



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

4 May 2023

Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Monday, 15 May 2023 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Debbie Barnes'.

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
(11 Members of the Council and 7 Other Voting Members)

Councillors R P H Reid (Chairman), T R Ashton (Vice-Chairman), P Ashleigh-Morris, A J Baxter, M Brookes, S Bunney, K J Clarke, A G Hagues, P A Skinner, H Spratt and G J Taylor

Other Voting Members

To be confirmed.

**FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA
MONDAY, 15 MAY 2023**

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members	
2	Declarations of Members' Interests	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th February 2023	5 - 14
4	Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillors and Lead Officers	
5	Flood and Water Team update (including Section 19 investigations) <i>(To receive a report by Matthew Harrison, Flood and Water Manager, which provides an update to the Committee on the recent work of the Flood Risk team including information of the status of all current flood investigations being undertaken in the County)</i>	15 - 20
6	Project Groundwater (Greater Lincolnshire) <i>(To receive a presentation from Brett Rycroft-Jones, Flood Resilience Programme Coordinator and Vicky Jones, Flood Resilience Programme Coordinator, on Project Groundwater.)</i>	21 - 22
7	Lincolnshire Riparian Project update <i>(To receive a presentation by Ryan Davies, Flood Risk Officer, providing the Committee with an update on the Riparian Project in Lincolnshire)</i>	23 - 26
8	Environment Agency Update <i>(To receive a report by Morgan Wray, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, which updates the Committee on Environment Agency activities in Lincolnshire including progress on key capital schemes)</i>	To Follow
9	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee Work Programme <i>(To receive a report by Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, which enables the Committee to comment on the contents of its work programme for the coming year)</i>	27 - 30

Democratic Services Officer Contact Details

Name: **Jess Wosser-Yates**

Direct Dial **07387133753**

E Mail Address jess.wosser-yates@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Please note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing [Agenda for Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 15th May, 2023, 10.00 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

All papers for council meetings are available on:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records>



**FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 FEBRUARY 2023**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R P H REID (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors T R Ashton (Vice-Chairman), P Ashleigh-Morris, A J Baxter, M Brookes, S Bunney, K J Clarke, A G Hagues, H Spratt and G J Taylor

District Councillors Mrs A M Austin (Boston Borough Council), P Vaughan (City of Lincoln Council), Mrs F M Martin MBE (East Lindsey District Council), Mrs L Hagues (North Kesteven District Council), M D Seymour (South Holland District Council), H Crawford (South Kesteven District Council) and I G Fleetwood (West Lindsey District Council)

External Agencies – Jonathan Glerum (Anglian Water), Andrew McGill (Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board) and Morgan Wray (Environment Agency)

Councillors Thomas Dyer, Stephen Roe and Martin Hill OBE attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:- Matthew Harrison, Chris Miller, Kiara Chatziioannou, Jess Wosser-Yates, Thomas Crofts

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

There were no apologies received.

19 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of Members' interest were made at this stage in proceedings.

20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 November 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following amendment;

- Councillor H Spratt gave apologies for absence.

**FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
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21 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND LEAD OFFICERS

The Chairman announced that a Flood and Water Management Workshop would be held on 26 April 2022 to raise awareness of a series of themes that fall within the Committee's remit.

A verbal update was requested regarding the weed build-up in Boston and the River Witham from the Environment Agency (EA). Peter Reilly, Operations Manager - Environment Agency, reported that:

- The methods which could be used to clear the River Witham could be applied to the Ancholme as it was experiencing similar weed build-up. This would be more cost-efficient as the cost would be shared between the two rivers.
- A third meeting was organised on the 10 March between various partners and local businesses to discuss methods to address the environmental problems reported.
- The EA were currently identifying alternative methods to remove duckweed build-up; weed boats and tract excavator could only remove weeds that were rooted in the margins of the river.
- The EA could not acquire expenditure to remove the weeds as funding was reserved for mitigating against flood risks. Since the River Witham was at no risk of flooding because of the overgrowth, funding was currently unavailable.
- The incident on the River Witham and Ancholme was now classified as a category 1 environmental incident, however funding remained inaccessible.

A lengthy debate ensued, and the following was noted:

- Members expressed concern over the issue spreading further in warmer months if no prompt actions were taken.
- Unpleasant smells caused by the weed-build up and dead river-life were negatively impacting residents, especially in the Boston area.
- Members considered the weed-boats expensive and ineffective in removing the duckweed build-up.
- The under-shot design of the sluice in the River Witham exacerbated the inability to remove weeds because allowing the weed to flow out at times of low-flow resulted in a loss of water, which led to a public expense. The Operations Manager expressed that a replacement sluice would cost £17,000, and installation prices were quoted as a similar amount.
- It was clarified that the Canals Rivers Trust were responsible for maintaining the right of access to navigation on the River Witham, and the abstraction and transfer of the water was under the remit of the EA, although these responsibilities were not mutually exclusive.
- It was agreed that further information be circulated on the environmental impact of the decrease in fish population.

