

To: Members of Northumbria Regional Flood
and Coastal Committee

Date: 9 July 2019

Dear Member,

**NORTHUMBRIA RFCC MEETING ON FRIDAY 19 July 2019 AT 10.00 AM – PLEASE NOTE
VENUE BELOW**

Please find enclosed the agenda and papers for the Northumbria RFCC meeting.

The meeting venue (see map overleaf)

The meeting is in the **Tyne Room at Tyneside House, Environment Agency, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR on Friday, 19 July 2019 at 10:00 am**. If you are travelling by train to Newcastle the venue is a 20 minute walk. The Tyne Room is on the ground floor.

Parking at Tyneside House is shared between four organisations and each organisation has designated numbered bays. Detailed guidance is included with the map overleaf.

Programme for the day

The agenda for the meeting will follow a similar format to previous meetings.

The programme is as follows:

0945 Welcome tea and coffee
1000 Start of NRFCC Meeting
1225 Lunch and Close of Meeting

1250 Departure for site visit to Monkton Flood Alleviation Scheme (optional)

If you are interested in attending the site visit to Monkton Flood Alleviation Scheme and have not already signed up then please contact the NRFCC secretariat as below.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please let me know in advance. For local authority members unable to attend, please ensure that your nominated substitute member or another person attends on your behalf. Please let me know their name in advance. The nominated substitute member or officer has full voting rights.

Yours sincerely

Shaunie Cresswell

**SHAUNIE CRESSWELL
NRFCC Secretariat Officer**

Email nrfcc@environment-agency.gov.uk

Location of Environment Agency, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 7AR



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Tyneside House is shared between four organisations and each organisation has designated numbered bays.

The Environment Agency bays are numbered 58 to 170.

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Visitors not parked in an Environment Agency bay will be asked to move to an Environment Agency bay if one is available or find themselves a suitable parking space off site.

There are also 3 designated visitor spaces outside reception. These are non-bookable and available on a 'first come first served' basis.

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WARNING: If you park on the roadside near Tyneside House there are dropped kerbs in some places for wheelchair access. Parking across a dropped kerb is an offence and could result in the offender receiving a penalty charge notice from Newcastle City Council Enforcement Officers for obstruction.

NORTHUMBRIA REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

Environment Agency, Tyneside House, Newcastle upon Tyne

Friday, 19 July 2019 10.00 to 12:25

AGENDA

No	Timing	Agenda Item	Purpose of Item	Presenter
1	10:00	Welcome and apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">Welcome new members		Phil Rothwell
2		Pecuniary interests		
3	10:05	Minutes of NRFCC – April 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1 Confirmation of accuracy3.2 Matters arising3.3 Action tracker (NRFCC/222)	Consider/approve minutes and deal with any matters arising	Phil Rothwell
4	10:15	P&I Chairs Report (NRFCC/223) <ul style="list-style-type: none">New Levy Requests	Decision Item	Phil Rothwell
		FCRM Programmes		
5	10:30	NRFCC update (NRFCC/224) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Highlight report of NRFCC Area	Information Item	Jenny McCarthy and Leila Huntington
6	10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Overview of 6 year capital programme and risk management (NRFCC/225)2020/21 FCRM Programme Refresh (NRFCC/226)	Decision Item	Jenny McCarthy
7	11:20	Break Opportunity to ask David Huntington and Jonathan Kellagher about Drone project during the break on a one-to-one basis (NRFCC/227)		
		Other Items for Discussion		
8	11:30	Approach to 2nd cycle flood risk management plans (NRFCC/228)	Information Item	Steve Merrett
9	11:40	Environment Agency maintenance programme – Withdrawal of maintenance 2019/20 (NRFCC/229)	Decision Item	Alan Cadas
10	11:50	Chair's update (NRFCC/230)	Information Item	Phil Rothwell
11	12:10	Any other urgent business		Phil Rothwell
12	12:25	Meeting close. Lunch provided Date and time of Next Meeting – Friday, 18 October 2019 at 10.00 am. Location – TBC RFCC 2020 meeting dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thurs 23 Jan 2020Thurs 23 April 2020Thurs 9 July 2020Thurs 15 October 2020		

