

North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

10 July 2026

Agenda Item 1

**Welcome, Chairman's Introduction
and apologies for absence**

Presented Adrian Lythgo

Agenda Item 2

Minutes of the RFCC meeting held on 24 April 2026 and matters arising

Presented Adrian Lythgo

Agenda Item 3

**Update from Finance and Business
Assurance Sub Group Meeting held on
26 June 2026**

North West Investment and Asset Maintenance Programme Update

Presented by Andy Tester

Investment Programme Overview (2025-26)

2025/26 (last year)	Properties Better Protected	Total Project Expenditure
Properties Target / Allocation	5,009	£135m
North West Overview – Final Outturn	5,934 (118%)	£125.5m (93%)

Summary of all in-year (2026/27) Funding – Budget and Forecast

North West		BUDGET	Latest Forecast (mid-may)	
		BUDGET(£k)	FORECAST	VARIANCE
GIA	EA	£105,050,084	£99,534,618	-£5,515,466
	RMA	£55,450,425	£52,930,281	-£2,520,144
	TOTAL	£160,500,509	£152,464,899	-£8,035,610
LOCAL LEVY	EA	£5,018,000	£7,283,000	£2,265,000
	RMA	£855,000	£975,000	£120,000
	TOTAL	£5,873,000	£8,258,000	£2,385,000
PF	EA	£1,689,000	£2,341,720	£652,720
	RMA	£2,000,000	£1,115,105	-£884,895
	TOTAL	£3,689,000	£3,456,825	-£232,175
TPE	EA	£111,757,084	£109,159,338	-£2,597,746
	RMA	£58,305,425	£55,020,386	-£3,285,039
	TOTAL	£170,062,509	£164,179,724	-£5,882,785

Properties Better Protected – 2026/27

Partnership	No. of schemes forecasting properties better protected	Total Forecast	Actuals
Greater Manchester	3	109	0
Merseyside	2	23	0
Cheshire	9	149	62
Cumbria	3	105	0
Lancashire	6	7,750	707
Cross-Partnership	3	839	0
Total	26	8,975	769

Asset Maintenance programme Final Outturn for 2025/26

	Budget	Actual
GMMC	£6,539,000	£6,647,290
CLA	£8,046,787	£8,584,034
North West	£14,585,787	£15,231,324

Asset Maintenance programme for 2026/27

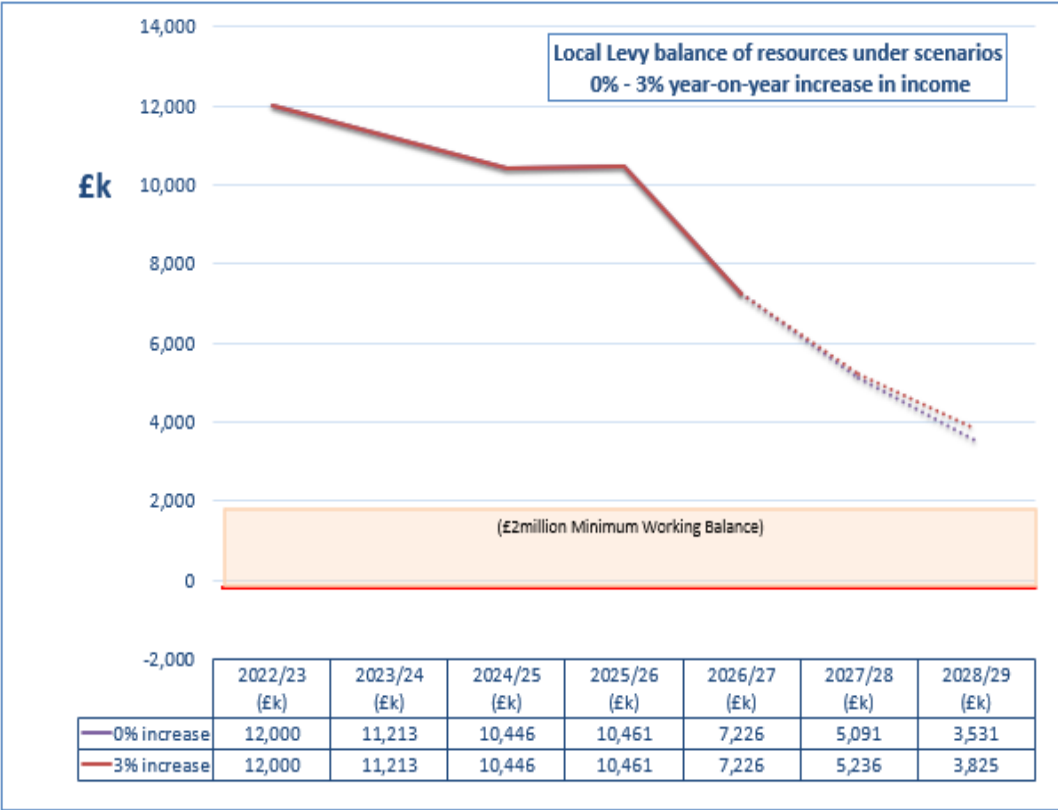
	Budget	Forecast
GMMC	£6,420,000	£6,130,000
CLA	£8,673,500	£8,568,062
North West	£15,093,500	£14,698,062

