



North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

24 January 2025

Agenda Item 2

Minutes of the RFCC meeting
held on 18 October 2024 and
matters arising

Agenda Item 3

Recent Flooding Incidents



Agenda Item 4

Report from the RFCC Finance & Business Assurance Sub-group

Presented by Neville Elstone and Adam Walsh

North West RFCC Investment Programme Overview: 2024-25

What outcomes are we delivering?


 	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25
	* Target	Forecast	Actual
	1,365	1,788	384

**No official RFCC target. Targets are split by Area.*

Are we spending the funding we have secured?

	Capital funding available	Capital forecast
	£113.44 million	£115.339 million

What level of efficiency are we demonstrating?

Efficiencies		
		
	Q2 Target	Q2 Actual
CLA	1,837,080	733,868
GMMC	1,694,013	974,156
North West	3,531,093	1,708,024

Risks to Capital Programme 2024-25

- In addition to the risks highlighted at previous meetings (potential project delays due to adverse weather, resource pressures....), the national programme continues to see high levels of over-programme forecast on the FCRM Investment Programme. At the October RFCC meeting, we reported a steer to reduce Area over-programmes to 5%. As we approach Q4, Areas have now been instructed to work to zero their over-programme. This puts significant pressure on in-year delivery to land within allocation.

2024-25 EA Resource Programme

Resource Programme, inc. Maintenance, Staff Costs and Resource Projects	Budget (£k)	Forecast (£k)	Forecast Variance to Budget (£k)	Approval to Spend over Budget (£k)*	Budget + Approval (£k)	Forecast Variance to Budget + Approval (£K) (Excluding Reclassification)
Cumbria & Lancashire Maintenance Programme (inc Resource Projects)	6,424	9,065	-2,641	2,400	8,824	-241
Cumbria & Lancashire Staff Costs	4,717	5,120	-403	0	4,717	-403
Cumbria & Lancashire Resource Reclassification	0	2,275	-2,275	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cumbria & Lancashire Totals	11,141	16,459	-5,318	2,400	13,541	-644
Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Cheshire Maintenance Programme (inc Resource Projects)	5,698	5,524	174	0	5,698	174
Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Cheshire Staff Costs	4,229	4,662	-433	0	4,229	-433
Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Cheshire Resource Reclassification	0	1,786	-1,786	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Cheshire Totals	9,926	11,972	-2,046	0	9,926	-259
EA Total FCRM GiA Resource	21,067	28,431	-7,364	2,400	23,467	-903

* £2.4m Approval to Spend above budget includes £0.2m for Urgent Asset Repairs (pre-Dec 24), additional £1.5m for electricity and £0.6m flood storage basin operation compensation

Recommendations

(Capital and Resource Maintenance Programmes)

- The RFCC note the progress on delivering the 2024/25 capital and resource programmes
- The RFCC note the risks in delivering the 2024/25 capital programme

National Funding Allocation Prioritisation 2025/26

The overall prioritisation approach and method of allocating funding was approved by the EA Executive Directors Team (EDT) on the 7 January:

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).

NW Local Choices Prioritisation

Priority schemes for Local Choices allocations 2025/2026

1. Measures in the Interest of Safety (MIOS) on Reservoirs [1] / Public Safety Risk Assessment EA KPI compliance (known risks) [1]
2. Emergency works (HELP reported i.e. risk to life etc.) – urgent component of works rather than longer term investment plans
3. Protect funding allocated to the EA reconditioning programmes
4. In construction (on-site now and delivering RO2s by end of 2025/26) [2]
5. In construction or post construction with contractual commitment beyond 2025/26 [3]
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*)

NW RFCC Timetable for Meetings, allocation process and local choices consideration



Date	Time	Details
10 th January 2025	10am – 11:30am	Revised and shortened (virtual) RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub Group meeting to consider non allocation related items.
24 th January 2025	10am – 11:30am	Revised and shortened (virtual) full RFCC meeting to consider non allocation / programme items.
14 th February 2025	10am – 11:30am	Additional (virtual) full RFCC Meeting to consider indicative allocation and consider NW local choices.
14 th March 2025	10am – 11:30am	Additional (virtual) full RFCC meeting to consent 2025/26 Programme.

