NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 14 FEBUARY 2025, 10:00AM – 11:30am

Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

AGENDA

Time	**Agenda Number**	**Item**	
10:00	**1.**	**Welcome** Welcome, Chairman's Introduction, and Apologies for Absence	**For information**
10:05	**2.**	**Minutes of RFCC meeting on 24 January 2024 and matters arising** (*Papers*) To approve the minutes of the last RFCC meeting and to receive an update on any actions and matters arising	**For approval**
10:10	**3.**	Indicative Funding for 2025/26 programme • National Overview • North West Overview • North West Local Choices Prioritisation • North West Core GiA - Bid and Indicative Allocation • Local Choices (bid v indicative allocation) • Resource Programme - indicative allocation • Properties better protected – bid and indicative allocation • Local Levy Scenarios	**For information and discussion and approval**
11:25	**4.**	**Any Other Business**	
11:30		**CLOSE**	

Future RFCC meetings

14 March 2025 (Virtual Meeting)*
25 April 2025 (Virtual Meeting)
11 July 2025 (Face to Face meeting)
24 October 2025 (Face to Face meeting)
23 January 2026 (Virtual Meeting)

Future RFCC Finance & Business Assurance Sub-group meetings

11 April 2025 (Virtual Meeting)
27 June 2025 (Virtual Meeting)
10 October 2025 (Virtual Meeting)
9 January 2026 (Virtual Meeting)

*Additional Meeting – To consent the 2025/26 programme

North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 24 January 2025
Held virtually via MS Teams

Attendees:
Members
Adrian Lythgo, Chairman
Councillor Denise Rollo, Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Councillor Stephen Clarke, Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Councillor Jane Hugo, Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Councillor Alan Quinn, Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Councillor Phillip Cusack, Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Councillor Mhairi Doyle, Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Amy Cooper, EA Appointed Member – Water and Sewerage Industry
Kate Morley, EA Appointed Member – Conservation (part attendance)
Chris Findley, EA Appointed Member – Development and Sustainable Investment
Carolyn Otley, EA Appointed Member – Communities
Susannah Bleakley, EA Appointed Member – Coastal
Neville Elstone, EA Appointed Member – General Business and Assurance
Carl Green, Chair of the North West and North Wales Coastal Group

Environment Agency Officers
Ian Crewe, EA Area Director, Greater Manchester Merseyside and Cheshire (GMMC)
Nick Pearson, Area Flood Risk Manager (Greater Manchester)
Mary-Rose Muncaster, Area Flood Risk Manager (Merseyside and Cheshire)
Richard Knight, Area Flood Risk Manager (Cumbria)
Anthony Swarbrick, Area Operations Manager (C&L)
Sally Whiting, Senior FCRM Advisor
Adam Walsh, FCRM Programming Manager (C&L)
Andy Tester, FCRM Programming Manager (GMMC)
Rachel Harmer, RFCC Secretariat
Ayush Sheth, FCRM Programming Advisor (GMMC)
Sarah Fontana, Local Authority Capital Projects Co-ordinator
Mia Mullender, Local Authority Capital Projects Advisor (C&L)
Robert Taylor, Local Authority Capital Projects Advisor (C&L)
Rachael Broadhurst, Local Authority Capital Projects Advisor (GMMC)
Gary Hilton, Local Authority Capital Projects Advisor (GMMC)
Debra Glover, Local Authority Capital Projects Advisor (GMMC)
Crystal Orton, Unpave the Way Project Manager

Local Authority Observers (Councillors and Officers):
Councillor Giles Archibald, Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Councillor James Shorrock, Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Alison Harker, Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Jason Harte, Westmorland and Furness Council
Andrew Harrison, Cumberland Council
Graeme Innes, Cumberland Council

John Davies, Lancashire County Council
Clare Nolan-Barnes, Blackpool Council
Lorah Cheyne, Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Sarah Wardle, Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Imran Munshi, Blackburn with Darwen Council
Francis Comyn, Rochdale Borough Council
Jill Holden, Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
David Boyer, Warrington Borough Council
Matt Winnard, Cheshire Mid Mersey Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Guy Metcalfe, Cheshire East Council
Katie Eckford, Shoreline Management Plan Co-ordinator / Coastal Group Secretariat
Paul Wisse, Sefton Council

Other observers:
Richard Taylor, EA National PFR Advisor

Presenters:
Shannon Gunning, EA FCRM Advisor (GMMC)
Iwan Lawton, EA Senior FCRM Advisor (C&L)
Adam Costello, EA FCRM Advisor (C&L)

25 (01) Welcome, Chairman's Introduction & Apologies for Absence

Adrian Lythgo opened the meeting and advised no declarations of interest had been received.

He conveyed apologies from: Councillor Laura Crane (Cheshire Mid Mersey Strategic Flood Risk Partnership); Councillor Tony Brennan (Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership) and Rachel Crompton (Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership).

Representing the Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership, Members noted Paul Wisse is in attendance as the correctly nominated substitute for Councillor Tony Brennan.

Members noted Kate Morley will be joining the meeting at 10:30am.

Adrian welcomed speakers Shannon Gunning, Fran Comyn, Iwan Lawton and Adam Costello, here to present the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) item. He also noted Councillor Giles Archibald's attendance ahead of the annual rotation of Cumbria RFCC Membership in April 2025.

He noted the attendance of Richard Taylor, here to observe the meeting and to be on hand should there be any questions from a national perspective with regard to PFR.

Members were advised that Julie Johnson and Helen Donohoe from Appleby and Cockermouth emergency response groups, respectively, may join to observe the meeting.

Adrian referred to his quarterly Chair's Update paper, shared on 19 December, and in particular to the delayed schedule for this year's national investment programme allocation process, highlighting today's shorter meeting and two additional meetings on 14 February and 14 March, to discuss and consider the indicative allocation and North West Local Choices, and to consent the 2025/26 programme, respectively. Consenting the programme would normally take place at the January meeting.

Adrian advised that while the detail of the GiA allocation will not be covered today, the prioritisation principles will be covered which will guide which projects are able to proceed within the much smaller quantum of money available next year.

He noted the skills and capacity deficit in all Risk Management Authorities (RMAs), which has been discussed on several occasions over the last couple of years, which arises from an increase in demand for people with requisite skills across all of the different functions they provide, natural competition in the market, fewer people entering these career paths, along with an aging workforce. Adrian advised that RFCC Chairs have fed this issue into a recent meeting of the Flood Resilience Task Force, being run by the new Floods Minister. He advised this is something that we will come back to and noted this has recently been discussed at the Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership Group.

Members noted the PFR discussion item on the agenda, the Coastal Update paper which reflects on some progress and successes this year, and an update from United Utilities (UU) which highlights some opportunities within their 5-year business plan around collaborative working as well as their partnership area updates.

There were no further comments or questions.

25 (02) Minutes of the RFCC Meeting held on 18 October and actions and matters arising

Members noted a correction required to remove Pieter Barnard from the list of attendees and that Councillor Denise Rollo had nominated Jason Harte to attend and vote on her behalf.

With these two corrections, the minutes were proposed by Councillor Alan Quinn and seconded by Councillor Philip Cusack.

The minutes of 18 October 2024 RFCC meeting were approved by the Committee.

Adrian advised there are no specific matters arising but reflected there was an agreement there would be an EA revenue maintenance programme update provided for each of the sub-regional strategic partnership groups and noted he is aware this has started to the extent where this has been possible.

There were no further comments or questions.

25 (03) Recent Flooding Incidents

Adrian referred Members to the quarterly report provided which details recent flooding incidents up to 31st December 2024, therefore missing the very significant flooding that happened on New Year's Day and the aftermath of that. An overview of this incident is provided.

He noted the report for the quarter shows significant numbers of properties flooded externally or internally, across all five sub-regional partnerships, most significantly flooding in Greater Manchester and Lancashire but also in Merseyside.

Touching on the New Year incident, he noted over 270 properties have been confirmed as flooded internally, the main areas impacted being Didsbury, Stockport, Wigan, Warrington and St Helens.

Adrian offered the opportunity for Members or officers to provide any further detail or updates on flooding in their area.

Dave Boyer reported that the Cheshire Mid Mersey area was severely impacted by the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day rainfall. Figures of affected properties are still being collated but across the area at least 191 properties flooded internally. Members noted it was a major event in Warrington, which was then followed by another high rainfall event 3 days later.

Councillor Alan Quinn highlighted it would be helpful to local Councillors if the rainfall figures in millimetres could be made available. He advised it is always useful for Councillors to be able to compare this information with the monthly average rainfall figures and advised that by putting this information out to the public they can start to understand the challenges for Local Authorities to react to sudden and exceptional rainfall. Adrian Lythgo committed that this request will be addressed.

Paul Wisse commented there were a number of areas impacted by the rainfall on 5th and 6th January where there was standing water and saturated ground following the New Year's rainfall. He advised the Merseyside Partnership had received a number of reports of floodwater coming off farmland and greenspaces into properties, and commented it is the frequency and intensity of rainfall events that have caused the additional problems. Adrian Lythgo commented on the recurring issue being as a result of the high water table level.

In response to Councillor Quinn's enquiry regarding rainfall figures Nick Pearson advised the EA's Hydrometry and Telemetry Team can provide this information and noted across New Year's Eve and New Year's Day the following rainfall figures were recorded: Sale, Greater Manchester 67mm, Denton 81mm and Meadowbank (Cheadle) 81.8mm.

Adrian Lythgo recognised that even if only one household has flooded, it is still a very significant impact on that household and the people living there. This quarterly flood update has shown as previously that we've again experienced significant flooding across the North West. This puts the rest of the meeting into context in terms of the work we are all trying to do to protect people from that impact and to further increase flood resilience.

There were no further comments or questions.

25 (04) Report from the RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub Group

Capital programme 2024/25

Adam Walsh provided an overview of the current year's programme so far. Nationally we are on track to achieve the properties better protected from flooding target. For the North West we are now forecasting to better protect 1,788 properties this year, of which 384 properties are already better protected.

He reported both the properties target and forecast have reduced since last quarter, the target reducing as a result of a national review to better align targets with forecasts. The forecast has reduced by 1,446 properties, mainly due to the Radcliffe and Redvales Scheme (1,460 properties) deferring claiming outcomes to 2025/26, due to unforeseen challenges with utilities and the need to review specific aspects of work.

Following these reductions the North West is forecasting to exceed the properties target of 1,365 mainly due to new modelling for the Preston and South Ribble Scheme, which has identified additional properties benefitting.

In terms of funding for this year, the North West total is £113.44 Million, which includes £103.1 Million GiA, £7.6 Million Local Levy and £2.67 Million of Partnership Funding contributions.

The mid-November forecast indicates we are expecting to draw down £115.33 Million, which is circa £6 Million less than forecasts reported at the last meeting, due to several projects being deferred, including Millom and Haverigg Flood Alleviation and Shap Beck Flood Alleviation Schemes. This reduction supports the national instruction to all Areas to reduce their GiA over-programme to below 5%. The November forecast is circa £2 Million more than allocated which represents a 4.7% over-programme.

The North West actual spend to end of October 2024 is 42% of the full year forecast. EA schemes have spent 45% of their forecast with £50.78 Million left to spend. Local Authorities have claimed 29% of their forecast with £16.23 Million still to be claimed in 2024/25.

The total value of North West accepted efficiency claims in Quarters 1 and 2 was £1.7 Million, which represents 48% of our Q2 target. Further claims are still to be submitted through quarters 3 and 4.

Adam provided us with an overview of the risks associated with the final months of the 2024/25 programme which include potential project delays due to adverse weather conditions and resource pressures. He highlighted an increasing pressure on GiA funding in 2024/25, advising that the national programme continues to see high levels of over-programme forecast and Areas have now been instructed to work to zero over-programme. This puts significant pressure on in-year delivery to land within the allocation.

Adrian Lythgo reinforced that this is a significant challenge at this stage in the programme and highlighted the difficulty in landing a multi-year capital programme on budget and then to have to deliver it on a further reduced budget just weeks before year-end. He asked EA colleagues if they were able to elaborate on what this actually means in practice and what is it that can be done to meet the challenge that's been given.

Adam reiterated the challenge of there being only 10 weeks left in this financial year. He advised there are decisions that can be taken, but whatever is done this year has a potential impact on next year, for example if the programme needs to be slowed down it would need to be picked back up next financial year when we know there will be challenges around funding availability – and to do this could cost more money in the long run.

Nick Pearson advised he has some practical examples of what can be done, but highlighted that to make the big reductions that are required means making changes on the larger projects that we can't really stop because they're contractually committed. He advised some savings can be made by pausing some of the appraisal development projects, but the impact here is only small.

Adrian concluded that he appreciated why EA colleagues have been asked to do this given necessary over programming but that the responses given highlighted the difficulties.

Adam provided an overview of the EA Resource Programme reporting that funding for the North West for 2024/25 currently totals £21.067 Million, which includes staff costs, maintenance and resource projects.

Members noted both GMMC and C&L Areas are currently showing a forecast which is £7.36 Million above budget, the major overspend coming from GiA revenue projects (£6.3 Million) and the resource maintenance programmes (£0.8 Million).

To provide additional and important understanding of these figures, Adam provided an expanded table of information. He advised the forecast of £7.36 Million over budget is being skewed in part by resource reclassification with the forecast, which is currently just over £4 Million (£2.275 Million for C&L and £1.786 Million for GMMC).

On this reclassification Adam explained each project that receives a capital allocation will have activities and work undertaken that are considered resource rather than capital. The value of this resource element is not known until the project progresses. Things like modelling and mapping and salaries are resource. Whilst the total budget for the project will remain the same, below this will sit the capital element and the resource element, once reclassified. It is this element, with reclassification still pending, that is being merged with the overall resource programme and skewing the figures that we've reported on previously.

The total forecast for all projects (which includes capital and resource) is included in the capital element and Adam explained the element of double counting between the capital and resource programmes in terms of identifying our current position. The intention is to remove resource reclassification from the resource programme updates and future reporting because these are already part of the reporting on the capital delivery covered earlier.

Adam then went on to report that for C&L Area specifically, the Area team has been given approval to spend an additional £2.4 Million over budget and this is shown in the table. This includes £0.2 Million on urgent repairs to assets prior to December, an additional £1.5 Million on electricity mainly for the operation of pumping stations and associated energy price increases, and circa £0.6 Million for compensation payments to landowners or tenants for flood storage basin operation.

Members noted the budget plus approved overspend for the C&L maintenance programme is currently £8.824 Million. With the additional £2.4 Million approved, this equates to a total NW budget plus approval of £23.467 Million, shown at the bottom of the table.

For C&L the forecast at November was £241K above the budget plus approved overspend for the maintenance programme, and £403K above budget for staff costs.

GMMC are still working to budget as shown in the table and currently forecasting £174k under budget for the maintenance programme and £433K above budget for staff costs. The forecast for staff costs exceeding budget is in part due to the response to incidents, so staff overtime etc.

Adam summarised that across the North West the EA are forecasting circa £900K above the budget plus approved overspend amount on the resource programme overall.

Adam reinforced that we are seeing an increase in emergency works and staff costs as a result of the recent flood events. The operation of pumping stations has also increased electricity costs. Members noted significant challenges based on where we are now with schemes in contract, plus the additional costs of recent events. There will be discussions with the National team with regard to how this can be managed.

Moving on to the prioritisation of the programme and allocation of GiA funding for 2025/26, Nick Pearson provided Members with an overview of how the EA proposes to prioritise the national funding allocation. Local Choices is a process that takes place annually in terms of determining a capital programme for the following year and Nick highlighted the particular relevance this year with the challenging indicative allocation.

Nick reported that in July 2024 the North West bid for £145 Million and in January 2025 the North West received an indicative allocation for circa £95 Million. For both EA areas (GMMC and C&L) the January indicative allocation is around two thirds of what had been bid for as needed. Nick commented this is a very challenging situation and the Committee needs to be robust and transparent in terms of how it allocates the available funding.

