

Agenda Item 5



Policy and Scrutiny

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

Report to:	Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 September 2019
Subject:	Reviewing the draft Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Strategy

Summary:

The report asks the committee to review and comment on the draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Strategy 2019-2050

Actions Required:

The Scrutiny Committee is requested to review and comment on the draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Strategy 2019-2050, and highlight any additional guidance to officers in advance of formal adoption by the County Council.

1. Background

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 the County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is required to implement and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. This must be consistent with the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for which the Environment Agency is responsible, and which is also currently being updated with a public consultation exercise having recently concluded.

Within this broad framework the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy responds to local needs and circumstances, and develops local strategic priorities. As a statutory minimum, the strategy must specify

- 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 the public and risk management authorities that may be affected by it. The LLFA must also publish a summary of the strategy, including guidance about the availability of relevant information.

Progress to date

The draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy 2019-2050 is a fully revised and updated version of the existing Joint Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy, approved by the Council in 2012/13. The new strategy builds on successful delivery of the key objectives set out in the earlier document. It takes a wider view, not only covering partners' collaborative strategic and operational approach to flood risk management, but also strategic management of water as a resource to support economic growth and to help secure long term resilience of water supply within a new national framework.

This draft version of the strategy has been developed with key stakeholders and partners of the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership. During January and February 2019 a six-week partner and stakeholder consultation exercise, which included examination of the draft by Flood & Water Management Scrutiny Committee, was undertaken. This shaped a public consultation version of the strategy for Summer 2019.

Public Consultation during summer 2019

In May 2019 approval was received from the Executive to proceed to public consultation with the draft Strategy. A public consultation exercise was then undertaken from 23rd May to 19th July, during which time six public drop-in sessions were made available across the county, staffed by members of the flood risk partnership.

Alongside this an online questionnaire was available for respondents to complete. This was structured in such a way to try and determine awareness of flood risk and flood risk authorities in Lincolnshire, identify their top priorities and concerns when dealing with flood risk and to seek opinion on the flood risk partnerships vision for the strategy. Supporting documents were available to download from the County Council's website and hard copies were also made available.

Engagement with the public consultation exercise was limited but did include residents, business owners and district councillors. Of those who actively engaged with the consultation process, some useful discussions and insights were obtained which have helped shape the version of the draft strategy attached to this report (see Appendices A & B).

Some key elements identified by respondents that the strategy should identify include

- Increased recognition of potential impacts of climate change
- Recognition of the requirements of a strategy as several agencies are involved
- The impact of agricultural practices on flood risk and how they can be improved
- Holding of water for controlled release
- Holistic approach to water management
- Wider use of natural flood prevention methods
- Lobbying for a fairer deal for less populated and rural areas.
- Keeping communities better informed

In addition there were comments regarding availability of funding to support delivery of the strategy's objectives, and whether its aspirations would be delivered in a timely manner. It was also suggested that the local community should be more clearly placed at the heart of the strategy.

All revisions and amendments to this post consultation draft are highlighted in red text within both the main strategy document and the Strategic Vision (see Appendices A & B). Some key inclusions from the consultation draft are to be found under the section 'Delivering the Strategy' and include;

- Further recognition of the Historic Environment
- Expanded text to paragraphs covering ecosystem service, strategic thinking on land use planning and asset management
- Expansion of Aim 2
- Development of Strategic Outcomes and Strategic Objectives to support the Aims

It will be incumbent on the Flood Risk & Water Management Partnership to deliver on these aims, although it is encouraging that many of the themes identified by respondents are areas already identified by the partnership in dealing with flood risk and water management issues in the county.

Strategy timeline and next steps

Following the conclusion of the public consultation process and assessment and incorporation of comments into the latest version of the draft strategy, the current proposed timeline leading to adoption of the strategy is as follows;

Flood & Water Management Scrutiny Committee	9 September 2019
Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee	10 September 2019
DLT	12 September 2019
CLT	9 October 2019
Environment & Economy pre-decision scrutiny	26 November 2019
Executive (for approval)	3 December 2019

Further engagement will be undertaken with partners and stakeholders during this same period to seek endorsement of the strategy prior to adoption by the County Council. The current proposed timeline for this is as follows:

Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Group	23 September 2019
Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Strategy Group	1 October 2019
Greater Lincolnshire Leaders & Chief Executives Group	4 October 2019
ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting	Date TBC

As indicated above the local strategy must be consistent with the National Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Management Strategy of which a national review is underway and a public consultation period has recently concluded. Officers from Lincolnshire County Council and other partner authorities in the area continue to engage in the development of the draft national strategy, which has also been analysed to ensure consistency between it and the local strategy.

In light of the above, members of the committee are asked to review the latest version of the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Strategy 2019-2050 and to provide comment and guidance to officers in preparing the strategy for the formal adoption process by the authority.

2. Conclusion

The draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Strategy 2019-2050 is intended to provide the County Council and its partners in the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership with a means of outlining their collective aspirations for flood risk, water management and future water supply resilience, along with additional economic and social benefits that can be achieved for the county.

The strategy will align closely with other key initiatives such as the Local Industrial Strategy, the Strategic Economic Plan and long term planning for infrastructure and housing provision, as well as environmental improvement and sustainability in the long term. Approval and support for this draft by committee and partners is a key element in working towards adoption of the strategy and it is requested that committee continue to support officers and the Flood Risk and Water Partnership in developing the strategy for completion and final approval later in 2019.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

EIA in preparation

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Strategy 2019-2050
Appendix B	Draft Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Strategy 2019-2050 - Strategic Vision

5. Background Papers

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