management Plans, and to comment on an initial schedule of possible issues, preparatory to a full response being drafted on behalf of the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership.

**Actions Required:**

To consider and comment on the draft Flood Risk Management Plans and the initial schedule of issues drafted by officers, in order to help shape a partnership response to the public consultation.

## 1. Background

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 require EU member states to prepare

- A preliminary flood risk assessment by 2011
- Flood risk and hazard maps by 2013
- Flood risk management plans by December 2015

In England and Wales this legislation is complemented by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which establishes

- A national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategies
- Lead Local Flood Authorities ... and new duties & powers for them

In Lincolnshire, the implementation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as a joint partnership approach, with the aim of managing flood risk in a co-ordinated way regardless of source, means that the preliminary flood risk assessment and the development of surface water risk maps have supported our

all sources approach. The completion of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in 2011 produced two outcomes – a first strategic assessment of risk from surface water and groundwater within Lincolnshire and, nationally, the identification of ten flood risk areas where there is the potential for surface water flood risk to concentrations of more than 30,000 properties. These are essentially the larger conurbations, and none have been identified in Lincolnshire.

### **Flood Risk Management Plans - function**

The Environment Agency is currently consulting on draft Flood Risk Management Plans in fulfilment of the third and final requirement under the 2009 legislation. The scope and purpose of the Flood Risk Management Plans mean that closer consideration is required to ensure effective alignment with the joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy.

The consultation documents can be accessed on the Environment Agency's website at [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-flood-risk-management-plans](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-flood-risk-management-plans).

Attention is drawn to the size of the files, which are best read online and not printed – each of the main documents is over 600 pages long.

Flood Risk Management Plans cover river basins, such that Lincolnshire is divided between the Humber river basin and the Anglian river basin. The rationale for this is to ensure that implementation of the Flood Risk Regulations is closely aligned with implementation of the Water Framework Directive, which is primarily aimed at improving water quality and environmental benefit.

Formally, the Environment Agency is required to prepare a plan covering the assets for which it is responsible nationally – which in Lincolnshire means the coast, the main rivers and a number of reservoirs. Lead Local Flood Authorities are only required to do the same for local sources of flood risk (surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses outside IDB areas), and then only within the areas identified in 2011 as flood risk areas on a national scale. There is only one of these within the Anglian river basin, and none within Lincolnshire.

As a result, Lead Local Flood Authorities without national level flood risk areas can choose whether to contribute information to the Flood Risk Management Plan, or not. Many have done so, and Lincolnshire has expressed a wish to do so in the spirit of our established 'all-sources' partnership approach to managing flood risk.

### **Flood Risk Management Plans - content**

Each Flood Risk Management Plan begins with a scene-setting section, which describes the river basin as a whole and outlines its key characteristics. This is then followed by a more detailed section for each river catchment within the basin, including a table of measures in progress or planned for each catchment, along with a graphic representation of these measures, divided into four types of activity:

A number of issues for discussion have been identified which are listed separately in Appendix A, but there may be further matters that Members may wish to raise.

## **Flood Risk Management Plans – formulating a response**

It is proposed that a response should be delivered to the Flood Risk Management Plans on behalf of the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management partnership. The schedule of issues accompanying this report as Appendix B presents a range of matters identified by officers. Members may wish to consider these as the basis for a formal partnership response, in addition to any other matters that may be raised. For the sake of simplicity it is proposed that the response should begin by addressing matters common to both Flood Risk Management Plans covering the county, followed by any remarks relating to individual catchments.

### **2. Conclusion**

The public consultation on the Flood Risk Management Plans concludes on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015. Members' comments will be collated to form the basis of a partnership response, which will then be circulated for further consideration by partners and stakeholders. It is intended that a final draft will be made available to Members and partners in mid-January, prior to final submission on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Environment Agency are also consulting on River Basin Management Plans, which complement the Flood Risk Management Plans, and focus on water quality and environmental matters. The closing date for this consultation, however, falls in March 2015, and a further, separate paper will be presented early in 2015 seeking Members' views on the River Basin Management Plan.

### **3. Consultation**

#### **a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

n/a

### **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Summary description of the draft Flood Risk Management Plans for the Humber and for the Anglian River Basins, and of the draft River Basin Management Plans
Appendix B	Initial schedule of issues and notes identified by officers

### **5. 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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