

**Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage  
Management Partnership Framework**



**Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and  
Drainage Management Strategy  
2012-2025**

**Part 1 of 3**

**Strategic Vision**

## **Introduction**

In 2007 Lincolnshire, along with other parts of the UK, experienced unusually heavy rainfall. This led to serious flooding in numerous locations across the country, including in Lincolnshire. These events prompted the Government to commission a review of the way flooding is managed in England and Wales. The results of this review were published in a report in June 2008, called '[Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods](#)'.

The report called for urgent and fundamental changes in the way we manage the risk of flooding. Its recommendations were [accepted in full](#) by the Government in 2008, and led to a new Act of Parliament, the [Flood and Water Management Act](#) (2010). Together with the [Flood Risk Regulations 2009](#), this establishes a new national approach to managing the risk of flooding.

## **The Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership**

Lincolnshire already possessed great expertise in managing drainage and many aspects of flood risk. Before the legislation was published, authorities responsible for managing flood risk and drainage in Lincolnshire agreed to form a partnership to work more closely together, and to make existing resources go further. In this way, although it will never be possible to prevent all flooding, Lincolnshire's flood risk management authorities aims to provide more local communities with improved protection from flood risk, while helping local people to be better prepared for flooding if it happens.

The partnership was formally established in April 2010. Its members are:

- Lincolnshire County Council
- The Environment Agency
- The 14 Internal Drainage Boards operating in Lincolnshire
- The 7 District Councils in Lincolnshire
- The two Water and Sewerage Companies operating in Lincolnshire
- Natural England
- The Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
- The Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (authorities responsible for planning for and responding to emergencies of all kinds)

## **A Joint Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy for Lincolnshire**

Lincolnshire County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority for the county, is required by the new legislation to work with other Risk Management Authorities to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which must be consistent with the Environment Agency's national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.

In Lincolnshire we see this as an opportunity to continue improving the way we work together so that we can provide a shared vision for how flood risk and drainage should be managed in the future. The result is this Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy.

## **Our vision: how flood risk and drainage will be managed by 2025**

The overall aim of the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership can be summed up very simply:

We will work with our communities to manage the likelihood and impact of flooding for the social, economic and environmental benefit of Lincolnshire. We will support local people and businesses to take part in managing the risks that affect them. Lincolnshire will continue to be a national exemplar for effective partnership working in flood risk and drainage management.

### **What will be in place when this vision is achieved?**

The partnership will achieve a number of objectives to make this vision reality.

- 1 There will be a common works programme of measures to manage flood risk and drainage by 2013.
- 2 Existing resources will be used in the most efficient way possible. We will attract as much external funding as possible, and will secure new resources locally and nationally.
- 3 The likelihood and impact of flooding from all sources will be reduced where possible from current levels by 2025. This includes accounting for increases in the risk of flooding caused by climate change.
- 4 Emergency planning and response arrangements managed by the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum will form part of a single, co-ordinated approach to managing flood risk and drainage as a whole.
- 5 The Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership will work with local communities to develop flood risk and drainage management services that meet local needs.
- 6 Local communities and businesses will be more aware of flood risk, and with the help of public authorities, will take steps to protect themselves through individual and community action.
- 7 Planning and development control across the county will take account of all forms of flood risk and sustainable drainage; development which could increase flood risk will be minimised, as will inappropriate development in areas of significant flood risk.
- 8 Flood risk and drainage management will be more accountable to the public through the local democratic process, and through more freely available information about flood risk and measures taken to control it.
- 9 Flood risk, drainage management and future development will contribute to better water quality, wider environmental benefits and sustainable growth.

