

# NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

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

Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

## AGENDA

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	
10:00	1.	<b>Welcome</b> Welcome, Chairman's Introduction, and Apologies for Absence	<b>For information</b>
10:05	2.	<b>Minutes of RFCC meeting on 14 February 2025 and matters arising (Paper)</b> To approve the minutes of the last RFCC meeting and to receive an update on any actions and matters arising	<b>For approval</b>
10:10	3.	<b>2025/26 Indicative Allocation and Local Choices (Papers)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update</li><li>• Outcome of Local Choices<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ FCERM GiA</li><li>○ Local Levy</li></ul></li><li>• RFCC consent of programme</li></ul> Supporting papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Draft minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 RFCC F&amp;BASG Meeting</li><li>- National Allocations Paper</li><li>- North West Investment Programme Paper</li></ul>	<b>For information and discussion and approval</b>
11:25	4.	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
11:30		<b>CLOSE</b>	

### Future RFCC meetings

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)

## **North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee**

### **Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 14 February 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 Alan Quinn, Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership  
Councillor Phillip Cusack, Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership  
Councillor Laura Boyle, Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership  
Councillor Mhairi Doyle, Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership  
Councillor Daniel Barrington, Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership  
Councillor Laura Crane, Cheshire Mid Mersey Strategic Flood Risk Partnership  
Kate Morley, EA Appointed Member – Conservation (part attendance)  
Chris Findley, EA Appointed Member – Development and Sustainable Investment  
Carolyn Otley, EA Appointed Member – Communities  
Neville Elstone, EA Appointed Member – General Business and Assurance  
Paul Barnes, EA Appointed Member – Agriculture and Land Management  
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) (part attendance)  
Carol Holt, EA Area Director, Cumbria and Lancashire Area (C&L)  
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)  
Marina Powell-Currie, FCRM PSO Team Leader (C&L)  
Anthony Swarbrick, Area Operations Manager (C&L)  
Omoniyi Green, Area Operations Manager (GMMC)  
Sally Whiting, Senior FCRM Advisor  
Adam Walsh, FCRM Programming Manager (C&L)  
Andy Tester, FCRM Programming Manager (GMMC)  
Rachel Harmer, RFCC Secretariat  
Nikki Beale, FCRM Operations Local Delivery Lead (C&L)  
Paul Bowden, FCRM Operations Local Delivery Lead (GMMC)  
Ayush Sheth, FCRM Programming Advisor (GMMC)  
Sarah Fontana, Local Authority Capital Projects Co-ordinator (GMMC)  
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)  
Shannon Gunning, FCRM PSO Advisor (GMMC)  
Elizabeth Griffin-Bennett, National FCRM Advisor

Geraint Laidlaw-Wilson, Programme and Contract Management  
Crystal Orton, Unpave the Way Project Manager, FCRM (GMMC)  
Fran Clarkson, FCRM Team Leader (GMMC)  
Andy Collier, FCRM PSO Team Leader (C&L)  
Stuart Mault, FCRM Programming Advisor (C&L)

**Local Authority Observers (Councillors and Officers):**

Councillor Giles Archibald, Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership  
Councillor Mandie Shilton-Godwin, Manchest  
Ali Harker, Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership  
Andrew Harrison, Cumberland Council  
Graeme Innes, Cumberland Council  
Karl Melville, Cumberland Council  
Nick Rae, Westmoreland and Furness Council  
Rachel Crompton, Lancashire County Council  
Clare Nolan-Barnes, Blackpool Council  
Lorah Cheyne, Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership  
Paul Wisse, Sefton Council  
Sarah Wardle, Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership (Part attendance)  
Laura Gilmore, Liverpool City Council  
Louise Fortune, Knowsley Council  
Francis Comyn, Rochdale Borough Council (Part attendance)  
David Boyer, Warrington Borough Council  
Jim Turton, Warrington Borough Council  
Matt Winnard, Cheshire Mid Mersey Strategic Flood Risk Partnership  
Jonathan Parry, Warrington Borough Council  
Guy Metcalfe, Cheshire East Council  
Katie Eckford, NW Shoreline Management Plan Co-ordinator / Coastal Group Secretariat

**Other observers:**

Ian Kell, Benson and Sanders Flood Action Group

**25 (08) 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 Jane Hugo (Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership); Amy Cooper (RFCC EA Appointed Member – Water and Sewerage Industry), Susannah Bleakley (RFCC EA Appointed Member – Coastal) and Jill Holden (Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership).

Representing the Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership, Members noted Clare Nolan-Barnes is in attendance as the correctly nominated substitute for Councillor Jane Hugo.

Adrian welcomed the new Greater Manchester RFCC Member Councillor Laura Boyle from Tameside, as well as Councillor Mandie Shilton-Godwin from Manchester, here to observe the meeting, along with Ian Kell from the Benson and Sanders Flood Action Group.

Adrian provided Members with an overview of the major flood investment announced by the Secretary of State recently, noting the significant £2.63 billion investment which covers two years – the year that we are currently in (2024/25) and next year (2025/26), covering both capital and revenue funding.

Members heard that this includes £1.1 billion of capital funding for 2025/26 provided to the EA of which £657 million is available to RFCCs across the country. The North West RFCC's capital allocation is £93.8 million, which is the second largest of all the RFCCs nationally.

Adrian reminded Members that within the £93.8 million available to the NW RFCC, there are two EA areas (Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire, and Cumbria and Lancashire) with distinct allocations and so in substance today we are making two decisions. Members noted that C&L Area has the largest capital programme for next year that they have ever had, but this is not the case for GMMC Area. Adding to this complex picture is the EA resource maintenance allocation, where the C&L allocation is still less than they are currently forecasting to spend.

Adrian explained that the North West RFCC is still in the position where there is not enough funding to cover all of the schemes it would like to see funded next year. Adrian advised that Members need to discuss and find the best way through the next twelve months.

Adrian went on to provide an overview of how we have found ourselves in this position and advised:

- The new Government needed to carry out a Comprehensive Spending Review and as a result the capital programme is finishing a year earlier than planned, so 2025/26 is the last year of the current investment programme.
- There have been severe adverse weather conditions with damage to existing assets, so the Government has transferred money set aside for new schemes to repairing existing schemes and assets. This has been done following recommendation from the National Audit Office (NAO) and others.
- We have always carried an amount of overprogramming to make sure that we don't underspend, but moving into the final year of the programme, we need to more closely manage to budget.
- Due to high inflation in construction costs, additional funding is being required for schemes that are already in the programme which need to continue.
- Due to the COVID pandemic and other factors, the programme has become very back-end loaded with major schemes currently in delivery so the demand for funding significantly exceeds the funding available.

Members also noted the level of uncertainty associated with work beyond 2026/27 due to the Government announcing a consultation on the way that funding rules should apply for flood schemes going forwards. The publication of NAFRA2 provided updated flood risk data will be used more strongly to connect future investment with flood risk.

Adrian remarked that the need for the Committee to make decisions around Local Choices, has never been as high profile or important. He thanked Members in advance for their engagement in this process and noted there is also a discussion today regarding possible Local Levy investment to keep the programme of work going. He reinforced that the RFCC are only in this position due to the foresight of the constituent councils in the North West and their RFCC representatives who have continued to raise the Local Levy over a number of years when local government has been facing very tough financial circumstances.

Adrian advised the papers for today present the information in much more detail. He highlighted three things that he would like to achieve:

- To provide clarity and transparency on how the allocation principles discussed at the last meeting have been applied and trying to optimise the schemes we can 'buy' with the funding we have available.
- To seek Members' comments on and potential endorsement of a North West Local Choices position that can go forward to the EA Board for both capital and revenue funding.
- To seek in-principle agreement to the deployment of Local Levy to keep delivery moving forwards across a larger number of schemes than would otherwise be affordable, which will put the North West in the best possible position for the first year of a new programme under the Comprehensive Spending Review. Adrian advised that we are looking to get agreement to one of two Local Levy funding scenarios, but with the detailed list of projects subject to more detailed consideration, which currently has not been possible in the time available.

Councillor Alan Quinn echoed Adrian's comments on how valuable Local Levy funding is and the importance of keeping the Local Levy fund topped up, which can enable funding of schemes to deliver millions of pounds of benefits to communities.

There were no further comments or questions.

#### **25 (09) Minutes of the RFCC Meeting held on 24 January and actions and matters arising**

Members noted there were two matters arising from the meeting on 24 January, both of which are in progress.

Councillor Mhairi Doyle proposed and Neville Elstone seconded the minutes of the 24 January meeting. The minutes of 24 January 2025 RFCC meeting were approved by the Committee.

There were no further matters arising, comments or questions.

#### **25 (10) Indicative GiA funding for 2025/26 and Local Choices**

Adam Walsh introduced himself to Members and provided a recap of the national funding allocation prioritisation approach for 2025/26, previously discussed at the January meeting and contained within today's meeting papers.

He advised of the significance of Point 2 (In construction by 1 April 2025 and delivering properties better protected by 31 March 2026), which has been fundamental to some of the changes seen between September 2024 and the current indicative allocations. This reflects the change from a 6- to a 5-year programme now ending in March 2026.

There have been a number of changes to funding in recent months, including £72 million which, with Ministerial direction, has been diverted from the capital investment programme to support the maintenance of existing EA assets. Nationally, the 2025/26 programme was over-subscribed by around £45 million. A further £36 million has been prioritised for recovery works following the floods over winter 2024/25. Overall, there is around £150 million less funding than planned to allocate to the capital investment programme in 2025/26.

In terms of Local Choices, Members were reminded of the principles to be followed – that this relates to core FCRMGiA only, that any funding re-allocation changes must be within the programme level budget allocation for each EA Area, and must deliver the same or more properties better protected by March 2026 when compared to the indicative allocations.

Adam highlighted the North West RFCC has received the second highest GiA settlement across all the 12 RFCCs. The North West total project expenditure (TPE) bid in July 2024 was £182.4 million, for both EA and other RMA (Risk Management Authority) projects, which was based on investment need forecasts at that time.

The February indicative allocation Total Project Expenditure (TPE) is £110.6 million, so a significant shortfall of £71.8 million in identified need versus allocation, but this is still significant investment in the North West. Of the £110.6 million indicative allocation, £103.3 million is GiA for capital maintenance of assets, new schemes, and property level resilience measures. The difference is the element of funding provided for asset reconditioning, for which we have been provided additional funding, and other support programmes.

The £103.3 million is split into £57.9 million of Core GiA and £45.4 million in additional GiA – including Other Government Department (OGD) funding, Asset Replacement Allowance (ARR) and Frequently Flooded Allowance (FFA). This funding acts as partnership funding to support the viability of projects. Members noted there are seven North West projects that have received this additional GiA funding and the detail of this is provided in Appendix A of the paper. Adam reiterated that in terms of Local Choices available to the RFCC, this relates only to the £57.9 million core GiA element. The additional GiA of £45.4 Million is attached to seven projects and this funding is protected.

Adam provided an overview of how the Cumbria and Lancashire and Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire Areas have each addressed their Local Choices, reiterating that each EA Area gets its own GiA allocation and funding cannot be moved from one Area programme to another. Therefore Local Choices decisions are confined within each Area programme and need to address the challenges each Area faces.

### **Cumbria and Lancashire (C&L) Area**

C&L Area have a large programme that is predominantly in contract and in construction. £113 million GiA was bid for and £72 million has been allocated. This is the largest ever single year total GiA allocation, however there is still a £42 million shortfall against the July 2024 bid. At

the start of the Local Choices consideration process an £18 million deficit was identified against just the in-contract commitments so difficult decisions have had to be made.

Following the Local Choices guidelines, of the £72 Million GiA allocated, only the Core GiA at £42 Million can be considered for Local Choices. The remaining £30 Million is additional GiA and is allocated to specific projects and cannot form part of the Local Choices.

Adam advised there are funding commitments to 61 projects in C&L (some of these projects receiving part funding), with 28 of these projects not receiving any GiA allocation initially. and To develop a proposal for Local Choices, the prioritisation criteria have been applied to inform the decisions, and consequently these 28 projects could each receive an allocation ranging in value from £20,000 up to £2.49 million.

In order to do this, the latest January 2025 forecasts have been considered and where the forecasts are below the indicative allocations, showing a reduced need in 2025/26, the allocations for 2025/26 have been reduced and funding redistributed across other projects in the programme.

We have also been able to re-profile GiA funding on some of the higher spending projects from 2025/26 into future years. This includes Preston (£4 million reprofiled out of 2025/26), Kendal (£1 million re-profiled) and the Lower Screens Programme (£1 million re-profiled). This funding has been redistributed to other projects, the majority of which received no allocation in the indicative allocation from National.

Adam reported that a decision has been made to stop the EA-led Hambleton and Billington schemes at the next key project milestone date and neither of these will move into construction in 2025/26 as previously forecast. Adam advised that ideally we would have continued with these two projects but as they were unsuccessful in securing additional funding from the Affordability Allowance or Frequently Flooded Allowance, both schemes now have significant funding gaps and are currently not viable at this stage. However, through Local Choices we have ensured funding is in place to complete the current phase and get them ready for 2026/27 without the need to break any contractual commitments.