Nick presented the national funding prioritisation mechanism, which provided the £95 Million indicative allocation. This mechanism is part of the overall prioritisation approved by the EA Executive Directors on 7 January 2025. The approach detailed:

1. Approved moderation cases such as legal requirements, statutory requirements or on health and safety grounds
2. In construction by 1 April 2025 and delivering properties better protected by 31 March 2026
3. In construction by 1 April 2025 (sub-ranked by adjusted partnership funding score high to low)
4. Remainder of programme ranked by adjusted partnership funding score (high to low).

Nick advised that for the North West, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Managers alongside the Programme and Contracts Management department and FCRM Operations Managers, have further developed the national prioritisation criteria to add some further relevant details. This proposes:

1. Measures in the Interest of Safety (MIOS) on Reservoirs / Public Safety Risk Assessment EA KPI compliance (Known risks) - noting there is a local requirement to

do this alongside the public safety risk assessment work that we have to complete for assets that we own.

2. Emergency works (HELP reported i.e. risk to life etc.) – urgent component of works rather than longer term investment plans – particularly as defined in help reports where there is a risk to life.
3. Protect funding allocated to the EA reconditioning programmes – this is not listed in the National criteria, but the EA reconditioning programme can't be reattributed elsewhere.
4. In construction (on-site now and delivering RO2s by the end of 2025/26)– consistent with the National criteria
5. In construction or post construction with contractual commitment beyond 2025/26
6. Time-bound non-core FDGiA funding committed (Frequently Flooded Allowance / Affordability Allowance / Asset Replacement Allowance / Other Government Department /Other) or has a time-bound permission such as planning permission already secured by end of 2024
7. In contract for detailed design (post Gateway 2/Outline Business Case), appraisal (post GW1 / Study) or pre-GW1 / Study *(Ranking within this category to be carried out in consultation with RFCC)*
8. Other schemes *(Ranking within this category to be carried out in consultation with RFCC)*

Nick provided some elaboration of the first few highest priority activities. Nick advised the programme is yet to be run through the prioritisation and therefore we don't yet know how far down the list of activities we will be able to fund but given that the North West has received two thirds of what it originally bid for in July last year, it is unlikely we will have funding to get fully down the list.

Members noted the importance of this work and that the detail of this will be worked through at the additional Committee meeting on 14 February.

Chris Findley advised the key thing is what all this means in practice in terms of how far down the list you get. Neville Elstone agreed that this is right for the Local Choices conversation on 14 February.

Adrian Lythgo commented his current understanding is that the quantum of reduction is similar nationally, and it's not that the North West has been affected more or less than other areas, but it is a fairly significant reduction nationally.

Neville Elstone recognised this is a challenging time for everyone across the North West and highlighted the importance of working together and of being understanding of one another. Members were reminded of the timetable of meetings over the next couple of months:

- 14th February – Indicative allocations and Local Choices consideration meeting
- 14th March – To consent the 2025/26 programme

Local Levy Programme Update

Adam Walsh provided an overview of the North West Local Levy programme and reported a total resource at the start of 2024/25 of £15.757 Million, made up of £4.544 Million income, a balance of £10.692 Million carried forward from 2023/24, and £0.521 Million of interest earned on balances. The latest spend forecast for 2024/25 is £6.756 Million which would result in a remaining balance of £9.001 Million at the end of the financial year, a reduction in £1.691 Million from last year.

Members noted an increase in balance of £111k following a review and audit of final accounts from 2023/24.

Adam described the two Local Levy graphs summarising the current and future indicative allocation and how that is split into large schemes, smaller schemes, Quick Wins, and the Business Plan. The graph has been updated to take account of Local Levy contributions approved at previous meetings.

With regard to the Quick Wins funding allocation of £100k per sub regional partnership, Members were advised that it's anticipated that this funding will be fully utilised.

Councillor Alan Quinn advised this information shows the importance of keeping the Local Levy pump-primed and if we are not being allocated the amount of funding we were expecting, the Local Levy becomes more important along with Partnership Funding.

Neville Elstone highlighted the two Local Levy funding requests for the Liverpool Road, Warrington Scheme and the Ryles Pool Ordinary Watercourse Culvert Upgrade that were presented to the RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub Group on 10 January. He advised that although the detail of each request was heard, decisions on each will be taken to the meeting on 14 February.

Neville asked Members to vote on noting the updates and on the taking of the decision on the two Local Levy requests to the 14 February meeting.

Votes in favour: Councillor Rollo, Councillor Doyle, Councillor Clarke, Councillor Cusack, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Hugo, Neville Elstone, Amy Cooper, Kate Morley, Chris Findley and Susannah Bleakley.

There were no further questions or comments.

RFCC Business Plan Update

Sally Whiting provided Members with a brief overview of progress on the Business Plan referring to the additional detail contained within the report.

Members received a brief overview of progress on the 2022 – 2025 programme of 21 live projects. Five projects are complete, 13 are progressing well and 3 are behind schedule or resolving issues.

Sally touched on the projects rated amber and made brief reference to (ID22) NFM Pipeline, Cumbria, which is currently being paused to review the scope and the approach to this work. Learning from other areas of the country is being gathered in terms of how to better express the economics of NFM with a view to being able to access available funding more easily.

Sally gave an overview of Local Levy investment in Business Plan projects highlighting the allocation for 2024/25 of £1.337 Million and the current forecast of £1.363 Million. This includes some unclaimed allocations that carried over from 2023/24. The indicative investment need for each of 2025/26 and 2026/27 is circa £1.2 Million.

Neville Elstone then presented the Sub Group's recommendations from the Business Plan update, asking Members to note the update and secondly to approve a request for an increase in Local Levy funding of £153.2K for the project ID16 – Additional Capacity. This recognises the cost increases associated with several roles funded from Local Levy where funding shortfalls have now emerged.

Votes in favour: Councillor Rollo, Councillor Doyle, Councillor Clarke, Councillor Cusack, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Hugo, Neville Elstone, Amy Cooper, Kate Morley, Chris Findley and Susannah Bleakley.

Resolved: Following the recommendations from the RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub Group, the Committee:

Capital and Resource Maintenance Programmes:

- Noted the progress on delivering the 2024/25 capital and resource programmes.
- Noted the risks to the North West programme in 2024/25.

Local Levy:

- Noted the current position and latest spend forecast of 2024/25.
- Agreed that the two Local Levy funding requests for the Liverpool Road, Warrington Scheme and the Ryles Pool Ordinary Watercourse Culvert Upgrade will be taken to and considered at the meeting on 14 February.

Business Plan:

- Noted the progress on delivering the 2024/25 Business Plan
- Considered and approved the increase in Local Levy funding of £153.2K spread across 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 for Project ID16 – Additional Capacity

There were no further questions or comments.

25 (05) Property Flood Resilience

Shannon Gunning (EA Flood Risk Advisor) introduced the presentation and what would be covered. Members heard that Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures are among a wider group of resilience measures considered alongside traditional capital schemes. Capital schemes will continue to be progressed where possible, but they are becoming increasingly difficult to deliver due to technically complex projects and increasing costs. The Committee noted that we can never eliminate the risk of flooding entirely, but PFR measures can reduce the risk of water entering homes or businesses and help to enable faster recovery in communities after flooding.

Members received an explanation of the distinction between property 'resistance' and 'recoverability' measures, passive and active measures, what form they can take and the situations in which they are suitable. Shannon reported that only resistance measures are covered under the national framework.

Shannon talked about the importance of PFR measures as another flood risk management approach due to their much shorter installation timeframe of between 12 to 18 months against a backdrop of more frequent heavy rainfall and flooding incidents, and their lower cost. They also allow householders to have more control over their flood risk, reduce flood damages and allow residents to be back in their homes more quickly. There is also the opportunity to target PFR measures at the most vulnerable homes.

Adam Costello (EA Flood Risk Advisor) then presented on the national PFR Framework launched by the EA in January 2024, which is available to EA and RMAs and provides a reliable route to market for expert PFR services and provides a level of quality and reliability. Adam touched on the two Lots, the services provided, and the suppliers selected. Members noted the North West PFR providers are industry leaders in the PFR sector and are involved in leading the conversations with insurance providers and policy makers about innovating PFR.

Adam advised the PFR Framework is in its second year of a four-year framework, is being used effectively across the country and is something that the North West would like to explore further.

Adam provided brief details on the main sources of funding for PFR, including their restrictions and limitations. This referenced Defra Repair Grants (£5K per property which can be provided after flooding events if particular thresholds and criteria are met), Flood Re Build Back Better (added cover provided by some insurance providers to upgrade property resilience), and Flood Risk Management Grant-in-Aid (GiA). GiA can be used to partially fund PFR, covering resistance measures only, and for properties at very significant flood risk (1 in 20 year/ 5% AEP). Adam provided some brief details on the look-up tables used to determine how much GiA a property would be eligible for, the factors that make a difference, and the range of amounts of GiA that could be expected. It was also noted that by using GiA the properties better protected count towards our shared outcome measure targets but take the qualifying benefits for 25 years so GIA-funded PFR needs to be used in a targeted way where the community would not quality for a capital scheme in the near future.

Adam reported a typical £15k cost for installing PFR on one property and the significant funding gap (approx. £9K) that can remain with the current funding opportunities. Adam advised that across the country RFCCs have supported PFR implementation through the provision of Local Levy funding to bridge the funding gaps and as a result they have been able to successfully implement rolling year-on-year PFR projects.

Iwan Lawton (EA Flood Risk Advisor) provided Members with an overview of PFR delivery challenges, including considerations around the type of flooding and the different measures that should be used. Lead times between rainfall and the onset of flooded are a consideration for measures which require deployment.

There are challenges around upkeep and maintenance of PFR measures, along with property ownership. Where homes are owned by housing associations, engagement is needed with both the property owners and tenants.

Shannon shared an example of PFR measures installed at a site on the Isle of Wight, delivered to 44 properties over a 12-to-18-month period and funded through a mixture of GiA, local council contributions and Local Levy to address flooding from multiple sources. These properties were protected from the highest tide on record in April 2024 - without the PFR measures 12 homes would have been flooded.

Fran Comyn then provided some real-life reflections on using PFR measures from a local authority perspective, gained from the Resilient Roch Project. He highlighted the following important factors:

- Ensuring its appropriateness in different locations, accepting its limitations including its shorter lifespan compared with an engineered infrastructure scheme.
- The structural condition of the property.
- Wear and tear of the PFR measures and having the commitment and ability to maintain them.
- The importance of long-term engagement with the community to maintain awareness of the PFR measures, particularly when property residents change over time.
- The opportunity to integrate or align PFR measures with property energy efficiency improvements but of also making those resilient to flooding.
- Ongoing work with Rochdale borough wide housing regarding property maintenance, PFR and ensuring better insurance take up from tenants.

Shannon Gunning presented an overview of the extent to which PFR is being supported with Local Levy funding by other RFCCs across the country. Members were asked to note that the North West is the only RFCC nationally not to have used Local Levy to help to deliver PFR, reflecting that this has not been brought to the RFCC for consideration before today.

Shannon emphasised the need to seek additional funding from other contributors to help fund PFR projects in the North West, that can be delivered by both the EA and other RMAs. Local Levy contributions to PFR schemes would really help accelerate the delivery of PFR in the North West, allowing more properties to be more resilient to flood events at a much quicker rate.
Members were asked to consider:

- Whether PFR is another approach to addressing flood risk and resilience that the RFCC could support with Local Levy Funding.
- Given the limited other funding available, and the fact that Local Levy may therefore be required to fund more than half of the costs, whether the RFCC would accept PFR as being a different category of work requiring different strategic guidelines around funding contributions, or whether there would still be an expectation of other funding contributions.

Adrian thanked Shannon, Adam, Iwan and Fran for their presentation and asked Members for their comments and thoughts on how the Committee can help to take this work forwards.

Neville Elstone reflected on the Committee's support of capital schemes where costs are generally significantly higher per property, and supprted this as a proactive way forward in times of constrained funding. He conveyed his support for the approach in building momentum and capacity in this area.

Councillor Philip Cusack commented that he really supports this work as well and agreed it would be worth investigating this more. He advised of his own experience with frameworks reflecting that when they work well, they can work brilliantly. He raised the following questions about the PFR Framework:

- Are there any NW suppliers and contractors on the framework?
- Who is the framework manager?
- What is the role of the framework manager?
- If the role of the framework manager isn't to supervise the suppliers and contractors and to assess and monitor their performance, who does?

Adrian advised Councillor Cusack that his questions will be looked into and responded to after the meeting. **ACTION: Shannon Gunning**

Chris Findley responded that he supports the proposal as well. He reflected with interest on the possible reasons for the variation on PFR uptake and funding around the country, wondering if it related to the types of rivers and nature of flood risk. He asked if one of the reasons why we've been doing less in the North West is because we've got heavily engineered rivers going through our urban areas, which people expect will actually sort the problems out.

He noted the challenge in terms of communication with the public on expectations and referred back to a point raised by Councillor Alan Quinn that it's the public's expectation that authorities will stop flooding from occurring and the difficulty of delivering the message that individuals have some responsibility to take steps themselves. He agreed with Neville's comments regarding PFR being much better value for money. He reiterated his support but noted it is something that we need to think through properly, given the challenges raised by Fran and others in the presentation.

Shannon thanked the Committee for their comments and agreed that PFR isn't without its challenges and a lot of work will need to go into education and awareness-raising with communities. She referenced Flood Mary and work going on to explore behavioural insights around flood resilience including PFR.

Councillor Mhairi Doyle advised she is also supportive of pursuing PFR, but also raised concerns for communities, such as that in the south of their borough which was impacted by flooding at the end of 2024, where there are a lot of disadvantaged communities that might not have home insurance. She expressed that anything we can do help them is welcome.

Councillor Giles Archibald advised of his enthusiasm for this work and would seek ways in which his council (Westmorland and Furness) could make this very effective.

Adrian Lythgo wrapped up by reflecting on the combined opportunity to learn from the Resilient Roch project, and utilise the national framework to develop a bespoke solution that's worked up in conjunction with local communities, which cannot happen without funding.

Adrian asked, not for a formal vote, but for a show of hands whether the Committee Members supported the project team working up a proposal to bring back to the Committee, both on the sort of approach and the amount of money that may be involved.

Members indicated their support to this approach and Adrian confirmed there is a clear mandate for this to be taken forwards and thanked Members for their contributions.

There were no further questions or comments.

25 (06) Update on observations from the RFCC Conservation Member, including feedback from the national network of Conservation Members

Due to time restrictions Adrian thanked Kate Morley for agreeing in advance to defer this item to the next RFCC meeting.

There were no further comments or questions.

25 (07) Any Other Business

Adrian Lythgo thanked Members and support officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting. He advised he is committed to keep the next two meetings on track for the Local Choices and consenting of the programme and wished attendees a good weather-free weekend.

The next RFCC meeting will be held via MS teams on Friday 14 February 2025.

NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

14 FEBRUARY 2025

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2025

	ACTION/ MATTER ARISING	**ACTIONED**
1.	**Recent Flooding Incidents** Councillor Alan Quinn highlighted it would be helpful to local Councillors if the rainfall figures in millimetres associated with flooding events could be made available. Adrian Lythgo committed that this request will be addressed. **Action: EA Officers**	In progress
2.	**Property Flood Resilience** Councillor Philip Cusack raised the following questions about the PFR Framework: - Are there any NW suppliers and contractors on the framework? - Who is the framework manager? - What is the role of the framework manager? - If the role of the framework manager isn't to supervise the suppliers and contractors and to assess and monitor their performance, who does? Adrian advised Councillor Cusack that his questions will be looked into and responded to after the meeting. **Action: EA Officers**	In progress

NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

NORTH WEST INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

14 FEBRUARY 2025

The RFCC are asked to:
• Endorse the local choices allocation for the 2025/26 capital programme. • Approve the indicative local levy requests for 2025/26 capital delivery.