Below Required Condition Assets

- National Target: 93% High Consequence Systems. This is an increase from 2025/26 (92%)
- Specific Area Targets have not been set yet.
- In Q1 the overall North West position shows a reduction of *Below Required Condition Assets* with a 3% decrease.

Local Levy Income and Expenditure Scenario

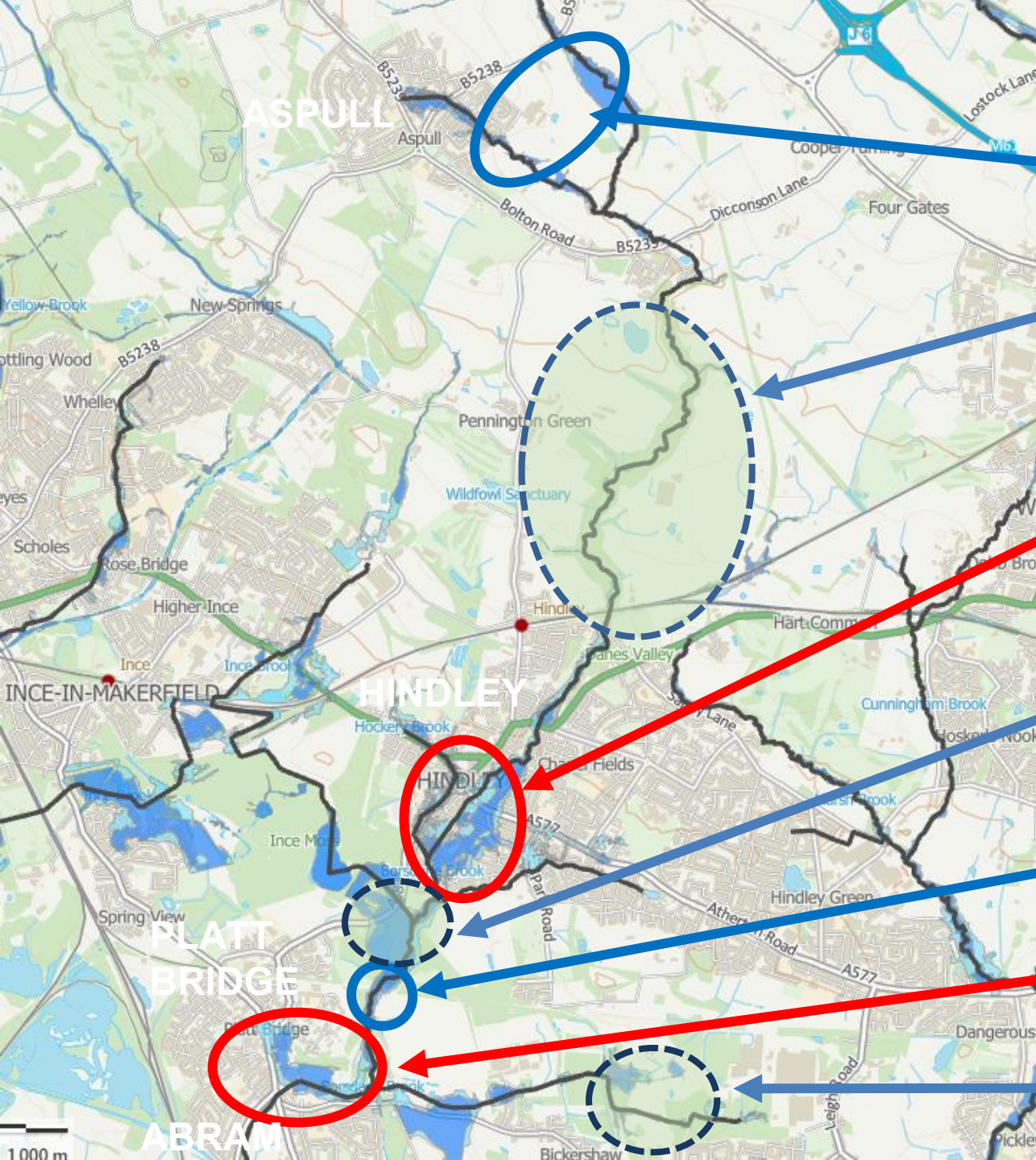
Local Levy income and allocation summary (£ million)	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28 (indicative)
Cash balance at start of year	10.446	10.461	7.226
Local Levy income	4.681	4.821	4.821
Interest earned	0.400**	0.200**	0.200**
Total available balance	15.527	15.482	12.247
Total Actuals/Forecast	5.066	8.256	6.956
Remaining cash balance at year end	10.461	7.226	5.291



