

Open Report on behalf of Environment Agency

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	23 October 2017
Subject:	Environment Agency Update

Summary:

To update the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee on Environment Agency activities, including progress on key capital schemes.

Actions Required:

Members of the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the update provided and highlight any future actions for consideration.

1. Key Capital Schemes

This paper provides an update on the key schemes within the current 2015-21 consented programme for the Northern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) area. The overall programme consists of 107 schemes with the key ones being the **34** highest priority schemes based on the following criteria:

- **Outcome measures** – Schemes delivering >200 households
- **Significant expenditure** – Schemes with consented total spend >£1m
- **Contributions** – Schemes with public, private and further contributions required collectively >£300k
- **Other** projects deemed important in the Area including for reasons associated with reputational risk

Of the 34 key schemes **16** are located within Lincolnshire:

<u>Scheme Name</u>	<u>Promoter</u>
• Boston Barrier	Environment Agency
• Boston Haven Banks	Environment Agency
• Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Strategy	Environment Agency
• Lincshore	Environment Agency
• Horncastle Flood Alleviation Scheme	Environment Agency
• Louth Flood Alleviation Scheme	Environment Agency
• Wainfleet Relief Channel	Environment Agency

- Black Sluice Catchment Works Environment Agency
- Work arising from Upper Witham Strategy Review (Lincoln Defences) Environment Agency
- Swaton Flood Resilience Scheme Environment Agency
- Welland Flood Banks Refurbishment Environment Agency
- Saltfleet Pumping Station Lindsey Marsh IDB
- Boygrift Pumping Station Lindsey Marsh IDB
- Wrangle Sea Banks Witham Fourth IDB
- Hobhole Pumping Station Witham Fourth IDB
- Westmere Pumping Station South Holland IDB

Of the 107 schemes in the Northern RFCC programme 17 are being promoted by Lincolnshire County Council.

This paper provides a short summary of the **11** Environment Agency key schemes on the Northern RFCC programme with Lincolnshire. More comprehensive report being provided to the Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Drainage Partnership Strategy Group and the Northern RFCC, both of which have representatives from the County Council.

Boston Barrier

A tidal barrier across the Witham Haven which, in conjunction with associated works to the Haven Banks, reduce the chance of tidal flooding to the centre of Boston to a 1 in 300 annual chance over the next 100 years.

The Barrier scheme remains on programme:

Start date:	May 2014
End date:	December 2019
Total Project Cost:	£90,339,950

Update since last meeting

Under the Transport and Works Act 1992 Order (TWAO) submitted in August 2016, the project has completed the Public Inquiry as required by the Secretary of State (SoS) with formal closure on the 31 May 2017.

The Inspector has now submitted his formal report to the SoS and we have a programmed TWAO outcome date of November 2017.

Boston Haven Banks

Works to raise a number of low spots along the Haven banks which, in conjunction with the barrier, reduce the chance of tidal flooding to the centre of Boston to a 1 in 300 annual chance. This phase of works is the first in a series of bank raising phases to keep pace with climate change over the next 100 years.

Start Date:	October 2016
End Date:	December 2018
Total Project Cost:	£2,000,000

Update since last meeting

Enabling works have started on the banks with the removal of shrubs and trees. A business case is being progressed, seeking approval this year to deliver a crest level of 6.50metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

Lincolnshire County Council have secured the funding agreement with the Department for Central Local Government for £1M of European growth funding.

Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Strategy Review (SGPSR)

Beach renourishment remains the most cost effective solution in the short-term as we keep pace with climate change. However, this option alone will not be technically viable in the longer term. The SGPSR will indicate when an alternative approach for significant capital investment is required and the need for partnership contributions is likely.

Start Date:	February 2018
End Date:	April 2021
Total Project Cost:	£1,210,866

Update since last meeting

The second round of stakeholder workshops were completed during July and September 2017. Feedback on preferred options is being collated and will help shape the public consultation to be held in early 2018.

Lincshire (Interim Beach Management Lincolnshire Coast)

Beach renourishment 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.

Start Date	January 2015
End Date:	March 2021
Total Project Cost:	£65,792,126 (inc. previous years)

Update since last meeting

The Lincshire project is closing and is being replaced by “Interim Beach Management Lincolnshire Coast” project. This is required due to project approvals expiring though the project will continue to involve beach renourishment, until such time as an alternative approach is agreed upon through the Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Strategy Review.

Horncastle Improvements

A flood storage reservoir on the River Bain built with the help of £8.2million of contributions from a range of partners. Also individual property protection for 15 properties along the River Waring.

Start Date:	July 2014
End Date:	July 2017
Total Project Cost:	£7,253,000

Update since last meeting

The works are now complete, the reservoir operational and an official opening ceremony held on 28th July 2017.

