



Humber Newsletter

February 2019

This newsletter provides an update on work we are doing to develop a new strategy for managing tidal flood risk on and around the Humber and also lets you know about some key flood schemes/projects going on around the estuary.

Humber Strategy Review

The Environment Agency, 12 Local Authorities around the Humber and the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership are working together, in association with Internal Drainage Boards and Natural England, to review how we manage tidal flood risk around the Humber Estuary, including rivers where tidal flow is the main source of tidal flood risk.



The key objective of the review is:

“To support sustainable development and a prosperous Humber, by redefining the strategic approach to managing tidal flood risk on the Humber, setting the way forward for the next 100 years”.

To meet this aspiration, the partnership is taking an inclusive approach, taking into account a whole host of factors to work out the best way of managing tidal flood risk in order to support local aspirations. The intention is that the review will be completed, and formally adopted by all partners and Defra, by 2021. We are keen to involve organisations and individuals in helping to shape the Strategy. This newsletter will keep you updated on how you can get involved.

Strategic approaches to managing tidal flood risk

In spring 2018 we worked with key stakeholders to assess a long list of flood risk management options, ranging from baseline options, such as doing nothing, to a large barrier on the estuary. Following a detailed evaluation process and through consolidating elements of many of the options, we were able to produce three strategic approaches that we are now working to refine:

Containing the tide – using a combination of flood defences, flood storage, and occasional large scale planned flooding, to contain water largely within the estuary. Improved resilience and changes to land use in some areas would also be required to adapt to rising sea levels and high tides.

Adapting to the tide – by changing land use in some areas, to allow defences to be deliberately altered or moved back in some locations over time. This would create greater capacity for flood storage or large scale planned flooding, and allow us to respond to the fact that it may not be possible or safe to maintain or continue to raise defences where they are at present. This would be combined with continued maintenance and improvement of defences in key areas of population and industrial development.

Keeping out the tide – by constructing a tidal surge barrier, most likely in the outer estuary. This would be a complex and long term option.



These three approaches are currently going through a thorough appraisal process which should be complete by late 2020. After this, the results will be used to develop a new strategy. At this stage we are being open-minded about what this might look like and considering options that are feasible, affordable and will best support the area's aspiration for growth. The strategy will need to be able to adapt to changes and/or opportunities in the future – such as rates of sea level rise, changes to legislation or economic factors. These 'influencing factors' could set the strategy in a different direction or pathway.

Key points

- We met with Local Authority directors in autumn 2018 to agree the three strategic approaches and we have also had meetings with MPs from around the Humber to update them on the work we have been doing.
- To make sure that people around the Humber are aware of what we are doing and how they can get involved, we are starting to talk about the Strategy Review with the wider public and key interested groups. We have written to landowners around the Humber to enable them to find out more about the process and the risks of tidal flooding. We intend to carry out more intense public engagement later in the year to help us shape the next stages of the Review.
- Work has continued to define the Strategic Approaches for more detailed appraisal, looking at a series of pathways through three time periods over the strategy's 100 year period. This process will assess flood risk management scenarios and analyse the benefits, costs and impacts of each option, taking into account risk modelling outputs, the Sustainability Appraisal, environmental, economic, social landscape and funding factors.
- We've been working closely with key organisations, such as the NFU, through our liaison forum to ensure they can input into our Strategy development.
- To ensure that local communities and businesses are kept up to date with all the latest information on the Strategy, we have set up an information page on Citizen Space: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/humber/strategyreview> and have launched our Twitter and Facebook accounts!

 [Humberstrategy](https://www.facebook.com/Humberstrategy)  [Humber_Strategy](https://twitter.com/Humber_Strategy)

If you have any questions about the Review or have any initial ideas about how you could get involved, please contact HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk

Scheme Updates

These projects have all come out of the existing Humber Strategy, which will see £150m of flood defence improvements delivered by 2021.

Skeffling Managed Realignment Scheme: Throughout 2018 we continued to work jointly with Associated British Ports (ABP) to develop designs for this £20m habitat creation scheme. Information gathered from the community and key stakeholders has helped us to adapt and improve our proposals. In December we consulted on the Environmental Statement for the Environmental Impact Assessment and launched a video to show some of the benefits of the scheme such as local improvements to flood defences and creating new habitats for wildlife. In January and February we held meetings and public events including presentations to the parish councils and several drop-ins to ensure that local people and organisations had the opportunity to find out what we intended to include in our planning applications, which will be submitted towards the end of February.



