

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

FLOOD LIAISON GROUP

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2009

PRESENT: Council Representatives

Councillor J Owen (in the Chair) - Deputy Leader of ERYC
Nigel Pearson - Chief Executive
Pete Ashcroft - Head of Planning and Development Management
Kristan Livingston - Head of Asset Strategy
Dave Waudby - Head of Infrastructure and Facilities
Mike Ball - Principal Engineer
Andrew McLachlan - Assistant Principal Engineer
Gareth Naidoo - Committee Manager

Environment Agency Representative

Helen Todd

Also in attendance: Cllr Mary-Rose Hardy - Anlaby & Anlaby Common Parish Council, Cllr Wilf Train - Beeford Parish Council, Cllr Ian Reid - Beswick Parish Council, Cllr Hill - Bilton Parish Council, Cllr Jackie Gombault - Brandesburton Parish Council, Cllr Margaret Armstrong - Burstwick Parish Council, Steve Moore - Burstwick United, Cllr R Porter - Burton Constable Parish Council, Cllr Danny Gosling - Cherry Burton Parish Council, Cllr Jim Wastling - Coniston & Thirtleby Parish Council, John Goodman - Cottingham Flood Action Group, Cllr Knight - Cottingham Parish Council, Paul Duffield - CREATE, Cllr Stuart Haywood - Easington Parish Council, Cllr T Harris-McNee - East Garton Parish Council, Cllr Tony Galbraith - Elloughton-cum-Brough Parish Council, Cllr Julie Abraham - ERYC, Cllr Jane Evison - ERYC, Cllr R A Bolger - Etton Parish Council, Cllr Joan Foreman - Foston on the Wolds Parish Council, Stephen Longman - Gilberdyke Flood Action Group, Cllr John Jessop - Gilberdyke Parish Council, Cllr Keith Moore - Goole Town Council, Cllr John Ledger - Hedon Town Council, Cllr Arthur Hodgson - Holderness Flood Defence Group, Cllr John Miller - Hornsea Town Council, Cllr Mike Wray - Leconfield Parish Council, Cllr Patricia Ablett - Leven Parish Council, Cllr Peter Hemmerman - Market Weighton Town Council, Brian Clarvis - Molescroft Parish Council Clerk, Cllr C R Bolton - Newbald Parish Council, Cllr Richard Bate - Newport Parish Council, Cllr C Bayram - North Cave Parish Council, Cllr Ros Fairburn - North Cave Parish Council, Cllr John Halmshaw - North Ferriby Parish Council, Cllr Philip Meadley - North Frodingham Parish Council, Deborah Merchant - River Hull Flood Action Group, Cllr Jackie Cracknell - Roos Parish Council, Cllr D Winter - Roos Parish Council, Doran Curley - Shiptonthorpe Flood Action Group, Cllr Claude Mole - Shiptonthorpe Parish Council, Cllr Jill Pick - Skerne & Wansford Parish Council, Cllr J Bradshaw - Skipsea Parish Council, Cllr Graham Hulme - Snaith & Cowick Town Council, Cllr Mike Turner - South Cave Parish Council, Cllr Brian Freeman - Sproatley Parish Council, Cllr Will Osgerby - Sunk Island Parish Council, Cllr Peter Thompson - Swine Parish Council, Cllr Howard Sinkler - Tickton & Routh Parish Council, Cllr Alan Bailey - Lissett & Ulrome Parish Council, Cllr Thomson - Walkington Parish Council, Denise Sowden - Westwood Flood Action Group, Cllr Gordon Hodgson - Withernsea Parish Council, Cllr Matthew Grove - Withernwick Parish Council.

The meeting was held at County Hall, Beverley.

01 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Flood Liaison Group. The floods of June 2007 highlighted a huge range of issues for multi-agency organisations across the region. As a result East Riding of Yorkshire Council set up the Flood Review Panel, which in turn led to the creation of the Flood Protection and Resilience Board, involving Members and Officers of East Riding of Yorkshire Council and multi-agency organisations, such as the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water. An invitation to attend this meeting had been sent out to all Town and Parish Councils and Flood Action Groups across the East Riding of Yorkshire with the aim of promoting a wider understanding and engagement on flood risk issues and to share local knowledge and experience and lobby on flood management issues.

