

"Wetter World? Better together in Lincolnshire"

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What's all this about?

Quickly deal with....

- **What drove us?**
- **What did we do?**

Spend a bit more time....

- **Why is it a success?**
- **What of the future?**

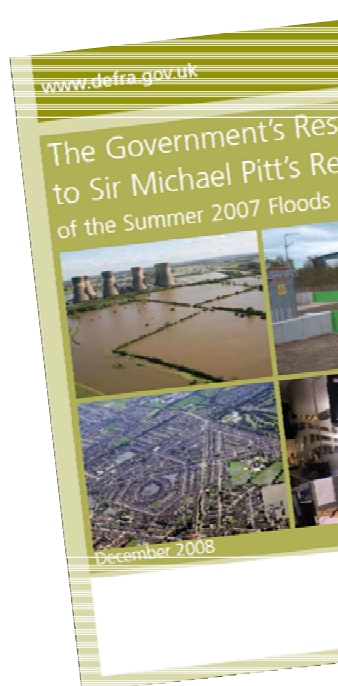
2007 Floods!




Series of flood events

- **Not just Lincolnshire - Summer 2007 floods**
 - Northern Ireland
 - East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull
 - The Midlands
 - Yorkshire
 - Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire
 - Oxfordshire, Berkshire
 - (very few places completely unaffected)

Sir Michael Pitt




Flood and Water Management Act 2010
CHAPTER 29
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FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT
1. Key concepts and definitions
 1 "Flood" and "coastal erosion"
 2 "Risk"
 3 "Risk management"
 4 "Flood risk management function"
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2. Strategies, co-operation and funding
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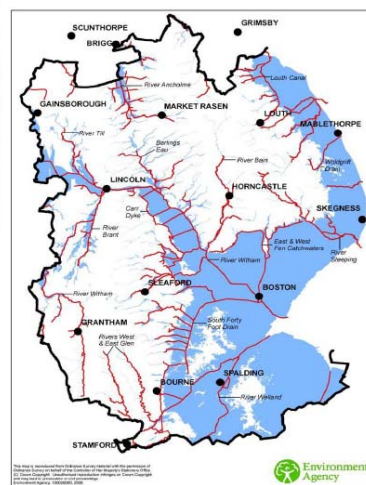
An Act in less than 18 months

Because.....

- **Political Will**
- **Defra and EA brought the right people together**
- **...with the right attitude of collaboration**
- **...with the right level of expertise**
- **Star of the show – Matt Crossman, Defra**

How did we react?

A wide range of potential flood risk



Our nightmare!!



Does it matter?

- **Value of the leisure coast**
- **Food security**
 - Lincolnshire provides 20% of the UK's food
 - Largest potato, wheat, cereal and poultry producer in the UK
 - Second largest sugar beet producer in the UK
 - Fifth largest pig producer in England

What could we do?

- **Give up!**
- **Insist that everything stays the same**
- **Work with other organisations to adapt to Environmental Change:**
 - physical measures
 - influence government (present and next!)

Lincolnshire already manages water...

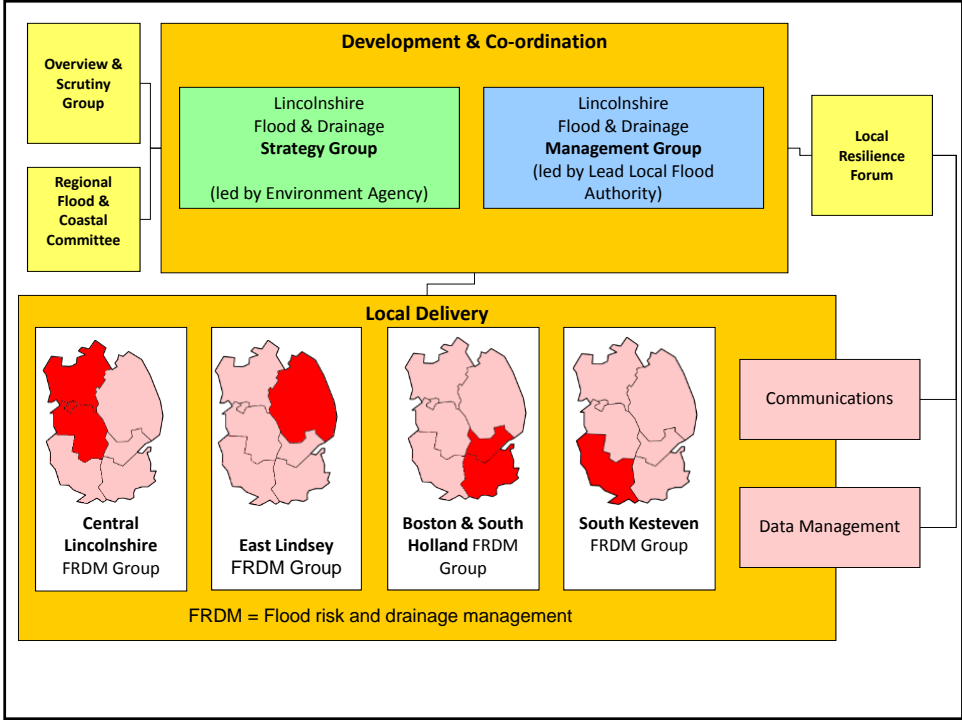
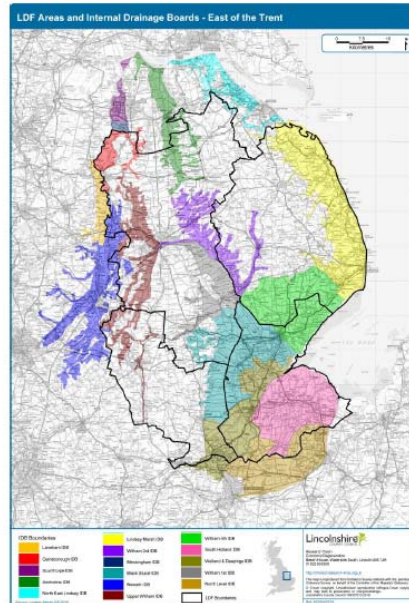


Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs)

Drain low-lying areas (40% of Lincolnshire)

Land drainage – especially agricultural land, but also some urban areas

Water level management



2010 Great pairing for EA!

EA Chairman

Lord Smith



EA Chief Executive

Paul Leinster



A collaborative Area Manager – Andy Baxendale

Trustworthy to trusted

Extending the Medway Boundaries

- Delegation of powers under the Act _ IDBs can act beyond the Medway boundaries
- Reflects the partnership principle of the most appropriate partner undertaking delivery



Key criteria for success

- 1. Political Will**
- 2. Collaboration**
- 3. Money**
- 4. Expertise**

Political Will is vital!

Why?

- Politics drives everything!**
- Parliament directs funds.... and legislation**
- Locally, councillors direct....
....policy, priorities and pounds**

Political Will

Nothing concentrates the minds of politicians more than ...

.... Events



Why is collaboration important?

- **Too many organisations to be effective individually**
- **Too big an issue**
- **Need to pool expertise, knowledge and resources**
- **Significant individuals can make a HUGE difference to success**

Successful collaboration

- Organisations must **WANT** to collaborate
- Lead from the top

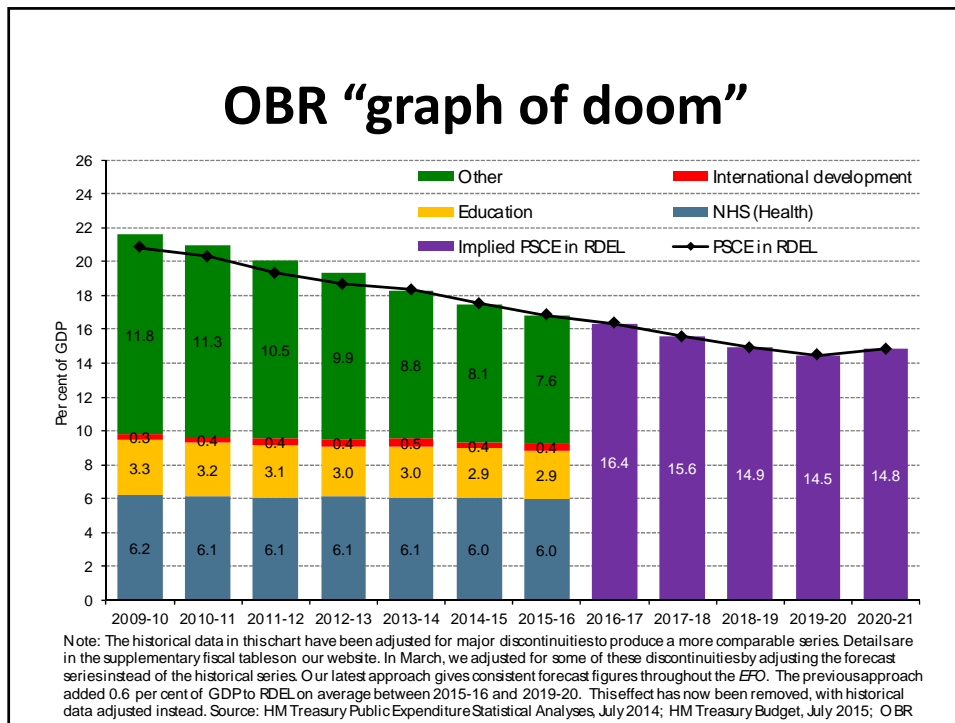
In order to create a culture where

- **Individuals within the organisations want to collaborate**

What's wrong with funding?

Too little of it!





Making the most of money

Lincolnshire County Council:

- Provided £6m towards Louth and Horncastle flood alleviation schemes
- Has set aside £11m towards Boston Barrier

Greater Lincolnshire LEP

- Supported cash flow for scheme with high level of flood protection
- Identified financial requirements in Water Resources Plan

We need expertise as well as money

- **Who needs the expertise?**
 - Defra
 - Environment Agency
 - Lead Local Flood Authorities
 - Water and Sewerage Companies
 - Internal Drainage Boards
 - Other flood risk management authorities
 - Consultants and Contractors

What sort of expertise?

