

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS  
CABINET MEMBER**

**STRATEGIC FLOODING AND RISK MANAGEMENT – UPDATE**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

1.1 To advise the Cabinet Member of the position in relation to:

- Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Funding Bids

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 The council was represented at a meeting of the Humber Joint Group on 21 June 2012. At the meeting, an update was provided on the need to develop a Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy.

2.2 This report also considers a requirement to develop a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and submission of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Funding bids.

2.3 Appendix A attached to the report sets out the latest position in relation to the updates, with particular reference to:

- Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Funding Bids

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 The Cabinet Member agrees the need to develop a Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy and a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

3.2 The Cabinet Member notes the changes to grant funding for flood and coastal erosion.

**4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 It is important that the Cabinet Member is kept aware of key developments relating to the management of flood risk. The council has a clearly defined role in this area.

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

5.1 Changes to the grant funding will have an impact on the contributions the Council will have to find to finance Flood and Coastal Erosion projects.

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

### 6.1 **Statutory**

6.1.1 The council has a statutory responsibility as a Lead Local Flood Authority as defined by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, to undertake responsibilities to manage the flood risk in the North Lincolnshire area.

### 6.2 **Risk**

6.2.1 Recent flooding events have shown the increased risk flooding poses. Flood defence schemes are an important mechanism to mitigate these risks. Understanding the risk and then prioritising measures to mitigate are essential.

6.2 There are no other implications for consideration.

## 7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The council consults with a wide range of organisations in developing the approach to managing flood risks within the area. Participation in the Humber Joint Group forms part of this ongoing dialogue. The outcomes of these discussions have informed the information presented in this paper.

## 8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 The Cabinet Member endorses the positive ongoing work by the council in relation to strategic flooding and risk management.

8.2 The Cabinet Member places on record his appreciation of the work undertaken by council officers, supported by elected members in responding to localised cases of flooding experienced across North Lincolnshire during the weeks commencing 2 and 9 July 2012.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

- EA Meeting Papers 21.06.12

## **Appendix A**

### **Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy**

The Group has been established with representatives from the Anglian Northern, Trent and Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC), the lead local flood authorities adjoining the Humber and the Environment Agency (EA). Discussion at the meeting suggested additional representation from the water companies and the business sector.

The principal aim of the group is to guide and support the RFCCs in delivering the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. The group will contribute to the determination and agreement of programmes of work. It will oversee related funding requirements. National funding policy means that future flood defence improvements through Flood Defence Grant in Aid will require local contributions through local partnerships.

The current Humber Strategy requires updating to take account of the recent Flood and Water Management Act. The updated strategy will need to be taken forward by a local partnership. The overall shape of the strategy should be known by early 2013. We will need to adopt the reviewed strategy.

An officer group has established guiding principles. A representative of the Spatial Planning team attends this group on behalf of North Lincolnshire Council. When the plan is revised it will identify both improvement schemes and maintain standards of protection. To make the best use of public and private money and make the case for improvement works, frontage lengths or estuary sectors will need to be packaged together.

It is unlikely that any of the Humber defences will fall into the 'inappropriate to maintain' category. The cost of improvement works is estimated at £350m over 20 years. The partnership-funding element required could be 30%. Overall the benefit/cost of the Humber strategy is of the order of 20 to 1.

The EA will determine the costs, benefits and contributions that support improvement projects in high priority locations. The EA intends to discuss with local authorities how funding can be secured at the Local Authority Elected Member Forum on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012. We have suggested a local briefing on the strategy update so that we have an understanding of the implications.

### **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

At a local level we are required under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in North Lincolnshire.

Local flood risk means flood risk from surface water runoff, groundwater and watercourses but not main river or reservoirs. We must consult with our flood risk partners. These are the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards and Water Companies. A first draft of the strategy has been provided to flood risk management partners for feedback and their input.

The draft strategy draws heavily on the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment submitted to the Environment Agency in June 2010. It develops a greater

understanding of the flood risk for the 25 ranked areas. These are based on potential risk to people and critical infrastructure. For each area, the flooding mechanism is outlined using judgement to develop and estimate costs of potential flood reduction measures.

The strategy is a 'live' document. The process is iterative. As new information comes forward, some areas not currently identified might be added and some might be removed. On completion of a final draft, we will submit a report for formal approval. Following this will be a formal consultation with partners and the public. We will publish a summary of the strategy on completion of the consultation.

### **Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Funding Bids**

We have an opportunity each year to bid for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) funds for flood defence projects administered by the Environment Agency (EA). EA request bids for flood defence projects, which meet Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) criteria.

We have submitted a draft medium term plan funding bid for 2013/14 onwards for a number of projects for flood defence works across North Lincolnshire. Bids were submitted to meet the EA bid deadline.

DEFRA has introduced a new approach to the funding of FCERM capital projects. From this year, grant-funding levels will relate directly to the benefits delivered by the scheme. Funding will be on offer to all projects. But nationally very few projects are likely to attract 100% funding. We will need funding for shortfalls from alternative sources.

We have found that the level of FDGiA funding for some projects might be modest and not offset the costs of preparation of bids and assessment reports required by the process. We consider that the projects submitted have a reasonable chance of success as they achieve a net funding benefit. We will not know the outcome of the bid process until November.

A successful bid allocates indicative funding and gives us an opportunity to submit a detailed bid appraisal report. We then present the report to the EA project appraisal board for decision. The Cabinet Member will need to consider the outcome of bids and additional funding needs and whether to take those projects forward.

The Highways Team to ensure any project that requires council funding has been considered by the council through its budget planning process (February 2013).