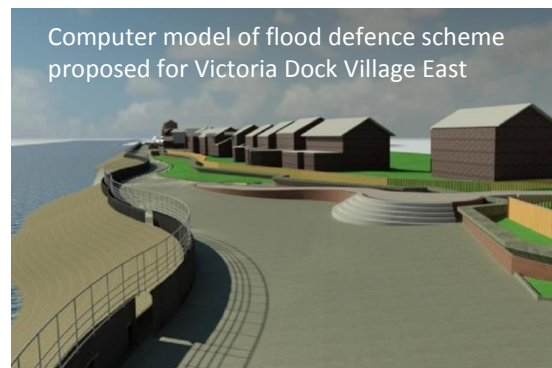
customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Humber Hull Frontage Improvements: The £42m Humber Hull Frontage Improvement Scheme has now been given the final sign-off from the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The defences will provide a 1 in 200 year standard of protection, reducing tidal flood risk to 113,000 homes and businesses. The scheme will see 7 kilometres of flood defence improvements along the Humber. Opportunities for public art and community involvement will be integrated into the scheme and preliminary work is due to start early this year. More information can be found at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/humber-hull-frontages/>



Water for Wildlife and Farmers: Water for Farmers and Wildlife is a partnership project between the Environment Agency and RSPB that aims to bring together the objectives of farm management, habitat creation, and flood risk management, to identify the feasibility of delivering land management solutions which deliver multiple benefits for farmers and the environment. Trial plots were carried out in winter 2017/18 and the next stage, due to commence in September 2019, will involve trialling ideas at the field scale.



If you are a farmer/landowner who would be interested to find out more or get involved in the field scale trials, please contact the Project Manager, Alys Farndale via alys.farndale@environment-agency.gov.uk

Port of Immingham: Following the devastation caused by the tidal surge in December 2013, the Environment Agency has been working with North East Lincolnshire Council and ABP to develop a plan and business case to tidal flood risk at the port.

Phase 1 of this plan involved replacing the existing tidal lock doors with significantly larger ones that could be locked into position. This work was successfully completed by ABP through 2017/18, and opened by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Gove last autumn. Phase 2, to improve the defences along the port frontage is still being developed. It is envisaged that this could be completed by 2021.



South Ferriby & Winteringham Ings Sea Defence Improvements: This scheme aims to reduce the risk of tidal flooding to 140 homes, businesses and the CEMEX plant. Works on site are expected to begin in April 2019 with some pre-work activity taking place on the site ahead of this. We worked with our partners, as well as South Ferriby Parish Council, landowners and tenants, to submit a planning application to North Lincolnshire Council last November. We are continuing to seek additional funding for the scheme, and are working with CEMEX to finalise how they will contribute. CEMEX is in the process of stockpiling clay from their quarry in South Ferriby, intended to be used in the embankments.

Keadby and the Isle of Axholme

The Keadby terminal assisted outfall project, informed by the Isle of Axholme Strategy, will manage the risk of flooding for over 3,100 properties. We are looking to utilise the existing infrastructure of the pumping station with a full replacement of the pumps and equipment inside the station. The new station will be fully electric, more carbon efficient and compliant with Eel Regulations for fish and eel passage. The Full Business Case was approved in January 2019 with works expected to commence in spring this year.

Are you prepared for future floods?

Although flood defences reduce the likelihood of flooding, the risk can never be removed entirely. Flooding can happen at any time and we advise people to take simple practical steps to help reduce the impact of flooding to their homes or business.

To find out how you can be better prepared for flooding, check your flood risk and sign up to our free flood warning service, visit www.gov.uk/flood or call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**



How you can get involved in the Humber Flood Risk Strategy Review

Over the coming months we will be carrying out further work to refine the Strategic Approaches so that we understand the implications and opportunities they offer. We are yet to determine what they will look like in different locations around the estuary but as this picture emerges we will be in touch to help you understand what it might mean for you, and to seek your views.

To find out more visit: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/humber/strategyreview>

Or contact us HStrategy@environment-agency.gov.uk