



Public Document Pack

Boston Borough Council

Chief Executive
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Wednesday 27 August 2025

Notice of meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
on **Thursday 4th September 2025 at 6.30 pm**
in the Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR

Rob Barlow
Chief Executive

Membership:

Chairman:	Councillor Paul Gleeson
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Neil Drayton
Councillors:	Alison Austin, Richard Austin BEM, David Brown, Emma Cresswell, Anne Dorrian, Stuart Evans, Andy Izard, Patricia Marson, Barrie Pierpoint, Ralph Pryke, Lina Savickiene, David Scoot and Suzanne Welberry

Quorum 5

Members of the public are welcome to attend the committee meeting as observers except during the consideration of exempt or confidential items.

This meeting may be subject to being recorded.

Agenda

Part I - Preliminaries

A Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitutes *(if any)*.

B Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

C Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)

To sign and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting.

D Public Questions

To answer any written questions received from members of the public no later than 5 p.m. two clear working days prior to the meeting – for this meeting the deadline is 5 p.m. on Monday 1st September 2025.

Part II - Agenda Items

1 Highways Update

(A discussion with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Lincolnshire County Council)

2 Section 19; Flooding Investigation Report; Wyberton West Road / Park Road, Boston (Pages 9 - 78)

(A Report by Christian Allen, Assistant Director – Regulatory)

3 Work Programme and Forward Plan (Pages 79 - 94)

(For Members to note/discuss the Committee's current Work Programme and the Council's Forward Plan)

Notes:

Please contact Democratic Services (demservices@boston.gov.uk) if you have any queries about the agenda and documents for this meeting.

Council Members who are not able to attend the meeting should notify Democratic Services as soon as possible.

Alternative Versions

Should you wish to have the agenda or report in an alternative format such as larger text, Braille or a specific language, please telephone 01205 314502.

Boston Borough Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held in the Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR on Thursday 17th July 2025 at 6.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Paul Gleeson, in the Chair.

Councillors Alison Austin, Anton Dani, Ralph Pryke, Lina Savickiene, David Scoot and Stephen Woodliffe (substitute for Mike Gilbert).

In attendance:

Councillor Emma Cresswell (Portfolio Holder).

Officers:

Assistant Director - Regulatory, Assistant Director - Communities and Housing Services, Community Leadership Manager, Community Safety Manager, Group Manager - Organisational Development, Group Manager – Insights & Transformation and Democratic Services Officer.

15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Neil Drayton, Mike Gilbert, Andy Izard, Patsie Marson, Claire Rylott, Helen Staples and Suzanne Welberry.

16 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

17 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th June 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

18 Public Questions

No questions were received from the public.

19 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan

The committee received a comprehensive update from the Group Manager – Organisational Development on the revised Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy, attached as Appendix A within the report, for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP) for 2025-2028 following feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29th May 2025.

Members were advised that the strategy had been developed in consultation as part of a key recommendation from the Local Government Association's Peer Challenge Process. The strategy included a high level action plan, attached as Appendix B within the report, the aim being to implement the strategy effectively.

The purpose of the strategy was to ensure that Council services were accessible, inclusive, and reflective of the diverse communities served. The Group Manager – Organisational Development highlighted that the Committee's previous feedback had been instrumental in shaping the revised version. In particular, members had raised points around:

- **Language and Accessibility:** The strategy had been rewritten in plain English to improve clarity and ensure it was accessible to a wider audience.
- **Broadened Scope of Inclusion:** The revised document now better reflected local socio-economic challenges, including economic hardship and political disengagement, particularly within the Boston area.
- **Data Integrity:** Demographic data had been reviewed for accuracy. While the figures were confirmed to be correct, terminology had been refined to avoid potential misinterpretation.

The Group Manager- Organisational Development emphasised that the updated strategy and action plan reflected the Council's ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for both its workforce and the wider community. The action plan included practical steps to support implementation, such as training, policy review, and community engagement initiatives.

The Committee was invited to consider the revised documents and provide further feedback ahead of their submission to Cabinet for approval.

Members welcomed the revised report and reflected on the improvements made since the initial draft was reviewed in May, acknowledging the clearer language, broader scope, and refined data presentation..

Members discussed the importance of effective communication in ensuring the strategy reached and resonated with all parts of the community. It was acknowledged that while the policy was well-intentioned and comprehensive, its impact would depend heavily on how successfully it was communicated and understood by residents. There was a shared view that improved communication could significantly enhance engagement, particularly within Boston's diverse population.

The Committee discussed the broader issue of community integration and the barriers that some residents face in accessing services or participating in civic life. Members noted that political disengagement remained a concern in certain areas and suggested that engagement might be more effective in places with a town or parish council structure, where the link between elected representatives and the community tends to be stronger.

The Chairman took the opportunity to remind members of the ongoing consultation on the establishment of a Parish / Town Council for Boston, encouraging participation and promotion of the consultation within their wards.

The Group Manager – Organisational Development provided further insight into the Council's efforts to address political disengagement. She highlighted recent outreach work by the Democratic Services Team in local schools, where pupils had been introduced to the principles of local democracy through mock elections and party-based activities. This initiative aimed to raise awareness and understanding of political processes from an early

age, with the hope that such engagement would extend into families and the wider community. The officer also referred to the action plan's commitment to supporting community engagement through training and the development of inclusive practices. It was noted that the strategy was not only about compliance but about fostering a culture of openness, participation, and respect.

The Chairman thanked the Group Manager – Organisational Development for the work undertaken to revise the strategy in response to the Committee's earlier feedback. He expressed confidence that the revised policy now aligned with the aspirations of the partnership and would provide a strong foundation for future work.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

[The Group Manager – Organisational Development left the meeting following consideration of the above item at 6.53pm.]

20 South and East Lincolnshire Council's Crowdfunding Scheme - Two Year Progress

The Committee received a presentation on the two-year progress report of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Crowdfunding Scheme from the Portfolio Holder for Communities.

The scheme, known as the South and East Lincolnshire Crowd, was described as an innovative platform designed to enable community groups to raise funds for local projects. It was emphasised that the model relied on community buy-in from the outset, with projects only progressing where there was demonstrable local support. Community groups were eligible to receive up to £5,000 from the Council's funding pot, with the remainder of the project costs raised through public contributions.

The Committee was informed that, over the two-year period, the scheme had supported ten projects across the partnership, with a combined value of £105,000. Of this, £59,000 had been raised directly from the community, demonstrating a strong return on the Council's investment. It was noted that six additional projects were currently in the crowdfunding phase, three of which were based in the Boston area.

The report highlighted a range of positive outcomes, including improvements to community buildings, the delivery of new cultural events, increased community engagement, and a rise in volunteering opportunities. These outcomes were seen as aligning closely with the Council's priorities around safe and resilient communities.

Members discussed the scheme's effectiveness in fostering community involvement, noting that its success depended on genuine buy-in from local residents. The model was praised for encouraging grassroots participation, with projects only progressing where there was demonstrable support from the community.

The Committee welcomed the strong return on investment, with £59,000 raised by the public against a total project value of £105,000. It was noted that ten projects had been successfully supported to date, with six more currently in progress—three of which were

based in Boston. Members viewed this as a positive indicator of local engagement and interest.

The discussion also highlighted the broader benefits of the scheme, including improvements to community buildings, the delivery of cultural events, increased volunteer opportunities, and enhanced community cohesion. Members recognised the scheme's alignment with the Council's strategic priorities, particularly around safe and resilient communities.

There was general support for the continuation of the scheme, with members expressing interest in how it might be further promoted and expanded to reach a wider range of community groups. The Committee acknowledged the importance of ensuring accessibility, particularly for groups that may be less familiar with digital platforms or online fundraising.

The Chairman thanked both the portfolio holder and the presenting officer for their work in delivering the scheme and preparing the report. The Committee endorsed the report and supported the ongoing delivery of the crowdfunding scheme.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

[The Portfolio Holder, The Assistant Director – Communities and Housing Services and the Community Leadership Manager left the meeting following consideration of the above item at 7.08pm.]

[Councillor Pryke left the meeting at 7.08pm and returned at 7.09pm following consideration of the above item.]

21 South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Body Worn Video (BWV) Policy 2025

The Community Safety Manager presented a report on the proposed Body Worn Video (BWV) Policy, which had been developed as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to the health, safety and welfare of its staff, service users, and others affected by its activities. The policy, attached within the report as Appendix A, had been introduced as a new partnership-wide framework, intended to standardise the use of BWV devices across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

Members were advised that the policy would enable frontline officers to utilise BWV devices in circumstances where it was lawful, reasonable, justifiable, and proportionate to do so. The policy had been designed to ensure compliance with data protection principles and to embed appropriate technical and organisational safeguards into the Council's operational procedures.

The Community Safety Manager explained that the BWV devices provided a high standard of evidence when used in regulatory and enforcement activities. However, they the policy set out clear guidance on when and how devices should be used, including procedures for collecting, downloading, processing, presenting, and retaining video and audio evidence.

The BWV would only be deployed where necessary—either to reduce aggression towards officers or to support evidence gathering in accordance with legal requirements and best practice.

Members were invited to comment on the policy and associated documents, and the officer confirmed he would be happy to respond to any questions raised.

The Committee engaged in a detailed discussion on the proposed Body Worn Video (BWV) Policy. Members welcomed the clarity of the policy and its emphasis on lawful, proportionate, and justifiable use of BWV devices by Council officers.

Members discussed the practical benefits of BWV use within Boston, particularly in relation to officer safety and the deterrence of aggressive behaviour. Members considered the potential for BWV to support enforcement activity, including the collection of evidence in cases such as fly-tipping. It was suggested that the availability of BWV could empower councillors and officers to respond more confidently in situations where anti-social behaviour or environmental offences were witnessed.

Members raised questions regarding the operational life of the BWV devices. While the officer was unable to provide a definitive lifespan, he explained that the cameras were robust and came with protective features to extend their usability. Members expressed support for the use of BWV and discussed the procedures for data retention and disposal. The officer provided an overview of the data handling protocols, including the 30-day retention period for non-evidential footage and the secure storage of evidential material..

The Committee explored the legal rights of individuals captured on BWV footage and were informed that subject access requests could be made under data protection legislation. The officer explained the procedures for handling such requests, including redaction of third-party data and the safeguards in place to protect privacy.

Members discussed the potential use of AI and Face Recognition technology. It was confirmed the current BWV devices did not support facial recognition, and there were no plans to implement such functionality at this time.. The Committee also considered the accessibility of reporting mechanisms for members and the public. The officer confirmed that an online reporting form was available and could be used to submit incidents or concerns related to BWV usage.

Further discussion took place on the scope of BWV deployment across the borough. Members queried whether the devices could be used by councillors or other staff. The Community Safety Manager clarified that, at present, BWV devices were intended for use by enforcement officers only, although future expansion of use could be considered.

The Chairman concluded the item by thanking the Community Safety Manager for a well-written and comprehensive report. He noted that the policy was another example of effective partnership working and endorsed its submission to Cabinet for approval.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

[The Community Safety Manager left the meeting following consideration of the above item at 7.32pm.]

22 Quarter 4 24/25 Performance and Risk Report

The Group Manager – Insights and Transformation presented the Quarter 4 2024/2025 Performance Report which covered the period up to the end of March 2025. It was noted that the report had previously been considered by the Environment and Performance Committee to support its work programme, but was now being brought to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee following the merger of scrutiny functions. The purpose of presenting the report was to highlight areas of performance that might warrant further scrutiny or be considered for inclusion in the Committee's future work programme.

Members were advised to consider whether any specific indicators required more detailed examination. The officer drew attention to the performance summary on page 134, which included a pie chart showing that the majority of performance indicators were on target (green). Only one measure was reported as off target (red), which related to customer contact.

The Committee was invited to review the report and identify any areas of concern or interest for future scrutiny.

Reference was made to page 135 of the agenda, which contained responses to questions raised at a previous meeting. The first related to swimming participation figures. It was noted that numbers had declined in Quarter 2 and continued to do so in Quarter 4. The Leisure Services Officer had attributed this to seasonal variation and changes in reporting methodology, particularly regarding school and ongoing bookings. Additionally, the appendix outlined several service outages at the leisure centre, which had further impacted figures. Members were informed that a further decline was expected in Quarter 1 due to ongoing building works. This area was suggested as a potential item for the work programme or for future feedback from the relevant officer.

The second question concerned the local authority error rate for housing benefit claims. Officers explained that the Department for Work and Pensions reimbursed the Council for housing benefit payments, covering 100% of costs where payments were accurate. It was acknowledged that some level of error was anticipated and accounted for within the system.

Members were informed that a new approach to performance reporting was under consultation, with a shift in terminology from "trend measures" to "contextual metrics." This term was welcomed by officers, as it more accurately reflected indicators that provided background context rather than direct performance outcomes. It was noted that such metrics were useful for understanding service trends over time, though they did not necessarily indicate positive or negative performance in isolation.

The Committee discussed the implications of underperformance in customer contact, which was the only indicator reported as red. Members considered the challenges faced by the customer contact team, including increased call volumes and complexity of enquiries. The Committee agreed that further scrutiny of call handling performance would be appropriate and resolved to add this issue to the work programme.

Further discussion took place regarding the redevelopment of the Geoff Moulder Leisure Centre and Rosegarth Square. Concerns were raised about the lack of communication with members and residents regarding the closure of the leisure pool and the availability of alternative facilities. It was confirmed that while the leisure pool was closed for redevelopment, the training pool remained open, and members could access facilities at the Princess Royal Arena. However, it was acknowledged that communication had been insufficient, with some members only learning of the closure upon arrival at the centre.

Officers confirmed that Parkwood Leisure, the Council's contractor, had issued press releases and used member contact channels, but accepted that communication could be improved. The Assistant Director – Regulatory agreed to raise the issue of communication at the next redevelopment meeting. A further point was raised regarding whether residents had been informed of their ability to use alternative facilities during the closure. Officers committed to investigating this and ensuring that information was shared more effectively going forward.

It was agreed that a further Members' Update Meeting should be scheduled to provide an opportunity for members to receive updates and discuss progress on both the Rosegarth Square development and the redevelopment of the Geoff Moulder Leisure Centre.

The Chairman thanked officers for the comprehensive report and confirmed that the Committee had noted the concerns regarding customer contact performance. The Committee looked forward to receiving the next quarterly update in due course.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

[The Group Manager – Insights and Transformation Manager left the meeting following consideration of the above item at 7.51pm.]

23 Work Programme and Forward Plan

The Committee considered its current Work Programme and the Council's Forward Plan, with a view to identifying future areas for scrutiny based on the performance report and recent discussions.

The Chairman opened the item by noting that the Committee had already received a detailed report from the Democratic Services Officer, summarising the outcomes of the recent scrutiny workshop. However, due to low attendance at the current meeting, it was suggested that a more in-depth discussion of the workshop findings be deferred until the September meeting, when a greater number of members were expected to be present. It was agreed that time would be set aside at that meeting to review the workshop outcomes and shape the Committee's future priorities..

The Committee agreed to add customer contact performance—specifically call handling—to the work programme, following concerns raised earlier in the meeting in relation to the Quarter 4 performance report.

The Chairman advised that the September meeting was already shaping up to be a full agenda. The Portfolio Holder for Highways had confirmed attendance, and the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership was scheduled to attend the October meeting. Members were reminded of the importance of submitting technical or detailed questions in advance of meetings with external guests.. Members were encouraged to think ahead about the issues they wished to raise to ensure scrutiny remained effective.

The Committee was also updated on efforts to secure a visit from the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire Police, Paul Gibson. While a date had not yet been confirmed, it was reported that open lines of communication had now been established. It was acknowledged that September could be a critical period for the force, particularly in relation to its financial position and future resource allocation.

The Chairman thanked members and officers for their contributions and closed the meeting.

The Meeting ended at 8.00 pm.



Report To:	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date:	4 th September 2025
Subject:	Section 19; Flooding Investigation Report; Wyberton West Road / Park Road, Boston
Purpose:	To invite Committee to consider the content of the statutory Section 19 Flooding Investigation Report produced by Lincolnshire County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority) following flooding from the South Forty Foot Drain impacting Boston in January 2025 and to seek to ensure that Risk Management Authorities identified as responsible for the recommendations therein, deliver on those recommendations.
Key Decision:	N/A
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Dale Broughton, Leader of the Council
Report Of:	Christian Allen, Assistant Director - Regulatory
Report Author:	Christian Allen, Assistant Director - Regulatory
Ward(s) Affected:	St Thomas' Ward
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

Members will recall the devastating flood event that occurred in Boston in the early hours of 06th January 2025 and resulted in the internal flooding of 38 residential properties on Wyberton West Road and Park Road, Boston, and the extensive multi-agency response and recovery effort that followed.

In such circumstances, Lincolnshire County Council in their role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) are duty bound to conduct an investigation into the cause(s) of a flooding event that results in property being internally flooded. This obligation is conferred by Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. In this instance, the LLFA commissioned Geosmart Information Ltd to discharge this responsibility and produce the section 19 flood investigation report on their behalf.

This report (S19-941 date prepared – 30/05/2025) was received by the Council on 30th June 2025 but was subsequently amended following feedback from Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (IDB) and the Environment Agency (EA) and was re-issued by the LLFA on 30th July 2025 (S19-941 date prepared – 30/07/2025).

The section 19 flood investigation report is attached at appendix A of this report and members are invited to review the content of the report and consider how, through the scrutiny functions of the Council, members seek to ensure that Risk Management Authorities identified as responsible for the recommendations in the report, deliver on those recommendations.

Recommendations

Members review the content of the Section 19 flooding investigation report (S19-941 date prepared – 30/07/2025) attached at appendix A and consider how, through the scrutiny functions of the Council, we seek to ensure that Risk Management Authorities identified as responsible for the recommendations contained therein, deliver on those recommendations.

Reasons for Recommendations

The LLFA has a duty to conduct a Section 19 flood investigation report under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Whether the Risk Management Authorities have exercised or are proposing to exercise those recommendations in response to the flood event shall be monitored through the existing Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership.

However, through the scrutiny functions of the Council, members may wish to consider how those Risk Management Authorities identified as responsible for the recommendations in the report, deliver on those recommendations and hence reassure the residents of Boston impacted by flooding from the South Forty Foot Drain.

Other Options Considered

Do nothing and let the established Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership exercise its functions in holding Risk Management Authorities to account.

1. Background

- 1.1 Members will recall the devastating flood event that occurred in Boston in the early hours of 06th January 2025 and resulted in the internal flooding of 38 residential properties on Wyberton West Road and Park Road, Boston, and the extensive multi-agency response and recovery effort that followed.

- 1.2 Under the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Lincolnshire County Council are designated a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Under section 19 of said Act, the LLFA are duty bound to conduct an investigation into the cause(s) of a flooding event that results in property being internally flooded. In this particular instance due to the significant impact of this flood event across the county area, the LLFA commissioned Geosmart Information Ltd to discharge this responsibility and produce the section 19 flood investigation report on their behalf.
- 1.3 The Section 19 flooding investigation report (S19-941 date prepared – 30/07/2025) Wyberton West Road and Park Road Boston, is attached at appendix A to this report.

2. Report

- 2.1. The section 19 (S19) Flood Investigation Report seeks to identify the cause(s) of flooding where properties are internally flooded. The report provides an overview of the problem, identifies the flooding mechanisms, relevant Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and stakeholders with responsibilities and concludes with a list of recommendations. It is however important to note that the report cannot provide designed or costed solutions and / or enforce those identified RMA's or persons to undertake any of the proposed recommendations.
- 2.2. The investigation report which is presented to Committee for consideration today, was commissioned by the LLFA to consider internal flooding of 38 properties on Wyberton West Road and Park Road, Boston, which occurred as a result of substantial rainfall experienced in the early hours of 06 January 2025 and the coincidental impact of tidal flows in the South Forty Foot Drain. The event involved an area of low pressure crossing South and Central England, which resulted in heavy rainfall and snowfall across areas of high ground throughout the East Midlands. This resulted in several stations across Lincolnshire recording their wettest January day on record (Met Office, 2025).
- 2.3. The evidence gathered and presented in the report, including a site visit on 12 March 2025, confirmed that 38 properties in Boston experienced internal flooding following heavy rainfall on 06 January 2025. It is also recognised that the flooding incident impacted many more properties externally, affecting driveways, garages, sheds, outbuildings etc and that the highway infrastructure was also affected resulting in temporary road closures and damage to vehicles.
- 2.4. The report provides a factual, evidenced based account of the circumstances surrounding the event and the impact off the flooding itself, seeks to identify a cause and then attributes recommendations to the relevant Risk Management Authority.
- 2.5. The report has been shared with RMA's and their comments have been adopted into the final version of the investigation report attached at appendix A.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. The section 19 flooding report is presented to members for their consideration. The report has been commissioned and is owned by the LLFA.

- 3.2. Members are invited to consider how, through the scrutiny functions of the Council, we seek to ensure that Risk Management Authorities identified as responsible for the recommendations in the report, deliver on those recommendations.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None

Corporate Priorities

Safe and Resilient Communities priority in the Sub Regional Strategy 24/25 – 28/29

Staffing

None

Workforce Capacity Implications

None

Constitutional and Legal Implications

Part 1A, Chapter 2, of the Local Government Act 2000 sets out the functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees in local authorities. These include general and specific functions and not all functions are applicable to all local authorities.

Specifically, the legislation sets out that the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required to ensure that its overview and scrutiny committee arrangements include arrangements to review and scrutinise the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management functions or coastal erosion risk management functions which may affect the local authority's area. A risk management authority (e.g. District Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency) must comply with a request made by such a committee for information and a response to a report. These powers do not extend to Boston Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Boston Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee can make reports or recommendations to its executive (or the authority) on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area, Where the committee makes such a report and/or recommendations and the report or any of the recommendations relate to functions of a relevant partner authority the committee may require (by notice) the relevant partner authority to have regard to the report or recommendation in question in exercising its functions. Lincolnshire County Council and the Environment Agency are defined as relevant partner authorities. The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee may also invite persons from outside the Council to attend meetings of the Committee.

Data Protection

None

Financial

The Council determined to provide emergency assistance grants (of £1000) to residents whose properties had been impacted by internal flooding in the immediate aftermath of the event. The fund sought to provide emergency support/relief for those residents whose property and possessions had been damaged by floodwater. There were 24 grant claimants awarded £1000 per household, totalling £24,000. The grant scheme is now closed.

Additionally, £3,008.58 of expenditure was incurred as a result of skip hire and waste disposal, emergency accommodation for one household and community hall hires for emergency rest centre accommodation.

Risk Management

The section 19 report seeks to improve the preparedness of our communities and relevant Risk Management Authorities to prepare for, respond to and recover from a flooding incident. It is vitally important in terms of mitigating risk to our communities and Council services, that anything that can be done to reduce flood risk, is done, subject to a cost v. benefit assessment.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

Consultation has been undertaken with the LLFA, Leader Portfolio Holder, Scrutiny Committee Chairman, Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer and Director of Communities.

Reputation

The Council has not been identified in the section 19 report as a Risk Management Authority with recommendations to deliver. Nevertheless, there will be an expectation from residents who were impacted by flooding and remain at risk of flooding, that the Council seeks to hold those responsible to account hence there is a reputational risk in failing to do so.

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

None

Health and Wellbeing

Residents impacted by flooding will inevitably experience stress and psychological distress having experienced flooding inside their properties and whilst they remain 'at risk' of a repeat flooding event and mitigation measures, where applicable, remain outstanding.

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

More frequent and more extreme weather events are an inherent impact of Climate Change and hence flood risk remains a threat. Mitigation and adaptation to these risks is a necessity and a responsibility of Risk Management Authorities as well as our communities and residents at large.

Acronyms

LCC – Lincolnshire County Council

LLFA – Lead Local Flood Authority

RMA – Risk Management Authority

BBC – Boston Borough Council

Black Sluice IDB – Independent Drainage Board

EA - Environment Agency

S19 – Section 19 (Flood and Water Management Act 2010 – duty to investigate flooding events)

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Appendix A S19-941 - Wyberton West Road & Park Road, Boston. Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Date Prepared – 30/07/2025

Background Papers

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

Approval

Report author: Christian Allen, Assistant Director - Regulatory.
Christian.allen@boston.gov.uk

Signed off by: Councillor Dale Broughton, Leader of the Council

Approved for publication: Councillor Paul Gleeson, Chairman Overview and Scrutiny Committee



S19-941

Wyberton West Road & Park Road, Boston

Section 19 Flood and Water
Management Act 2010

Date Prepared – 30/07/2025

GeoSmart Information Ltd

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Copyright

This document has been prepared pursuant to Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 by GeoSmart Information Ltd for Lincolnshire County Council, in its capacity as Lead Local Flood Authority. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of this report are based solely on the information available to GeoSmart at the time of preparing the report.

Lincolnshire County Council expressly disclaims responsibility for any errors in or omissions from this report and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy, precision, and / or validity of any third-party data contained therein. Lincolnshire County Council does not accept any liability for the use of this report or its contents by any third party for any purpose other than that for which the same was provided by Lincolnshire County Council.

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For further information regarding this report, please contact FloodRisk@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Executive summary

The purpose of this Section 19 (S19) Flood Investigation Report is to identify the cause of flooding which affected the property internally. The report will provide an overview of the problem, identify the flooding mechanisms, identify relevant Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and stakeholders, and provide a list of recommendations. It is however important to note that this investigation report cannot provide designed or costed solutions and / or enforce those identified RMAs or persons to undertake any of the proposed recommendations.

This report was commissioned to consider internal flooding at 38 properties on Wyberton West Road and Park Road, Boston (Properties A to AM), which occurred as a result of substantial rainfall experienced in the early hours of 06 January 2025. The event involved an area of low pressure crossing South and Central England, which resulted in heavy rainfall and snowfall across areas of high ground throughout the East Midlands. This resulted in several stations across Lincolnshire recording their wettest January day on record (Met Office, 2025).

The evidence gathered within this report, including a Site visit on 12 March 2025, confirms that 38 properties in Boston experienced internal flooding following heavy rainfall on 06 January 2025. (Note that internal flooding could only be directly confirmed at 17 properties; two of the properties reported to have experienced internal flooding are understood to have experienced external or no flooding, whilst one additional property was confirmed to have experienced internal flooding.) Photograph evidence of the flooding has been provided within Section 3.5.

Flooding mechanism

Affected properties (Properties A to AL)

Properties A to AL are likely to have experienced internal flooding as a result of the overtopping of two wall sections along the southern bank of the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) in the late evening of 06 January 2025. The rise in water levels was generally driven by extreme rainfall and snowmelt in the Black Sluice catchment, with peak flows reaching the lower reaches of the SFFD during high tide (which prevented their discharge into the tidally influenced Haven).

The flooding experienced may have been exacerbated due to issues in the management of flood risk assets along the SFFD, particularly along Wyberton West Road. Possible exacerbating factors include:

- Decommissioning of the Black Sluice Pumping Station;
- Operational problems associated with the sluices at the Black Sluice Complex;
- Low points on the southern bank of the SFFD, adjacent to Wyberton West Road;
- Correlation of the flooding experienced in relation to the operation of the Black Sluice Emergency Response Plan.

The water ingress method for the properties is summarised below:

- Fluvial flows from the SFFD flowed in a southerly direction, causing internal flooding to Properties A to AB primarily via back doors, and spilling onto the highway to the south of the property via buildings, alleyways and driveways;
- Fluvial flows accumulated along the northern section of Park Road as this reflects a low point relative to the surrounding land, causing flooding to Properties AE to AL;
- Fluvial flows continued in a westerly direction along Wyberton West Road and accumulated in the driveways at Properties AC and AD, exceeding the front door threshold and causing internal flooding.

Road closure at Wyberton West Road

The road closure at Wyberton West Road occurred as a result of overtopping of the low wall sections due to high water levels on the SFFD, via the same mechanisms as identified for the affected properties (see above). Flood waters from the SFFD travelled in a southerly direction via gardens and dwellings before flowing in a westerly direction along the highway and primarily accumulating at the junction with Park Road.

Road closure at Chain Bridge Road

The road closure at Chain Bridge Road is understood to have occurred to reduce traffic along Wyberton West Road, as several residents had reported bow waves from vehicles were exacerbating the flooding experienced at their properties. It is also understood that flooding on Chain Bridge Road occurred during this incident.

Relevant RMAs (listed in alphabetical order)

In relation to this flood incident, Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (IDB) and the Environment Agency (EA) are considered to be the relevant RMAs.

Recommendations

The residents of the affected properties should consider implementing flood resistance and resilience measures at their properties to reduce the possible impacts of flooding should it occur again in the future.

The residents of Wyberton West Road and Park Road, with support from Boston Borough Council and/or the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF), should consider producing a flood action plan (where not done so already) to ensure that they are suitably prepared should flooding occur again in the future.

The EA should consider reviewing the hydraulic modelling for the SFFD to ensure that it is reflective of the flooding experienced on 06 January 2025. Following this, the plan for mitigation within the Black Sluice Catchment should be reviewed to ensure it remains appropriate.

The EA should consider reviewing the potential for a Flood Warning service for the downstream reaches of the SFFD; should this be deemed unfeasible, consideration should be given to amending the wording of the Flood Alert for this area to reduce confusion regarding the potential for internal flooding and whether future warnings will be received.

The EA should consider a review of their processes for operating assets on the SFFD and Black Sluice IDB should consider reviewing their Emergency Response Plan, to ensure that lessons identified during January 2025 are implemented accordingly.

The EA should consider raising the two wall sections along Wyberton West Road so that they are at the same height as the adjacent sections of embankment, to reduce the potential for future overtopping in this location.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and limitations of this flood investigation report

On Monday 06 January 2025, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), in its capacity as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) was notified of flooding to:

Table 1 – Properties covered as part of this investigation; * A neighbour indicated that Property A experienced external flooding only, but this has not been confirmed directly by the resident at this property

Address	Reference	Reported Extent	Confirmed Extent
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property A	Internal	N/A*
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property B	Internal	Internal
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property C	Internal	Internal
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property D	Internal	N/A
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property E	Internal	Internal
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property F	Internal	Internal
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property G	Internal	N/A
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property H	Internal	Internal
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property I	Internal	Internal
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property J	Internal	Internal
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property K	Internal	N/A
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property L	Internal	N/A
Wyberton West Road, Boston,	Property M	Internal	N/A

Address	Reference	Reported Extent	Confirmed Extent
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property N	Internal	Internal
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property O	Internal	Internal
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property P	Internal	N/A
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property Q	Internal	N/A
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property R	Internal	N/A
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property S	Internal	Internal
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property T	Internal	N/A
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property U	Internal	Internal
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property V	Internal	N/A
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property W	Internal	N/A
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property X	Internal	Internal
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property Y	Internal	N/A
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property Z	Internal	N/A
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AA	Internal	Internal
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AB	Internal	N/A
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AC	Internal	N/A

Address	Reference	Reported Extent	Confirmed Extent
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AD	Internal	Internal
■ Wyberton West Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AE	Internal	N/A
■ Park Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AF	Internal	N/A
■ Park Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AG	Internal	Internal
■ Park Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AH	N/A	Internal
■ Park Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AI	Internal	N/A
■ Park Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AJ	Internal	N/A
■ Park Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AK	Internal	N/A
■ Park Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AL	Internal	Internal
■ Park Road, Boston, ■ ■	Property AM	Internal	No flooding
Chain Bridge Road, Boston, ■ ■	Chain Bridge Road	Road closure	N/A
Wyberton West Road, Boston	Wyberton West Road	Road closure	N/A

During a site visit to Boston, internal flooding within 16 properties was confirmed (Table 1); one further property (Property AH) was confirmed via a response to the LCC questionnaire. Two road closures were also reported.

Having regard to LCC's 'Guiding Principles' for Section 19 flood investigations, it was deemed necessary that a flood investigation report be undertaken pursuant to Section 19 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 (as amended).

The purpose of this Section 19 flood investigation report is to:

- Investigate reports of internal flooding to understand and determine the cause of flooding;
- Determine which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions;
- Propose recommendations that may alleviate potential future flooding events or if the affected properties or location should be considered as suitable for a capital project. It is however important to note that this investigation report cannot provide designed or costed solutions and / or enforce those identified RMAs or persons to undertake any of the proposed recommendations.

It should be noted that one property (Property AM) was confirmed as having not experienced any flooding during the Site visit; therefore, it has been discounted from the investigation. A neighbour indicated that Property A experienced external flooding only, but this has not been confirmed by the resident at Property A themselves; in any case, the flood mechanism would be the same as for the other properties on Wyberton West Road.

1.2 Sources of evidence

The information used to inform the conclusions of this S19 report is:

- Site visit, including conversations with residents at properties reported to have internally flooded, and observations of nearby watercourses and drainage assets;
- The results of a survey which LCC made available to residents affected by flooding;
- Review of the Environment Agencies (EA) Flood Map for Planning, Risk of Flooding from Surface Water mapping, and GeoSmart's FloodSmart Analytics mapping;
- Publicly available mapping, such as the EA's LiDAR elevation data and British Geological Survey geological data;
- River level gauge data covering the storm event;
- Mapping of LCC's known drainage assets;
- Mapping of Anglian Water's surface and foul sewer network (where available); and
- Relevant information provided by RMAs (where available).

Following receipt and assessment of this information, the likely flood mechanism was determined. Where respondents have not provided information regarding the timing and source of flooding, this has been inferred from Site walkovers as well as the available flood mapping and publicly available records.

Given the source of flooding, issues have been identified within the Site area which contributed to the flooding, and recommendations have been made to resolve these issues.

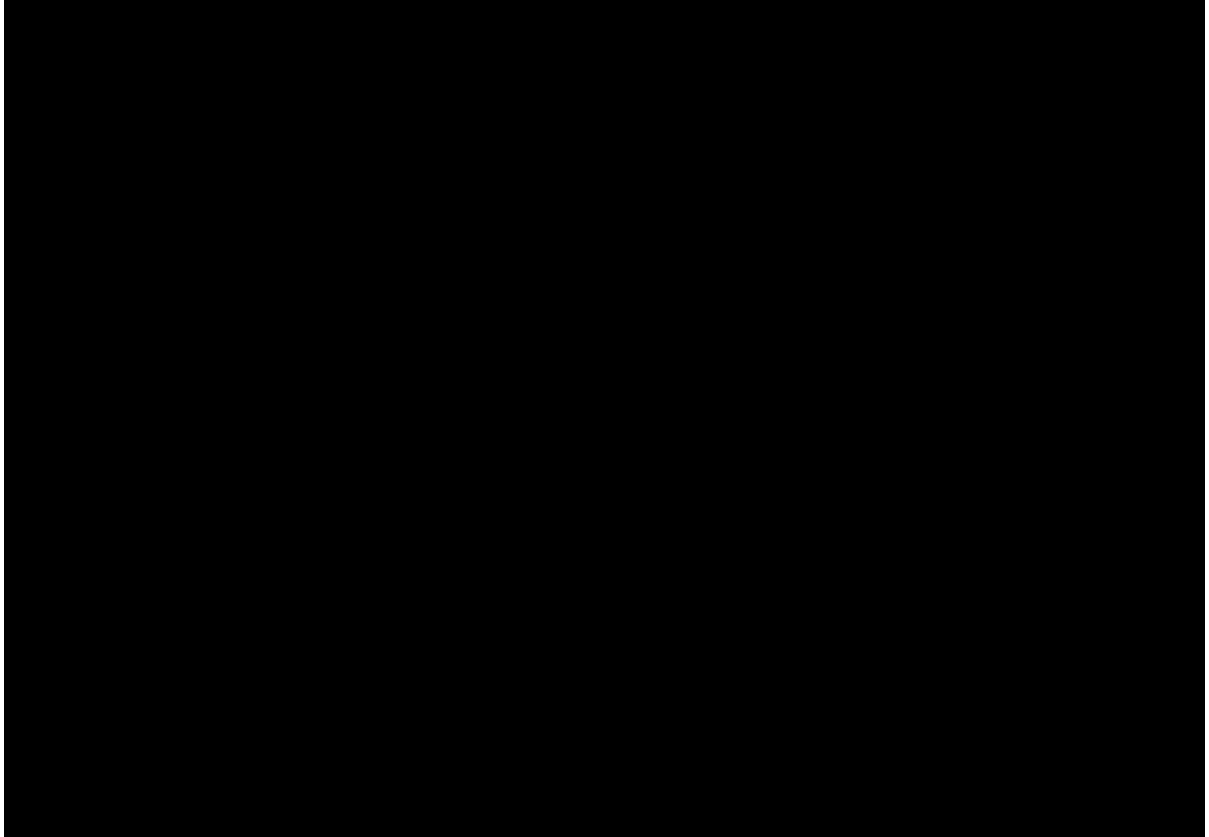
In the case of some Sites, flood mitigation measures have already been implemented following the flood event. Where this has occurred, an indication of whether this would provide satisfactory resolution of the issues has been provided.

Note that much of the data was provided from personal accounts. As such, the completion and accuracy of this information is variable, and in some cases there have been contradictions between nearby residents' accounts.

2. Background information

2.1 Site location

Properties A to AL are located in the town of Boston (Figure 1). They are situated within the Boston Borough area of Lincolnshire and the internal drainage district of Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (IDB).



(Figure 1 – Location of the affected properties)

Properties A to AD are located along the northern side of Wyberton West Road, comprising a mix of terraced, semi-detached and detached properties. The South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) forms the northern boundary of each residential plot and is located c. 10 to 40 m north of the dwellings themselves.

An additional property (AE) is located on the southern side of the junction between Wyberton West Road and Park Road, c. 80 m from the SFFD. Meanwhile, Properties AF to AL are located on both sides of the northern section of Park Road, c. 90 to 140 m from the drain.

The SFFD is an artificial channel, designated as a Main River, used to drain the Black Sluice District. The district comprises two catchments: 'upper', with elevated ground levels, where runoff accumulates within drainage channels within the district; and 'lower', low-lying primarily agricultural land. A map of the Black Sluice catchment is included within Appendix 7.5.

