



County Offices  
Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1YL

8 September 2023

**Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee**

A meeting of the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Monday, 18 September 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 T R Ashton (Chairman), Mrs S A J Nutman (Vice-Chairman), P Ashleigh-Morris, A J Baxter, M Brookes, S Bunney, K J Clarke, A G Hagues, R P H Reid, P A Skinner and G J Taylor

Other Voting Members

District Councillors D Middleton (Boston Borough Council), D Hobson (East Lindsey District Council), P Vaughan (City of Lincoln Council), M R Clarke (North Kesteven District Council), A C Beal (South Holland District Council), H Crawford (South Kesteven District Council) and I G Fleetwood (West Lindsey District Council)



**FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA  
MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Members' Interests</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 May 2023</b>	5 - 10
<b>4</b>	<b>Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillors and Lead Officers</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Flood and Water Team update (including Section 19 investigations)</b> <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>	11 - 18
<b>6</b>	<b>The Establishment of a SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) Approving Body (SAB) – Progress Update</b> <i>(To receive a report from Warren Peppard, Head of Development Management – Growth, which provides the Committee with an update on the proposed implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act which recommends that a Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) approving body (SAB) be established)</i>	19 - 22
<b>7</b>	<b>Environment Agency Update</b> <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>	23 - 42
<b>8</b>	<b>Anglian Water Update</b> <i>(To receive an update from Jonathan Glerum, Regional Flood Risk Manager, on Anglian Water’s activities in Lincolnshire)</i>	Verbal Report
<b>9</b>	<b>Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee Work Programme</b> <i>(To receive a report by Simon Evans, Health Scrutiny Officer, which enables the Committee to comment on the content of it’s work programme for the coming year)</i>	43 - 46

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**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, 18th September, 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  
15 MAY 2023**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R P H REID (CHAIRMAN)**

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

District Councillors P Vaughan (City of Lincoln Council) and I G Fleetwood (West Lindsey District Council)

External Agencies – Morgan Wray (Environment Agency)

Councillor Richard Austin (Boston Borough Council) attended the meeting as an observer.

Officers in attendance: -

Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Ryan Davies (Flood Risk Officer), Simon Evans (Health Scrutiny Officer), Matthew Harrison (Flood and Water Manager), Vicky Jones (Flood Resilience Programme Coordinator), Ashley Myers (Flood Risk Programme Coordinator) Brett Rycroft-Jones (Flood Resilience Programme Coordinator) and Jess Wosser-Yates (Democratic Services Officer)

**27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alison Austin (Boston Borough Council), Helen Crawford (South Kesteven District Council), Andrew Hagues, Lucille Hagues (North Kesteven District Council), and Fiona Martin MBE (East Lindsey District Council).

**28 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared at this point in proceedings.

**29 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY 2023**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the previous meeting are approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

30 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND LEAD OFFICERS

The Chairman had attended the Flood and Water Management Workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at County Offices, and thanked the Flood Team, the Emergency Planning Team, the Environment Agency (EA), Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs), Anglian Water and Canal & River Trust for their contributions. He informed the Committee that materials from the Workshop would be made available for members.

The Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning made the following announcements:

- He agreed to continue to liaise with the government regarding the IDB levy issue on behalf of the Committee.
- East Lindsey had experienced water flooding on 5<sup>th</sup> May in Little Carlton, Great Carlton and Manby. The Flood and Water Team had conducted site visits and Section 19 investigations had been initiated where internal flooding was reported.
- Officers were liaising with Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board to collate data regarding the recent flood events in Lincolnshire and to address issues experienced.
- Market Rasen and Middle Rasen were affected by a localised rainstorm on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023; although there were no instances of internal flooding, some significant flooding to roads had been reported.
- Works commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for the Long Bennington Surface Water Flood Relief Scheme which would protect in excess of 50 properties from future flood risk.
- Officers and members continued to engage with strategic flood and water resource projects across the county in collaboration with LCC partners.
- The government had announced the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which would involve a change in legislation meaning that Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) would be the responsibility of LCC with a likely implementation date from April 2024.

Members raised the following points in response to the Executive Councillor's announcements:

- Members noted that flooding caused mental health difficulties for residents.
- It was vital that the balance was correct between investing in present flooding events and the potential future impact of climate change.
- LCC was adopting a 'One Council' approach to new developments to ensure mitigating against flood risks was part of the planning process; it was assured District Council's would see a more consistent approach towards flood prevention from LCC moving forward.
- LCC's 'floodline' had been renamed under the Customer Service Centre to prevent confusion with the Environment Agency's 'floodline' service.
- Members considered circulating an article in the County News magazine about how residents can manage surface level flooding.

31 FLOOD AND WATER TEAM UPDATE (INCLUDING SECTION 19 INVESTIGATIONS)

Consideration was given to a report by Matthew Harrison, Flood and Water Manager on the recent work of the Flood Risk team including Section 19 investigation. The following matters were reported:

- Members noted that the report was written prior to the recent extreme rainfall events.
- The backlog of Section 19 (S19) investigations had been cleared.
- The Flood and Water Team reacted swiftly to recent surface level flooding particularly in East Lindsey, and the receptiveness of residents was appreciated.
- A townwide modelling report had been commissioned to fully investigate the flood in Market Rasen from August 2022 to gain a better understanding of the capacity of the drainage systems in the town and identify areas for improvement. Dedicated capital funding had already been set aside by the Team.
- Under Section 3 of the of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, LCC would become a Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) approving body; the Development Management Team were establishing working groups and liaising with colleagues in the wider flood and water partnership in preparation for this change.
- A contractor had been appointed for the Long Bennington Flood Alleviation Scheme and the works would have a significant impact on residents by protecting in excess of 50 homes from surface water flooding.
- The Flood and Water Team continued to review and adapt the Capital Flood Risk Programme and were currently focusing on Market Rasen and Spalding.

Members considered the report, and the following comments were raised:

- The Committee praised the reduction of the backlog of S19 investigations.
- It was requested more information be shared with the Committee regarding LCC becoming a SuDS approving body when more information was available.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee views the current list of completed and active flood investigations that are available online at the address indicated on page 15 of the agenda.
2. That Democratic Services (Scrutiny Officer) be informed in advance if Members wish to raise any particular sites at the forthcoming Committee meeting.
3. That the Committee notes and comments as required on updates provided on the work of the Flood Risk Team
4. That comments raised in the discussion be cascaded to relevant Leading Officers and Portfolio holders for their information and consideration as required

**32      PROJECT GROUNDWATER (GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE)**

Brett Rycroft-Jones, Flood Resilience Programme Coordinator and Vicky Jones, Flood Resilience Programme Coordinator delivered a verbal and visual presentation on Project Groundwater. The presentation provided an overview of the effects of groundwater in the Greater Lincolnshire Area. Members considered the contents of the presentation, and the following points were highlighted in discussion:

- Members praised the ongoing collaborative work with the University of Lincoln which had been undertaken for a number of projects.
- Members questioned the groundwater issues experienced in Grimsby and officers noted that it was a longstanding issue exacerbated by climate change. It was highlighted that allotments in the area were not tended to therefore the area was currently unfit for purpose.
- The Committee requested a site visit to a location where a project was being undertaken, and officers agreed this would have value and ensure accountability.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee receives the report and presentation and is satisfied on the detail on the progress of schemes reported.
2. That the feedback from the discussion in relation to this item be passed on to Leading Officers and Portfolio holders for their information and consideration as required.

