

[EU Agencies mark Europe Day with new video](#)

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The video subtitled in all EU languages shows a snapshot of how the Agencies touch our daily lives in many areas – from the medicines we take and the food we eat to our education, working lives, transport and fundamental rights.

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[Press release: £7m Lincolnshire coast flood scheme gets underway](#)

Around 400,000 cubic metres of sand are set to be pumped onto Lincolnshire's beaches to reduce flood risk to more than 20,000 homes and businesses, 24,500 static caravans and 35,000 hectares of land in a massive [Environment Agency-led](#) project.

The Lincolnshire Beach Management project involves the raising of beach levels lost naturally to the sea, by dredging sand from the seabed and pumping it onshore. The work forms a key part of the Environment Agency's management strategy for the Lincolnshire coast, which reduces coastal flood risk to thousands of homes, businesses and static caravans as well as agricultural land.

Reducing flood risk

The project started on 30 April at Boygrift. Over the course of the next eight weeks, the dredger will move to Trusthorpe, Mablethorpe, Ingoldmells, Trunch Lane, Wolla Bank, Chapel Six Marshes and Huttoft to complete the project for this year.

The HAM316 dredger, which has the lowest carbon footprint of its class, is operating continuously, delivering approximately 5,000 cubic metres of sand twice a day.

Mark Robinson, senior coastal advisor at the Environment Agency, said:

Our work to restore beach levels is important as it protects our coastal defences, such as sea walls, from the energy of the waves as they impact on the coast.

Our defences along the Lincolnshire coast help us reduce coastal flood risk to tens of thousands of homes and businesses as well as significant areas of agricultural land. By replenishing beaches, we extend the defences' life.

The project also brings value to the bustling tourism economy on Lincolnshire's coast, as without it Lincolnshire's beaches would not be nearly as sandy.

Although the Environment Agency works around the clock to reduce flood risk to Lincolnshire's coastal communities, the risk can never be eliminated completely.

The Environment Agency urges people to [check if they are at risk of flooding and sign up for flood warnings online](#) or by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

Background

- The work to restore beach levels on Lincolnshire's coast is part of the Lincolnshire Beach Management 2018-2021 scheme.
- With storms and flooding becoming more frequent and sea levels rising due to climate change, the Environment Agency has recognised a need to review whether the current coastal flood risk management approach will be sustainable in the long term for Lincolnshire. The agency has therefore been consulting with the public on six coastal flood risk options to work alongside beach nourishment as part of the Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Strategy. This strategy will set out the most sustainable way of managing flood risk on this stretch of coast from 2021 to 2121. A draft strategy will be taken to consultation this summer.

- More details on the strategy and further information regarding times and locations of beach nourishment works are [available online](#)
- The Environment Agency is working to better protect more than 49,000 additional homes and businesses across Lincolnshire with £221m of government investment by 2021.

[West End Community Council Update](#) [#dundeewestend](#)

Fraser's West End Community Council Update for May 2018

I have today launched my May 2018 Update to West End Community Council. Subjects covered include:

- Roads and pavements improvements 2018/19
- Graffiti vandalism tackled

The Community Council meets this evening at Logie St John's (Cross) Church Hall at 7pm – all residents welcome. You can [download](#) my Update [here](#).

The agenda for tonight's meeting is as follows :

**WEST END COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 8th MAY 2018 AT 7.00PM
LOGIE AND ST JOHN'S (CROSS) PARISH CHURCH HALL
(ENTER FROM SHAFTESBURY TERRACE – OFF BLACKNESS AVENUE)**

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES
 2. MINUTE OF MEETING 10th APRIL 2018 AND MATTERS ARISING
 3. CORRESPONDENCE
 4. POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE
 5. PERTH ROAD UPDATE
 6. WECC HIT LIST
 7. PLANNING UPDATE
 8. OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED ON BEHALF OF WECC
 9. AOCB – MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INPUT
 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 12th June 2018
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Government accountability

Recent events have turned the spotlight on Ministerial accountability, leading some to explore what responsibility if any unelected officials have for mistakes in government. The failure over some ten years to send out the right reminders for breast cancer screening follows hard on the heels of a longer time period of failure to equip Windrush arrivals with proper papers as British citizens. We have seen rail franchises collapse, and other contractors of government get into financial trouble after bidding for government contracts.

Under our system Ministers take responsibility for anything government does wrongly or fails to do. This is based on ultimate policy authority resting with them, and the fact that they are the public voice and face of their departments. Officials are not normally allowed public voice and can usually expect Ministers to take the rap, in return for sharing with Ministers what is happening and seeking Ministerial approval for policies.

This traditional model has been subject to amendments in recent decades. The idea behind the Next Steps Agencies and their Labour successors was to split policy from implementation. Executive Agencies to implement environmental controls or to build and maintain highways were established, with accountable officials as CEOs. They directly answer to Parliamentary Committees and are responsible for spending money, reporting to the PAC where necessary. The idea was to make the professionals and experts responsible for executing policy, and to distance Ministers from writing and letting contracts and from judging complex technical issues like railway safety features or highways design.

There was always in the traditional model a separate line of accountability and responsibility for proper spending through the Permanent Secretary as Accounting Officer to the PAC, in parallel to the Minister's responsibility for budget choices and overall adequacy.

These latest debates do require further exploration of how much the Minister is to blame for problems that go back years, and for matters which have rested entirely or largely with officials. Ministers had always said the Windrush arrivals were British, and had said they wanted women up to 70 to have breast screening. The policy was the one Parliament wanted. The issue is why was it not seen through?

More difficult is the situation over Brexit customs policy. I read that some officials think we cannot be ready for 2019 or 2021 for exit with smooth operation of the borders. yet Ministers have asked the civil service to make sure we are ready, and Ministers and senior officials who have been asked by Parliamentary Committees have assured us they will be ready for any eventuality over the talks. This kind of noise off, and selective leaks of official papers that Ministers do not agree with, is not part of the deal between Ministers and officials. If Ministers are to defend officials, they should expect officials to put their concerns to Ministers and then to stick

to the agreed line when decisions are made.