Hindley, Platt Bridge and Abram Flood Risk Management Scheme

Presented by Dermot Smith

Options for reducing river flood risk:



Option 1 Flood Storage Reservoir and nfm at Aspall

Option 5 Natural Flood Management (nfm) at Borsdane Woods

Option 2 Flood walls

Option 0 Channel Improvements like replacing footbridges

Option 4 Property level protection

Improved surface water drainage

Option 5 River restoration and nfm in Low Hall Flash Nature Reserve with Lancs Wildlife Trust

Option 1 Potential flood storage downstream of Low Hall Flash Nature Reserve

Option 2 Flood walls

Improved surface water drainage

Option 5 NFM Flood storage at Victoria Fields by Lancs Wildlife Trust

Costs

Costs range £30-50 million, but most likely £40 million

New funding policy requires at least 10% contribution to costs over £3 million

Priority partly decided on value for money and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)

Getting more than 10% increases BCR so increases likelihood of being prioritised

Wigan Council have committed to £3 million = 7.5% of £40 million

Other sources of funding are being pursued with other private and public partners

Funding

In the last two years the project has not been allocated FDGiA and has relied on Local Levy, however FDGiA underspend Nationally has been used. This was a low priority project due to no commitment to filling the funding gap. If the financial commitment increases this will increase priority of the project.

In addition to Wigan Council's £3 million contribution £2 Million in Local Levy funding is being sought in 2031 over 4 years:

Funder	Previous years	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34	34-35	Future	Total
FDGiA	£ 1,700	£ 500	£ 2,500	£ 650	£ 250	£ 7,200	£ 15,450	£ 8,800			£ 37,050
Local Levy						£ 600	£ 800	£ 400	£ 200		£ 2,000
Wigan				£ 100	£ 250	£ 500	£ 750	£ 750	£ 150	£ 500	£ 3,000
Others							£ 100	£ 100			£ 200
Total	£ 1,700	£ 500	£ 2,500	£ 750	£ 500	£ 8,300	£ 17,100	£ 10,050	£ 350	£ 500	£ 42,250

Subgroup recommendations

(Local Levy Programme)

The Subgroup:

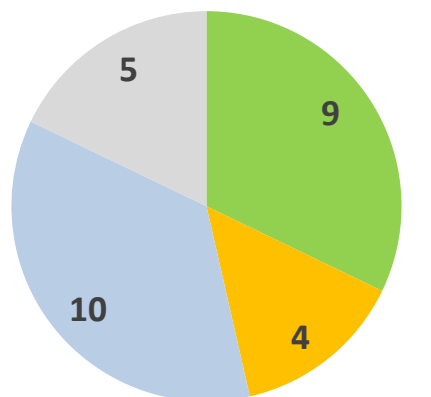
- Noted the update and progress on delivering the 2026-27 Investment Programme and Forecasts
- **To approve** - Provide in principle support for the allocation of £2 Million from 2031 for the Hindley, Platt Bridge and Abram Flood Risk Management Scheme

