

Suffolk Flood Risk Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 10 June 2016

Information Bulletin

The Information Bulletin is a document that is made available to the public with the published agenda papers. It can include update information requested by the Committee as well as information that a service considers should be made known to the Committee.

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1. Governance of Lowestoft Flood Management Strategy

CONFIRMED BY LOWESTOFT TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD ON
18 JANUARY 2016

Background

The development work on the flood (tidal, pluvial and fluvial flooding) management strategy is now well underway and is currently being reported to and incorporated within the work of the Lowestoft Transport Infrastructure Plan chaired by Peter Aldous MP.

This work has been undertaken as a partnership between many parties including (but not limited to) Suffolk County Council, Anglian Water, Environment Agency, Broads Authority, ABP, the Lowestoft Chamber of Commerce, New Anglia LEP and Waveney District Council.

This partnership is developing the overall strategy and we now anticipate that we will be moving to the delivery phase from 2017 onwards.

The Environment Agency approval process has now been changed (in line with HM Treasury guidance) to the 'five business case model' and Lowestoft will be one of the first major schemes to go through this process.

Whilst the new approval process is still through the Large Project Review Group at the Environment Agency and whilst the final delivery date for the tidal barrier remain

the same of 2019/20, our latest estimate of time scales for the various stages are now as follows:

Strategic outline case approval – autumn 2016

This will enable us to access Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding to initiate works on the ground for works that do not impact on navigation (i.e. fluvial and pluvial works)

Outline business case approval – end 2016

This will need Waveney District Council (WDC) Cabinet approval

Once approval by both WDC Cabinet and the Large Project Review Group has been obtained, outline business case approval will enable the Transport Works Act Order to be initiated, which is required due to the potential impact on navigation.

Final business case – 2018

Once the Transport Works Act Order is approved (anticipated to be a two year process) and final details have been completed, the business case can be completed and approved.

Until now the level of expenditure on this work is relatively small but with the total anticipated expenditure of approximately £25m for the entire project, this new phase requires more detailed and extensive oversight than is possible through the Lowestoft Transport Infrastructure Plan alone.

Waveney District Council has responsibility for the Lowestoft frontage, as identified in 1949 Coast Protection Act. Since the significant majority of the anticipated costs will be on the coastal flood defence measures, WDC will be taking the lead on procurement of the construction works. Having undertaken a review of the options with the Environment Agency the decision taken by WDC Cabinet will be to utilise the SCAPE+ (Soft Cliff and Platform Erosion) framework for the delivery of works. This is supported by Suffolk County Council (SCC).

Sharon Bleese, East Suffolk Council, has been appointed as Project Manager.

Updated Governance Structure:

To support this, the following new governance structure for this project was put in place with effect from 1 February 2016:

Lowestoft Flood Project Board (new)

The purpose of this Board is to ensure delivery of the entire project, including tidal, pluvial and fluvial zones. The make-up of this Board reflects the range of funders and those directly making a contribution and/or impacted (e.g. Associated British Ports)

It comprises:-

- Chairman: Cllr David Ritchie (SCC/WDC and Chairman of the Suffolk Coast Forum)
- Waveney District Council: Cllrs Colin Law and Bruce Provan and key officers*

- Suffolk County Council: Cllrs Matthew Hicks and Guy McGregor and key officers*
- Environment Agency : Graham Verrier
- Anglian Water Services: Mike Cook
- New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership: Lisa Chambers
- Associated British Ports: Paul Brooks

**Note: Local Authority officers would not be voting members but will be Assistant Director level or similar.*

This Board will report its decisions to Lowestoft Transport Infrastructure Plan (LTIP) and continue to work closely with the wider work of the LTIP Board.

Suffolk County Council will provide the Secretariat to the Board.

Lowestoft Flood Project Steering Group (revised strategic group)

The Steering Group, chaired by Jane Burch, has a wider membership than the Project Board and is designed to help ensure that those delivering are well advised (note this isn't a decision group).

Task and finish groups

The Steering Group may create revised technical groups, maintenance and operation group, communications, etc to complete specific tasks as and when required.

Waveney District Council will provide the Secretariat to these groups.

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2. Suffolk Flood and Coastal News

The latest information about the collective activities that are taking place to manage flood and coastal risks in Suffolk can be found in the May 2016 edition of Suffolk Flood and Coastal News, which can be accessed from the Green Suffolk website via the following link: <http://www.greensuffolk.org/flooding/> (download pdf document from the left hand column of the web page).

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3. Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy

The revised Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy was adopted by Suffolk County Council's Cabinet on 22 March 2016. Key changes concerning drainage, surface water risk and watercourse/flood investigation have been reflected in the new document, which came into force with immediate effect.