**33      LINCOLNSHIRE RIPARIAN PROJECT UPDATE**

Ryan Davies, Flood Risk Officer, delivered a verbal and visual presentation on the Riparian Project and provided 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. Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the presentation, and the following points were raised:

- Establishing riparian ownership on roads was highly complex as ownership documentation could date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier (if records existed). Consequently, ownership responsibility was considered on a case-by-case basis.
- The Flood and Water Team would provide clarity on how riparian rights were enforced following requests from members. The Flood and Water Manager noted that IDBs carried out enforcement functions and assured that court was avoided at all costs; amicable correspondence and site visits tended to resolve issues.
- Despite a lack of comprehensive records of accurate riparian responsibilities, it was assured that there was an active list of watercourses which was constantly under review.
- It was suggested that an article be published on riparian rights in the County News magazine to improve engagement with riparian owners.



- Members and officers suggested that LCC work with Parish Councils to circulate information about riparian rights and responsibilities to communities.
- Officers and members agreed that the maintenance of riparian drains should be considered as part of the planning process at the earliest stage of development.
- The Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager – Environment Agency emphasised the importance of seeking riparian advice from risk management authorities on whether maintenance work required consent or permits and noted that landowners ought to be encouraged to carry out their own maintenance.
- Members questioned whether there was scope for LCC to take national leadership on riparian responsibilities, and the Flood and Water Manager agreed this would be possible once more information was known about riparian rights given LCCs leadership on the matter.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the Committee reviews and is satisfied with the contents of the cover report and presentation.
2. That comments from the discussion be passed on to Leading Officers and Portfolio holders for their information and consideration as required.
3. That the Committee notes the importance of the responsibility of riparian ownership boundaries and notes the importance of responsibility with landowners.

#### 34 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY UPDATE

Committee received a report by Morgan Wray ,Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, which provided an update on Environment Agency (EA) activities in Lincolnshire including progress on key capital schemes. Multiple projects were summarised in terms of their background, updates since the last Committee meeting, and how each scheme aligned with flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) schemes. Members considered the report, and the following points were highlighted in discussion:

- Members questioned how compatible objectives were of managing water levels and restoring the River Witham under the River Sleas project. The Flood and Coastal Risk Manager gave assurance that the EA was engaged with consultations with the Sleaford Navigation Trust, and conversations were ongoing with other local partners to take ambitions into account and ensure they are realised in the future.
- The absence of Jonathan Glerum, Anglian Water, was noted and the Committee recorded their thanks for his ongoing work.

#### RESOLVED

That the Committee receives the update offered by the Environment Agency and notes the progress of works being undertaken in Lincolnshire.

35 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 members requested a site visit be scheduled to view some of the workings of Project Groundwater, which Officers agreed to schedule and facilitate before the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme be approved.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am

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

Report to:	<b>Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>18 September 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Flood and Water Team update (including Section 19 investigations)</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides 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:**

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- (1) 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.

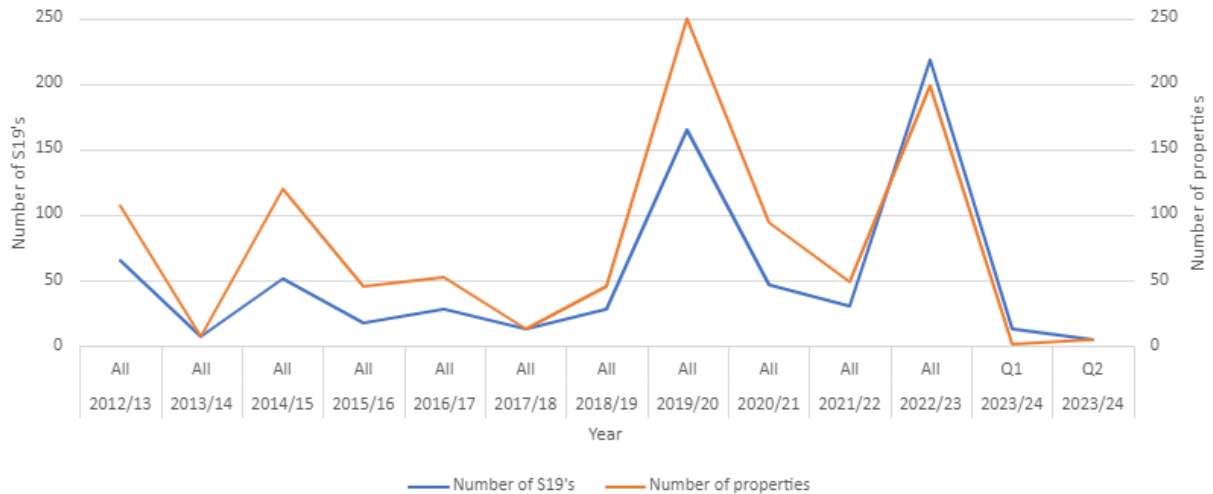
It is a duty under Section 19, Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (F&WMA) for the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to carry out investigations to identify which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have a flood risk management function in connection with the flood and whether they have exercised, or intend 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 May 2023, please see Table 1 below.

Number of Reports On-going	40 (46.67% decrease since last reported)
Number of completed investigations with considerations still on-going with regards recommendations	196 (14.41 % decrease since last reported)
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2023 – 2024)	13
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2022 -2023)	3
Number of reports commissioned in Q1 (2021 -2022)	3
Number of reports commissioned in Q2 (2023 – 2024)	5 (at the time of writing)
Number of reports commissioned in Q2 (2022 – 2023)	57
Number of reports commissioned in Q2 (2021 – 2022)	10
Number of Reports Circulated to RMAs for Endorsement	8 (at the time of writing)
Number of reports currently being reviewed / revised by Flood Risk Team	15 (previously 22)
Reports Awaiting Sign-off	3 (same as before)

**Table 1: Status of S.19 investigations as 21<sup>st</sup> August 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.



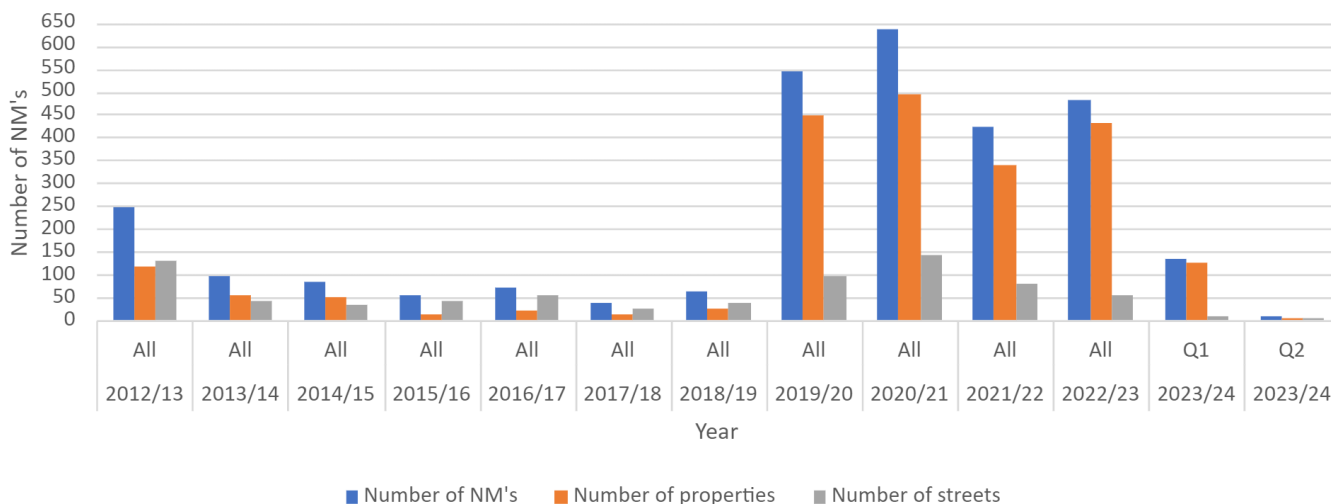
**Table 2: Annual totals of Number of S.19 Investigations and properties affected**