1. Purpose

1.1 This report to the RFCC provides an overview of the indicative allocation for the 2025/26 capital programme and the North-West 'local choices' consideration.

Indicative Funding Allocation for 2025/26 Capital Programme

National overview:

1.2 The delay in confirming the Spending Review 2024 outcome has impacted the usual allocation process and has required the timeline for endorsing and consenting the programme to be pushed back and condensed.

1.3 This additional meeting is to enable the RFCC to undertake the local choices process and ensure local priorities are considered within the allocation process. There will be a further meeting on 14 March to consent the capital programme for 2025/26.

1.4 This year, the funding bids submitted in July 2024 exceeded the available National budget for 2025/26 by around £50 million. The outcome means we have less funding than we anticipated. With Ministerial direction £72 million from the FCRM Investment Programme has been diverted to support the maintenance of existing Environment Agency assets.

1.5 This means, nationally we are not able to fund all the previously planned work in 2025/26.

National Prioritisation Approach:

1.6 The prioritisation approach is based on the allocation principles that were approved by the Environment Agency Board in October 2020 and DEFRA's current Partnership Funding Policy.

1.7 The methodology for allocating funding is:

- Approved urgent cases based on health and safety or statutory grounds, and time-bound partnership funding contributions.
- In construction by 1 April 2025 and delivering properties better protected by 31 March 2026.
- In construction by 1 April 2025 (sub-ranked by adjusted partnership funding score high to low).
- Remainder of programme ranked by adjusted partnership funding score (high to low).

In addition, this year the Environment Agency's Executive Directors Team FCRM Sub-Group and the FCRM Committee (a subgroup of the EA Board) agreed to an additional condition:

- Limiting projects not forecasting properties better protected by 31 March 2026 to their allocations agreed through the 2024/25 consented programme (not accommodating increased bids on those projects within 2025/26).

North West overview:

1.8 We did not receive all the Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) that we bid for in July 2024. Therefore, the North West RFCC implemented a 'local choice allocation priority' (which was approved at the January 2025 RFCC meeting) to manage the limited FDGiA allocation that was available.

1. Measures in the Interest of Safety (MIOS) on Reservoirs / Public Safety Risk Assessment KPI compliance (known risks)
2. Emergency works (HELP reported i.e. risk to life) – urgent component of works rather than longer term investment plans.
3. Protect funding allocated to our reconditioning programmes.
4. In construction (on-site now and delivering RO2s by end of 2025/26)
5. In construction or post construction with contractual commitment beyond 2025/26
6. Time-bound non-core FDGiA funding committed (Frequently Flooded Allowance / Affordability Allowance / Asset Replacement Allowance / Other Government Department /Other) or has a time-bound permission such as planning permission already secured by end of 2024.
7. In contract for detailed design (post Gateway 2/Outline Business Case), appraisal (post GW1 / Study) or pre-GW1 / Study.
8. Other schemes.

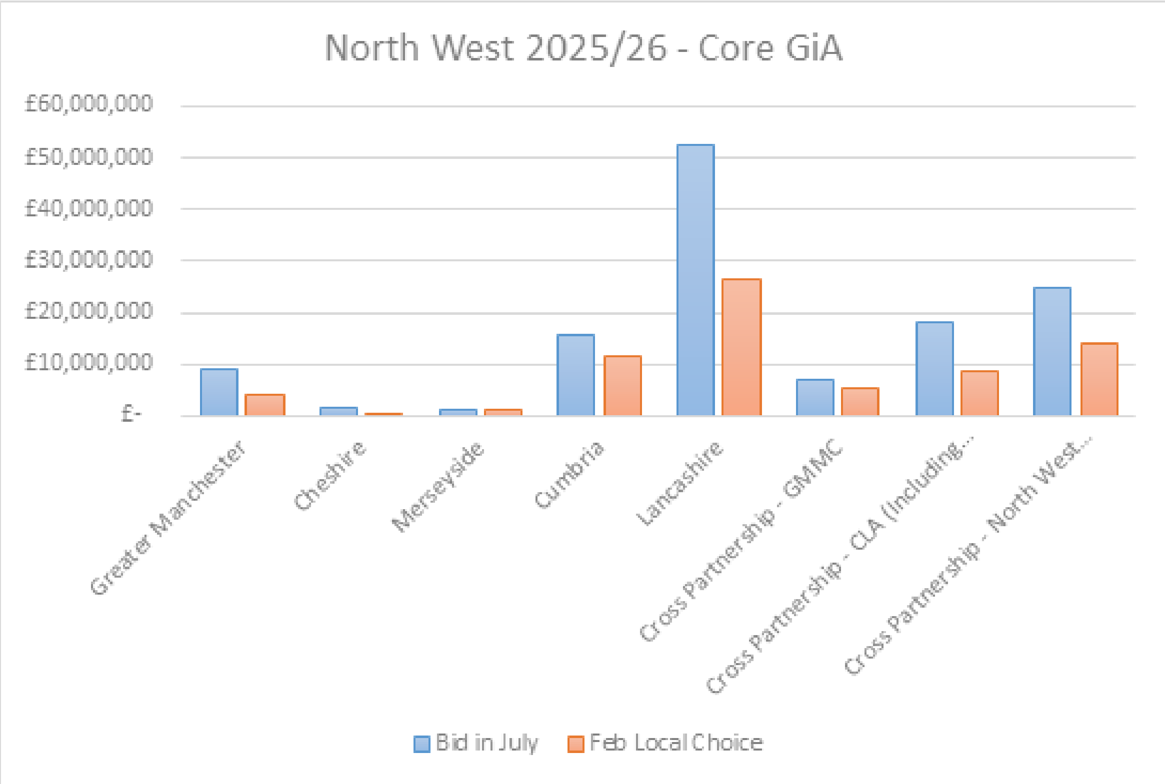
3.0 Annual Refresh for the North-West FCRM Capital Investment Programme.

3.1 The following table provides an overview of the Core FDGiA by partnership. The table is split by 'July Bid,' 'February Local Choice' and 'Variance.'

3.2 The allocation includes capital maintenance (CM) and defence (DEF), property level protection (PLP) and additional GiA which includes, other government departments (OGD), asset replacement allowance (ARA), frequently flooded allowance (FFA) and affordability allowance (AA).

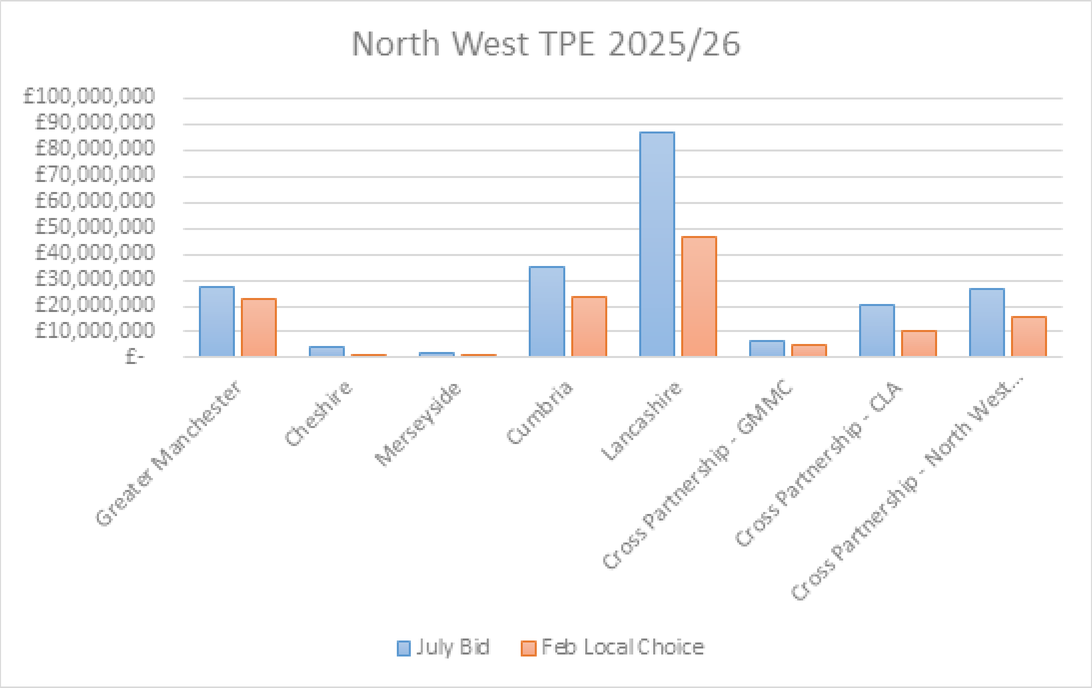
	Core Flood Defence Grant in Aid (Core FDGiA)		
North West -	**July Bid**	**February - Local**	**Variance**

2025/26		Choices	
Greater Manchester	£ 9,257,666	£ 4,281,724	-£ 4,975,942
Cheshire Mid Mersey	£ 1,420,606	£ 219,500	-£ 1,201,106
Merseyside	£ 1,359,478	£ 1,296,000	-£ 63,478
Cumbria	£ 15,714,181	£ 11,633,955	-£ 4,080,226
Lancashire	£ 52,392,506	£ 26,524,534	-£ 25,867,972
Cross Partnership -	£ 24,905,000	£ 13,975,491	-£ 10,929,509
Total	**£ 105,049,437**	**£ 57,931,204**	**-£ 47,118,233**



3.3 The following table provides an overview of the total project expenditure (TPE) by partnership.

North West - 2025/26	**July Bid**	**February Local Choices**	**Variance**
Greater Manchester	£ 27,662,239	£ 22,791,724	-£4,870,515
Cheshire Mid Mersey	£ 4,305,124	£ 319,500	-£ 3,985,624
Merseyside	£ 1,956,478	£ 1,396,000	-£ 560,478
Cumbria	£ 34,824,622	£ 23,546,955	-£ 11,277,667
Lancashire	£ 86,773,193	£ 46,574,534	-£40,198,658
Cross Partnership	£ 26,905,000	£ 15,975,491	-£10,929,509
Total	**£ 182,426,656**	**£ 110,604,204**	**-£ 71,822,452**



3.4 The table below represents the top ten funded schemes (indicative core FDGiA)

Top -10 Indicative GiA Core			
Project Name	**Partnership**	**RMA**	**Core GiA**
Wyre Beach Management Scheme	Lancashire	Wyre Borough Council	£ 10,000,000
Capital Reconditioning Programme - GMMC	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	£ 9,922,484
Kendal Appraisal Package Kendal FRM Scheme	Cumbria	Environment Agency	£ 8,724,000
Preston and South Ribble	Lancashire	Environment Agency	£ 7,240,000
Lower Risk Debris Screen Programme - GMMC	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	£ 6,500,000
Anchorsholme Coast Protection Scheme	Lancashire	Blackpool Borough Council	£ 4,000,000
Capital Reconditioning Programme - CLA	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	£ 3,347,500
Lower Screens Programme 2022-2023	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	£ 3,000,000
Carlisle Appraisal Package Appleby Town Centre	Cumbria	Environment Agency	£ 1,453,153
Strategy Programme - CLA	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	£ 1,423,291

4.0 Local Choices

4.1 As indicted in the national overview, this year's capital programme refresh was oversubscribed and delayed pending the outcome of the Autumn Budget. This has resulted in local choices being constrained and pushed into February.

4.2 The North West received a significant allocation although was less than what was bid for in July. For Cumbria and Lancashire, the allocation was the largest ever received however, a substantial deficit against the July bid. The Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire area received an allocation that was significantly lower than the bid. This presented a complex and challenging local choices for both areas. Key stakeholder engagement has taken place to understand which schemes have contractual commitments beyond 2025.

4.3 By implementing the North West local choices allocation priority, we have been able to protect schemes based on measures in the interest of safety (MIOS) and public safety risks, take forward tough decisions and maximise capital scheme delivery with the allocation we have for 2025/26.

4.4 The RFCC is asked to review the indicative allocation to ensure the regional programme delivers the best possible outcome locally. It is acknowledged the increased pressure on budgets in 2025/26 has made local choices more challenging.

The RFCC are asked to:
Approve the capital programme indicative allocation.

Top Local Choices Projects						
Project Name	**Partnership**	**RMA**	**Core GiA**	**Additional GiA**	**TPE**	**Notes**
Wyre Beach Management Scheme	Lancashire	Wyre Borough Council	**£10,000,000**	**£0**	**£10,000,000**	Was indicatively allocated £10m delivering OM's in 25/26. Kept it's allocation
Capital Reconditioning Programme - GMMC	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	**£9,922,484**	**£0**	**£9,922,484**	Increase from initial bid following Ministerial direction re: asset reconditioning
Kendal Appraisal Package Kendal FRM Scheme	Cumbria	Environment Agency	**£7,574,000**	**£10,138,000**	**£17,862,000**	Found a £1m saving which we have reprofiled elsewhere
Lower Risk Debris Screen Programme - GMMC	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	**£4,490,000**	**£0**	**£4,490,000**	Reduction from initial bid to support wider capital programme.
Anchorsholme Coast Protection Scheme	Lancashire	Blackpool Borough Council	**£4,000,000**	**£0**	**£4,000,000**	In construction allocated £4m kept its allocation
Capital Reconditioning Programme - CLA	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	**£3,347,500**	**£0**	**£3,347,500**	Rec programme is a protected support scheme
Preston and South Ribble	Lancashire	Environment Agency	**£3,240,000**	**£7,220,000**	**£10,660,000**	Preston found a saving of £4m which we have re-profiled across the CLA

						programme
Radcliffe & Redvales FRM Scheme	Greater Manchester	Environment Agency	**£2,600,000**	**£0**	**£2,600,000**	RO2 pushed into 2025/26. Allocation in line with forecast
ENVCLA_Janson Pool 23-24	Lancashire	Environment Agency	**£2,489,311**	**£0**	**£2,489,311**	There is a legal obligation. This had no allocation but has been fully funded through LC's. Thanks to savings made elsewhere in CLA
Lower Screens Programme 2022-2023	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	**£2,000,000**	**£0**	**£2,000,000**	Lower screens have offered a £1m saving which we have re-profiled elsewhere in the programme.
Carlisle Appraisal Package Appleby Town Centre	Cumbria	Environment Agency	**£1,453,153**	**£0**	**£2,953,153**	Appleby is delivering OM's in 25/26 and is in construction. Requires more that allocation. So has been supported by GIA reprofiling and LL (already approved for 25/26)
Strategy Programme - CLA	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	**£1,423,291**	**£0**	**£1,423,291**	Strategies is a protected support programme
North West Strategic Coastal	Merseyside	Sefton	**£1,188,000**	**£0**	**£1,188,000**	National regulatory

Monitoring Programme		Metropolitan Borough Council				programme
CLA Pumping Station Refurbishments	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	**£1,000,000**	**£0**	**£1,000,000**	We have pumps in manufacture for Wolsty. We have chosen to fund the installation rather than store them. This also stops issues with the warranty. Other projects under this code are to stop.
River Calder, Padiham	Lancashire	Environment Agency	**£0**	**£10,120,000**	**£11,020,000**	Padiham is fully funded by OGD which is protected funding.
CL Culvert Refurbishment Programme	Cross Partnership	Environment Agency	**£0**	**£2,000,000**	**£2,000,000**	This is funded by ARA and is protected funding
River Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme	Greater Manchester	Environment Agency	**£149,776**	**£14,799,500**	**£17,815,276**	This is funded with minimal FD GiA. Additional FD GiA protected funding

5.0 Resource Indicative Allocation

5.1 The Resource Maintenance allocation has increased from previous years; however, the activities we receive funding for have changed and the framework is expensive. The programme is striving to achieve value for money by optimising delivery for asset management and flood risk management.