The most important area of the strategy that has been strengthened is how Suffolk ensures that new housing and commercial development does not increase flood risk, focussing on using sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) wherever possible. The document lays down clear guidelines for local agencies, planning authorities and developers to work together. The primary principle is that wherever possible, developers should be putting in above-ground SuDS to deliver flood management, management of water quality and amenity and environmental enhancements. It also

specifies that long-term maintenance processes for drainage systems should be put in place.

A strategy was first adopted in February 2013 and is a statutory requirement under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It influences the flood management activities of all local partner organisations; the Environment Agency, planning authorities, drainage boards, Anglian Water and the county council. It also explains how other community partners can play their part in assisting these agencies to reduce the risk and impact of flooding.

The updated strategy reflects clearer understanding of surface water flood risk; policies to reduce the number of structures (such as culverts and pipes) in watercourses and a better explanation of how we investigate and manage flooding incidents.

There is an accompanying action plan, which is delivered and monitored by the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership. The Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy document is available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/flooding.

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4. The Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership

The Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership met on 21 April 2016. The notes of the meeting can accessed via the following link:

<http://www.greensuffolk.org/about/SFRMP/> (download pdf document from the left hand column of the web page).

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5. Maintenance of SuDS

Maintenance plans for SuDS in new development will normally be a planning requirement. Plans should include schedules which specify when maintenance is due. Owners / maintainers of SUDS should keep records of these actions and when they are undertaken.

Suffolk County Council will request that planning authorities apply planning conditions which prevent construction until the County Council has received and approved a completed electronic copy of an asset register template. This will contain information such as location, ownership and maintenance agreement details of surface water drainage including SuDS basins, swales, soakaways, pipes carrying surface water or ground water and exceedance paths.

Suffolk County Council will add these SuDS records to its asset register in order to assist with its duty to investigate and report any future flooding instances. If necessary, maintenance records / plans will be investigated and enforcement action by the planning authority may be requested if lack of maintenance is a likely cause of flooding.

The County Council has a preference that a Risk Management Authority (local authority, water company, internal drainage board, the Environment Agency) is always the preferred option for taking long term responsibility for maintenance. However, there is no national guidance or regulation to require this and developers can choose to employ private management companies to fulfil this role.

For further information please contact: Matt Hullis, Head of Environment Strategy, Suffolk County Council, Tel: 01473 264446, Email: matt.hullis@suffolk.gov.uk

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6. Flood and Coastal Erosion Resilience Partnership Funding

“Flood and Coastal Erosion Resilience Partnership Funding”, better known as “Partnership Funding” is a current government policy which delivers an approach to funding that requires the project costs to be shared between national and local funding sources. Government funding is only available for projects for which the qualifying benefits outweigh the costs.

The overall objectives of partnership funding arrangements are to better protect more communities and to deliver more benefits by:

- encouraging total investment to increase beyond levels affordable to Government alone enabling more local choice,
- encouraging innovative, cost-effective options to come forward in which civil society may play a greater role, and
- increasing levels of certainty and transparency over the national funding for individual projects, whilst prioritising action for those most at risk and least able to protect or insure themselves.