## **How will these objectives be achieved?**

In order to meet these long-term objectives, the partnership will need to achieve a range of more immediate measures. The most important of these are:

- Information about the way flood risk assets are managed will be more accessible from the end of 2012 through the online Lincolnshire flood risk asset register.
- Lincolnshire will have more information and better ways of assessing flood risk from all sources after 2013, which will guide sustainable development and improve the way that priorities for works, other measures and further investigation are decided.
- The Lincolnshire Common Works Programme will commence in 2013. It will be a three-year, published programme of joint works by all partner organisations across the county, continuously reviewed and updated.
- From 2013-14, public authorities will co-ordinate resources to increase efficiency, and increase the amount of funding available to be used for flood risk and drainage management.
- The partnership will work together towards sustainable growth in the county, influencing planning and development control policy, as well as individual development proposals.
- The County Council will be established as the sustainable drainage approving body during 2014, working with the local development industry, local planning authorities and water and sewerage companies.
- Partnership activities will be overseen by elected members on behalf of the public.
- A partnership communications and engagement strategy will be established in 2013 to ensure open, honest and consistent dialogue is maintained with communities and businesses.
- We will work with the insurance industry to improve their understanding of flood risk and to provide local people with an improved picture of local flood risk to present to their insurers.
- Assessment of flood risk will be reviewed and updated in 2016.
- This Strategy will be reviewed in 2017 to ensure it remains current and guides all flood risk management initiatives.
- Agreed objectives for managing the coast up to 2025 will be implemented as set out in the new [Shoreline Management Plans](#) for Flamborough Head to Gibraltar Point and for the Wash.

## **Increased flood risk due to climate change**

Climate change poses a major challenge in managing flood risk and drainage in Lincolnshire. Increases in global temperatures and changing weather patterns indicate that climate change will cause more extreme weather events. The [UK Climate Projections](#), published in June 2009, predict how these changes will affect us. These challenges will be taken into account in our future flood risk and drainage management measures and activities.

## **Improving delivery by working together and involving local people**

The Lincolnshire partnership will drive changes in the way that existing resources are allocated. Through the common works programme we will seek to achieve more by improving the way we prioritise maintenance and new works, and we will ensure that works and other measures are undertaken by the organisation best placed to deliver the best results.

It is important that in managing flood risk and land drainage we co-operate with neighbouring areas to manage water systems that cross administrative boundaries. For Lincolnshire, this means working closely with Nottinghamshire County Council along the River Trent, and on the south bank of the Humber with North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils, where rivers such as the Ancholme cross administrative boundaries, and where we share interests in effective coastal management.

In the south, we need to work closely with Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk, to develop a consistent management approach to the Fens. The Fens cover a very large area, much of which is defended from saltwater flooding by Lincolnshire's and Norfolk's extensive system of coastal defences. Behind these defences a vast, interconnected pumped drainage system maintains some of the best agricultural land in Europe, and its management should be consistent across the whole Fenland area.

The best approaches to flood risk management involve local people in understanding all forms of flood risk, deciding on any measures that may be appropriate, and putting these in place. However, it is equally important that people have the knowledge and support to take their own precautions, making their own properties less likely to flood and, if flooding does happen, less difficult and expensive to repair.

The partnership will establish and maintain regular and consistent dialogue with local people who have been, or may be affected by flooding or by activities to address flood risk. We will use communication methods that work best for the audience. The role of existing community groups, parish and town councils and elected members will be very important in achieving this combination of increasing community awareness and understanding of flood risk, involving people in making decisions about how flood risk and drainage is managed in their area, and building up the ability of communities to help themselves and support emergency responders.

## **Protecting the environment**

All risk management authorities are required to undertake their duties in a way that not only protects the environment, but also seeks to improve it wherever possible. We are currently reviewing where potential environmental improvements could be made, and are working with the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership to ensure that projects designed to manage flooding also contribute to environmental improvement. A [Strategic Environmental Assessment](#) has been carried out to ensure that this Strategy is consistent with the principles of good environmental management.

## **Monitoring progress**

Successful delivery of the Strategy will be managed by the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Partnership, and progress will be reviewed in public on a six-monthly basis by the Joint Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Committee.

The works programme will be reviewed annually, and the Strategy as a whole will be subject to a five-yearly review process, including full public involvement, to ensure it is kept up-to-date, takes account of objectives achieved, and continues to maintain a focused forward programme at strategic and operational levels.

## **Find out more**

This Strategy is available online at

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/flood-risk-management/implementing-a-strategy-to-manage-flood-risk-countywide-and-locally/103045.article?tab=downloads>

Hard copies are available on request. Postal enquiries should be sent to:

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