Settlement of the final account is delayed due to disputed claims. Land transfer documents are expected to go to Land Registry imminently and once these are signed the remainder of monies can be sent to the landowners for land purchase and 100% of the easement to flood compensation for those who have agreed to an easement.

Louth Improvements

Two flood storage reservoirs on the River Lud built with the help of £6.5million of contributions from a range of partners.

Start Date:	May 2014
End Date:	July 2017
Total Project Cost:	£5,118,100

Update since last meeting

The works are now complete, the reservoir operational and an official opening ceremony held on 28th July 2017.

Settlement of the final account is delayed due to disputed claims. Land purchase and flood easement negotiations with landowners are ongoing.

Wainfleet Relief Channel

The main flood risk issue along the Wainfleet Relief Channel is the condition of the flood embankments, though justification of the required works is likely to be difficult using current funding rules. Therefore an alternative approach is required.

The Steeping Catchment will be the key pilot for a “Partnership Approach to Catchment Management” being promoted through the Lincolnshire Flood Risk Management Partnership, which will involve the development of a long term strategic approach to managing flood risk in the Steeping Catchment, working across a range of partners including Lincolnshire Flood Risk Management Partnership, landowners, and other key groups such as local councils and the National Farmers Union (NFU).

Start Date:	April 2017
End Date:	March 2022
Total Project Cost	£2,833,600

Update since last meeting

The Steeping Catchment pilot project is continuing to move forward, with a number of stakeholder meetings and a catchment visit taking place.

Parish Councils, both along the river and surrounding ones, have been contacted regarding current works on the river system together with identifying possible future projects, including enhanced channel maintenance and upper catchment land management to reduce sediment runoff.

Black Sluice Catchment Works

A catchment wide review of flood risk across the Black Sluice catchment has concluded with the following key projects resulting:

- Transfer of Black Sluice Pumping Station to the local IDB
- Rationalisation of the Main River network
- Armouring to selected embankments to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure.

Start Date:	October 2016
End Date:	March 2020
Total Project Cost:	£2,163,650

Update since last meeting

Black Sluice Pumping Station transfer and demaining are progressing as part of wider national programmes (the 'Effectiveness Initiative' and the 'Main River Rationalisation Programme' respectively), though both led locally by the same officer.

Public consultation events for the demaining are ongoing (between the time of writing this paper and the committee date) at venues across the South Forty Foot Catchment. A verbal update on these projects can be provided at the Scrutiny meeting

Initial bank armouring sites are due to proceed in 2017/18 via the ARPOW package and funded by capital recondition funds. This will allow more efficient and expedient delivery of these works. Modelling is being reviewed to confirm to any further sites requiring armouring.

Work arising from Upper Witham Strategy Review (Lincoln Defences)

A catchment wide review of flood risk across the Upper Witham catchment has concluded with the following key projects resulting:

- Replacement of a section of floodwall along Fosdyke Canal, alongside Foss Bank.
- Refurbishment of sections of flood wall along the River Witham alongside St Catherines.
- Refurbishment of sections of flood wall along the River Witham between Dixon Street and Boultham Avenue.

- Mechanical & Electrical refurbishment to the three sluices in the city, at Stamp End, Great Gowts and Bartgate.

Start Date:	June 2017
End Date:	September 2021
Total Project Cost:	£6,048,000

Update since last meeting

This is the first update on this project.

Work to develop the business case is ongoing, with support from the new Programme Delivery Unit.

The initial assessment of costs and benefits has highlighted a likely need for around £1.36million of additional partnership funding. Beneficiaries, including local businesses, are currently being identified so a funding strategy can be developed.

Swaton Resilience Scheme

A flood alleviation scheme for the village of Swaton. Traditional flood risk solutions are unlikely to be justifiable hence a Natural Flood Management solution is being considered, ideally reducing flood risk across the wider catchment including the villages of Threkingham and Spanby.

Start Date:	October 2016
End Date:	February 2022
Total Project Cost:	£1,237,000

Update since last meeting

The scheme has been included in the Natural Flood Management Funding recently announced by DEFRA. Work on the business case for the project continues, taking account of emerging guidance on justification of Natural Flood Management projects. Additional support has been sought from the new Programme Delivery Unit with the aim of submitting the business case for approval by January 2018. If justified and approved works can begin during 2018 and complete before 2021.

Updates on Other Items

The Environment Agency has moved from Waterside House to Ceres House, Lincoln, with effect from 23 October. Ceres House is also home to other parts of Defra; Natural England, the Animal and Plant Health Agency and the Rural Payments Agency. Whilst the address will change all other contact details remain unchanged.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) 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. This report was written on behalf of Deborah Campbell, who can be contacted via 03708 506 506 or deborah.campbell@environment-agency.gov.uk

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