



North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Member Recruitment

Information Pack

The closing date for applications is **16 August 2021**.

Interviews will take place **early/ mid September 2021**.

Contact: Rachel Harmer, by email NW-RFCC@environment-agency.gov.uk or telephone 020302 50946.

Environment Agency, GMMC FCRM Programming Team, Richard Fairclough House, Warrington, WA4 1HT.

Contents

What are Regional Flood and Coastal Committees?	3
Membership and vacancies	3
Role of our members	4
Diversity	4
Time commitment	5
Expenses and loss of earnings	5
How to apply	5
Selection process	6
Induction	6
Complaints	6
Further reading	6
Appendix 1 – The area covered by the North West RFCC	8
Appendix 2 – RFCC Statutory Purpose	9

What are Regional Flood and Coastal Committees?

Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs) are committees of the Environment Agency. There are twelve across England.

Over the 6-year period from 2021 to 2026, the government is investing £5.2 billion in flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes.

The RFCC has responsibility for promoting an understanding of flood risk, irrespective of cause: coastal, fluvial or surface water. It brings together key partners in managing this risk, and guides the programme of investment across the North West, consenting the resulting programme. It has a critical role in agreeing local priorities for flood and coastal work. It supports the Environment Agency and local authorities to work with communities and businesses to jointly fund flood and coastal risk management schemes, and to learn to respond and adapt to the more extreme weather that climate change is already bringing. It also sets the rate of the Local Levy on local authorities which raises over £4m per year to help fund local climate resilience projects and initiatives in the North West.

The statutory purposes and functions of RFCCs are set out in Appendix 2.

The North West has a diverse environment from industrialised and urban areas in Manchester and Liverpool to the beautiful countryside of the Lake District, rural Lancashire and Cheshire.

Please see **Appendix 1** for a map of the North West RFCC area.

Membership and vacancies

Each committee has its own composition document which sets out the number of different member types and who should appoint them. Defra appoints the Chairman, Lead Local Flood Authorities appoint LLFA members, and the Environment Agency (EA) appoint a number of members with specific skills and expertise. It is these specialist members who are being recruited by the EA through this exercise.

The North West RFCC has had a Business Plan since 2019 which has guided the definition of specialist member roles. The Business Plan is currently being refreshed to better align it to the 2020 National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy but the priorities are likely to remain similar.

We are currently looking for people with expertise in:

- spatial development and planning
- climate resilient public spaces and buildings
- economics (including valuing environmental and wider society benefits)
- water industry

There are three member roles available. We remain flexible in the specific roles these members will fill. The selection of new members will be made based on which candidates' expertise we feel will enable the RFCC to best pursue its aims, and the mix of specialist interests across the whole RFCC membership.

Role of our members

We are looking for enthusiastic and committed people who will bring new ideas, wider networks, and have a passion for achieving a climate resilient future.

Your role will be to use your professional knowledge, personal skills and experience to inform our discussions and actions whilst also helping to ensure that there is a clear line of sight between national goals and local delivery.

Functions

- To provide effective input to RFCC meetings to help ensure it fulfils its statutory responsibilities, using your knowledge, skills and experience to advise and provide your perspective
- To provide strategic advice to help support the delivery of the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy
- To take an enthusiastic role steering and reporting back on work to deliver the aims of the Committee's Business Plan
- To contribute to updates of the North West RFCC Business Plan and development of the annual RFCC Action Plan
- To keep up-to-date with flood and coastal erosion risk issues in the North West and national and regional policy developments as appropriate (e.g. national planning policy and guidance)
- To seek and reflect views of external stakeholders so they are taken account of in RFCC business and discussion
- To communicate local priorities and successes to help raise awareness of flood and coastal erosion risk management work.
- To input to approval and overview of the delivery of local flood and coastal erosion risk plans and strategies

Please note that we will appoint you as an impartial individual in your own right and not as a representative of any particular organisation.

Diversity

We in the Environment Agency have a strong desire for our organisation to be more inclusive and representative of the communities we serve. And we aren't where we want to be.

We would like to see the same diversity and inclusiveness among our partners and committees.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community who wish to join a committee that values everyone. We particularly welcome applications from ethnic minority, disabled, female and LGBT+ candidates, so that our committee really does represent and understand the communities we work with.

We will ensure our approach to people, including recruitment, is truly inclusive and maximises the opportunity to increase the diversity of our committee membership to represent the communities we serve.

We make all public appointments on merit, following a fair, open and transparent process.

Time commitment

The committee meets four times a year. During the COVID pandemic these have all been virtual. In the future it is likely that we will have a combination of face-to-face and virtual meetings to reduce travel time and our carbon footprint. Face-to-face meetings are held at venues across the North West Region. Meetings are open to the public.

You will be expected to attend all formal meetings, which usually last approximately half a day (typically between 10am and 1.30pm) and to read the papers in advance.