RFCC Business Plan update

Presented by Sally Whiting

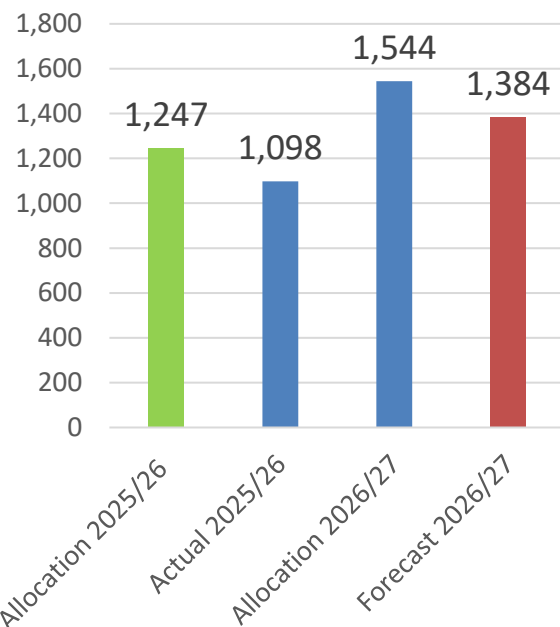
Dashboard

Project RAG summary

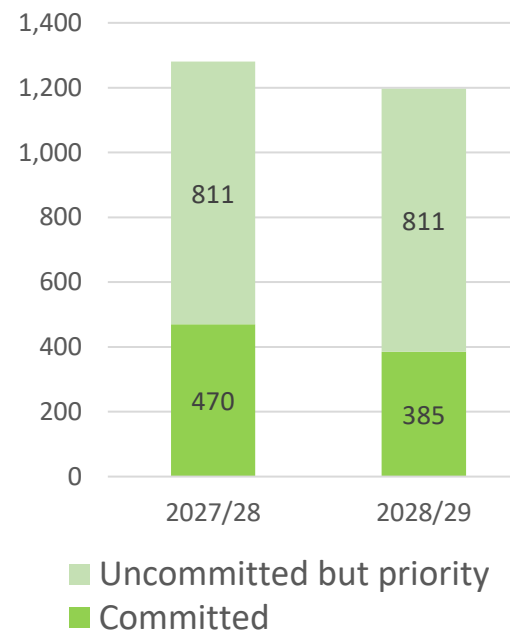


■ On track
■ Behind schedule
■ Not started/ On hold
■ Complete
■ Closed down (or merged)

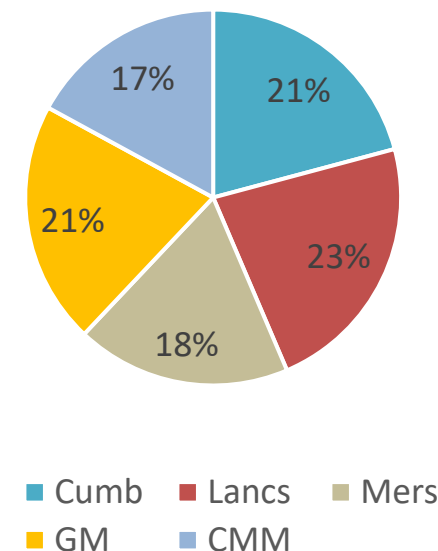
In-Year Spend (£K)



Future need (£K)



Investment by partnership benefitting (2022-2026)



Issues (Amber rated projects)

- **Building Community Resilience – Community engagement support (ID5A/6/7) and NFM Pipeline (Cumbria) (ID22)**
 - Progress is being made to address issues and resume or commence work on all projects.

[VOTE – Recommendation to approve] Proposed project closure

- **Centre for Coastal Excellence – Business case development (ID17) (£25K Local Levy)**

Sub-Group recommendations:

(RFCC Business Plan update)

- The Subgroup noted the update, including issues reported, and noted the forward look and to keep potential Local Levy requests in mind over the next few months
- **To approve:** To formally acknowledge the completion of the Coastal Centre of Excellence – Business case development (ID17) project

Investment Planning and Allocation Process for 2027/28

Support and Enabling (S&E) Programme

Area	Indicative Bid (Support and Enabling) 2027/28
Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire	£3,393,686
Cumbria and Lancashire	£3,793,000
North West	£7,186,686

What makes up S&E:

- Strategy
- Modelling and Forecasting
- Hydrometry and Telemetry
- Coastal Monitoring Programme
- Environment Statutory Allowance
- Bridges

Proposed Component 1 and Moderation Projects

Component 1	Type
21 schemes	Defence
12 schemes	Capital Maintenance
Total: 33 schemes form Component 1 (in-construction)	

Area	Indicative Bid (Component 1) FCRM GiA
Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire	£30,248,753*
Cumbria and Lancashire	£99,450,505*
North West	£129,699,258*

**Indicative only – final figures are subject to change*

Component 2 – Projects not in Construction

2.1 Phase 1 will form projects that have alignment to the new strategic goals and require investment in 2027/28.

2.2 Phase 2 will be the remaining projects that have not been submitted as part of phase 1 but align with the new Funding Policy and don't require an allocation in 2027/28.

The strategic objectives are:

- ☐ Value for money
- ☐ Reducing flood and coastal erosion risk
- ☐ Focussing on deprived areas (20% & 40%)
- ☐ Increasing investment in natural flood management
- ☐ Prioritising projects with contributions from others.

