

HOW FLOOD SCHEME APPLICATIONS ARE ASSESSED



Responsibilities:

The Environment Agency (EA) manage the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has overall national responsibility for policy on flood and coastal erosion risk management and provides funding for flood risk management schemes through grants to the Environment Agency.

The EA must consult with the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) about flood and coastal risk management work and take their feedback into consideration. When the need for a possible flood risk management scheme is identified, an appraisal is required to build a case for government intervention.

Appraisals must be undertaken to:

- Clarify the situation through modelling, site investigation and speaking to the local community.
- Explore flood scheme options such as upgrading existing protection, building a new scheme, natural flood management (NFM), property flood resilience (PFR), or developing maintenance programmes.
- Present findings and provide detailed analysis for each of the options to the local community.
- Examine the pros and cons for each option and use community feedback to help make decisions.
- Compare possible solutions for effectiveness and deliverability
- Select the solution that is most economically viable (costs and benefits), technically feasible (engineering difficulty), environmentally acceptable and publicly agreeable.





The Partnership Funding Calculator:

This establishes the percentage of the total cost of the scheme the Government will fund based on:

- Overall cost of the scheme and the benefits it provides.
- How long the scheme will last, when considerations such as climate change are factored in.
- Number of properties moved from bands of flood risk. A scheme moving lots of homes out of significant risk of flooding has a greater chance of getting funding than a scheme moving fewer homes away from less risk.
- The proportion of high quality habitat the scheme creates for wildlife, amenity and biodiversity.



-  If the scheme scores 100% on the calculator, it is more likely all of the funding will come from the government. The higher above 100% (when all of the benefits that a scheme will provide are considered), the greater the chance of funding being allocated.
-  If a scheme scores less than 100% on the calculator, the shortfall must be made up from other sources of funding. E.g. A score of 70% would require 30% of the total cost to be made up from partnership contributions. In the North West, these contributions may come from the public and private sector.

The appraisal, together with the results of the Partnership Funding Calculator, now form the basis of the business case report which is submitted to an independent assurance board to make sure the proposed work and recommendations being made comply with the guidance and rules set by Government.