Action

OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC ISSUES

02 Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) Consultation - The Chief Executive made a presentation on the 7 CFMPs being prepared by the Environment Agency which affected the East Riding, all of which were being challenged in judicial review proceedings brought by the Council.

The Council had challenged the Environment Agency on the grounds that it had failed to properly consult the public and the Council on the preparation of all 7 CFMPs and had raised concerns about the cumulative impact of the 5 main rivers which confluence at Goole. The issue was whether the 5 CFMPs covering the Goole area fully took into account the flood risk not just for the town of Goole but for the wider surrounding area. The Chief Executive believed that this was particularly important given the flat low lying topography of the area.

The Chief Executive explained that the CFMPs were high level plans which identified the broad policies for flood risk management inner catchment over 50 – 100 years. Whilst they did not determine specific flood management measures or actions they did help to determine where investment in flood defences would take place in the future. Each of the CFMPs was divided into policy units which broadly indicated the level of investment and maintenance which may take place in the future. The Environment Agency then proposed to prepare strategy plans for parts of the area at significant flood risk such as the River Hull Strategy Plan.

The Chief Executive explained that the Council and the Environment Agency had met and reached agreement on a way forward to deal with the issues raised by the Council in the judicial reviews proceedings, which had been adjourned for the time being.

The Environment Agency had now agreed to reconsult the public on all 7 CFMPs once they have been reviewed and finalised.

The Environment Agency had agreed that in respect of the Hull & Coastal Streams CFMP that the reconsultation would take place in parallel with the River Hull Strategy Plan once this had been prepared. This would allow the public a fuller understanding of what was proposed and what the implications would be for them and their homes and businesses. This work was likely to take several months and the Agency would not be in a position to undertake the reconsultation until next spring. The Chief Executive confirmed that town and parish councils and flood action groups would be kept up to date with developments.

The Environment Agency had also agreed to carry out a study of the Goole

area. This study would examine the tidal, fluvial and pluvial flood risk across the area, taking into account future predictions in relation to rises in flood level due to climate change. This was important work and was to be completed over the next few months. Following this the Environment Agency would consider whether any changes needed to be made to the policy options or actions in any of the 5 CFMPs affecting the Goole area. The public reconsultation of the 5 CFMPs would only take place once this work was completed.

The Council was still to agree the boundaries for the River Hull Strategy Plan and discussions were taking place regarding the Environment Agency's proposal to carry out a study of the South Holderness area. The Chief Executive explained the implications of this in relation to the reconsultation on the Hull & Coastal Streams CFMP.

03 National Issues - DEFRA's national policy in "Making Space for Water" was largely to withdraw the maintenance of uneconomic fluvial flood defences across the country in order to divert investment into urban and industrial areas.

The Chief Executive reported that the Council, with the support of town and parish councils across the East Riding, had worked hard to oppose the Environment Agency adopting the policy in the East Riding and elsewhere in the region.

This had also been opposed by the Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee, at the regional level and in the briefings with local MPs on the issue.

The Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee organised an event in Leeds on 14 September which some town and parish councils had attended. The position at the present time was that the Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee had not adopted the policy at the regional level. The Chief Executive referred to the importance of keeping up the campaign because whilst some success had been achieved at the regional level the national policy remained in place.

04 High Velocity Pump - The Environment Agency had now confirmed that a 24 inch high velocity pump had been relocated by the Environment Agency to their depot at Tickton where it could be made operational at Hedon Haven to meet any flood emergency at very short notice.

Whilst this was good news there was some concern that the pump could be used elsewhere outside of the region should the need arise which may leave the East Riding at risk and this would be kept under review by the Council.

05 Visit of the Environment Agency - The Environment Agency's main board visited the East Riding and Hull on 21 – 22 September 2009. As part of the visit the Board met with Members and officers of the Council to discuss flood risk issues in the East Riding. The visit took in a number of locations, including inspection of the River Hull Flood Barrier which was in the process of being refurbished.

The meeting went well and the main Board had gained a greater understanding of the flood risk issues in the East Riding and how these could impact upon agriculture and the economy in general.