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- It was suggested that the Canals and Rivers Trust attended a Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss their roles and responsibilities relating to the River Witham.

Councillor T Dyer, Support Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning, made the following announcements:

- In November 2022, the National Infrastructure Commission published their review on reducing surface-level flooding risks and the amounts of investment needed to protect infrastructure against flood risks. It was suggested that £12 billion in investments between 2025-2055 would protect properties at risk of flood damage by 60%
- On 10 January, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published their review into the implementation of Section 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act; it was recommended that the government must act to implement the legislation. The government had accepted this recommendation and the Secretary of State for DEFRA positively committed to a public consultation later this year.
- Progress was reported with Section 19 (S.19) Flood Investigations following the August 2022 flooding incident, and many had been concluded. After the floods, a town-wide Section 19 investigation in Market Rasen was initiated and had since been concluded. It deduced that further information on the current capacity of drainage assets was needed. A feasibility study and hydraulic flood risk modelling across Market Rasen was also recommended to better understand risks to properties.
- The Executive had provisionally released funding as part of the Development Fund Programme to address drainage and flooding issues across the county. There was currently a programme of work for investigating, cleansing, and starting repairs in 33 locations across Lincolnshire which would be completed before the end of this financial year. A number of these locations were also subject to ongoing section 19 investigations.

22 FLOOD TEAM UPDATE (INCLUDING SECTION 19 INVESTIGATIONS)

Matthew Harrison, Flood and Water Manager, provided Members with an update on the recent work of the Flood Risk team including information on the status of all current flood investigations being undertaken by the County. It was reported that:

- S.19 investigations which were initiated following the August 2022 flooding incident were being concluded and had resulted in clear recommendations.
- When the flood and Water Team were made aware of a flooding that would trigger a S.19 investigation, the database on the LCC website was updated to show on the live-link online system and was updated at 7pm daily.
- There were significantly more near-misses reported than S.19s.

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- The outline business case for the Greater Lincolnshire Ground Water Project had been approved and funding had been received to commence works.
 - LCC were currently in consultation with multiple partners working on chalk and limestone models across the county to better understand the risk and where opportunities may lie to utilise existing groundwater areas as a resource.

During discussion of item, the following was noted:

- Recommendations that arose from S.19 investigations were not enforced, but rather were based on collaborative goodwill with other authorities through Flood & Water Management Partnership (LF&WMP).
- Managing the flood risk in Lincolnshire was highly important given the distressing impact it has on residents.
- There were still no set criteria/definition of a 'near-miss'.
- Issues regarding the availability of sandbags across Lincolnshire was being addressed through the memorandum of understanding established between Emergency Planning colleagues and District Councils. It was suggested that an amendment was added to the memorandum to facilitate the formulation of a portfolio of flood-preventing devices to be circulated to the public for them to purchase.
- The Flood and Water Manager agree to bring a report on the recent developments of the Riparian Project to a future Committee meeting.
- Members commended the work of various agencies who were involved in flood relief in Lincolnshire.

RESOLVED:

1. That the current list of completed and active flood investigations via the S.19 live-link be noted;
2. That the updates provided by the Flood Risk Team be reviewed and commented on;
3. That the comments made in relation to this item are taken into further consideration by Leading Officers and the relevant Portfolio Holders;
4. That the enforcement rights relating to the Riparian Project be noted;
5. That a response to the S.19 investigation of the High Street in Market Deeping is received as soon as possible

23 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY UPDATE

Morgan Wray, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager delivered a report which provided the Committee with an update on the Environment Agency's (EA) activities in Lincolnshire, including progress on key schemes. It was reported that:

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- The Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Beach Management Scheme was provisionally scheduled to commence in May 2023 and was also costing other work for approval such as various outfall repairs and Chapel Penstock repairs.
- Water course modelling in Wainfleet was almost complete.
- The Natural Flood Management R&D Scheme in the Swanton Eau catchment of the South Forty Foot Drain had commenced. This involved ongoing natural flood risk measures to address the regular flooding to Awaton, Threekingham and Spanby.
- Public drop-in sessions had been scheduled to inform residents of works and progress in Wainfleet.
- The Boston Barrier works were expected to conclude before the end of 2024. This would provide protection to 525 additional properties from tidal flooding, taking the total number of properties better protected from this threat to 14,256.
- The EA was working with Risk Management partners to agree the benefits apportionment regarding the Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project.
- The East Coast and River Trent scenario used in a multi-Lincolnshire Fire Rescue (LRF) exercise at FloodEx22 was reported as a success and prepared various organisations for a potential tidal flood event in the county.
- Internal Drainage Board continued work across the county this quarter, and were supported by the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA)

Members considered the report, and the following was noted:

- The Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager agreed to circulate further information to Committee Members about the Boston Barrier project as per their request.
- Members commended the FloodEx22 event, and many were proud to take part. The LRF had reported planning was underway for FloodEx23; it was suggested there could be an exercise which aided the understanding of how diesel-powered second line pumps could be used in a potential flooding event if electricity was not available.

