



Consultation on the Variation to the Composition of the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

A summary of consultation responses

November 2019

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment.

We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts, including flooding, drought, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

We improve the quality of our water, land and air by tackling pollution. We work with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations. A healthy and diverse environment enhances people's lives and contributes to economic growth.

We can't do this alone. We work as part of the Defra group (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs), with the rest of government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and local communities to create a better place for people and wildlife.

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Foreword

The Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs) are Committees established by the Environment Agency under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that brings together members appointed by Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and independent members with relevant experience for three purposes:

- To ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines.
- To promote efficient, targeted and risk-based investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management that optimises value for money and benefits for local communities.
- To provide a link between the Environment Agency, LLFAs and other risk management authorities, and other relevant bodies to bring about mutual understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in its area.

There are 12 Committees in England and each has a Chair appointed by Defra. The Anglian (Northern) RFCC covers the Environment Agency's Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area's water management catchments, which includes: South Humber and East Coast, Witham, Welland and Nene river catchments.

The aim of the consultation was to gain feedback from all those individuals, groups and organisations, who are affected by, or interested in, the proposed Variation of the Composition of the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, in line with The Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

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1. Introduction

The proposed local government reorganisation in Northamptonshire, planned from April 2020, will create new unitary authorities. As a result, the existing Composition of the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee will need to be varied to accommodate this change, as the existing Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for this area will no longer exist. We have therefore consulted on the proposals for the Variation to the Composition of the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. The variation process is set out in The Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, Part 3 (9) and requires Ministerial approval.

The Composition Variation must be made in line with the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 and subsequently there are certain limitations when proposing a new scheme.

In 2011 when the transition was made from Regional Flood Defence Committees to Regional Flood and Coastal Committees, it was confirmed that Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) representation was a matter for individual RFCCs to propose.

2. How we ran the Consultation

We invited comments from those individuals, groups and organisations, who are affected by, or interested in, the proposed Variation of the Composition of the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC), in line with The Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

We ran an e-consultation and made hard copies available to those who requested them. We also engaged with key stakeholders to explain our proposals and to understand their views. This document summarises the responses to the consultation questions and any relevant points raised.

We thanked all respondents for their time and contribution to this consultation.

2.1. Proposals

- No changes to the number of EA or LLFA Members or to the LLFAs sharing seats.
- Given the near 50:50 split of tax base across the two new unitary authorities in Northamptonshire within the Anglian (Northern) RFCC area, the existing three seats for Northamptonshire are proposed to be split. Each new authority will have their own seat and they will also share a third seat between themselves.

Full details on the consultation and proposals are located:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/lincolnshire-and-northamptonshire/variation-to-composition-of-anglian-northern-rfcc/>

2.2. Consultation Period

We ran the consultation from the 7th May 2019 to 18th June 2019.

2.3. Level of Response

We received a total of 4 responses, of which:

- 3 were from organisations or groups.
- 1 was from an individual.

3. Summary of Responses to each Consultation Question

3.1. Question 1: Should the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee divide the allocation of the three voting seats in Northamptonshire as follows: Each new unitary authority to have their own voting seat and the third will be shared between the unitary authorities?

Number of responses recorded against each of the four possible answers:

Yes: 4 out of the 4 responses.

No: 0 out of the 4 responses.

Don't know: 0 out of the 4 responses.

Other: 0 out of the 4 responses.

Summary of relevant key points raised:

- None.

The responses to the Consultation will be carefully considered and reviewed by the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, please see **Section 4**.

3.2. Question 2: Which option is your preference for how the third voting seat is allocated between the two new unitary authorities?

Number of responses recorded against each of the three possible answers:

Option 1 - Third seat rotates on an annual basis between the two unitary authorities: 2 out of the 4 responses.

Option 2 - Third voting seat is appointed by, or on behalf of, the two unitary authorities: 1 out of the 4 responses.

Option 3 - Other: 1 out of the 4 responses.

Summary of relevant key points raised:

- This is consistent with the system used to rotate the voting seat shared between Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire.
- It should be up to all councils who have shared seats to make this decision.

The responses to the Consultation will be carefully considered and reviewed by the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, please see **Section 4**.

3.3. Question 3: Please let us know if you think there is anything else we should be considering?

Summary of relevant key points raised:

- None.

4. Next Steps

The local government reorganisation in Northamptonshire was postponed from April 2020 to April 2021.

The responses to the Consultation will be carefully considered and reviewed by the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee in 2020. The Committee's decision on the Variation to the Composition of the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee will then be submitted for approval by the Environment Agency FCRM Committee and subsequently submitted to the Minister of State for consideration and approval before 1st December 2020. Enactment of the approved Variation to the Composition will be from 1st April 2021.

5. List of abbreviations

'Defra' means Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

'EA' means Environment Agency.

'FCRM' means Flood and Coastal Risk Management.

'LLFA' means Lead Local Flood Authority.

'RFCC' means Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

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