### 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 2023/24**

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**

The Long Bennington Flood Alleviation Scheme is progressing well and remains on Programme. The new 600m pipe and outfall to the River Witham situated in land to the rear of the Royal Oak Pub have now been installed, along with all manholes, connections and gullies in this section.

PBS Construction are now well underway with Phase 2 on Main Road with over half of the new system installed in this section. PBS and the Design Team have also been proactive in installing additional gullies and connections when needs have been identified whilst on site to enable the best possible protection to properties in the village. The scheme is scheduled to be complete at the end of September.

The Long Bennington Flood Alleviation scheme forms part of the Councils 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.

## Project Groundwater – Greater Lincolnshire

Following the presentation made to committee in May 2023 the following are updates on the key workstreams that form part of the DEFRA funded Project Groundwater – Greater Lincolnshire.

### Trial Communities Update

#### Barrow

Mapping and modelling underway to determine groundwater issues. Alongside this a Base Line survey of the Barrow chalk stream has taken place with recommendations of works that could take place there. Awaiting hydrologists insights on how to proceed.

#### Barton

Modelling and mapping underway to identify groundwater issues and areas for improvement, after issues near the cricket pitches and football fields having already being highlighted by the National Flood Forum and residents.

#### Grimsby - Salting's Allotments

Ecological study now complete and all indications are 'good to go'. Secretary of State has confirmed the change of usage. Initial clearance of the site for further borehole analysis is in the tender process, with aim of diggers going in early September. Further soil sampling and borehole analysis to be undertaken before full clearance works to take place. Several wetland design companies pitching concept designs in October.

#### Grimsby – Kingston Gardens

Local ecologists have proposed redesign ideas for Kingston gardens, awaiting tender process for clearance works. Ecological survey taken place end of July, results due in the next few weeks. Local schools have been engaged to join in with the redesign of the site by helping design information boards for display around the park.

#### Scopwick

Mapping and modelling underway following discussions with Parish Council members and local residents, further boreholes being added at various locations to get a better understanding of what is going on in the various geology levels.

### Project collaborations Update

#### Multi-Coloured Manual suite of methodologies applied to Groundwater flooding.

Middlesex University conducted a groundwater flood risk economic appraisal methodology of the MCM. Awaiting proposals and timescales to fully update the MCM to include groundwater flooding.

#### Groundwater teams' PFR Partnership

A joint funded project started in May between Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) Greater Lincolnshire Groundwater Project and Buckinghamshire Council's GRACE project to design, test and implement innovative, cost beneficial PFR techniques and community measures.

### Impact of Groundwater flooding on Mental Health

A Collaborative project between Project Groundwater Greater Lincolnshire and Buckinghamshire council's Project GRACE looking to enlist multiple academic institutions to work on a long term project alongside the NHS into the mental health impacts of flooding.

### Salinisation of the Fen and the economic impact to food production

2 year Post Doctoral Research Assistant started in July building on previous research to gain an understanding of salinisation in the fen. Further proposals being constructed by the University of Lincoln currently into bringing on an economic student to support the project to find the effects of salinisation and the cost per hectare per crop.

### Dynamic licences - engendering climate-sensitive low-land flood-resilience through novel nature-based abstraction

Collaborative 4-year project begins in September with a PhD student from Lincoln University researching water abstraction licences across not only Lincoln but on a global scale and how a dynamic licence methodology could benefit this area.

### Boreholes

National Flood Forum have made contact with many landowners in the Bourne region, with walkover surveys taking place end of September. Project has been expanded past the Bourne region to include a wider variety of boreholes to gain a bigger understanding of how much water is being lost across the aquifer.

The project has also been expanded and is working with Wilkin Chapman LLP to look into the legal ownership of boreholes once they have been decommissioned, as well as calling for boreholes to be included in conveyancing searches for home owners so people are not caught unaware if a previously sealed borehole starts leaking on their property.

## **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 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

### **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 Matthew Harrison, who can be contacted on 07771 837565 or [matthew.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>18 September 2023</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>The Establishment of a SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) Approving Body (SAB) – Progress Update</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides an update on activity being undertaken by Lincolnshire County Councils Development Management Team on the Establishment of the SAB.

Following an independent review for the arrangements for surface water assets, the government's key recommendation is that an approving body (SAB) be established.

The government is now considering how Schedule 3 will be implemented, subject to final decisions on scope, threshold and process. A public consultation this year will help to shape the new approach, with implementation expected during 2024.

**Actions Required:**

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- (1) Note the current progress and the impact of the change to Lincolnshire County Council.
- (2) Highlight additional areas for consideration.

**1. Background**

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (The Act) established Lincolnshire County Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority. Schedule 3 of the Act (SuDS), was not implemented by government, as the government's intention was to increase the use of SuDS through planning policy from April 2015. However, Schedule 3 was implemented in Wales in January 2019.

Schedule 3 provides a framework for:

- The approval and adoption of drainage systems.
- Establishment of an approving body (SAB)
- National standards on the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of SuDS
- The right to connect surface water runoff to public sewers conditional upon the drainage system being approved before any construction work can start.

In October 2019, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) commissioned an independent review of the arrangements for determining responsibility for surface water and drainage assets. The findings of the review set out clearly why government should reconsider implementing Schedule 3. The government response was published in July 2021 and committed to review the case for implementation.

Government has now completed the review, with its findings and recommendations laid out in a report published 10th January 2023.

Government's key recommendation is that SuDS be mandatory, the approving body (SAB) should be set up within the unitary authority or, if there is not one for the area, then the county council, and should progress with the necessary implementation phase.

The Government is now considering how Schedule 3 will be implemented, subject to final decisions on scope, threshold and process. A public consultation this year will help to shape the new approach, with implementation expected during 2024.

## **1.2 – Progress**

In advance of the government's public consultation later this year, Lincolnshire County Council have taken a pro-active approach in commencing its consideration of likely impacts to the council. Officers are conscious of the risk in undertaking abortive work, but feel that in order to be ready for the establishment of the SAB in 2024, that certain areas need to be considered in advance of the governments consultation, to allow adequate lead in times for future work.