Stephanie Lynes, Flood Risk and Coastal Management Advisor - Environment Agency, also provided an update on the River Sleas Flood Resilience Scheme on behalf of the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Advisory Partnership and Strategic Overview for Lincolnshire. It was further reported that:

- The Scheme involved EA assets on the River Sleas, Old Sleas and the Nineford River. All were predominantly groundwater fed and resultantly suffered with significant high and low-flows.
 - When groundwater levels were low, a borehole supplemented supply.
- Historical structures in the watercourse caused an obstruction to water flow and subsequently created a flood risk. These structures were insensitive to operate during a flood event, therefore the EA were identifying a sustainable replacement.
- Two workshops were held with key stakeholders, and a business case had been submitted to the Large Projects Review Group (LPRG) which was currently being appraised.

During consideration of the report, the following was noted:

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- Ecological questions about river-life were raised, especially in instances where water was trapped or there was a lack of base-water. The Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager provided assurance that the purpose of the augmentation flow was to ensure wildlife was safe in those water conditions.
- The Slea Navigation Trust was a key stakeholder, and it was thusly assured that the navigation restoration works would not be negatively impacted by removing the obstructive historical structures in the Slea.
- A Committee site-visit to the Slea was suggested to be scheduled following the Flood and Water Management Workshop in April.

RESOLVED

1. That the update offered by the Environment Agency be received;
2. That the satisfaction of the Committee is recorded in relation to the works being undertaken in Lincolnshire by the Environment Agency; and
3. That the comments from the discussion be forwarded by the EA representatives to relevant colleagues and interested parties.

24 ANGLIAN WATER UPDATE

The Committee received an update from Jonathan Glerum, Flood Risk Manager, on Anglian Water's activities in Lincolnshire. It was reported that:

- The Groundwater Project continued to support Lincolnshire despite its vulnerability to a change in the climate.
- Potential risks to assets along Lincolnshire's coastline were being explored.
- Identifying a strategic approach to long-term planning from the perspective of water recycling remained a high priority for Anglian Water; £1 billion had been invested to improve water quality and reach the net-zero target of 2030.
- Lincolnshire continued to benefit from a collaborative approach to flood risk management which was driven by an excellent working relationship between partners.
- Operational teams in Greater Lincolnshire had recorded 10,000 jobs being raised per year.
 - 2,000 external floodings, 100 internal floodings, and 3000 loss of facility incidents were reported annually.
 - Approximately 80% of all flooding incidents reported were caused by blockages, although the proactive planned preventative maintenance programme continued to prevent these blockages from occurring regularly.
- Progress was reported in relation to the Strategic Pipeline Alliance (SPA) infrastructure project, which would help facilitate the movement of water across the county. 52% had been approved from local planning authorities including LCC.

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Coverage between Lincoln and Grantham was expected to be completed by summer 2023.

- Works on Horseshoe Way in Market Rasen had concluded and were being monitored.

During consideration of the report, the following was noted:

- The Flood Risk Manager thanked LCC for its ongoing support and acknowledged the excellent working relationship it has with Anglian Water.
- Members suggested that communication could be improved to strengthen the relationship Anglian Water and LCC had with residents and local media. It was assured that there were conduits for better communication in place, including a dedicated team charge with ensuring information-sharing was sufficient between parties.
- The Flood and Water Manager agreed to circulate an outline of works done in East Lindsey in the current investment period, including information regarding proposals for the future.
- The release of effluent into water had resulted in Anglian Water receiving a fine; it was expressed that discharging waste was a last resort in attempting to improve water quality or mitigate against a flood risk.
- The Flood and Water Manager agreed to circulate a response to the issue of rogue signage fines received by Anglian Water. It was noted there was an item on the agenda for the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee about the street works carried out by Anglian Water which could be of interest to Members.
 - Road closures were considered as being in place for too long which caused frustration amongst residents.
- Additional information would be circulated on the number of emergency sewer outfalls, as well as information on the length of combined sewers that Anglian Water had separated into foul and surface water.
- Concern was raised regarding the installation of pipelines in Lincolnshire as damage was considered substantial. The Flood Risk Manager gave his assurance that this would be forwarded to relevant colleagues.
- LCC and Anglian Water co-owned underwater systems, and improved communication about them were requested; it was assured that data-sharing occurred between Anglian Water and the Flood and Water Team, and that alternative avenues were still available to increase communication.