The drain 'flows' in an easterly direction through Boston prior to being discharged into the Haven, the tidal outfall channel for the River Witham, via gravity sluices (note: the Black Sluice

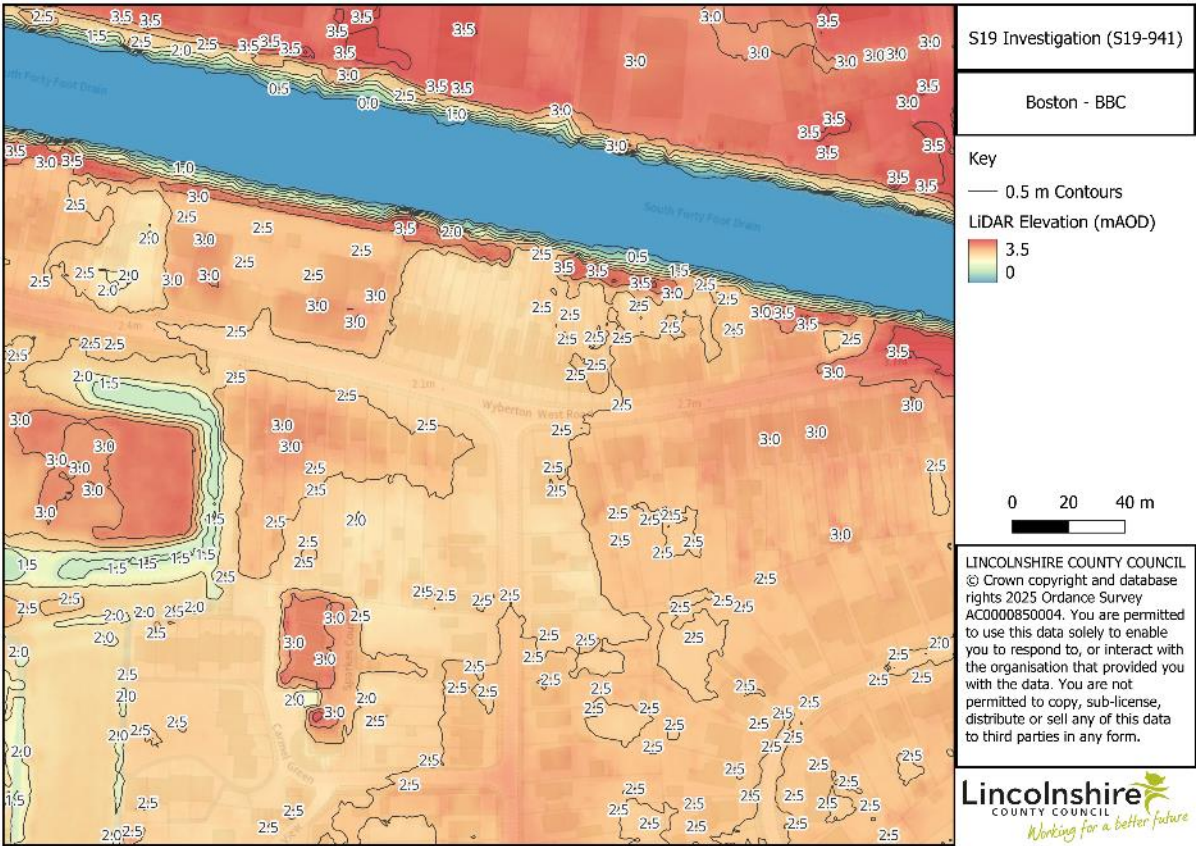
Pumping Station, which previously provided discharge at high tide, will be discussed further in Section 2.5). The Haven eventually discharges into the North Sea, c. 8 km south-east of the properties.

The lower SFFD catchment (which includes the affected properties) is generally underlain by superficial deposits comprising Tidal Flat Deposits, which consist of clay and silt (BGS, 2025) and are classified as Unproductive Strata (EA, 2025). The underlying bedrock is variable but generally comprises mudstone with an associated Unproductive Strata classification.

The underlying clayey setting is likely to reduce the possible infiltration of rainfall, even under optimal conditions, with the model report for the Black Sluice Catchment noting that saturation of the soils in the upper catchment can occur rapidly (Mott MacDonald, 2016).

An IDB maintained watercourse is located c. 5 m to the east of Property AD, with an outfall into the SFFD; however, at this stage it is not considered relevant to the flooding that occurred on 06 January 2025.

Properties A to AD are located in a local topographic low relative to the surrounding land (Figure 2). Wyberton West Road falls towards the junction with Park Road from both directions, while Park Road itself falls in a northerly direction. The affected properties are generally located on lower ground compared to adjacent unimpacted properties, with the highway falling towards Properties A to AD. Properties AF to AL are also noted to be located at a lower elevation than Park Road.

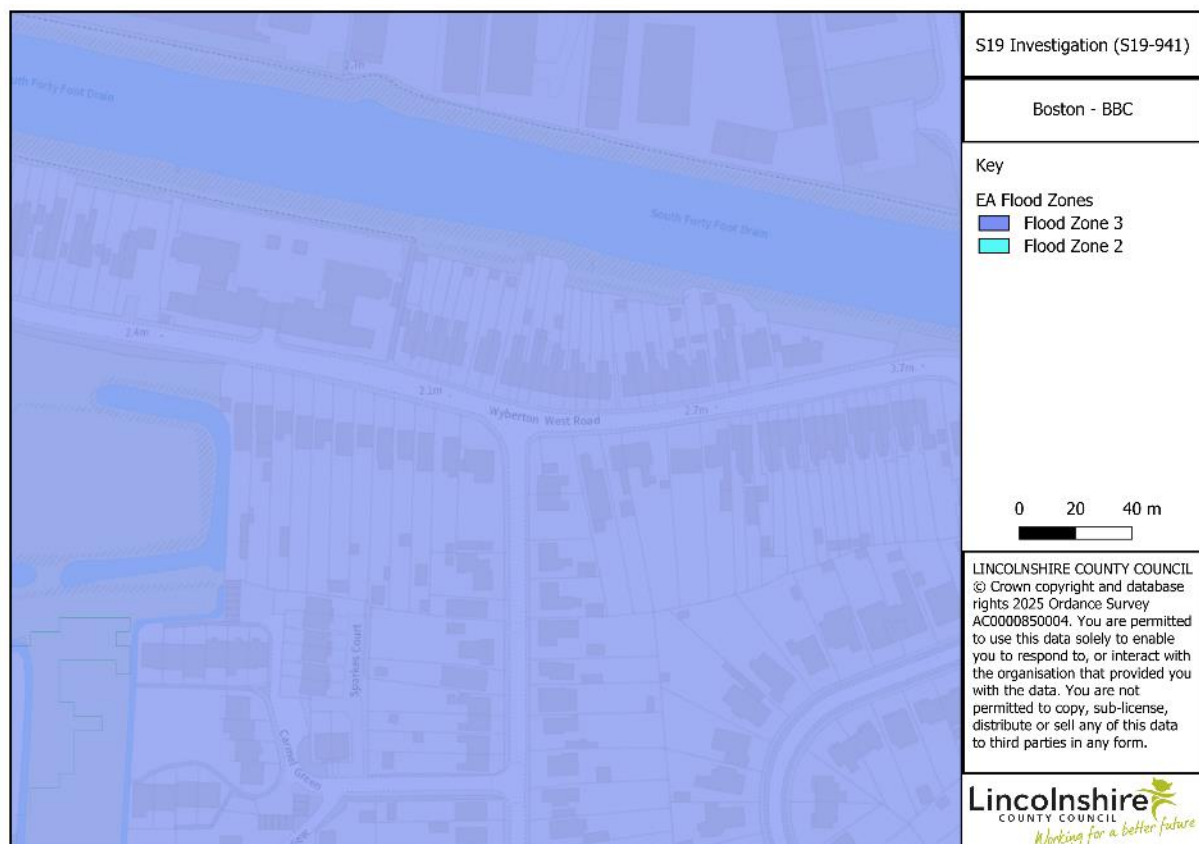


(Figure 2 – LiDAR elevation data for the affected area)

High ground associated with the southern bank of the SFFD is located along the northern boundary of the residential plots for Properties A to AD, with notable decreases in this level at Properties R to U and D to F.

2.2 Flood risk overview

According to the EA's Flood Map for Planning Purposes, the properties are located in the EA's tidal Flood Zone 3, which indicates it has a High probability of tidal flooding (Figure 3).



(Figure 3 – Flood zone mapping for the properties and surrounding area)

According to the EA's Risk of Flooding from Rivers and the Sea (RoFRS) mapping, the properties occupy land that have a Low risk of fluvial and tidal flooding.

According to the national scale Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW) mapping, the area surrounding the properties has a variable present day risk of flooding from surface water, ranging from Very Low to High. However, as the January flood event was caused by fluvial flooding, further consideration of surface water flood risk is not considered relevant in this context.

According to GeoSmart's FloodSmart Analytics mapping, the properties and surrounding area are all at Very Low risk of groundwater flooding.

The RoFRS and national scale RoFSW mapping uses the following classifications:

- High risk – an area has an annual chance of flooding greater than 3.3%;
- Medium risk – an area has an annual chance of flooding of between 1% and 3.3%;

- Low risk – an area has an annual chance of flooding of between 0.1% and 1%; and
- Very Low risk – an area has an annual chance of flooding less than 0.1%.

It should be noted that the above analysis carries the following disclaimer (EA, 2025):

“All information, particularly the likelihood of surface water flooding, is a general indicator of an area’s flood risk. As such, it is not suitable for identifying whether an individual property will flood. This service uses computer models to assess an area’s long-term flood risk from rivers, the sea, surface water and some groundwater. It does not include flood risk from sources such as blocked drains and burst pipes.”

2.3 Drainage arrangements

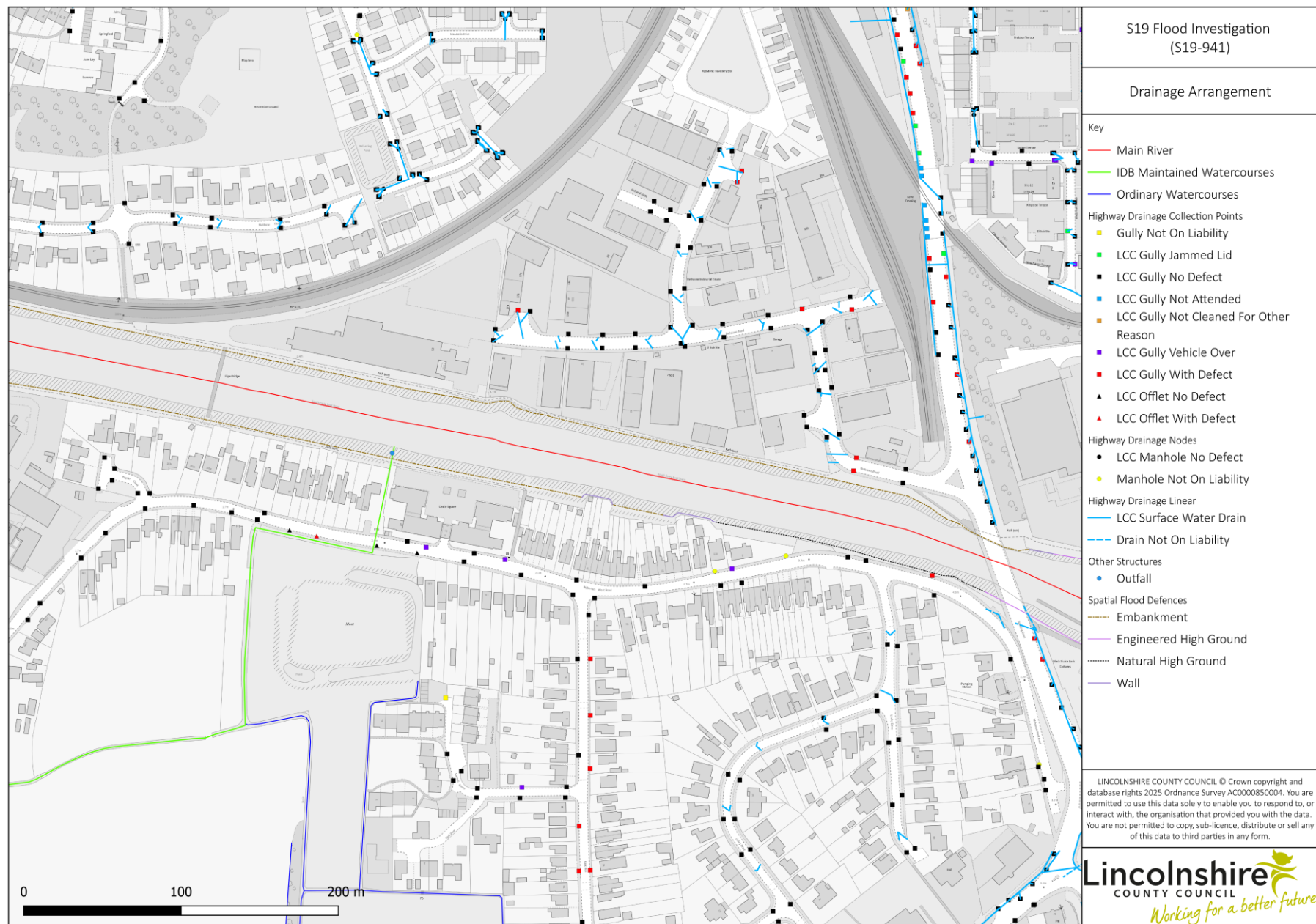
Highway and public sewer asset data were reviewed as part of the investigation. However, as there is no supporting evidence to indicate that they were a significant contributory factor to the observed internal flooding, they are not deemed relevant and therefore have not been assessed further.

Flood defences are present on the southern bank of the SFFD (as indicated within Figure 4). These defences comprise a mixture of walls, embankments and natural high ground:

- Natural high ground is located adjacent to Property B, with an effective crest level of 3.84 mAOD. The defences are estimated to provide protection up to a 1 in 20 year (5% AEP) event and are recorded as having a condition grade of 3 (‘fair’);
- Two sections of flood walls are located adjacent to Properties B to F and P to U, with effective crest levels between 2.80 and 2.88 mAOD (Photographs 1 to 3 in Appendix 7.3). These crest levels are validated by a post-incident flood wall survey undertaken by the EA as part of their review of the flood event (see Section 3.3). The defences are estimated to provide protection up to a 1 in 20 year (5% AEP) event and are recorded as having condition grades of 3 (‘fair’) to 4 (‘poor’);
- The remainder of defences along this section of the SFFD comprise embankments with effective crest levels between 2.90 and 3.03 mAOD; The defences are estimated to provide protection up to a 1 in 20 year (5% AEP) event and are recorded as having a condition grade of 4 (‘poor’).

Consultants from GeoSmart Information Ltd visited the properties and surrounding area on 13 and 14 March 2025. As part of the visit, the drainage network on Wyberton West Road and Park Road was inspected, which confirmed that gullies and offlets are present along both highways in the same arrangement as included within LCC records.

A linear drain was observed along the kerb line between Properties O and T, which appeared blocked with silt in places (Photograph 7 in Appendix 7.3).



(Figure 4 - Known drainage assets included within LCC records along Wyberton West Road at the time of publication)

An inspection of the defences along the southern bank of the SFFD indicates that they are present in the recorded arrangement. The EA's asset information, including the post-incident wall survey undertaken as part of the review of the flood event (see Section 3.3), suggests that the sections of flood wall are only c. 0.1 to 0.3 m lower than the adjacent sections of embankment. It should be noted that several residents reported that the wall had been sealed subsequent to the 06 January 2025 flood event (Photograph 4 in Appendix 7.3), which is also discussed within the EA's review of the flood event (see Section 3.3).

At the time of the Site visit in March 2025, the SFFD had a water level c. 3 m lower than the bank height and appeared to have a modest flow.

2.4 Previous flood incidents

Whilst several S19 flood investigations have been conducted within Boston, none of these are within close proximity to the affected properties; therefore, they are not considered relevant to the 06 January 2025 flood event. The properties were not impacted during the 2013 tidal surge event (which caused widespread flooding along the River Witham).

Numerous reports of blocked drains and previous flooding along Wyberton West Road have been made. The majority of these reports relate to blocked drains on the highway, which is not considered relevant to the flood investigation and therefore have not been analysed further. The following relevant reports have been identified:

- Sinking of the bank along the SFFD was reported adjacent to Wyberton Road in October 2016 (ref: 240325). The bank was reported to be safe and secure, but the enquiry was noted for future monitoring.
- Regular flooding was reported in the rear garden at Property AF in February 2024 (ref: 4190412). The enquiry was listed as having a job raised and committed, although it is not known what subsequent actions (if any) were taken.

According to the EA's Historical Flood Map, no fluvial or tidal flood incidents have previously affected the Site.

The South East Lincolnshire SFRA (South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee 2017) does not include any information regarding historical flood incidents within the vicinity of the properties.

Anecdotally, during the Site visit, the residents all reported that their properties had not previously experienced flooding, and that the wall along the southern bank of the SFFD had not previously overtopped. One resident (at Property F) indicated that they had previously experienced flooding in their garden, which was also mentioned within the EA's review of the flood event (EA, 2025) as a result of seepage through the right bank of the SFFD.

2.5 Control structures for the SFFD

The SFFD discharges into the Haven c. 300 m east of the properties. At present this occurs by gravity using sluices; in the past, a pumping station also contributed to this. These assets,

sometimes referred to collectively as the Black Sluice complex, are discussed in more detail in Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2. Further discussion of the upstream assets is provided in Section 2.5.3.

Information regarding the control structures has been obtained from the EA's reporting on the Black Sluice Catchment Works, including a Summary Report (2013), Stage 3a – Options shortlisting (2015), Consultation Document (2015), Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board Joint Position Statement (2015), Consultation Response Document (2016), Economic Appraisal (2016) and Black Sluice Catchment briefing note (2019). Information regarding the upstream pumping stations has been obtained from Black Sluice IDB's Emergency Response Plan (2024).

The operation of each flood structure on 06 January 2025 is discussed separately within Sections 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5.

2.5.1 Gravity sluices

At present, flows from the SFFD are discharged into the Haven via two tidal sluices (Photograph 13 in Appendix 7.3). These sluices can discharge up to 45 m³/s each and are designed to operate automatically when the river is higher than the tidal level. During typical conditions, Gate 1 is used to discharge flows; during periods of high river flows, Gate 2 (which doubles as a navigational lock) is also used. £1 million was spent in inspecting and refurbishing the sluices so they were fit for purpose in 2020.

2.5.2 Black Sluice Pumping Station (BSPS)

The BSPS was constructed in 1946 with three pumps; two further pumps were installed in 1966 (Photograph 12 in Appendix 7.3). The BSPS was used to discharge flows from the SFFD during periods where extreme flows coincide with high tide and was operated by the EA.

The Black Sluice Catchment Works Study began in 2012 as an appraisal into how to effectively manage flood risk within the Black Sluice catchment into the future. However, a storm surge occurred in December 2013, which resulted in three of the five pumps at the BSPS being damaged beyond repair; the estimated cost for repairing the remaining two pumps and refurbishing the pumping station was estimated at £15 to 20 million.

As part of subsequent works, the appraisal found that the BSPS was used for 2-3 days per year (i.e. when high tide coincides with extreme flows on the SFFD). Modelling was undertaken, which indicated that the decommissioning of the BSPS would result in a modest increase in flooding of agricultural land but would not result in an increase in flood risk to property. The appraisal noted the pumping station does not provide protection to properties because:

- The fourth and fifth pumps (commissioned in 1966) were designed to accommodate the additional flows associated with the proposed widening of the SFFD channel, which did not occur;
- The BSPS is used less than 1% of the time, with the sluices able to accommodate the flows for the majority of the time;
- When the BSPS is used, discharging flows via the sluice is delayed.

Several options for managing flows on the SFFD were shortlisted, including decommissioning the pumping station (with either maintenance or armouring existing low points on the SFFD)

and refurbishing two of the five pumps, with their transfer to Black Sluice IDB (also with maintenance and/or bank reinforcements). An economic appraisal found that decommissioning the pumping station with the continuation of maintenance had the highest average benefit cost ratio, with decommissioning the pumping station and sustaining the banks considered to be the best option. Refurbishing the pumping station was not considered to be economically viable.

A consultation was conducted, which indicated that most residents supported refurbishment of the BSPS and its transfer to the IDB. There was also support for armouring low points on embankments.

Following the appraisal, the decision to decommission the BSPS, paired with reinforcing low points on the banks, was made in 2018. As of 2019, works to support this included de-silting of the channel, bank armouring works, natural flood management in the upper catchment, and a pilot study into how the classification of the SFFD could be changed to ordinary watercourse which would result in the SFFD falling under the jurisdiction of Black Sluice IDB.

2.5.3 Upstream pumping stations

Upstream of Boston, water levels on the SFFD are controlled by 32 pumping stations, which pump water from tributaries and lowland drainage ditches into the channel.

During periods of high river levels, Black Sluice IDB (who have responsibility for water level management on ordinary watercourses within the Black Sluice catchment) implements an Emergency Response Plan when levels at Black Hole Drove Pumping Station reach 2.3 mAOD. As part of this, when the water level at Black Hole Drove Pumping Station exceeds 2.7 mAOD, the pumping stations along the SFFD are switched to their emergency profile (The SFFD is considered to be at risk of overtopping its banks if the water level at the same station reaches 2.7 mAOD.).

