

Call for Humber communities to give views on tidal flood risk

The Humber 2100+ partnership – made up of 12 local authorities, the Environment Agency and the Humber LEP – are working together to come up with a new approach to managing tidal flood risk around the estuary and on the tidal rivers upstream, such as the River Hull and the Holderness Drain.

They want to understand how people in the area feel about tidal flooding and how it can best be managed, and are also keen to understand what people value in their local area and would like to see protected or taken into account as part of the new strategy.

Tidal flood risk on and around the Humber is currently managed through an existing strategy, published in 2008, which will see £150m invested in new or improved flood management schemes by 2021. However, the time is right to review the approach to ensure that all communities around the estuary can continue to prosper in the face of increased tidal flood risk due to sea level rise and climate change.

The Humber 2100+ project team is currently undertaking technical work to look at what is possible in terms of practicality, value for money and environmental considerations. However, they also want to know what people living and working in the area would like to see. All of this information will be brought together next year to develop initial options, and then a public consultation will be held to allow people to comment on the emerging proposals.

Environment Agency Humber Strategy Manager Philip Winn said: “Tidal flooding can have an effect on businesses, agriculture, communities and the local environment, as we saw in December 2013, when 1,100 properties were flooded and there was huge damage around the estuary.

“It’s one the biggest risks faced by people living on the very flat and vulnerable land around the Humber, so we want to involve as many people as possible in shaping the new strategy so that it truly provides a solution for all.

“This public survey is the first stage in gathering input from others, and there will be more opportunities to comment as we develop our plans.”

Councillor Chris Matthews, East Riding of Yorkshire Council’s portfolio holder for strategic management, said:

It is important East Riding residents who live near the Humber Estuary take part in this survey as it will help to inform us how aware people are of the risks of tidal flooding, how prepared they are if flooding occurs, and therefore what more we need to do as a partnership.

Although we are working on a number of tidal flood defence schemes and other measures which will reduce the risk of flooding, we can never prevent flooding altogether, so we need to make sure residents are as informed and prepared as possible.

Mike Thompson, portfolio holder for neighbourhoods, communities and environment, said:

Hull has made an incredible amount of progress in terms of building a flood resilient city, but there is always more that can be done. This is why we want to hear your views.

Hull has the second-highest number of properties at flood risk in the UK outside of London, with 98 per cent of the city defined as at “high risk” of flooding. This risk will only increase with climate change and sea level rise, and your input into how we shape our future plans is crucial.

Cllr Stewart Swinburn, portfolio holder for environment at North East Lincolnshire Council, said:

Being situated on the coast brings with it lots of pros and cons.

Unfortunately we have seen the impact that flooding can have on areas in and around North East Lincolnshire. Tidal flooding can give little or no warning, and can damage or destroy property and businesses so it’s important that local people have their say on these plans.

It could be your house or business that is damaged, so don’t miss your chance to shape this 100 year strategy.

Cllr Chris McGuinness, Doncaster Council’s Cabinet Member for Communities, the Voluntary Sector and Environment, said:

I encourage residents living in Barnby Dun, Moorends, Stainforth, Sykehouse and Thorne, where there is a potential tidal flood risk, and any other interested people, to find out more about the strategy and have their say.

You can fill out the survey [here](#)

More information about the Humber 2100+ partnership and the new Humber Strategy can be found [here](#)

To check if you are at risk of flooding, and find out how to prepare, [visit](#)

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Commissioning letter to the MAC on a points-based system for migration

The Home Secretary has asked the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to conduct a review of the Australian immigration system and similar systems to advise on what best practice can be used to strengthen the UK labour market and attract the best and brightest from around the world.

The MAC has been asked to report by January 2020.

New system to ensure safety of self-driving vehicles ahead of their sale

- Future of Transport Minister opens new test facility for self-driving vehicles, 5G telecommunications and cyber security developers
- government working to enable 'advanced' trials of self-driving cars
- safety assurance system aims to lead to mainstream sale and use of automated vehicles

The UK's position as a world leader in the safe testing and roll-out of self-driving vehicles has been further cemented by a new safety regime, called CAV PASS, being pioneered in the UK, Minister of State for the Future of Transport Minister, George Freeman, has announced today (4 September 2019).