RESOLVED

1. That the verbal update and presentation provided by Anglian Water be received by the Committee;
2. That the satisfaction of the Committee is recorded in relation to the works being undertaken in Lincolnshire by Anglian Water; and
3. That Anglian Water will provide a written submission to the Committee ahead of meetings;

4. That comments from the discussion be captured and forwarded through Anglian Water representatives to relevant colleagues and interested parties.

25 INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

Jane Froggatt, Witham and Humber Drainage Boards, and Andrew McGill, Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board, delivered a report which provided an overview of the financial pressures facing Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs), District Councils and drainage rate payers.

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Tom Ashton, gave a brief introduction to this item.

Jane Froggatt, Witham and Humber Drainage Boards, guided the Committee through the report and the following was noted:

- IDBs had experienced a challenging year financially and many had to increase their Penny Rate (in the pound) to set balanced budgets; cost pressures were exacerbated by increased fuel costs.
 - Witham and Humber DBs would have contained a Penny Rate increase from 5.5% to 6.75% for 2023-2024, however the increased cost of electricity resulted in three out of the four DBs increasing the Penny Rate to 15%, and one raising it to 29%.
 - Challenges were being experienced nationally; however Lincolnshire was in a more vulnerable position than areas that had modernised their diesel pumping stations. Unit costs had increased from 12 pence per kilowatt hour (kWh) to 30 pence kWh. This was projected to increase further to 40 pence in October 2023.
- The remit of the work carried out by IDBs had increasingly broadened to include flood risk management and water level management.
- Procurement for IDBs in Lincolnshire were facilitated by the East Shires Purchasing Organisation processes.
- Following the Ofgem Targeted Charing Review, Standing Order charges had risen from £13,000-£14,000 per year to £128,000 per year (before the pump was switched on). Thus, the budget had been calculated on the assumption of a unit price of 40 pence kWh.
 - According to historical analysis, pumping stations tended to consume 80% electricity usage from November-March every average rainfall year therefore budgets were also calculated on this assumption.
- Assurance was provided that switching a pump off was a last resort.
- Budget reserves were insufficient on a local and national scale. This meant IDBs would not be able to afford to manage a period of flood events or a significant wet period.

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- The main sources of income for IDBs were the Council and the level of Drainage Rates which the occupiers of land in IDB drainage districts contributed.
- It was requested the Committee supported IDBs through engagement with DEFRA, Lincolnshire MPs, Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) and District Council's to raise the matter to the Secretary of State level.

Andrew McGill, representing Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board, reported that:

- Increasing numbers of assets in drainage areas were below sea level and required management through the County Council and Environment Agency.
- Initial monetary concerns were raised in August 2022; an agreement was reached with EPSO as they had offered the best quote of electricity prices, and the agreement was signed off in January 2023.
- Discussions with East Lindsey District Council had been held to request their support for a programme which would see the modernisation of several Lindsey Marsh Drainage Boards over a six-year period. Meetings had also been held with DEFRA in Doncaster.
- There was public interest for the programme as 136,000 residents were split between the East Coast which was protected by Lindsey Marsh Drainage Boards and the high land level of the Lincolnshire Wolds, rendering them vulnerable to coastal flooding.
- Electrical costs last year were £338,000; this year, the cost was expected to be £282,000 however if it was a wet year it would cost an additional £500,000.
 - IDBs did not have access to the Public Works Loan Board to help manage this cost; they could only access funds for refurbishing capital assets.
- Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board reserves were limited as they were previously used to manage 2019-2020 flood events on the Isle of Axholme because North Lincolnshire failed to file a billing claim to request financial support.
- It was assured that Lincolnshire IDBs remained proactive in finding solutions, and it was requested that the Committee lent its support.

During consideration of the item, the following was noted:

- The Committee acknowledged the concerns of IDBs, and commended the partnership-working that consistently occurred between them, LCC and other organisations.
 - Some members of the Committee sat on IDBs thus were aware of financial restraints.
- The public were not explicitly requested to pay rates to support IDBs but were contributing, nonetheless. Furthermore, it was suggested that the money contributed by residents for IDBs could potentially be used for other means, but given the financial difficulty experienced by IDBs this was not feasible.
- Assurance provided by government was insufficient and failed to acknowledge the severity of the problems facing IDBs.

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- Members questioned whether IDBs use renewable energy; it was assured green energy was used, and that IDBs kept to a pump regime of midnight to 7am to avoid overwhelming the grid. Wind or solar power could not be provisioned when refurbishing pumping stations at the end of their design life, and there were no viable alternatives to electric pumps – diesel pumps were considered back-ups.
- A significant amount of the energy cost experienced by IDBs came from starting up the pump; in some locations, pumps had been moved higher above the water level as to not trigger them as often.
- The proposed updates to the pumps along the East Coast would include channels being built to store water in surge times through gravity discharge to limit the frequency the pumps are turned on.

