

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

Report to:	Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	27 February 2015
Subject:	Louth and Horncastle Flood Alleviation Schemes

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

	Louth	Horncastle
Current probability of Main River flooding in any year	5% (1in20)	10%(1in10) Bain 20%(1in5) Waring
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.

We held the last Project Board meeting for both these projects on the 10th February, 2015. Board members, which included funding partners, were updated on our progress and issues relating to delivery, including negotiations with landowners.

Louth

Our suppliers VBA selected from our Water and Environment Management (WEM) framework are currently undertaking the design and planning document submission. VBA will also undertake construction of the works.

We are planning to undertake the works by agreement with land owners and are continuing our engagement with them. We held a public display in Louth library for a week in February to inform the local community about our proposals.

We are planning to submit our planning application for the scheme on 26th February, 2015. At the last committee we reported an expected start to main construction works in September 2015. However, we are endeavouring to start enabling works in Spring this year and trying to start the main works in Summer 2015 if possible. We expect to complete the scheme in early 2016.

Horncastle

VBA have also been awarded the contract to undertake the detailed design, planning submission work and construction of this scheme. The proposal is to provide a 1 in 100 flood storage area on the Bain near Hemingby. Design work is progressing well. We are anticipating submitting a planning application on 13th March 2015, with a view to starting on site in 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 held a public display in Horncastle library for a week in January to inform the local community about our proposals.

We are also looking to provide Property Level Flood Protection (PLFP) to homes at risk of flooding from the Waring. Our PLFP specialist contractor will be delivering this work in early March, 2015 to 16 properties.

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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