

## 1. Flood defence budgets set for 2007/8

**Author:** Catherine Burbage  
**Date published:** 12-Jan-2007  
**Keywords:** schemes, local levy

---

The Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood Defence Committee<sup>1</sup> received details of its budget for 2007/8 at its meeting on Friday 12 January at the Environment Agency in Ipswich. Flood defence budgets are agreed nationally on a priority basis, with the Eastern Area budget for 2007/8 set at £33 million.

Members of the Committee were pleased to hear that the Environment Agency has allocated funding to ensure the continued investment in flood defences in Broadland, Great Yarmouth, **Minsmere** and Canvey Island. Additional funding has been raised locally through levies from County Councils and Unitary Authorities. This will enable a locally funded programme of £1.8 million to be undertaken in 2007/8. The programme will include the construction of a scheme in central Norwich, the continued development of a potential scheme at Chelmsford and other structural refurbishments.

The Eastern Area budget of £33 million is £5.2million less than that for 2006/7. This is due to the setting of national priorities for funding, where schemes are assessed at a national level, with those assessed as the highest priority given the funds first.

The Committee was particularly disappointed to hear that, despite the best efforts of the Environment Agency locally, funding has not been allocated to allow the schemes at Ipswich, Eccles to Winterton and Jaywick to proceed in 2007. These projects will be kept under review for funding in the future.

Anthony Coe, Chairman of the Committee commented, "The East of England still has one of the largest flood defence budgets in the country with an important programme of work, but we are disappointed that the funding falls short of what we would have liked. The Committee will be making sure that with good management we will be getting the best out of the budget that we can."

## 2. Public Consultation on Dunwich to Walberswick Flood Risk Management Study

**Author:** Catherine Burbage  
**Date published:** 12-Mar-2007  
**Keywords:** Flood risk management, nature conservation

---

**When:** Monday 19 March, 2pm to 8pm

**Where:** Dunwich Reading Room

**What:** Public exhibition of preferred options for flood risk management from Dunwich to Walberswick

**Who:** Technical specialists from the Environment Agency and consultants

Everyone interested in seeing the preferred option for flood risk management between Dunwich and Walberswick and discussing it with the Environment Agency technical specialists and their consultants is invited to attend a public exhibition being held on Monday 19 March in Dunwich Reading Room from 2pm to 8pm.

In consultation with many groups representing local people and the wildlife of the area, and taking into account the Environment Agency's statutory responsibilities, a number of options has been considered and from these a preferred option has been identified. The preferred option, which will be on display at the exhibition, has two separate parts; one is primarily needed to manage flood risks that affect nature conservation and the other to manage flood risks that affect people.

The preferred option for nature conservation is to meet the Environment Agency's legal obligations for this internationally important conservation site, which in the short term requires the Agency to continue protecting certain freshwater habitats from the sea. This will allow the Agency time to find some replacement habitat inland, so that in the longer-term, nature is allowed to take its course and return parts of the area to the sea and saltwater marsh. The preferred option to manage flood risk affecting people is to build a new embankment to the rear of some of the properties at risk of flooding in Dunwich. This proposed new work would be subject to national funding and would be competing nationally with other schemes according to national priorities for flood defence funding.

The previous method of protecting this area of coastline has been by repairing the shingle ridge, using bulldozers, each time it was breached. This cannot continue because the loss of material through coastal processes, and the breakdown and breaching of the ridge has increased and is likely to accelerate in the future. This is making the process expensive as well as ineffective and is not sustainable.

The Environment Agency wants to listen to people's views on the preferred option and would like as much feedback as possible to inform the final design of the preferred option. The Agency hopes that it will be able to apply for funding for the schemes this summer.

### **3. Consultation period for Blythe Estuary extended to Friday 29 February 2008**

The consultation period for the Blyth Estuary Draft Strategy has been extended until Friday 29 February 2008. The Draft Strategy and Strategic Environmental Assessment were published in September, but the detailed Economics Report and Costings Report have only just been put on the Suffolk Estuaries web site.

A Technical Report summarising the information will also be available shortly to help all interested parties to understand the full strategy in more detail.

Dr Charles Beardall, Environment Agency Area Manager said: 'We must apologise that the detailed reports have only just been put on our web site. We know this means that people won't have enough time to look at the reports in detail before the original end of the consultation period, so we have extended it to take full account of the delay.'

The Economics and Costings Reports contain the detailed results of the benefit-cost analysis which has been carried out for each part of the strategy and full costings of

the work involved for each option. They are available on the web site at [www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk](http://www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk) or by ringing 01473 706049.

The consultation was originally due to end on 4 January 2008 and has now been extended until 29 February 2008. Comments on the consultation should be sent to Blyth Estuary, Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5ZR or emailed to [blythestuaries@environment-agency.co.uk](mailto:blythestuaries@environment-agency.co.uk).

Dr Beardall concluded: 'We have received many responses from people and organisations concerned with the area already and expect this information will help answer some of the remaining questions. We would like to hear and consider any more comments and suggestions on our draft proposals in light of these detailed reports.'

Web link:

<http://www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk/>

### **SUFFOLK ESTUARINE FLOOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

The Environment Agency is responsible for managing the flood risk arising from rivers and the sea, in many areas.

Prompted by growing concern over several areas in Suffolk that are susceptible to flooding, the Environment Agency has commissioned the development of a long-term strategy to manage the flood defences for three of the Suffolk Estuaries: the [Blyth](#), the [Alde and Ore](#) and the [Deben](#).

These are known as the Suffolk Estuarine Flood Management Strategies. [more»](#)

The Suffolk Estuarine Flood Management Strategies will be developed over the next two years on a river-by-river basis starting with the Blyth followed by the Alde-Ore Estuary and ending with the Deben Estuary.

[Select an Estuary from the map for further information»](#)

#### **Latest News**

[Blyth Estuary Draft Strategy launched](#)

[Blyth Estuary Flood Risk Management Drop In - Public Notice](#)