Through correspondence with Black Sluice IDB it is understood that implementation of the emergency pumping profiles results in approximately 70% of the pumping stations being switched off, although it is worth noting that this is not a binary outcome, i.e., pumps on or off. Due to the introduction of telemetry levels are instead maintained within 300mm of highest known levels thereby reducing (but not eliminating) inflow into the SFFD whilst also minimising the risk of overtopping of upstream catchments.

3. Flood event

3.1 Conditions prior to the flooding

Prior to the flooding event, rainfall conditions were normal across the wider Lincolnshire area.

During November 2024, the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire area received an average rainfall of 58mm (equivalent to 103% of the long term average) which was classified as within normal range.

Normal conditions continued through December 2024. During this month, the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire area recorded an average rainfall of 67mm (equivalent to 120% of the long term average). Groundwater levels remained normal or higher following the normal levels of rainfall the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire area had received. During the month, soil moisture deficits had also decreased, indicating that in general Lincolnshire was slightly wetter than normal for the time of year (EA, 2025).

Following on from this, an Atlantic low-pressure system brought significant rainfall and snowfall across Lincolnshire on 05 and 06 January 2025 (Met Office, 2025). Some locations within Lincolnshire received over 50 mm of rain, equivalent to a whole-month's average rainfall over a two-day period. On 05 January, several weather stations recorded their wettest January day on record including Cranwell, (30.8mm, 111 years of recorded data) and Coningsby (33.2mm, 60 years of recorded data).

Temperatures overnight on 05 and 06 January 2025 were around 0°C, which meant that in many cases the surface of the ground was frozen and covered with a layer of snow. These factors likely resulted in an increase in runoff rates as rainfall was less able to infiltrate into the ground, causing increased overland flow and subsequent rapid rising of river levels.

High tide occurred at 10:38 and 22:59 on 06 January 2025.

To gather more information regarding the antecedent conditions and events of 06 January 2025, the Environment Agency, Black Sluice IDB and Boston Borough Council were contacted. Information provided by the Environment Agency is included within Sections 2.5 and 3.3.

3.2 Rainfall and telemetry analysis

3.2.1 Rainfall analysis

The closest available rainfall gauge is the Frampton Gauge (ref: E46361), c. 3.6 km south of the properties. Rainfall data from this gauge for 05 to 08 January 2025 has been considered as part of this investigation (Figure 5).

The rainfall data was captured by the Met Office's Radar technology and made available from the Meniscus Analytics Platform. Annual chance events were calculated using the FEH2013 DDF model (c). The result of these calculations is summarised within Table 2.

This rainfall data indicates that low intensity rainfall occurred on the morning of 05 January 2025, with occasional rainfall in the afternoon. Intense rainfall then began around 23:00 on 05 January 2025, reaching a peak intensity of c. 8 mm/hr around midnight. Rainfall continued with bursts of high intensity rainfall until c. 11:00 on 06 January, following which rainfall decreased in intensity. Rainfall ceased around 15:00. The result of these calculations is summarised within Table 2.

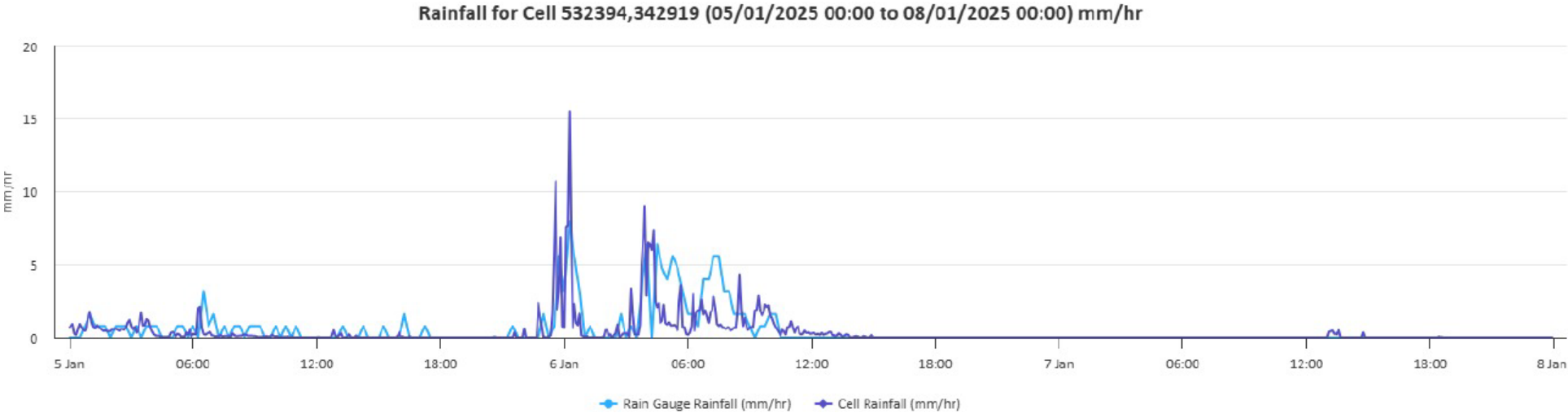
Analysis of the rainfall data indicates that the rainfall event was equivalent to a 1 in 1.9 annual chance rainfall event (53% Annual Exceedance Probability).

To provide further context regarding the catchment, rain gauges in the upper SFFD catchment were also considered (Osournby, ref: E1606; and Guthram Gowt, ref: E25041). These gauges generally recorded a similar timing of rainfall as Frampton Gauge, with rainfall beginning around 23:00 on 05 January 2025. Modest differences in rainfall intensity are noted, with Osournby Gauge recording more intense rainfall earlier in the day on 05 January compared to other gauges.

Note that rainfall intensities and depths vary across an area, and therefore the rainfall data included should be used as an indicative guide only. Additionally, the rainfall data does not fully account for the snowfall and snowmelt experienced across high ground in Lincolnshire. Vegetation cover is also noted to be at its lowest level during the winter months, which reduces the proportion of rainfall intercepted by trees and plants and contributes to increased runoff within the catchment.

Table 2 – Summary of available rainfall data for the properties; *Calculated via the FEH13 Annual Maximum method.

Rainfall duration (hours)	Rainfall depth (mm)	AEP*
34	35	1 in 1.9 (53%)



(Figure 5 – Rainfall intensities for Cell 532394, 342919, between 05 and 08 January 2025.)

3.2.2 River level and flow analysis

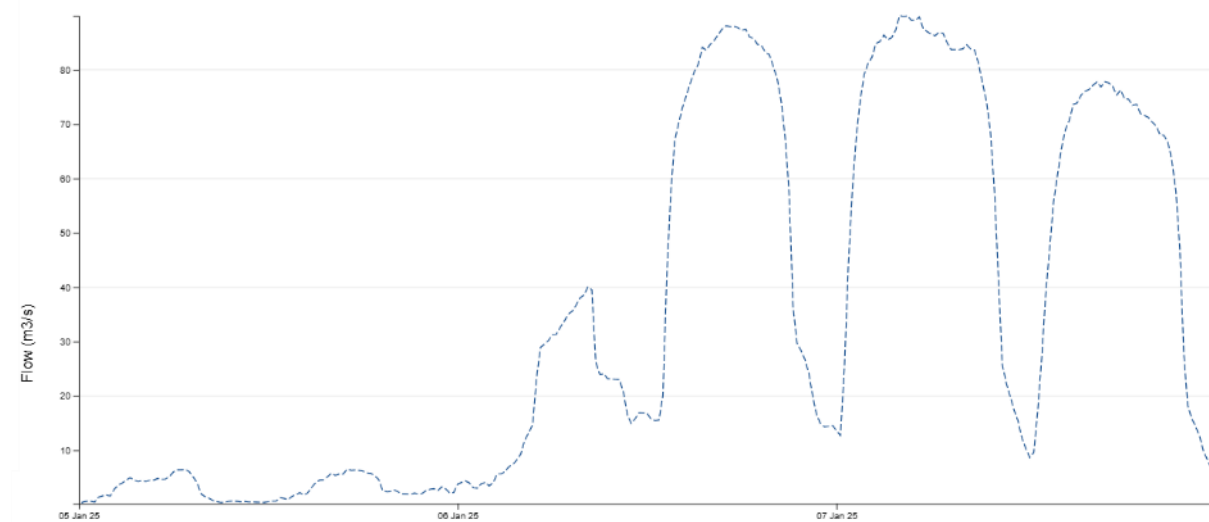
Several EA-operated monitoring stations are located on the SFFD or associated tributaries. River flow data from these gauges has been analysed as part of this investigation.

Hubberts Bridge monitoring station is located on the SFFD, c. 5 km west of the properties, at grid reference 526930, 343640. This monitoring station indicates that flows in the lower catchment of the SFFD have synchronicity with the tides; the greatest flows occur at low tide, as this is when flows can be discharged via the gravity sluice.

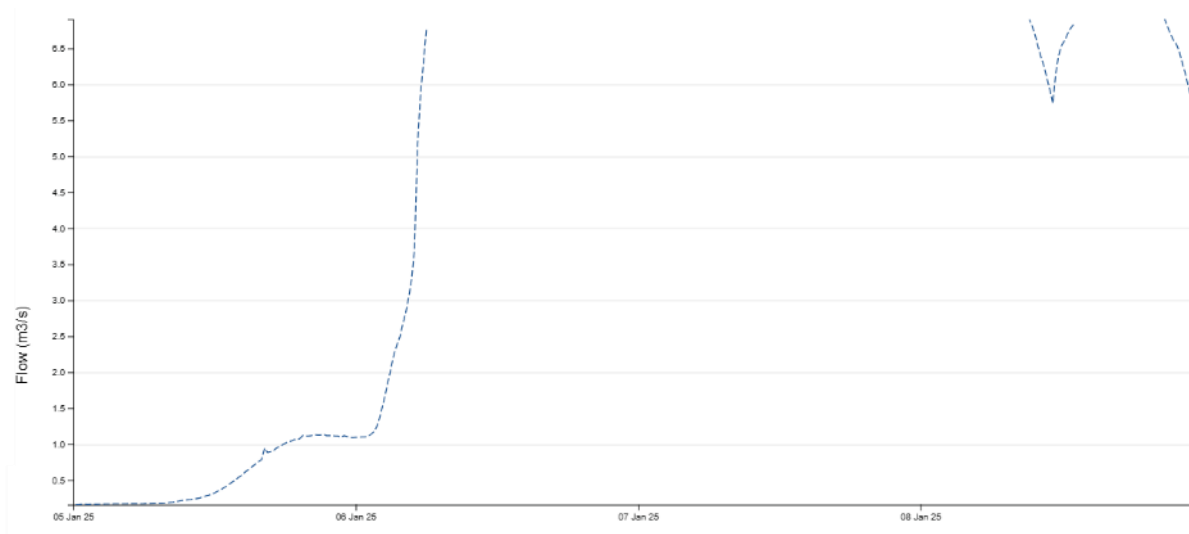
Flows began to increase in the early hours of 06 January 2025, peaking at 40 m³/s at 08:00 (flows were c. 3 m³/s at midnight) (Figure 6). The drop in flows (and lower rate of increase of flows) is noted to occur c. 0.5 hours after Gates 1 and 2 were fully opened (see Section 3.3). Flows reached a low of 15 m³/s at 11:00 then rose to 88 m³/s at 18:00, oscillating with the tide. Subsequent lows in the flow occurred at 23:00 on 06 January and 12:00 on 07 January, and highs were recorded at 04:00 and 16:00 on 07 January.

Rippingale monitoring station is located on the Rippingale Running Dyke, a tributary of the SFFD, c. 26 km south-west of the properties. This gauge provides context regarding the behaviour of flows in the upper reaches of the SFFD.

This indicates that flows in the Rippingale Running Dyke began to increase rapidly at 02:00 on 06 January; the peak flow cannot be identified as it exceeded the maximum measurable flow for this gauge (Figure 7). Flows fell within the recordable range briefly on 08 January and fell across 09 January.



(Figure 6 – River flows in the lower reaches of the SFFD between 05 and 08 January 2025, as measured at Hubberts Bridge Gauge.)



(Figure 7 – River flows at Rippingale Running Dyke, a tributary of the SFFD, between 05 and 08 January 2025, as measured at Rippingale Gauge.)

3.3 EA review of flood event

Following the 06 January 2025 flood event, the EA have conducted their own review of the events of flooding.

The EA's review indicated that a maximum flood level of 3.02 mAOD was recorded at the closest point to the properties (Chain Bridge Pumping Station), at 00:00 on 07 January 2025. The recorded level is understood to be greater than the 1 in 1000 year (0.1% AEP) flood level identified during the earlier SFFD modelling, including an allowance for climate change.

The EA held a routine inspection for the flood defences adjacent to the affected properties in June 2024, which indicated that there had been settlement and joint failures in these walls; these issues had not been resolved prior to the flood event. The EA also noted that seepage through the right bank of the SFFD has occurred since 2021, with standing water in gardens during periods of high river levels. As such the EA identified that seepage through the walls (as well as overtopping) likely occurred during the 06 January 2025 flood event. It should be noted that resealing works occurred between the flood event and prior to the Site visit for this S19 flood investigation (i.e. between mid-January and early March) (Photograph 4 in Appendix 7.3).

The two sections of wall were surveyed as part of the EA review, which indicated that the walls have respective minimum crest levels of 2.80 and 2.88 mAOD, up to 0.22 m beneath the nearest measured flood level, confirming that overtopping occurred.

In December 2024, the automatic controls for Gate 2 (one of the two sluices used to discharge flows from the SFFD into the Haven) was being relocated, which meant that the sluice needed to be manually operated. On 16 December 2024, Gate 1 experienced a gear box issue; the part to fix this was estimated to take at least one month to arrive. As such, it was kept closed, with Gate 2 (in manual mode) used to control flows. Gate 1 was manually opened fully at 07:45 on 06 January, and 04:13 for Gate 2; the EA concluded this allowed discharge from both gates for a full tidal cycle before peak flows reached Boston.

The EA reviewed the details of the emergency response plan for Black Sluice IDB, and noted that due to the extreme rainfall in January 2025, most pumping stations continued to pump water into the SFFD to avoid local flooding and as such the EA recommended that the emergency response plan be reviewed as part of long-term strategic planning.

It should be noted that the EA confirmed within the review that fluvial Flood Warnings for the SFFD are not available as it passes through Boston, due to the absence of any trigger thresholds.

3.4 Black Sluice IDB review of flood event

Black Sluice IDB undertook an investigation of the flood event, the results of which were shared with affected residents. This report has been reviewed to help inform the conclusions of this S19 flood investigation.

Black Sluice IDB enacted their Emergency Plan at 08:32 on 06 January 2025, once the water level on the SFFD exceeded a critical threshold. As part of this, the pumping stations along the SFFD undertook emergency profiles for pumping to mitigate the flooding.

A flood alert was first issued at 02:06 on 06 January 2025 for minor watercourses of the SFFD, with flood warnings issued for various sections of the SFFD and associated discharge channels throughout the day. No flood warning was issued to Boston.

The report indicated that critical levels were reached on the SFFD in Boston in the late evening of 06 January, surpassing the maximum Storm Henk level of 2.6 mAOD at 22:27. Flood waters were witnessed on Wyberton West Road and Chain Bridge Road at 23:40. Tidal lock conditions were in place between 19:00 and 24:00, preventing discharge from the Black Sluice complex during this time. Once the sluice began discharging flows around 24:00, the IDB noted that water levels fell quickly.

The IDB undertook a simple quantitative analysis of the possible impacts that the two pumps at BSPS could have had, should they have been operational on 06 January 2025. This calculation concluded that 540,000 m³ of water could have been discharged during the period of tidal locking by the two pumps, potentially lowering the water level by up to 1.23 m. Although, having said the above, it was noted by the EA that these calculations did not account for inflows from the channel upstream so the lowering of water levels by up to 1.23m could not have been achieved.

The IDB flagged that the sluices by BSPS were not fully open until c. 06:00 on 06 January; they therefore concluded that water levels on the SFFD were not as low as they could have been prior to the flood event.

3.5 Flooding mechanism(s) and causation

3.5.1 Reported flooding

Consultants from GeoSmart Information Ltd visited the properties and surrounding area on 13 and 14 March 2025. During this visit, conversations were held with residents of the properties to confirm the timing, extent and depth of flooding, with residents available to

speak to at 15 properties (c. 40% of those affected). Information provided within responses to the LCC questionnaire made available to residents affected by flooding has also been used, with five responses received. Photographic evidence of the flooding is provided later in this section (Figures 8 to 12).

The residents generally had consistent accounts of the flooding, with the majority of properties first flooding around 23:00 to 24:00 on 06 January 2025. Flood waters remained in the properties for any time between 1 hour and 2+ days, with the most commonly reported duration being 2-3 hours.

Flood waters entered the properties through a variety of means: doors, floors, air bricks, and internal drains were all reported as entry methods. The most common method of water entry for Properties A to AB (immediately to the south of the SFFD) was the back door (as shown in Photograph 8 in Appendix 7.3), with flood waters reported to be flowing in a southerly direction towards the highway. Several residents also reported surcharging of toilets, baths and drains. Meanwhile, flood waters more commonly entered via the front door for Properties AF to AL, along Park Road.

Flood depths within the dwellings themselves were also variable, with maximum depths between carpet level seepage and 0.30 m reported within the buildings themselves. Higher depths were reported externally, with many of the properties having an outbuilding or garage that was also impacted. Flood depths in the gardens generally reached 0.30 to 0.60 m on Wyberton West Road, with a maximum depth of 1 m reported; depths of 0.25 to 0.30 m were reported within gardens along Park Road. These depths are consistent with those reported within the EA's review of the flood event. There is no obvious correlation between internal flood depth and location.

50% of the properties experienced a power cut, with 25% reporting problems with toilets or drainage systems. Approximately 33% of the properties were reported to not have had any problems with utilities.

33% of residents reported they were unable to leave their properties during the flood event, with 47% reporting that they could only leave by wading through flood waters. The remaining 20% of residents reported that they were able to leave their homes. It should be noted that, according to information provided by Boston Borough Council, the majority of residents chose to remain in their homes throughout the flood event.

The source of flooding was unanimously attributed to high levels on the SFFD, with the closure of the BSPS frequently cited as contributing factor. Residents along Wyberton West Road reported overtopping at two wall sections adjacent to Properties B to F and P to U. This led to floodwaters flowing southward from the SFFD towards the highway, inundating Properties A to AB from the rear. Several residents also noted that flood waters travelled via alleyways between properties, contributing to flooding along Wyberton West Road with flows generally moving westward.

