

* LCC Motion adopted by LCC on Friday December 1st 2023

Across Lincolnshire we have recently seen the highest level of rainfall ever recorded in many areas. I want to pay tribute to all of those who were involved in dealing with floods, both agencies and community groups who all did their very best to keep our communities safe.

However, given the impact of climate change, the frequency and level of impact of weather-related incidents is increasing, we must ensure that the statutory response meets the increased level of threat.

It is vital that going forward sufficient funding is allocated by government to mitigate the impact of weather-related incidents, that a fully co-ordinated response is provided by all agencies, and that local residents have a single point of contact to turn to in order to promote support to keep them safe. Local response networks must be given the resources and leadership to ensure that our communities feel confident that occurrences such as we recently witnessed will be better prevented and mitigated.

Accordingly, this council:

1. Pays tributes to all those who were involved in dealing with the floods, both agencies and community voluntary groups, who all did their very best to keep our communities safe.
2. Welcomes the proposals of Greater Lincolnshire Development Devolution to strengthen local arrangements through a new enhanced water partnership for flood resilience, adaptations and management of the water system; and
3. Call on the leader of the Council to write to the Government requesting:
 - a) Further funding to local agencies to ensure an effective, properly co-ordinated and accountable response to weather-related emergencies;
 - b) Further funding to local agencies for maintenance of flood and water management assets;
 - c) Recognition of the recent National Audit Office evidence, which highlights that the cost benefit of maintenance stands at 11:1;
 - d) That they address the unfair impact on District Councils within Lincolnshire of the increased drainage levies within the Spring Budget Process 2024; and
 - e) The nationally led, and mostly nationally funded, Environment Agency has the resources it requires to maintain its river system and make improvements where necessary to ensure systems remain climate resilient.