



**OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 28 March 2023**

**Subject: Managing Flood Risk in West Lindsey – twice yearly report**

Report by:	Director of Commercial & Operational Services
Contact Officer:	Ady Selby Director - Operational & Commercial Services  ady.selby@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To update Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work undertaken by the Officer Flood and Drainage Working Party and the Member Flood and Drainage Working Group

**RECOMMENDATION(S): Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcome the work of the Member Flood and Drainage Working Group and Officer Flood and Drainage Working Party.**

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal:** The report acknowledges the Council is fulfilling its statutory duties. The reported work should enable improvement in the identification and discharging of these duties, in collaboration with partners.

### **Financial : FIN/169/23/SSc**

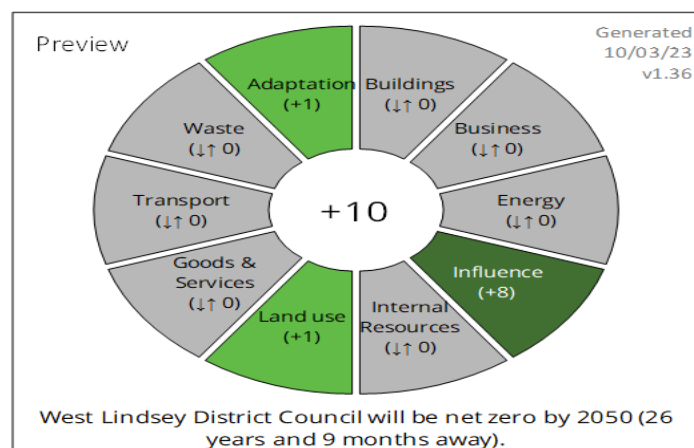
No financial implications arising from this report.

**Staffing :** None

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :** The impacts of the Flood Groups are likely to be positive. All residents in flood risk prone areas, including the vulnerable, will benefit from improved knowledge about flood risk, efforts to involve communities in the process of identifying flood risk solutions and closer working between services and communities. The Groups help to ensure that those with protected characteristics are more fully considered during flood risk management.

**Data Protection Implications :** All data used in this area will be treated using the Council's established Data Protection Policy and procedures.

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:** It is well documented that future climate changes will increase flood risk in future years. Making preparations now, to pro-actively and strategically work with internal and external partners will better prepare the District for future events. Whilst the implementation of the Flood and Drainage Working Group will have limited immediate direct impact, its potential to communicate with and influence partners and communities will help increase resilience and mitigate the risk posed from future flooding.



**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:** None

**Health Implications:** There is strong evidence that stress levels and mental health are impacted by flooding issues and the perception of flooding issues. Ongoing work with partners to resolve flooding issues and risk could have a positive impact on resident's mental wellbeing.

**Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :**

**Risk Assessment :** Failure to co-ordinate work in this area, both internally and with external partners, could result in increased impact from future flooding events. There is also a risk to the Council's reputation if it fails to demonstrate a pro-active approach in this work area.

**Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

**Yes**

☐

**No**

**x**

**Key Decision:**

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

**Yes**

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**No**

**x**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 On 19 July 2022, Prosperous Communities Committee received a report regarding the increasing risk of flooding in West Lindsey. Having considered the report, Members resolved;
1. That Members approve the establishment of an Officer Flooding and Drainage Working Party
  2. That Members approve the establishment of a Member Flood and Drainage Working Group, the membership of which to be delegated to the Director of Commercial and Operational Services in consultation with the Chair of Prosperous Communities and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
  3. Oversight of the work of the Member Flooding and Drainage Working Group and Officer Flooding and Drainage Working Party to be delegated to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Prosperous Communities Committee will remain the parent Committee and will be responsible for any decisions recommended by Overview and Scrutiny Committee, approval of changes to Terms of Reference and membership of the Member Working Group.
  4. That Members approve Terms of Reference for both forums.
- 1.2 The purpose of these resolutions was to co-ordinate the work being undertaken in various areas of the Council by both officers and Members into synergised forums.
- 1.3 It was envisaged that this approach would enable officers and Members to be better informed when representing the Council on various flood and drainage boards.
- 1.4 It was also proposed this new approach would enable the Council to forge closer relationships with, and hence influence, other Flood Risk Management Authorities.

## **2. Officer and Member Working Groups**

- 2.1 An Officer Working Party has been established and consists of the following officers;
- Director of Commercial and Operational Services (Chair and Lead on Emergency Planning)
  - Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities (Representative of vulnerable communities)
  - Housing and Environmental Enforcement Manager (Vice-Chair and Enforcement Lead)
  - Development Management Team Manager (Planning Lead)
  - Communications Manager (Comms Lead)

- Head of Policy and Strategy (Input from Central Lincs Local Plan and Humber 2100 Strategy work)
- Policy and Strategy Officer (Input from the Environment Plan)
- Street Cleansing and Markets Team Manager (Operational issues)