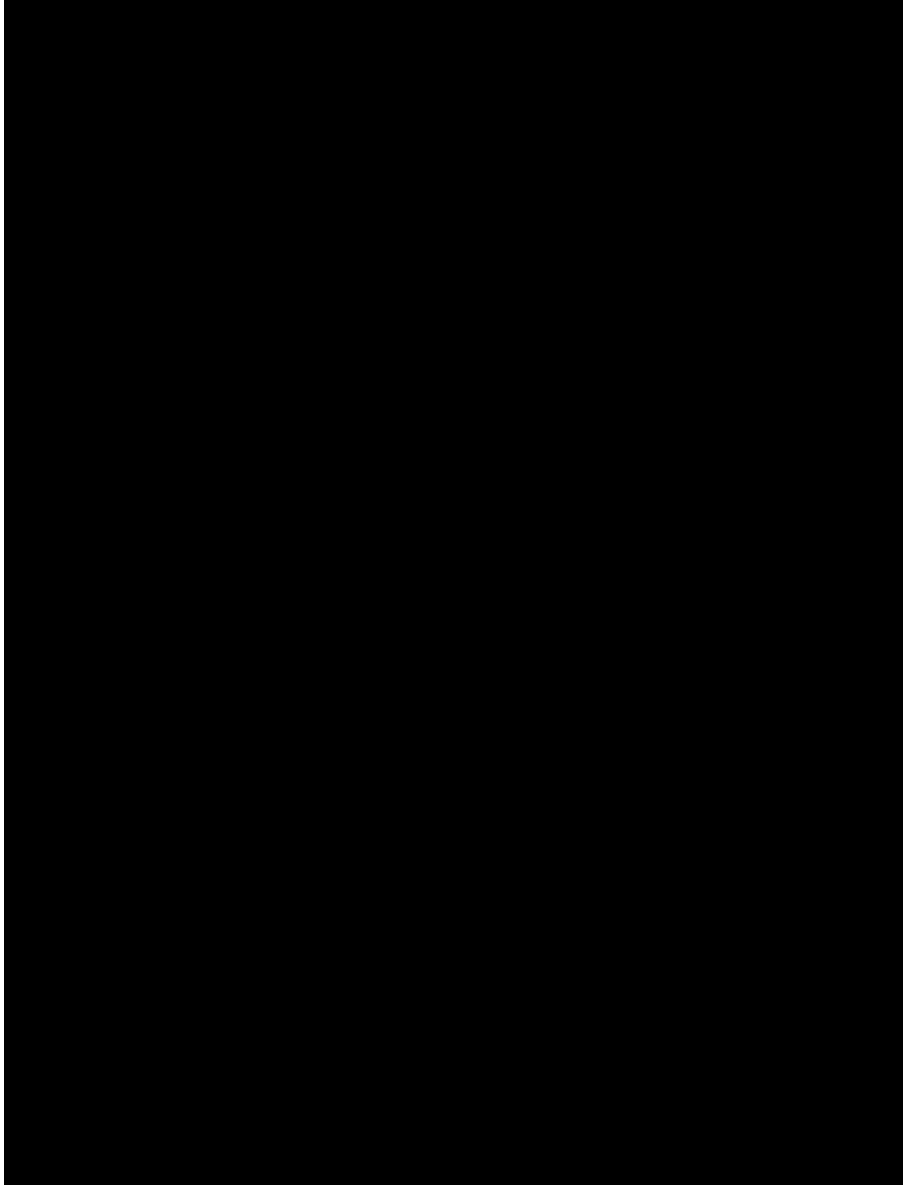
The residents along Park Road reported that flood waters also flowed down this highway towards their properties (Figure 9). The resident at Property AG indicated that flood waters also flowed through the garden and indicated that flooding may have initially come from this direction. The resident at Property AL indicated that the speed bump adjacent to them on

Park Road caused flows to be diverted in their direction (and prevented water from continuing south).

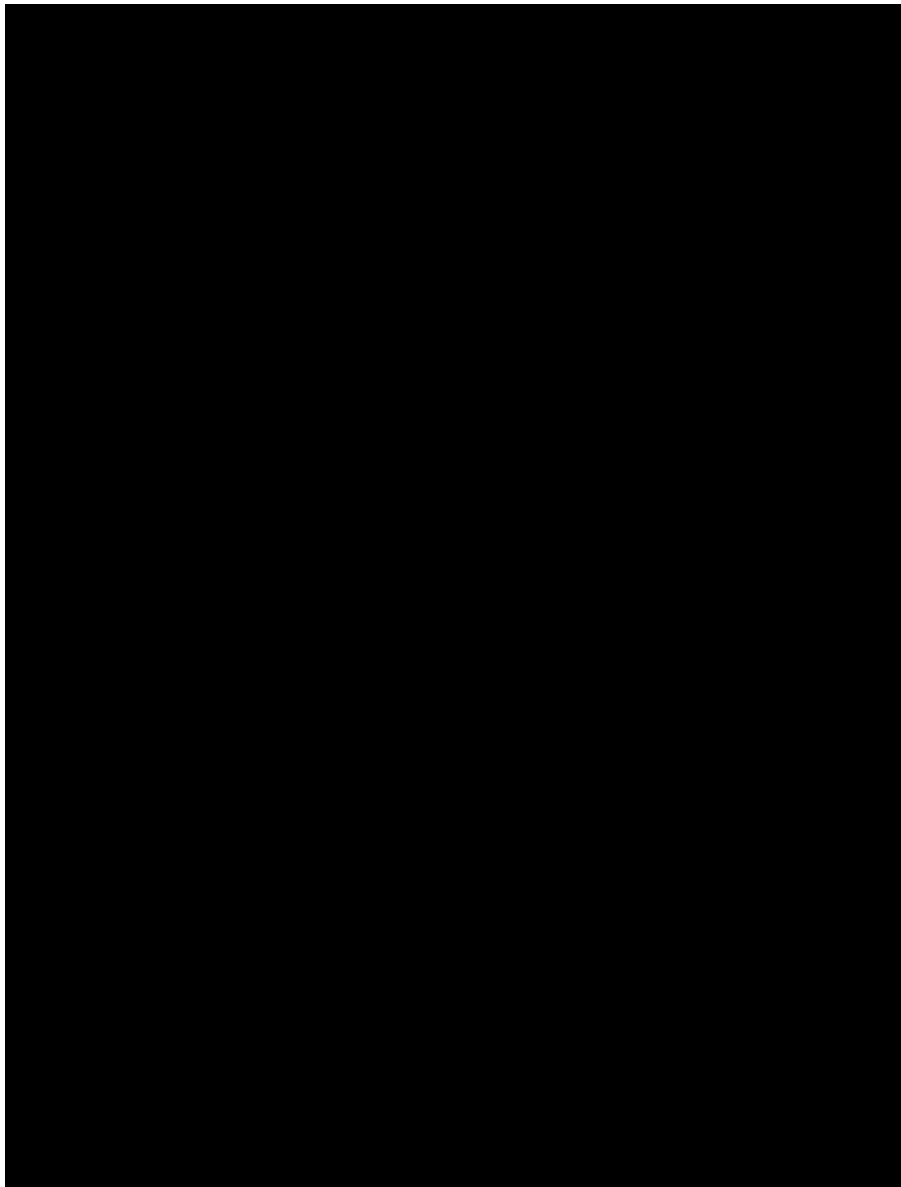
The resident at Property AD, which is located c. 90 m west of the majority of the affected properties on Wyberton West Road, indicated that flood waters flowed in a westerly direction along the highway and accumulated in their driveway (Figure 12). This resulted in flood waters entering via their front door. They confirmed that overtopping of the flood embankment did not occur adjacent to their property.

Numerous enquiries to LCC on 07 January 2025 (including refs: 2828996, 2829146, 4200027 and 4200093) indicate that residents were concerned that flooding would re-occur at subsequent high tides, requesting sand bags as a result.

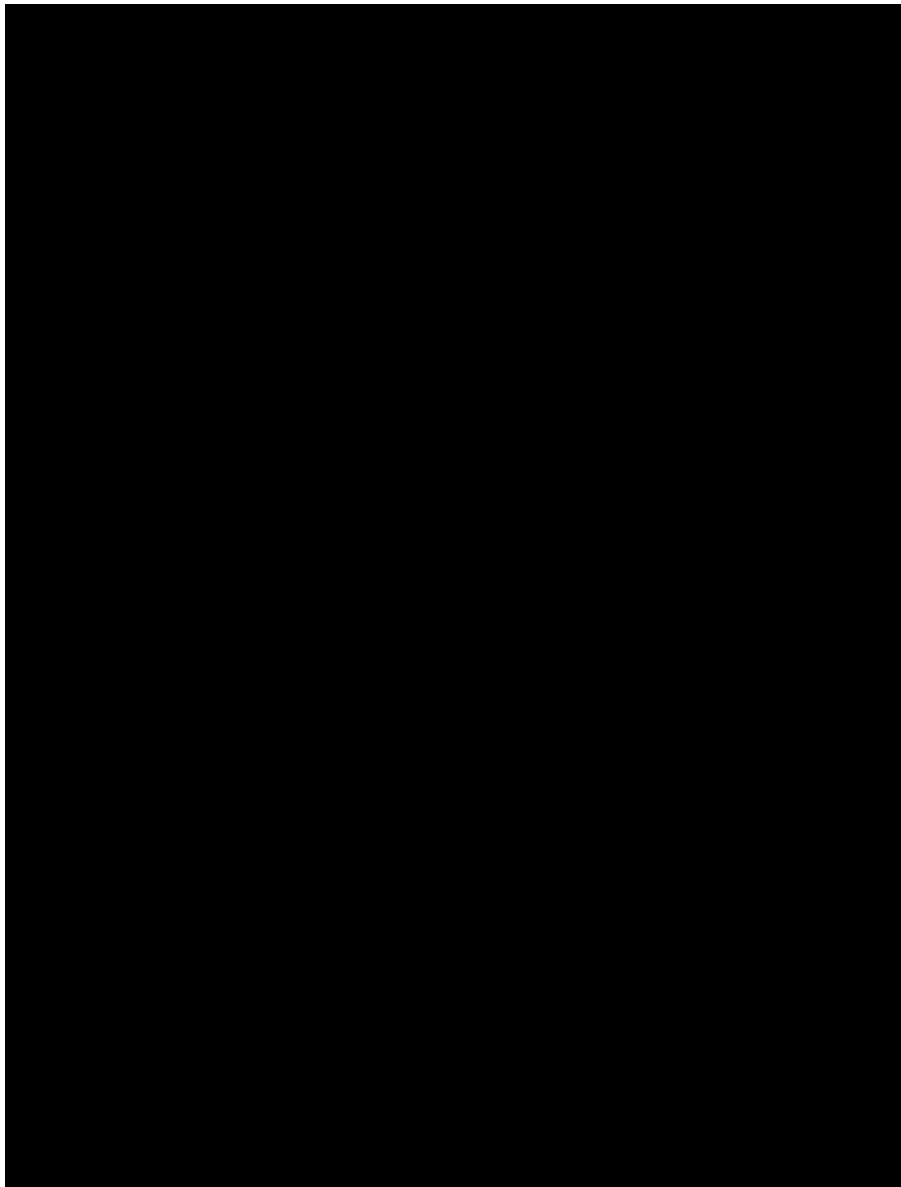
The residents were generally positive about the involvement of Boston Borough Council during the flood event, noting that councillors attended the scene on the night of 06 January 2025 to check on and assist residents. The fire brigade carried out pumping operations to remove flood waters from Wyberton West Road. Feedback on the delivery of sandbags by LCC was mixed; one resident reported that that they were mistakenly delivered to the wrong address on Park Road, leaving the affected properties without them.



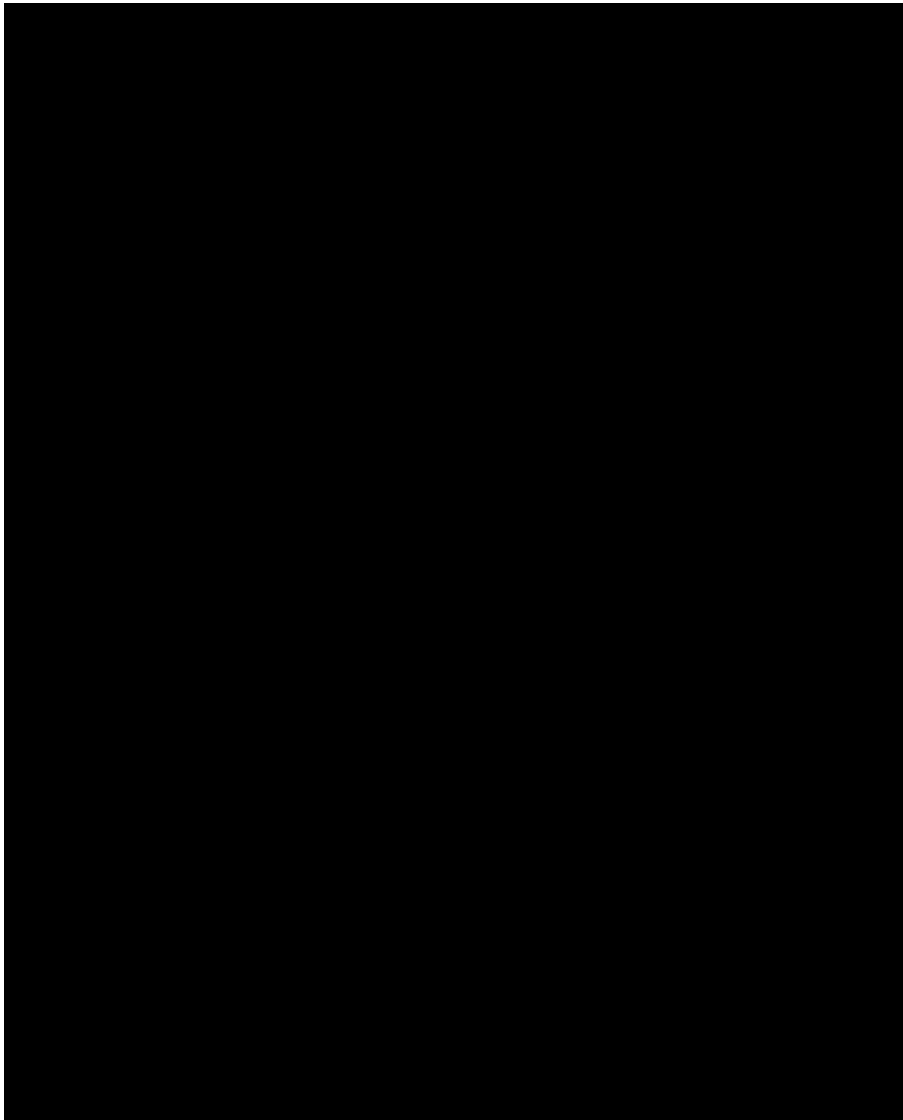
(Figure 8 – Flooding at Property B, as provided by the resident)



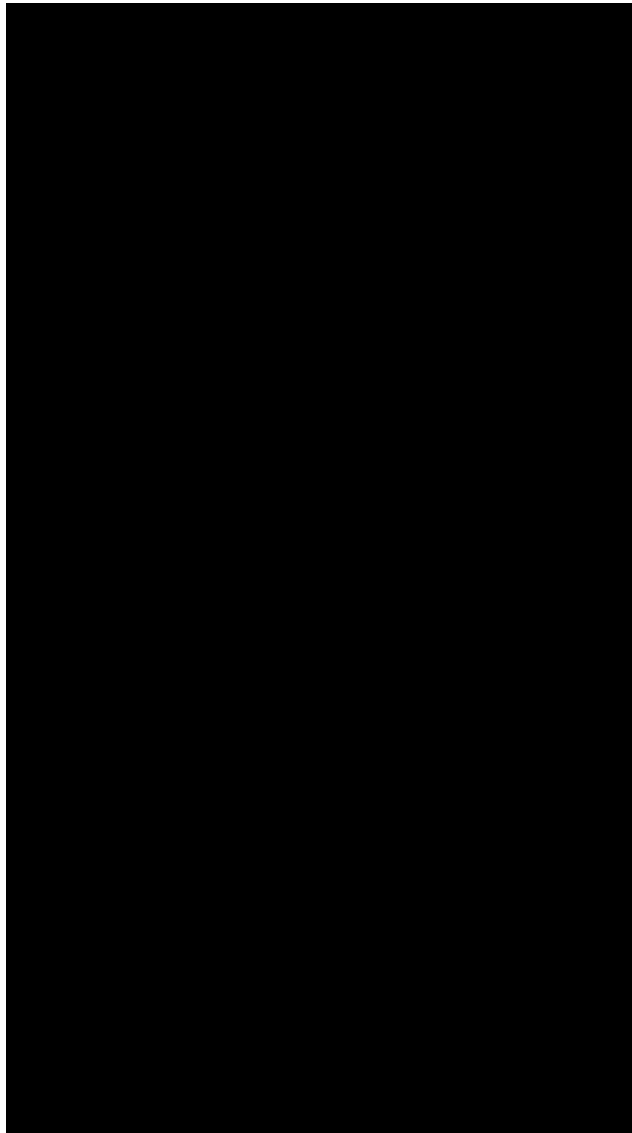
(Figure 9 – Flooding along Park Road, as provided by the resident of Property AL; facing north)



(Figure 10 – Flooding in the driveway at Property AL, as provided by the property resident)



(Figure 11 – Internal flooding at Property B, as provided by the resident)



(Figure 12 – Flooding at Property AD, as provided by the resident; facing north)

3.5.2 Investigation findings and conclusions

From information provided by the residents of the affected properties, an inspection of the properties and surrounding area, and the EA and IDB's review of the flood event, it can be deduced that flood waters were primarily derived from the SFFD, with the water level driven by intense rainfall. Flooding may have been exacerbated by issues in the management of flood assets in the surrounding area (as discussed later in this section).

During the night of 05 January 2025 and early hours of 06 January, the Black Sluice catchment experienced intense rainfall, estimated as equivalent to a 1 in 1.9 year (53% AEP) event. This, paired with frozen ground (preventing infiltration) and snow melt, resulted in excess runoff to enter the channel and produced high flows along the SFFD (to which the land within the Black Sluice catchment drains).

The high flows reached the lowest section of the SFFD in the evening of 06 January coinciding with high tide. Tidal locking conditions were in place between c. 19:00 and 24:00, preventing discharge of flows from the SFFD into the Haven via the sluice gates. As a result, water levels continued to increase within the channel.

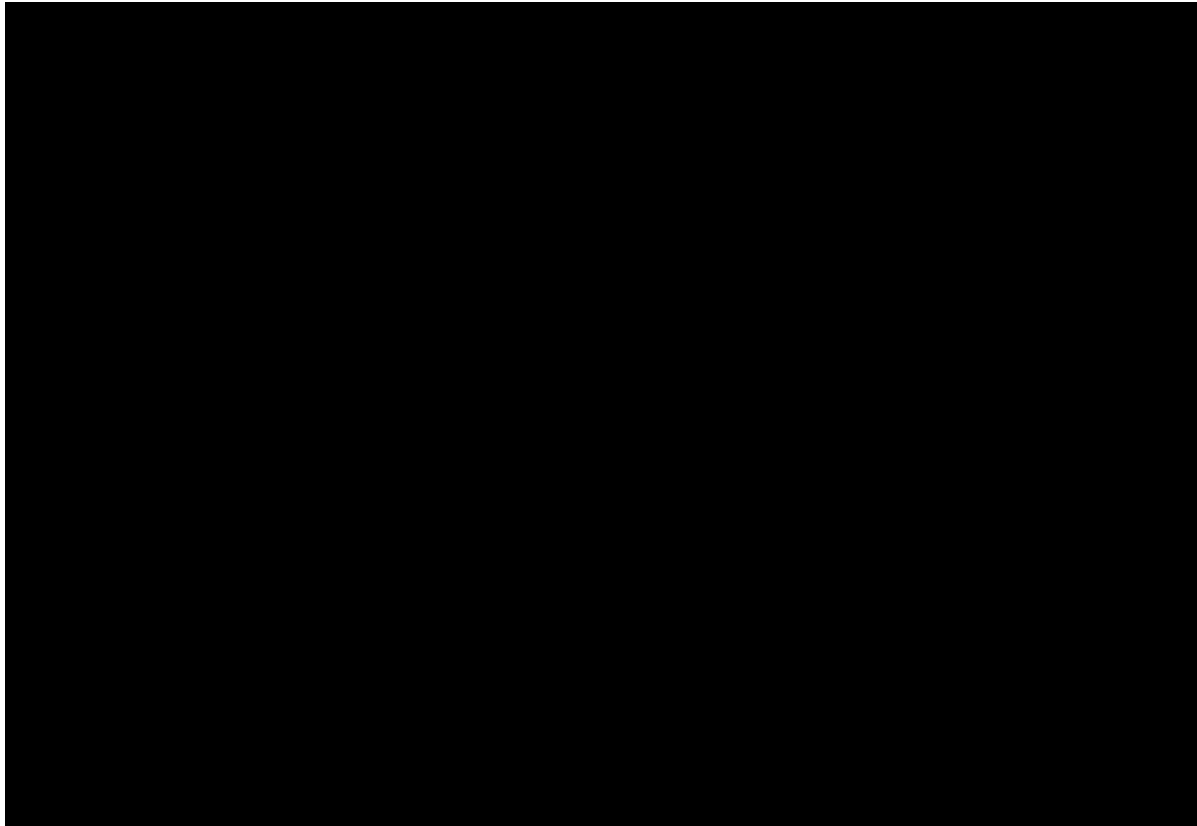
When water levels on the SFFD reached a sufficient level, they exceeded the height of the two wall sections on Wyberton West Road, which reflect the lowest point on the bank. The EA measured the minimum crest levels of the walls to be 2.80 to 2.88 mAOD, compared to a maximum water level of 3.02 mAOD at the closest point to the properties (Chain Bridge Pumping Station) at 00:00 on 07 January 2025. Therefore, the two sections of wall were overtopped, causing flooding within the gardens.