Dates of forthcoming meetings: Friday 29 October 2021
 Friday 28 January 2022

In order for us to make a real difference to the lives of communities living at risk of flooding and coastal erosion, we can fund and resource projects and initiatives to further the aims of our North West RFCC Business Plan. As an RFCC member we will ask you to take a sponsoring role, using your expertise to help shape the work carried out by resources/partners, make connections outside the RFCC, and report back on progress and successes. This is likely to require an additional time commitment of 1-2 days per quarter.

We sometimes use additional workshops (1-2) over the year to progress specific issues which you may be asked to attend if relevant.

You will be appointed for terms of between two and four years, and you may indicate your preference as part of the application process. Members can serve no more than 10 years in total on the Committee.

Expenses and loss of earnings

We are extremely grateful for the time and commitment that our members give as member posts are unpaid. Committee members can claim expenses, including travel, subsistence and, where applicable, a fixed allowance for loss of earnings.

How to apply

Please complete the provided Expression of Interest form and send it along with your CV and the optional diversity monitoring form.

This information needs to arrive by **16 August 2021** and should be sent to Rachel Harmer by email: NW-RFCC@environment-agency.gov.uk

There are some guidelines so you can check your eligibility for appointment. These are in paragraph 11 of the RFCC regulations www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2011/695/contents/made as well as the Seven Principles of Public Life <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life/the-7-principles-of-public-life--2>

Selection process

The selection panel will consist of the Committee Chair, Environment Agency staff and at least one other existing RFCC member and/or support officer.

Shortlisting will take place during August.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a virtual interview via the MS Teams platform during early/mid September 2021.

Please indicate on your covering email if you will not be available on any dates during early/ mid September.

New members will be invited to attend the first committee meeting on **29 October 2021**.

New member appointment information will be made public (including your name, brief background and other public appointments) but we will agree the detail of this with you first.

All new members will be required to complete a 'declaration of interest' form which must be returned before attending their first meeting and renewed annually.

Induction

To support new members in understanding their role and the background and issues being discussed, we will arrange for you to meet with the Committee Chair and Environment Agency managers, and receive an induction briefing before your first committee meeting. Our secretariat officer and other members of staff provide ongoing support to members.

Complaints

We have a complaints procedure which should be followed for any complaints relating to these appointments. Details are available here:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/complaints-procedure

or by telephoning 03708 506506 or emailing enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Further reading

If you would like to do some further background reading the following resources may be of interest. Alternatively, please get in touch with us if you have any questions.

National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2020)

[National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england-2020)

Government policy statement on flood and coastal erosion risk management (2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-policy-statement>

The Flood Hub

<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>

North West RFCC Business Plan 2019 (currently being refreshed)

https://thefloodhub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/RFCC-Business-Plan_Final-for-publishing.pdf

Flood and Water Management Act

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/legislation/>

RFCC Regulations

www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/695/contents/made

Environment Agency – About Us

[About us - Environment Agency - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/about-us/environment)