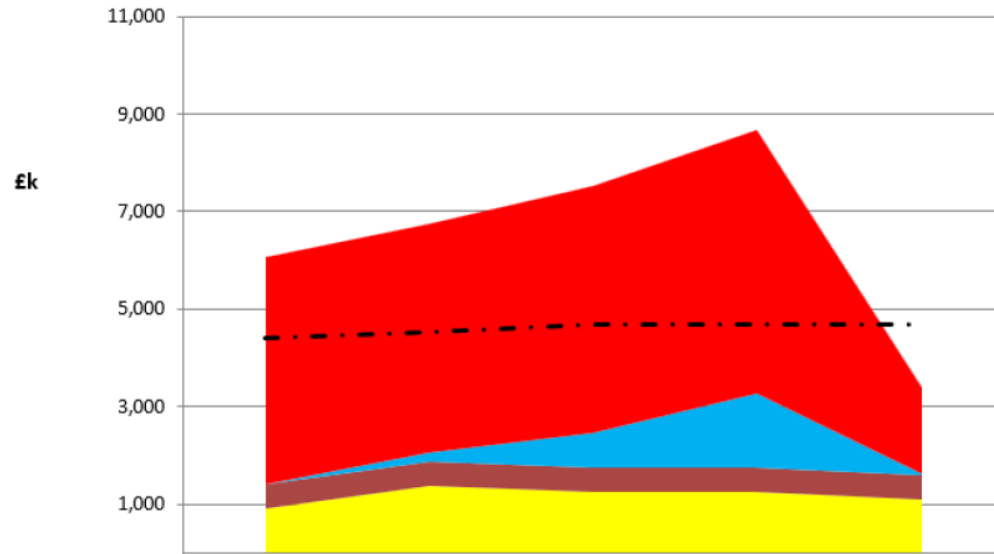
Local Levy Programme Update

Presented by Adam Walsh

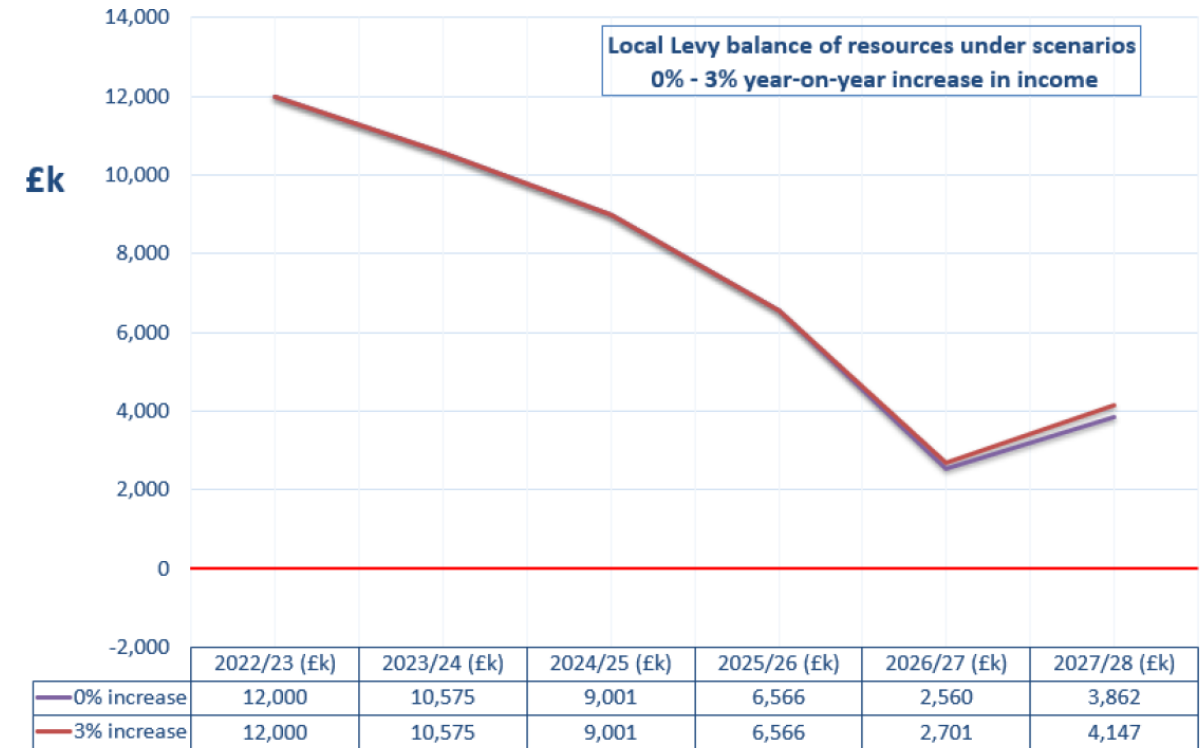
North West RFCC Local Levy programme for 2024/25

2024-25	
Local Levy income and allocation summary (£ million)	
Cash balance at start of year	10.692
Expected interest from 2023/24	0.521
Local Levy income	4.544
Total available balance	15.757
Latest forecast	6.756
Expected remaining cash balance at year end	9.001