Site Visit (Optional)

	12:25-12:50	Lunch and Monkton site visit presentation		Laura Turvey and Tom Pitman
	12:50	Depart Tyneside House		
	13:30 – 14:50	Monkton Village site visit		
	15:30	Arrive back at Tyneside House		

Information Items:

1. FCERM Stakeholder Update – June 2019
2. The Environment Agency's Next Generation Supplier Arrangements
3. The Next Generation Supplier Arrangements in Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – RMA Briefing
4. Contributions for future maintenance of Environment Agency assets
5. Integrated Flood Programme Coordinator Highlight Report
6. FCRM capital and revenue allocation process
7. Protocol for the maintenance of flood and coastal risk management assets
8. New Local Levy Requests – Additional Detail

Information items – not for discussion at meeting

Glossary (updated January 2018)

ABI	Association of British Insurers	MAFP	Multi-agency Flood Plan
ADA	Association of Drainage Authorities	NaFRA	National Flood Risk Assessment
AIMS	Asset Information Management System	NCPMS	National Capital Programme Management Service
AMP	Asset Management Plan	NECG	North East Coastal Group
ANEC	Association of North East Councils	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ASSI	Areas of Special Scientific Interest	NGSA	Next Generation Supplier Agreement
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan	NIDP	Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership
CFMP	Catchment Flood Risk Management Strategy	NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	NRFC	Northumbria Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
EA	Environment Agency	OBC	Outline Business Case
EC	European Commission	OFERG	Operational Flood Emergency Response Group
EPR	Environmental Permitting Regulations	OM	Outcome Measure
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area	OS	Ordnance Survey
EU	European Union	PDU	Programme Delivery Unit
FAS	Flood Alleviation Scheme	P&I	Programming and Investment (sub-group)
FCERM	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management	PF	Partnership Funding
FCRM	Flood and Coastal Risk Management	PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
FCRMGiA	Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid	PLP	Property Level Protection
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan	PR19	Price Review 2019
FRR	Flood Risk Regulations	PCSA	Public Sector Cooperation Agreements
FWMA	Flood and Water Management Act	PSO	Partnership and Strategic Overview
HECAG	Humber Estuary Coastal Authorities Group	RFCC	Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
ICES	International Council for Exploration of the Sea	RMA	Risk Management Authority
IDB	Internal Drainage Board	SAB	SuDS Approval Body
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	SAC	Special Area of Conservation
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide	SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
LDF	Local Development Framework	SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
LRF	Local Resilience Forum	SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
LFRMS	Local Flood Risk Management Strategies	SPA	Special Protection Area
LFRS	Local Flood Risk Strategy	SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
LGA	Local Government Association	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority	SWMP	Surface Water Management Plan
LPRG	Large Projects Review Group	WEM	Water and Environmental Management
LTP	Long Term Plan	WFD	Water Framework Directive
MTP	Medium Term Plan	YRFCC	Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

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Minutes of a meeting of the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee held at Tyneside House, Newcastle on Friday, 12 April 2019.

Present:	Mr P Rothwell	Chair
	Cllr M James	Hartlepool Borough Council
	Cllr J McElroy	Gateshead Council
	Cllr N Oliver	Northumberland County Council
	Cllr A Surtees	Durham County Council
	Cllr N Kemp	Newcastle County Council
	Mr S Williams	Sub - Middlesbrough Council
	Mr P Armin	Sub – Sunderland Council
	Mr A Smuk	Sub – Stockton-On-Tees MBC
	Ms L Turvey	Sub – South Tyneside MBC
	Mr A Burnett	Sub – North Tyneside MBC
	Mr J Cokill	Independent Member
	Mr J Riby	Independent Member
	Mr H Clear-Hill	Independent Member
	Mr J Copeland	Independent Member
	Mr S Dickie	Independent Member
	Mr A Braithwaite	Independent Member
EA Officers:	Mr O Harmar	North-East Area Director
	Mrs L Huntington	Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager
	Mr A Cadas	North-East Area Operations Manager
	Mrs J McCarthy	FCRM Programme Manager
	Prof L Frostick	FCRM Board Member
	Miss S Cresswell	NRFCC Secretariat
In Attendance:	Ms S Nasapen-Watson	Northumbrian Water Group
	Mr P Armin	North-East Coastal Group
	Ms K Purvis	Natural England

There were also 11 observers in attendance.

18/19 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Committee received apologies from Councillors B Carson, C Burdis, N Maxwell, D Rooney, M Smith and B Norton. The Committee confirmed the substitute members as noted in the list above.

The Chair welcomed Professor Lynne Frostick, FCRM Board Member.

19/19 OPENING REMARKS

The Chair noted that the meeting agenda and paper packs had been slimmed down for this meeting as Environment Agency staff have been involved with work relating to Brexit.

20/19 PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None declared.

21/19 MINUTES

The Committee requested changes to the minutes of the NRFCC meeting held on Friday 18 January 2019. The amendments included a date correction and minor re-wording of section 14/19.

Councillor M James noted that point 'ii' in section 14/19 of the NRFCC January 2019 minutes has not yet been discussed. It was agreed that this would be added to the action log for discussion prior to the July RFCC meeting.

The Committee discussed page 8 of the minutes. It was concluded that the environment sub-group paper did not cover the scope of the group sufficiently. A second version of the paper will be included in the paper pack for the July RFCC meeting. Steve Merrett will provide further clarification on this at the July RFCC meeting.

22/19 MATTERS ARISING [NRFCC/216]

It was confirmed that all action log items from the January 2019 NRFCC meeting are ongoing.

O Harmar gave an update on the 25 Year Environment Plan. O Harmar informed the Committee that work around the Plan is developing and updates will be given at future RFCC's on the North East Ambition Statement.

23/19 P&I CHAIRS REPORT [NRFCC/217]

The Chair submitted a report of the Programming and Investment Sub-Group meeting on Tuesday 12 March 2019.

The Chair provided a brief overview of the meeting and referenced the recommendation to support six new local levy requests.

Areas of discussion:

- i) S Nasapen-Watson confirmed that Northumbrian Water would contribute £5,000 towards the request for local levy for Risk Management Authority (RMA) capacity building. The suggested contribution was £25,000 as noted by the Committee at the March 2019 P&I meeting. The Committee accepted the contribution of £5,000 from Northumbrian Water and resolved to support an amended request of £45,000 local levy funding.
- ii) The Committee discussed the benefits of funding a study at Lynemouth and the request for local levy funding. The Committee noted that historical coastal tipping is a national problem which should be further addressed. The Chair agreed to investigate this issue further.
- iii) The Committee discussed the request for local levy funding for Natural Flood Management (NFM) expertise. The local levy request for NFM was approved, however it was noted that lessons learned should be captured in order to inform future local levy funding requests for NFM expertise.

Resolved

- i) It was resolved to note the report.
- ii) The Committee resolved to support the request for local levy funding for Harton and the Nook Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS).
- iii) The Committee resolved to support the request for local levy funding for Gateshead Mine Water and Groundwater Flood Mitigation Study.
- iv) The Committee resolved to support the request for local levy funding for Spittal Quay Flood Gate.
- v) The Committee resolved to support an amended request of £45,000 local levy funding for RMA capacity building.
- vi) The Committee resolved to support the request for local levy funding for Lynemouth Coast Protection Scheme.
- vii) The Committee resolved to support the request for local levy funding for NFM expertise.

24/19 FCRM Programme Update [NRFCC/218]

2018/19 Programme

J McCarthy provided an overview of the 18/19 Programme. There has been £24.7 million capital investment and £2.25 million of revenue maintenance in 2018/19.