To date we have drafted a Pathway to SAB implementation, assuming that the establishment date will be April 2024. The Pathway has been split into the following four tranches:

- Tranche 1 (months 1-3 | July - September 2023) which focusses on information gathering. We have been and continue to work with affected LCC service areas through the recently established Project Team and work to create the Project Steering Group is in progress. We are also liaising with all other risk management authorities within Lincolnshire's Flood Risk Partnership and other stakeholders. To date meetings have been held with representatives of the:
  - Internal Drainage Boards,
  - Water & Sewerage Companies,
  - District Councils,

- Welsh Authorities,
  - Welsh Local Government Association,
  - Chartered Institute of Water & Environmental Management,
  - Association of SuDS Authorities,
  - DEFRA.
- Tranche 2 (months 4-6 | October - December 2023) will focus on the development of processes, systems and working practices)
  - Tranche 3 (months 7-9 | January - March 2024) will focus on implementation of the required processes, systems and working practices.

### **1.3 – Key Challenges**

Whilst we await further consultation and information from the government, we anticipate that the key challenges to the authority will be:

- Policy requirements,
- National standards and guidance requirements,
- Cost and funding,
- Future working with partners,
- Skills, capabilities, and recruitment,
- Balancing local SAB development with rate at which government information becomes available,
- Lack of precise timing of government key milestones and outputs.

## **2. Conclusion**

Lincolnshire County Councils Development Management team will continue to work on preparing for Schedule 3 implementation and the Lincolnshire SAB “going live” sometime during 2024. We will be utilising the existing Lincolnshire Flood Risk Partnership structure (Local, Management & Scrutiny Groups) to ensure that we engage effectively with local stakeholders, and will provide regular reports to this committee for the necessary political scrutiny to ensure that the impact to the council and our customers are appropriately considered.

## **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 Warren Peppard, who can be contacted on 07880 505054 or [warren.peppard@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:warren.peppard@lincolnshire.gov.uk).



## Open Report on behalf of Environment Agency

Report to:	<b>Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>18 September 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Environment Agency Update</b>

### Summary:

This report updates the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee on Environment Agency activities in Lincolnshire, including progress on key capital schemes.

### Actions Required:

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee is invited to review and comment on the contents of this written update and share feedback on projects and key capital schemes with Environment Agency.

## 1. Background

### Programme Update

#### 1.1.1 Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Beach Management

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	March 2020
<b>End Date</b>	January 2025
<b>Total project cost</b>	£33,581,231
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	N
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	N/A
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	N/A
<b>Households better protected</b>	11,618

**Background:**

Beach re-nourishment scheme protecting approximately 20,000 houses, 35,000ha prime agricultural land and 30,000 static caravans as well as major tourism developments between Mablethorpe and Skegness.

**Update since last meeting:**

The 2023 beach nourishment works are currently underway, using the Vox Apolonia, which is an LNG vessel (the first LNG dredger to be used in UK waters), although the dredger is currently offsite rectifying a fault and was back on-site 18th June. Procurement routes are being explored for the beach nourishment project and associated repair works, as the current contract will expire after the 2024 campaign. To date works have been completed at Huttoft, Mablethorpe, and Trusthorpe, and the contractors continue south towards Ingoldmells. They are also installing six radar stations along the coastline between Saltfleet and Gibraltar Point; works are progressing well. The radar masts will allow near real time monitoring of the sediments and bedforms off the east coast. Groundworks are complete and the mast columns were installed in June. We also carried out maintenance works to the splash deck and walls Skegness, completed in mid-July.

**1.1.2 Middle River Ancholme - catchment management**

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	December 2022
<b>End Date</b>	March 2027
<b>Total project cost</b>	£2,888,800
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	Y
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	£1,300,000
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	Other Government Departments (OGD)
<b>Households better protected</b>	192

**Background:**

This project aims to deliver the policies within the Ancholme Catchment Flood Management Plan and builds on previous River Ancholme strategy from early 2000's. Previous projects tried unsuccessfully to develop formal flood storage areas, but these were found to be unaffordable under the Partnership Funding policy. This new approach aims to build a partnership with the landowners and Ancholme IDB to develop a more affordable, sustainable and flood resilient approach, including by identifying where water could be stored within the catchment and then utilising the existing drainage infrastructure more effectively. This will mean apportioning the available economic benefits to justify a range of investments to existing Main River, surface water and land drainage networks, and potentially adjust the governance to some of the watercourses. This collaboration will also involve the newly formed Ancholme Catchment Partnership and consider the need for water storage for both public/industry water supply and



irrigation purposes. The comprehensive approach will require a long development period with envisage phases of changes / improvements, that take opportunities of the emerging changes to farming subsidies. The project complements the catchment modelling and forward planning being undertaken by Ancholme IDB.

**Update since last meeting:**

The SOC was submitted for assurance in early June by the EA's project team, which included involvement from both framework delivery partners. This identified an increase in the economic benefits. The scope to develop the OBC for submission around summer 2024 will continue, with a focus on hydraulic modelling of the identified options and measures, and necessary engagement with landowners and catchment partners. The partnership with Ancholme IDB is sharing data and developing complementary flood management solutions. It is envisaged that the initial programme of FCRM works will be undertaken by the end of 2026. Innovative funding ideas are being explored around Green Financing and habitat/carbon credits. Wider catchment opportunities, including eco-system services provisions and alternative governance arrangements, may follow as subsequent phases.

**How this scheme is aligned with the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy Delivery Plan:**

This project aims to improve the resilience and sustainability of the Middle River Ancholme sub-catchment by utilising and strengthening the existing drainage infrastructure collaboratively with key partners and the Ancholme Catchment Partnership. It seeks to be a catalyst to facilitate more temporary storage of water, thus re-establish better connectivity with its natural flood plain, provide ecological enhancements and carbon offsetting facilities, which could then be sold by landowners for payments from an emerging carbon and BNG credit market.

- Strategic objective 1.1: Between now and 2050 the nation will bolster its resilience to flooding and coastal change.
- Strategic objective 1.2: Between now and 2050 risk management authorities will help places plan and adapt to flooding and coastal change for a range of climate scenarios.

Although not situated in the 'Fens', the project aims to follow the principles to support Measure 1.5.4. By 2025 the Environment Agency will work with farmers, land managers, water companies, internal drainage boards and other partners to develop a long-term plan for managing future flood risk in the Fens.

**1.1.3 Wainfleet Flood Resilience Scheme**

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	October 2022
<b>End Date</b>	October 2025
<b>Total project cost</b>	£4,896,639
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	Y

<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	£3,755,800
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	Other Government Departments (OGD)
<b>Households better protected</b>	51

**Background:**

In June 2019, two and a half times the month’s average rainfall fell in 3 days in the Steeping catchment. This led to overtopping of the defences and ultimately a breach in the right bank of the Wainfleet Relief Channel on 12 June 2019. As a direct result 75 homes and businesses were flooded as well as 2000 acres of agricultural land. In response to this, the Steeping River Steering Group was set up and published a Catchment Action Plan which was recently refreshed and published in May 2021. This contains an action to increase the resilience of the raised defences that protect the western side of Wainfleet against overtopping and the effects of climate change. This capital project seeks to deliver this action.

**Update since last meeting:**

The Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been approved and the project now moves on to complete the Outline Business Case. A project team has been assembled to undertake this work with a site meeting held in order to become familiar with the objectives of the project and the challenge on the ground.

