

Humber – keeping you informed

February 2020

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

New Humber Strategy

The Environment Agency, 12 Local Authorities around the Humber and the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership are working together, with support from the Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) and Natural England, to produce a new strategy for managing tidal flood risk around the Humber Estuary. This also includes rivers where tidal flow is the main source of flood risk, over the next 100 years.

For more information please visit our storymap on the Humber 2100+ strategy arcg.is/1WC8vn2



Key points & work undertaken September – December 2019

- During September we ran a public survey to help us understand public views and thinking around key topics to help feed into our work on the new Humber Strategy. We had a really good response rate, with the results helping to inform our future engagement. It was interesting to see how the public perceive flooding responsibility, who should pay for it and what we should do in the future. It was also a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of tidal flooding and the potential impacts, not just in coastal areas but also further inland. If you provided a response, then thank you very much for your input. We will be using this information to help inform our options development. A couple of key findings below:

Less than half of the people affected by flooding around the Humber took action by moving belongings to a safe place

90% of the people who responded to our survey thought reducing the risk of tidal flooding was 'important' or 'very important'

- During autumn 2019 we developed our approach to economic assessment which will enable us to build in future growth, development and take full account of the indirect impacts of flooding. This will enable us to build a regional case for investment. We have also gathered further modelling results to help us define the potential impacts of different flood scenarios on an estuary wide scale.

- At the end of October 2019 we held a series of landowner workshops in order to raise awareness of the Humber 2100+ Strategy within the agricultural/landowner community. The workshops were chaired by the vice president of the NFU, Stuart Roberts, and were very successful. Attendees welcomed the early engagement and the importance of working closely with the agricultural/landowner community was very clear. Key issues raised were around flood storage, influencing future policy and valuation of land. The events really solidified attendees' understanding of the Environment Agency's position on these issues. We are currently looking at the next steps and planning how we continue the momentum with landowners.
- The Humber Strategy programme remains on track to complete the draft strategy by the end of December 2021, which will then be put forward for approval.



Coming Up

We are preparing to run three Scenario Development Workshops which will be taking place at the end of February, and the beginning of March 2020. The workshops will involve a range of Environment Agency colleagues and partners, external stakeholders and representatives from other organisations, who will use their expertise and knowledge to help us shape potential future scenarios for tidal flood risk management. Following these workshops, work will continue to determine whether the final scenarios are achievable.

Our first Public consultation will look at the scenarios that will be taken forward for full appraisal, this consultation will take place in early autumn 2020. We will be working to develop the details of this consultation over the coming months. Further information on how you can give your views will be made available on our Humber 2100+ Information Page - <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/humber/strategyreview>

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report – Tell us what you think

As part of the development of the new Humber Strategy, we are carrying out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), to make sure that key social, economic and environmental factors are considered. As part of this work and to provide context for the SA, we've developed a scoping report which helps us identify issues of particular importance that should be taken into account. This report is due to be updated ahead of the final public consultation in 2021, but in the meantime we'd like to give you the chance to comment on the work carried out to date. Please look out for the report which will be available for comment mid-February here: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/humber/strategyreview/>

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Scheme Updates

Humber Hull Frontage Improvements

This £42 million tidal flood defence scheme will reduce the risk of flooding to 113,000 homes and businesses. The scheme will improve around 7km of tidal defences through the city of Hull.

Construction started in January 2019 at St Andrew's Quay Retail Park. Construction is also now underway at Victoria Dock Village in the eastern and western sections, St Andrew's Dock and Albert Dock. Planning permission has been secured for the works at Victoria Pier which will commence in early 2020. Work on the scheme will be complete by the end of 2020.

Donna Nook

The Donna Nook Managed Realignment project is now almost complete, and a breach has been cut in the front line of the tidal defences at Pye's Hall sluice. We will need to return to site to complete the breach, as several piles that lie below the water (where Pye's Hall sluice once sat). We need to remove these remaining piles to ensure that the necessary volume of water can flow onto the site.



Port of Immingham Sea defence improvements

This is a project led by North East Lincolnshire Council in collaboration with Associated British Ports (ABP). The Environment Agency provides technical advice and grant-in-aid funding support. The total costs estimate is £10.3m.

Phase 1, to replace the outer lock doors and restraining system, was completed in 2017. Phase 2 to improve the static defences across the port frontage continues with further development, design and cost estimations being carried out by ABP.



South Ferriby and Winteringham Ings Sea Defence Improvements

The South Ferriby Flood Alleviation scheme contract was awarded in Feb 2019, when enabling works started on site. The scheme will reduce the risk of tidal flooding to 150 homes, businesses and the CEMEX plant.

The strong partnership developed over the years between the Environment Agency, CEMEX, North Lincolnshire Council and the local community has flourished. The partnership has enabled the contractor JBAB to undertake the works without any complaints from industry, the farming and local community.

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By the end of November JBAB had transported from the CEMEX stockpile and built the new 1,100m long set-back embankment. This means that for the first time since Dec 2013 the community of South Ferriby will be less worried about flooding from the Humber. The contractor has demobilised now from site and will be back in spring, finishing works to the bank – trimming, top-soiling and grass seeding will take place in spring 2020. The design will be progressing at pace now for the demountable defences across the A1077 and the embankment west of South Ferriby Sluice, expected completion for the west embankment is 2020.



Skeffling Habitat Compensation and Defence Scheme

Planning consent was received in August 2019, and work is ongoing to provide information required for the planning conditions set by East Riding Yorkshire Council (ERYC). A workshop was held in October with key stakeholder organisations to agree designs for an area of habitat creation and mitigation within the scheme boundary which will increase the range of habitats to be created on site. Following this event, the plans are being updated and will be submitted to East Riding Yorkshire Council for approval once complete.

Contractors JBA Bentley, carried out further ground investigation during October and November to enable them to undertake the detailed design of the site.



Are you prepared?

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

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



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