The residential plots on the north side of Wyberton West Road (Properties A to AB) are generally set at the same level. As such, fluvial flows were able to travel in a southerly direction, entering dwellings via the rear door and causing flooding to outbuildings within the gardens. Flood waters were able to flow through the ground floor of the affected properties, exiting via the front door (where this was above the external adjacent flood level) as well as passing around some of the dwellings via the side alleyways and driveways.

Fluvial flood waters then filled up the low point in Wyberton West Road, with residents generally reporting that flood waters flowed in a westerly direction (i.e. towards the low point at the junction with Park Road). Flows continued in a southerly direction down Park Road, causing flooding to the northern properties on this highway (Properties AF to AL). It is also possible that some flood waters passed through rear and side gardens to cause flooding to properties, in addition to flows along the highway.

In the case of Properties AC and AD, flows from Wyberton West Road continued in a westerly direction and accumulated in their front driveway. The highway to the west of the junction with Park Road is fairly level and as such ponding could occur in this area; overspilled water could then travel towards these properties, which are located on particularly low land and whose driveways fall steeply away from the highway. Flood waters were able to accumulate adjacent to the property thresholds and pass over them once flood depths were sufficiently high.

The inferred extent of flooding and possible flow routes are shown in Figure 13.



(Figure 13 – Inferred flood mechanism and associated flood extent at the properties. It should be noted that the flood extent has been inferred using a combination of residents' accounts, photographs and LiDAR elevation data; the exact extent of flooding has not been confirmed.)

Flooding on 06 January 2025 may have been exacerbated by the following factors:

- Intense rainfall coinciding with frozen antecedent conditions;
- Tidal locking conditions;
- Decommissioning of the Black Sluice Pumping Station;
- Operational problems associated with the sluices at the Black Sluice Complex;
- Low points on the southern bank of the SFFD, adjacent to Wyberton West Road;
- Correlation of the flooding experienced in relation to the operation of the Black Sluice Emergency Response Plan.

It should be noted that the EA concluded that the flood event was greater than the 1 in 1000 year (0.1% AEP) + climate change modelled scenario event and therefore, if representative of the flooding experienced, is outside of the typical design requirements for flood defences. (The nearest peak flood level at Hubbert's Bridge was 3.19 mAOD, compared to 2.76 mAOD in the modelled 1 in 1000 year + CC event.) From the available modelling it is unclear to what extent the impact of tidal conditions has been taken into account by the EA, with the model report not discussing this in any detail (Mott MacDonald, 2016), and the flow distribution not aligning with what was witnessed during January 2025.

Intense rainfall coinciding with frozen antecedent conditions

The Black Sluice catchment experienced intense rainfall, estimated as equivalent to a 1 in 1.9 year (53% AEP) event, during to the flood event. The rainfall event occurred at a period of low overnight temperatures, meaning that much of the land within the Black Sluice catchment was frozen; as such, minimal infiltration was able to occur.

Additionally, snowfall occurred within the Black Sluice catchment overnight on 05 January 2025; this snowmelt would also have contributed to runoff but was not necessarily fully accounted for within rainfall gauge data due to it being a more localised feature on high ground.

Both these factors resulted in additional runoff entering the SFFD compared to warmer conditions, resulting in more extreme flows.

It should, however, be noted that the catchment is clay-dominated, which reduces possible infiltration even under optimal conditions, and rainfall across much of the catchment is likely to reduce the effects of frozen ground.

Tidal locking conditions

High levels on the SFFD peaked around 00:00 on 07 January 2025, during a period of high tide. Tidal locking conditions were in place between c. 19:00 on 06 January and 00:00 on 07 January; during this period, the two sluice gates at the Black Sluice complex were unable to discharge fluvial water (due to the level in the SFFD being lower than that on the Haven). As such, fluvial levels continued to rise immediately upstream on the SFFD, resulting in overtopping at low points at around 23:40 on the same day.

Should the peak levels on the SFFD have coincided with low tide, the two sluice gates would have been able to discharge fluvial waters, dropping the water level in the lower catchment and potentially preventing overtopping. However, it is acknowledged that the water level on the SFFD reached high levels (within 0.5 m) at the next high tide on 07 January due to the inflows into the system being high for a longer time period and therefore there is no guarantee that fortunate timing between the peak flows and tidal conditions would prevent overtopping in the future.

Decommissioning of the Black Sluice Pumping Station

The Black Sluice Pumping Station (BSPS) was decommissioned in 2018 after a long review, including economic appraisal, modelling and consultation, which concluded that it had minimal impact on flood levels and did not warrant the cost required for its refurbishment.

However, during the Site visit, residents commonly attributed the flooding that occurred on 06 January 2025 to the closure of the pumping station. This is because of the timing of flooding, which coincided with high tide; the pumps at the BSPS would have been usable during tidal locking conditions and would likely have resulted in a decrease in the water level along the SFFD.

Whether the action of pumping would have been enough to lower the water level sufficiently to prevent overtopping is unclear. Simple calculations undertaken by Black Sluice IDB

indicated that the use of two pumps could have lowered the water level by up to 1.23 m, but hydraulic modelling of the flood event would be required to confirm this, especially when considering the comments of the EA outlined in Section 3.4. However, it is possible that should pumps have been operational during the flood event, flood levels on the SFFD may have been lower than what was experienced.

Operational problems associated with the sluices at the Black Sluice Complex

Prior to the flood event, both sluice gates at the Black Sluice Complex were in manual operation (as opposed to automatic) (see Sections 3.3 and 3.4). Gate 2's automatic controls were being relocated, and Gate 1 experienced a gear box issue which required a new part; therefore, both sluices were operational but required manual changes to control the flows. This meant that the sluice gates were not as responsive to changes in the water level on the SFFD.

However, according to the EA, both gates were opened by 07:45 on 06 January 2025, which was c. 16 hours prior to overtopping occurring. The opening of the gates coincided with the initial rise in water levels, and a brief deceleration in the rise in water levels is recorded around their opening time. This did not prevent water levels from continuing to rise.

Whilst a lower water level may have been in place prior to the start of the flood event, based on the available information it seems unlikely that this would have caused a sufficient decrease in water levels to prevent overtopping of the SFFD.

Low wall sections on the southern bank of the SFFD, adjacent to Wyberton West Road

Two low wall sections were identified by residents as the location of overtopping on the SFFD (adjacent to Properties B to F and P to U, as shown within Photographs 1 to 3 in Appendix 7.3). The wall section was identified as having a minimum crest level of 2.80 to 2.88 mAOD, compared to a maximum water level of 3.02 mAOD at Chain Bridge Pumping Station; this could have resulted in up to 0.22 m of overtopping.

It is unclear why there are two wall sections along the southern bank of the SFFD, with no residents aware of their construction, and the EA assuming they were constructed in the 1960s. However, the fact that these sections are lower than the adjacent embankment is considered to be the primary factor why the properties on Wyberton West Road flooded.

The EA indicated that settlement and joint failures had been reported within the wall sections in June 2024, but these had not been resolved by the January 2025 flood event. (The wall sections had been resealed between the flood event and Site visit in March 2025; see Photograph 4 in Appendix 7.3.).

Additionally, the EA reported that seepage through the right embankment of the SFFD has previously occurred, which has resulted in flooding in rear gardens along Wyberton West Road. The EA indicated that this seepage contributed to the observed flooding in January 2025.

However, significant overtopping occurred. As such, whilst seepage through the walls and embankment could have contributed to flooding, these are considered unlikely to be significant factors given the depth of flooding observed.

Correlation of the flooding experienced in relation to the operation of the Black Sluice Emergency Response Plan

A final possible contributing factor is the implementation of the Black Sluice Emergency Response Plan during the January 2025 flood event.

During periods of extreme river levels, the Black Sluice Emergency Response Plan is undertaken, which involves switching the pumping stations on the SFFD to their emergency profiles (which results in approximately 70% of the pumping stations being switched off, although it is worth noting that this is not a binary outcome, i.e., pumps on or off. Due to the introduction of telemetry levels are instead maintained within 300mm of the highest known levels thereby reducing (but not eliminating) inflow into the SFFD whilst also minimising the risk of overtopping of upstream catchments).

It is acknowledged that the management of the Black Sluice catchment is complex, and pumping was required to prevent flooding of properties upstream. It is also not known whether such flooding was avoided (or to the extent of damages that were prevented). Therefore, it cannot conclusively be determined whether the operation of the Black Sluice Emergency Response Plan during the flood event contributed to flooding in Boston or had a net benefit for the catchment.

3.6 Road closures

3.6.1 Wyberton West Road

During the January flood event, a road closure occurred along Wyberton West Road, adjacent to the affected properties, which is understood to have been in place between c. 01:50 on 07 January and 14:20 on 09 January 2025. According to the enquiry trace form for the road closure (ref: 1818583), the road closure was requested by Fire & Rescue due to the flooding of nearby properties and manhole covers surcharging, posing a danger to road users.

The flood mechanism behind the flooding on Wyberton West Road is the same as for the affected properties along this highway (as discussed further within Section 3.5). The water level of the SFFD exceeded the crest level of two wall sections on its southern bank (adjacent to Wyberton West Road), causing overtopping. Fluvial flood waters then flowed in a southerly direction, broadly following the topography of the area and filling the low-lying land adjacent to the overtopped wall. The highway (paired with the adjacent properties) forms a low point which was therefore impacted, with one resident placing the flood depth in the highway at 0.3 m adjacent to their property (H).

Whilst Wyberton West Road was likely impassable to most vehicles at the height of the flood event, residents at two properties reported that bow waves from passing vehicles contributed to internal flooding. It is therefore assumed that the earlier closure of the road would have reduced this mode of water ingress.

3.6.2 Chain Bridge Road

During the flood event, Chain Bridge Road was also closed, with the enquiry trace form for the road closure (ref: 1818589) indicating a closure was in place between 15:10 on 07 January and 14:20 on 09 January 2025.

According to conversations with the councillor for the ward, Chain Bridge Road may have been closed to prevent vehicles from accessing the flooded area of Wyberton West Road. This is understood to have been partially implemented to reduce these vehicles creating bow waves and exacerbating the flooding at the properties.

From the available information, it is also understood that Chain Bridge Road flooded during this incident.

4. Risk management authorities

In relation to this flood event, the following RMAs have relevant flood risk management functions:

- Black Sluice IDB
- Environment Agency

A record as to whether the above RMAs have exercised or are proposing to exercise those functions in response to the flood shall be monitored through the existing Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water Management Partnership.

The residents of each property also have a responsibility with regards to the resilience and resistance measures implemented at their property.

For the avoidance of doubt, the ordering of the above relevant RMAs is alphabetical and as such is not necessarily reflective of the number of relevant flood risk management functions associated with each RMA in this instance.

5. Recommendations for consideration

Based on the findings of this investigation, the following recommendations for consideration by the relevant parties have been made. For the avoidance of doubt, these recommendations are listed in alphabetical order.

5.1 Flood resistance and resilience measures

Flood resistance and resilience measures should be considered for the properties.

Consideration could be given to the use of a flood barrier or door at the building thresholds for all the properties.

Potential resilience measures include:

- Replacing ground floor carpets with hard flooring;
- Installing uPVC skirting boards;
- Raising furniture and appliance on the ground floor of each dwelling on plinths;
- Chemical waterproofing of the walls around the perimeter of each dwelling;
- Installing non return valves on air bricks and utility pipework;
- Installing a sump pump or puddle pump; and
- Storing valuable items above ground level.

The responsibility for the implementation of flood resilience measures would fall to the residents of the properties, with support from the EA and LLFA, where appropriate.

5.2 Implementation of flood action plan for Wyberton West Road and Park Road (where not done so already)

It is understood that Boston Borough Council already has an Emergency Response Plan, and documents shared as part of this investigation indicate a generally prompt and effective response.

However, it is recommended that a flood action plan is arranged by the residents of Wyberton West Road and Park Road to ensure that occupants are suitably prepared for any future flooding. This should include actions to take should a Flood Alert be issued, possible safe evacuation routes, and a method of securing the home to minimise flood damage. This should be supported by Boston Borough Council to ensure it is consistent with their emergency plans.

The responsibility for the creation of a flood action plan would fall to the residents of the property, with support from Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire Resilience Forum as appropriate.

5.3 Review of EA modelling for SFFD

Given that the observed extent of flooding on 06 January 2025 did not fully align with the flood extents derived from the existing SFFD model, it is recommended that consideration be given by the EA for the reviewing and calibration of the model against the experienced flooding (it is noted that the EA have proposed to create a new SFFD model within their review of the flood event).

As part of the model review, it should be confirmed that the model appropriately takes into account the impacts of sea level rise, which will increase the impacts of tidal locking on water levels in the future. The model should also take into account the timing of rainfall relative to high tide.

Following the model review, it is recommended that the plan for mitigation within the Black Sluice Catchment is reviewed to ensure it remains consistent with the model results.

5.4 Review of Flood Warning service for the downstream reaches of the SFFD

During the flood event, residents received Flood Alerts from the EA, which indicated that flooding is possible for isolated properties and villages in low lying areas east of the SFFD, but did not mention Boston, and indicated that flooding inside properties is not likely. No Flood Warning was subsequently received (with the EA reporting that these cannot be provided for fluvial flooding on the SFFD in Boston). This caused confusion with the residents, who did not anticipate internal flooding.

Therefore, consideration should be given to implementing Flood Warnings in the downstream reaches of the SFFD through Boston. (It is noted that these works are proposed within the EA's review of the flood event.)

Where the implementation of a Flood Warning service is deemed unfeasible, consideration should be given to amending the wording of the standard Flood Alert, to ensure that residents are aware that no further warnings will be given.

The responsibility for implementing a Flood Warning service for the lower reaches of the SFFD through Boston would fall to the EA.

5.5 Review of operation of EA and Black Sluice IDB assets during heavy rainfall events

Given that both sluice gates at the Black Sluice Complex required manual operation during the 06 January 2025 flood event, it is recommended that the EA reviews their processes for operating assets along the SFFD during future rainfall events. Particular consideration should be given to ensuring that parts can be easily and quickly procured should there be a fault with an asset. (It is noted that the EA's review of the flood event included a recommendation to consider these processes further.)

Any lessons identified from the EA regarding the flood event should be implemented more widely throughout the Lincolnshire area.

Additionally it is recommended that Black Sluice IDB considers reviewing their Emergency Response Plan to incorporate any lessons identified as a result of January 2025.

5.6 Wall raising at the low points along the SFFD

Given that the two wall sections along Wyberton West Road experienced overtopping during the flood event, consideration should be given by the Environment Agency to raising the wall sections to match the level of the adjacent bank. This could form part of the wider bank armouring efforts proposed as part of the Black Sluice Catchment Works in 2018.

As part of these works, the walls could be replaced to ensure there are no possible stability issues relating to the wider embankment. The earth embankment along Wyberton West Road should also be reviewed to ensure that any seepage issues are appropriately dealt with.

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Ordnance Survey Mapping (2025). © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AC0000850004. For full terms and conditions visit: www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

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7. Appendices

7.1 Definitions

Coastal / tidal flooding – Flooding which occurs due to extreme coastal conditions. May occur due to high tide levels, surges and wave action.

Culvert – Where a watercourse flows through a pipe, often underground.

External flooding – Flooding affecting spaces outdoors. Includes flooding in highways, open land, gardens and driveways.

Flap valve – Hinged valve placed on a pipe outlet into a river. Stays open during normal flow but closes when it is submerged, to prevent flow from backing up the pipe.

Foul sewer – Sewer which carries wastewater (e.g. from toilets, sinks, showers and kitchen appliances) to a sewage works for treatment.

Groundwater flooding – Flooding which occurs when sub-surface water emerges from the ground at the surface or into Made Ground and structures. Occurs due to persistent rainfall that recharges aquifers until they are full; or may be as a result of high river levels, or tides, driving water through near-surface deposits.

Gully – Drainage pit covered by an open metal grate, located at the edge of a road. Drains rainwater from the road into either the surface water sewer or into nearby watercourses.

HYRAD – Real-time radar display system for weather.

Internal Drainage Boards – A public authority that managed water levels within an Internal Drainage District.

Internal flooding – Flooding which affected the living/business space inside of a building.

Lead Local Flood Authority - County councils and unitary authorities which lead in managing local sources of flood risk (i.e. flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses)

LiDAR – A remote sensing technique that allows ground elevation to be determined over a regional area.

Main river - A watercourse shown as such on the main river map for England and includes any structure or appliance for controlling or regulating the flow of water into, or out of, the channel which –

- a) Is a structure or appliance situated in the channel or in any part of the banks of the channel; and
- b) Is not a structure or appliance vested in or controlled by an internal drainage board.

The Environment Agency has permissive powers to maintain and carry out improvements on main rivers, to manage flood risk.

Ordinary Watercourse - A watercourse that does not form part of a main river. Lead local flood authorities, district councils, and internal drainage boards can carry out flood risk management work on ordinary watercourses.

Public sewer – Sewers owned and maintained by a Sewerage Company (e.g. Anglian Water). Are usually located in roads or public open spaces but may run through private gardens.

Riparian owner – The owner of land that is next to a watercourse or has a watercourse running through or beneath it.

River (fluvial) flooding – Flooding that occurs during times of heavy rainfall or snow melt when watercourses' capacity can be exceeded, over topping the banks and flood defences.

Soil moisture deficit – The difference between the amount of water actually present in the soil and the amount of water which the soil can hold.

Surface water (pluvial) flooding – Flooding which occurs when intense rainfall exceeds the infiltration capacity of the ground and overwhelms the drainage systems.

Surface water sewer – Sewer which carries rainwater directly to a watercourse.

Telemetry – Instruments used to monitor the level of water in a watercourse.

Weir – A small dam structure built across a watercourse to raise the water level or to divert flow.

7.2 Authorities with flood risk management functions

The following Risk Management Authorities (RMA) have flood risk management functions within Lincolnshire:

- **Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA): Lincolnshire County Council** - Responsible for coordinating the mitigation of risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (non-main rivers). The LLFA is also responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a strategy for local flood risk management in its area and for maintaining a register of flood risk assets. The LLFA also has a statutory duty to investigate significant flood events to the extent it considers necessary.
- **Environment Agency** - Tasked with the protection and conservation of the water environment in England, the natural beauty of rivers and wetlands and the wildlife that lives there. Its responsibilities include: water quality and resources; fisheries; conservation and ecology; and operational responsibility for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers (usually large streams and rivers), reservoirs, estuaries and the sea. Flood risk management work can include: constructing and maintaining 'assets' (such as flood banks or pumping stations) and works to main rivers to manage water levels and make sure flood water can flow freely; operating flood risk management assets during a flood; dredging the river; and issuing flood warnings. The Environment Agency can also do work to prevent environmental damage to watercourses, or to restore conditions where damage has already been done.
- **Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs)** - Independent public bodies, established in areas of special drainage need, known as drainage districts. The IDB is responsible for the supervision of land drainage, water level management and flood risk management works and regulation of ordinary watercourses within its Drainage District. IDBs play an important role in the areas they cover (approximately 10% of England at present), working in partnership with other authorities to actively manage and reduce the risk of flooding.
- **Highways Authority: Lincolnshire County Council** - Responsible for maintaining the highway drainage system to an acceptable standard and ensuring that road projects do not increase flood risk.
- **Water and Sewage Company: Anglian Water** - Responsible for the provision of wastewater collection and treatment systems, including for managing the risks of flooding from surface water and foul or combined public sewer systems providing drainage from buildings and yards.
- **District Councils** - including borough and city councils, have powers to carry out works to manage flood risk from ordinary watercourses (outside the internal drainage district of Internal Drainage Boards) and the sea. They are also planning authorities, responsible for developing a local plan, which must have regard to national planning policy and work with Lead Local Flood Authorities and others to ensure decisions on development in their area effectively manage the risks from flooding. Additionally, those District Councils that are next to the sea are also designated coast protection authorities. This role includes leading on coastal erosion risk management activities, leading and supporting coastal groups, and leading the production of shoreline management plans.