Local Levy Income and Expenditure Scenario



	2023/24 (£k)	2024/25 (£k)	2025/26 (£k)	2026/27 (£k)	2027/28 (£k)
Priority capital schemes ⇒ £1m (Levy)	4,646	4,696	5,047	5,413	1,742
Smaller capital schemes	3	197	731	1,516	45
Partnership Quick Wins	490	500	500	500	500
RFCC Business Plan	914	1,363	1,239	1,258	1,093
Sub Total Expenditure	6,053	6,756	7,517	8,687	3,380
Local Levy Income	4,412	4,544	4,681	4,681	4,681



	2022/23 (£k)	2023/24 (£k)	2024/25 (£k)	2025/26 (£k)	2026/27 (£k)	2027/28 (£k)
0% increase	12,000	10,575	9,001	6,566	2,560	3,862
3% increase	12,000	10,575	9,001	6,566	2,701	4,147

Local Levy Requests

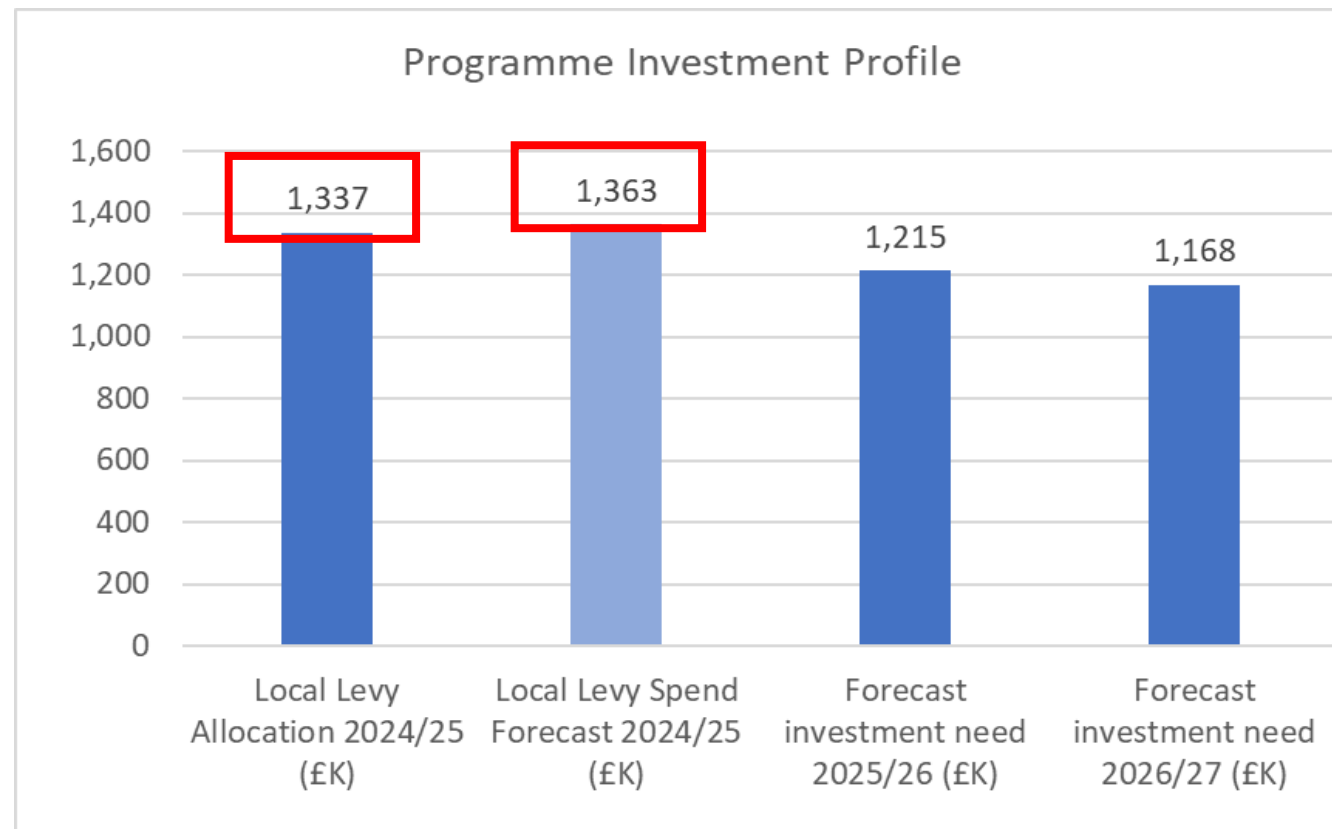
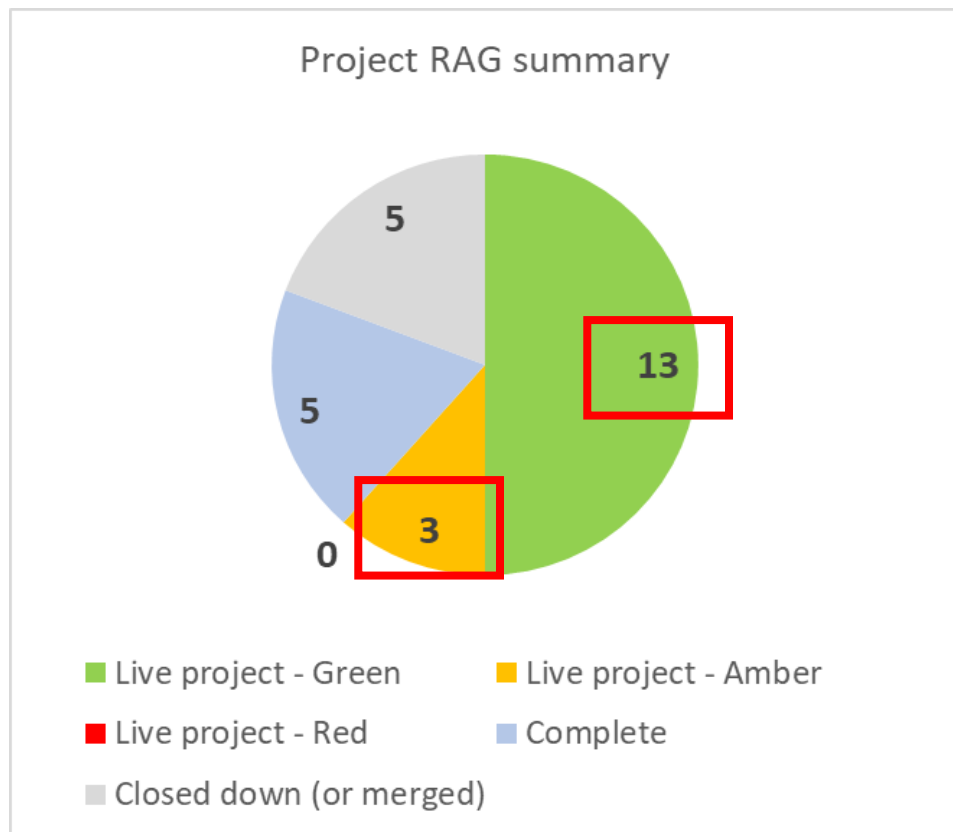
- Liverpool Road, Warrington scheme (Cheshire Mid-Mersey Partnership), for £499K in 2025/26
- Increased Local Levy contribution for the Ryles Pool scheme (Cheshire Mid-Mersey Partnership), of £159.5k in 2024/25