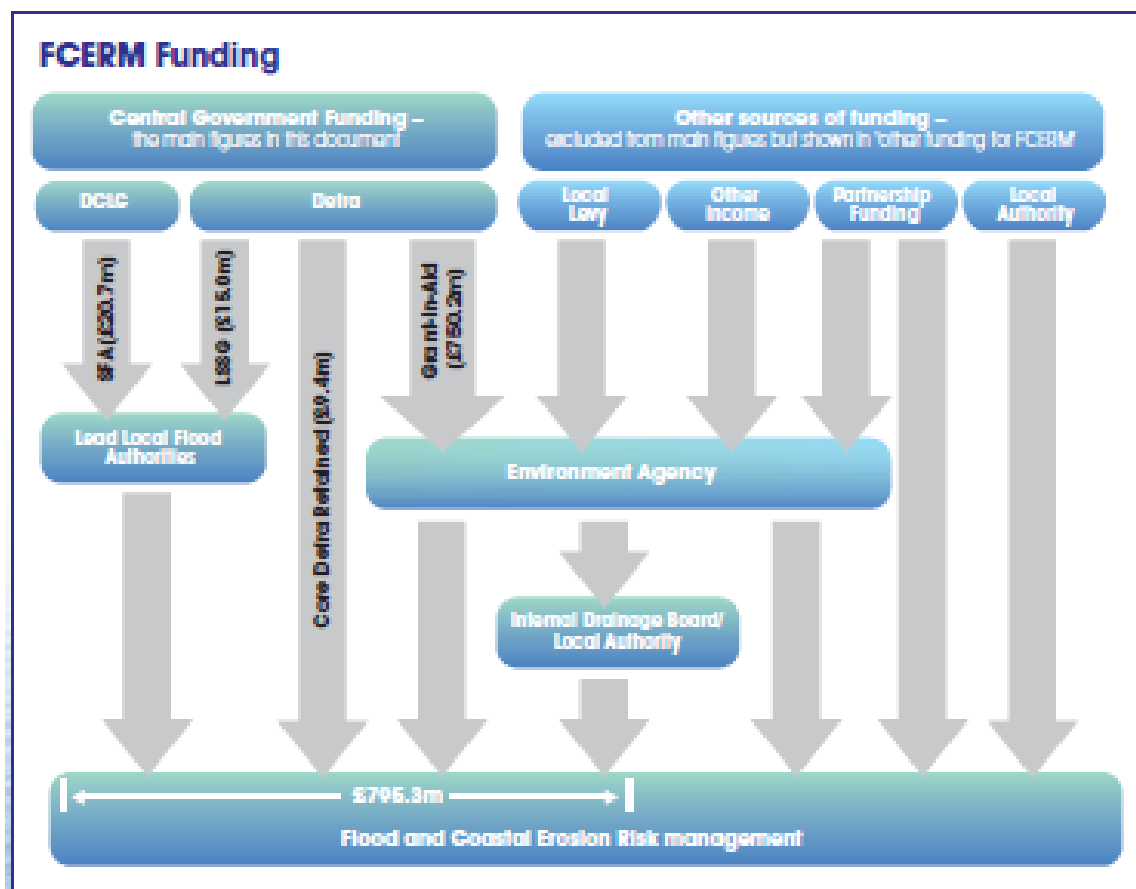
The partnership funding arrangement means that the maximum amount of Flood and Erosion Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid (GiA) available to any project can be calculated based on the outcomes it is expected to achieve, expressed as a Partnership Funding Score. This represents the percentage of project costs that has been secured and hence the size of any funding gap. Once other sources of funding are added, a project will require a score of 100% or more in order to be considered for funding.

Partnership funding means that organisations and communities that have a financial stake in managing risk, and remain involved throughout the life of their investment, have an incentive to manage project costs throughout the project life cycle. Partnership funding can help to deliver innovative approaches to managing flood and coastal erosion risks. It also encourages efficiencies and reduction in costs, and promotes solutions that bring together the different aims of partners and potential investors. In turn this can deliver benefits wider than those related to flooding or coastal erosion alone.

Flood and coastal erosion risk management grants are administered through the Environment Agency. The allocation of available funds is managed through the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC). It is important to note that there are always more schemes proposed than funding available and the RFCCs play a role in agreeing priorities and can allocate extra funding from the local levy to support specific schemes.

A significant concern with this model is that the way flood risk reduction is calculated (and therefore how much funding is available), is governed by strict national rules that focus almost entirely on the number of homes protected. Whilst this is obviously a core objective, there is a preference locally to lobby for consideration to be given to wider objectives such as the protection of existing or potential commercial development as well as farmland.

Diagram of FCERM funding. (The figures in this diagram are the 2014/15 budget allocations).



For further information please contact: Matt Hullis, Head of Environment Strategy, Suffolk County Council, Tel: 01473 264446, Email: matt.hullis@suffolk.gov.uk

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7. National Flood Forum Bulletin

The National Flood Forum is a national charity dedicated to supporting and representing communities and individuals at risk of flooding. It does this by:

1. Helping people to prepare for flooding in order to prevent it or mitigate its impacts
2. Helping people to recover their lives once they have been flooded
3. Campaigning on behalf of flood risk communities and working with government and agencies to ensure that they develop a community perspective.

The Forum produces a monthly bulletin; the April 2016 edition can be found at:

<http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/April-Bulletin.pdf>

This edition looks at the new Flood Re insurance scheme with an introduction from Flood Re CEO, Brendan McCafferty and a consideration of the practical issues associated with flood insurance cover for houses. It also considers the problems faced by small businesses in finding affordable insurance, which was recently raised at Prime Ministers Questions and is an issue that was highlighted in the initial findings of the Calderdale Flood Commission.

In addition the bulletin features the progress made by three Flood Action Groups and considers the meaning of Integrated Flood Management.