J McCarthy noted that the figures provided are a best estimate.

J McCarthy informed the Committee that efficiencies realised this year are being finalised. For the Capital Investment Programme, it is estimated that there will be around £1 million of GiA efficiencies. This figure is slightly short of the efficiencies target, however J McCarthy reminded the Committee that there is time to make up the shortfall in efficiencies within the full six-year programme.

For the Revenue Maintenance Programme, GiA efficiencies are estimated to be around £0.2 million. It was noted that any cash efficiencies realised can be released back into the local programme. A further update on efficiencies will be provided at the July RFCC meeting.

J McCarthy presented data on GiA spend. On Environment Agency led projects there has been £5.16 million GiA spent against a target of £5.3 million. For other RMA led projects GiA spend was £7.58 million against a budget of just over £6 million. The outturn was acceptable within the national context.

The benefits of 2018/19 programme were communicated to the Committee. Benefits delivered in 2018/19 include 904 homes better protected from flooding and 204 homes

better protected from coastal erosion. There has been £370 million of benefits through damages avoided through the phased delivery of homes. P Rothwell requested damages avoided to be split into categories including housing and infrastructure. J McCarthy agreed the Environment Agency could provide further breakdowns of damages avoided in the future.

J McCarthy gave an overview of the highlights of the Local Levy Programme for 2018/19. There has been a total of £2.36 million local levy invested. £1.9 million of this investment has been spent on schemes, £0.25 million has been spent on Officer Roles and £0.2 million has been spent on studies. J McCarthy listed schemes which had benefitted from local levy funding, including Monkton Village Flood Alleviation Scheme which better protected 107 homes in 2018/19.

J McCarthy summarised 2018/19 performance. J McCarthy informed the Committee that the target for better protecting homes from coastal erosion was exceeded by 54 homes but the target for better protecting homes from flooding was missed by 40 homes. J McCarthy reminded the Committee that some schemes are still in construction, therefore shortfall of homes achieved against targets in 2018/19 should be made up in 2019/20. J McCarthy concluded that the Environment Agency are in a positive position within the six-year programme.

Other areas of discussion:

- i) The Committee raised concerns surrounding where contributions from others received for future maintenance of Environment Agency assets is held along with how much interest is accumulated.
- ii) L Huntington informed the Committee that she has spoken to Walter Senkiw, the Environment Agency Finance Business Partner regarding contributions held for future maintenance of Environment Agency assets. L Huntington summarised that funding is held appropriately and there are legal agreements in place to ensure the funding is spent only on the assets it was intended for. O Harmar noted that the Environment Agency are audited on financial control and have strict procedures in place. The Chair asked for further information for the Committee on how much interest is accrued from all funding held by the Environment Agency and how this is apportioned to areas. The Chair also asked for information on the management of contributions held for future maintenance of Environment Agency assets.

2019/20 Programme

J McCarthy gave an overview of planned investment for 2019/20. Planned capital investment (including all local levy) is £22 million and planned revenue maintenance is £2.468 million. J McCarthy noted that the new local levy requests and deferrals from 2018/19 will be reviewed ahead of the July RFCC meeting. J McCarthy informed the Committee that the efficiencies target is 10% of the capital GiA investment.

J McCarthy informed the Committee that there are 32 schemes forecast to deliver better protect homes in 2019/20. J McCarthy pointed out that as some schemes did not complete in 2018/19, these benefits are forecast to be realised in 2019/20. There

are 1,444 homes forecast to be better protected from flooding and 279 forecast to be better protected from coastal erosion.

J McCarthy looked ahead to the 2020/21 programme, the NRFCC were asked to acknowledge the refresh process and the targets for next year. J McCarthy informed the Committee that the upcoming annual refresh aims to keep as much stability in the programme as possible.

H Clear Hill voiced concerns surrounding a fall in private contributions compared to 2018/19. J McCarthy and O Harmar confirmed that this was due to high private contributions for Port Clarence in earlier years which has skewed the figures. The high contributions made it appear as if forecasted contributions for next year are low. L Frostick informed the Committee that it is difficult across the board to achieve high contributions, she suggested we need to emphasise economic benefits to businesses and build relationships up over time in order to encourage higher support.

