



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

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 May 2023
Subject:	Lincolnshire Riparian Project update

Summary:

This paper is a cover report for the presentation on the Lincolnshire Riparian that will be delivered at the meeting and consists of 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.

Actions Required:

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- (1) Review and comment on the contents of the cover report and presentation; and,
- (2) Comment on the project and provide feedback to relevant Leading Officers and Portfolio Holders.

1. Background

In response to impacts experienced during recent rainfall events from riparian watercourses, the Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership ("the Partnership") has been, in collaboration with North and North East Lincolnshire Council's, exploring how existing ways of working can be improved, to implement a more robust, co-ordinated, and sustainable approach to reducing the risk of flooding from riparian assets and watercourses.

This report summarises the key points that shall be brought to the Committees attention via presentation on the 15th of May 2023 and should be read in conjunction with Appendix A. This report follows on from a previous update to Committee on the 21st of February 2022.

The author would like to express his thanks to all those that have assisted the project to date and for those that continue to do so.

1.1 Measure development

In assessing potential measures needed, the Partnership sought to make extensive use of local knowledge in identifying what the most effective solutions might be and where these might most effectively be applied. For this reason, a representative sample of parish and town councils, town forums, and wards across Greater Lincolnshire were asked to participate in a questionnaire.

The results of the questionnaire were reviewed in the context of national and regional experience and discussion, leading to the identification of a range of possible measures that could form the basis for how a proportionate countywide, co-ordinated approach to managing flood risk from riparian assets and watercourses could be achieved and more importantly sustained.

These measures were then subject to extensive review by the Partnership, culminating in the development of a short list of 14 measures for which endorsement for the continued exploration and / or implementation of measures was provided by the strategy and management group of the Partnership and Committee.

1.2 Status of measures

In summary:

- 7 of the 14 measures have been implemented,
- 5 of the 14 measures are still being implemented, and
- 2 of the 14 measures are on-hold due to staff turnover and resource implications in partner organisations.

Some key achievements of the project are as follows:

- We have developed a bespoke leaflet and 2 No. films which raise awareness of riparian rights and responsibilities,
- We have undertaken tailored engagement within 3 trial communities, working closely with the respective parish and town councils, and shall continue to work with them moving forward,
- We have developed and implemented a shared enforcement guide,
- We have revised our standing advice to Question 21 of CON enquiries,

It is recommended that members of the committee consider the results of this project in light of statutory duties, other national initiatives (e.g., the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme), and recent flooding events. It is also worth noting that the scope and ambition of certain measures has expanded throughout the lifetime of the project. For instance, measure 4 (strengthening the partnership across Greater Lincolnshire) has recently expanded to include development of in-house training documents and sessions.

Further detail regarding the current status of measures can be found on Lincolnshire County Council's website.

1.3 Lessons identified

Throughout the project various lessons for implementation have been identified. These include:

- the importance of engaging with local communities wherever possible and appropriate,
- the need for national scale collaboration to address concerns such as funding,
- the potential challenge of county scale rollout of such work on existing resources and budgets.

1.4 Proposed next steps

Working within the governance structure of the Partnership, and with external stakeholders, it is proposed that: (a) implementation of on-going and on-hold measures continue, (b) completed measures are, insofar as is reasonably practicable, sustainably integrated into the Floods and Water team of Lincolnshire County Council, and (c) the project team works with elected members to determine how best to continue raising awareness of riparian rights and responsibilities.

With respect to (b), a 'plan of action' for realising this goal has been proposed and will be presented during the committee.

2. Conclusion

Members are requested to review and make comment on the contents of the cover report and presentation and provide feedback to leading officers on the progress of the project and the proposed next steps.

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.

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