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8. Use of the On-street Parking Account Surplus for drainage improvements

At its meeting on 17 February 2015, the Committee considered the use of the On-street Parking Account Surplus for drainage improvements and agreed to request an update report on at a future meeting. This information is provided in the table below:

Scheme	OSPA funding	Current Status	Actual or estimated completion date
Central Area			
B1115 East Street Sudbury	£3,000	Investigation complete. Total cost £10647	05/02/2016
U8703Queens Street & Clarence Road, Sudbury	£3,000	Investigation complete. Total Cost £2227	12/04/2016
U8223 Cordell Road, Long Melford	£5,000	Awaiting resolution of private drainage issue downstream*	31-Mar-17
U4219 Orvis Road, East Bergholt	£4,000	Underway	30-Sep-16
B1115 Waldingfield Road, Chilton	£2,000	Investigation complete. CCTV done as a reactive order following blockage	22/07/2014
A131 Newton Road /Croft, Sudbury	£5,000	To do	31-Mar-17
George Lane, Long Melford	£3,000	Awaiting resolution of private drainage issue downstream*	31-Mar-17
A1092 High Street, Long Melford	£4,000	To do	31-Mar-17
U5943 Ashfield Road, Norton	£5,000	Complete	18-Mar-16
B1078 Coddenham Road, Needham Market	£5,000	Complete	28-Jan-16
C446 Lower Road, Coddenham	£3,000	Underway	31-Mar-17
C455 Sandy Lane, Barham	£13,000	Underway	31-Mar-17

A1120 Cedars Link, Stowmarket	£15,000	Complete	19-Oct-15
A1088 Woolpit Road, Elmswell	£18,000	To do	31-Mar-17
		* The private system downstream of these two areas is partially blocked. There are concerns that repairs at George Street and Cordell Road could exacerbate this issue. Discussions are ongoing with the Floods Team to resolve the issues with the private system.	
Ipswich Area			
Cliff Lane/Holywells Park Canal: <i>scheme to negate overflowing of adjacent riparian owned waterway to negate against severe significant flooding to adjacent industrial units. Construction costs.</i>	£62,000	Under protracted consultation with Anglian Water to agree solution	Unknown at this stage.
Holywells Road - Carriageway Ponding: <i>Scheme to negate previous flooding issues which closed the road. Construction Costs.</i>	£15,000	Completion of investigations and progressing of works ordering	31/12/2016
Valley Road – Diversion of natural Spring: <i>Scheme to redirect spring water flowing onto adjacent footway. Construction costs.</i>	£22,500	Temporary works completed to resolve initial flooding, design being commissioned.	31/12/2016
Defoe Road – Zebra Crossing Drainage: <i>Scheme to minimise local flooding following installation of zebra crossings. Construction costs.</i>	£17,500	Scheme on hold awaiting final costs from higher priority schemes above.	31/03/2017
West Area			
B1112 High Street, Lakenheath - Construct new surface water system	£21,000	Complete	19/02/2016
C648 The Street, Gt Livermere - Construct new gullies and soakaways	£8,000	Complete	06/11/2015

B1107 Thetford Road, Brandon (pre-match funded by Local Highway Budget) Construct new gullies + soakaway	£10,000	Complete	27/04/2015
C643 Bardwell Road, Sapiston - Construct new drainage system with kerbing etc.	£13,000	Complete	15/08/2015
B1103 Oxford St/Swan Lane, Exning - Provide new system and link with existing.	£18,000	Currently being designed	Summer 2016
U6123 Norwood Road, Brandon - Construct new drainage system.	£22,000	Complete	20/04/2016
A142 Fordham Road, Newmarket Construct new drainage system and outfall to new soakaways.	£10,000	Currently on-site	27/05/2016
U6041 Holborn Avenue, Mildenhall Construct new drainage system.	£26,000	Currently being designed	Summer 2016
U8057 Canterbury Green, Bury St Edmunds Construct new drainage system.	£50,000	Complete	19/04/2016
B1066 Brockley Construct new drainage system.	£50,000	Currently being designed	Summer 2016
East Area			
A12 Lowestoft East Coast Cinema - replace damaged highway drain causing structural damage to cinema	£68,339	Completed	
A1214 Kesgrave Bell Lane Junction - Large soakaways - To alleviate flooding of key junction	£83,000	Completed	
C331 Rushmere St Andrew – The Street – new drainage to alleviate road flooding and damage to property	£35,213	Completed	
U3630 Nelson Way additional soakaways to alleviate flooding up to property walls	£37,000	Completed	

For further information please contact: Alan Thorndyke, Head of Highway Network Management, Suffolk County Council, Tel: 01473 264955, Email: alan.thorndyke@suffolk.gov.uk

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