**How this scheme is aligned with the FCERM Strategy Delivery Plan:**

The project is aimed at improving the resilience of the raised banks to be from failure caused by overtopping or weaknesses in the structure. It therefore contributes to the following National Strategy objective to better protect people from flooding by building and maintaining defences.

Strategic objective 1.1: Between now and 2050 the nation will bolster its resilience to flooding and coastal change.

**1.1.4 Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Enhancing Lincolnshire Coast**

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	July 2020
<b>End Date</b>	December 2044
<b>Total project cost</b>	£766,796,582
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	N
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	N/A
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	N/A
<b>Households better protected</b>	20,000

**Background:**

Enhancing Lincolnshire Coast project would be a significant investment from government. It would, therefore, need to deliver the maximum returns for all partners and stakeholders, by ‘doing the project right’ and ‘doing the right project’. Enhancing the Lincolnshire Coast project will be the phase of works that follows on from the nourishment, which is currently proposed until around 2040, and will evidence and deliver transformation of flood risk management infrastructure of the East Coast of Lincolnshire.

**Update since last meeting:**

A partnership between Lincolnshire County Council, Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board, East Lindsey District Council and the Environment Agency is being explored to optimise the delivery and funding options for the East Lincolnshire coast. This will take the form of an Investment Plan which will look at the strategic options for the frontage in the long term.

**1.1.5 Boston Barrage/Barrier Works**

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	May 2014
<b>End Date</b>	November 2024
<b>Total project cost</b>	£51,021,365
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	N
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	N/A
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	N/A
<b>Households better protected</b>	14,256

**Background:**

The Boston Barrier scheme, once finished, will provide better protection to over 14,000 properties against tidal flooding and is deemed a ‘National Priority Project’ within the Environment Agency’s Six Year Programme.

**Update since last meeting:**

At present, the EA Team is considering the best approach to ensure completion of the Boston Barrier Scheme. It is imperative that the works are completed in the right way, are technically correct, and are value for money. This process is slower than anticipated due to the unique and complex nature of the work, which is much greater than originally realised.

The latest construction programme anticipates completion of the Boston Barrier Scheme in 2025. However, this date may change as the team takes the time to review the proposed designs of construction works.

More than 13,700 properties are now better protected from tidal flooding by the primary barrier gate which was used for the first time against a high tide in November 2021 and continues to be available as required. Once complete, the second and final phase of works will ensure continuity of the defence downstream of the primary barrier gate and will

better protect a further 526 properties from tidal flooding. This brings the total number of properties protected by the scheme to over 14,256.

**1.1.6 Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project**

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	August 2021
<b>End Date</b>	March 2027
<b>Total project cost</b>	£1,859,639
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	N
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	N
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	N/A
<b>Households better protected</b>	0

**Background:**

In 1997 the Lower Witham Strategy recommended reinforcement of key embankments whilst allowing some areas to flood, in order to relieve the pressure on the system. Since then, 30km embankments have been reinforced, but repeated high flows have damaged more. Storage options have not been implemented, due to availability of suitable sites and difficulties in meeting HM Treasury funding rules of the time. The works in the 2000s included the creation of Fiskerton Nature Reserve, as environmental mitigation. Now these types of works are seen as offering a real alternative to hard defences, providing room for flood water as well as having a lower carbon footprint and enhancing the local environment.

Flooding in 2019 has again highlighted the need to update the long-term plan to manage flood risk in the area. With revised partnership funding rules, allowing more projects to proceed, and a new interest from landowners in providing public goods such as flood storage, it is hoped that the original vision can now be realised. The Lower Witham is one of six river catchments within the East of England Fens that will come together under the Future Fens: Flood Risk Management programme. This work will contribute towards the ambitions for Climate Resilient Places within the National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy where there is a specific measure focussed on the Fens.

The works in the 2000s included the creation of Fiskerton Nature Reserve, as environmental mitigation. Now these types of works are seen as offering a real alternative to hard defences, providing room for flood water as well as having a lower carbon footprint and enhancing the local environment. Flooding in 2019 has again highlighted the need to update the long-term plan to manage flood risk in the area.

It is anticipated that a significant capital investment programme will start on the ground in 2025, and in the meantime the Environment Agency’s operational teams will continue to maintain and manage the flood risk assets where resources allow.

**Update since last meeting:**

The draft Economic Appraisal output was shared with Risk Management Authorities, and on 9th May a successful working group meeting was held to gather feedback to inform final amendments. It is expected that the final output will be issued by the end of October, and letters of support will be sought from all RMAs which will secure continued delivery of both the EA and RMA capital programme until the long-term strategy outputs are implemented. UAV lidar and imagery surveys are complete and supporting the tactical plan asset condition scores used to inform prioritisation of Phase One works.

New modelling of the Lower Witham is ongoing and due for completion by the end of the year. The baseline report and tactical plan outputs are to be completed by the current LWFRP team and then the strategy update will be taken forwards by the Fens 2100+ team. The LWFRP community engagement events are currently paused; It is hoped that future engagement events will be planned collaboratively between the LWFRP team, Fens 2100+ team, and RMAs on completion of the baselining work.

**How this scheme is aligned with the FCERM Strategy Delivery Plan:**

As the Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project sits within the wider Fens Catchment, the project supports FCERM Strategy Measure 1.5.4. By 2025 the Environment Agency will work with farmers, land managers, water companies, internal drainage boards and other partners to develop a long-term plan for managing future flood risk in the Fens.

**1.1.7 Gibraltar Point to Freiston Shore System Sustain Project**

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	September 2022
<b>End Date</b>	June 2025
<b>Total project cost</b>	£5,475,833
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	Y
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	£2,177,000
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	Asset Replacement Allowance (ARA)
<b>Households better protected</b>	1,793

**Background:**

The project looks at sustaining the primary line of defence of the Wash Frontage from Gibraltar Point to Freiston Shore. The Asset Performance team has identified key low spots, cattle poaching and burrowing animals, which are areas of concern for bank stability. This project will look to repair the embankment and sustain the whole line back to its nominal standard of protection and service.

**Update since last meeting:**

We are finalising the contract between EA and our consultants.

### How this scheme is aligned with the FCERM Strategy Delivery Plan

This project seeks to sustain the primary defence line along the Wash Frontage from Gibraltar Point to Freiston Shore; therefore, the FCERM strategy objectives below are in line with the project's objectives:

- Strategic objective 2.3: Between now and 2030 risk management authorities will support investments to manage flooding and coastal change that enables growth in a sustainable and climate resilient way.
- Strategic objective 1.2: Between now and 2050 risk management authorities will help places plan and adapt to flooding and coastal change for a range of climate scenarios.

#### 1.1.8 River Slea Flood Resilience Project

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	February 2023
<b>End Date</b>	March 2027
<b>Total project cost</b>	£6,898,844
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	N
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	N/A
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	N/A
<b>Households better protected</b>	815

#### **Background:**

This project covers the River Slea main river which runs through the town of Sleaford to Cobblers Lock. In the east of the town the river splits to follow the Sleas Navigation channel to the north and the original course of the Old River Sleas to the south. The navigation follows the contours of the land, dropping the river level from around 13m above sea level in Sleaford, to around 3.5m above sea level via a series of historical locks (not all of which are operational). The Old River Sleas follows a more natural course through the Sleas valley before joining back with the navigation again at Cobblers Lock.

As a river heavily influenced by groundwater flows the Sleas can suffer from low flows at times making abstractions for drinking water and irrigation a challenge. A flow augmentation scheme supports water levels in the river during dry periods.

Through the town itself, a series of movable structures maintain a water level for aesthetic reasons, although these do interfere with natural river processes, are a barrier to fish and eel migration and increase flood risk, which is why they must open during high flows. These structures now require significant investment. Structures along the old navigation channel are also in a state of disrepair. With government funding to the EA dependent upon evidenced reductions in flood risk, securing sufficient funding to repair / replace assets with no flood risk benefit is not possible.

**Update since last meeting:**

The project's Strategic Outline Case (SOC) received FSoD approval in April. To move the project forward, the EA are working with our suppliers to scope the next phase of the project (working towards Outline Business Case) and the hydraulic modelling is currently being assured by the Environment Agency. The project is also moving forward with their engagement and the project's first two public drop-in engagement events took place on 13th and 20th June in Sleaford to introduce the public to the project.

Work on the River Slea hydraulic model is still progressing with sensitivity tests being run and reviewed at present. Engagement continues; the second project newsletter was issued in early December 2022 and an imminent Citizen Space webpage update is planned in December 2022 /January 2023. The project objectives have also been updated.

**How this scheme is aligned with the FCERM Strategy Delivery Plan**

This project seeks to review existing structures in the watercourse which are coming to the end of their design life, therefore the FCERM strategy objectives below are in line with project objectives:

- Strategic objective 2.3: Between now and 2030 risk management authorities will support investments to manage flooding and coastal change that enables growth in a sustainable and climate resilient way.
- Strategic objective 1.2: Between now and 2050 risk management authorities will help places plan and adapt to flooding and coastal change for a range of climate scenarios.
- Strategic objective 1.1: Between now and 2050 the nation will bolster its resilience to flooding and coastal change.

1.1.9 **NFM - Swaton Flood Resilience Scheme**

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	April 2019
<b>End Date</b>	March 2022
<b>Total project cost</b>	£185,834
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	Y
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	£28,000
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	RFCC Local Levy
<b>Households better protected</b>	14

**Background:**

Natural Flood Management R&D Scheme in the Swaton Eau catchment of the South Forty Foot Drain. It addresses regular flooding to the villages of Swaton, Threekingham and Spanby, where a conventional engineered flood scheme is not viable.

**Update since last meeting:**

*No update.*

### 1.1.10 Crowland and Cowbit Washes (Welland Flood Banks) Refurbishment

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	March 2023
<b>End Date</b>	April 2026
<b>Total project cost</b>	£6,752,849
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	Y
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	£2,316,503
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	Asset Replacement Allowance (ARA), Levy
<b>Households better protected</b>	663

#### **Background:**

The Crowland and Cowbit Washes (the Washes) are not performing as anticipated. The Cradge bank for the Crowland and Cowbit Washes needs refurbishment along with inlet syphons. The current focus of the study is to understand the area that benefits from the Washes. The Washes have not been utilised in recent years and the Welland system has been significantly altered since their construction.

This project aims to provide a better representation of flood risk associated with the operation (or non-operation) of the Washes through modelling and mapping. We need to better understand how the Washes function, which communities' benefit from their existence, and whether any improvements can be made to utilise them more effectively and reduce flood risk. We also need to better understand the implications of failure to store water in the Washes to define the benefit area. The number of properties currently benefitting is estimated at 663.

It is intended that this evidence base will be used in conjunction with that derived for Maxey Cut Banks to support development of an Initial Assessment that supports a strategic approach to continue maintain the standard of protection for Lower Welland catchment in line with the Welland CFMP recommendations.

#### **Update since last meeting:**

The Environment Agency is now in contract with Arup for support to develop the Strategic Outline Case. The current tasks include a summary of modelling previously undertaken for a non-technical audience, long listing of options, stakeholder engagement and asset condition review. This phase comprises of collating all existing work done to date with gap analysis and non-technical summaries to support internal and external stakeholder engagement. This will enable development of a Strategic Outline Case that can meet the wider catchment opportunities such as environmental enhancement in addition to better flood risk management. A start up meeting was held on 22 June 2023.



### How this scheme is aligned with the FCERM Strategy Delivery Plan

This project supports FCERM Strategy Measure 1.5.4: By 2025 the Environment Agency will work with farmers, land managers, water companies, internal drainage boards and other partners to develop a long-term plan for managing future flood risk in the Fens. It is anticipated that this project will be part of the adaption pathways that will feed into Fens 2100+.

#### 1.1.11 FCERM in the Fens (L&N)

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	June 2021
<b>End Date</b>	July 2021
<b>Total project cost</b>	£64,000
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	N
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	N/A
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	N/A
<b>Households better protected</b>	0

#### **Background:**

Flood Risk Management (FRM) within Fenland & Lowland catchments is a key activity for Risk Management Authorities (RMA's) within the Environment Agency's Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire Area (LNA). This project will inform the evidence base used for LNA to deliver on the National FCERM objective:

*"By 2025 the Environment Agency will work with farmers, land managers, internal drainage boards and other partners to develop a long term, adaptive plan for managing future flood risk in the Fens."*

The project will be split into three separate strands of work:

- Production of a Guide to Sustainable Flood Risk Management in Fenland and Lowland catchments.
- Beneficiary Mapping including supply chain vulnerability.
- Carbon baselining of current flood risk management activities in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Fenland and Lowlands.

#### **Update since last meeting:**

*No update.*

### How this scheme is aligned with the FCERM Strategy Delivery Plan

This project supports FCERM Strategy Measure 1.5.4: By 2025 the Environment Agency will work with farmers, land managers, water companies, internal drainage boards and other partners to develop a long-term plan for managing future flood risk in the Fens.

### 1.1.12 LWFRP - Works Arising Phase 1

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	May 2023
<b>End Date</b>	March 2027
<b>Total project cost</b>	£26,000,000
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	Y
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	£6,000,000
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	Other Government Departments (OGD)
<b>Households better protected</b>	1,362

#### **Background:**

Whilst the Lower Witham Strategy is being updated there is a need for works on the existing defences in the Lower Witham to ensure that the standard of protection is maintained until the outcomes of the updated strategy can be implemented. This project will run parallel to the Lower Witham Flood Resilience Project (strategy).

It is intended that this evidence base will be used in conjunction with that derived for Maxey Cut Banks to support development of an Initial Assessment that supports a strategic approach to continue maintain the standard of protection for Lower Welland catchment in line with the Welland CFMP recommendations.

#### **Update since last meeting:**

Prioritisation of sites has been undertaken to inform Phase One works. This will include embankment improvements and refurbishment of key control structures. The draft Economic Appraisal output was shared with Risk Management Authorities, and on 9th May a successful working group meeting was held to gather feedback to inform final amendments. It is expected that the final output will be issued by the end of October, and letters of support will be sought from all RMAs which will secure continued delivery of both the EA and RMA capital programme until the long-term strategy outputs are implemented. Two land parcels are in the process of being secured at Apley adjacent to the Barlings Eau, and Cherry Willingham adjacent to the River Witham, allowing us to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain, Carbon Sequestration and potential for flood storage to support delivery of both the Phase One and future works arising from the Strategy.