Adam reported that the Core GiA funding for C&L is fairly evenly distributed between EA (£24 Million – 57%) and other Risk Management Authorities (oRMAs) (£18 Million – 42%). Redistribution of funding between RMAs has been required to ensure the delivery of properties better protected in 2025/26.

He confirmed that all the support programme funding is protected (M&F, H&T & REC). Through this £210K has been allocated to environmental projects but this was unevenly distributed across Cumbria and Lancashire so it is proposed to allocate this slightly more evenly across Cumbria and Lancashire.

Adam reported that initially £89 million in contractual commitments were identified, so there was an £18 million deficit, but this included the next phases of some projects such as Hambleton moving into construction. The contractual commitment is now less than initially identified but is still significant and has been managed by a significant re-profiling of spend.

Adam advised this report is a summary of many meetings and conversations between EA and Local Authority colleagues and with the choices that have been made there has been no need to end any contracts before completion, which in itself can be more costly.

Adam advised that normally we would build in some over-programming but the national guidance around over-programming is that we need to be able to manage back to budget in 2025/26, so at this stage an over-programme has not been applied. If in-year, the opportunity for an over-programme presents itself, Adam advised that projects will be prioritised to those that have re-profiled their spend into future years to support our Local Choices.

### **Greater Manchester Merseyside and Cheshire (GMMC) Area**

Adam reported that the GMMC GiA bid was for £53 million with a February indicative allocation of £36 million. The core GiA available for Local Choices is only £8.3 million with £6.5 million of that attributed to the Lower Risk Debris Screens Project. Therefore the scope for Local Choices is very limited and challenging decisions are needed to enable delivery of key schemes.

In July 2024, GMMC bid for 43 projects and have been able to allocate GiA funding to 21 projects based on the Local Choices prioritisation methodology. The latest January forecast has been reviewed and as far as possible has been matched or reduced in line with the forecast to enable redistribution of funding. For the Lower Risk Debris Screens Project, a reduced 2025/26 forecast enabled £2 Million to be re-profiled and re-distributed to other projects. Similarly £700k is to be re-profiled on the Salford Flood Alleviation Improvements projects and £250K re-profiled on the Shaw Cringle Lane Willow Brook Scheme. Adam advised by taking this action we have been able to mitigate the risks of getting out of construction contracts and keep projects progressing, albeit at a slower pace.

Adrian Lythgo summarised that both Areas have had to slow down some schemes in order to distribute money to a wider list of schemes, so we have more projects going forwards, but some projects are having to slow down in order to do that.

Adam confirmed that this is correct and that a real focus has been to try to not break any contractual commitments, which can be more costly than continuing to deliver a project.

Adam provided an overview of the top 10 projects with the largest indicative core GiA allocations, reinforcing the limited opportunity for Local Choices but again reporting that the opportunity for re-profiling has been identified where possible to enable re-distribution to other projects. He specifically highlighted the Capital Reconditioning Programmes and reported that the GMMC programme had been provided with an increased indication allocation compared with the July 2024 bid.

He then provided an overview of the top 10 projects in terms of properties better protected of those projects which were given an indicative allocation in 2025/26. Members noted the significant number of properties attached to projects that we continue to deliver, but also properties that were due to be better protected from projects where delivery timescales are more uncertain at this stage, such as Hambleton – now moved out of the programme.



There is significant uncertainty applying to main aspects of the programme currently including not having any investment settlement beyond 2025/26, and new partnership funding arrangements being developed in advance of the next programme. A lot needs to become clearer before some of that uncertainty can be removed. The Committee recognised the detail provided is just a snapshot of properties based on the indicative GiA allocation. It is just a reflection of the large numbers of properties at risk in the North West with a lot more work to do in managing flood and coastal erosion risk.

Councillor Giles Archibald asked if the information provided on the number of properties is based on the new projections or the old projections. Adam confirmed this is based on the latest forecast.

Members were presented with a slide showing properties which could be better protected for 2025/26, taken from the July 2024 bid, the indicative allocation, and the proposed Local Choices programme, for each of the five sub regional partnerships. Adam reported that the increase in properties to be better protected in Greater Manchester between the indicative allocation and the Local Choices programme relates to the Radcliffe and Redvales Scheme, which is now due to finish next year and will claim its better protected properties in 2025/26.

Adam then provided an overview of the key proposed Local Choices on project GiA allocations contained in section 4 of the paper, factoring in the prioritization criteria and contractual commitments. This captures where allocations can be re-profiled and the priority projects to which the freed up allocation can be re-allocated.

Following significant work to develop the Local Choices proposal, the total number of projects proposed for allocation of GiA funding in 2025/26 is 82. 35 of these projects received no indicative GiA allocation initially but can now be allocated some GiA funding through the proposed Local Choices changes.

It is recognised that there are projects being delivered by the EA and other RMAs that bid for and did not receive any GiA allocation, or did not receive all of the allocation bid for. This includes Millom in Cumbria, Hambleton and Blackpool schemes in Lancashire and in GMMC Sankey Brook, The Pool, Sefton and others. Members were advised work is ongoing with colleagues to see how we can support these schemes moving forward.

Adam concluded by relaying, on behalf of the EA leadership teams locally and nationally, a massive thank you to LA colleagues, EA teams and delivery partners involved in this Local Choices process for their support, understanding and professionalism. He reported there have been hundreds of hours of meetings, phone calls, e-mail communications etc, to get to this stage of the process, all in the last five weeks. There have been some difficult decisions to be considered and he thanked everyone for their support.

Adrian asked Members if there are any comments or points of clarification from Members, reflecting the amount of detail just presented to them. As a headline he summarised that the Committee is being asked to support stretching schemes into future years to allow more schemes to progress in the short term. He noted there are some related Local Levy decisions which will also allow that to happen on a broader basis. These are difficult decisions but will be used to try and get the optimum of balance of investment.

Councillor Alan Quinn commented that he had understood that the Radcliffe and Redvales Scheme had been completed, with the exception of the floodgates on Hardy's Gate Bridge and he queried the outstanding cost of £2.6 Million. Nick Pearson advised that Hardy's Gate Bridge is the outstanding element that will be completed in 2025/26 and the bulk of the cost is the cost of the gates, which are more expensive than originally thought. Paul Bowden added that the gates are both large and complex, but the cost is broadly in line with expectations.

There were no further questions or comments.

Adrian Lythgo then moved the meeting on to focus on the (EA) asset maintenance allocation for 2025/26.

Paul Bowden presented on the GMMC allocation with an indicative allocation of £6.3 million, made up of three components: scheduled maintenance; asset management, and asset decommissioning. He advised in total the 2025/26 allocation is approximately £600K higher than the 2024/25 allocation, but there will still be a need to cut back on delivery during 2025/26 to keep within budget. There has been an allocation of additional funding for GMMC which puts us in a much better position, however they are still unable to deliver everything they had intended to and some Local Choices will still need to be made.

Members noted within the allocation, there are a number of unavoidable commitments including legal obligations, such as contractual payments to Natural Resources Wales, and energy payments which are all outside of the scope of any Local Choices changes that can actually be made.

For Cumbria and Lancashire Area, Nikki Beale advised that the Area has an indicative allocation of £7.95 Million, which is more than was allocated for 2024/25, but still £300K less than the current forecast spend for 2025/26. Nikki reported that the Area have particular challenges around flood basin compensation payments and electricity costs, which although they have been funded this financial year, it does mean the level of maintenance C&L can deliver in future is reduced.

Members were provided with an overview of the spread of the funding allocation across maintenance activities, showing the extent to which the indicated need had been funded. The increase in energy costs from £400K five years ago to almost £2 Million now was highlighted with Nikki reporting that C&L have two of the biggest pumping stations in the country - Altmouth and Crossens. In GMMC Area, she also recognised Bedford Pumping Station. Members notes these pumping stations are second in energy use to the Thames Tidal Barrage.

The costs for operational and incident response activities have also increased due to needing to ensure assets can operate when they are required to do so and to sufficiently fund EA Operational Teams on incident response capabilities.

Members received an overview of the high, medium and low consequence asset systems and noted only 25% of the total allocation has been directed to the low and medium consequence systems. Nikki highlighted 75% of time and funding is spent on the higher priority risks and advised even though framework and internal costs are increasing, officers are continuing to deliver the best value for money and trying to stretch the budget as far as it will go.

Nikki highlighted conveyance work, which consists of walk-throughs to clear river blockages in channels in order for water to flow freely. Members heard only £1 million of funding has been provided for C&L conveyance work in 2025/26. In 2024/25, £1.7 Million was allocated for this work. There is £2 million of unfunded conveyance work in Cumbria and Lancashire in 2025/26. Nikki advised that ultimately land owners this year are going to find themselves in a position where they need to do more of their own channel maintenance.

GMMC Area are also in a similar position with only 20% of funded work in lower and medium risk systems and 80% in high risk systems. The new framework which came on line in March 2024 is now up and running and is actually more efficient and cheaper than the previous framework.

Paul Bowden reported that GMMC Area organise their maintenance programme slightly different to C&L and Members were provided with a slide to indicate the geographical spread of allocation across GMMC area. Members were advised that compared to 2024/25 the largest increases in allocation are in the operation of assets, public safety and conveyance work. Unlike C&L Area, GMMC Area has had an increase in conveyance allocation, but within these allocations GMMC will still need to make Local Choices as the mechanical and electrical allocation is lower than 2024/25 and there has also been a reduction in the maintaining defences budget.

The Local Choices process for operational budgets is due next week and the Local Choices process will be completed close to the end of March and when finalised the programme of works will be published on the gov.uk website, following RFCC consent.

Paul Barnes enquired about the increase in energy costs for the Alt Crossens Pumping Station and asked what time period the reported increase covered. Nikki clarified that the £400K and £2 million cost figures quoted were for the whole of C&L Area and not just Alt Crossens Pumping Station and that this increase had been over five years. She also reported that there is a national electricity contract that the EA are tied into. The increase in costs are partly due to the unit costs increasing but also because assets are being operated more regularly and therefore using more electricity.

Indicating that he would defer the vote on the proposed Local Choices on the capital GiA allocation until after Members had been presented with proposals for Local Levy support, Adrian asked Members to consider and approve the indicative asset maintenance allocation.

**Votes in favour:** Councillor Rollo, Councillor Doyle, Councillor Barrington, Councillor Clarke, Councillor Crane, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Boyle, Councillor Cusack, Neville Elstone, Carolyn Otley, Kate Morley and Chris Findley.

There were no votes made against this.

There were no further questions or comments.

### **Local Levy Programme**

Andy Tester presented on the Local Levy element of the Local Choices proposals. He began by remarking again that due to the funding challenges for the 2025/26 capital programme, Local Levy can play an even greater role in supporting schemes that received no or minimal FCRMGiA allocation.

Andy provided an overview of the Local Levy position, reflecting the tight five-week turnaround from receiving the indicative allocation to working through the details and presenting the information today.

Members noted the two Local Levy requests presented in January - Ryles Pool, Macclesfield and Liverpool Road, Warrington, which were deferred for decision today. Andy advised that there are a further four Local Levy asks, the details of which have been included in the papers for today's meeting, and an additional four Local Levy asks which are included in the scenario but for which there has not been time to provide written briefs for consideration today.

Andy reported that, since it was presented for Local Levy support in January, the Ryles Pool project (Cheshire East) has now been withdrawn as a Levy request, due to challenges encountered in the Phase 2 works which will make the project more costly and require a relook at the project. Andy passed on Cheshire East's thanks to Members for their consideration and initial support of this funding request.

Members recalled the Warrington Borough Council presentation on the Liverpool Road, Warrington Scheme, where a 100% Local Levy funding request of £499k was made. Andy provided a brief recap of the detail of the project advising the scheme is eligible for 100% FCRMGiA funding but due to the in-year funding pressures, the scheme has not received an allocation.

Andy provided a brief overview of the four schemes with Local Levy funding requests contained in the meeting papers: Hindley Group, Sankey Brook, Poise Brook, and Thurnham Property Flood Resilience. Members were advised that for the ten schemes requesting Local Levy, including the no longer required ask for Ryles Pool, the overall funding requirement is just over £3.5 million. He advised work has been done to analyse the overall Local Levy programme and it has been possible to re-profile Levy investment in schemes to make space for some additional support.

Members were referred to the prioritisation methodology discussed at the previous meeting. Andy then introduced Local Levy programme Scenario 1 for their consideration. Andy advised Scenario 1 captures ten priority schemes where Local Levy funding could allow the projects to continue, having received no or minimal FCRMGiA allocation. Andy explained that with this Local Levy support, the future Local Levy programme scenario sees a reduced balance in 2025/26 but still remains at a relatively healthy level, with a further slight impact in 2026/27, which then reduces the balance to circa £2 million.

Andy explained that Scenario 2 includes the same 10 schemes, but also includes a 1-year increase (for 2025/26) to the Partnership Quick Wins funding allocations from £100k to £250k per partnership, to acknowledge the exceptional circumstances we've all been presented with in terms of funding challenges for next year. This would give the partnerships more opportunities in terms of taking local decisions in progressing some Local Authority-led schemes and also to help support studies or investigations locally. Under this scenario, the

drop in Local Levy balance is still within a tolerable level, by 2026/27 dropping just below £2 million.

Andy summarised the proposal for the Committee to consider and approve the Local Levy funding requests that were presented previously in January, and to also consider and approve in-principle either Local Levy Scenario 1 or 2, subject to providing further details and consideration of the included schemes.