The Committee agreed to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

RESOLVED

1. That as the lead flood authority, LCC to write to Ofgem and DEFRA about the specific challenges raised by standing charges and electricity costs
2. That the Committee writes to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in support of lobbying efforts already engaged with by the department by district colleagues, boards and ADA in soliciting a Section 31 grant to support additional costs or a variation in a referendum cap for authorities which pay a special-levy

26 FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report from Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, which invited the Committee to consider and comment on the content of its Work Programme. It was noted that:

- In the future, the Scrutiny Officer could liaise with members of the Centre Port project at the Wash to invite them to a future Committee meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme be approved, subject to the addition of the item listed above.

The meeting closed at 1.42 am

Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director of Place

Report to:	Flood & Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 May 2023
Subject:	Flood and Water Team update (including Section 19 investigations)

Summary:

To provide an update to Committee on the recent work of the Flood and Water team including informing the Committee of the status of all current flood investigations being undertaken in the County.

Actions Required:

Members are asked:

1. To view the current list of completed and active flood investigations online at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations>
2. Inform Democratic Services in advance if they wish to raise any particular sites at the forthcoming Committee meeting.
3. To note and comment as required on updates provided on the work of the Floods and Water Team.

1. Background

A standing item to inform the Committee on the position of all current Section 19 investigations in the County. Whilst this report highlights the status of such investigations in the county, the opportunity is also being taken to update the committee on recent work and initiatives for which the Floods and Water Team are involved. This will hopefully provide members of the Committee with a much broader understanding on some of the recent work that has been undertaken in the County.

Investigations under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

The Committee will be aware that all such investigations are published on the County Council's website by means of an interactive map, whether the investigation is completed, actively under investigation or awaiting works to mitigate future flooding. When the Floods and Water Team are made aware of flooding that will trigger a S.19 investigation

the database is updated, and as the online system is updated on a daily basis at 7pm, the information relating to that S.19 investigation will be available to view the same evening.

It is a duty under Section 19, Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (F&WMA) for the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to carry out investigations to identify which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have a flood risk management function in connection with the flood and whether they have exercised, or intend to exercise, that function in response to the flood. To assist with this, Lincolnshire County Council as the LLFA makes recommendations for proportionate works to manage future flood risk, to be delivered by individual RMAs or in partnership as considered appropriate or expedient. Such recommendations are also published although this is over and above the requirements of the F&WMA; all recommendations for mitigation works and the RMA leading those works are available to view on the interactive mapping. If Members have any site-specific questions, they are requested to contact the Flood and Water Manager in advance of the meeting.

To provide an update on the status of S.19 reports since the committee last met in February 2023, please see Table 1 below.

Number of Reports On-going	75 (31.2% decrease since last reported)
Number of completed investigations with considerations still on-going with regards recommendations	229 (6.5 % increase since last reported)
Number of reports commissioned in Q4 (2022 – 2023)	3
Number of reports commissioned in Q4 (2021 -2022)	3
Number of reports commissioned in Q4 (2020 -2021)	21
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2023 – 2024)	1 (at the time of writing)
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2022 – 2023)	3
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2021 – 2022)	3
Number of Reports Circulated to RMAs for Endorsement	9 (at the time of writing)
Number of reports currently being reviewed / revised by Flood Risk Team	22 (previously 41)
Reports Awaiting Sign-off	3 (same as before)

Table 1: Status of S.19 investigations as 28th April 2023

The total annual number of S.19 investigations and properties affected between 2012/13 and 2022/23 can be seen in table 2 below.

