

# Feedback Form

## Lower Alt With Crossens Pumped Drainage Catchment Flood Risk Management Strategic Plan Consultation

### Questions

1. We have identified the following key areas for consideration that we think should form part of the final strategy

- Reducing reliance upon pumping
- Increased use of flood storage
- Future funding of flood risk management
- Operational responsibility and future funding of land drainage
- Seeking other opportunities to manage flood risk management and land drainage in different ways.

1a. Are there any other issues or activities that you think should be included in the final strategy?

**Yes / No / Don't Know**

1b. If you answered "Yes" please explain what these are and why you think they should be included?

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2. We have identified a number of potential challenges in the management of flood risk and land drainage in the study area. Decisions need to be made to address these challenges. We think these include:

- i. Urban & Rural Standard of Flood Protection
- ii. Pumping vs. Flood Storage
- iii. Sustainable Land Use vs. Commercial Drivers
- iv. Land Drainage Costs vs. Future Funding and Governance

2a. Are there any other challenges that you think should be considered in the final strategy?"

**Yes / No / Don't Know**

2b. If you answered "Yes" please explain what these are and why you think they should be included?

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(Please turn over)

We have provided below a short statement on each of the challenges that we have identified above, followed by a number of questions to understand your views:

**i. Urban & Rural Standard of Protection**

"In general, both the urban and rural areas of the catchment currently benefit from a high standard of fluvial flood protection (i.e. flooding from rivers). The rural standard is significantly higher than nationally accepted standards. However, the high rural standard of protection is maintained by preventing natural use of the flood plain and flood risk management is instead provided by extensive pumping".

3a. Do you consider that the current standard of **urban** flood protection is appropriate?

**Yes / No / Don't Know**

3b. Do you consider that the current standard of **rural** flood protection is appropriate?

**Yes / No / Don't Know**

3c. Do you think the balance between urban and rural standards of protection is right?

**Yes / No / Don't Know**

3d. If you answered "No" to any of the above, please give your reasons for doing so.

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**ii. Pumping vs. Flood Storage**

"The existing system is effective in providing flood risk management in the study area. However the extensive use of pumping is considered unsustainable on environmental and cost grounds".

4a. Do you consider it appropriate to reinstate the use of natural flood plain in order to reduce the amount of pumping?

**Yes / No / Don't Know**

4a. If you answered "No" please answer the following:

Under the current funding rules, sustaining the pumping system for the purpose of flood risk management will almost certainly require contributions from the local community. Would you be prepared to contribute to the cost of sustaining this system?

**Yes / No / Don't Know**

4b. Do you have any thoughts about how contributions from the local community for flood risk management might be raised?

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(Please turn over)

**iii. Sustainable Land Use vs. Commercial Drivers**

"We consider that the existing land use, supported by the existing drainage system is unsustainable in the longer term. However, we also recognise that changes to more sustainable land use practices may reduce overall productivity and profitability in the shorter term"

5a. How sustainable do you think current land use practices are in this study area?

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5b. What changes in land use practice, if any, do you foresee in the future?

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**iv. Land Drainage Costs vs. Future Funding & Governance**

"Sustaining the existing land drainage system, including the operation and maintenance of the pumping stations, is costly. Under current government policy, we will not be able to continue to undertake this role or incur these costs".

5a. Would you be prepared to contribute towards the funding of land drainage in this study area?

**Yes / No / Don't Know**

5b. Do you have any thoughts on what alternative land drainage governance and funding arrangements might look like?

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(Please turn over)

Aside from the challenges above, we believe there are mutual benefits, to both the environment and those that live and work in the study area, through a move towards more sustainable management of the area.





### General Information

Please could you also answer the following questions to help us to understand your interest in the study area.

- 9a. Do you live within the study boundary?  Yes / No
- 9b. Do you work within the study boundary?  Yes / No
- 9c. Aside from residential premises, do you own or manage land in the study area?  Yes / No
- 9d. Do you have any business or other interest in the rural catchment?  Yes / No

Thank you for your taking the time to tell us what you think. Please return completed forms by **16 December 2011** to:

Graham Sheppard,  
Environment Agency  
Richard Fairclough House,  
Knutsford Road, Warrington,  
WA4 1HT

Or via email to: [Altko@easensPDCFRMSP@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Altko@easensPDCFRMSP@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### How we will use your information

We will publish all responses after the feedback period has closed, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential. When we do so, we will not publish names of individuals who respond except where they are responding on behalf of an organisation.

### Confidential responses

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may have to supply your response to this consultation if **asked for it – including your personal information**.

Please let us know if you want us to keep your response confidential and explain why. We will take this into account when dealing with requests but cannot guarantee confidentiality.