There was an agreed action for the Environment Agency to present how the Northumbria RFCC area compares nationally in terms of private contributions achieved.

J McCarthy mentioned that details of the capital and revenue maintenance programmes are now available to view on Gov.uk, in the form of an interactive map. Members questioned how often data is updated, there was an action for the Environment Agency to investigate this further and feedback to the Committee.

J McCarthy outlined progress of the programme against targets. As of 30 March 2019, 4,043 homes had been better protected. Forecasts show the maximum number of homes that could be delivered by the end of 2020/21 is 6,621. The minimum number expected to be better protected is 5,581.

J McCarthy informed the Committee that the Environment Agency are monitoring project and programme level risks in order to mitigate these early. The Environment Agency are working with RMAs in order to help ensure delivery is achieved ahead of March 2021. The Chair commented that based on current and past performance, he is confident that the Environment Agency and RMA's are on track to do well against the targets set out.

S Nasapen-Watson queried what the pipeline post-2021 looks like. L Huntington informed the Committee that at the last refresh all RMA's were encouraged to submit unconstrained bids which gives the National team an indication of what is needed for Spending Review 19 (SR19). L Huntington also noted that it is important to concentrate on future delivery and as part of the refresh we will gain a more accurate picture of the pipeline. L Frostick noted the importance of having a pipeline and suggested the benefits of a rolling programme. L Frostick informed the Committee that various options are being considered for future years.

25/19 LEVY SETTING

Discussions took place regarding the most appropriate time for Local Authorities to vote on the issue of local levy. October is the standard month for this to take place

across all RFCC's. The Committee expressed concerns with voting on the issue of local levy in October, as this is also when local choices take place.

Resolved

Following discussion, it was agreed that there was no benefit of bringing the levy setting forward to July, therefore the Committee agreed for the levy setting to remain in October. This is in line with all other RFCC's.

26/19 PERIODIC REVIEW UPDATE [NRFCC/219]

S Nasapen-Watson gave an update on PR19 submission and shared the ambitions of Northumbrian Water (NW) for drainage and waste water management.

S Nasapen-Watson focused on two key themes; reliable and resilient services and improving the environment. NW set out ambitious goals including the goal to “eradicate sewer flooding in the home as a result of our assets and operations”. It was emphasised that protecting the environment is at the heart of NW's provision of services and a lot of investment has gone into rectifying past practices.

S Nasapen-Watson detailed key factors of the initial assessment carried out by Ofwat, and listed challenges and successes. S Nasapen-Watson then went on to discuss the next steps which will lead to the final determination in December 2019.

27/19 COASTAL UPDATE

J Riby gave a coastal update for 2018/19. J Riby outlined the work of the North East Coastal Group, detailing challenges faced with particular reference to climate change.

J Riby talked about the issues of ageing coastal defences and environmental impacts relating to the Strategic Assessment Environmental Report. Success was celebrated as J Riby emphasised there has been in excess of £70 million investment since 2000. Other benefits were recognised, including creating and enhancing a sense of place. J Riby gave an overview of coastal schemes delivered and schemes planned for future delivery.

28/19 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT (NFM)

J Cokill gave a summary of the National RFCC Conservation Group paper [NRFCC/220]. There was discussion surrounding the reporting mechanism between the Conservation Members National Group and the NRFCC. It was proposed that information from the Conservation Members National Group is either fed into the Environmental Sub-group or directly reported to the RFCC at meetings as a standing agenda item. It was agreed that a report on the Conservation group activities would be presented to the Committee on a regular basis.

The Committee asked if future agendas on the Conservation Members National Group can be circulated to the RFCC members but as agendas were often only set a day or to before meetings this was thought to be impractical. The Committee were informed that if they have any contributions or suggestions for the Conservation Members National Group to inform Jim Cokill who is happy to report these to the Group.

29/19 CHAIRS UPDATE [NRFCC/221]

- L Frostick discussed the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy (National FCERM strategy). L Frostick informed the Committee that the National FCERM Strategy is in the final stages of development and will be launched on 9 May 2019. L Frostick also detailed that the National FCERM Strategy is published prior to Defra's Policy Statement. L Frostick encouraged the Committee to give feedback on the National FCERM Strategy.

L Frostick emphasised the importance of climate change in relation to the National FCERM Strategy which runs until 2100. L Frostick noted the increasingly important role of the RFCC in shaping the strategy. L Frostick informed the Committee that the National FCERM Strategy is based on evidence presented in the Long Term Investment Scenario which was published on 28 February 2019.

The Committee were reminded that there are workshops running on the National FCERM Strategy. Details of the workshops have been circulated to Committee members.

The Committee discussed the importance of being more vocal about climate change. O Harmar emphasised that the Environment Agency would like continue to be vocal and to influence the media on this important subject. The Committee commented that they would like to see different strategies being further aligned, including NW's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan and alignments within planning and construction to achieve resilient housing.

- The Chair informed members of the Flood and Coast 2019 conference which is being held in June 2019. The Area was commended for its work to date and for being nominated for awards at the conference. The Chair informed members of an available ticket to attend the event. If members are interested they should contact S Cresswell.
- The Chair asked Committee members to respond to RFCC and P&I meeting invitations either by accepting or declining the appointment in Outlook. It was emphasised that it is important to select the option to 'send a response' in Outlook in order for S Cresswell to track attendance at meetings.
- The Chair noted that funding for apprenticeships is now available, local levy can be used to help support this training. Further details surrounding apprenticeships can be found in the RFCC Chairs update paper which was provided in the Information pack for the April RFCC meeting.

30/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- J Copeland raised queries surrounding the Effectiveness Initiative and requested that the initial paper regarding the initiative be re-circulated to RFCC members along with a list of sites in 2019/20 affected by the initiative. The Chair agreed he will speak to Environment Agency Officers to clarify the Committees role in this matter but in the interim James was asked to further discuss his concerns with Officers.

- The Chair gave an update on NRFCC recruitment. Applications for the positions have now closed. A further update will be given at the July RFCC meeting. It was noted that there were no applications for the Coastal Member post.
- The Chair confirmed that there will be a trip to Monkton Village as part of the July RFCC meeting.
- The Committee recognised and thanked S Dickie and J Riby for their contributions to the RFCC.
- The Chair thanked O Harmar for his input into the Committee over the past 2.5 years, also wishing O Harmar well in his new position as Area Director in Yorkshire.

31/19 NEXT MEETING

10:00am on Friday, 19 July 2019. The meeting venue is to be confirmed.

Meeting: NRFCC Meeting

Subject: NRFCC Action Summary Table

Date: Friday 19 July 2019

Paper No: NRFCC/222

Subject	When Raised	Action	By Whom	By When	Update/Complete	Date Complete
25 year environment Plan	Oct 2018	O Harmar to report to the Committee on the Ambition Statement in due course.	O Harmar / Committee	October 2019	Ongoing	
Historic Tipping and Mine Legacy	April 2019	Further investigation and National discussion.	P Rothwell	October 2019	Ongoing	
Presenting contributions data	Jan 2019	Alternative approach for presenting contributions data.	J McCarthy	July 2019	Updates included for July RFCC	July 2019
Pilot drone project	Jan 2019	Paper on Pilot drone project	D Huntington	July 2019	Update paper included in July RFCC	July 2019
Environment sub-group	Jan 2019	S Merrett to provide revised Environment sub-group paper [NRFCC/214] to Committee	S Merrett	October 2019	Update paper to be provided in October 2019	
Contributions for future maintenance of EA assets	April 2019	Provide the Committee with further information on how contributions received for future maintenance of EA assets are managed. Provide clarity on the issue of interest accumulated on future maintenance funding.	L Huntington / W Senkiw	July 2019	Update paper included for information in July RFCC	July 2019
Damages avoided	April 2019	Provide the Committee with further breakdowns of damages avoided and benefits.	J McCarthy	July 2019	Updates included for July RFCC	July 2019
Private contributions	April 2019	Provide the Committee with information on how the Northumbria RFCC area compares nationally in terms of private contributions to the capital programme	J McCarthy	July 2019	Verbal update for July RFCC	July 2019
Gov.uk interactive map	April 2019	EA to feedback to Committee on how often data on Gov.uk interactive map showing the programme is updated.	J McCarthy	July 2019	Capital programme data is updated annually and revenue programme data for year 1 (current year) is updated quarterly and for years 2-5 will be updated annually.	July 2019
Effectiveness Initiative	April 2019	Further investigation into the role of the Committee and the Effectiveness Initiative.	P Rothwell	July 2019	Update paper included for July RFCC	July 2019