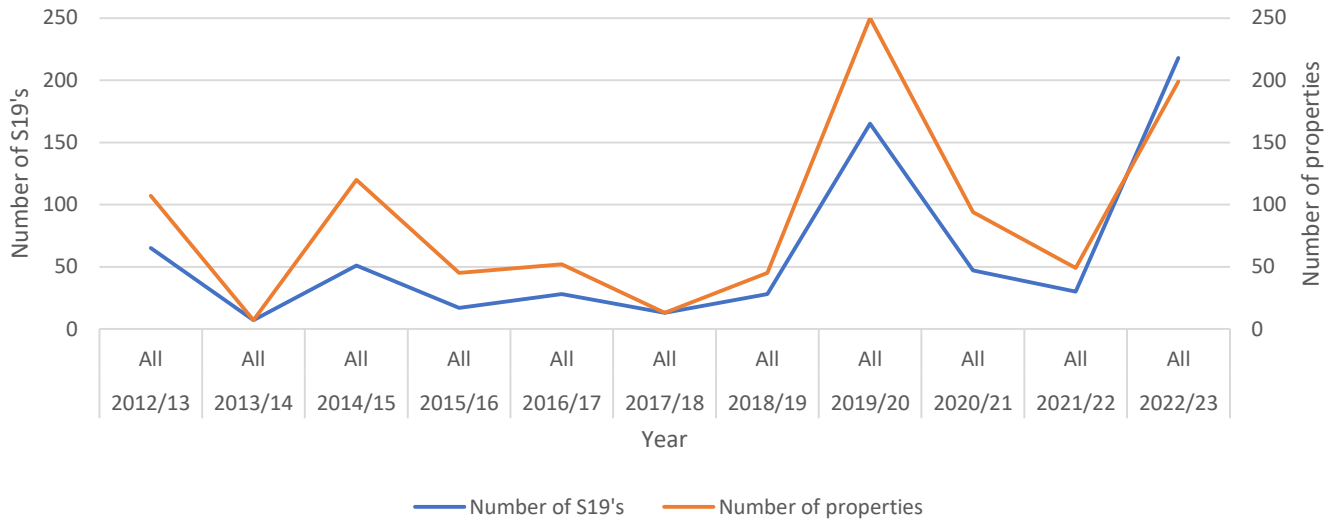


Table 2: Annual totals of Number of S.19 Investigations and properties affected

Near Miss Data

In addition to formal S.19 investigations, data is collected by the floods and water team for the number of near miss reports received. When a report of flooding is received into the Council confirmation is sought from those making the report if water has entered the property. If it is identified water did not enter the property, the occurrence would be reported as a near miss if:

- Water is approaching the property or is against the property but has not gone internal.
- The reporter has requested sandbags
- Internal flooding to a garage (detached or joined)
- Internal flooding to outbuildings
- Internal flooding to conservatories

An exercise has been undertaken within the Floods and Water Team to interrogate records received by the authority back to when the role of Lead Local Flood Authority came into effect in 2012. All reports received as *Flooding – Risk to property/life* were reviewed to see if the above near miss criteria had been met. This process was completed in 2021 and a summary of the near miss data collected is summarised in table 3 below.

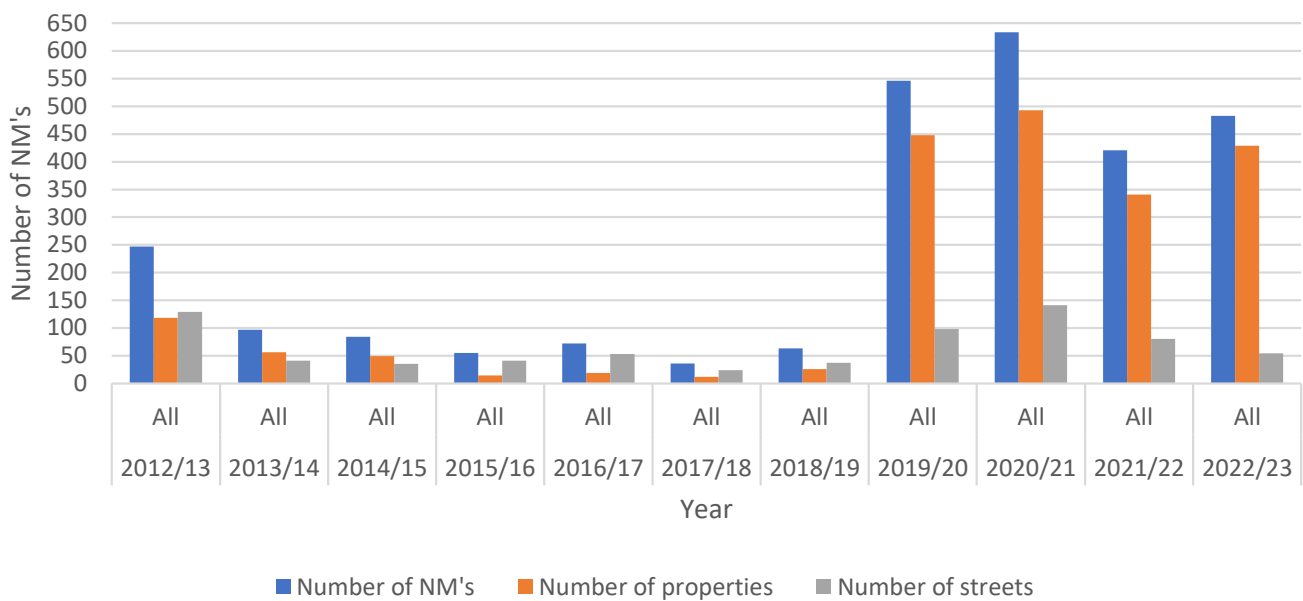


Table 3: Summary of near miss data collated between 2012/13 and 2022/23

The collation of the near miss data can help inform decision making for future programmes of works by taking a proactive, rather than reactive approach to addressing flood risk and drainage issues which have not been identified through the formal Section 19 investigation process. It should be noted however that recommendations and actions will still be undertaken in response to a near miss incident and can be directed to the appropriate department or Risk Management Authority to take appropriate measures, therefore dealing with such incidents in a timely and proportionate manner which does not incur the resource and time pressures of a formal investigation.