Recommendations

(Local Levy Programme)

- The RFCC note the current position and latest spend forecast of the Local Levy Programme
- RFCC note the changes in the Local levy programme
- That the NW RFCC considers the Local Levy funding requests for the Liverpool Road, Warrington and Ryles Pool Schemes at the 14 February 2025 RFCC Local Choices Meeting

RFCC Business Plan update



Amber:

- ID22 'NFM Pipeline (Cumbria)' - Paused for review of scope/approach
- ID10 'Evidence Gathering – Planning & Development' - Behind schedule - Year 2 reports still awaiting review and summary
- ID17 'Coastal Centre of Excellence Business Case development' – Behind schedule but ongoing

Recommendations

(RFCC Business Plan update)

- To note the progress on delivering the 2024/25 Business Plan.
- To approve the increase in the RFCC's contribution to the costs of seven existing posts, which represents a total Local Levy funding increase of £153.2k

Agenda Item 5

Property Flood Resilience (PFR)

What is PFR?

Resistance Measures:
Physical measures (barriers,
covers etc) that aim to:

- Limit floodwater entering a building
- Reduce damages and disruption

Recoverability Measures:
Measures to adapt the
internal property that aim to:

- Limit the damage caused if water does enter a building
- Speed up recovery and reoccupation



Flood barrier / Lakeside Flood Solutions



Image: The Flood Hub



Examples of PFR

Why PFR and what are the benefits?



FREQUENCY AND
IMPACTS OF FLOODING



DELIVERING BENEFITS
AT A QUICKER RATE



LOWER COST AND
QUICKER DELVIERY



MORE RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES

PFR Framework



1. Flood Protection Solutions
2. JBA (Reserve)



Launched in Jan 2024



Available to EA & RMA schemes



1. Watertight Ltd
2. Apex (Reserve)



Aligned with CIRIA PFR Code of practice

Funding PFR Projects – The Current Picture

1

Defra Repair Grant

Fixed grants of £5k per property are occasionally made available by Defra after significant flood events

These grants are reactive and require immediate action which do not allow for strategic planning

Often include very restrictive eligibility criteria and place pressure on local authority to administer.

2

Flood Re (Build Back Better)

Qualifying residents can receive up to £10k towards the cost of PFR from insurance provider after internal flooding

Requires resident to have insurance in place with specific provider signed up to the scheme.

Only 1 in 3 residents offered 'Build Back Better' payments choose to take this up.

3

Grant In Aid

GiA can be used to partially fund PFR providing the property is at **very significant** flood risk (1 in 20 year/ 5% AEP).

Monies can only be used to pay for **resistance** measures, not recoverability.

Utilising GiA claims OM's from specific properties for a period of 25 years.

Grant In Aid – Limitations & Potential

60% least deprived area

House type	Flooding Attributes: Scenario A	Flooding Attributes: Scenario B
Detached	5,097	6,340
Semi-detached	4,470	6,014
Terrace	4,368	5,947
Bungalow	4,911	6,267
Flat	4,393	5,951



New PFR 'Look Up' Table' used to calculate GiA contributions



Between £4k and £11k available depending on property type, deprivation level and flooding scenario



Typical whole life cost is £15k per property

Challenges with PFR

- PFR may be a cheaper option but is not fully funded via GiA and may not be feasible in all instances, success is a dependent on;
 - Flood mechanism (fluvial, surface water, tidal lead times for deployment – ideally passive)
 - Eligibility criteria being met (V significant risk, ideally <600mm flood depth)
 - Community uptake & acceptance
 - Future maintenance and upkeep – owners need to understand and buy into their commitments

Community Engagement

- In some instances PFR might be the only option available to a community
- Extensive engagement is required to ensure community uptake.
- Rented properties – engaging with communities with a lot of rented properties requires Landlord/Housing Association engagement and buy in (e.g. Resilient Roch)
- Our framework will help with many of these aspects





There are some good resources out there that can help people understand what PFR is, how it works and its advantages and limitations;

- Companies on the PFR framework are experts in the field with experience of delivering
- Resilico app <https://resilico.com/>
- Flood Mary <https://floodmary.com>
- Blue pages <https://bluepages.org.uk/>

Example: Isle of Wight PFR

- Delivering PFR to 44 properties
- 12- 18 month delivery period
- Funded through GiA, Local Levy and Council contributions
- Uptake from community of 84%
- Flooding from all sources
- Measures; flood door/barriers, automatic airbricks- up to 600mm
- Highest tide on record in April- 12 properties would have flooded without PFR






Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Flood and coastal resilience innovation programme

Part of the £200m
Flood and coastal innovation programmes



Resilient Roch and Flood Poverty Update January 2025

Comparison of PFR Programmes by RFCC (March 2023)

RFCC	Local Levy funding used or allocated to support PFR schemes
Severn & Wye	£6.68m
Trent	£2.98m
Wessex	£2.12m
Anglian Eastern	£1.43m
Thames	£1.4m
Southern	£1.31m
Yorkshire	£0.18m
South West	£0.15m
Northumbria	£0.13m
Anglian Northern	£0.1m
Anglian Great Ouse	£0.03m
North West	£0m*

*note this does not include a limited number of small scale PFR measures funding through Quick Wins

Considerations for the RFCC

- 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.

Agenda Item 6

Update and observations from the RFCC
Conservation Member, including feedback from
the national network of
Conservation Members

Presented by Kate Morley

NW RFCC EA Appointed Member for Conservation

RFCC Conservation Members National Network

- Chaired by Phil Rothwell (Chair, Northumbria RFCC)
- Includes representation of Conservation Members across all 12 RFCC's
- Meets on a Quarterly basis, usually 2 weeks prior to main RFCC meetings
- Includes representation / presentations from relevant teams in the Defra family, e.g. EA Natural Environment and Rural Resilience team, Natural England & Forestry Commission)

Update from Conservation Members

- How Conservation members can provide an environmental perspective at Committee meetings
 - More than just OM4's...
- ELMs (Environmental Land Management)
 - Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier announced in December 2024
- Mainstreaming NFM
 - Round table discussion with Minister Hardy on NFM 20/01/25
- [iCASP Nature Based Solutions Policy Challenges Survey](#), University of Leeds, open until 10/02/25

Agenda Item 7

Any Other Business