

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

Report to:	Flood & Water Management Scrutiny
Date:	29 May 2018
Subject:	The Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership and the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy

Summary:

To inform Members about recent developments in the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership, and to consult with Members on the early stages of developing strategic priorities for the revision of the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy.

Actions Required:

To note the changes to the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership since its inception in 2010.

To consider on provide guidance on possible priority areas for development as part of the forthcoming review of the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy.

1. Background

Reviewing the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership

The Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership ('the partnership') was established in 2010 in advance of the Flood Risk and Water Management Act (2010). It was developed collaboratively as a means for risk management authorities to create a joint programme of flood risk management activity across Lincolnshire, subject to public scrutiny through this committee. This programme of activity was formalised as the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy in 2012.

Since 2012 flood risk management has increasingly been recognised as an integral part of a wider issue of managing water as a resource that is essential to economic growth nationally and, particularly, in the east of England. The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership has recognised the importance of managing water in this way through its Water Management Plan (2016), which

incorporates key strategic flood risk management issues where they can directly support or influence the growth agenda.

Most recently, future planning for water availability has led to further consideration of potential opportunities for strategic linkage between water resource, flood risk, growth and environmental management, as reflected in the current consultation draft Water Resources Management Plan. These are key elements in supporting economic growth across Lincolnshire, and of direct interest to key economic sectors in Lincolnshire and its neighbouring authorities.

This rapidly changing context prompted the Strategy Group of the partnership to undertake a review of the partnership's role and function, and how it could best continue to operate in the future.

The most significant areas identified for updating included the following:

- Clearer definition of respective roles of partnership groups
- Improved opportunities for continuing district council engagement with the partnership
- Improved management of forward programme, including greater use of indicators to measure progress of Strategy & Common Works Programme
- Consistency of engagement across partners and across the county
- Promote greater use of water retention & attenuation measures
- Clearer definition of role of this partnership in relation to the GLLEP Water Management Board and other regionally based initiatives
- Improved working with local planning system
- Promote extension of IDB boundaries
- Improved links with Local Resilience Forum
- Retention of skills and experience – improved succession planning needed
- Improved working with neighbouring Local Authority areas
- Improved communication with public

It should also be noted that a wide range of matters were also noted that partners considered to be working well, or saw as benefits uniquely arising from the work of the partnership. These included:

- Unlocking joint funding opportunities
- Co-operation between IDBs, the LLFA & EA
- Multi-agency working groups / developer advice
- Local views taken on board
- Trust & collaboration
- Movement towards water resource is potentially unique approach
- Local political will to succeed
- Breadth of representation
- Ability to understand & own problems, and to deliver solutions

As a result, a number of improvements have been agreed to the partnership's structure and working practices. These are summarised in the draft Terms of

Reference attached at Annex A, which are currently being finalised with member organisations of the partnership.

Reviewing the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy

Lincolnshire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the administrative county of Lincolnshire. Each LLFA, under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 is required to 'develop, maintain, apply and monitor' a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

This local strategy must be consistent with the national Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Management Strategy. As a minimum, it must specify the following

- The risk management authorities in the LLFA's area
- The flood risk and coastal erosion functions that may be exercised by those authorities relating to the area
- Objectives for managing flood risk in the area, including any objectives prepared under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009
- Measures proposed to meet those objectives
- How and when the measures are to be implemented
- Costs and benefits of the measures and how they are to be paid for
- Assessment of local flood risk (meaning from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses)
- How and when the strategy is to be reviewed
- How the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives

In developing the Strategy, the LLFA is required to consult risk management authorities that may be affected by the strategy and the public. The Strategy must be consistent with the National Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Management Strategy (of which a national review has commenced in May), and the LLFA must publish a summary of the Strategy, including guidance about the availability of relevant information.