Other workstreams

Long Bennington Flood Alleviation Scheme

Following approval of the Outline Business Case for the Long Bennington Flood Alleviation scheme a contract has now been awarded with works due to commence on site from 15th May. The project will continue throughout the summer period with works scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2023. The Long Bennington Flood Alleviation scheme forms part of the Council's 6-year capital flood risk programme and will contribute to addressing surface water flooding issues previously experienced in the village, better protecting in excess of 50 properties.

2. Conclusion

The Flood and Water team will continue to prioritise work on Section 19 investigations, however it should be noted that there is always likely to be great variance in the number and complexity of investigations undertaken which are influenced by weather events. In addition, progress continues to be made on key initiatives such as the Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project, the Lincolnshire Riparian Project and the development of pipeline flood alleviation schemes through the capital flood risk programme as well as more local partnership works. The Flood and Water Team will continue to build on the excellent

working relationships it has with other service areas within Lincolnshire County Council, and with other Lincolnshire Risk Management Authorities to deliver partnership projects for the benefit of residents and communities across the county. Further updates will be presented to future meetings of this committee.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

N/A

5. 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 Matthew Harrison, who can be contacted on 07771 837565 or matthew.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director of Place

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 May 2023
Subject:	Project Groundwater (Greater Lincolnshire)

Summary:

This paper is a cover report for the presentation on Project Groundwater (Greater Lincolnshire) that will be delivered at the meeting and consists of an overview of Project progress to date.

Actions Required:

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

1. Review and comment on the contents of the cover report and presentation; and,
2. Comment on the project and provide feedback to relevant Leading Officers and Portfolio Holders.

1. Background

Project Groundwater (Greater Lincolnshire) is a new project aimed at better understanding the effects of groundwater across the Greater Lincolnshire area. The project is one of 25 successful schemes awarded funding by Defra as part of the £200m Flood and Coastal Innovation Programme, announced in 2020. Following the successful approval of an Outline Business Case Project Groundwater (Greater Lincolnshire) has been awarded £7.18m to carry out research and deliver practical solutions on the ground between now and the end of March 2027.

Groundwater is the least understood flooding mechanism across Greater Lincolnshire, and the project will create a better understanding of groundwater and how it can be managed, both in terms of flood risk and as a resource.

Working with communities in Bourne, Barton-upon-Humber and Barrow-upon-Humber, Grimsby, and Scopwick – and also in collaboration with Lincoln University, over the coming

years, the results of this project will help inform future thinking to how organisations across the county, and more widely, approach challenges around groundwater.

A presentation is attached to this report in Appendix A.

2. Conclusion

That Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee receives the cover report and presentation and make comments on the actions taken to date and next steps for the project.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

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.

5. Appendices

N/A

This report was written by Vicky Jones (Flood Resilience Program Co-Ordinator, vicky.jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk, 07436057029) and Brett Rycroft-Jones (Flood Resilience Program Co-Ordinator, brett.rycroft-jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk, 07387530652).



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director of Place

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 May 2023
Subject:	Lincolnshire Riparian Project update

Summary:

This paper is a cover report for the presentation on the Lincolnshire Riparian that will be delivered at the meeting and consists of an overview of the development of the Council's approach to the network of riparian watercourses across Lincolnshire, along with strengthened engagement with riparian landowners.

Actions Required:

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- (1) Review and comment on the contents of the cover report and presentation; and,
- (2) Comment on the project and provide feedback to relevant Leading Officers and Portfolio Holders.

1. Background

In response to impacts experienced during recent rainfall events from riparian watercourses, the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership ("the Partnership") has been, in collaboration with North and North East Lincolnshire Council's, exploring how existing ways of working can be improved, to implement a more robust, co-ordinated, and sustainable approach to reducing the risk of flooding from riparian assets and watercourses.

This report summarises the key points that shall be brought to the Committees attention via presentation on the 15th of May 2023 and should be read in conjunction with Appendix A. This report follows on from a previous update to Committee on the 21st of February 2022.

The author would like to express his thanks to all those that have assisted the project to date and for those that continue to do so.

1.1 Measure development

In assessing potential measures needed, the Partnership sought to make extensive use of local knowledge in identifying what the most effective solutions might be and where these might most effectively be applied. For this reason, a representative sample of parish and town councils, town forums, and wards across Greater Lincolnshire were asked to participate in a questionnaire.

The results of the questionnaire were reviewed in the context of national and regional experience and discussion, leading to the identification of a range of possible measures that could form the basis for how a proportionate countywide, co-ordinated approach to managing flood risk from riparian assets and watercourses could be achieved and more importantly sustained.

These measures were then subject to extensive review by the Partnership, culminating in the development of a short list of 14 measures for which endorsement for the continued exploration and / or implementation of measures was provided by the strategy and management group of the Partnership and Committee.

1.2 Status of measures

In summary:

- 7 of the 14 measures have been implemented,
- 5 of the 14 measures are still being implemented, and
- 2 of the 14 measures are on-hold due to staff turnover and resource implications in partner organisations.

Some key achievements of the project are as follows:

- We have developed a bespoke leaflet and 2 No. films which raise awareness of riparian rights and responsibilities,
- We have undertaken tailored engagement within 3 trial communities, working closely with the respective parish and town councils, and shall continue to work with them moving forward,
- We have developed and implemented a shared enforcement guide,
- We have revised our standing advice to Question 21 of CON enquiries,

It is recommended that members of the committee consider the results of this project in light of statutory duties, other national initiatives (e.g., the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme), and recent flooding events. It is also worth noting that the scope and ambition of certain measures has expanded throughout the lifetime of the project. For instance, measure 4 (strengthening the partnership across Greater Lincolnshire) has recently expanded to include development of in-house training documents and sessions.

Further detail regarding the current status of measures can be found on Lincolnshire County Council's website.

1.3 Lessons identified

Throughout the project various lessons for implementation have been identified. These include:

- the importance of engaging with local communities wherever possible and appropriate,
- the need for national scale collaboration to address concerns such as funding,
- the potential challenge of county scale rollout of such work on existing resources and budgets.

1.4 Proposed next steps

Working within the governance structure of the Partnership, and with external stakeholders, it is proposed that: (a) implementation of on-going and on-hold measures continue, (b) completed measures are, insofar as is reasonably practicable, sustainably integrated into the Floods and Water team of Lincolnshire County Council, and (c) the project team works with elected members to determine how best to continue raising awareness of riparian rights and responsibilities.

With respect to (b), a 'plan of action' for realising this goal has been proposed and will be presented during the committee.

2. Conclusion

Members are requested to review and make comment on the contents of the cover report and presentation and provide feedback to leading officers on the progress of the project and the proposed next steps.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

N/A

5. 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 Ryan Davies, who can be contacted on 07917 520900 or Ryan.Davies@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 February 2023
Subject:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Summary:

This item enables the Committee to consider and comment on the content of its work programme to ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit. Members are encouraged to highlight items that could be included for consideration in the work programme. The work programme will be reviewed at each meeting of the Committee to ensure that its contents are still relevant and will add value to the work of the Council and its partners.

Actions Required:

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee is invited to: -

- (1) review, consider and comment on the work programme; and,
- (2) highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme; and note the terms of reference of the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee, as agreed by the County Council.

1. Background

Overview and Scrutiny should be positive, constructive, independent, fair, and open. The scrutiny process should be challenging, as its aim is to identify areas for improvement. Scrutiny activity should be targeted, focused and timely and include issues of corporate and local importance, where scrutiny activity can influence and add value.

Overview and scrutiny committees should not, as a rule, involve themselves in relatively minor matters or individual cases, particularly where there are other processes, which can handle these issues more effectively.

All members of overview and scrutiny committees are encouraged to bring forward important items of community interest to the committee whilst recognising that not all items will be taken up depending on available resource.

2. Work Programme

15 MAY 2023	
Item	Contributor
1. Floods Team Update (inc. S19 Investigations)	Matthew Harrison, Flood Risk Manager
2. Project Groundwater (Greater Lincolnshire)	Brett Rycroft-Jones, Flood Resilience Programme Co-Ordinator Vicky Jones, Flood Resilience Programme Co-Ordinator
3. Lincolnshire Riparian Project	Ryan Davies, Flood Risk Officer
4. Environment Agency Update	Morgan Wray, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, Environment Agency
5. Anglian Water Update	Jonathan Glerum, Anglian Water

18 SEPTEMBER 2023	
Item	Contributor
1. Floods Team Update (inc. S19 Investigations)	Matthew Harrison, Flood Risk Manager
2. Environment Agency Update	Morgan Wray, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, Environment Agency
3. Anglian Water Update	Jonathan Glerum, Anglian Water

20 NOVEMBER 2023	
Item	Contributor
1. Floods Team Update (inc. S19 Investigations)	Matthew Harrison, Flood Risk Manager
2. Environment Agency Update	Morgan Wray, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, Environment Agency
3. Anglian Water Update	Jonathan Glerum, Anglian Water

3. Items to be Considered/Programmed

- Natural Flood Management
- South Lincolnshire Water Partnership (SLWP) & Water Resources East - Progress Update (TBC)
- Coastal Adaptation Strategy
- Lincolnshire Reservoirs- Update
- Sewage Scheme

4. Conclusion

Members of the Committee are invited to review, consider and comment on the work programme and highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

Consideration should be given to the items included in the work programme as well as any 'items to be programmed' that may be listed.

5. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

6. 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 Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 07500 571868 or by e-mail at kiara.chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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