Minutes of previous NW RFCC Meetings

www.gov.uk/government/groups/north-west-regional-flood-and-coastal-committee

Flood and Coastal Resilience Partnership Funding

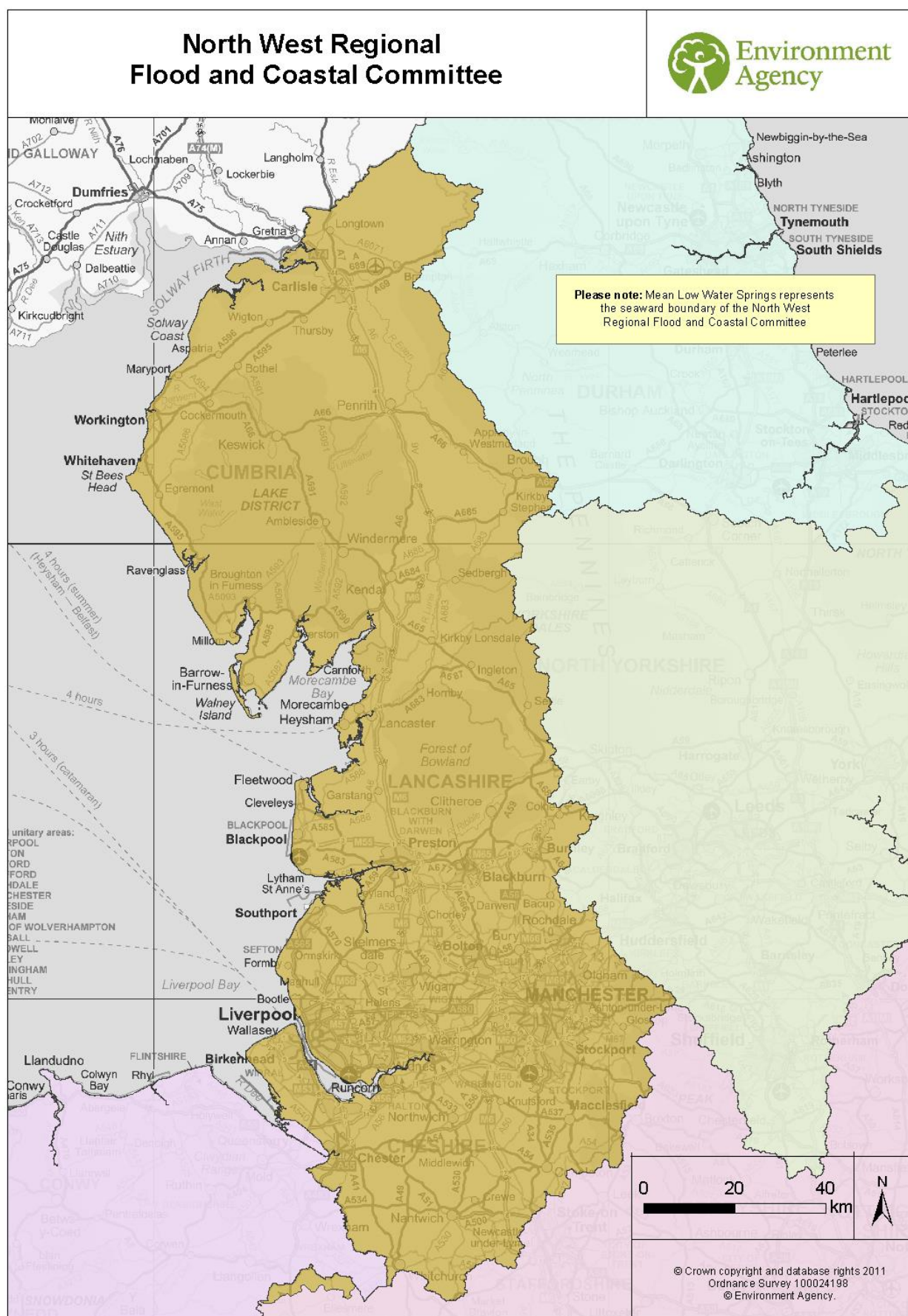
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/funding-outcomes-insurance/funding/>

Cabinet Office's Code of Conduct

www.gov.uk/government/publications/board-members-of-public-bodies-code-of-conduct

Although these appointments do not come within the remit of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, we are making the appointments using a process which takes into account the Commissioner's Code of Practice.

Appendix 1 – The area covered by the North West RFCC



Appendix 2 – RFCC Statutory Purpose

Purposes

The RFCC is a Committee established by the Environment Agency under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that brings together members appointed by Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and specialist members with relevant experience for three purposes, to:

- Ensure there are coherent plans for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines;
- Promote efficient, targeted and risk-based investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management that optimises value for money and benefits for local communities;
- Provide a link between the Environment Agency, LLFAs, other risk management authorities, and other relevant bodies to engender mutual understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in its area.

Statutory Functions and the role of the RFCC

Section 23 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires the Environment Agency (the Agency) to:

- Consult with each RFCC about the way it proposes to carry out its flood and coastal erosion risk management functions in the Committee's region (s23(1)(a)).
- Take into account representations made by the Committee about the exercise of its flood and coastal erosion risk management functions in the Committee's region (s23(1)(b)).
- Obtain the consent of the RFCC before the Agency can implement its regional programme for the Committee's region (s23(2)).
- Obtain the consent of the RFCC before the Agency can issue a levy under Section 17 of the Act (s23(3)).
- Obtain the consent of the Committee to the spending of revenue under Section 118 of the Water Resources Act in the region where the revenue is raised (s23(4)).

Additional considerations

In pursuit of these purposes, the RFCC will:

- Support the delivery of Government flood and coastal erosion risk management policy and strategy, taking into account Defra and Welsh Government and Agency guidance;
- Support the Agency in its strategic overview role by providing a link between national and local flood and coastal erosion risk management and in assisting LLFAs in the development of their Local Flood Risk Management Strategies;
- Review LLFA outputs under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and other current requirements imposed on LLFAs by legislation and guidance;
- Review and endorse Catchment Flood Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans;

- Review and endorse medium and long term business plans for its region.
- Promote partnership with project sponsors to secure external contributions and consider how levy funding will be used along with other sources of funding to deliver the regional programme and longer term strategic objectives;
- Monitor and review reports on the performance and financial management of flood and coastal erosion risk management functions;
- Work with partners to raise awareness of flood and coastal erosion risk management within its region;
- Take into account wider environmental considerations within its region that will be influenced by flood and coastal erosion risk management decisions;
- Report periodically on its work.

**Would you like to find out more about us
or about your environment?**

Then call us on

03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

or visit our website

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

incident hotline 0800 807060 (24 hours)

floodline 0345 988 1188 (24 hours)

Find out about call charges: www.gov.uk/call-charges



Environment first: Are you viewing this on screen? Please consider the environment and only print if absolutely necessary. If you are reading a paper copy, please don't forget to reuse and recycle if possible.