In addition to the above, the other parties that may have responsibilities include:

- **Riparian Landowners** - Riparian landowners who own land or property crossed by or next to a river, stream or ditch (including where this runs through a pipe or culvert) have rights and responsibilities over the management of the land including: a responsibility to let water flow through the land without any obstruction, pollution or diversion which affects the rights of others; keeping banks clear of anything that could cause an obstruction and increase flood risk; maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse; and keeping structures clear of debris.
- **Residents, Businesses and Property Owners** - Should find out about any flood risk in their area, sign up for the Environment Agency's free flood warnings and make a written plan of how they will respond to a flood situation. Business owners should also make a flood plan for their business. There are measures that can be taken to reduce the amount of damage caused by flooding and properties at risk should be insured. Local residents can find out if their property is at risk, prepare for flooding, get help during a flood and get help after a flood.

7.3 Photographs from Site visit

A selection of photographs taken during the Site visit on 13 and 14 March 2025 have been provided below.



(Photograph 1 – Western section of EA flood wall structure along the southern bank of the SFFD; facing east)



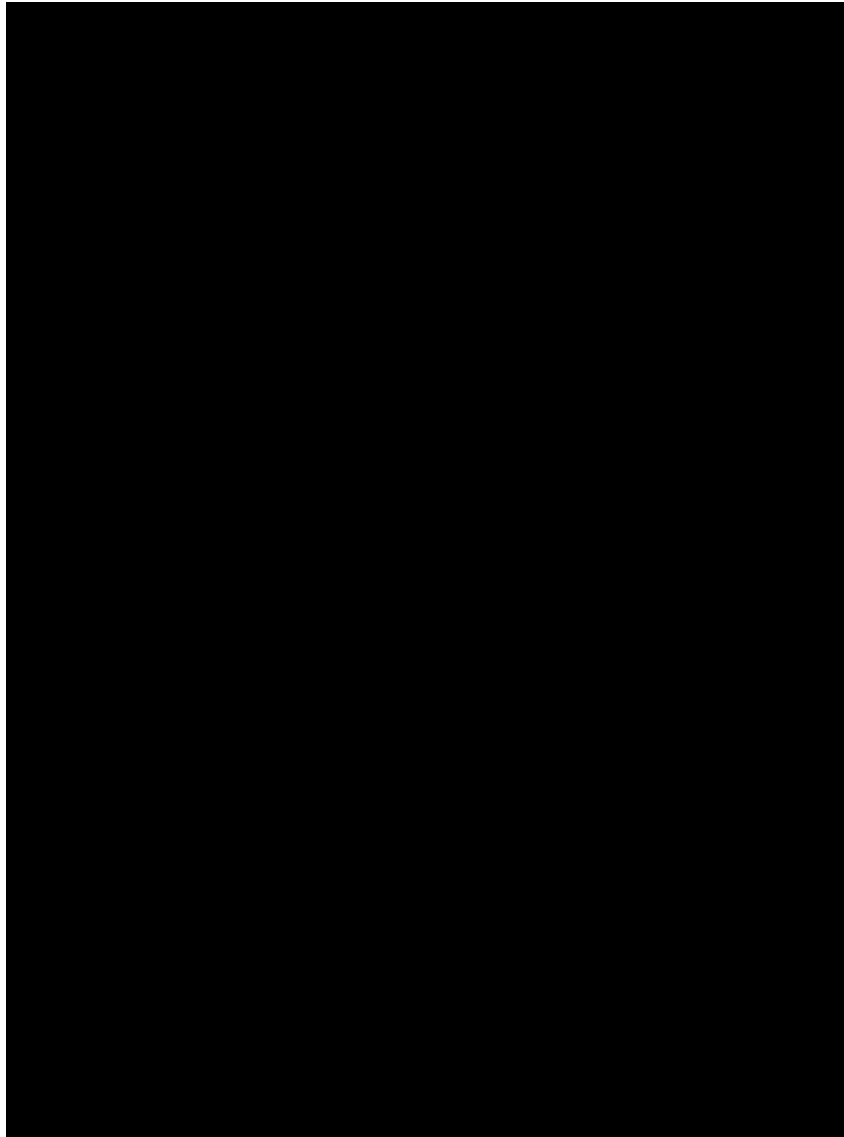
(Photograph 2 – Western section of EA flood wall along the southern bank of the SFFD; facing west)



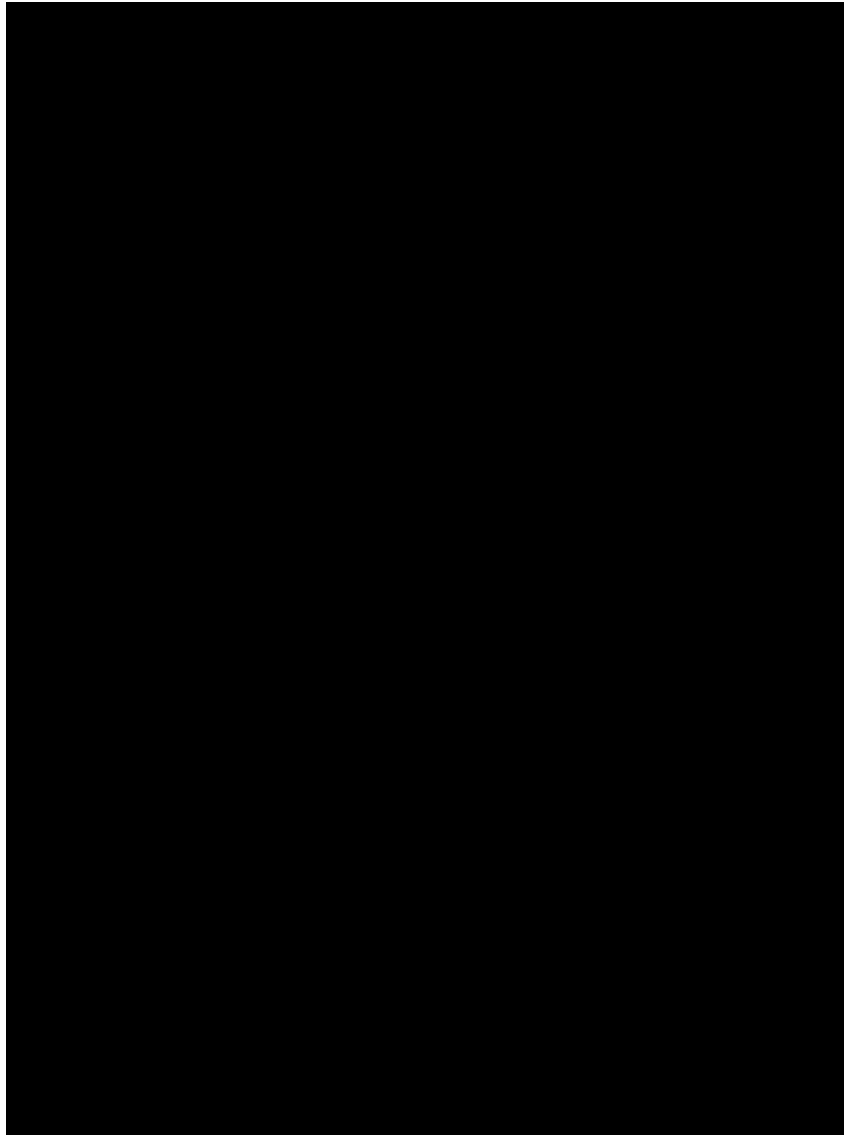
(Photograph 3 – Eastern section of EA flood wall along the southern bank of the SFFD; facing east)



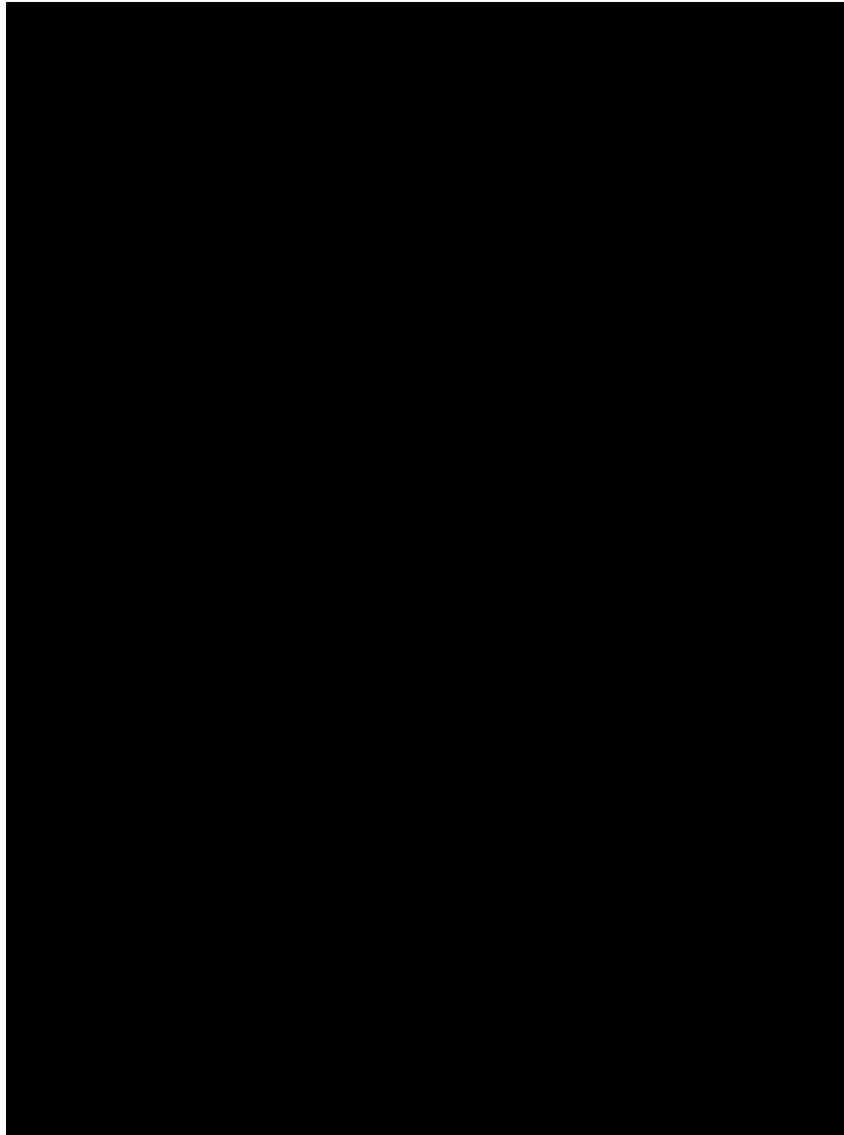
(Photograph 4 – Replaced seal on the eastern section of flood wall along the SFFD)



(Photograph 5 – Wyberton West Road, as viewed adjacent to Properties W to Y; facing west)



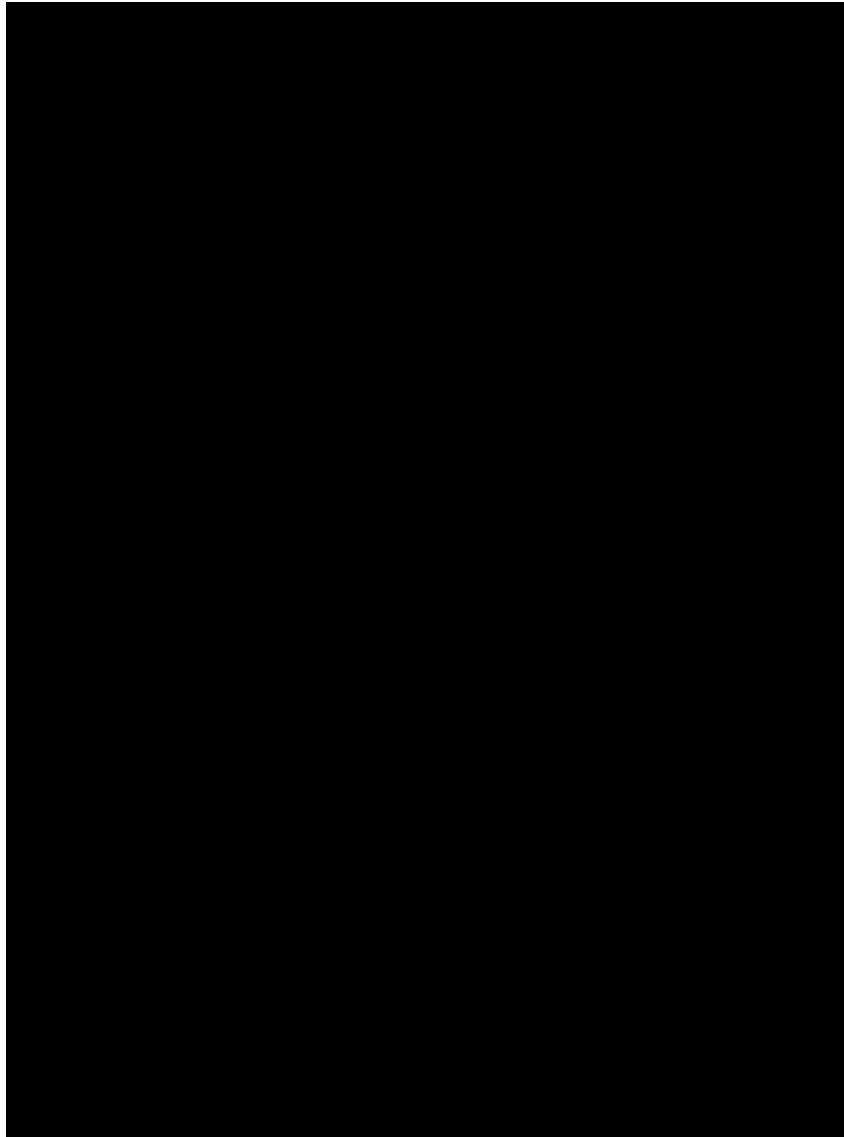
(Photograph 6 – Wyberton West Road, as viewed adjacent to Property AB, with the junction with Park Road visible to the rear; facing west)



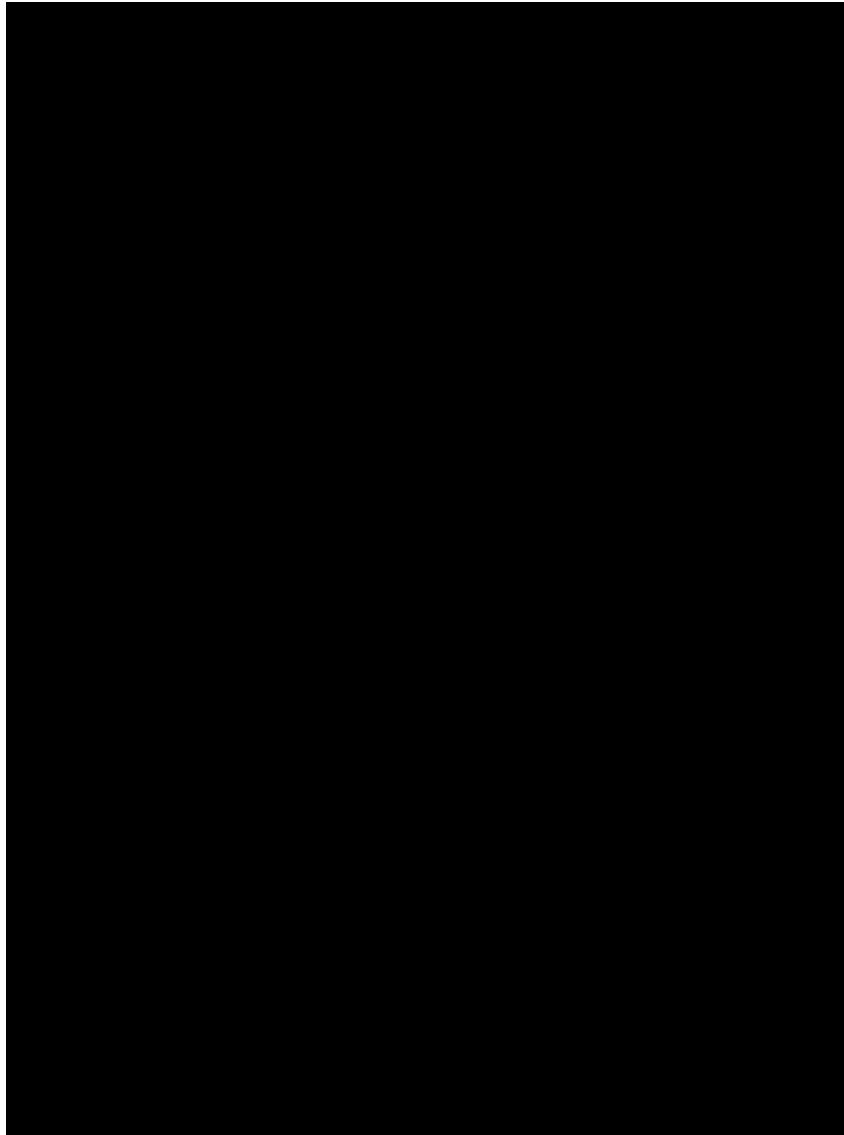
(Photograph 7 – Linear drain adjacent to Properties O and T; facing west)



(Photograph 8 – Sand bags and water line at the back door at Property O)



(Photograph 9 – Blocked gully along Park Road with noticeable ponding; facing south)



(Photograph 10 – Park Road; facing north)