Cumbria and Lancashire

Funding Stream	Allocation (£) 2025/26
Scheduled Maintenance	£6,710,291
Asset Management	£1,148,340
Asset Decommissioning	£94,000
Sub Total	**£7,952,631**

Greater Manchester, Merseyside, and Cheshire

Funding Stream	Allocation (£) 2026/26
Scheduled Maintenance	£5,577,304
Asset Management	£514,728
Asset Decommissioning	£220,000
Sub Total	**£6,312,063**

The RFCC are asked to:
Approve the resource indicative allocation.

6.0 North West Properties Better Protected

6.1 The table below represents the properties better protected forecast for 2025/26. We are forecasting to better protected an additional 270 properties from flooding. The main reason for this increase is the Radcliffe and Redvales scheme has pushed delivery into 2025/26.

	Reporting Outcome 2 (Properties Better Protected)			
North West - Properties Better Protected	**Bid**	**Jan - Indicative Allocation**	**Local Choices**	**Variance**
Greater Manchester	295	0	1359	+1,064

Cheshire Mid Mersey	128	11	11	-117
Merseyside	102	0	0	-102
Cumbria	357	237	139	-218
Lancashire	1,357	1,256	1,006	-351
Cross Partnership	6	0	0	-6
Total	**2,245**	**1,504**	**2,515**	**270**

7.0 Local Levy Scenario

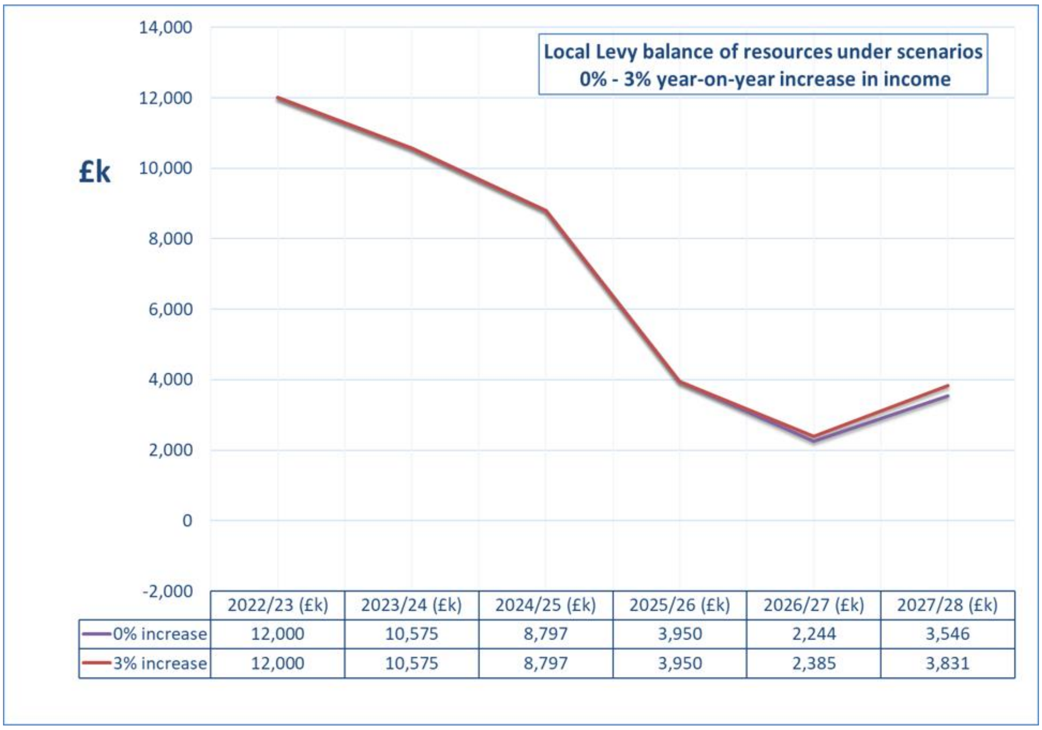
7.1 Due to the funding complexities for the 2025/26 capital programme, it is acknowledged local levy can play an even greater role in supporting schemes that received no FDGiA or minimal indicative allocation.

7.2 The following two scenarios are affordable within the local levy programme and will enable ten schemes to continue delivery throughout 2025/26.

7.3 By further analysing the local levy programme we have been able to re-profile schemes that have either stopped or schemes forecasting beyond March 2026.

7.4 The table below specifies key schemes across the North West that require local levy to continue in 2025/26.

North West Local Choices Priority	Scheme	Risk Management Authority	Local Levy Bid (££)
7	River Roch, Phase 2 Rochdale FRMS	EA	£380,000
7	Hindley Group	EA	£275,000
7	Poise Brook - Offerton Green and Hazel Grove	EA	£210,000
7	Liverpool Road, Gt Sankey Surface Water Management Project	Warrington Borough Council	£499,999
7	PFR Thurnham	Lancaster Council	£225,000
7	Blackpool Beach Nourishment	Blackpool Council	£350,000
7	Bispham	Blackpool Council	£350,000
7	Millom	Cumberland Council	£500,000
8	Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme	EA	£650,000
8	Ryles Pool	Cheshire East Council	£159,478
Total			£3,599,477

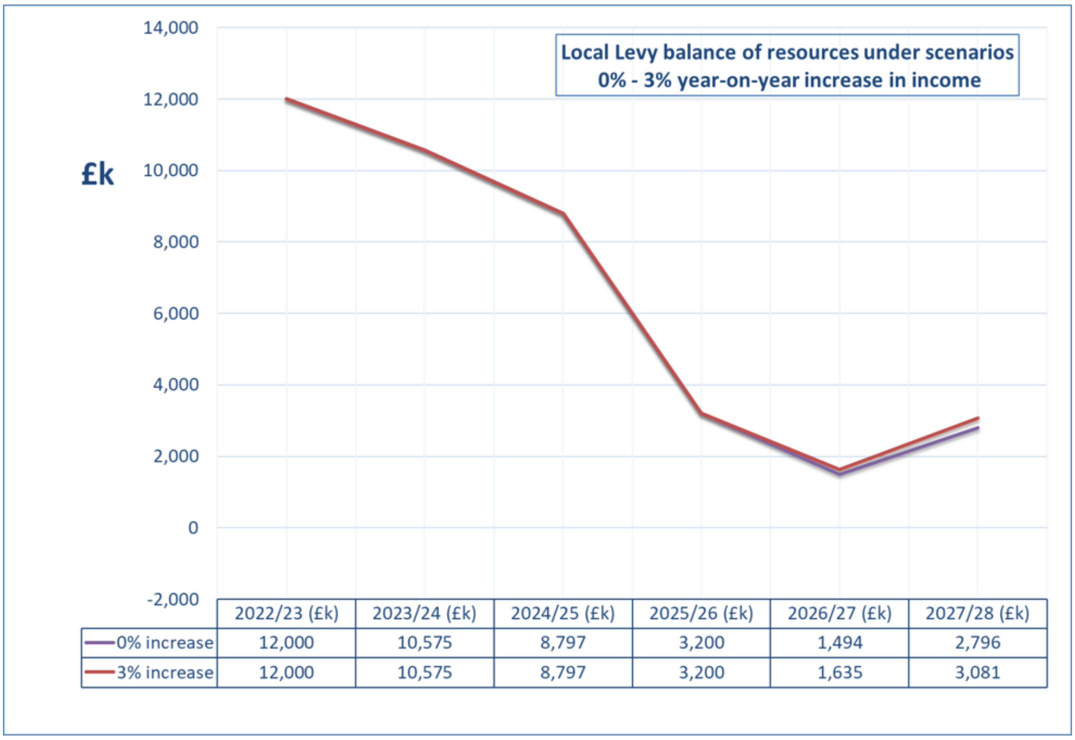


	2022/23 (£k)	2023/24 (£k)	2024/25 (£k)	2025/26 (£k)	2026/27 (£k)	2027/28 (£k)
0% increase	12,000	10,575	8,797	3,950	2,244	3,546
3% increase	12,000	10,575	8,797	3,950	2,385	3,831

Chart highlights the local levy balance with the additional ten schemes included.

7.5 Scenario two includes the schemes in scenario one along with a temporary (12-month) increase to the quick win funding.

7.6 Due to exceptional circumstances created by this year's capital refresh, the additional funding will enable the five partnerships to progress oRMA lead schemes (such as study/investigations) whilst a wider review of the local levy quick win funding takes place.



	2022/23 (£k)	2023/24 (£k)	2024/25 (£k)	2025/26 (£k)	2026/27 (£k)	2027/28 (£k)
0% increase	12,000	10,575	8,797	3,200	1,494	2,796
3% increase	12,000	10,575	8,797	3,200	1,635	3,081

Chart highlights the local levy balance with additional ten schemes and increase to the quick win allocation.

The RFCC are asked to:
Indicatively approve local levy funding scenario 1 or 2.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	NW Local Choices Full Programme
Appendix B	NW Local Levy 25/26 - Forecasts
Appendix C	Local Levy request – Hindley Group
Appendix D	Local Levy request – Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme
Appendix E	Local Levy request – Poise Brook
Appendix F	Local Levy request – Thurnham Property Flood Resilience

Appendix A	North West Capital Programme

Partnership	RMA	Name	Core GiA	Additional GiA	TPE
Cheshire Mid Mersey	EA	Penketh and Whittle FRM Scheme	£212,000	£0	£212,000
		Ditton Emergency Works	£6,000	£0	£6,000
		Northwich Property Repairs	£1,500	£0	£1,500
	LA	Cheshire-Mid-Mersey Quick Win Projects	£0	£0	£100,000
	Total		**£219,500**	**£0**	**£319,500**
Cross Partnership	EA	Capital Reconditioning Programme - CLA	£3,347,500	£0	£3,347,500
		Lower Screens Programme 2022-2023	£2,000,000	£0	£2,000,000
		CL Culvert Refurbishment Programme	£0	£2,000,000	£2,000,000
		Strategy Programme - CLA	£1,423,291	£0	£1,423,291
		CLA Pumping Station Refurbishments	£1,000,000	£0	£1,000,000
		CLA Emergency Works 2025	£350,000	£0	£350,000
		Modelling and Forecasting Capital Projects CLA	£338,200	£0	£338,200
		Hydrometry & Telemetry Capital Projects- CLA	£271,000	£0	£271,000
		Flood Resilience Programme - CLA	£5,000	£0	£5,000
		Lower Risk Debris Screen Programme - GMMC	£4,490,000	£0	£4,490,000
		Modelling and Forecasting Capital Projects GMMC	£311,500	£0	£311,500
		Hydrometry & Telemetry Capital Projects- GMMC	£219,000	£0	£219,000
		GMMC Recovery 2025	£200,000	£0	£200,000

		Flood Resilience Projects- GMMC	£20,000	£0	£20,000
	Total		**£13,975,491**	**£2,000,000**	**£15,975,491**
Cumbria	EA	Kendal Appraisal Package Kendal FRM Scheme	£7,574,000	£10,138,000	£17,862,000
		Carlisle Appraisal Package Appleby Town Centre	£1,453,153	£0	£2,953,153
		Cockermouth Asset Reconditioning Project	£631,000	£0	£631,000
		Caldew FRMS Appraisal	£300,000	£0	£300,000
		Warwick Bridge PFR scheme	£200,000	£0	£200,000
		Carlisle Appraisal Package Carlisle	£159,802	£0	£159,802
		Corby Weir Fish Pass Project	£100,000	£0	£125,000
		Skirting Beck, Egremont	£105,000	£0	£105,000
		Thirlmere Optimisation Modelling	£70,000	£0	£70,000
		Winster Embankment	£30,000	£0	£30,000
		Carlisle Map Edits	£30,000	£0	£30,000
		Cumbria River Restoration Package	£30,000	£0	£30,000
		Carlisle Appraisal Package Low Crosby	£5,000	£0	£5,000
	LA	Maryport Harbour Gates	£200,000	£0	£200,000
		Kirkland Road, Ennerdale Bridge	£145,000	£0	£145,000
		Cumbria Quick Win Projects	£0	£0	£100,000
		Etterby Terrace, Carlisle	£90,000	£0	£90,000
		River Annas, Bootle, Cumbria	£85,000	£0	£85,000
		Low Crosby	£80,000	£0	£80,000
		Stanhope Road, Carlisle	£50,000	£0	£50,000
		Wigton Road, Carlisle Surface Water Scheme	£30,000	£0	£30,000
		Tebay Surface Water Alleviation	£130,000	£0	£130,000
		Guildrey Lane, Sedbergh	£90,000	£0	£90,000

		Renwick, Cumbria	£26,000	£0	£26,000
		Shap Beck Flood Alleviation Scheme	£20,000	£0	£20,000
	Total		**£11,633,955**	**£10,138,000**	**£23,546,955**
Greater Manchester	EA	Radcliffe & Redvales FRM Scheme	£2,600,000	£0	£2,600,000
		River Mersey (South Manchester Catchments) FRM Strategy 2021_22	£532,947	£0	£532,947
		Salford Flood Alleviation Improvements	£300,000	£0	£300,000
		River Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough Flood Risk Management Scheme	£149,776	£14,799,500	£17,815,276
		Roch P2	£120,000	£0	£120,000
		Hindley	£60,000	£0	£60,000
		Poise	£42,000	£0	£42,000
		ENVPCMLeighEastBedfordBrookAMP	£40,000	£0	£40,000
	LA	Greater Manchester Quick Win Projects	£0	£0	£100,000
		Turf Hill	£165,000	£0	£665,000
		Longford Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme	£272,001	£0	£516,501
	Total		**£4,281,724**	**£14,799,500**	**£22,791,724**
Lancashire	EA	River Calder, Padiham	£0	£10,120,000	£11,020,000
		Preston and South Ribble	£3,240,000	£7,220,000	£10,660,000
		ENVCLA_Janson Pool 23-24	£2,489,311	£0	£2,489,311
		Burrow Beck Conveyance Improvements	£60,000	£920,000	£980,000
		ENVCLA_RiverMede 23-24	£686,000	£0	£686,000
		ENVCatterallBridgeReplacement	£400,000	£190,000	£590,000
		ENVCLA_Yoad Pool 23-24	£581,500	£0	£581,500
		ENVCLA_Wild Boar 23-24	£468,239	£0	£468,239
		Lancaster Port Urgent Works	£450,000	£0	£450,000

		Pegs Pool and Wardleys Pool, Hambleton	£0	£0	£400,000
		CLA Weed Boat Access Improvements	£250,000	£0	£250,000
		Glasson Dock Gate	£235,284	£0	£235,284
		Croston Village FAS	£100,000	£0	£100,000
		Jacks Key NFM	£90,000	£0	£90,000
		NFM - Trawden Natural Flood Management Delivery	£90,000	£0	£90,000
		Garstang Gate Repair	£50,000	£0	£50,000
		Fouracres Investigations, Maghull	£50,000	£0	£50,000
		NFM - Lune Natural Flood Management Delivery	£40,000	£0	£40,000
		NFM Douglas Natural Flood Management Delivery	£30,000	£0	£30,000
		The Sluice, Back Drain	£30,000	£0	£30,000
		NFM Hodder and Ribble Natural Flood Management Delivery	£20,000	£0	£20,000
		Lentworth Drive at Burrow Beck	£1,000	£0	£1,000
	LA	Darwen Central , Darwen	£1,000,000	£0	£1,000,000
		Chester Close , Blackburn	£300,000	£0	£300,000
		Brecon Road Scheme, Blackburn	£150,000	£0	£150,000
		Anchorsholme Coast Protection Scheme	£4,000,000	£0	£4,000,000
		Blackpool Beach Nourishment Scheme	£650,000	£0	£650,000
		Little Bispham to Bispham Coast Protection	£650,000	£0	£650,000
		Starr Hill Sand Dunes Environmental Works	£278,200	£0	£278,200
		Lancashire Quick Win Projects	£0	£0	£100,000
		Pendle Level 2 Brierfield Surface Water Management Plan	£50,000	£0	£50,000
		Whalley Surface Water Improvement Scheme	£45,000	£0	£45,000
		Lancaster Phase 4 - Mill Race Surface Water Study	£40,000	£0	£40,000

		Wyre Beach Management Scheme	£10,000,000	£0	£10,000,000
	Total		**£26,524,534**	**£18,450,000**	**£46,574,534**
Merseyside	LA	Merseyside Quick Win Projects	£0	£0	£100,000
		North West Strategic Coastal Monitoring Programme	£1,188,000	£0	£1,188,000
		West End Road, St Helens	£108,000	£0	£108,000
	Total		**£1,296,000**	**£0**	**£1,396,000**
Programme Total			**£57,931,204**	**£45,387,500**	**£110,604,204**

Appendix B	**Northwest Local Levy 2025-26 –** Forecasts Note: The rows marked in yellow are the new/ increased local levy requests which are yet to be approved.

Partnership	RMA	Name	2025-26 (£k)
Cheshire Mid Mersey	EA	Sankey Bk FRM Scheme	650
	EA Total		**650**
	LLFA	Lindow Community Primary School Flood Alleviation Scheme	30
	LLFA	Cheshire/Mid-Mersey Quick Win Projects	250
	LLFA	Ryles Pool Ordinary Watercourse Improvement Works (Ryle Street Culvert upgrading and clearance works)	160
	LLFA	Liverpool Road, Gt Sankey Surface Water	500
	LLFA total		**940**
Cross Partnership	EA	Building Community Resilience - C&L (ID5-7)	125
	EA	Building Community Resilience - GMMC (ID5-7)	125
	EA	Mersey Forest NFM Tech App Collab (GMMC-led) (ID9A)	35
	EA	NFM Pipeline Development (Cumbria)	90
	EA	RFCC Business Plan - Unallocated (C&L)	25
	EA	RFCC Business Plan - Unallocated (GMMC)	25
	EA	Support for Local Authority Project Delivery - C&L (ID16)	163.25
	EA	Support for Local Authority Project Delivery - GMMC (ID16)	225.25

	EA	Support for North West RFCC (Business Plan Implementation) (ID16)	30
	EA	Support for Partnership Officers - C&L (ID16)	84
	EA	Support for Partnership Officers - GMMC (ID16)	126
	EA	Unpave the Way (Front gardens) (ID12)	65
	EA	Wyre Investment Readiness Project (ID2)	45
	EA Total		**1,163.5**
	LLFA	Strategic Coastal Monitoring Programme (SMP Co-ordinator) (ID16)	50
		Support for Coastal Adaptation (Coastal Centre of Excellence ID17)	25
	LLFA Total		**75**
Cumbria	EA	Lyth Valley Drainage Investigations	30
		Waver Wampool Pumping Station Investigation	10
		Carlisle Appraisal Package Appleby Town Centre	1500
	EA Total		**1,540**
	LLFA	Cumbria Quick Win Projects	250
		Millom and Haverigg Flood Alleviation	500
	LLFA Total		**750**
Lancashire	EA	Alt Crossens Drainage Investigations	50
		Pegs Pool and Wardleys Pool, Hambleton	1,000
		PFR Thurnham	225
	EA Total		**1,275**

	LLFA	Lancashire Quick Win Projects	250
	LLFA	Bispham Capital Maintenance	350
	LLFA	Blackpool Beach Nourishment	350
	LLFA Total		**950**
Greater Manchester	EA	Alder Forest, Eccles	400
		River Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough FRM Scheme	1,500
		Hindley Group	275
		Rochdale Phase 2	380
		Poise Brook	210
	EA Total		**2765**
	LLFA	Longford Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme	70
		Greater Manchester Quick Win Projects	250
	LLFA Total		**320**
Merseyside	LLFA	Merseyside Quick Win Projects	250
	LLFA Total		**250**
	Grand Total		**10,678.5**

Breakdown of Local Levy (£k) by Partnership

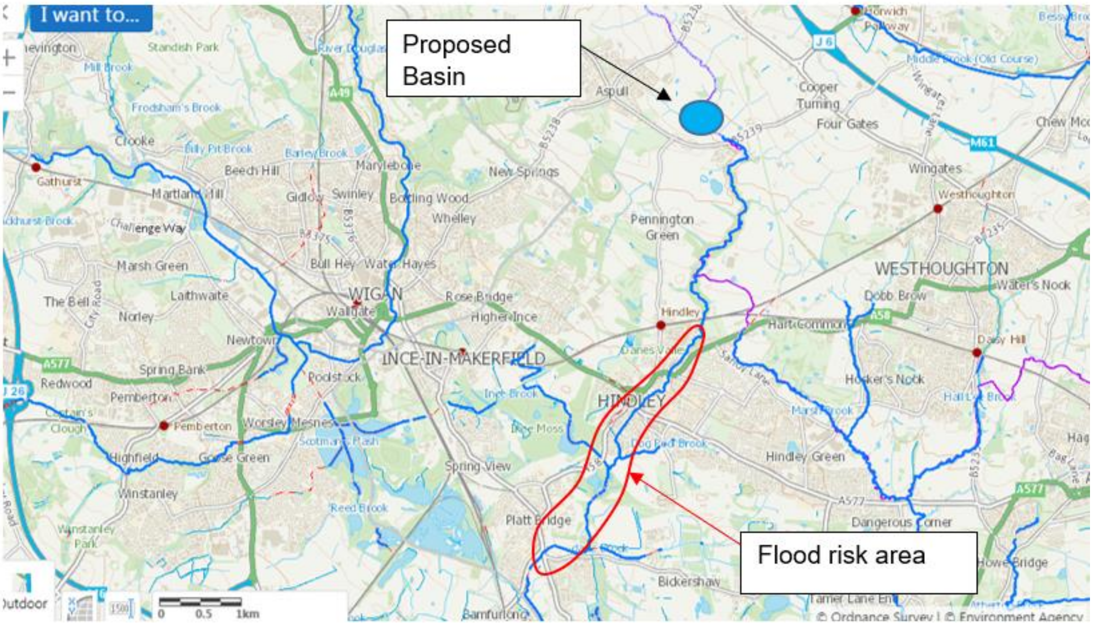
Allocation (£k)	2025-26		
	EA	LLFA	Total
Greater Manchester	2,765	320	3,085
Merseyside	0	250	250
Cheshire Mid Mersey	650	940	1,590
Cumbria	1,540	750	2,290
Lancashire	1,275	950	2,225
Cross-Partnership	1,163.5	75	1,238.5
Total	7,393.5	3,285	10,679

Appendix C	**Local Levy request – Hindley Group**

North West RFCC Local Levy Briefing Note Template

Hindley Group

Flooding to Platt Bridge 1st January 2025



Introduction/ Background
The area includes the town of Hindley, Platt Bridge and Abram in Wigan MBC.

• Boxing Day 2015 44 properties flooded internally • In 2024 6 industrial properties, 3 houses and a nursey flooded • NYD 2025 Wigan Council reported about 50 properties flooded, we have verified 34 internally flooded.
Since NYD this has attracted a lot of media and political attention. The MP Josh Simons has been very active and supportive, and we have met with 4 times to discuss this project. The Floods Minister Emma Hardy visited Platt Bridge to find out about the flooding and our scheme. Yesterday we had a meeting with Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester who is taking a very keen interest.

Scheme Development
We are currently in option selection as part of developing the Outline Business Case. We have a new hydraulic model and done the do-nothing damages which are £143 million. We have also selected a short list of options and done various site surveys. Our leading option at present includes a flood storage basin near Aspull, another one upstream of Platt Bridge and walls and channel improvements, with some natural flood management around Borsdane woods. However, we have not selected the preferred option yet.
The benefits will depend on the option selection, however we have estimated £92 million as the whole life present value benefits.
There are 131 properties at a 1 in 5 risk of flooding 428 homes and are at a 1 in 100 risk of flooding. This will rise to 848 homes by the end of the century. Two thirds of the homes are in the 40% most deprived wards.
51 businesses are at a 1 in 100 risk of flooding including the town centres of Hindley and Platt Bridge
By 2040 about another 400 homes will benefit from the scheme.
We will deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain. Natural flood management is part of the scheme
This will help with regeneration as both Hindley and Platt Bridge are town centres are a bit run down and blighted by flood risk.

Funding and External Contributions

At present our cost estimate is £19,000,000, but that depends on the chosen option
Currently the PFC indicates £13.4 million FDGiA. This creates a funding gap of £5.6 million. However, as we do not have a preferred option, it is best to think of it costing £20 to £25 million with a funding gap of £5 to 10 million. We believe we have been successful in our bid for £2.5 million Frequently Flooded Allowance, but that has not been announced. We are engaging with Wigan Council and Greater Manchester Combined Authority regarding the funding gap and believe that will be closed. We will also be engaging with local businesses regarding funding aps when we have more certainty about the preferred option and costs.
Although a live project with contracts in place, a partly completed appraisal and a community that flooded last month, the project has not got any FDGiA allocation for 2025-26. Our Programme Team have allocated £60k to allow us to put the project on hold Because of funding constraints this year we have had to sow down the project. To proceed next year we need £260k local levy.
It would be madness, and a difficult position to defend if, after some devastating floods we actually stop the project that was developing a solution.

Recommendation
We Recommend the RFCC invest £260k local levy which will allow us to continue the appraisal of this project that could protect over 400 homes, some of which flooded on New Year’s Day. If the Environment Agency cannot continue with this project this will have a major impact on our reputation with Senior leaders like Andy Burnham, not mention the communities of Platt Bridge, Hindley and Abram.

Dermot Smith

Senior Advisor, Flood Risk Management

Partnership and Strategic Overview Team

Greater Manchester, Merseyside, and Cheshire

Appendix D	**Local Levy request – Sankey Brook FRMS**

North West RFCC Local Levy Briefing Note Template

Scheme/ Picture
Sankey Brook FRMS  Southworth Avenue  Longshaw Street 1 January 2025

Introduction/ Background
The Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme (FRMS) aims to reduce the flood

risk to homes and businesses from Sankey Brook, Dallam Brook, and Longford Brook in Warrington. There are more than 1,700 residential properties currently at risk of flooding during a 1 in 100 year flooding event (1% chance of occurring in any given year). The onset of flooding for some of these properties is as frequent as once every 10 to 20 years. Key areas include Sankey Bridges, Dallam, Bewsey and Callands.

The Environment Agency (EA) is working in partnership with Warrington Borough Council, United Utilities, the Department for Education, and the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee on the Sankey Brook FRMS.

Recent Flooding:

31st December 24 to 1st January 25 – over 100 properties flooded internally.

January 2021 – Storm Christoph over 500 properties flooded internally.

Other flooding events in the past 5 months resulting in flooding and impact to key infrastructure i.e. highway closures.

- September 24 (30th September)
- October 24 (16th & 17th October)
- January 25 (6th January).

OBC approved October 2024 with a plan to commence Project design stage 25/26 FY. This was to be funded by £2m Asset Replacement Allowance (ARA). 14 January 2025 Project team were informed that 25/26 ARA was deferred to later years and there was no other GiA allocated.

Without funding in 25/26 the Project will stop. Project team actively pursuing funding sources including Local Levy.

This is critical project to Warrington due to recent flooding at New Year and during Storm Christoph 2021 event, same communities flooded, evacuated and likely to be out of their homes for next 6 months - there is significant community angst. Political interest with MP's, Councillors, key stakeholders, and residents.

Indicative allocation of Local Levy £681k to this Project with £22k spent to date. Given absence of ARA Project team would look to secure this residual £659k indicative allocation with 25/26. Although this is significantly less then £2m it would allow Project to progress key critical tasks and minimise impact on Delivery Programme. And reduce significant risk of Project team being disbanded.

If unsuccessful for this £659k Local Levy ask there will be significant repercussions on this Project. There is managing adverse reputational impact. Also, communications of this position following the New Years Day floods (for which we are currently in recovery) will be highly emotive and damaging to the Project progress and local relationships and trust built to date.

Scheme Development

Briefly describe the preferred option and key milestone dates for business case approval and when construction is currently programmed to start and finish.

Preferred Scheme Option is Do Something (DS1b) 0.5%AEP (1in200yr SoP – present day)

This includes.

Linear defences (maximising use of natural flood plain)

Conveyance improvements at Liverpool Road

Tidal Gate on Dallam Brook

Refurbishment of Longford Barrage

Residual Flood Risk mitigation measures (SuDs, attenuation, localised pumping)

Local flood resilience measures and Local Environmental Enhancement works.

Current Programme:

Key Milestone Dates	Forecast *(Actual)* Dates
Gateway 1 SOC Approval	*February 2018*
Gateway 2 OBC Approval	*28th October 2024*
Gateway 3 FBC Approval	March 2029
Construction Start	June 2029
Construction Finish	November 2031
Gateway 4 – Issue Completion Certificate / Handover	December 2031
Gateway 5 – End of Defects	November 2032
Gateway 6 – Project Completion	January 2033

What are the estimated scheme benefits? Present Value £504 million

Environmental Benefits.

Number of households better protected against flood risk (today)	rOM2A	832
Number of households moved from the 'very significant', 'significant' or 'intermediate' flood risk bands to lower flood risk bands	rOM2A.b	832
Number of households moved out of the 'very significant', 'significant' or 'intermediate' flood risk bands to lower risk bands in the 20% most deprived areas	rOM2A.c	390
Number of households moved from the 'very significant', 'significant' or 'intermediate flood risk bands to lower flood risk bands through PLP measures	rOM2A.PLP	-
Additional households better protected against flood risk in 2040 (adaptation)	rOM2B	718
Additional households moved from the 'very significant', 'significant' or 'intermediate' flood risk bands to lower flood risk bands in 2040 (adaptation)	rOM2B.b	718
Number of households moved out of the 'very significant', 'significant' or 'intermediate' flood risk bands to lower risk bands in 2040 in the 20% most deprived areas (adaptation)	rOM2B.c	-
Number of non-residential properties better protected against flood risk	rOM2.NRP	139
Number of non-residential properties better protected from flood risk (today)	rOM2A.NRP	46
Number of non-residential properties better protected from flood risk in 2040	rOM2B.NRP	93

Will the scheme promote regeneration? Yes – wider aspirations with WBC – potential Western Link Road proposal into this area.