Clare Nolan-Barnes thanked Andy for his presentation and referred back to the Local Choices proposals indicating that she was unclear what the proposed Local Levy support in 2026/27 for the Blackpool schemes means in terms of the longer term future for the schemes. Blackpool has some huge, fully approved schemes. She was unsure what keeping the schemes going with Local Levy for the next year means, whether the schemes are being paused or stopped. She asked for clarity and whether there could be any reassurances given for the ongoing provision of funding for these in 2026/27 and beyond.

Adam Walsh advised support will be needed from National EA colleagues in order to answer Clare's question and a call to talk around the specific details of this will be required in order to get some clarity.

Adrian supported this discussion to be taken forward outside of the meeting and understood the need for Clare to raise her concerns. He also referred Members back to first principles reminding them that while approval for (multi- year) projects is given, the formal allocation of GiA funding has always been given on an annual basis and this is likely to be the same going forward.

Councillor Doyle commented that given the reduction in FCRMGiA and the proposed increase to the RFCC's Quick Wins funding to £250K for 2025/26, the Merseyside Partnership has been reviewing the guidance for Local Levy Quick Wins funding. Adrian advised a review of the guidance for Quick Wins funding is due and the proposed increase to £250K is only for this one year, which recognises the pressure on Local Authority teams.

Sally Whiting was invited to comment and advised that following feedback from the Strategic Partnerships on the amount of Quick Win funding available, she is working with Sarah Fontana to initiate a review of the Quick Wins funding. After the financial year end, this will look at how the fund has been used over the last several years, what benefits it has delivered, what the right amount of funding is, and whether the guidance remains fit for purpose. It is envisaged that there will be more flexible guidelines provided for the use of this funding in 2025/26 given the exceptional circumstances.

Adrian Lythgo summarised that with some re-profiling of the allocated FCRMGiA on projects and similarly on Local Levy funding, as part of Local Choices we are looking at the extent to which it is possible to further support projects to keep them going over this challenging period. Within that, there is the further choice as to whether, in principle, Members would like to approve either of the scenarios; scenario 1 or scenario 2.

Adrian asked Members to indicate if they wished to 'endorse' the Local Choices allocation, noting the change in language, as the Committee would normally be asked to 'agree' and recognising that probably none of the Committee would wish to be in this position. But he

expressed his hope that the proposed approach gives a way forward to provide clarity and to keep as many schemes running as possible within the constraints that we have.

**Votes in favour:** Councillor Rollo, Councillor Doyle, Councillor Barrington, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Cusack, Councillor Crane, Neville Elstone, Carolyn Otley, Kate Morley, Clare Nolan-Barnes and Chris Findley.

Adrian asked anyone who does not wish to endorse the allocation to indicate this. Councillor Clarke indicated that he does not endorse the allocation.

In the meeting chat function Clare Nolan-Barnes on behalf of Blackpool Council and the Lancashire Strategic Partnership clarified that while they would endorse the Local Choices allocations that they did not agree with it.

Adrian Lythgo moved the Committee to vote on the two proposed Local Levy Scenarios and advised an additional RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub Group Meeting will be arranged to allow Members to go through the individual proposals in turn, with the exception of the Liverpool Road, Warrington Scheme. This has already been presented and considered previously and although there was not a formal recommendation for the scheme, there was broad support.

Members were asked to raise their hands to confirm they approved £499k of Local Levy funding for the Liverpool Road, Warrington Scheme.

**Votes in favour:** Councillor Rollo, Councillor Doyle, Councillor Barrington, Councillor Clarke, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Boyle, Councillor Cusack, Councillor Crane, Neville Elstone, Carolyn Otley, Kate Morley and Chris Findley.

Members were then asked to vote on the two Local Levy Scenarios. Adrian asked if there is anyone who does not support Local Levy Scenario 2 and there were none. Members were then asked to raise their hands to confirm they supported Local Levy Scenario 2.

**Votes in favour:** Councillor Rollo, Councillor Doyle, Councillor Barrington, Councillor Clarke, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Boyle, Councillor Cusack, Councillor Crane, Neville Elstone, Carolyn Otley, Kate Morley and Chris Findley.

Local Levy Scenario 2 was supported.

Adrian thanked Members for their support, advising that by supporting Scenario 2 the Committee are deploying as much Local Levy as we can. To deploy more would be difficult given all the difficulties rehearsed earlier in the meeting.

He then suggested an additional RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub Group meeting takes place on 7<sup>th</sup> March so that Members can consider the eight additional Local Levy funding requests, which can then be brought back to the additional RFCC meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

The eight Local Levy funding requests that will be considered are: Hindley Group; Sankey Brook; Poise Brook; Thurnham Property Flood Resilience; River Roch, Phase 2 Rochdale; Blackpool Beach Nourishment; Bispham, and Millom

There were no further questions or comments.

## **25 (11) Any Other Business**

Paul Barnes raised a comment regarding the opportunity to input into meeting agenda items and Adrian advised that every Member of the Committee can suggest an item for an agenda as long as it is received far enough in advance of the meeting.

Paul advised of a series of upcoming meetings involving farmers in the North West about flooding in Cumbria which present a real opportunity to influence things. This includes a visit from Tamara Finkelstein, Defra Permanent Secretary, next week and then two face-to-face meetings with Crown Estates. He advised if any RFCC Member has anything they wish to be put to them then to let Paul know. Adrian thanked Paul for this offer.

Adrian again reminded Members that there will hopefully be an extra RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub Group meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March in addition to the extra 14<sup>th</sup> March RFCC meeting to consent the programme. Adrian also indicated that he is aware there is the possibility there will be a small amount of additional funding, which might be released nationally, and when we know what this looks like the detail will be provided. If this money does become available it may not be much, but we can look at this in due course at our routine meeting in April 2025.

Richard Knight acknowledged the comment raised by Carol Holt in the meeting chat, which asked if Members can note her thanks for the team who have done an exceptional job in difficult circumstances in bringing together the information for this meeting. Adrian added his own thanks to all involved, recognising that Adam Walsh and Andy Tester have been at the forefront of this, working with EA and Local Authority teams who have worked tirelessly in the background to get us to this position.

Adrian thanked Members and support officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

The next RFCC meeting will be held via MS Teams on Friday 14 March 2025.

## NW REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2025 – AGENDA ITEM 3

### NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

#### Finance and Business Assurance Sub Group

#### Draft minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2025

Strategic Partnership Group Representation	
Cumbria	Y
Lancashire	Y
Merseyside	Y
Greater Manchester	Y
Cheshire Mid Mersey	Y

#### Attendees:

Neville Elstone	RFCC Member – General Business and Assurance, and Chair of the FBA Sub-group
Adrian Lythgo	RFCC Chair
Cllr Denise Rollo	Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Cllr Stephen Clarke	RFCC Member – Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Cllr Alan Quinn	RFCC Member – Gtr Manchester Strategic Flood Risk P’ship
Cllr Tony Davies	RFCC Member – Gtr Manchester Strategic Flood Risk P’ship
Cllr Tony Brennan	RFCC Member - Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Louise Fortune	Officer – Knowsley Council
Dave Boyer	Officer – Warrington Borough Council
Clare Nolan-Barnes	Officer – Blackpool Council
Gareth Owen	Officer – Cheshire West and Chester Council
Susannah Bleakley	RFCC Member – Coastal Issues
Amy Cooper	RFCC Member – Water and Sewerage Industry
Carl Green	Chair of the North West and North Wales Coastal Group
Stewart Davies	EA North West Board Member
Richard Knight	Officer – EA Area FR Manager, Cumbria & Lancashire Area (C&L)
Nick Pearson	Officer - EA Area FR Manager, Greater Manchester Merseyside and Cheshire Area (GMMC)
Mary-Rose Muncaster	Officer – EA Area FR Manager, Greater Manchester Merseyside and Cheshire Area (GMMC)
Omoniyi Green	Officer – EA FCRM Operations Manager, GMMC
Adam Walsh	Officer - EA FCRM Programming Manager, C&L
Andy Tester	Officer - EA FCRM Programming Manager, GMMC
Sally Whiting	Officer – EA Senior Advisor (RFCC), GMMC
Rachel Harmer	RFCC Secretariat

#### Support Officers/Observers:

Sarah Fontana	Officer, EA FCRM Senior Advisor, GMMC
Rachael Broadhurst	Officer, EA FCRM Advisor, GMMC
Debra Glover	Officer, EA FCRM Advisor, GMMC
Ayush Sheth	Officer, EA FCRM Advisor, GMMC
Gary Hilton	Officer, EA FCRM Advisor, GMMC
Robert Taylor	Officer, EA FCRM Advisor, C&L
Fran Clarkson	Officer, EA FCRM PSO Team Leader, GMMC
Elizabeth Griffin-Bennett	Officer, EA National FCRM Advisor
Graeme Innes	Officer – Cumberland Council
Nick Rae	Officer – Westmorland and Furness Council
Alison Harker	Officer - Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Cllr James Shorrocks	Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Sarah Wardle	Officer – Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Fran Comyn	Officer - Rochdale Borough Council
Jill Holden	Officer - Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership



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Imran Munshi	Officer – Blackburn with Darwen Council
Cllr Mandie Shilton-Godwin	Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Jim Turton	Officer – Warrington Borough Council
Matthew Winnard	Officer – Cheshire Mid Mersey Strategic Flood Risk Partnership
Jonathan Parry	Officer – Warrington Borough Council
Katie Eckford	Officer – North West SMP Co-ordinator
Steve Walsh	Officer – Bolton Council
Alison Chapman	Officer - Wirral Council
Dave Rimmer	Balfour Beatty

### Presenters:

Shannon Gunning	EA FCRM Advisor, GMMC
Iain Blakeley	EA FCRM Senior Advisor, GMMC
Zarina Martin	EA, Programme & Contract Management Senior Advisor
Dermot Smith	EA FCRM Senior Advisor, GMMC
Adam Costello	EA FCRM Advisor, C&L
Fern Pritchard	Project Manager, Cumberland Council
Brenda Fields	EA FCRM Senior Advisor, GMMC
Chris Stone	EA, Programme & Contract Management Senior Advisor

### 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Neville Elstone opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

We noted apologies had been received from Councillor Laura Crane and Councillor Karen Shore (Cheshire Mid Mersey Strategic Flood Risk Partnership); Councillor Jane Hugo (Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership); Councillor Mhairi Doyle, Councillor Elizabeth Grey and Councillor Daniel Barrington (Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership); Councillor Philip Cusack and Councillor Laura Boyle (Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Partnership); Kate Morley (RFCC Member – Conservation); Chris Findley (RFCC Member – Planning and Development); Carolyn Otley (RFCC Member – Communities); Ian Crewe (EA Area Director, GMMC); Carol Holt (EA Area Director, C&L); Marina Powell-Currie (EA FCRM PSO Team Leader C&L); Anthony Swarbrick (EA FCRM Ops Manager, C&L); Rachel Crompton (Officer – Lancashire County Council) and Lorah Cheyne (Officer – Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership).

We noted and accepted correctly nominated substitutes for the meeting:

Councillor Tony Davies on behalf of Councillor Philip Cusack  
Clare Nolan-Barnes on behalf of Councillor Jane Hugo  
Gareth Owen on behalf of Councillor Karen Shore  
Dave Boyer on behalf of Councillor Laura Crane  
Louise Fortune on behalf of Councillor Elizabeth Grey

There were no further comments or questions.

### 2. Feedback from the RFCC Meeting on 14 February 2025

Neville Elstone thanked Members and Officers for attending the meeting and for all the hard work it has taken to get to this point.

## NW REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2025 – AGENDA ITEM 3

We noted the four key decisions from the additional 14 February 2025 RFCC meeting – that the RFCC:

- Approved the indicative EA Asset Maintenance Allocation for 2025/26.
- Endorsed the Indicative GiA Local Choices Allocation for 2025/26.
- Approved the £499K Local Levy funding contribution for the Warrington Brough Council Liverpool Road Scheme for 2025/26 and noted the withdrawal of the Cheshire East Council Local Levy request for the Ryles Pool Scheme.
- Approved in principle the allocation of a further £2.94 Million of Local Levy funding to support 8 proposed schemes as part of the North West Local Choices, subject to each of the schemes being considered in more detail at today's meeting.

There were no questions or comments raised.

### **3. Local Choices updated context and risk to balances**

Adrian Lythgo thanked us for our patience and input into this year's Local Choices and consent process. He provided us with a brief summary of the reason for this further additional meeting. He reminded Members that the North West has been allocated significantly less capital GiA funding than was bid for to meet our planned delivery programme in the last two years of the current national investment programme. This has been exacerbated by the shortening of the programme from six to five years with only 2025/26 now remaining. This has meant some changes to allocation principles requiring capital funding to be focussed more on those schemes that deliver outcomes in the next twelve months. Through the Local Choices process, we have been able to stretch some schemes to allow us to progress a larger number than would otherwise have been possible. He advised that we are now looking at the significant deployment of Local Levy funding in support of priority schemes where there is insufficient GiA funding available.

He referred to the in principle agreement to £2.94 Million of Local Levy support given by the RFCC at the 7 March meeting and highlighted that four of the schemes to which this was allocated are now requesting increases in Local Levy funding. Adrian referred us to the Local Levy balance forecast in the upcoming years and advised that the impact on the balance of the increased Levy ask will take the balance under £1 Million in 2026/27. Adrian expressed his view that given the amount of risk we are carrying, it probably isn't affordable, going into next year and the year after with virtually no resource to react to storms that may hit us, addressing inevitable inflation on schemes already in the programme, and those that will come in. Our experience has shown the need to be flexible to be able to use Local Levy to respond to keep things going.

Adrian advised that there is a need for us to think about what the minimum level of carried forward Local Levy balance should be, given the extent of these sorts of risks. Adrian advised we will discuss this at the 14 March meeting and at the April meeting when we can give a lot more thought to what that minimum Local Levy balance should be. He noted that the current Local Levy Strategy did not anticipate the level of risk that the Committee will be covering in the next two years.

Adrian then went on to report that less than a week ago, nationally an additional sum of money has been released to support this year's Local Choices process. This has given the North West an additional £9.2 Million to allocate to schemes in 2025/26, which is split £6.8 Million on capital delivery (CDEL) and £2.4 Million on resource delivery (RDEL). EA teams are currently in

### NW REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2025 – AGENDA ITEM 3

conversations with Local Authorities to see what this might mean, but it is likely that the Local Levy Local Choices contributions that were approved in principle at the last meeting can be reduced. We are not in a position this morning to see exactly what might receive additional GiA support as those conversations are ongoing and are yet to be concluded. Adrian reported that this may take some pressure off the Local Levy balance and it will also give us the opportunity to move some other things forward that weren't funded previously under the previous allocation principles.

Adrian advised the additional £9.2 Million GiA funding has been provided with some allocation principles, so we are not entirely free to use the funding as we might wish to, but it's a lot freer than we had previously.

Adrian advised that for today's meeting we will go through each of the schemes as if they did need the full Local Levy ask, so that if at the end of this process the Local Levy is required we will have been in a position to agree it or not. The likelihood is that some of the schemes won't need the full amount of Local Levy being requested.

Councillor Alan Quinn commented that he has never seen as many requests for Local Levy funding and going forwards he feels there is definitely a need to look at retaining a minimum balance, which in his view should be £2 Million. He also expressed that for the October 2025 RFCC meeting there is a need for Members to look at approving a bigger Local Levy increase than has been agreed previously. He highlighted the flooding on New Years Eve 2024 and New Years Day 2025, where there was a huge amount of rainfall in an 18-hour period, which is unprecedented.

Adrian Lythgo advised that Councillor Quinn has made his point clearly and recognised the need for a conversation about the minimum Local Levy balance to be sequenced appropriately with the annual Local Levy vote. He advised that once the minimum balance has been addressed Members can then think about what that means for next year's Local Levy vote. He again highlighted the level of risk we would be carrying should we have very little or no balance when there may be something that we need to react to and not having the resource to respond to it.

Councillor Stephen Clarke agreed with Councillor Quinn's comment that the increase in the Local Levy does need to be seriously considered noting that flooding is becoming a major problem along with the increased risks due to climate change.

Councillor Tony Brennan advised that it would be useful to see what the Merseyside Strategic Flood Risk Partnership have not been allocated funding for and asked if this can be provided to complete the picture for their sub regional partnership.

Adrian Lythgo advised there is no reason why this information cannot be provided. He went on to explain that it has not been provided in the last set of meeting papers due to the national allocation principles that came with the original Local Choices allocation. Where schemes don't fit those allocation principles, we don't have a choice in whether they can be included or not. To provide the full list of all schemes without allocations would have meant providing a lot more data which didn't have any practical use in our decision making. To address Councillor Brennan's primary point, he confirmed that there is no reason why the RFCC cannot see that list.

There were no further questions or comments.

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### 4. Local Levy Requests

Neville Elstone confirmed the eight projects to be presented and clarified the voting procedure to take place. He explained that a vote will be held on each project after its presentation on whether Members support the scheme receiving Local Levy support in 2025/26 as part of the Local Choices, with the sums of Local Levy approved on 14 February as a minimum. For the four schemes requesting a higher amount of Local Levy funding now, there will be a second vote on whether Members support the allocation of additional Local Levy funding, up to the new amounts requested, should this be affordable as part of the consideration of the allocation of £6.8 Million of Capital GiA funding.

Scheme	Local Levy Ask 2025/26	Vote and Recommendation
<b>Poise Brook (EA)</b>	£210K – from the 14 February meeting	<b>Votes in favour: 9</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Amy Cooper, Gareth Owen, Louise Fortune, Dave Boyer and Susannah Bleakley.
	Increased ask £305K	<b>Votes in favour: 10</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Dave Boyer, Louise Fortune, Gareth Owen, Clare Nolan-Barnes and Susannah Bleakley.
<b>River Roch, Phase 2 Rochdale FRMS (EA)</b>	£380K – from the 14 February meeting	<b>Votes in favour: 10</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Gareth Owen, Dave Boyer, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Clare Nolan-Barnes, Louise Fortune and Susannah Bleakley.
<b>Hindley Group (EA)</b>	£275K – from the 14 February meeting	<b>Votes in favour: 11</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Gareth Owen, Dave Boyer, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Clare Nolan-Barnes, Louise Fortune, Amy Cooper and Susannah Bleakley.
<b>Thurnham PFR (EA)</b>	£225K – from the 14 February meeting.	<b>Votes in favour: 11</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Gareth Owen, Dave Boyer, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Clare Nolan-Barnes, Louise Fortune, Amy Cooper and Susannah Bleakley.
	Increased ask £255K	<b>Votes in favour: 11</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Gareth Owen, Dave Boyer, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Clare Nolan-Barnes,

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		Louise Fortune, Amy Cooper and Susannah Bleakley.
<b>Blackpool Beach Nourishment Scheme (Blackpool Council)</b>	£350K – from the 14 February meeting.	<b>Votes in favour: 11</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Gareth Owen, Dave Boyer, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Clare Nolan-Barnes, Louise Fortune, Amy Cooper and Susannah Bleakley.
	Increased ask £850K	<b>Votes in favour: 11</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Gareth Owen, Dave Boyer, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Clare Nolan-Barnes, Louise Fortune, Amy Cooper and Susannah Bleakley.
<b>Bispham (Blackpool Council)</b>	£350K – from the 14 February meeting.	<b>Votes in favour: 11</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Gareth Owen, Dave Boyer, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Clare Nolan-Barnes, Louise Fortune, Amy Cooper and Susannah Bleakley.
	Increased ask £1.3M	<b>Votes in favour: 11</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Gareth Owen, Dave Boyer, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Clare Nolan-Barnes, Louise Fortune, Amy Cooper and Susannah Bleakley.
<b>Millom (Cumberland Council)</b>	£500K – from the 14 February meeting.	<b>Votes in favour: 11</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Gareth Owen, Dave Boyer, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Clare Nolan-Barnes, Louise Fortune, Amy Cooper and Susannah Bleakley.
<b>Sankey Brook FRMS (EA)</b>	£650K – from the 14 February Meeting.	<b>Votes in favour: 11</b> Councillor Rollo, Councillor Brennan, Councillor Clarke, Gareth Owen, Dave Boyer, Councillor Quinn, Councillor Davies, Clare Nolan-Barnes, Louise Fortune, Amy Cooper and Susannah Bleakley.

**Recommendation:**

We recommend the RFCC supports the allocation of additional funding in 2025/26 to the projects below, either from Local Levy or from the additional GiA now made available, as will be proposed to

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the RFCC at the next meeting on 14 March:

- Poise Brook £305K
- River Roch, Phase 2 Rochdale FRMS £380K
- Hindley Group £275K
- Thurnham PFR £255K
- Blackpool Beach Nourishment Scheme £850K
- Bispham £1.3 Million
- Millom £500K
- Sankey Brook FRMS £650K

Adrian Lythgo summed up this item by taking us back to the earlier discussion about Local Choices and what was in view. He reiterated that all the Local Levy asks that we had just voted on are eligible for GiA funding were it available and could still be considered now. He highlighted again that the national allocation and the direction around Local Choices has followed the primary principle for GiA in the final year of the programme to be applied to projects which deliver outcomes in terms of property better protected in 2025/26. The projects we've heard about today don't deliver outcomes in 2025/26, hence why they have no or insufficient GiA funding in 2025/26, which has led us to the Local Levy requests to keep the schemes in progress so that we can keep them hopefully in view for any new programme announced by the new government as part of its Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). How this will turn out for now is uncertain until the CSR announcements are made through the summer. Adrian reiterated that if we did not have the Local Levy funding available we would not have just been able to consider this.

Adrian advised that on the allocation of the additional £9.8 Million GiA, conversations are ongoing between the EA and Local Authorities in order for the papers for the 14 March meeting to include a renewed set of proposals which will make some new suggestions for the use of GiA, where the RFCC will then be in a position to exercise its discretion under Local Choices to agree those, and what this means in terms of Local Levy support.

Neville Elstone concluded by expressing the importance of supporting projects which will deliver outcomes in the longer term and to continue to develop the future pipeline.

There were no further comments or questions.

### **5. Minimum Local Levy Balance**

Adrian advised that the additional GiA will mean that we won't now require all of the Local Levy that has been requested and supported today. The detail of this will be clearer at the meeting on 14 March. In the short term therefore, the additional GiA is likely to take the pressure off the Local Levy funding in terms of preserving a minimum balance. However it does not change the fact that the Local Levy balance is falling significantly.

Adrian reflected that we have no certainty yet on the CSR position and therefore we may need to deploy more Local Levy in the way that we have discussed for the schemes today during 2026/27, factoring in the level of risk of new storms and new need coming through. He advised that this means that the RFCC should consider and determine a higher minimum balance than the current Local Levy Strategy dictates. With the provision of the additional GiA, there is a little more time to talk this through in a more considered way, which he hoped could be done at the meeting on 14

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March, or at the next RFCC Finance & Business Assurance Sub Group meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April, or at the planned full RFCC meeting in April.

There were no further comments or questions.

### **6. Minutes from the 10 January 2025 RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub Group Meeting for approval**

We were asked to consider the draft minutes of the RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub-group meeting held on 10 January 2025.

Councillor Alan Quinn proposed and Councillor Denise Rollo seconded the minutes, which were approved and taken as a true record of the meeting.

There were no further comments or matters arising.

### **7. Any Other Business**

Adrian Lythgo provided some closing comments to today's meeting, highlighting the positive news of the additional allocation of £9.2 Million GiA allocated to the North West. He noted this still doesn't close the gap over what we would have been looking at had the programme been continuing, but it is good news to put us in the better situation that we've been talking about in recent meetings.

He thanked Members again for bearing with this process and the three additional meetings that have taken place in quick succession, and he appreciated the time and commitment Members have given to this work. He expressed hope that the new CSR brings us the clarity where we can return to a normal meeting cycle and focus on the flood risk facing our communities.

Councillor Alan Quinn highlighted the recent news that the Government are allowing the re-introduction of beavers into the wild again.

Neville Elstone thanked us for our attendance and gave special thanks to all the teams who have been working to provide us with the information discussed today, in what is quite unprecedented times.

There were no further items of business.

### **8. Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Sub Group meeting is 11 April 2025.

## North West Investment Programme

### Report to the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

14 March 2025

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) provides information to consent the 2025/26 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Grant-in-Aid (GiA) capital allocations and the Environment Agency (EA) asset maintenance resource allocations.

The Committee are asked to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consent the FCERM Grant-in-Aid (GiA) capital allocations and the EA asset maintenance resource allocations for 2025-26.</li> <li>• To note the current position and latest spend forecast of the Local Levy Programme.</li> </ul>



#### 2. 2025-26 Capital and Asset Maintenance Resource Programmes

- 2.1. The delay in confirming the outcome of the Spending Review 2024 has impacted the usual allocation process for the FCERM GiA capital allocation. The timeline for endorsing and consenting the programme has been pushed back and condensed.
- 2.2. There have been three extraordinary RFCC meetings throughout February and March 2025. These meetings were to: endorse the FCERM Grant in Aid (FCERMGiA) Local Choices allocation (14 February); to scrutinise the projects where Local Levy funding was proposed as part of Local Choices (7 March); and to consent the FCERMGiA capital allocation (14 March).
- 2.3. The North West has now received its FCERM GiA final capital allocation for 2025/26, which is £113.1M (Core GiA - £67.7M, and Additional GiA - £45.3M). This figure is for capital maintenance, defence and property level resilience schemes; along with enabling and support programmes. A full breakdown of the North West 2025/26 allocation can be found in Appendix A.



- 2.4. The North West did not receive all the FCERM GiA that was bid for in July 2024. Therefore, the North West RFCC implemented a Local Choices allocation prioritisation (approved at the RFCC meeting held on 24 January 2025) that was used to allocate the funding available.
- 2.5. On the 28 February 2025, the National EA Portfolio Management Office informed EA Area Programme teams of some further GiA funding that is available. The North West RFCC has been allocated an additional £9.2 million FCERM GiA.
- 2.6. This additional funding needed to be prioritised using the following key principles:
  - Funding must only be allocated to viable projects without significant funding gaps.
  - Ideally there should be a focus on supporting capital maintenance projects.
  - Funding splits between Capital and Resource must be adhered to.
  - Funding (where possible) should benefit projects led by Risk Management Authorities other than the EA and adhere to Local Choices decisions already made to date.
- 2.7. Further to these National principles, the North West RFCC has provided a steer around the importance of supporting the Local Levy balance. This is to ensure there is a robust contingency going into 2025/26 and beyond.
- 2.8. The North West total FCERM GiA (including the additional £9.2 million) is £122.4 million.
- 2.9. The Local Choices submissions have largely been accommodated by the EA National Allocations team, and the North West allocation proposed for consent is in line with our Local Choices bids (as detailed on the 14 February 2025). The allocation of the additional £9.2 million is yet to be returned to the EA National Allocations team.
- 2.10. The table below summarises the breakdown of the final indicative capital allocation, into the various funding streams (core GiA, additional GiA, Local Levy, and Partnership Funding, and how this has been allocated to Environment Agency projects and those led by other Risk Management Authorities (i.e. Local Authorities).

<b>North West</b>		<b>BUDGET</b>
		<b>BUDGET (£k)</b>
<b>Core GIA</b>	<b>EA</b>	£53,234,489
	<b>RMA</b>	£23,647,199
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£76,881,688</b>
<b>Additional GIA</b>	<b>EA</b>	£45,387,500
	<b>RMA</b>	£0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£45,387,500</b>
<b>LOCAL LEVY</b>	<b>EA</b>	£7,029,500
	<b>RMA</b>	£2,628,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£9,657,500</b>
<b>PF</b>	<b>EA</b>	£2,663,000
	<b>RMA</b>	£244,500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,907,500</b>
<b>TPE</b>	<b>EA</b>	£108,314,489
	<b>RMA</b>	£26,519,699
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£134,834,188</b>

- 2.11. The North West has received its EA asset maintenance resource indicative allocation for 2025/26 which is £14.26 million. As noted at the 14 February RFCC meeting, we will not know the full resource allocation until the end of March 2025.
- 2.12. The request to the RFCC is to provide consent to the implementation of the regional programme of work. This is a requirement under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). This will ensure that consent is in place before the programme can be implemented at the start of the financial year in April 2025. Consenting the programme ensures there is no delay in delivering the capital programme to help protect communities from flooding.
- 2.13. The EA Resource Maintenance allocation has increased from previous years, however the activities the EA receive funding for have changed and the framework the programme operates within is complex. The programme is striving to achieve value for money by optimising delivery for asset management and flood risk management.
- 2.14. The breakdown of the EA resource maintenance allocation by EA Area and by category of work is set out below.

Cumbria and Lancashire

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

Greater Manchester, Merseyside, and Cheshire

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

**The North West RFCC are asked to:**

- Consent the FCERM Grant-in-Aid (GiA) Capital Allocations and the EA Asset Maintenance Resource Allocations for 2025-26

### 3. North West Properties Better Protected

- 3.1. The table below represents the properties better protected forecast for 2025/26. We are forecasting to better protect 5,678 properties from flooding. The main reason for an increase from the July 2024 bid is due to the following projects: Radcliffe and Redvales (Greater Manchester Partnership) pushed its delivery out to 2025/26, and the Wyre Beach Management scheme (Lancashire Partnership) is progressing well and now expected to better protect 3,000 properties in 2025/26.
- 3.2. The table below summarises how the properties better protected forecast has changed through the indicative allocation and Local Choices process, by partnership. Please refer to Appendix C which highlights Outcome Measure 2 (properties better protected from flooding) by project and partnership.

North West - Properties Better Protected	RO2		
	Bid	Local Choices	Variance
Greater Manchester	295	1519	1224
Cheshire	128	0	-128
Merseyside	102	11	-91
Cumbria	357	142	-215
Lancashire	1357	4006	2649
Cross Partnership - North West combined	6	0	-6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,245</b>	<b>5,678</b>	<b>3,433</b>

## 4. NW RFCC Local Levy programme

### Current position 2024-25:

- 4.1. The North West Local Levy balance at the start of 2024-25 was £15.75 million. This is broken down into: £4.544 million income plus £10.692 million carried forward from 2023-24, and £0.521million of interest earned on the balance. The latest spend forecast for 2024-25 is £6.960 million. This would leave an expected remaining balance of £8.79 million at the end of the financial year.

### Summary of Local Levy income and spend:

2024-25	
Local Levy income and allocation summary (£ million)	
Cash balance at start of year	10.692
Interest from 2023/24	0.521
Local Levy income	4.544
Total available balance	15.75
Latest forecast	6.960
<b>Expected remaining cash balance at year end</b>	<b>8.797</b>

### Expected Position by the end of 2025/26:

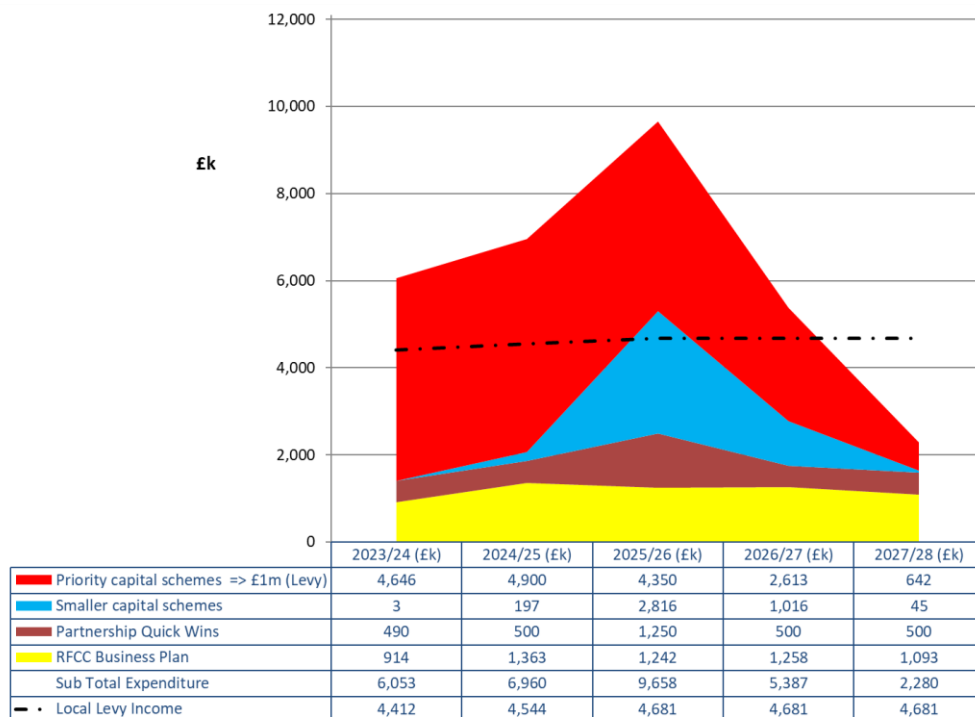
- 4.2. The expected North West Local Levy balance at the start of 2025-26 is £13.878 million (£4.681 million income plus £8.790 million carried forward from 2024-25, and £0.4 million of interest earned on the balance). The latest spend forecast for 2025-26 is £9.658 million. This would leave an expected remaining balance of £4.221 million at the end of the financial year.

4.3. On the 7 March, the Finance and Business Sub-Group were able to scrutinise eight projects requesting Local Levy support in 2025/26. The papers supporting these requests can be found on the NW RFCC SharePoint site ([Full Set of Meeting Papers 07032025 RFCC F&BASG.pdf](#)). The following table provides a summary of the Local Levy balance along with the re-profiling of funding as set out in Appendix E.

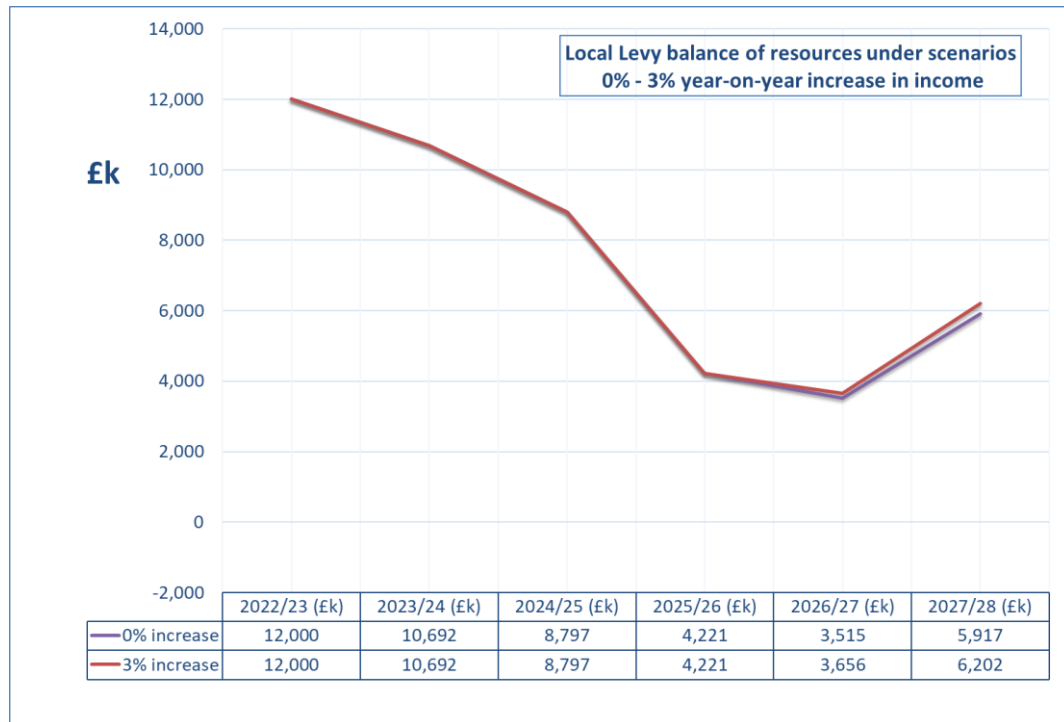
2025-26	
<b>Local Levy income and allocation summary (£ million)</b>	
Expected cash balance at start of year	8.797
Expected interest from 2024/25	0.400
Local Levy income	4.681
<b>Total available balance</b>	<b>13.878</b>
Latest forecast	9.658
<b>Expected cash balance at year end</b>	<b>4.221</b>

4.4. Due to the level of uncertainty and expected change a reduced capital programme brings, the Local Levy is playing a pivotal role in enabling and supporting projects to continue to mitigate risks associated with flooding. This level of support comes at a risk to the Local Levy balance, as it is likely more projects will draw on this resource. Therefore, it is proposed that a review of the minimum level balance is conducted to ensure strong governance of the Local Levy balances throughout 2025/26 and beyond.

4.5. The following graphs show the updated Income and Expenditure Scenario (including the changes listed in section 4.7).



4.6. The chart above shows the level of Local Levy forecasts by activity classification per year.



4.7. The graph above shows the expected Local Levy balance at the end of each year. This is based on the latest forecasts, including the changes listed below.

4.8. Between the in-principle approval of the Local Levy allocation to some projects (as part of Local Choices on 14 February), and the meeting to review these projects in detail on 7 March, there were some increases in the amount of Local Levy being requested on some of the projects. The Finance and Business Assurance Sub-Group recommended the allocation of additional Local Levy if required; as part of working through how the additional £9.2 million of FCERM GiA could best be allocated. The table below shows the amounts of Local Levy that were proposed or requested on the 7 March, and a new adjusted Local Levy allocation which is now proposed.

4.9. In order to protect the Local Levy balance, the proposed £2.4 million variance from the Local Levy bid on 7 March has been re-profiled to core FCERM GiA by utilising the additional £9.2m funding.

## Changes to the Local Levy Local Choices allocations

Scheme	RMA	RFCC Levy Bid (7 March)	RFCC Proposed (adjusted) Levy	Variance
River Roch, Phase 2 Rochdale FRMS	EA	£380,000	£380,000	£0
Hindley Group	EA	£275,000	£275,000	£0
Poise Brook - Offerton Green and Hazel Grove	EA	£305,000	£305,000	£0
Liverpool Road, Gt Sankey Surface Water Management Project	Warrington Borough Council	£499,999	£0	-£499,999
PFR Thurnham	EA	£255,000	£255,000	£0
Blackpool Beach Nourishment	Blackpool Council	£850,000	£350,000	-£500,000
Bispham	Blackpool Council	£1,300,000	£350,000	-£950,000
Millom	Cumberland Council	£500,000	£500,000	£0
Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme	EA	£659,000	£161,000	-£498,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£5,023,999</b>	<b>£2,576,000</b>	<b>-£2,447,999</b>

4.10. All the above changes are included in the latest Local Levy scenarios (graphs) and in Appendix D.

The North West RFCC are asked to:
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- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the updated Local Levy allocation for 2025/26.</li> </ul> |
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## APPENDICES

<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>North West Local Choices Full Programme</b>
<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>North West Additional Funding – Local Choices</b>
<b>Appendix C</b>	<b>North West Projects without Allocations in 2025/26</b>
<b>Appendix D</b>	<b>Properties Better Protected – July Bid v/s Local Choices</b>
<b>Appendix E</b>	<b>North West Local Levy 2025/26 - Forecasts</b>



<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>North West Capital Programme</b>
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Partnership	RMA	Name	Core GiA	additional GiA	TPE
<b>Cheshire</b>	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
		<b>Sankey Brook FRMS</b>	<b>£1,345,002</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£1,506,002</b>
	LA	Cheshire-Mid-Mersey Quick Win Projects	£0	£0	£250,000
		<b>Liverpool Road, Gt Sankey Surface Water Management Project</b>	<b>£499,999</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£499,999</b>
		Lindow Primary School FAS	£0	£0	£30,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,064,501</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£2,475,501</b>
<b>Cross Partnership</b>	EA	Capital Reconditioning Programme - CLA	£3,347,500	£0	£3,347,500
		Capital Reconditioning Programme - GMMC	£9,922,484	£0	£9,922,484
		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

AGENDA ITEM 3

		GMMC Recovery 2025	£200,000	£0	£200,000
		Flood Resilience Projects- GMMC	£20,000	£0	£20,000
		Business Plans -EA	£0	£0	£1,163,500
		<b>Asset Maintenance - GMMC</b>	<b>£628,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£628,000</b>
	LA	RFCC Business Plans - RMA			£78,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£24,525,975</b>	<b>£2,000,000</b>	<b>£27,767,475</b>
<b>Cumbria</b>		<b>Kendal Appraisal Package Kendal FRM Scheme</b>	<b>£8,574,000</b>	<b>£10,138,000</b>	<b>£18,712,000</b>
		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
	EA	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
		Lyth Valley Drainage Investigations	£0	£0	£30,000
		Waver Wampool Pumping Station Investigation	£0	£0	£10,000
		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	£250,000
		Etterby Terrace, Carlisle	£90,000	£0	£90,000
		River Annas, Bootle, Cumbria	£85,000	£0	£85,000
		Low Crosby	£80,000	£0	£80,000

AGENDA ITEM 3

		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
		Millom and Haverigg Flood Alleviation	£0	£0	£500,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£12,633,955</b>	<b>£10,138,000</b>	<b>£25,086,955</b>
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	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
		River Roch Phase 2 Rochdale FRMS	£920,000	£0	£1,300,000
		Hindley Group	£60,000	£0	£335,000
		Poise Brook	£42,000	£0	£347,000
		ENVPCMLeighEastBedfordBrookAMP	£40,000	£0	£212,000
	LA	Greater Manchester Quick Win Projects	£0	£0	£250,000
		Turf Hill	£615,000	£0	£1,115,000
Longford Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme		£307,000	£0	£551,500	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£5,566,723</b>	<b>£14,799,500</b>	<b>£25,358,723</b>
<b>Lancashire</b>	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

AGENDA ITEM 3

	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	£1,000,000
	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	£1,500,000	£0	£1,500,000
	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
	Alt Crossens Drainage Investigations	£0	£0	£50,000
	Thurnham PFR	£0	£0	£255,000
	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	£1,150,000	£0	£1,500,000
	Little Bispham to Bispham Coast Protection	£1,600,000	£0	£1,950,000
	Starr Hill Sand Dunes Environmental Works	£278,200	£0	£278,200
	Lancashire Quick Win Projects	£0	£0	£250,000
	Pendle Level 2 Brierfield Surface Water Management Plan	£50,000	£0	£50,000
	Whalley Surface Water Improvement Scheme	£45,000	£0	£45,000

AGENDA ITEM 3

		Lancaster Phase 4 - Mill Race Surface Water Study	£40,000	£0	£40,000
		Wyre Beach Management Scheme	£10,000,000	£0	£10,000,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£29,424,534</b>	<b>£18,450,000</b>	<b>£51,229,534</b>
<b>Merseyside</b>	LA	Merseyside Quick Win Projects	£0	£0	£250,000
		North West Strategic Coastal Monitoring Programme	£1,188,000	£0	£1,188,000
		West End Road, St Helens	£108,000	£0	£108,000
		The Pool, Southport	£1,000,000	£0	£1,000,000
	Liverpool City Council - Ordinary Watercourse Culverts	£370,000	£0	£370,000	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,666,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£2,916,000</b>
<b>Programme Total</b>			<b>£76,881,688</b>	<b>£45,387,500</b>	<b>£134,834,188</b>

\*Schemes highlighted orange represent changes to the Local Choices allocation based on the additional £9.2m additional FDGiA.

<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>North West Additional GiA Funding – Local Choices</b>
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<b>Scheme</b>	<b>RMA</b>	<b>Partnership</b>	<b>Allocation (GiA)</b>
Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme	Environment Agency	Cheshire Mid-Mersey	£1,345,002
River Roch, Phase 2 Rochdale FRMS	Environment Agency	Greater Manchester	£800,000
GMMC Asset Maintenance	Environment Agency	Cross Partnership	£628,000
ENVPCM Leigh East Bedford Brook AMP	Environment Agency	Greater Manchester	£172,000
Liverpool Road, Gt Sankey Surface Water	Warrington Borough Council	Cheshire Mid-Mersey	£499,999
Turf Hill	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	Greater Manchester	£450,000
Longford Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	Greater Manchester	£34,999
The Pool, Southport	Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	Merseyside	£1,000,000
Liverpool City Council - Ordinary Watercourse Culverts	Liverpool City Council	Merseyside	£370,000
Kendal Appraisal Package Kendal FRM Scheme	Environment Agency	Cumbria	£1,000,000
Blackpool Beach Nourishment Scheme	Blackpool Borough Council	Lancashire	£500,000
Little Bispham to Bispham Coast Protection	Blackpool Borough Council	Lancashire	£950,000
Garstang Gate Repair	Environment Agency	Lancashire	£1,450,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>£9,200,000</b>

<b>Appendix C</b>	<b>North West Projects without allocation in 2025/26</b>
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The following projects didn't receive an FDGiA allocation because they didn't meet the EA National FCERMGiA Funding Allocation Prioritisation and/or were outside the North West Local Choices Priority.

**EA National FCERMGiA Funding Allocation Priority:**

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).

**North West Local Choices Prioritisation:**

1. Measures in the Interest of Safety (MIOS) on Reservoirs / Public Safety Risk Assessment EA KPI compliance (known risks)
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)
5. In construction or post construction with contractual commitment beyond 2025/26
6. Time-bound non-core FCERMGiA 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

Partnership	RMA	Name	Core GiA	additional GiA	TPE
<b>Cheshire</b>	EA	Harrop Brook Culvert Repair	£0	£0	£0
		Abbots Mead, Finchett's Gutter FRM Scheme	£0	£0	£0
	LA	Haley Road South, Burtonwood Surface Water Management Project	£0	£0	£0

AGENDA ITEM 3

		Weaste Lane, Thelwall FRM Scheme (Phase B)	£0	£0	£0
		Alder Lane, Orford FRM Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Landseer Avenue, Latchford West	£0	£0	£0
		Lewis Avenue, Warrington	£0	£0	£0
		Thorn Road, Padgate Surface Water Management Scheme	£0	£0	£0
<b>Cross Partnership</b>	EA	National Trash Screen project CLA	£0	£0	£0
<b>Cumbria</b>	EA	Allonby Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management	£0	£0	£0
		ENV Cumbria Cap-RECON PCM 2023-2024	£0	£0	£0
		Pennine Peat Partnership Upland Peat Forest of Bowland - Linked to Pennine Peat Partnership	£0	£0	£0
		ENVDebrisScreensCLA	£0	£0	£0
		Gosling Sike, Carlisle	£0	£0	£0
		Harrington, River Wyre FRM Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Rickerby Flood Risk Management Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Threlkeld Culvert Urgent Repair project	£0	£0	£0
		Ulpha Pumping Station Capital Maintenance	£0	£0	£0
		Wolsty Pumping Station Capital Maintenance (Silloth)	£0	£0	£0
		Appleby pumping station capital maintenance	£0	£0	£0
		Glenridding gravel removal	£0	£0	£0
		Humphrey Head and Bankmoor Embankment Managed Realignment	£0	£0	£0
		Ravenglass Tidal Gate Replacement	£0	£0	£0
	South Ulverston Integrated FRMS	£0	£0	£0	
	LA	Anthorn to Cardurnock Coastal Erosion	£0	£0	£0
		Askam in Furness Tidal Flood Risk and Erosion Study	£0	£0	£0
Beckside Road, Ulverston Surface Water Scheme		£0	£0	£0	
Bellman Close, Windermere		£0	£0	£0	



AGENDA ITEM 3

Bowness on Solway Erosion Reduction	£0	£0	£0
Brampton Town Centre Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
Broughton Lodge Mews	£0	£0	£0
Cliburn Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
Coach Road, Whitehaven	£0	£0	£0
Craig Walk Culvert, Bowness-on-Windermere	£0	£0	£0
Croglin, Drain Upsizing, Croglin Beck	£0	£0	£0
Duke Street, Whitehaven	£0	£0	£0
Fairfield, Flookburgh	£0	£0	£0
Friars Lane, Barrow in Furness	£0	£0	£0
Glassonby Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
Grasslot Street, Maryport	£0	£0	£0
Honister Road, Whitehaven	£0	£0	£0
Lakeland Avenue, Woodhouse, Whitehaven	£0	£0	£0
Lindale Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
Longtown Surface Water Alleviation	£0	£0	£0
Main Street, Kirkby Lonsdale	£0	£0	£0
Middleshaw Flood Alleviation	£0	£0	£0
Mirehouse West, Whitehaven	£0	£0	£0
Parton Combined Flood Risk	£0	£0	£0
Penrith Town Centre Surface Water	£0	£0	£0
Petteril Terrace, Plumpton	£0	£0	£0
Queens Square, Kirkby Lonsdale	£0	£0	£0
Roa Island Defence Replacement/Improvement	£0	£0	£0
Snebra Beck, Whitehaven	£0	£0	£0
South Walney Surface Water	£0	£0	£0
St Kentigerns Close, Keswick	£0	£0	£0

AGENDA ITEM 3

Stainton, Penrith Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
Temple Sowerby Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
The Green, Dalston	£0	£0	£0
Vicarage Drive Culvert, Kendal	£0	£0	£0
West Shore Park Managed Realignment Study	£0	£0	£0
Yewbarrow Terrace, Grange over Sands	£0	£0	£0
Aspatria West End Surface Water Alleviation	£0	£0	£0
Blencarn Park, Rockcliffe Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
Cumbria Small Package of Measures 2021-22	£0	£0	£0
Greystoke Surface Water Flood Alleviation	£0	£0	£0
Highgate Kendal Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
Kirkby Stephen Combined Flood Risk	£0	£0	£0
Lindale Road Grange over Sands	£0	£0	£0
North Road, Holme Village Flood Alleviation	£0	£0	£0
Penrith Road, Keswick	£0	£0	£0
Ravenglass, Cumbria - Surface Water	£0	£0	£0
Spittal Farm, Wigton	£0	£0	£0
Whitehaven Harbour Flood Defence Capital Replacement	£0	£0	£0
Allonby to Seacroft Farm Erosion Protection	£0	£0	£0
Beetham Surface Water Flood Alleviation	£0	£0	£0
Biggins Road, Kirkby Lonsdale	£0	£0	£0
Castle Carrock Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
Ewan Close, Barrow in Furness	£0	£0	£0
Flimby Surface Water Alleviation - RMA Scheme	£0	£0	£0
Greenbank, Ambleside Surface Water Flooding	£0	£0	£0
Greenmoor Road, Egremont	£0	£0	£0
Harraby Surface Water Investigation	£0	£0	£0

AGENDA ITEM 3

		Harrington North Shore Coastal Erosion Protection	£0	£0	£0
		Kents Bank Road, Grange over Sands	£0	£0	£0
		Lowther Park, Kendal Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Newbiggin A5087 Coast Road Coastal Erosion	£0	£0	£0
		Norbeck Park, Cleator Moor	£0	£0	£0
		Oldside Landfill Workington Coastal Erosion Study	£0	£0	£0
		Orchard Place, Cleator Moor	£0	£0	£0
		Parton FCERM	£0	£0	£0
		Rinkfield, Kendal Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		School Lane, Staveley - Surface Water Risks	£0	£0	£0
		Silloth Groyne Replacement	£0	£0	£0
		St Bees Coastal Erosion Protection	£0	£0	£0
		The Tannery, Burton in Kendal Surface Water Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Threlkeld Village	£0	£0	£0
		Whitehaven Rock Armour Capital Maintenance	£0	£0	£0
		Workington Former Steel Works Site Coastal Erosion Scheme	£0	£0	£0
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	EA	Cheadle, Chorlton Brook FRM Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Balladen Brook Culvert Repair	£0	£0	£0
		ENVDidsbury FSR Drawdown	£0	£0	£0
		Ladybarn, Cringle Brook, DEF	£0	£0	£0
		Shaw and Crompton Community Pipeline Project	£0	£0	£0
		Uppermill and Delph River Tame FRM Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Northenden Weir Repair	£0	£0	£0
		Hockery Brook Culvert Repair	£0	£0	£0
		Millers Brook Culvert Repair	£0	£0	£0
	LA	Shaw, Cringle, Ley and Willow Brook	£0	£0	£0

AGENDA ITEM 3

		Wigan Structural Survey and Inspection of Poor and Very Poor Assets - Phase 2 Perry Brook	£0	£0	£0
		Victoria Rd, Horwich Culvert Renewal Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Timperley Brook Surface Water Management	£0	£0	£0
		Manchester Trash Screens Phase 2	£0	£0	£0
		Midge Hole Clough Flood Alleviation Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Crompton Way Culvert Rehabilitation Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Harwood Culverts Rehabilitation Scheme	£0	£0	£0
		Lee Clough Culvert Rehabilitation Scheme	£0	£0	£0
<b>Lancashire</b>	EA	Catterall Slip Repairs	£0	£0	£0
		ENV Lancashire Cap-RECON PCM 2023-2024	£0	£0	£0
		Lytham to Warton tidal embankment	£0	£0	£0
		Altmouth Pumping Station Capital Maintenance	£0	£0	£0
		ENVCLA Three Pools 23-24	£0	£0	£0
		ENVParadise Street Screen	£0	£0	£0
		Jacks Key Reservoir Improvements, Darwen	£0	£0	£0
		Lancaster Port Contingency Planning Project	£0	£0	£0
		NFM - Wyre Natural Flood Mangement Delivery	£0	£0	£0
		Stanah Pumping Station	£0	£0	£0
		Stanah Pumping Station Safety Works	£0	£0	£0
		Stanah Site Refurbishment	£0	£0	£0
		Alt Breach Repair and Maghull review	£0	£0	£0
		Fleetwood and Copse Brook	£0	£0	£0
		Altmouth Pumping Station Refurbishment	£0	£0	£0
		CLA Fine Jane Depot Decommissioning Works	£0	£0	£0
CLA Lunt Meadows Site Adaptation Works	£0	£0	£0		

AGENDA ITEM 3

		Crossens Pumping Station - Site Refurbishment Programme	£0	£0	£0	
		NFM Alt Crossens Natural Flood Management Delivery	£0	£0	£0	
		Billington Project 2022	£0	£0	£0	
		Broad Lane Pumping Station decommissioning	£0	£0	£0	
		Garstang Reservoir	£0	£0	£0	
	LA		Old Gates Drive Culvert, Blackburn	£0	£0	£0
			Parbold Village Options appraisal and Scheme Delivery	£0	£0	£0
			Aqueduct Road Scheme	£0	£0	£0
			Bispham Capital Maintenance	£0	£0	£0
			Caton Road, Lancaster	£0	£0	£0
			Fitzgerald Drive, Darwen	£0	£0	£0
			Hardman Brook-Hall Carr Brook, Hardman Avenue,Rawtenstall	£0	£0	£0
			Hurst Brook, Hurst Lane, Rossendale	£0	£0	£0
			Kellet Road, Culvert, Carnforth	£0	£0	£0
			Pendle Trash Screen Performance and Safety Upgrade	£0	£0	£0
			St Annes Seawall	£0	£0	£0
			Chapels/ Knowle Lane Scheme, Darwen	£0	£0	£0
			Cote Beck, Halton Flow Control	£0	£0	£0
			Little Harwood Drainage Improvement Works, Blackburn	£0	£0	£0
			Pendle Ordinary Watercourse Study	£0	£0	£0
			Prospect Avenue, Lostock Hall	£0	£0	£0
			Ribble Valley Level 2 Surface Water Mgmt Plan - Longridge, Clitheroe, Billington	£0	£0	£0
			Seabees re profiling	£0	£0	£0
			Thornton Cleveleys Level 3 SWMP	£0	£0	£0
	Whalley New Road PLP, Blackburn	£0	£0	£0		
<b>Merseyside</b>	LA	Meols Parade Coast Protection, Wirral	£0	£0	£0	

AGENDA ITEM 3

	Arrowe Road and Rigby Drive Greasby Flood Relief	£0	£0	£0
	Pensby	£0	£0	£0
	Heswall Flood Relief SoP100	£0	£0	£0

<b>Appendix D</b>	<b>Properties Better Protected – July Bid v/s Local Choices</b>
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Partnership	RMA	Name	July Refresh Bid	Feb Local Choices	Variance
<b>Cheshire / Mid Mersey</b>	EA		0	0	0
	<b>EA Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	LA	Liverpool Road, Gt Sankey Surface Water Management Project	62	0	-62
	LA	Haley Road South, Burtonwood Surface Water Management Project	25	0	-25
	LA	Weaste Lane, Thelwall FRM Scheme (Phase B)	27	0	-27
	LA	Lindow Primary School FAS	4	0	-4
		The Paddocks, Whitegate	10	0	-10
	<b>LA total</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-128</b>
					0
<b>Cross Partnership</b>	EA				0
	EA				0
	<b>EA Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
					0
	LA	Strategic Coastal Monitoring Programme (SMP Co-ordinator) (ID16)			0
	LA	Support for Coastal Adaptation (Coastal Centre of Excellence ID17)			0
	<b>LA total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cumbria</b>	EA	Carlisle Appraisal Package Appleby Town Centre	0	16	16
	EA	Warwick Bridge PFR scheme	64	0	-64

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	<b>EA Total</b>	<b>Environment Agency</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-48</b>
	LA	Maryport Harbour Gates	70	26	-44
	LA	Kirkland Road, Ennerdale Bridge	21	21	0
	LA	Low Crosby	0	20	20
	LA	Etterby Terrace, Carlisle	16	16	0
	LA	River Annas, Bootle, Cumbria	12	12	0
	LA	Parton FCERM	66	0	-66
	LA	Castle Carrock Surface Water Scheme	6	0	-6
	LA	Allonby to Seacroft Farm Erosion Protection	3	0	-3
	LA	Tebay Surface Water Alleviation	16	16	0
	LA	Guildrey Lane, Sedbergh	15	15	0
	LA	Ewan Close, Barrow in Furness	68	0	-68
	<b>LA Total</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>-167</b>
<b>Lancashire</b>	EA	Preston and South Ribble	869	707	-162
	EA	The Sluice, Back Drain	100	0	-100
	EA	Burrow Beck Conveyance Improvements	17	0	-17
	<b>EA Total</b>	<b>Environment Agency</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>-279</b>
	LA	Darwen Central , Darwen	0	59	59
	LA	Chester Close , Blackburn	0	58	58
	LA	Brecon Road Scheme, Blackburn	44	22	-22
	LA	Chapels/ Knowle Lane Scheme, Darwen	10	0	-10
	LA	Pendle Level 2 Brierfield Surface Water Management Plan	85	85	0
	LA	Parbold Village Options appraisal and Scheme Delivery	50	40	-10
	LA	Whalley Surface Water Improvement Scheme	71	35	-36



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	LA	Ribble Valley Level 2 Surface Water Mgmt Plan - Longridge, Clitheroe, Billington	71	0	-71
	LA	Prospect Avenue, Lostock Hall	40	0	-40
	LA	Cote Beck, Halton Flow Control	6	0	-6
	LA	Wyre Beach Management Scheme	0	3,000	3,000
	<b>LA Total</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>2,922</b>
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	EA	Radcliffe and Redvalves FRM Scheme	0	1,460	1,460
	<b>EA Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>1,460</b>
	LA	Turf Hill	21	21	0
		The Pool, Southport	55	0	-55
		Wigan Structural Survey and Inspection of Poor and Very Poor Assets - Phase 2 Perry Brook	30	0	-30
		Victoria Rd, Horwich Culvert Renewal Scheme	25	0	-25
		Timperley Brook Surface Water Management	140	0	-140
		Harwood Culverts Rehabilitation Scheme	24	0	-24
		Longford Brook FRM scheme	0	38	38
		Golburn Clough, Greenfield	30	0	-30
	<b>LA total</b>		<b>325</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>-266</b>
<b>Merseyside</b>	LA	West End Road, St Helens	11	11	0
		Arroe Road and Rigby Drive Greasby Flood Relief	61	0	-61
	<b>LA total</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-61</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>2,245</b>	<b>5,678</b>	<b>3,433</b>

<b>Appendix E</b>	<b>North West Local Levy 25/26 - Forecasts</b>
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Partnership	RMA	Name	2025-26 (£k)
Cheshire / Mid Mersey	EA	Sankey Bk FRM Scheme	161
	<b>EA Total</b>		<b>161</b>
	LLFA	Lindow Community Primary School Flood Alleviation Scheme	30
	LLFA	Cheshire/Mid-Mersey Quick Win Projects	250
	LLFA	Liverpool Road, Gt Sankey Surface Water	0
	<b>LLFA total</b>		<b>280</b>
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

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	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
	<b>EA Total</b>		<b>1163.5</b>
	LLFA	Strategic Coastal Monitoring Programme (SMP Co-ordinator) (ID16)	53
		Support for Coastal Adaptation (Coastal Centre of Excellence ID17)	25
	<b>LLFA Total</b>		<b>78</b>
Cumbria	EA	Lyth Valley Drainage Investigations	30
		Waver Wampool Pumping Station Investigation	10
		Carlisle Appraisal Package Appleby Town Centre	1500
	<b>EA Total</b>		<b>1540</b>
	LLFA	Cumbria Quick Win Projects	250
		Millom and Haverigg Flood Alleviation	500
<b>LLFA Total</b>		<b>750</b>	
Lancashire	EA	Alt Crossens Drainage Investigations	50
		Pegs Pool and Wardleys Pool, Hambleton	1000
		PFR Thurnham	255
	<b>EA Total</b>		<b>1305</b>

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	LLFA	Lancashire Quick Win Projects	250
	LLFA	Bispham Capital Maintenance	350
	LLFA	Blackpool Beach Nourishment	350
	<b>LLFA Total</b>		<b>950</b>
Greater Manchester	EA	Alder Forest, Eccles	400
		River Roch, Rochdale & Littleborough FRM Scheme	1500
		Hindley Group	275
		Rochdale Phase 2	380
		Poise Brook	305
	<b>EA Total</b>		<b>2860</b>
	LLFA	Longford Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme	70
		Greater Manchester Quick Win Projects	250
<b>LLFA Total</b>		<b>320</b>	
Merseyside	LLFA	Merseyside Quick Win Projects	250
	<b>LLFA Total</b>		<b>250</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>9657.5</b>

**Breakdown of Local Levy(£k) by Partnership**

Allocation (£k)	2025-26		Total
	EA	LLFA	
Greater Manchester	2860	320	3180
Merseyside	0	250	250
Cheshire Mid-Mersey	161	280	441
Cumbria	1540	750	2290
Lancashire	1305	950	2255
Cross-Partnership	1163.5	78	1241.5
Total	7029.5	2628	9657.5

## NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

14 MARCH 2025

### FLOOD AND COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT (FCRM) GRANT-IN-AID (GIA) ALLOCATIONS FOR 2025/26

#### Recommendations

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

1. Note the allocation principles and prioritisation criteria for the Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Investment Programme and Asset Maintenance Programme (section 3 & 4, and appendix A).
2. Note the FCRM grant-in-aid (GiA) capital and resource allocations for 2025/26 (section 3 & 4, and appendix B & C).
3. Provide their statutory consent to allow the implementation of the regional programmes for 2025/26.

#### Headline messages:

- This RFCC Committee meeting is an important final step in the process to allocate capital and resource funding for FCRM. RFCC consent is sought to allow the implementation of the regional programmes for 2025/26.
- Government announced funding for the final 2 years of the FCRM Investment Programme on 5 February (2024/25 and 2025/26). The current programme will end on 31 March 2026. Details of our next multi-year funding settlement are expected to be announced through Spending Review 2025 in late spring.
- Since the indicative allocations were made, the budget allocation from Defra has identified a further £40million available to allocate. This has been allocated to RFCCs for investment in schemes to support local choice decisions.
- The 'most likely' scenario is 52,000 properties will be better protected by March 2026 with the funding announced in February (final 2 years of the programme). This equates to a 5-year programme total of around 140,000 properties better protected.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper sets out the final 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 seek the RFCC's consent to the implementation of their regional programmes ahead of the new financial year starting in April.

## 2.0 Spending Reviews and budget pressures

- 2.1 On 5 February, the government confirmed our funding for FCRM via an official press release - [Record investment to protect thousands of UK homes and businesses - GOV.UK](#). The announcement confirmed a 2-year budget (2024/25 and 2025/26) of £2.65billion and a 2-year properties better protected target of 52,000.
- 2.2 The announcement also signalled the end of the current programme in March 2026. The next multi-year FCRM Investment Programme will start in April 2026. Funding for this programme will be announced as part of Spending Review 2025 in the late spring. Changes to partnership funding rules should also be in place by April 2026.
- 2.3 The final budget of £2.65billion over two years is the highest ever level of funding for FCRM. In 2024/25 we diverted £36million to essential asset repairs following the winter storms of 2023/24. The Minister has also directed the Environment Agency to divert a further £72million from the FCRM Investment Programme to support the maintenance of existing Environment Agency assets. This shift in funding to asset maintenance means we cannot fund all previously planned work in 2025/26.

### Affordability Allowance and Frequently Flooded Allowance

- 2.4 The announcement confirmed £140million (of the £2.65billion) would be invested into 31 projects with funding gaps that are ready to deliver through the Affordability Allowance (24 projects) and the second round of the Frequently Flooded Allowance (7 projects). These projects were never formally announced by the previous government. They are a mix of Environment Agency and other Risk Management Authority led projects.

### Current in-year 2024/25 budget position

- 2.5 In January, the Investment Programme was forecasting an £80million over-programme this financial year across all risk management authority projects. We are actively managing this down to meet this year's budget, with support from many stakeholders, however it will ultimately increase pressure on 2025/26 allocations as costs are deferred. In recent years we have been able to utilise underspend in Defra group, but this is not the case this year.

## 3.0 FCRM GiA Investment Programme allocation for 2025/26

- 3.1 Following the February additional RFCC Committee meetings and the submission of local choice returns, the Environment Agency's national Portfolio Management Office has prepared the final allocations for 2025/26.

### High-level funding allocation

- 3.2 Our total budget for 2025/26 is **£1,110million** – £854m of capital (CDEL) and £256m of resource (RDEL) funding. This is an increase in budget from 2024/25 which was £1,022million. Capital (CDEL) funding is for new flood defence schemes. Resource (RDEL) funding is mostly spent on asset maintenance, staff salaries, and running costs.

- 3.3 Table 1 sets out the final GiA allocation for 2025/26 against elements of the programme.
- 3.4 Of the £1,110million, £803million (as shown in appendix B) is allocated directly to RFCCs through this allocation process. Appendix B shows the RFCC-level breakdown of the new and replacement schemes allocation and the support and enabling programmes. The remaining amount is national or cross-cutting investment which is not allocated to specific RFCCs. This is consistent with the approach taken in previous years.
- 3.5 We are investing £659million in new and replacement schemes. This is split 68% to Environment Agency projects and 32% to other Risk Management Authority projects. Of this, 80% of the allocations are associated with projects that are in construction by April 2025.



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

Programme	2024/25 (£m)	2025/26 (£m)	2025/26 (£m) CDEL	2025/26 (£m) RDEL
Programme to meet legal obligations associated with flood risk management works <sup>1</sup> (included in appendix B)	21.4	9.3	8.5	0.8
Small scale capital projects <sup>2</sup> (included in appendix B)	32.7	37.7	3.6	34.1
New and replacement schemes (included in appendix B)	713.9	659.2	637.9	21.2
Local choices additional funding to be allocated per RFCC (included in appendix B)	0.0	41.4	30.5	10.9
Recondition schemes for assets below target condition (included in appendix B)	34.7	30.0	22.5	7.5
Additional REC (asset recondition) investment from the £72m (included in appendix B)	0.0	26.0	19.5	6.5
Additional £72m Asset Management allocation (-£26m additional allocation to Recondition schemes above)	0.0	46.0	15.9	30.1
Salary costs for staff supporting, developing, and delivering schemes	45.0	48.0	0.0	48.0
Flood & Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme	46.5	52.0	52.0	0.0
Natural Flood Management Programme	4.1	10.8	8.7	2.1
National once and cross-cutting delivery (including Fleet, Estates, Depots)	96.0	68.7	44.9	29.3
Assets Under Construction (held at the centre) <sup>3</sup>	27.7	25.0	0.0	25.0
Accounting treatment switch from FCRM RDEL income <sup>4</sup>	0.0	10.0	10.0	0.0
Asset management transformation and funding for Area based teams	0.0	46.0	0.0	40.0
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>1022.0</b>	<b>1110.0</b>	<b>854.0</b>	<b>256.0</b>
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>1022.0</b>	<b>1110.0</b>	<b>854.0</b>	<b>256.0</b>

1. Includes Water Framework Directive, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Eel Regulations, Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act.
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.
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.

### Local choices and RFCC engagement

- 3.6 At the February additional Committee meetings, RFCCs were asked to review their indicative allocations and identify any changes they would like to see to their regional programmes – 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.

- 3.7 Due to funding reductions, increased funding pressures and issues such as contractually committed spend, the RFCC Committees had limited options this year for local choices.
- 3.8 Following a supportive discussion with the RFCC Chairs at their informal meeting on 5 February, the national Portfolio Management Office (PMO) has explored options to create increased opportunity for local choices.
- 3.9 Since the indicative allocations were made, the budget allocation from Defra has been confirmed which has identified a further £40million available to allocate. This has been allocated to RFCCs for investment in schemes and to support local choice decisions. Following discussions and feedback from RFCC Chairs, the money has been prioritised based on (1) RFCCs that have schemes that are not yet in construction but can deliver properties better protected by March 2026 and (2) in proportion to the projects that would have been funded through our usual prioritisation approach had the £72million switch to asset maintenance not happened. The RFCC splits are set out in appendix B.
- 3.10 This funding should be allocated based on the following principles:
- Funding must only be allocated to viable projects without significant funding gaps.
  - Ideally there should be a focus on supporting capital maintenance projects.
  - The capital (CDEL) and resource (RDEL) allocation splits, as set out in appendix B, must be adhered to.
  - Funding, where possible, should benefit RMA led projects but consider decisions already made through local choices to date.
  - Existing unfunded projects that will deliver beyond April 2026 should align to the national investment steer by considering locations at risk identified through the new national flood risk assessment (NaFRA2) and locations expected to have a strong benefit cost ratio.
  - New/unfunded strategies that were discussed and agreed with the National FCRM Directorate during the national investment steer work undertaken during Q3 and Q4.
- 3.11 Discussions on where best to invest this money should ideally take place at the March RFCC Committee meetings, ahead of being finalised for the start of the financial year.

#### Prioritisation approach

- 3.12 Funding has been prioritised 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.
- 3.13 The prioritisation used 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).

#### Properties better protected forecasts

- 3.14 Collectively and currently we are on track to deliver 28,000 properties better protected during 2024/25 and are expecting to achieve a maximum of 36,000 properties better protected during 2025/26 with our current funding allocations – see appendix B for regional splits.
- 3.15 The 'most likely' outcome is 52,000 properties better protected by 31 March 2026, which equates to a 5-year programme total of around 140,000. The additional £40million (noted above in section 3.9) is expected to fund a further 800 properties better protected in 2025/26.

#### Partnership Funding

- 3.16 We are still undertaking analysis on the levels of partnership funding required to achieve the 52,000 properties better protected target by March 2026. Based on indicative allocations (pre local choices), we had an unsecured funding gap of £1.4million, which impacts on the delivery of better protecting 182 properties, a small proportion of delivery in 2025/26.
- 3.17 Much of our previous delivery risk from unsecured partnership funding was associated with projects delivering properties in 2026/27. The switch to a 5-year programme has significantly reduced this risk. The new partnership funding rules are expected to be in place for the start of the next programme.

#### Environmental outcomes

- 3.18 Table 2 below sets out the environmental outcomes delivered to date by all risk management authority projects, and what is forecast to be delivered for the remainder of this financial year. We are currently reviewing forecasts for 2025/26 following local choice returns.

**Table 2:** Environmental outcomes from the FCRM Investment Programme

Time period	Hectares of habitats created or enhanced (OM4A) (Ha)	Kilometres of rivers enhanced (OM4B) (Km)
2021/22 to 2024/25 – delivered to date	2,578	490
Forecasting to deliver in final quarter of 2024/25	178	82

Efficiencies

- 3.19 Projects have realised £134million of efficiencies so far since April 2021, which equates to 4.5% of FCRM GiA spend. Our funding condition, set in 2019 and before much higher levels of inflation were forecast, was for 10% of efficiencies to be achieved across all risk management authority projects. This equates to around £430million of efficiencies over the 5 years. We would welcome the RFCCs continued support to champion efficiencies within their local programmes.

Future Investment Programme pipeline

- 3.20 RFCCs were briefed (at their September 2024 meeting of their Chairs) 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 Environment Agency Area teams to calculate carbon emissions for Environment Agency projects alongside cost and outcome measures within their regular programming tools. Carbon is included in the project process through bids, prioritisation and local choices.
- 3.22 We are finalising the national Investment Programme carbon forecast. We intend to share this with RFCCs when available. We will continue to monitor the Environment Agency required annual reduction to reach 45% reduced emissions by 2030.

Key risks

- 3.23 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 (DPB). The key risks to delivering 52,000 properties by March 2026 include:
- Increasing cost of projects which can make some projects unaffordable and mean fewer projects can be delivered across the programme.
  - 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) that require reprioritisation of investment.

- Projects not delivering to timescales.

#### **4.0 FCRM GiA asset maintenance resource allocation for 2025/26**

- 4.1 Environment Agency 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 damage to assets during the 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 decided that £72million should be redirected from the FCRM 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 £140million. 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.
- 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 required 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. The geographic split of this work has yet to be fully worked through.
- 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.

**Table 3:** Allocations of the additional £72million towards asset management. Figures in £million.

Description	Funding
Routine Maintenance (additional)	20.3
Asset Recondition RDEL (additional)	6.5
National-Once Asset Works	9.8
<b>Total Resource (RDEL)</b>	<b>36.6</b>
Asset Recondition CDEL (additional)	19.5
Capital Maintenance (additional)	5.9
Asset Resilience (front line) – including remote monitoring & asset management	10.0
<b>Total Capital (CDEL)</b>	<b>35.4</b>
<b>Total Investment</b>	<b>72.0</b>

Allocation approach for the £140million direct asset maintenance

- 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 is:
- 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 £140million, all Areas/RFCCs will see an increase to the maintenance funding they received in 2024/25 (see appendix C). To protect maintenance funding in real terms, uplifts for inflationary pressures will be added to Area/RFCCs. This funding will be in addition to the extra £20.1million shown in appendix C.

Asset recondition and impact on asset key performance indicators (KPI)

- 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 £140million, 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 Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs) are asked to:

1. Note the allocation principles and prioritisation criteria for the Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Investment Programme and Asset Maintenance Programme (section 3 & 4, and appendix A).
2. Note the FCRM grant-in-aid (GiA) capital and resource allocations for 2025/26 (section 3 & 4, and appendix B & C).
3. Provide their statutory consent to allow the implementation of the regional programmes for 2025/26.

**Dan Bond**  
**Deputy Director, Portfolio Management Office**  
**3 March 2025**

**Appendix A:** FCRM allocation principles

**Appendix B:** FCRM GiA Investment Programme allocation for schemes by RFCC

**Appendix C:** FCRM GiA asset maintenance allocation by RFCC

**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** so as 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 Investment Programme allocation by RFCC (includes schemes and support and enabling programme)**

This table presents the RFCC regional breakdown of the GiA allocations for schemes. This **includes** £6.5m RDEL to asset recondition which is also included in appendix C.

RFCC	Total GiA allocation 2025/26 (£m)	Total CDEL allocation Total GiA (£m)	Total RDEL allocation Total GiA (£m)	Forecast properties better protected 2025/26	Local choices additional funding to be allocated per RFCC (included in totals)		
					Total allocation (£m)	CDEL allocation (£m)	RDEL allocation (£m)
Anglian Eastern	52.9	49.1	3.9	6,919	0.4	0.2	0.2
Anglian Great Ouse	17.6	11.5	6.1	941	0.9	0.7	0.2
Anglian Northern	86.5	79.9	6.6	5,780	2.5	1.8	0.7
North West	122.4	110.5	11.9	5,716	9.2	6.8	2.4
Northumbria	25.5	23.3	2.2	495	3.2	2.1	1.1
Severn and Wye	19.4	17.8	1.6	547	0.1	0.0	0.1
South West	40.4	35.2	5.1	691	2.2	1.5	0.6
Southern	92.9	85.6	7.3	6,717	4.3	3.3	1.0
Thames	75.1	64.6	10.4	930	1.6	1.1	0.5
Trent	78.5	74.1	4.4	1,858	6.1	4.6	1.5
Wessex	119.4	112.7	6.8	1,661	0.9	0.6	0.3
Yorkshire	72.7	63.1	9.6	4,091	9.9	7.8	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>803.2</b>	<b>727.3</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>36,346</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>10.8</b>

\* The support scheme total is made up of bridges, hydrometry and telemetry (H&T), modelling and forecasting (M&F), flood resilience, national coastal monitoring programme (NCMP), strategies, environment statutory allowance (ESA) and the asset reconditioning programme (REC).

\*\* This includes £56million of asset recondition funding, which is based on indicative allocations and therefore RFCC splits may be subject to change based on local returns.

**Appendix C: FCRM GiA 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 the other sub-programmes where the additional RDEL proportion of the £72million will be utilised. The 'National Delivery' figures will be a centrally held budget and estimates of the RFCC proportions will be derived as programmes are created in line with funding levels.

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

RFCC	Allocation 2024/25 (£m)	Baseline Allocation 2025/26 (£m)	£36m extra RDEL (part of £72m additional)		
			To Asset Maintenance (£m)	To Asset Recondition** (£m)	To National Delivery* (£m)
Anglian Eastern	8.5	8.1	1.7	0.9	10.0
Anglian Great Ouse	4.9	4.8	1.2	0.1	
Anglian Northern	11.3	10.3	2.2	0.8	
North West	12.1	12.1	2.2	0.6	
Northumbria	3.0	2.7	0.5	0.2	
Severn and Wye	4.4	3.9	0.7	0.2	
South West	5.3	5.0	0.7	0.2	
Southern	11.5	10.4	2.5	1.2	
Thames	20.1	21.0	1.8	0.4	
Trent	16.2	15.3	3.8	1.1	
Wessex	8.5	8.2	1.4	0.4	
Yorkshire	14.4	18.4	1.4	0.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>120.2</b>	<b>120.2</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>	

\* The £10million to National Delivery will be to the benefit of all RFCCs. Exact splits will be developed as the most efficient programme of works are defined with funding available.

\*\* Note that this is the resource Grant in Aid element only – there is a further £19.5million of capital Grant in Aid also to asset reconditioning.