To ensure self-driving vehicles are safe and secure by design and minimise any defects ahead of their testing, sale and wider deployment on UK roads, the government is developing an assurance system using its world-leading expertise in vehicle safety and cyber security within government, industry and academia.

The minister today also officially opened the Autonomous Village, a self-driving vehicle test facility at Millbrook-Culham with 70km of secure test tracks, a private mobile network and a simulator suite. This will be part of a network of self-driving vehicle test facilities across the country, co-ordinated by UK automated vehicle company Zenzic. The new ground will allow

developers to safely challenge systems and collect data, to help fine-tune software, sensors, 5G telecommunications and cyber security systems.

Speaking at the Cenex-Low Carbon Vehicle conference today, Future of Transport Minister George Freeman said:

Self-driving vehicles can offer significant rewards for the UK's economy, road safety and accessibility. We are determined to lead in the testing and development of safe autonomous transport.

This is new terrain, and with our national expertise the UK is well-placed to blaze the trail globally by developing a global benchmark for assuring the safety and security of this exciting technology.

Director of campaigns for road safety charity Brake, Joshua Harris said:

Connected and autonomous vehicles have enormous potential to eliminate driver error and help put an end to the daily tragedy of deaths and serious injuries on our roads. The technology and its potential is hugely exciting but it's critical that these vehicles are robustly tested for safety before allowing them on our roads. We support the leading role being played by UK government on this important agenda for safe mobility and the safety assurance regime will undoubtedly be fundamental to its future success.

The new safety assurance system will first focus on enabling the advanced trialling of self-driving vehicles, and aims to eventually help assure the safety and security of these vehicles for their mainstream sale and use. Such advanced trials may include those without a human operator in the loop at all times, or the assessment of novel vehicle types such as pods and shuttles.

This work builds on the world-leading [code of practice for automated vehicle trials first launched by the UK in 2015 and updated this year](#).

6-year ban for greetings cards boss

James Wilson McAllister (51), currently residing in Marbella but formerly of Kilmarnock, was the sole director of Greetings (International) Ltd – now known as Acquisition 395215436 Limited – based in Irvine, Scotland.

Incorporated in February 2004, the company traded as a greetings card wholesaler and retailer in Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland, and James McAllister was appointed sole director in February 2007.

He resigned as company director in October 2016, however, just five months before Acquisition was wound up by order of the court in Glasgow in February 2017. At liquidation, the company owed more than £1.76 million to creditors.

A subsequent Insolvency Service investigation uncovered that James McAllister had acted in a manner that was detrimental to the interests of the company's creditors.

He took out a Director's Loan from the company and the overdrawn loan accrued to at least £235,000 by the time he had resigned.

James McAllister was also the sole shareholder of a separate holding company based in Gibraltar and in the months leading up to his resignation, on 5 April he transferred half of his shares to a former company secretary of Acquisition 395215436. A day later he then transferred the remaining shares from the separate holding company to Acquisition in lieu of settling his Director's Loan.

As director of Acquisition it was his duty to scrutinise this transaction and obtain a formal written valuation of the Gibraltar company, but he did not.

Investigators also uncovered that the book value of the Gibraltar-registered company was nearer £25,000 and would not have covered the value of the Director's Loan.

And on the day James McAllister resigned as a director of Acquisition, he caused the company to sell those shares to a third party, who passed them back to the original company in Gibraltar.

When Acquisition entered liquidation in March 2017, these assets, or their quoted value, were not available to creditors of the company.

James McAllister has not disputed that his actions caused the company to trade to the detriment of its creditors.

In August 2019, the Secretary of State accepted a six-year disqualification from James McAllister. Effective from 23 August, is prohibited from being involved, directly or indirectly, in the formation, promotion or management of a company without permission of the court.

Robert Clarke, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

James McAllister flagrantly abused his position as company director, failing to perform the due diligence expected of him in order to clear his Director's Loan and causing his company's creditors to suffer as a result. This behaviour is totally unacceptable.

This ban should serve as a warning to other directors tempted to help themselves first: you have a duty to your creditors and if you

neglect this duty you could be investigated by the Insolvency Service and removed from the business environment.

James McAllister is formerly of Kilmarnock but currently resides in Marbella, Malaga. His date of birth is November 1967.

Acquisition 395215436 Limited (Company Reg no. SC262837), formerly known as Greetings (International) Limited.

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on: