



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

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

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