EA and LLFAs need to be good clients

- **Floods policy expertise**
- **Commissioning skills**

Do we also need to be Practitioners?

Expertise from consultants

WHY?

Because....

- LLFAs may not be able to afford full range of practitioners
- Variable workloads
- Uncertainty about funding

Contributing.....



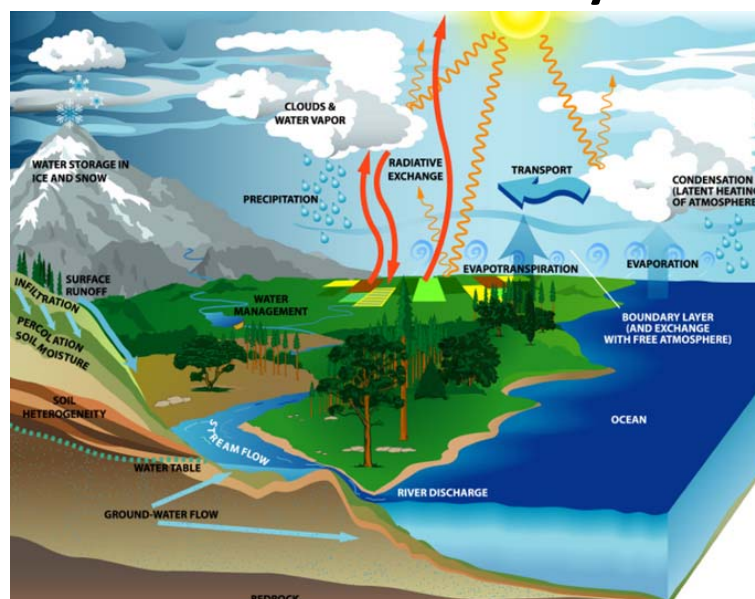
Water Resources Study

- Flood risk and water resource management
- from an *economic* perspective

So what of the future?

- **Environmental change is likely to create more uncertainty**
 - Increased intensity of events
 - Previous design standards will need revising
 - Exceedance will be common
 - People need to learn to live with environmental change
 - Mitigation through flood defence schemes
 - Adaptation through learning to live with water

Water is here to stay!!





What we asked for....

- **delegation of decision-making powers** over flood risk management priorities
- **resources in the medium-term programme (MTP)** from national to the local level;
- **tax incentives** for agri-food businesses and the steel industry to develop water resources or water efficiency measures on their sites;
- **tax relief for businesses** contributing to flood relief schemes that meet the objectives of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the LEP Growth Strategy;
- **devolution of the EA powers** around flood risk operations and use of the capital funding within the Medium Term Programme (MTP).

What we got...so far!!!

- **Acknowledgement of the success of the Lincolnshire Partnership** [Para 38].
- **Integration across the Greater Lincolnshire geography by building on:**
 - **governance and scrutiny structure**
 - **the joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy,**
 - **Common Works Programme,**
 - **the LEP's Water Management Plan**[Para 39]

Relevant specific devolved powers and resources GLCA to [Para 40]:

- a. Propose evidence-based **reprioritisation of capital water management investment**
- b. Identify, propose and develop opportunities to take on **more local responsibility** for delivering projects
- c. Integrate delivery of local and national programmes and implement local scheme prioritisation especially to **sustain lower consequence systems and schemes.**
- d. Develop the prioritised programme of water management to **match local priorities for driving growth.**

- d. Seek to **extend the Internal Drainage Board boundaries** to the extent permitted by the Land Drainage Act, to maximise IDB coverage across Greater Lincolnshire and **authorise IDBs to extend their levy raising powers across the whole of those areas.**
- e. The **government will support Greater Lincolnshire in their work** to attract business investment in water efficiency and water management.

- **The GLCA will contribute to the outcomes from the GLLEP's Water Resources Study and the objectives set out in the resulting Water Management Plan.** [Para 41]
- Within the confines of the existing National Planning Policy Framework GLCA will **take into account the high standards of water management that exist** in Greater Lincolnshire in driving growth and prosperity. [Para 42]

Mainly words of intent, but...

- **Chief Executive of Boston (Phil Drury) is leading negotiations on behalf of shadow GLCA**
- **Supported by partners**
- **GLLEP is completing its Water Management Plan**

2016 EA

EA Chairman

Emma Boyd (Acting Chairman)



EA Chief Executive

Sir James Bevan



Possible future?

GLCA/LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- deals with EVERYTHING
- EXCEPT that which it cedes to the nation state!

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- those issues that protect the interests of the nation



Providing economic assessment and evidence

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – new role

- Not just an agency for central government
- Some of its funding through Combined Authority?

DELIVERY PARTNERS

- Internal Drainage Boards
- Water Companies
- Local Authorities

Conclusions

- We need to keep flood risk management on the political radar
- We need to demonstrate that economic growth is dependant on good infrastructure, including flood mitigation and adaptation
- We need to work with each other
- We need to grow our own expertise.