2.2 A Member Working Party has also been established and consists of the following people;

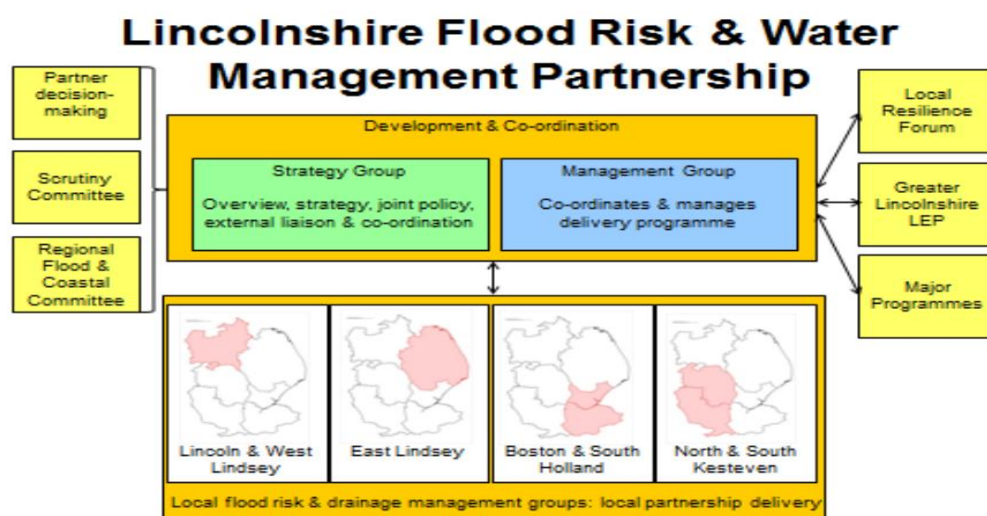
- Cllr Patterson as Chair (Vice Chair of O+S)
- Cllr Fleetwood as Vice Chair (Lincolnshire Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee + Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Level Management Board + Witham Third IDB)
- Cllr Rollings (Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Level Management Board)
- Cllr Morris (Newly appointed to Upper Witham IDB and Witham Third IDB)
- Cllr Grimble (Witham Third IDB)
- Cllr Summers (Ancholme IDB)
- Ady Selby and Andy Gray (as Chair and Vice Chair of the Officer Group)
- Cllr Waller as a reserve Member.

2.4 Both groups have agreed and signed off Terms of Reference. To date the Officer Working Party has met twice and the Member Working Group has also met twice.

### 3. Boards and other Flood and Drainage Forums

3.1 Members and Officers continue to represent the Council in various forums as part of Lincolnshire's Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership as demonstrated in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership



3.2 Members also represent the Council on relevant Internal Drainage Boards.

#### **4. Update on Flood and Drainage Group work**

4.1 The Director of Commercial and Operational Services meets with the Lead Local Flood Authority and Highways representatives on a six weekly basis to review the current situation regarding those properties which have suffered internal flooding or had a near miss.

4.2 These properties are currently being marked on the Council's mapping system, Earthlight, in order to demonstrate to Members a situation report for each one.

4.3 At the current time there are;

- 16 properties or areas of concern where work is ongoing with partners to minimise future risk
- 6 completed Section 19 investigations with actions for the Risk Management Authorities
- 13 closed items where either partners have worked to find a resolution or no further progress is possible.

4.4 The Member Working Group has received updates on the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan; considering flood and drainage risks is a key consideration in the Plan development. The Plan is due to be formally approved in April 2023.

4.5 Officers have also been working with the Environment Agency on collating base data which will be used in scenario planning for the Humber 2100 Strategy. Once the base data is confirmed, the Member Group will be given a presentation on the future risks and challenges emerging from the strategy development.

4.6 From an operational perspective, flood events did occur during Autumn 2022 with properties in Market Rasen, Middle Rasen and Nettleham suffering internal flooding. These are now subject to Section 19 investigations, whilst these are carried out a level of pro-active work is being undertaken to reduce the risk of further flooding before formal investigation recommendations are proposed.

4.7 One longstanding issue is the lack of sign off of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Lincolnshire Districts and the Lead Local Flood Authority regarding the immediate operational support offered to residents in the event of flooding. A meeting between Districts and LLFA is scheduled for March to resolve this issue, however Members may wish to invite LCC's Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning, Cllr Davie or a suitable officer to discuss this and other relevant matters further.

4.8 Officers worked with the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum to participate in a national emergency flooding exercise called Floodex, which took place in November 2022. The scenario in Lincolnshire included a significant coastal

tidal surge with subsequent issues in West Lindsey. The exercise tested the Council's internal emergency planning and business continuity arrangements and the LRF was recognised on the national stage as a lead performer.

## **5. Summary**

- 5.1 The Officer and Member Working Groups were established in order to improve communication across previously isolated work areas. To date, this is starting to be achieved with strong links being forged between strategic and operational functions.
- 5.2 Further data input into the Councils mapping system will help inform and present current issues and trend analysis.
- 5.3 Stronger links are being established with other Flood Risk Management Authorities, increasing Member and Officer knowledge of the current situation and future risks will help Council representatives influence these partners.
- 5.4 A further report is due to be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Autumn 2023.