The Context in Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire was one of the first areas to develop a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which was completed and agreed in December 2012. The local strategy was designed and created from the start as a joint strategy with all the risk management authorities in the area, with the intention that it should cover flood risk from all sources and should facilitate co-operation across all organisations involved in managing flood risk.

In effect, it was designed as the strategy delivered by the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership as a whole, and was developed with the participation of all risk management authorities, along with the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum, the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, and with the guidance of the Joint Flood Risk Scrutiny Committee.

As such, the Strategy serves to co-ordinate the actions of each of the participating authorities, and this is reflected in the establishment of the Common Works Programme in 2013, which captures both major capital programmes of all partners, as well as the programme of joint activities that address solutions where responsibility is shared or where there is no clear single authority with the capacity or responsibility to act.

The current Strategy consists of

- Part 1: Strategic Vision (including high level objectives)
- Part 2 (A & B): Implementation Plan for the Strategy
- Part 3: Common Works Programme (annually updated action plan)

It can be found in full on the LCC website at the following link:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/flood-risk-management/implementing-management-strategy/103045.article>

Recent Developments

Since 2012, flood risk and drainage management has increasingly come to be seen as a significant component in achieving a wider range of strategic objectives, particularly with regard to economic growth and infrastructure planning. The establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships, responsible for Strategic Economic Plans, has had particular relevance in Lincolnshire because of the importance of sustainable water supply and resilience to major sectors of the county's economy, notably with regard to agri-food and the visitor economy.

A related development is the growing importance of water resource management since major droughts (interspersed with significant surface water flooding events) in 2012 and 2013. Flood risk is increasingly seen as part of a bigger picture that includes resilience to drought and planning for sufficient supplies of water where and when it is needed.

This broader integration of water related activities was explicitly recognised when the flood risk and drainage partnership was renamed the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership in 2015. The review of partnership during 2017-18 consolidated these developments and confirmed the need to embed a wider approach in its membership and terms of reference. The review of the partnership's Strategy now offers the opportunity to continue this process of alignment and co-ordination.

Scope and Timescale for the Review

This review will pertain to the contents of Parts 1 and 2 of the existing Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy. It will consist of a complete review, and will consider all relevant areas that need to be introduced into the Strategy, as well as any material that is no longer required.

As a minimum it is anticipated that the following strategies and initiatives developed since 2012 will need to be taken into account.

- Current review of National Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Management Strategy
- Humber Estuary Strategy
- Shoreline Management Plans
- Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Strategy
- Wash Banks Strategy
- Partnership Approach to Catchment Management
- Flood Plan for Lincolnshire (Emergency Response)
- Water Resources Management Plan
- Local Planning Policy – Local Plans
- GLLEP Strategic Economic Plan
- GLLEP Water Management Plan
- National and Local Industrial Strategies
- Defra 25 Year Environment Plan

It is anticipated that a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be required, and this will need to be commissioned to run in parallel with development of the Strategy itself. Public consultation is also a statutory requirement for Local Flood Risk Management Strategies, and the timing of this will need to be managed to ensure that the Environmental Assessment Report can be released for consultation at the same time. It is anticipated that the Strategy should be completed by April 2019 with a revised Common Works Programme coming into effect for the financial year 2019-20.

2. Conclusion

Early discussions with partner organisations have suggested a number of themes that might be expected to feature in a revised Strategy. These include

- Developing the linkages between water management and securing economic growth and environmental enhancement
- Effective linkages with major regional and national strategic infrastructure initiatives, particularly involving water resources
- Develop new, forward-looking suite of measures & indicators through development of second edition of Strategy
- Develop public & stakeholder communications & engagement strategy
- Maintain awareness of partnership nationally, proactive engagement regionally and nationally in key policy developments

Members are asked to consider and comment on these broad themes. In addition, the views of members are sought on further areas for exploration during the revision of the Strategy, and to provide guidance to officers during this process.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Draft Terms of Reference for the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership

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 David Hickman, who can be contacted on 01522 554809 or david.hickman@lincolnshire.gov.uk