Note: This table will be rolled forward quarterly with completed actions removed

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Meeting: **NRFCC**

Subject: **Programming and Investment Sub-Group Chair's Report**

Date: **24 June 2019**

Paper No: **NRFCC/223**

Lead: **Phil Rothwell**

PURPOSE

To note discussions and recommendations of the programming and investment (P&I) subgroup meeting held on 24 June 2019.

We considered:

- a) An update on final performance of 2018/19 programme and update on 2019/20 programme
- b) The latest position with the Local Levy Programme, including new requests and variations.
- c) An update on the programme refresh, which is subject of separate report to the Committee.
- d) The FCRM Strategy consultation

KEY POINTS

2018/19

- In **2018/19** the total capital investment for was **£24.79 million**. **904 homes** were better protected from flooding and **204 homes** were better protected from coastal erosion. The efficiencies target was exceeded with year-end efficiencies reaching **1.37 million**.

2019/20

- In **2019/20** the total capital budget is £21 million, £11 million of this is GiA. The available local levy budget is **£3.95 million**.
- There have been 23 requests to vary in-year local levy allocations, the result of the changes requested is a net decrease of **-£208,646 in-year allocations**.
- The sub-group reviewed and recommended 9 new in-year local levy requests totalling **£292.9 thousand** (see financial recommendations).

FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The subgroup recommended that the Committee approve the following local levy requests:

- Variations to 2019/20 allocations for 23 projects (Table 1)
- New requests for funding in 2019/20 for 9 projects (shown in section 4):
 - **£7,500** for Town Foot, Haltwhistle, Environment Agency
 - **£40,000** for Backworth Golf Course, North Tyneside Council
 - **£45,000** for Bywell Grove, North Tyneside Council
 - **£35,000** for Cauldwell Lane, North Tyneside Council
 - **£45,000** for Hyde Park, Wallsend, North Tyneside Council
 - **£30,000** for Otterburn Avenue, North Tyneside Council
 - **£62,500** for Studley Terrace, Newcastle City Council
 - **£15,000** for Greatham Beck, Environment Agency
 - **£15,000** for Holme Fleet, Environment Agency

1 ATTENDANCE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1.1 Sub-Group Member attendees:
Phil Rothwell (Chair)
Councillor Bill Kellett
Councillor Marjorie James
Paul Armin
Jimmy Young
Aaron McNeill
Steena Nasapen-Watson | 1.2 Environment Agency attendees:
Leila Huntington
Phil Marshall
Tristan Drought
Stephen Merrett
Jenny McCarthy
Kane Davison
Shaunie Cresswell |
| 1.3 Officer attendees: (supporting members or partners):
Andy Casey
Brian Weatherall
Laura Turvey
Scott Parkes | 1.4 Other attendees:
Keith Hutton
Ed Rollason |
| | 1.5 Apologies
Councillor Nick Oliver
Councillor Amy Wilson |

2. CHAIRS UPDATE

- 2.1 Successes of the Flood and Coast Conference 2019 were shared. