

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS**

PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To note and endorse the North Lincolnshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment submission to the Environment Agency.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Flood Regulations came into force in England and Wales on 19 December 2009. This statutory instrument transposed the EU Floods Directive into domestic law, covering the assessment and management of flood risk.
- 2.2 The regulations set deadlines and placed duties on the Environment Agency (EA) and lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) which are county and unitary authorities.
- 2.3 The first stage is for the LLFA's to prepare an assessment that considers general flood risk from local sources of flooding, i.e. surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourses, canals and lakes in their area. The EA must prepare assessment maps and reports for the sea, main rivers and reservoirs.
- 2.4 LLFA's are required to submit their completed preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) to the EA by 22 June 2011. Final reports will be published by the EA before 22 December 2011. A LLFA must review the PFRA prepared by it.
- 2.5 The PFRA aims to identify areas with significant risk of flooding using both local and national significance thresholds. The local significance thresholds are different to national thresholds.
- 2.6 In accordance with national guidance the authority area is divided into 1km grid squares. In North Lincolnshire it has been proposed that the significant local flood risk threshold should comprise all adjacent 1 km square grids which are predicted to have 20 or more people or one critical service at risk of future flooding in each cell.
- 2.7 The figure of 20 is felt to be an appropriate threshold, when tested against actual flood events over recent years in North Lincolnshire. It is also broadly in line with advice from the EA as to threshold levels being proposed by other LLFA's.

- 2.8 National thresholds are defined as 200 people or one critical service at risk in each cell. Clusters of cells covering 3km square with more than 30,000 people at risk are indicated as national indicative flood risk areas.
- 2.9 There are no national flood risk areas identified by assessment of past or future flood risk in North Lincolnshire. The study has identified some 6,700 people at potential risk within the whole of North Lincolnshire based upon national criteria.
- 2.10 The PFRA has identified local flood areas and has prioritised areas by people and critical services.
- 2.11 The management of local flood risk will be taken forward through the development of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Work has commenced on this strategy.
- 2.12 Guidance on the preparation of reports sets out that Overview and Scrutiny Committees are encouraged to carry out a review of the PFRA prior to the submission to the EA. The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel reviewed the North Lincolnshire PFRA on 18 April 2011.
- 2.13 Following further consultation with the Cabinet Member, and in order to meet the deadline, the PFRA has now been submitted to the Environment Agency.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 **Option 1** – The Cabinet Member to formally note and endorse the submitted PFRA.
- 3.2 **Option 2** – To not note and endorse the submitted PFRA.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The council is required to submit a PFRA. Failure to do so would be contrary to the Flood Regulations 2009.
- 4.2 The preferred option is therefore for the Cabinet Member to note and endorse the submitted document.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 There are no immediate resource implications to this report, however, on the basis of the PFRA assessment, under the Flood Regulations, the council will be required to prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps by June 2013 and flood management plans by June 2015.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 – CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 The council needs to ensure that it complies with the Flood Regulations 2009 and has therefore submitted its PFRA by the 22 June 2011 deadline.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 Flood risk management authorities covering North Lincolnshire; the EA, Internal Drainage Boards, Water Companies and British Waterways have been consulted during the data gathering process and were presented with the assessment at the North Lincolnshire Flood Forum on 23 February 2011. Members of the Forum were content with the PFRA.

7.2 The final report was presented to and considered by the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel on 18 April 2011. No amendments were proposed.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member notes and endorses the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment submission to the Environment Agency.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 - No 3042 December 2009
- Preliminary Flood Risk assessments –‘Living Draft guidance for Lead Local Flood Authorities – Environment Agency – May 2010
- Implementation of Flood Risk Regulations 2009 – CLG & DEFRA – March 2010
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Final guidance – Environment Agency – December 2010
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Annexes to the final guidance – Environment Agency December 2010