#### **How this scheme is aligned with the FCERM Strategy Delivery Plan**

The LWFR Phase One works will improve the resilience of the raised banks from failure caused by overtopping or weakness of the structure. It therefore contributes to Strategic objective 1.1: Between now and 2050 the nation will bolster its resilience to flooding and coastal change.

### 1.1.13 Fens 2100+ Strategy - LNA

<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
<b>Start Date</b>	October 2022
<b>End Date</b>	March 2027
<b>Total project cost</b>	£8,456,400
<b>Partnership Funding required?</b>	N
<b>Total Partnership Funding</b>	N/A
<b>Who is contributing?</b>	N/A
<b>Households better protected</b>	0

#### **Background:**

*Not available.*

#### **Update since last meeting:**

Fens 2100+ is progressing well. We have nearly completed recruitment of the programme team and had 4 additional programme team members join at the end of June 2023, we are still recruiting for a project manager. Project 1 contract has been signed and we are currently scoping the work for project 3 and hope to be in contract for project 3 by October 2023.

We have started undertaking external engagement and ran a workshop at Flood and Coast 23 which was very well attended, we also attended Floods and Water live in Lincolnshire in July 2023 alongside undertaking direct engagement with key stakeholders. We held a launch workshop at the end of June 23 with key stakeholders, which was both well attended and interactive and invitees gave positive feedback. We have a follow up meeting booked with these attendees on 21st September.

We are finalising the governance approach and will have set up the programme board and associated steering groups, with meetings booked within the next few months.

#### **How this scheme is aligned with the FCERM Strategy Delivery Plan:**

*Not available.*

## 1.2 Incident Management

### Incident Management Overview

1.2.1 - In our work as a **Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingences Act 2004** (CCA 2004), the Environment Agency is responsible for managing a wide variety of environmental and flooding incidents.

1.2.2 The Environment Agency 5 Year Action Plan (EA2025) outlines our three long term goals, the first being '*a nation resilient to climate change*'. This goal is underpinned by the Incident Management Strategy 2020-2025 which outlines our three areas of

focus, all of which relate to our preparedness and ability to respond to flooding incidents:

- Plan for changing risk.
- Collaborate to inspire action through partnership.
- Respond to the climate emergency.

1.2.3 Incident management work in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area is not just focused on flooding – the Area is subject to a variety of the highest risk on the National Risk Register **Coastal Flooding; River Flooding; Surface Water Flooding; Industrial Accidents; and Drought.**

1.2.4 We have built excellent working relationships with other professional partners in the **Local Resilience Forums (LRF)** that we support. Our close working relationship with LRF partners continues to ensure that the communities we all serve are best supported during an incident.

1.2.5 The sections below further detail key aspects of our work internally, with partners and our local communities.

#### **Local Resilience Forum (LRF)**

1.2.6 Local resilience Forums (LRFs) are multi-agency partnerships made up of representatives from local public services, including the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and other professional and voluntary organisations. These agencies are known as Category 1 & 2 Responders, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act.

1.2.7 **Exercise Mighty Oak:** On 28-30 March we participated in this Tier 1 exercise which tested the cross-governmental response to a national power outage (NPO). In both the Lincs and Northants LRFs we participated in all three days at a Strategic Commander level. The Mighty Oak report has been published and identified 72 recommendations which will be shared with LRFs shortly.

1.2.8 Important lessons were identified from this exercise at a local and National levels. A key finding was the importance of water – multiple partners realised the importance of water in the safe and continued discharge of their operations, so the loss of potable water is something that cannot be underestimated.

#### **Lincolnshire LRF Update**

1.2.9 **FloodEx 2022:** Following last year's multi-LRF exercise FloodEx22 and subsequent debriefs, the final report and recommendations list have now been signed off by Lincolnshire LRF Programme Management Board (PMB).

1.2.10 A number of debrief recommendations to further improve the LRF's tidal flood preparedness and response were passed onto the Lincolnshire LRF Flood Group, a working group chaired by the EA's Area Incident Team Senior Advisor. The group is

now meeting every 2 months to address these actions and report back to the LRF's PMB regularly with progress. One particular area of focus is better and more proactive sharing of EA data on defence condition, to enable the LRF to consider breach risk as part of the preparatory actions in the run-up to a forecast tidal surge.

## **Incident Management**

### **Planning**

- 1.2.11 **East Coast Flood Risk:** A LNA Tidal Incident Management Group (TIMG) is being formed within the EA to assure progress of actions along the East Coast and bring together multiple workstreams and improve communication across teams. A Programme Initiation Document is currently being drafted and will be available shortly which details the objectives of the group and milestones. The TIMG will bridge the gap between EA strategic and operational aims and projects, our incident response and procedure used by the duty team, and the response of our partners and tidal surge impacts on communities at highest risk.
- 1.2.12 **Breach Planning:** The AIT, Flood Resilience, East Coast Strategy and Asset Performance team members continue to work collectively to develop a specific procedure for both coastal (Tidal) and fluvial (river) breach response. Using AIMS and Below Required Condition (BRC) data provided by AP teams, the AIT will coordinate the development of a procedure for the duty team to ensure they can access the data and provide an assessment to our partners on where we believe would be the highest risk areas (based on the best available data). This piece of work will be a primary objective of the TIMG.
- 1.2.13 **Cell Broadcasting – 'Emergency Alerts':** Emergency Alerts went live in March 2023 and a National Welcome Message was broadcast on Sunday 23 April to all enabled 4G and 5G mobile phones throughout the country. The message resulted in all mobile phones receiving a text along with a loud audible tone to alert them. Unfortunately, there were some minor technical issues that resulted in a few mobile phone users unable to receive the alert which the Cabinet Office is investigating.
- 1.2.14 The Environment Agency is the first organisation equipped to broadcast through the Cabinet Office an Emergency Alert and we will only be use them when issuing Severe Flood Warning alerts.
- 1.2.15 See the Gov.uk website for more details: [www.gov.uk/alerts](http://www.gov.uk/alerts) and <https://www.gov.uk/alerts/announcements>.

### **Preparation**

- 1.2.16 **Summer Readiness Training:** During our summer readiness week we delivered 468 hours of learning about Incident Readiness over the last week of April to staff in

Lincs & Northants area - this is the equivalent of 12.6 working weeks in a row! This format seems to appeal to our staff and be very effective.

1.2.17 Our Training and Exercising staff have been developing some new exercise scenarios and recently visited another Area Incident Room in Welwyn Garden City to observe Exercise Nemo. We picked up some good tips and did more networking with T&E colleagues. Adam is also developing New Starter inductions into Incidents, with colleagues across the country to observe Exercise Nemo. We picked up some good tips and did more networking with T&E colleagues. Adam is also developing New Starter inductions into Incidents, with colleagues across the country.

1.2.18 **Flood resilience engagement:** We supported the Flood Action Campaign Pilot in Grimsby earlier in the year test a new mix of communication channels to alert communities to their risk of flooding, including material at bus stops and on billboards. After this successful campaign, we are now having ongoing discussions with national colleagues to decide how best to implement the learning from these pilots more widely.