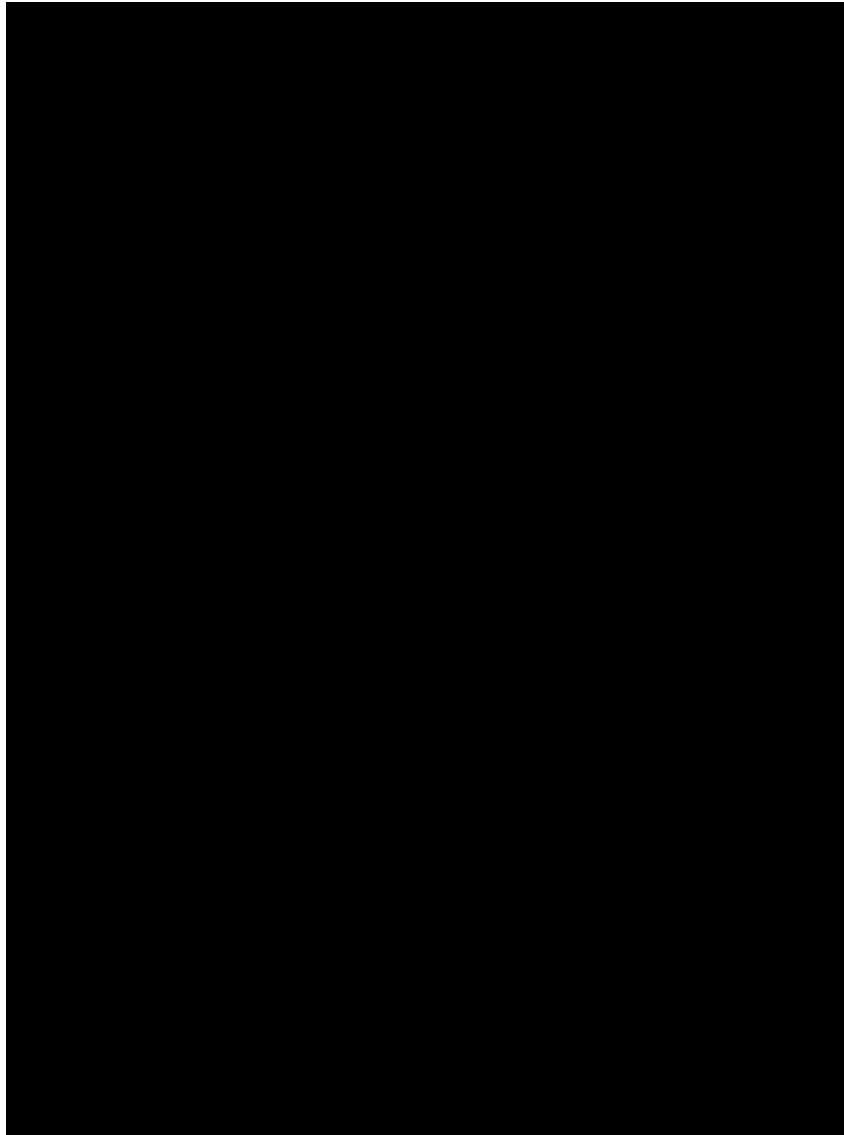
(Photograph 11 – South Forty Foot Drain, as viewed during the Site visit downstream of the properties; facing north-east)



(Photograph 12 – Black Sluice Pumping Station, with sluice gates to the right; facing north-east)



(Photograph 13 – Sluice gate, also used as a navigational lock, at Black Sluice Complex; facing east)



(Photograph 14 – Embankment and wall sections on the southern side of the SFFD adjacent to the affected properties on Wyberton West Road, as viewed from its northern side; facing south)

7.4 LCC questionnaire responses

The following responses to the LCC questionnaire have been provided by the residents of the properties. These responses have been used to establish the extent, depth and cause of flooding on 06 January 2025:

- SRS000347 (Properties B & C)
- SRS000344 (Property N)
- SRS000348 (Property X)
- SRS000350 (Property AD)
- SRS000345 (Property AL)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2025–26

Meeting Date	Agenda Items	Report Author <i>A.D = Assistant Director D.C.X = Deputy Chief Executive</i>	Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Meeting
29 May 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan Joint Scrutiny of the Partnership Enviro Crime Enforcement Contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Manager – Organisational Development Partnership Scrutiny Task Group 	Cllr D Broughton Cllr C Butler	17 Sep 25
17 June 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMO Update Plan for Neighbourhoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer Communities Services Manager Director of Economic Development 	Cllr J Baxter Cllr D Broughton	17 Sep 25
17 July 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan Review of Crowdfunding Scheme South & East Lincolnshire Council's Partnership Body Worn Video Cameras (BWVC) Policy Quarter 4 24/25 Performance and Risk Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Manager – Organisational Development Community Leadership Manager Community Safety Manager Group Manager Insights and Transformation 	Cllr D Broughton Cllr E Cresswell Cllr D Broughton Cllr D Broughton	17 Sep 25 17 Sep 25 17 Sep 25 9 Jul 25
4 Sept 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways Update Boston Flood Investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport LCC Geo Smart Investigations 		
2 Oct 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Safety Quarter 1 25/26 Performance and Risk Report Plan for Neighbourhoods Destination Lincolnshire Local Visitor Economy Partnership Destination Management Plan and SELCP Destination Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Manager LRSP Group Manager Insights and Transformation Director of Economic Development Director of Economic Development 	Cllr M Gilbert Cllr M Gilbert Cllr H Staples	17 Sep 25 22 Oct 25

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2025–26

Meeting Date	Agenda Items	Report Author <i>A.D = Assistant Director D.C.X = Deputy Chief Executive</i>	Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SELCP Safeguarding Policy • Annual Crime and Disorder Report • Pension & Pension Discretions Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Safeguarding Officer SELCP – Community Safety Manager – Group Manager Organisational Development 	Cllr D Broughton Cllr D Broughton Cllr D Broughton	
6 Nov 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Community Lottery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Community Leadership Manager 	Cllr H Staples	10 Dec 25
9 Dec 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 2 25/26 Performance and Risk Report • HMO Policy Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Group Manager Insights and Transformation – Safer Communities Service Manager 	Cllr D Broughton Cllr J Baxter	10 Dec 25 27 Jan 26
15 Jan 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Scrutiny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Director of Finance (S151 Officer) 	Cllr D Broughton	27 Jan 26
10 Feb 26				
17 Mar 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 3 25/26 Performance and Risk Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Group Manager Insights and Transformation 	Cllr D Broughton	25 Mar 26
30 Apr 26				

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2025–26

Alternative options for Scrutiny working.

Task and Finish Group	Review of the Town Centre Task and Finish Group (Cllr Pryke, Chairman)
Member Working Group	
Inquiry Session	
All Member Briefings <i>pending at issue of agenda</i>	Child Poverty – requested from November 2024 meeting. Update on PE21 – requested from Environment and Performance December 2024 meeting. Rosegarth Square – Geoff Moulder Refurbishment

Pending Confirmation:

- Overview & Scrutiny Joint Annual Report 2023/24 and Joint Annual Report 2024/25
- Lincolnshire Police – Peel Report (Chief Constable Gibson)
- Bus Services. Possible work streams from the SICP report on Social Impact Population Change.
- Visitor Economy (Tourism).
- Local Plan pending review/updates.
- PSPS Call Handling Services

Chairman: Councillor Paul Gleeson

Vice Chairman: Councillor Neil Drayton

Lead Officer(s): Deputy Chief Executive (Programme Delivery) and Assistant Director - General Fund Assets / Assistant Director – Regulatory

Clerk: Democratic Services Officer

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BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

1 SEPTEMBER TO 31 AUGUST 2026

The Forward Plan is a forecast of decisions which are expected to be taken by the Cabinet in the next twelve months.

This Plan constitutes 28 day notice as required by virtue of Regulations 5(2) and 9(2) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information (England) Regulations 2012.

The Boston Borough Council definition of a key decision is:

- A decision which results in the authority incurring expenditure which is, or involves the making of savings which are significant having regard to the authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- Be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough.

Decisions set out in this Plan will be taken by the Cabinet unless otherwise specified. All decisions included in this Plan will be taken on the basis of a written report and will be published on the Council's website before the meeting.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and occasionally subject to change.

The Council invites members of the public to attend any of the meetings at which decisions will be discussed and the papers listed on the Plan can be viewed free of charge at the Customer Services Desk, Municipal Building, West Street, Boston, or on the Council's website, www.boston.gov.uk

If you wish to make comments or representations regarding the decisions outlined in the Plan, please submit them in writing to the contact officer identified against each decision in the Plan, at least 2 working days before the date of the meeting at which the decision is to be taken.

Agendas, decisions and minutes are published on the Council's website www.boston.gov.uk

Cabinet Members:

Cllr Dale Broughton (Leader)
Cllr Mike Gilbert (Deputy Leader)

Cllr John Baxter
Cllr Chris Mountain

Cllr Callum Butler
Cllr Claire Rylott

Cllr Sandeep Ghosh
Cllr Sarah Sharpe

Cllr Helen Staples

Report Title and Summary of Content	Key / Non-Key	Date Decision to be taken	Rec to Council?	Open or Exempt	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder
Boston Flood Investigation	Non Key	Overview & Scrutiny Committee 4 Sep 2025		Open	Christian Allen, Assistant Director - Regulatory Tel: 01205 314350 christian.allen@boston.gov.uk	Leader (Councillor Dale Broughton)
Quarter 1 25/26 Performance and Risk Report To provide an update on performance and risk as at the end of each quarter.	Key	Cabinet 17 Sep 2025		Open	Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights & Transformation suzanne.rolfe@boston.gov.uk	Leader (Councillor Dale Broughton)
Q1 2025/26 Forecast Outturn To set out the current financial position for the Council at the end of the 1st quarter of 2025/26.	Non Key	Cabinet 17 Sep 2025		Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27 - Consultation Councillor Rylott is also a member of East Midlands Councils.	Non Key	Cabinet 17 Sep 2025		Open	Sharon Hammond, Head of Revenues and Benefits Sharon.hammond@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan To review and adopt a Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy and high-level Action Plan for the Partnership.	Non Key	Cabinet 17 Sep 2025		Open	Rachel Robinson, Group Manager - Organisational Development Tel: 07717 099955 rachel.robinson@e-lindsey.gov.uk	Leader (Councillor Dale Broughton)

Report Title	Key / Non-Key	Date Decision to be taken	Rec to Council?	Open or Exempt	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder
South & East Lincolnshire Council's Partnership Body Worn Video Cameras (BWVC) Policy South & East Lincolnshire Council's Partnership (The Partnership) is committed to ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its staff, service users and anyone else who may be affected by its activities. This policy has been developed to ensure that The Partnership's front line enforcement officers using Body Worn Video Camera (BWVC) devices do so in a lawful, reasonable, justifiable and proportionate manner.	Non Key	Cabinet 17 Sep 2025		Open	Peter Hunn, Community Safety Manager peter.hunn@boston.gov.uk	Leader (Councillor Dale Broughton)
Review of Crowdfunding Scheme To provide an overview of the first two years of the South and East Lincolnshire Crowdfunding Scheme	Non Key	Cabinet 17 Sep 2025		Open	Nichola Holderness, Community Leadership Manager Nichola.Holderness@boston.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder - Communities (Councillor Helen Staples)
Q1 2025/26 Forecast Outturn (SEA) To set out the current financial position for BTAC at the end of the 1st quarter of 2025/26.	Non Key	Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC) 25 Sep 2025		Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder – Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)

Report Title	Key / Non-Key	Date Decision to be taken	Rec to Council?	Open or Exempt	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder
Appointment of new Section 151 Officer To appoint a new Section 151 Officer.	Non Key	Full Council 29 Sep 2025		Open	James Gilbert, Assistant Director – Corporate james.gilbert@e-lindsey.gov.uk, Aileen Whatmore, Head of HR & OD aileen.whatmore@pspsl.co.uk	Leader (Councillor Dale Broughton)
Internal Audit Charter The report also contains a revised Internal Audit Charter, amended to reflect the changes from 2024 GIAS. The Charter sets out the role, responsibilities, access and support for the internal audit service.	Non Key	Audit & Governance Committee 13 Oct 2025		Open	Mark Harrison, Internal Audit Team Manager mark.harrison2@linc.lnshire.gov.uk	
2025/26 Q1 Treasury Update To provide Members with an update on Treasury Management performance and activity to ensure best practice is maintained.	Non Key	Audit & Governance Committee 13 Oct 2025		Open	Sean Howsam, Treasury and Investment Manager (PSPSL) Sean.Howsam@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
Destination Lincolnshire Destination Lincolnshire are the defined Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) for the Lincolnshire and Rutland areas. As part of this they have created a Plan to 2033 to promote and co-ordinate the Visitor Economy.	Key	Cabinet 22 Oct 2025		Open	Pranali Parikh, Director of Economic Development pranali.parikh@boston.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder - Heritage, Culture and Tourism (Councillor Sarah Sharpe)

Report Title	Key / Non-Key	Date Decision to be taken	Rec to Council?	Open or Exempt	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder
Crime and Disorder Report To provide Members with an update on Community Safety Partnership work at a local and county level.	Non Key	Cabinet 22 Oct 2025		Open	Sarah Cocker, Safer Communities Officer sarah.cocker@e-lindsey.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder - Communities (Councillor Helen Staples)
Community Governance Review for Boston To update the Council on the outcome of the Phase 1 consultation undertaken and consider the recommendations from the Community Governance Review Working Group to agree the next steps of the review.	Non Key	Full Council 10 Nov 2025		Open	Amanda Dickinson, Democratic Services Team Leader Tel: 01205 314591 amanda.dickinson@boston.gov.uk	Leader (Councillor Dale Broughton)
Pension & Pension Discretions Policy To ensure compliance with Regulation 60 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. This regulation requires employers to prepare, publish and keep under review a written statement of policy on how they will exercise discretions under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).	Non Key	Full Council 10 Nov 2025		Open	Rachel Robinson, Group Manager - Organisational Development Tel: 07717 099955 rachel.robinson@e-lindsey.gov.uk	Leader (Councillor Dale Broughton)
Licensing Policy Review Statutory 5 year review of the council policy in relation to the Licensing Act 2003	Non Key	Full Council 10 Nov 2025		Open	Anna McDowell, Senior Licensing Officer anna.mcdowell@boston.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder - Infrastructure (Councillor Chris Mountain)

Report Title	Key / Non-Key	Date Decision to be taken	Rec to Council?	Open or Exempt	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder
Local Government Re-organisation - Business Case to Government To approve the Business Case to Government for Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire.	Key	Cabinet 13 Nov 2025		Open	James Gilbert, Assistant Director – Corporate james.gilbert@e-lindsey.gov.uk	Leader (Councillor Dale Broughton)
2024/25 Audited Financial Statement To seek approval of the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and approval of the Audited Financial Statements 2024/25 for publication.	Non Key	Audit & Governance Committee 17 Nov 2025		Open	Ellie Stacey, Head of Finance Delivery - Technical and Corporate, PSPSL Ellie.Stacey@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
2025/26 Mid Term Treasury Report To provide Members with an update on Treasury Management performance and activity to ensure best practice is maintained.	Non Key	Audit & Governance Committee 17 Nov 2025	Full Council 15 Jan 2026	Open	Sean Howsam, Treasury and Investment Manager (PSPSL) Sean.Howsam@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
Q2 2025/26 Forecast Outturn (SEA) To set out the current financial position for BTAC at the end of the 2nd quarter of 2025/26.	Non Key	Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC) 27 Nov 2025		Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
Quarter 2 25/26 Performance and Risk Report To provide an update on performance and risk as at the end of each quarter.	Key	Cabinet 10 Dec 2025		Open	Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights & Transformation suzanne.rolfe@boston.gov.uk	Leader (Councillor Dale Broughton)

Report Title	Key / Non-Key	Date Decision to be taken	Rec to Council?	Open or Exempt	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder
SELCP Safeguarding Policy Following the creation of the SELCP a review of the Safeguarding Policies has been undertaken. To standardise our approach to Safeguarding children and adults in the work we do, a single policy covering all three councils has been developed. The Key aim of the policy is to ensure our residents, officers and councillors will have a clear understanding of our responsibilities under the Children Act 1989 and the Care Act 2014.	Key	Cabinet 10 Dec 2025		Open	Iris Furst, Safeguarding Officer iris.furst@e-lindsey.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder - Communities (Councillor Helen Staples)
Trees & Hedgerows Strategy Action Plan To gain member input into the draft action plan to underpin delivery of the Trees & Hedgerows Strategy.	Key	Cabinet 10 Dec 2025		Open	Heather Prescott, Climate Change and Environment Officer heather.prescott@boston.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder - Green Spaces and Travel (Councillor Claire Rylott)
Q2 2025/26 Forecast Outturn To set out the current financial position for the Council at the end of the 2nd quarter of 2025/26.	Non Key	Cabinet 10 Dec 2025		Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
Update on Community Lottery To update Members on the progress of the Community Lottery	Non Key	Cabinet 10 Dec 2025		Open	Nichola Holderness, Community Leadership Manager Nichola.Holderness@boston.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder - Communities (Councillor Helen Staples)

Report Title	Key / Non-Key	Date Decision to be taken	Rec to Council?	Open or Exempt	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder
2026/27 Draft Budget - Principles	Non Key	Cabinet 10 Dec 2025		Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
Contracting of Leisure Facilities with an external operator as agent for service delivery To consider the award of contract under an agency agreement for the operation and lifecycle maintenance of the Council's leisure facilities.	Key	Cabinet 10 Dec 2025		Fully exempt	Mark Humphreys, Head of Special Projects (Leisure) mark.humphreys@e-lindsey.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder - Heritage, Culture and Tourism (Councillor Sarah Sharpe)
Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27 For Cabinet to agree its recommendation to Full Council for the 2026/27 Council Tax Support Scheme.	Non Key	Cabinet 10 Dec 2025	Full Council 12 Jan 2026	Open	Sharon Hammond, Head of Revenues and Benefits Sharon.hammond@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
2026/27 Draft Budget - Scrutiny	Non Key	Overview & Scrutiny Committee 15 Jan 2026		Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
2026/27 TPS, TMSS & MRP +AIS To provide pre-decision scrutiny to the strategy being proposed.	Non Key	Audit & Governance Committee 19 Jan 2026		Open	Sean Howsam, Treasury and Investment Manager (PSPSL) Sean.Howsam@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)

Report Title	Key / Non-Key	Date Decision to be taken	Rec to Council?	Open or Exempt	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder
2026/27 Budget Proposal To consider the draft BTAC budget for 2026/27.	Non Key	Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC) 22 Jan 2026		Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
Housing Standards Policies To consider the review and update of Housing Standards Policies prior to alignment of respective Policies across the Partnership.	Non Key	Cabinet 27 Jan 2026		Open	Jonathan Challen, Safer Communities Service Manager jonathan.challen@e-lindsey.gov.uk, Luke Settle, Housing Standards Team Leader luke.settle@boston.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder - Housing (Councillor John Baxter)
Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) Policy To review and update the Policy across each of the Councils and have a single aligned Policy across the Partnership.	Non Key	Cabinet 27 Jan 2026		Open	Jonathan Challen, Safer Communities Service Manager jonathan.challen@e-lindsey.gov.uk, Luke Settle, Housing Standards Team Leader luke.settle@boston.gov.uk	Portfolio Holder - Housing (Councillor John Baxter)

Report Title	Key / Non-Key	Date Decision to be taken	Rec to Council?	Open or Exempt	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder
2026/27 Budget Report To approve: The General Fund Budget for 2026/27, including the use of reserves, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital Programmes and Strategy, Treasury Management Policy/Strategy and the Annual Delivery Plan including the approval of Council Tax levels.	Non Key	Cabinet 18 Feb 2026	Full Council 2 Mar 2026	Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
2026/27 CTAX Setting Report To set the amounts of Council Tax applicable for 2026/27 for each valuation band and in each part of the Borough.	Non Key	Full Council 2 Mar 2026		Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
Quarter 3 25/26 Performance and Risk Report To provide an update on performance and risk as at the end of each quarter.	Key	Cabinet 25 Mar 2026		Open	Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights & Transformation suzanne.rolfe@boston.gov.uk	Leader (Councillor Dale Broughton)
Q3 2025/26 Forecast Outturn To set out the current financial position for the Council at the end of the 2nd quarter of 2025/26.	Non Key	Cabinet 25 Mar 2026		Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
Q3 2025/26 Forecast Outturn (SEA) To set out the current financial position for BTAC at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2025/26.	Non Key	Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC) 26 Mar 2026		Open	Nicole Hayes, Head of Finance Delivery - BBC (PSPSL) nicole.hayes@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)

Report Title	Key / Non-Key	Date Decision to be taken	Rec to Council?	Open or Exempt	Lead Officer	Portfolio Holder
2025/26 Accounting Policies To review and agree the Accounting Policies for inclusion in the Financial Statements 2025/26.	Non Key	Audit & Governance Committee 21 Apr 2026		Open	Ellie Stacey, Head of Finance Delivery - Technical and Corporate, PSPSL Ellie.Stacey@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)
2025/26 Q3 Treasury Update To provide Members with an update on Treasury Management performance and activity to ensure best practice is maintained.	Non Key	Audit & Governance Committee 21 Apr 2026		Open	Sean Howsam, Treasury and Investment Manager (PSPSL) Sean.Howsam@pspsl.co.uk	Portfolio Holder - Finance and Economic Growth (Councillor Sandeep Ghosh)

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