Component 3 – Early Project Opportunities



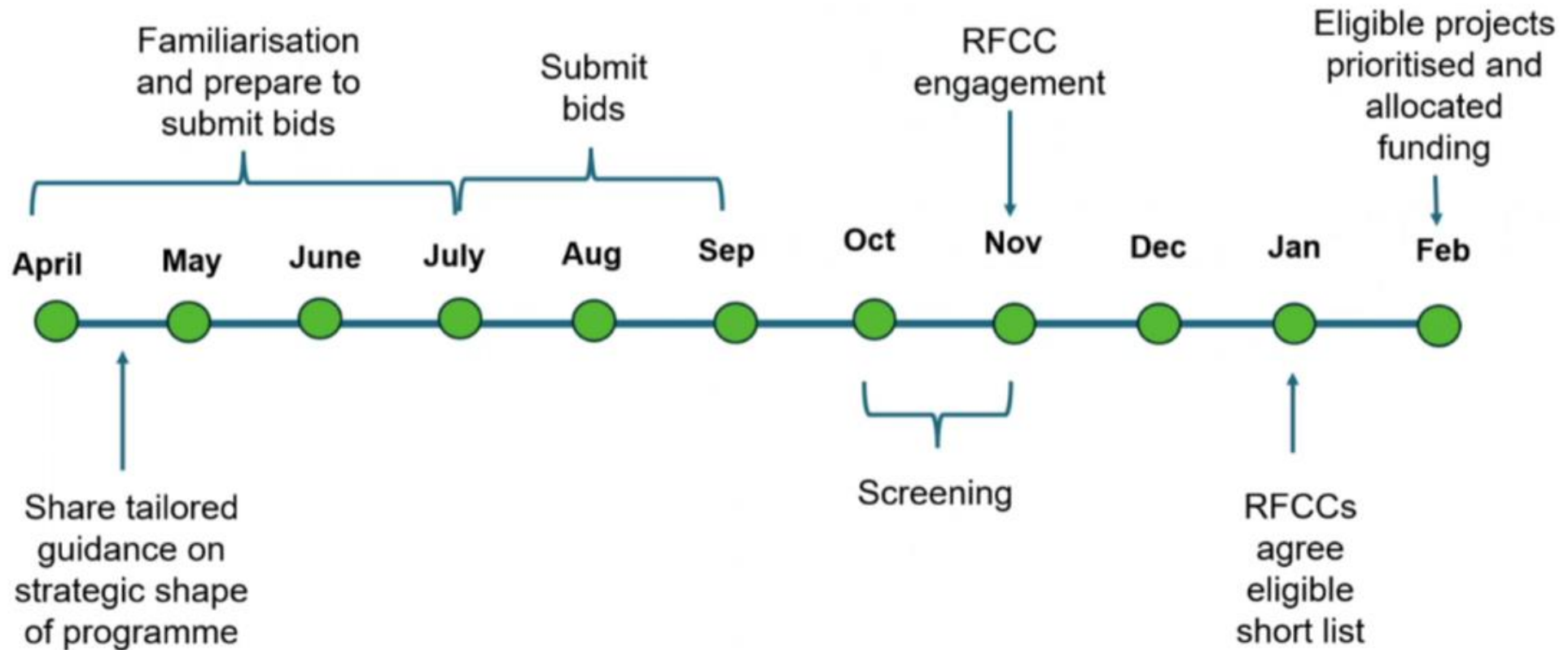
- Component 3 will be formed of 'brand-new' projects applications
- An additional RFCC meeting will be held in November to review Component 3 projects to ensure they align with strategic priorities and local need.

Investment Planning and Allocation Process

– Timeline

Support and Enabling and Moderation	Funding bid submission – late June
Component 1 – In construction projects	Funding bid submission – 31 July
Component 2 – Projects not in construction	Funding bid submission – P1. 15 August
Component 3 – Early Project Opportunities	Funding bid submission – September (inc. Component 2.2)
Surface Water Investment Model (SWIM)	New project opportunities can be submitted between 1 July and 31 August Projects received after this window can still be reviewed by the NW RFCC and considered for development funding in future years
Natural Flood Management Project Opportunities	Standalone NFM project opportunities under £3million. Bidding window will be from 1 July to 31 August

Screening over 2026 allowing for prioritisation of opportunities in 27/28 and 28/29



Agenda Item 4

Any Other Business

Presented by Adrian Lythgo



Taking over the reins in 2017.....



Salford 2nd Basin Opening in 2018



Visiting Kendal in 2022



Smithills, Bolton in 2019



2019 Visit to Fairhaven



Cumbria Conference Oct 2025