



Tuesday, 13 January 2026.

Report of Councillor Richard Cleaver,
Cabinet Member for Property and
Public Engagement

Section 19 Flooding Recommendations

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To notify the Committee of South Kesteven District Council's role in relation to flooding and to provide information in relation to the outstanding Section 19 flooding reports.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the overall flood and water management responsibility for Lincolnshire and the role South Kesteven District Council has in relation to flooding within the district.
2. Note the contents of the Section 19 Reports relating to South Kesteven District Council.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication? No

What are the relevant corporate priorities? Sustainable South Kesteven

Which wards are impacted? All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 A specific flood reserve has been established of £110k in order to provide the necessary funding in the event that unforeseen expenditure has to be incurred following a flood event in the district. The Council's s151 Officer has a delegation to utilise this reserve should the need arise.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 This report is for noting only. Lincolnshire County Council is the lead flood authority in the context of Flood and Water management.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 assigns powers and duties to Lead Local Flood Authorities for the co-ordination and management of local flood risk. This includes flooding from minor watercourses, surface water and ground water.
- 2.2 The Local Lead Flood Authority for Lincolnshire is Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) who have a duty to collaborate with other agencies and private landowners around water and flood management.
- 2.3 The role of the Lead Flood Authority is to create and maintain a flood risk strategy, investigate flooding incidents and publish outcomes, coordinate the management of local flood risk and regulate ordinary watercourses outside of Internal Drainage Board areas. A link to LCC's flood risk management page can be found within the background papers to this report.
- 2.4 Following a major flooding event, it is the responsibility of the Lead Flood Authority to undertake an investigation and produce Section 19 reports. The reports seek to establish a background to the flooding event and identify causes and recommendations to reduce the chances of flooding in the future. The reports identify actions for the Lead Flood Authority and other responsible agencies.

2.5. It should be noted that Section 19 reports contain recommendations only and there is not a statutory obligation to comply with these.

Other Responsible Agencies

2.6. Alongside the Lead Flood Authority, there are a variety of agencies that have a responsibility around water and flood management. These include:

- The Environment Agency (EA) are responsible for strategic overview, managing main rivers and the coast, and operating flood warning systems in England. The EA is responsible for developing a national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy, allocating government funding, and delivering projects for main rivers and the sea.
- Internal Drainage Boards (ID) are responsible for managing flood risk and water levels in low-lying areas through the maintenance of drainage systems like non main rivers, channels, and pumping stations.
- South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) are responsible for maintaining and managing drainage related assets under its ownership, for example Grantham Canal.
- Anglian Water (AW) are responsible for managing flood risk from public sewers and adopted infrastructure, which includes maintaining and upgrading sewers and some surface water pipes.
- For riparian or private ownership the responsibility for maintaining and managing drainage related assets lies with the owner.

2.7. There is a Lincolnshire Flood Risk & Water Management Partnership that includes representation from a wide range of agencies/partners. Further details can be found in **Appendix One** including the terms of reference for the Partnership and its subgroups.

S19 Reports relating to South Kesteven Area

2.8. There were approximately 92 Section 19 reports produced by LCC following flooding incidents in the South Kesteven area arising from Storms Henk and Babet and the flooding incidents in January 2025. These flooded locations include approximately 78 areas made up of villages, streets and individual properties. It is important to note that at some locations they unfortunately suffered multiple occurrences of flooding and therefore this has caused the number of Section 19 reports to be higher than the number of incidents.

- 2.9. All 92 of the Section 19 report recommendations can be found on LCC's website by filtering the area to SKDC. Most of the Section 19s within the district do not have any recommendations for SKDC and are for other flood management authorities to consider.
- 2.10. Of the 92 Section 19 reports, a number of locations have recommendations that are currently being actioned or have had SKDC involvement. There are 10 Section 19 reports which have outstanding recommendations for SKDC. Further details on these can be found in **Appendix Two**, the actions identified are either in progress or yet to be considered.
- 2.11. SKDC are responsible for several ditches and dykes on land within its ownership and accordingly are responsible for flooding caused by these. Maintenance of these assets has been contracted to an Internal Drainage Board who carry out works on an annual basis on behalf of SKDC.

Future Support and Developments

- 2.12. Following a flooding incident SKDC can look to identify preventative measures and assist residents and local areas with the clean-up operation in the short-term. However, in a bid to support residents SKDC has previously acted beyond their level of responsibility. This has resulted in long term support being offered to assist localised areas which have significantly been impacted by flooding, which the Council is not resourced to do.
- 2.13. Residents are often unaware of which Council or agency has the responsibility in terms of flooding. SKDC should continue to act as a conduit and signpost residents to the appropriate agency.
- 2.14. There are several larger schemes of work being undertaken by partner agencies that will benefit locations within South Kesteven.
 - Project Ground Water – is the delivery and installation of telemetry to provide an alert to rising water levels across a geographical area. This reports through an app which flood action groups, communities and Risk Management Authorities will have access to helping to them inform if a flooding incident is likely.
 - LCC – are undertaking a variety of modelling and mapping to identify proposed solutions to reduce the impact of flooding in future.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1. SKDC's role is primarily the maintenance of assets under its remit. Whilst SKDC does receive regular contacts from residents about flooding, it is often not within SKDC's ability or remit to undertake, enforce or action the majority of the causes of flooding within the district. This is the responsibility of the lead flood authority.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. No options have been considered as the report is for information only

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. This report sets out SKDC's role in relation to flooding incidents within the district and provides information on the outstanding actions resulting from Section 19 reports.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1. www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/flood-risk-management/flood-investigations
- 6.2. [Project Groundwater – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

7. Appendices

- 7.1. **Appendix One** – Terms of Reference for the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership.
- 7.2. **Appendix Two** – Outstanding Recommendations from Section 19 reports.