### **Incidents and Emergency Response**

1.2.19 **Industrial Action and automation of Alerts and Warnings:** Both Unison and Prospect have renewed their mandate for action, and we are awaiting details of any future action by staff.

1.2.20 **Drought Status:** Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area (LNA) moved to Normal status in May 2023 due to the rainfall that had occurred over the preceding weeks that saw river flows, groundwater, Soil Moisture Deficit, reservoirs and other criteria return to normal.

### **1.3 Resource Update**

1.31 Teams in the Witham and South Forty Foot Catchments have been busy working with framework partners to delivery routine maintenance in the area. We work with a range of partners including CGM Group, Black Sluice IDB, Witham Fourth IDB, Witham Third IDB, Witham First IDB and Upper Witham IDB. At East Fen Catchwater we have been completing health and safety grass cutting on our raised embankments. The framework has also completed a full cut on embankments near the Till Washlands.



*Photos 1: Health and safety grass cutting at East Fen Catchwater; Photo 2: Full grass cut on Till Washlands*

1.3.2 At Billingham Skirth, framework partners have also completed weed cutting using Truxor weed boats due to poor access issues. This section of watercourse has been a challenge in recent years, with the Field Team reviewing and trialling various methods to ensure the appropriate maintenance is delivered.



*Photo 3 and 4: Weed cutting using Truxor weed boats, Billingham Skirth. Before (left), after (right)*

1.3.3 The Field team also replaced broken fencing with a secure gate providing safe access for future maintenance works at Kirkstead Bridge.



*Photo 5 and 6: Replacement gate providing access at Kirkstead Bridge*

### **Intermittent Maintenance Programme**

- 1.3.4 The intermittent programme comprises of projects across the area which repair or improve the condition of our flood risk assets. The projects are carried out using a variety of delivery routes. Our Internal Field Teams, Collaborative Delivery Framework (CDF), FCRM Operational framework, and Public Sector Co-operation Agreements.
- 1.3.5 In the Witham Catchment we have been progressing the planned works for 23/24 through scoping and design assessments with consultants ARUP & Jacksons. Site visits are an important step in the project design to ensure the most effective and efficient measure is put in place.
- 1.3.6 For example, at Carholme Drain we are scoping embankment repair works where the crest is showing signs of vehicle rutting. This can make it increasingly difficult to enable safe access to plant or machinery when delivering routine FCRM maintenance activities. The visit with consultants looked at access & egress options, environmental assessments and how these defence reinstatements could be achieved.



*Photo 7: Rutting on crest bank on Carholme Drain; Photo 8: Skinnard Dyke bank reprofiling; Photo 9: location for improved vehicle access at Lincoln Washlands*

- 1.3.7 We are also looking at options for bank reprofiling at Skinnard Dyke as there are signs of slippage and movement due to the age of the bank. Further movement in channel may restrict flow and affect channel conveyance performance. The aim is to reinstate the more uniform channel standard to enable better consistent flows.
- 1.3.8 At Witham Washlands we are looking to improve boat access along the Upper Witham, removing the issue shown in the photo above. The aim is to allow safe and easy access for weed boats to be craned into the channel. The site walkover identified options for access & egress, suitable compound locations, environmental assessments and also assisted in developing design solutions for the desired hard



standing. This work will, once designed, also need to be approved by the Reservoir Engineer.

- 1.3.9 The MEICA team also deliver important works and we often find opportunities to align our programmes and seek further efficiencies. For example, at Claypole they have been carrying out important major mechanical maintenance at the weir. Working with consultants and contractors, they are replacing the penstocks and improving access. Whilst the structure is dewatered it allows us to carry out structural surveys and detailed asset inspections, the clearing of any debris and desilting which allow the structure to perform as efficiently as possible.



*Photos 16, 17 and 18: De-watering of Claypole weir*

### **Capital Recondition Programme**

- 1.3.10 In the Witham Catchment we are carrying out works to repair burrowing animal damage to an embankment. In order to move the animals from the area, an artificial sett has been installed to the rear of the Foss Dyke embankment. Once the animals have moved, the existing sett will be excluded and collapsed under licence. The existing sett had encroached into the flood embankment rendering it unable to retain the water at high levels and was creating access risks for mechanical plant when delivering routine maintenance activities.



*Photos 19, 20 and 21: Works to move burrowing animals from the Foss Dyke embankment.*

## **2. Conclusion**

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee is invited to review and comment on the contents of this written update and share feedback on projects and key capital schemes with Environment Agency

## **3. Consultation**

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

n/a

## **3. Appendices**

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.

This report was written by Morgan Wray, who can be contacted on [morgan.wray@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:morgan.wray@environment-agency.gov.uk) or 020302 53344 .



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

Report to:	<b>Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>18 September 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee Work Programme</b>

**Summary:**

This item enables the Committee to review the content of its work programme.

**Actions Required:**

The Committee is invited to: -

- (1) review its work programme; and
- (2) highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which fall within the Committee's terms of reference and could be included for consideration in the work programme.

**1. Work Programme**

18 SEPTEMBER 2023		
Item		Contributor
<b>1</b>	Floods Team Update (including Section 19 Investigations)	Matthew Harrison, Flood Risk Manager, Lincolnshire County Council
<b>2</b>	Establishment of a Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Approving Body – Update	Warren Peppard, Head of Development Management, Lincolnshire County Council
<b>3</b>	Environment Agency Update	Morgan Wray, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, Environment Agency

<b>18 SEPTEMBER 2023</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
<b>4</b>	Anglian Water Update	Jonathan Glerum, Regional Flood Risk Manager, Anglian Water

<b>20 NOVEMBER 2023</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
<b>1</b>	Floods Team Update (including Section 19 Investigations)	Matthew Harrison, Flood Risk Manager, Lincolnshire County Council
<b>2</b>	Environment Agency Update	Morgan Wray, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, Environment Agency
<b>3</b>	Anglian Water Update	Jonathan Glerum, Regional Flood Risk Manager, Anglian Water

<b>19 FEBRUARY 2024</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
<b>1</b>	Floods Team Update (including Section 19 Investigations)	Matthew Harrison, Flood Risk Manager, Lincolnshire County Council
<b>2</b>	Environment Agency Update	Morgan Wray, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, Environment Agency
<b>3</b>	Anglian Water Update	Jonathan Glerum, Regional Flood Risk Manager, Anglian Water

<b>24 JUNE 2024</b>		
<b>Item</b>		<b>Contributor</b>
<b>1</b>	Floods Team Update (including Section 19 Investigations)	Matthew Harrison, Flood Risk Manager
<b>2</b>	Environment Agency Update	Morgan Wray, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, Environment Agency
<b>3</b>	Anglian Water Update	Jonathan Glerum, Regional Flood Risk Manager, Anglian Water

## **2. Items to be Programmed**

- Natural Flood Management
- South Lincolnshire Water Partnership and Water Resources East - Progress Update (*to be confirmed*)
- Coastal Adaptation Strategy
- Lincolnshire Reservoirs - Update
- Sewage Scheme

## **3. Conclusion**

The Committee is invited to review its work programme and highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme, including those items listed in Section 2 above as 'to be programmed'.

## **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 Health Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 553607 or by e-mail at [Simon.Evans@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Evans@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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