



Report To:	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date:	30 th April 2026
Subject:	Section 19; Flooding Investigation Report; Wyberton West Road / Park Road, Boston
Purpose:	To invite Committee to consider the Section 19 Flooding Investigation Report produced by Lincolnshire County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority) following flooding impacting Boston in January 2025 and to hear how relevant Risk Management Authorities have responded or intend to respond to the recommendations therein.
Key Decision:	N/A
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Dale Broughton, Leader of the Council
Report Of:	Christian Allen, Service Director – Regulatory
Report Author:	Christian Allen, Service Director – Regulatory
Ward(s) Affected:	St Thomas' Ward
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

Members will recall the flooding 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.

The final Section 19 flood investigation report was issued by the LLFA on 30th July 2025 (S19-941 date prepared – 30/07/2025) and considered by members of this committee on 4th September 2025.

At this meeting Committee resolved to invite representatives from the Risk Management Authorities identified as responsible for recommendations contained within the report to attend a future Committee so members could hear how they have responded or intend to respond to the recommendations contained within the Section 19 report.

Recommendations

That Committee receive representations from Risk Management Authorities and consider whether they wish to take any further steps as a result.

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.

Through the exercise of scrutiny functions of the Council, members may wish to consider how Risk Management Authorities, with recommendations in the report, deliver on their responsibilities and hence reassure the residents of Boston impacted by flooding from the South Forty Foot Drain.

Other Options Considered

Do nothing and let Lead Local Flood Authority and the established mechanisms of the 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 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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 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 was initially considered by this Committee on 4th September 2025, is attached at Appendix A for further consideration today. The Section 19 report considers the cause(s) of internal flooding of 38 properties on Wyberton West Road and Park Road, Boston. This flooding event 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.
- 2.3. The associated weather 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).
- 2.4. 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. 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.
- 2.5. 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 for consideration in their future risk mitigation planning.
- 2.6. The report was shared with RMA's and their comments have been adopted into the final version of the investigation report attached at appendix A.
- 2.7. Members of this Committee considered the Section 19 report at their meeting on 4th September 2025 when it was resolved to invite those Risk Management Authorities identified as responsible for recommendations contained within the report, to attend this Committee. The purpose of their attendance was for Members to hear representations from each Risk Management Authority as to how their organisation has responded or intends to respond to the recommendations contained within the Section 19 report.
- 2.8. Having heard from each of the Risk Management Authority in attendance, Members are invited to consider and determine whether there are any further steps that the Committee ought to take.

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. Having listened to the representations made by each of the Risk Management Authorities in attendance, Members are invited to consider and determine whether there are any further steps that the Committee ought to take.

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

None

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.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

Consultation has been undertaken with the Leader Portfolio Holder, Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer and Director of Communities as well as the local ward member.

Reputation

Boston Borough 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 does everything possible and within its powers to mitigate risk. 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 (Redacted) 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

Overview and Scrutiny Committee last considered this matter at their meeting on 4th September 2025.

Approval

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