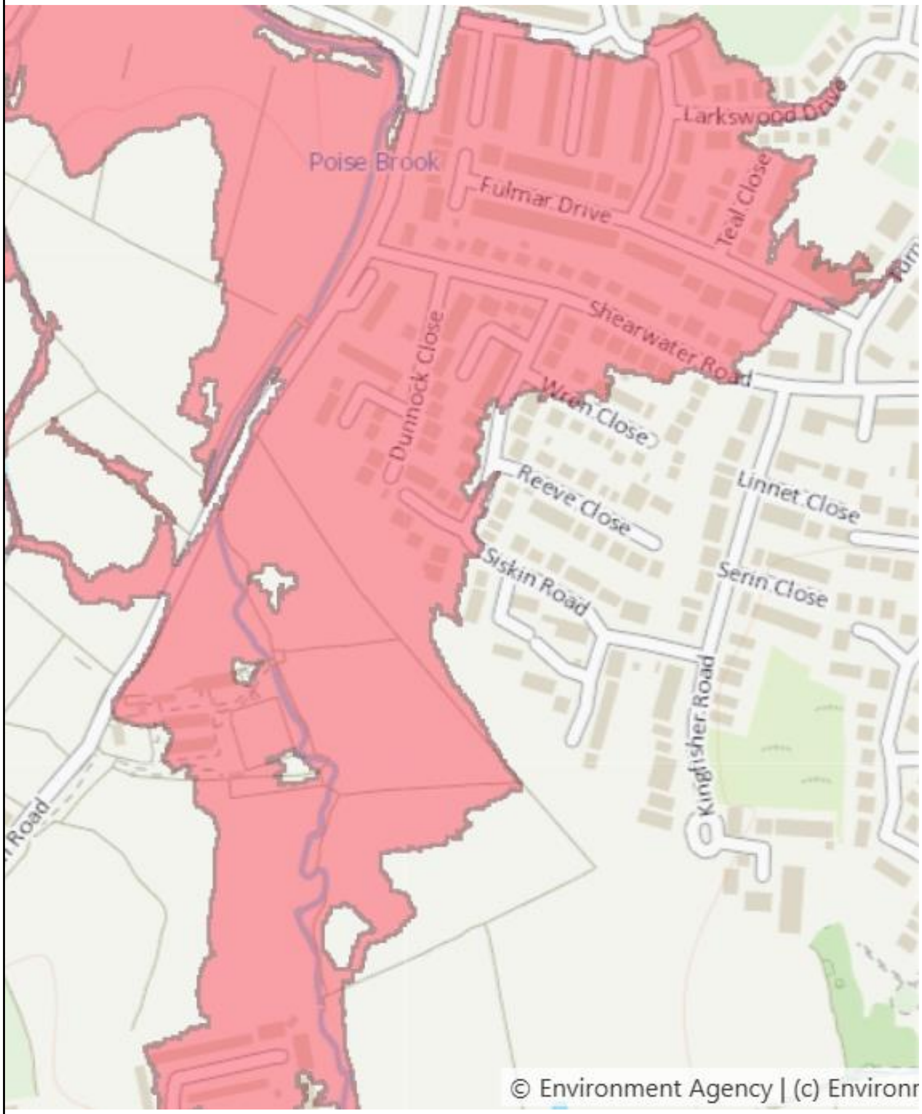
Funding and External Contributions
What is the estimated scheme cost ~ £100 million Capital Scheme Cost
Funding Secured to date: - £61.8m GiA (Capital Project entitlement) - £5.4m ARA (spend this CSR) - £1.7M Dept of Education - £681k Local Levy - £10.4m Partner funded and delivered works (Assumed) Funding Strategy developed which we are looking to progress and secure further contributions.
Funding Gap £28.2m To date Project has indicative allocation of £671k Local Levy of which ~£22k spent to date. The Project will continue to maximise the ARA spend this CSR (up to 2027) and the Local Levy (£649k) for Sankey Brook FRMS will move into next CSR period (2027 onwards) and could be profiled from 2028 onwards.

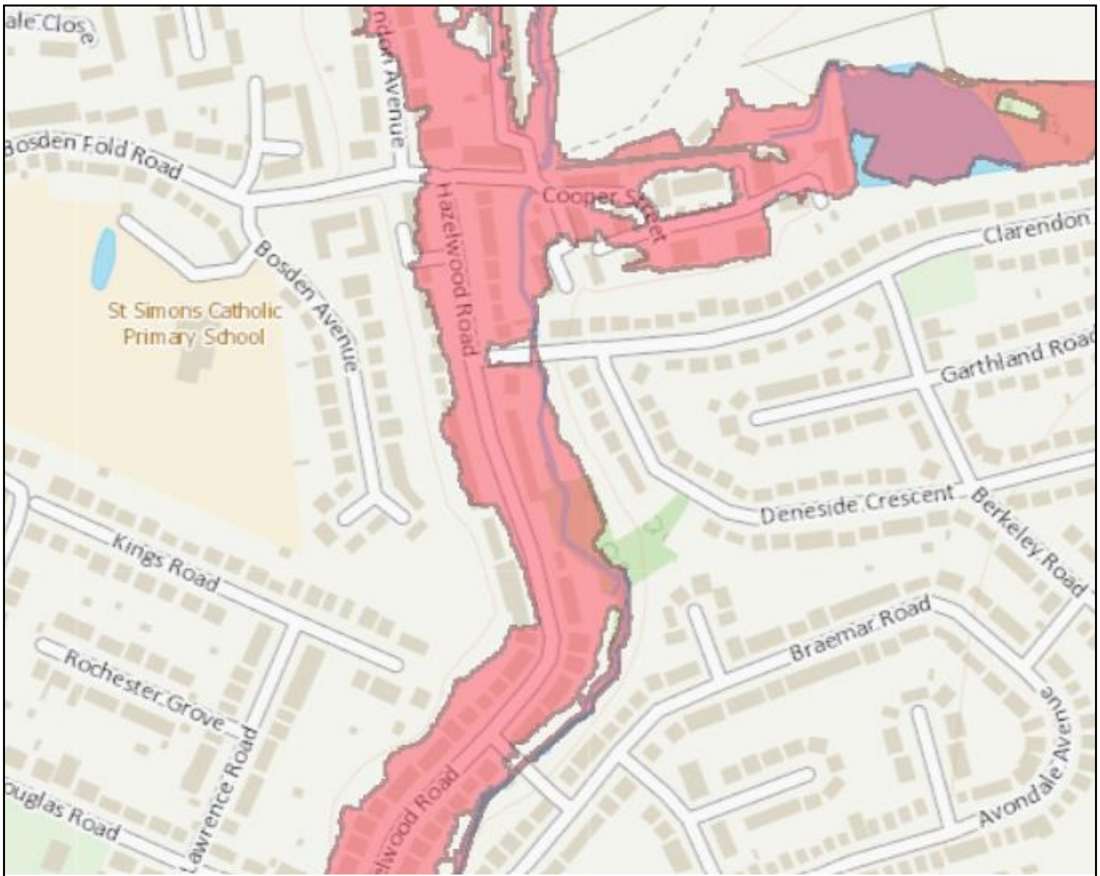
Project team are currently developing Scope for next Phase of work and are looking to enter Full Business Case Stage (March/April 2025 – May 2029). Subject to continuation of Project in 25/26.

Recommendation
Indicative allocation of Local Levy £681k to this Project with £22k spent to date. Given absence of ARA Project team would look to secure this residual £659k indicative allocation with 25/26 to ensure continuity on this key Project. If unsuccessful for this £659k Local Levy ask there will be significant repercussions on this Project. There is managing adverse reputational impact. Also, communications of this position following the New Years Day floods (for which we are currently in recovery) will be highly emotive and damaging to the Project progress and local relationships and trust built to date.

Appendix E	Local Levy request – Poise Brook

North West RFCC Local Levy Briefing Note Template

Poise Brook




Introduction/ Background

This application seeks critical funding in 2025/26 for the Poise Brook FRM Scheme, which aims to mitigate Poise Brook's significant flood risk. Without funding, the project will stop, delaying delivery and most certainly causing public and political uproar.

The study area is made up of 3 distinct areas. The upper catchment which comprised of fields, Hazel Grove golf course, and High Lane estates in Windlehurst. The middle catchment comprising of Hazel Grove estate and Torkington Park in Torkington, Stockport. The lower catchment comprised of Offterton Green estate, Stockport.

There is considerable flood risk in the area. There are approximately 570 properties at risk of fluvial flooding within the catchment, of which approximately 236 homes at risk of flooding from a flood from a 1% AEP flood. 165 are at risk of flooding from a 10% AEP flood.

The area was affected by flooding twice in 2016. On the 8th June, rainfall overwhelmed the surface water sewers in Offerton Green, within the lower extent of the Poise Brook catchment. As a result there was external flooding to 57 properties and internal flooding to 17. Three days later, flooding hit Offerton Green again. However, this time it involved both surface water flooding and fluvial flooding from Poise Brook. Properties were first flooded by surface water, then four hours later by water from Poise Brook. In total 68 properties were affected by flooding, of these 66 were flooded internally and

included those flooded on the 8th June. There was also flooding within the middle extent of the catchment in Hazel Grove (approximately 500m upstream of Offerton Green) on both days. There was significant flooding on the 11th June when Hazel Grove Brook overtopped and flooded Torkington Park; the culvert which conveys flow under Torkington Road was overwhelmed and water flooded across the road and down Hazelwood Road. In total 64 properties were flooded, 17 internally. There were 30 properties flooded in the recent New Years Day 2025 floods. We are working with other partners such as Stockport Metropolitan Council United Utilities, and Mersey Rivers Trust via a Tripartite Agreement to collaboratively address flood risk in this location.

Scheme Development
We are currently in the appraisal stage of the project which aims to quantify the flooding problem in detail, establish and appraise options capable of managing the flood risk and select a preferred option for approval within an Outline Business Case. Preferred option selection has not yet been reached. The measures that make up the options are: • 3 cascading flood storage reservoirs • Linear defences in 2 locations • Upgrading and extending of an existing embankment • Improving a culverts condition • Property Flood Resilience • Improved Maintenance • Potential for targeted NFM Completion of initial economics and selection of economically preferred option is forecast for May 2025. Selection of the preferred option once risks have been addressed and outline design completed is forecast for September 2025. These dates are dependent on the project continuing to experience unbroken delivery, which scarce GIA funding at a national level is currently threatening. Key milestone dates are subject to change for submission in the Outline Business Case as built in programme risk is realised throughout delivery. The current key milestone dates are: • Gateway 2 March 2026 • Detailed design completion July 2027 • Gateway 3 January2028

• Construction Start May 2028 • Construction Completion December 2029 • Gateway 4 January 2030
What are the estimated scheme benefits? The preferred option hasn't been selected yet, but using available information from the work done to date, total present value damages for the catchment are approximately £79m. If a 1% (1 in 100 chance) standard scheme is selected, £75m of damages would be avoided and claimed as scheme benefit. Should a 2% (1 in 50 chance) scheme be recommended £72m of PV benefits would be claimed. Behind the proposed defences in Torkington Park flood risk will be removed enabling access to and utilisation of the park. This will ensure residents of all ages including clubs and societies can continue to undertake leisure or recreational activities promoting physical health. The scheme will take advantage of other opportunities to improve the existing amenities of the park increasing its community value all year round. The project will enable the residents to continue to live in their property without the anxiety of frequent flooding encouraging investment in their property and gardens. As the measures are built the existing river will be revegetated and cleaned increasing access to and appreciation of the river and its ecology. The maintained vegetation will increase light to resident's gardens. This will promote good mental health. Environmental gain mandated by planning will increase biodiversity and wild areas within the catchment increasing the community's connection to nature and the river. The project will ensure access to these areas for the residents providing important recreation, leisure, and educational opportunities for residents of all ages. Whilst no businesses or schools are directly damaged, critical transport links are rendered impassable even under frequent events. This prevents access to schools and local businesses. The scheme will prevent this, ensuring children can access education and workers can get to work, protecting the future and economy of Stockport and by extension Manchester. Critically this also enables unhindered access to all areas of the catchment for emergency services lowering the risk of any avoidable tragedies. The above benefits create a community which is empowered, environmentally connected, educated, and protected. This can start a cycle of increasing prosperity, lower crime rates, and a happier society overall. If a scheme is unable to be provided, in some worst-case scenarios, it may result in the movement of residents/work forces out of the catchment. This could lead to nearby business areas, the community, and the local environment experiencing spiralling decline.
How many residential properties will benefit? Are the properties in a deprived area? Until the preferred option is selected houses better protected cannot be reported. However, using the modelling and initial economics work for the 2050s epoch

completed so far, we can estimate the most likely range that the preferred option will present in the OBC: • 50% SoP 207 residential properties • 1% SoP 222 residential properties Current available data indicates all properties fall within the 20% most deprived band. The existing low economic status of the area means it is most vulnerable to spiralling decline and critically requires the benefits this scheme could deliver.
Will the scheme benefit any non-residential properties, i.e. business, industry, critical infrastructure? The scheme will directly benefit critical transport infrastructure. Most importantly: • A6 London Rd which is the main transport route linking the Peak district to Stockport and in flood conditions is impassable. • A627 Torkington Rd which is the main transport link between Offerton Green and Hazel Grove and is impassable in a flood event. • Hazelwood Rd which is the main transport route through the Hazel Grove estate. In a flood event the road is inundated preventing safe egress for the residents out of their property which at the same time experience internal flooding. • Bean Leach Rd which is the main transport link out of Offerton Green to the A6. In a flood event this is impassable. The sections above outlines how the scheme will indirectly benefit the resilience, mobility and wellbeing of the local community which has a direct relationship with the prosperity of the area and nearby business employers of the community at risk.
Will the scheme benefit any properties/ non-residential properties against flood risk in 2040 (adaptation)? Yes, the most likely OBC preferred option will present a case to deliver a scheme that has a benefit period extending to 2069 which in 2040 will see 222 properties benefitting. This is the end of the second climate change epoch within the guidance that must be followed.
Are there any Environmental benefits? The scheme will have no net environmental detriment and to secure planning permission will be required to achieve a Biodiversity Net Gain of 20%. This is a requirement of the Local Authority and is 10% above the legal minimum. The 20% BNG will be additional to environmental mitigation and reinstatement the scheme will provide, which in themselves will offer local environmental (including urban landscape and amenity) improvement. Access to these environmental benefitting areas will be incorporated within the scheme providing secondary health, education, and economic benefits.

Funding and External Contributions
What is the estimated scheme cost?
The estimated scheme costs are £12.6m. This is subject to change as the preferred option has not yet been selected. This leaves an estimated funding gap of £6.7million. We continue to explore other partnership contributions such as from the local council, Department for Education and Frequently Flooded Allowance. To progress with the project, the project requires £353k next Financial Year. We currently have an indicative 48k allocation. We require £305k of local levy to be able to fully fund the works for the next financial year. These funds would maintain the progression of the scheme to complete several activities: • Ground investigations • Landscape/heritage/BNG/carbon/ BREEAM assessments • Outline design • Economics for preferred option selection • Development and submission of an OBC

Recommendation
The project team requests that the Committee support a Local Levy contribution of £305k for 2025/26. Pausing the project will have significant implications on the delivery and is likely to cause further frustrations within the community, particularly to the residents who flooded on New Years Day 2025 which will be reputationally damaging to the Environment Agency. The project team will continue to hold discussions with partner organisations to bridge the shortfall in funding as part of an agreed Funding Strategy and update the Committee accordingly.