Whilst the Council had major issues with the Environment Agency, working relations at the operational level were very good, which was beneficial to all parties.

06 FUNDING SOURCES - The floods of 2007 had caused extensive damage to the East Riding which resulted in insurance claims being made in excess of £250m. In addition to this the Council had incurred damage to premises and infrastructure estimated to be in the order of £45m. Of this the Council has received some £17m from the Government, Europe and other sources. This funding had contributed towards the cost to the Council of repairs and renewals to schools and other premises, highways, bridges and other infrastructure. Attention was drawn specifically to construction work which would begin in January 2010 for the rebuild of Hedon Inmans Primary School. The Council had approved a £4.5m programme to alleviate flood risk by clearing and improving drains and ditches and through other flood protection works.

In August 2009 DEFRA allocated £16 million to local authorities to help improve surface water flooding. Of this £9.7 million had been awarded to 77 local authorities for areas where the evidence showed that the risk and potential impact of surface water flooding could be highest and where surface water management plans were most needed to help understand and manage flooding. Although the East Riding was in the top 10 for flood risk in the country, it had not received any funding for surface water flood risk management, whilst Hull City Council had been allocated £250,000 for this purpose.

Agreed - That a report on the Council's programme for investment to alleviate flood risk in the East Riding be made available to members of the group.

**Kristan
Livingston**

07 PROGRESS OF THE FLOOD REVIEW PANEL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW - Following the publication of the Flood Review Panel report into the floods of 2007 the Overview Management Committee agreed that a progress report would be produced after 12 months. Of the 60 recommendations in the report the Council had actioned 36 and the remaining recommendations were either in progress or nearing completion.

A report which set out the progress made by the Council to date on the recommendations made in the Flood Review Panel Report would be submitted to the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 28 October 2009 for its consideration.

OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKS PROGRAMME

08 Implementation - The Head of Infrastructure and Facilities gave a presentation on the operational implementation of works programme. 187 separate site schemes had been established, 106 of which were now underway or had started. For 2010/11 £2 million of new works had been identified from investigations, CCTV surveys and discussions with local communities. There was also the introduction of telemetry, an automated device that monitored any water flow blockages. A remote monitoring device would be strategically placed and when the amount of water flow appeared greater than the pre-programmed quantity, an alert would be sent and an officer despatched to the problem area. Two sites were currently being trialled with a possible 25 sites identified across the East Riding where telemetry could be implemented.

09 Land Drainage Enquiry System - The Assistant Principal Engineer gave a presentation on the Land Drainage Enquiry System which had been established following the 2007 floods. The system was a database for logging information received, as well as allowing the prioritisation of work and identification of resources. It was also noted that the Council, as a last resort, could use enforcement powers to ensure

watercourses were kept clear. There were 3 steps to the enforcement powers: STEP 1 Advice Letter – 28 Days, STEP 2 Formal Warning Letter – 14 Days and STEP 3 Legal Enforcement. To date the Council had not had to implement Step 3.

Agreed - That the Land Drainage Team consider making the Enquiry System available online to the general public.

**Mike Ball/
Andrew
McLachlan**

10 EMERGENCY PLANNING RISK ASSESSMENT - One of the recommendations of the Flood Review Panel was to convene a multi-agency flood risk group. The group had developed a number of emergency plans since the floods of 2007, including a strategic flood risk assessment to the road network which mapped out emergency routes for the emergency services should certain roads become impassable.

A multi-agency emergency planning pilot study was currently being undertaken in the Burstwick area and was hoped that should this study prove successful, it would be rolled out across the East Riding.

11 TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS - A whole range of areas had been discussed during the course of the meeting and Councillor Owen concluded the meeting by urging all who were in attendance to lobby together in order to tackle the issues surrounding flooding. Suggestions for future agenda items were to be passed to Gareth Naidoo.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12 Timings for Questions - It was agreed that the allocation of time for questions be stated on the agenda.

13 Presentation Slides - It was agreed that, if possible, presentation slides be made available prior to the meeting.

14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - It was agreed that the next meeting would take place early in the New Year, prior to the completion of the CFMPs consultation period. All in attendance would be notified in advance of this meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11.15 am.

CONTACTS

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