



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 November 2021

Report of: Councillor Robert Reid

Cabinet Member for Housing and
Property



Flood Risk Management

This report provides information on the Council's responsibilities and response to flooding incidents as a Risk Management Authority.

Report Author

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
A Clean and Sustainable Environment	Non-Key	All Wards
Reviewed by:	Ayeisha Kirkham (Public Protection Manager)	12 November 2021
Approved by:	Gary Smith (Director of Commercial and Operations)	13 November 2021
Signed off by:	Councillor Robert Reid (Cabinet Member for Housing and Property)	17 November 2021
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)		

- Notes the content of the report.**

1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1** Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) is designated as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood Water Management Act 2010. They lead in managing local flood risks (i.e. risks of flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary (smaller) watercourses). The LLFA has a wide range of duties, these include the development, maintenance, application and monitoring of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, the investigation of flooding incidents and enforcement in certain circumstances. In Lincolnshire, LCC has delegated its enforcement and consenting duties to the Internal Drainage Boards.
- 1.2** District Councils are designated as Risk Management Authorities and are required to act consistently with local and national strategies and work in partnership with the LLFA and other Risk Management Authorities. As the Local Planning Authority, Districts are also responsible for ensuring that development proposals have adequately considered flood risk and sustainable drainage.
- 1.3** The Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of vital flood defences and for issuing flood warning messages. It monitors water levels and flows, current meteorological conditions and likely rainfall and, from this information, assesses the likelihood of potential flooding.
- 1.4** In emergency flooding situations, under its civil contingency responsibilities, the Council co-ordinates efforts with the Lincolnshire County Council Emergency Planning Team to provide a proportionate response to flooding events.

Sandbags

- 1.5** Sandbags can be of some assistance in diverting and keeping floodwater out of a property during flooding events but are of no benefit where a property is already flooded. Residents in areas at risk from flooding are urged to be proactive and take their own precautionary measures to protect their properties. Separate arrangements are in place for council owned properties. Appendix 1 provides information on what to do in the event of a flood.
- 1.6** The Council holds a supply of approximately 300 sandbags for emergency use. LCC also holds limited supplies at strategic locations across the county. To ensure the Council can fulfil its civil contingency responsibilities sandbags are prioritised for allocation as follows:
- To prevent loss of life or serious injury
 - To maintain access for emergency services
 - To assist in the protection of critical facilities within the community
 - To protect SKDC properties that are required for the delivery of essential services
- 1.7** There is no legal requirement for the Council to provide sandbags for use by householders. However, the Council recognises that in certain circumstances the provision of sandbags may be appropriate on a case-by-case basis, for example where there is a vulnerable resident with a serious risk of internal flooding. In the last 12 months 23 requests for sandbags have been received. The majority of these did not result in sandbags being deployed, however, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2020 a team was deployed to deliver sandbags to several villages in the south of the district to support the fire service and residents during a severe flood.

1.8 Where the Council is approached by a resident to provide sandbags, the Emergency Planning on call officer makes an assessment of risk, however, as a general guide, sandbags will not be provided;

- To protect gardens
- To protect outbuildings (including garages, whether integral or external)
- To protect non-habitable parts of any private dwelling
- To protect unoccupied private dwellings
- To protect commercial premises
- Where the private dwelling is already flooded
- As a precautionary measure unless there is a real risk of internal flooding
- Where there is no vulnerable occupier

1.9 There is a limit to both the availability and ability of the Council to distribute sandbags, particularly where wide scale flooding is being experienced. Any provision is subject to available resources and other priorities during a flooding event. Delivery of sandbags will normally be to the nearest point of access to a property from the highway or access road. Further manoeuvring of the sandbags within the boundaries of the property will be the responsibility of the property owner, although Council staff may assist in this respect in extreme cases to support vulnerable residents where no other support is available but only where staff safety can be maintained. Such assistance will not always be possible and in any case will be in line with any risk assessment.

1.10 To support the local flood response, the Council has offered to supply parish councils with a stock of sand and 100 bags to be held and used locally. To date, 9 parish councils have taken up this offer, these are predominantly in areas where there is a history of, or a higher risk of flooding.

2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny

2.1 This report is for information only.

3 Available Options Considered

3.1 This report is for information only.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 This report is for information only.

5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)

5.1 The committee is asked to note the content of the report which provides an update on the Councils responsibilities and response to flooding.

6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision

6.1 This report is for information only.

7 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Head of Finance & ICT

8 Legal and Governance Implications

8.1 The Council is a Risk Management Authority as defined by the Flood Water Management Act 2010 and must fulfil its obligations under this legislation. As a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2002 the Council must have plans in place for civil emergencies which can include flooding.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive

9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

9.1 This report is for information only. There are no significant equality and safeguarding implications associated with this report.

10 Risk and Mitigation

10.1 This report is for information only. No significant risks have been identified as a result of this report.

11 Community Safety Implications

11.1 This report is for information only. No community safety implications have been identified as a result of this report.

12 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a climate emergency?

12.1 This report is for information only and does not impact on the Council's declaration.

13 Other Implications (where significant)

13.1 No other significant implications have been identified.

14 Background Papers

14.1 [Lincolnshire County Council completed and ongoing flooding investigations](#)

15 Appendices

15.1 Appendix 1 – What to do in the event of a flood – information for Parish Councils