Appendix F	Local Levy request – Thurnham PFR

Scheme/ Picture

Thurnham PFR

Image 1: Location of Thurnham, raised defences and properties:

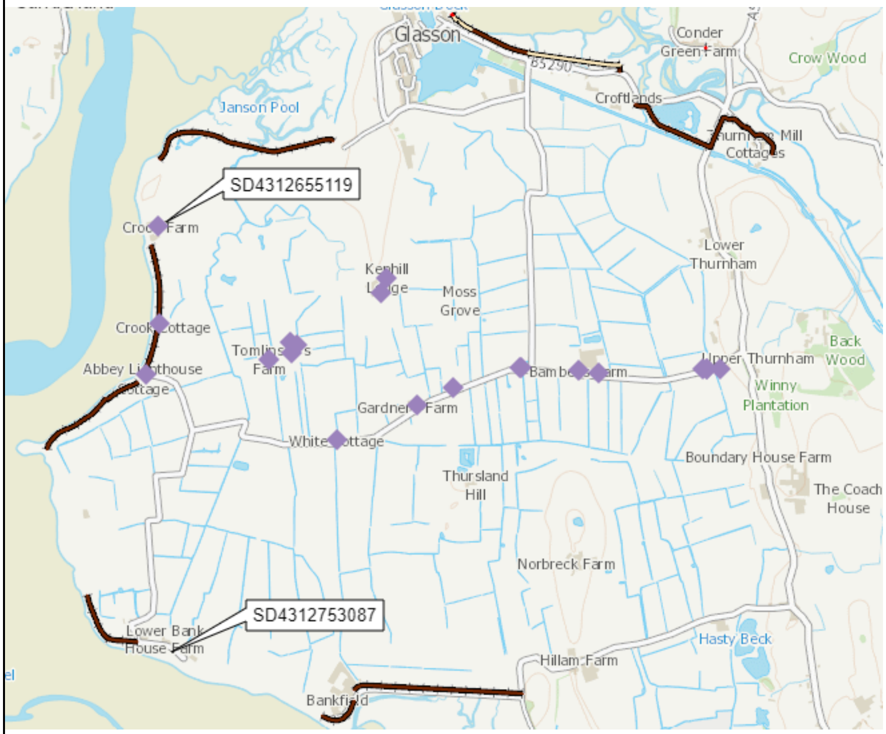


Image 2: Example of recent damage to raised defences at Thurnham

Introduction/ Background

Provide background to the flooding problem, the location, and numbers of properties affected.
• The community of Thurnham is at risk of coastal flooding from Irish Sea and the presence of deteriorating raised coastal defences, as a result of wave action, presents a significant risk of a breach scenario that could inundate the low-lying hinterland and flood properties. • The Shoreline Management Plan Position Statement for the current epoch is Hold the Line 3 (Repair not replace). The EA routinely inspect the raised defences and bid for funding to repair the damage as part of the capital reconditioning programme. However, bids have not been successful in recent years, resulting in local choices money and emergency funding being used to carry out multiple repairs in recent years. • A full replacement of the defence is not economically viable under current PF funding rules and due to the impact of the latest capital programme any budget for carrying out emergency repairs will be significantly lower. • With the concern over the future condition of the defence PFR offers a low-cost and reliable alternative. Residents have regularly expressed their concern over the potential risk of a breach and have previously enquired about potential funding options for PFR measures. • PFR would also help mitigate against residual risk of fluvial flooding from the network of Main Rivers/Ordinary Watercourses shown in Image 1. • This is seen as the priority location for piloting the EA's new PFR Framework in the North-West, by allowing us to provide flood benefit to a community who would otherwise not qualify for any capital led intervention.
Who are the key partners involved in finding a solution, e.g. local council, community groups etc.
Environment Agency, Thurnham Parish Council.

Scheme Development
Briefly describe the preferred option and key milestone dates for business case approval and when construction is currently programmed to start and finish.
The preferred option would first involve fully exploring the eligibility of properties to meet the PFR framework criteria e.g. (very significant. risk and up to 600m depths). Ongoing breach modelling will be completed in February 2025 to determine this. With this reassurance we may commence the surveying of properties to fully determine PFR suitability, followed by the design and installation of PFR measures. Should funding be secured for FY 25/26 we would expect to follow the indictive programme below: • **April 2025** – Secure access to initial funds for project development and carry out community engagement • **June-Sept 2025 –** Carry out property surveys of eligible properties using PFR

Framework Lot 1 suppliers. This will determine PFR suitability and create outline design for potential PFR measures. • **September-December 2025 –** Work with PFR Framework Lot 2 suppliers to create detailed designs of appropriate PFR measures and agree with residents. • **January 2026 –** Submit Short Form Business Case for approval of total project cost, using Lot 2 suppliers confirmed cost for detailed design and chosen products. • **February– July 2026 –** Carry out installation of PFR measures and complete handover to residents.
What are the estimated scheme benefits? The PFR scheme will provide protection to properties who are at very significant risk from a breach of the deteriorating sea defence. The PFR measures will also provide additional resilience against fluvial and surface water flooding.
How many residential properties will benefit? Are the properties in a deprived area? Currently, 13 properties have indicated their willingness to be part of any scheme, this number may increase as a result of further community engagement that would follow confirmation of funding. It may also decrease if the breach modelling and property survey exercise determines certain properties are not eligible for PFR. These properties are within Lancaster lower super output area (LSOA) L019C, which is amongst the 50% least deprived areas of the UK. However, the community is rural in nature with properties relatively isolated from key services as a result.
Will the scheme benefit any non-residential properties, i.e. business, industry, critical infrastructure? No.
Will the scheme benefit any properties/ non-residential properties against flood risk in 2040 (adaptation)? Yes. If properly maintained PFR measures are considered to have a lifespan of 25 years. Therefore, these measures would still provide a level of protection against flood risk and ensure a reliable level of adaption to more frequently occurring flood events.
Are there any Environmental benefits? Yes, indirectly the addition of PFR measures would alleviate pressure to carry out emergency repair work to the raised defences, an activity which requires working within a protected SSSI/SPA/RAMSAR site at the Lune Estuary/Morecombe Bay. The re-assurance given by the PFR measures would reduce the pressure for future time-sensitive repairs to the defence, allowing more coordinated work that reduces any risk of damage to the protected site.
Will the scheme promote regeneration?

No

Funding and External Contributions
What is the estimated scheme cost? The estimated total scheme cost is £195k. This is based on the current number of interested properties (13) and the approximate average cost of £15k per property to implement PFR. However, when 30% risk is accounted for a total project cost stands at £255,000
Explain how much FCRM GiA funding the scheme is currently able to attract under partnership funding rules and what work has been done to attract external contributions from beneficiaries. Initially this project was assigned £82.5k of indicative core GiA for 25/26 utilising the look-up table to determine GiA eligibility for PFR schemes, plus 30% risk. However, this GiA allocation was withdrawn in the latest refresh. The project will remain eligible for £63k of core GiA and efforts will continue to be made to obtain this amount through over-programming should we be successful in obtaining local Levy to fully fund the scheme. It should also be noted that at January's RFCC meeting a request in principle was made for the committee to consider if levy money can be used in future to bridge the funding gaps facing PFR schemes under existing PF rules, by topping up the amount of GiA eligible. The request being submitted in this paper is separate to the request in principle, as the relevant GiA allocation for the scheme has been removed. Instead, we would like ask the RFCC to consider funding the entire project cost with Levy money, allowing the project to be delivered in 25/26. Should we be successful in securing levy funding for this project we can then approach the local authority with greater confidence and enquire about additional partnership funding sources that may be available, thereby reducing the burden on levy spend.
What is the current funding gap and how much local levy contribution is required. In what year will the levy funding be required? Currently the project has no GiA allocation for 25/26. £255,000 of levy money would be needed to fully fund the project. We intend to deliver the project throughout 25/26, however some construction work may extend into 26/27.
It is therefore important that these briefing notes fully set out the reasons for cost increases, broken down to distinguish price inflation from other reasons e.g. ground conditions, necessary design changes.

The requirement for additional funding from the RFCC has been brought about by the removal of indicative GiA eligibility in the latest capital programme. Without levy funding there is currently no way of delivering this project.

Recommendation
The project team request the Committee support a Local Levy contribution of £255,000 to help deliver reduced flood risk to thirteen properties. Should the bid be successful this 'pilot' scheme will enable the NW to confidently explore the latest PFR framework, providing valuable learning to inform future schemes. The project team will continue to hold discussions with partner organisations to bridge the shortfall in funding as part of an agreed Funding Strategy and update the Committee accordingly.

NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

SPENDING REVIEW 2024 AND INDICATIVE FCRM GRANT-IN-AID (GIA) ALLOCATIONS FOR 2025/26

14 FEBRUARY 2025

Recommendations:

The Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs) are asked to:

1. Note the challenges and implications of the delay in receiving confirmation of budget allocation for 2025/26.

2. Consider the indicative FCRM GiA allocations for the Investment Programme (appendix B) and the asset maintenance programme (appendix C) for 2025/26.

3. Discuss local priorities for investment and where relevant, consider local choices.

Headline messages:

- Spending Review 2024 and the delay in confirming budget allocations for 2025/26 has impacted timings of this allocation round and what gets funded through the FCRM Investment Programme (formally referred to as the capital programme).

- With Ministerial direction some funding from the FCRM Investment Programme has been diverted to support the maintenance of existing Environment Agency assets.

- This RFCC Committee meeting is an important step in ensuring local choices and priorities are considered in the funding allocation process.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This paper is the first formal stage of allocating Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) capital (CDEL) and resource (RDEL) grant-in-aid (GiA) for 2025/26.

1.2 The delay in confirming the Spending Review 2024 outcome has impacted the usual allocation process and required the timeline to be pushed back and condensed. This additional meeting is to enable RFCCs to undertake the local choices process and ensure, where possible, local priorities are considered within the allocation process.

1.3 An additional RFCC meeting will be held in March to review and consent the regional programmes of work, before final Environment Agency Board approval on 19 March 2025. Letters confirming funding allocations will be sent to all risk management authorities (RMAs) immediately after this Board meeting.

2.0 Spending Reviews and policy changes

2.1 Funding for FCRM in 2025/26 has been agreed through Spending Review 2024.

2.2 The final outcome means we will receive less funding than we had anticipated, based on the reset programme business case which was approved by HM Treasury in February 2024. With Ministerial direction £72million from the FCRM Investment Programme has been diverted to support the maintenance of existing Environment Agency assets.

2.3 This means, collectively we cannot fund all the previously planned work in 2025/26.

2.4 Funding for 2026/27 onwards will be determined by Spending Review 2025.

2.5 On 13 November 2024, Minister Hardy announced, at the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) conference, that the government was committed to reviewing the partnership funding rules that determine how much GiA can be allocated to each scheme. The consultation is expected to be launched early in 2025. The Minister also announced that any potential changes to partnership funding rules would be in place by 1 April 2026.

3.0 FCRM GiA Investment Programme allocation for 2025/26

3.1 We are anticipating our budget for 2025/26 will be £847million of CDEL and £256million of RDEL, a total of **£1,103million.** This is more than our budget for 2024/25.

3.2 Each year we review our Investment Programme to ensure we are aligned with our annual budgets, prioritise our annual programmes, remain on track to achieve our targets and accommodate changes. During May and June, Environment Agency Area Teams and other RMAs reviewed projects in their programmes and any changes or new bids were shared with RFCCs at their July Committee meetings. These refreshed programmes were then reviewed by the Environment Agency's national Portfolio Management Office (PMO) for national prioritisation.

3.3 Bids for funding through this year's annual programme refresh exceeded available budgets by over £300million for what had been the final 2 years of the programme. Since the bids were received in July, further significant project level increases have been seen through Business Case Update Reports (BCURs) adding additional pressure to budgets. Approved BCURs could add around £30million pressure to 2025/26 while BCURs pending approval could add a further £100million pressure.

3.4 Further pressures are also being felt through the current 2024/25 budget position, as at the end of Q3 we were forecasting to be £80million over budget allocation for this financial year. This will have knock on implications to future years and has been identified as a risk.

3.5 At the start of the allocation process in the summer, Environment Agency Areas teams were directed to reduce investment on project development work, so the new, nationally led, pipeline work can fully inform the future programme. This will enable us to ensure the next programme starting in April 2026 has a stronger alignment to latest flood risk data from the new National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA2). We will use the 2025/26 allocation to transition to the new approach to avoid nugatory spend on lower confidence or poor value for money projects.

3.6 The indicative allocations set out in this paper ensure we prioritise protection of incident management, investment in our assets and funding of schemes in construction. We are not expecting to receive any additional funding to help with recovery from this winter's storm events. Any funding for recovery works will need to be managed within allocations for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

3.7 The proposed GiA allocations set out below are split 67% to Environment Agency projects and 33% to other Risk Management Authority projects. Of this 98% of the allocations are associated with projects that are in construction or close to starting construction and 2% of the allocations are associated with projects currently in development.

Prioritisation approach

3.8 The prioritisation approach is based on the allocation principles approved by the Environment Agency Board in October 2020 (see appendix A) and Defra's current Partnership Funding Policy, as usual. RFCCs (through their Chairs) were involved in the development of the allocation principles.

3.9 The hierarchy for allocating funding is:

- Approved urgent cases based on health and safety or statutory grounds, and time-bound partnership funding contributions.
- In construction by 1 April 2025 and delivering properties better protected by 31 March 2026.
- In construction by 1 April 2025 (sub-ranked by adjusted partnership funding score high to low).
- Remainder of programme ranked by adjusted partnership funding score (high to low).

In addition, this year the Environment Agency's Executive Directors Team FCRM Sub-Group and the FCRM Committee (a subgroup of the EA Board) agreed to an additional condition:

- Limiting projects not forecasting properties better protected by 31 March 2026 to their allocations agreed through the 2024/25 consented programme (not accommodating increased bids on those projects within 2025/26).

Local choices

3.10 At the February Committee meetings, RFCCs are asked to review their indicative allocations and identify any changes they would like to see to their regional programmes. This is referred to as the ‘local choices’ process. This is an important step to ensure local priorities can be taken into consideration and we get the best possible outcomes from the programme both locally and nationally. With increased pressure on budgets in 2025/26 we appreciate the local choices process is more challenging this year, but we are keen RFCCs ensure they are exploring the opportunities available to them.

3.11 The national Portfolio Management Office will provide an updated steer following discussions with RFCC Chairs at the Chair’s Forum on 5th February as we seek to support the local choices process.

3.12 Any changes as a result of local choices must ensure that the Committee’s programme:

a) remains within budget, and on target to spend its indicative allocated budget,
b) secures or improves the number of properties better protected, and
c) protects the impact on asset condition from the re-prioritised £72million moved towards asset management/maintenance.

If additional contributions are identified, from third parties or local levy, RFCCs may be able to increase their overall programme and deliver more projects.

3.13 Following the RFCC Committee’s returns, the Environment Agency’s national Portfolio Management Office (PMO) will review these, and if they meet the required criteria and are within budget they will be included in the production of the draft final allocation. RFCC Committees will then see the final allocations again in March for their further review and in advance of seeking their consent to the implementation of the regional programmes of work.

High-level funding allocation

3.14 Programme affordability is proving ever more challenging due to a range of project level costs increases, committed financial obligations and reduced budgets.

3.15 Table 1 below sets out the indicative GiA allocation for 2025/26 against elements of the programme. The total Investment Programme is expected to be **£1,103million** for 2025/26. Of this, £769million is currently allocated directly to RFCCs through the indicative allocation process – see appendix B for the regional breakdown of the new and replacement schemes allocation. The remaining amount is for national or cross-cutting investment which at this stage is not allocated to specific RFCCs. This is in line with the approach taken in previous years.

Table 1: Indicative FCRM GiA allocation against elements of the programme. Allocation for 2024/25 is shown for reference only.

Programme (total expenditure)	2024/25 (£m) TOTAL	2025/26 (£m) TOTAL	2025/26 (£m) CDEL	2025/26 (£m) RDEL
Programme to meet legal obligations associated with flood risk management works[1]	21.4	**18.0**	17.5	0.5
Small scale capital projects[2]	81.9	**57.2**	20.0	37.2
New and replacement schemes – Appendix B	713.9	**657.4**	641.6	15.8
Recondition schemes for assets below target condition	34.7	**30.0**	24.0	6.0
Additional Asset Management allocation (including additional allocation to Recondition schemes above – see Section 4 for more detail)	-	**72.0**	36.0	36.0
Salary cost for staff supporting, developing, and delivering schemes	45.0	**48.0**	-	48.0
Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme	46.5	**52.0**	52.0	-
Natural Flood Management programme	4.1	**10.8**	8.7	2.1
National once and FCRM Portfolio (includes Fleet and IT invest to save and RDEL to be allocated)	46.8	**112.6**	27.2	85.4
Assets Under Construction (Held at the centre)[3]	**27.7**	**25.0**	**-**	25.0
Accounting treatment switch from FCRM RDEL income[4]	**-**	**20.0**	**20.0**	-
TOTAL ALLOCATION	**1,022**	**1,103**	**847.0**	**256.0**

1. Includes Water Framework Directive, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Eel Regulations, Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act and reservoir works.
2. Small scale capital projects for coastal monitoring, flood risk mapping, repairs to Environment Agency owned bridges, flood forecasting, flood warning, carbon reduction, hydrometry and telemetry assets, and strategies. Includes incident management programme and Depots.
3. This is to allow for financial adjustments in relation to the new accounting rules for flood risk projects, particularly those with transactions in previous years that now need to be RDEL.
4. EA agreed to use an accounting treatment to transfer £20m of RDEL income to Defra in exchange for an equivalent amount of CDEL, however, it appears that this £20m of CDEL will come from our anticipated allocation and not additional funding.

