

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

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	17 September 2018
Subject:	Reviewing the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy

Summary:

This item updates Members on progress in developing strategic priorities for the revision of the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy, and seeks Members' views on a range of areas that could form priorities within the next version of the Strategy.

Actions Required:

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

1. Background

Reviewing the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy

Lincolnshire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the administrative county of Lincolnshire. Under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 the County Council, as LLFA is required to implement and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy consistent with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy the Environment Agency have produced but responding to local needs and circumstances. The Act gives the LLFA powers to carry out works to manage the risk of flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary watercourses.

The purpose of the Strategy is to increase the safety of people across Lincolnshire by reducing the number of people at risk of flooding, increasing the resilience of local communities and reducing the impact of flooding. 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

The Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy was developed through public and stakeholder consultation during 2011 and 2012, and was approved by the County Council's Executive on 4 December 2012. Part 3 of the Strategy, the action plan, was made available from April 2013 and is updated annually. As a consequence Lincolnshire was one of the first areas to develop a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, and was forward looking in implementing a strategy that sought to co-ordinate the work of all Risk Management Authorities within the LLFA area.

In effect, the Strategy co-ordinates all the work delivered by the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water 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.

This co-ordinated approach was embedded by establishing the Common Works Programme in 2013. This includes the 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 Common Works programme allows the partnership to prioritise works across the county according to need, and within the constraints imposed by availability of local and national funding.

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 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. This has 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 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 recent consultation of Anglian Waters 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 subsequently update the existing strategy.

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. It is suggested this should now be considered as the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy to reflect the broader scope of our ambitions.

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
- Current national review of 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
- Water Resources East Initiative
- 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 final draft Strategy should be completed by April 2019 with a commencement of formal approval and launch of the new strategy to follow shortly after. At present the indicative timeline is as follows;

September 2018:	First draft new Strategy (outline only)
October 2018:	Partner and stakeholder consultation
Nov 2018 – Jan 2019:	Formal public consultation (second (consultation) draft)
Feb - Mar 2019:	Third draft of new Strategy Examination of Third Draft by partners & stakeholders
April 2019:	Commence formal approval and launch of new strategy

Core resource to manage the project will be provided by LCC's Growth and Environment Commissioning Group. It is anticipated that staff resources will be deployed from all members of the Partnership as required, with commitments to be agreed through the Partnership structure and in consultation with partner authorities. It is expected that resources will be drawn on at specific times during the development of the Strategy, particularly during partner and stakeholder engagement, and to assist with public consultation and engagement.

The review of the Strategy will be managed through existing flood risk and water management partnership structures, with scrutiny and oversight provided by the statutory Flood Risk Scrutiny Committee. In brief, the following roles are identified:

Decision-making:	Partner executive bodies
Scrutiny and Oversight:	Lincolnshire flood risk scrutiny committee
Steering Group:	Flood Risk & Water management Partnership Strategy Group: focused steering group to be convened from Strategy Group membership
Project Sponsor:	David Hickman
Project Manager:	Matthew Harrison

2. Conclusion

In May this year Members of the Committee supported officers in establishing the following broad areas as worthy of further consideration in the Strategy:

- 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
- Developing a new, forward-looking suite of measures & indicators through development of second edition of Strategy
- Developing public & stakeholder communications & engagement strategy
- Maintaining awareness of partnership nationally, proactive engagement regionally and nationally in key policy developments

Early discussions with partner organisations have suggested a number of ways in which these areas might be developed as strategic objectives. In particular these include

- A greater emphasis on managing water in catchments, both locally and at a strategic level

- Greater integration of flood risk and water management with local planning policy development
- Promotion of a mix of measures including water retention and attenuation, natural flood risk management
- Alignment and co-ordination of flood risk with water resource management – linking solutions flood risk with improved resilience to drought
- Clear objectives for supporting economic growth and development through effective water management
- Proactive support for national initiatives such as IDB boundary extension

Members are asked to consider these approaches, and continue to support officers with guidance and advice throughout the development of the revised Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Existing Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Drainage Management Strategy - Strategic Vision

5. Background Papers

This report was written by Matthew Harrison, who can be contacted on 01522 555172 or matthew.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk.