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**B O R O U G H C O U N C I L**

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8 April 2016

TO MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

**NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY - CORPORATE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the  
Overview & Scrutiny - Corporate & Community Committee on  
**Thursday, 21st April, 2016 at 5.30 pm**

***Please note start time***

in the Committee Room, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR

**PHIL DRURY**  
**Chief Executive**

**Membership:**

Chairman: Councillor Paul Gleeson  
Vice Chairman: Councillor Michael Cooper  
Councillors Alison Austin, Colin Brotherton, David Brown,  
Anton Dani, Maureen Dennis, James Edwards, Martin Griggs,  
Jonathan Noble and Judith Skinner

**A G E N D A**

**PART I – PRELIMINARIES**

**A APOLOGIES**

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

**B DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

## C 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.

## **PART II - AGENDA ITEMS**

### 1 BOSTON TIDAL BARRIER - WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT - UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

The meeting will start with presentations from Adam Robinson, Boston Barrier Manager (Environment Agency) and Andy Jee, Flood Risk & Special Projects Officer, Flood Risk and Development Management (Lincolnshire County Council)

The full details of the format of the meeting are set out on the next page.

The following document is attached for information:

*Common Vision for Water Management in Boston and the surrounding areas*

**This meeting will be recorded (sound only)**

### **Notes:**

The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Janette Collier, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Municipal Buildings, Boston, Tel. no: 01205 314227 email: janette.collier@boston.gov.uk

Council Members who are not able to attend the meeting should notify as soon as possible giving the name of the Council Member (if any) who will be attending the meeting as their substitute.

### **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 contact Democratic Services on direct dial (01205) 314226

### **Emergency Procedures**

**In the event of a fire alarm sounding all attendees are asked to leave the building via the nearest emergency exit and make their way to the Fire Assembly Point located in the car park at the rear of the Municipal Buildings.**

# **CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING FORMAT**

**5.30 PM, 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2016**

The meeting will follow the following format and order:

### Scene setting:

Officers from the Environment Agency will provide an update of progress and timescales and Lincolnshire County Council officers will talk about the vision for water level management and how that aspect can be progressed.

### Guest representatives – Inland Waterways Association, River Users and Fishermen:

One person from each group has been invited to act as a spokesperson to address the Committee, raising any issues and points on behalf of others.

### Response:

Officers from the Environment Agency and Lincolnshire County Council will be invited to respond to issues raised.

### Debate:

The Committee Members will then be able to discuss any issues raised and to ask questions and seek clarifications.

### Questions and answers:

There will be opportunity for all invitees to put questions forward, time permitting, at the discretion of the Chairman.

### Response:

Officers from the Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council and Boston Borough Council will be invited to respond to issues raised and provide clarifications as well as advising of 'next steps'.

### Conclusion:

The Chairman will sum up.

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## **Common Vision for Water Management in Boston and the surrounding areas**

### **Overview**

The partner organisations consisting of the Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, Boston Borough Council and the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board are committed to delivering a complex and ambitious range of projects in Boston, principally but not exclusively to deliver; flood risk protection, effective land drainage, and water level management to promote economic and environmental benefits and enhance navigation. These projects are:

- The Boston Tidal Barrier
- Water Level Management in Boston and the Fens Waterways Link
- The Black Sluice Pumping Station and South Forty Foot Catchment

Whilst the projects all have commonality in terms of a number of shared objectives, such as flood risk protection for example, there is also the potential for conflicting demands. Partner organisations will work together to ensure a coordinated approach to delivering the projects to ensure, where possible, that decisions are not taken individually which could prejudice the future delivery of the other projects or shared objectives, either in the short or longer term.

### **The Boston Tidal Barrier**

The Boston tidal barrier is a £100.7 million scheme programmed to be delivered by 2019, which will provide improved flood protection to over 20,000 homes and businesses, protecting against tidal surges such as the 2013 event which flooded over 820 homes and businesses. The barrier has the ability to be utilised in the future to control water levels in the Haven generating economic and environmental benefits for Boston and aiding navigation between The Witham and The Black Sluice Navigation, once appropriate subsequent approvals have been sought and granted.

### **Water Level Management (WLM) and the Fens Waterways Link**

The ultimate aspiration is for Boston to hold stable water levels upstream of the barrier to reflect those in the river Witham throughout the boating season. This would create an attractive and vibrant riverside environment and encourage the town to “turn towards the river” and celebrate its waterways heritage, attracting private sector investment to meet new demands from tourists, visitors, maritime visitors and residents. The design of the barrier is, therefore, being carried out on a no regrets approach whereby future measures to deliver water level management upstream of the barrier will not be precluded.

The Fens Waterways link will be a major waterway development eventually connecting over 240km of existing and new waterways, linking the Cathedral cities of Lincoln, Peterborough, Ely and Cambridge. Projects contributing to the Link are being developed and delivered at Bedford, Denver, Northampton, Boston, Hubberts Bridge and Crowland. The Link will increase boating visitors to the Fens with towns like Boston providing heritage, character and a place to rest and relax. A stable water level in Boston will encourage boats to moor and visit the town and will also ease their on-ward travel into the Black Sluice and beyond.

### **The Black Sluice Pumping Station and South Forty Foot Catchment**

Following the consultation on the future of the Black Sluice Pumping Station and the South Forty Foot catchment, the South Forty Foot Steering Group has been established to assist in shaping the future of both. Provisionally, a two year transitional arrangement is proposed, where the EA continue to operate the BSPS, but with increasing involvement of the BSIDB.



This will involve, looking for solutions and funding opportunities for future management viewing the entire catchment holistically, whilst taking account of; flood risk, land drainage, water resources, water level management and navigation, the water framework directive and the ecosystem.

Signed:



Steve Willis  
for Lincolnshire County Council



Phil Younge  
for the Environment Agency



Steve Lumb  
for Boston Borough Council

Ian Warsap  
for Black Sluice Internal Drainage  
Board