Properties better protected forecasts

3.16 We are on track to deliver 28,000 properties better protected during 2024/25. We are forecasting to deliver approximately 116,000 properties better protected by 31 March 2025 since April 2021.

3.17 We are expecting to deliver up to 33,000 properties better protected during 2025/26 with our current indicative funding allocations – see appendix B for regional splits.

3.18 We are in the process of agreeing a new 2-year (2024/25 and 2025/26) properties better protected target with government. This target will be in addition to the 88,000 properties better protected during the first 3 years of the current programme.

Efficiencies

3.19 Projects have realised £134million of efficiencies so far in the current programme which equates to 4.5% of FCRM GiA spend. The funding condition is for 10% efficiencies to be achieved by the end of the programme. Some of the challenges faced so far include the inflationary environment, and project teams balancing other priorities. This has driven us to seek new efficiency opportunities and target support for the reporting process, resulting in an increase in successful claims. We are currently forecasting to remain below 10% and would ask RFCCs to continue to champion efficiencies within their programmes.

Future Investment Programme pipeline

3.20 At their September 2024 meeting, the RFCC Chairs were briefed on the work to use data such as the new national flood risk assessment (NaFRA2) to take an evidence-based approach to developing a pipeline of future projects. The outputs of this work will be used to inform our future investment need which includes projects and strategies. We will seek to secure funding for this via Spending Review 2025.

Carbon

3.21 This year's annual refresh is enabling Area teams to calculate carbon emissions for Environment Agency projects alongside cost and outcome measures within their regular programming tools. Next year the tools will be improved to include all RMA projects.

3.22 The programme emissions reflect a similar split in percentage between Environment Agency and RMA projects as seen in funding, so the majority are arising from Environment Agency projects. As a result of national prioritisation to date Areas have an emissions forecast for all included Environment Agency projects, that combined gives us a national investment programme carbon forecast. This is being compared with an Environment Agency required annual reduction to reach 45% reduced emissions by 2030. The current 2024/25 annual reduction is on track to meet 17% reduction from the 2019/20 Environment Agency baseline and will need to continue on a similar reduction trajectory towards the 2030 45% reduction target. An increased use of decarbonisation technology is currently helping reductions in construction, but future reductions will also require the use of wider resilience measures to deliver flood outcomes.

3.23 The national prioritisation has updated emission forecasts for all Environment Agency projects now included in the indicative programme that Areas will be able to review. At this stage the figures are indicative, giving an illustration of the forecast carbon emissions – these calculations will be finalised after local choices. The reduced funding for this year can be seen reflected in the reduction in construction carbon emissions when compared with the forecast from last year. These figures are presented in Appendix D for each Area. It has been split by Area as the Environment Agency's carbon budget is managed at the Area level, rather than by RFCC.

3.24 Changes made during local choices will recalculate these Environment Agency project and Area emission forecasts and we aim to make these available for review at the March Committee meetings. In reviewing a final proposed programme, the Environment Agency national PMO will also report on the changes in emission forecasts from local choices. For Environment Agency projects only they will assess how well this meets the annual reduction target for 2025/26 that is required to meet the 2030 45% reduction target.

Key risks

3.25 All risks are being actively managed through a comprehensive risk register and risk management plan, overseen by the Environment Agency's national Delivery Portfolio Board. Key risks/issues we are currently managing include:

- Increasing cost of projects which can make some projects unaffordable and mean fewer projects can be delivered across the programme.
- Insufficient resource and skills across the Environment Agency, other RMAs and our supply chain to deliver the programme.
- Securing sufficient partnership funding contributions remains a risk to delivery.
- Accommodating cost and budget pressures from 2024/25 which will impact 2025/26 budgets through contractually committed spend.
- Challenge to implement changes to accounting practices for capital projects to meet audit requirements and our ability to accurately model our requirements for future years RDEL and CDEL budget splits.
- Significant flood events and/or structural failure of flood risk assets (both coastal and inland).

4.0 FCRM GiA asset maintenance resource allocation for 2025/26

4.1 Area maintenance submissions for 2025/26 showed an increase in obligatory costs, especially for the maintenance of reservoirs, Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation, Control and Automation (MEICA) and bridge activities. A large proportion of these are due to updated and improved operating instructions, but maintenance need has also been impacted due to damages to assets during 2023/24 winter storms.

4.2 Initial funding allocations were focused on £120million of resource (RDEL) GiA towards direct maintenance and £30million of capital (CDEL) GiA towards asset reconditioning. These original allocations for 2025/26 would have only allowed for around half of the total maintenance and operational needs to be funded and would have meant considerable challenge in delivering asset needs.

4.3 With the increased focus on asset management, the Minister has directed that £72million is redirected from the Investment Programme into Environment Agency asset management. This funding will be directed towards a variety of activities and will include an increase in the direct maintenance allocation provided to Areas, increasing the allocation from £120million to £138million. Our current estimates are that this will provide additional maintenance to a further 6,500 assets and an additional 1,500 kilometres of channel work. A further £2million will also support Highland Water Claims for 2025/26.

4.4 A further £26million from the £72million is being allocated to the asset recondition programme – increasing the total recondition allocation from £30million up to £56million. This is allowing an extra 250 assets to be brought back to condition, ensuring that 7,000 homes are not at increased risk.

4.5 Further investment will also be directed towards asset maintenance delivered through a 'national once' approach. This will ensure that we deliver in the most cost-effective manner, whilst also ensuring that we meet key operational requirements such as asset inspections, reservoirs, public safety risk assessments and bridge repair/maintenance. This investment will reduce asset risk, increase reliability and will reduce the safety risk to the public.

4.6 The expectation from Government is that this increase to maintenance and recondition funding will keep a minimum of 92% of our high consequence assets at the required condition. Local Choices decisions need to support this re-prioritisation of funding.

<u>Allocation approach for the £138million direct asset maintenance</u>

4.7 There are three elements within our asset maintenance allocations:

- decommissioning of assets,
- asset management projects (those which are not single asset specific), and
- direct asset maintenance.

Areas identified a maintenance need of £235million for 2025/26.

4.8 The prioritisation approach used for 2025/26:

- decommissioning (£1million): only accommodate ongoing projects
- asset management projects (£6million): allocate to obligatory costs only
- allocate the remainder to direct asset maintenance:
    - ensuring allocations cover field team operational costs
    - ensuring our legal obligations are funded
    - remaining funding allocated through a range of weighted factors that include benefit cost ratio, type of work and flood risk.

4.9 With the increase in allocation to £138million, all Areas/RFCCs will see an increase to the maintenance funding they received in 2024/25 (see appendix C).

<u>Asset recondition and impact on asset key performance indicators (KPI)</u>

4.10 Funding needs for asset recondition from Areas increased for 2025/26. These works provide repairs to assets that are below their required condition and are key to our assets operating correctly and achievement of the key performance indicator target around asset condition.

4.11 As explained in the previous sections, additional asset management investment has increased asset recondition allocations from £30million up to £56million. Within this allocation, £44million will allow the continuation of ongoing recondition project, those that are linked into legal obligations and the continued recovery from the winter storms in 2023/24. The remaining £12million is directed to the highest flood risk consequence assets.

4.12 The increase of recondition funding to £56million, alongside the increase in asset maintenance funding to £138million, will help ensure that we can meet our commitment to the Minister of maintaining asset condition at 92% (assets at required condition).

5.0 Recommendations

The RFCC Committees are asked to:

1. Note the challenges and implications of the delay in receiving confirmation of budget allocation for 2025/26.

2. Consider the indicative FCRM GiA allocations for the Investment Programme (appendix B) and the asset maintenance programme (appendix C) for 2025/26.

3. Discuss local priorities for investment and where relevant, consider local choices.

Dan Bond
Deputy Director, Portfolio Management Office
30 January 2025

Appendix A: FCRM allocation principles
Appendix B: FCRM GiA indicative Investment Programme allocation for schemes by RFCC
Appendix C: FCRM GiA indicative asset maintenance allocation by RFCC
Appendix D: Indicative carbon forecasts

Appendix A: FCRM allocation principles – agreed by EA Board on 7 October 2020

1. **Invest to achieve our ambition of a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change.** This will be achieved by making the right allocation decisions to ensure places and infrastructure are resilient and can adapt to future flooding and coastal risks in a changing climate. Respond to government investment priorities including the 'Green Recovery' plan and 'levelling-up.'

2. **Invest £5.4bn to better protect properties and infrastructure by 2026/27.** We will embrace a broad range of resilience actions, alongside protection measures which will provide better protection to over 336,000 properties and provide an 11% reduction in flood and coastal erosion risk nationally.

3. **Support our carbon and sustainability ambitions.** Encouraging investment and delivery to support the UK's legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from across the UK economy by 2050. For the Environment Agency only – encourage investment to support our ambition to become a net zero organisation by 2030.

4. **Invest to achieve a wider range of outcomes**
   i. **Maintain our ability to warn and inform people** at high risk of flooding from the rivers or sea **and respond to incidents** to save lives and property**.**
   ii. **Enhance the environment.** Continue to contribute to wider net environmental gain, creating and improving habitat and rivers alongside flood and coastal schemes, including delivery of nature-based solutions.
   iii. **Benefit the economy.** Maximise efficiency savings and value for money.

5. Work in **collaborative partnerships to deliver multiple benefits.** All Risk Management Authorities working collaboratively and with local 'catchment partnerships' amongst other partners, securing partnership funding and jointly realising innovative, cost-effective solutions with a range of benefits.

6. **Build and deliver balanced programmes.** Work with Regional Flood and Coastal Committees to ensure the nation is resilient to future flooding and coastal risks. Promote and maintain an adaptive medium to long term pipeline of local investment need.

7. **Provide appropriate funding towards statutory requirements and essential specialist services** that enable delivery of flood and coastal risk outcomes.

Appendix B: FCRM GiA indicative Investment Programme allocation by RFCC – new and replacement schemes

This table presents the RFCC regional breakdown of the GiA allocations for schemes. Allocation for 2024/25 is shown for reference only.

RFCC	GiA allocation 2024/25 (£m)	Total GiA indicative allocation 2025/26 (£m)	CDEL GiA indicative allocation 2025/26 (£m)	RDEL GiA indicative allocation 2025/26 (£m)	Forecast properties better protected 2025/26
Anglian Eastern	91.0	**47.8**	47.2	0.7	**6,900**
Anglian Great Ouse	10.5	**12.6**	11.4	1.2	**920**
Anglian Northern	44.7	**71.2**	69.7	1.5	**5,909**
North West	85.6	**93.8**	91.7	2.1	**1,629**
Northumbria	21.1	**18.2**	17.8	0.4	**446**
Severn and Wye	16.8	**16.8**	16.5	0.4	**546**
South West	33.7	**32.5**	31.8	0.6	**711**
Southern	69.4	**77.9**	76.4	1.4	**6,717**
Thames	94.5	**66.6**	63.4	3.2	**688**
Trent	47.6	**64.1**	63.4	0.7	**1,698**
Wessex	108.4	**109.7**	107.2	2.5	**2,615**
Yorkshire	98.7	**46.2**	45.1	1.1	**4,027**
Total	**722**	**657.4**	**641.6**	**15.8**	**32,806**

Appendix C: FCRM GiA indicative resource (RDEL) asset maintenance allocation by RFCC and allocation sub-programmes that will benefit from the additional asset management funding (£72million)

This table presents the RFCC regional breakdown of the GiA allocations towards asset maintenance, plus some of the other sub-programmes where the additional £72million will be utilised alongside existing budgets. The 'National Once Delivery' figures will be a centrally held budget and an estimate of the RFCC proportion is shown to indicate where benefit will likely be seen. This split will change as the most efficient programme of works is determined. Alongside the below, a proportion of the £72million will also be for activities such as capital maintenance, monitoring, tidal gauges, and asset resilience for our most strategically important assets.

Maintenance allocations for 2024/25 are show for reference only.

RFCC	Allocation 2024/25 (£m)	Indicative Allocation 2025/26 (£m)	Highland Water Contributions (£m)	Asset Recondition (£m)	National Once Delivery (£m)
Anglian Eastern	8.5	**9.5**	**1.1**	**4.0**	**1.0**
Anglian Gt Ouse	4.9	**5.3**	**1.8**	**1.7**	**1.0**
Anglian Northern	11.3	**12.1**	**1.1**	**8.0**	**1.2**
North West	12.1	**14.3**	**0.0**	**13.3**	**2.0**
Northumbria	3.0	**3.3**	**0.0**	**0.7**	**0.9**
Severn and Wye	4.4	**4.5**	**0.2**	**0.8**	**1.4**
South West	5.3	**5.7**	**0.0**	**0.9**	**0.9**
Southern	11.5	**12.6**	**0.5**	**7.6**	**1.1**
Thames	20.1	**22.8**	**0.0**	**3.3**	**3.5**
Trent	16.2	**19.0**	**0.5**	**5.1**	**1.4**
Wessex	8.5	**9.6**	**0.0**	**4.5**	**1.2**
Yorkshire	14.4	**19.5**	**0.8**	**6.4**	**0.6**
Total	**120.2**	**138.2***	**6.0****	**56.3*****	**16.2******

* The Asset Maintenance allocation total is £138.0million (including £18million of additional asset management funding); but the sum of rounded RFCC allocations (£138.2million) is shown for consistency within the table.

** Funding to support Highland Water Contributions. This funding includes £2.3million of additional funding from the £72million asset management funding for 2025/26 only. The total allocation for Highland Water is £6.1million; but the sum of rounded funding is shown in the table for consistency (£6.0million). For the longer-term Defra are commencing a research commission 'Research into English IDB funding and costs to inform future policy decisions and identify best practice' which may recommend changes to the current IDB funding arrangements.

*** Total funding to Asset Recondition. This is the original £30million highlighted throughout the wider paper; plus an additional £26million from the wider £72million asset management funding. The total additional recondition allocation is £56.1million; but the sum of rounded RFCC allocations is shown for consistency within the table (£56.3million).

**** Funding for a national programme of works ('national-once' to deliver cost efficiencies). Typically, these are focused on legal compliance and public safety. These works include bridge assessments and repairs, public safety, asset inspections and eel passage. Figures are estimates provided for an indication of geographical spend and it is expected that these costs will be *partly* covered by the additional £72million.

Appendix D: Indicative carbon forecasts

This table sets out the tonnes of carbon equivalent (tCO2e) forecast to be emitted in 2025/26 through the Environment Agency's construction projects. The existing consented carbon for 2025/26 from the 2024 annual refresh is also shown.

EA Area	Existing consented Carbon allocation 2025/26 (tCO2e)	Estimated Carbon (tCO2e) - Refresh 2025/26	Variance (%)
Cumbria and Lancashire	17,604	17,560	0%
Devon Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	8,600	3,929	-54%
East Anglia	12,171	13,213	9%
East Midlands	9,892	7,472	-24%
Greater Manchester Merseyside and Cheshire	6,849	9,464	38%
Hertfordshire and North London	2,835	3,244	14%
Kent South London and East Sussex	23,678	12,721	-46%
Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	21,687	26,691	23%
North East	6,255	4,287	-31%
Solent and South Downs	5,706	3,834	-33%
Thames	10,028	8,496	-15%
Wessex	22,132	20,300	0%
West Midlands	12,328	4,760	-61%
Yorkshire	28,823	14,481	-50%
Grand Total	**188,588**	**150,453**	**-20%**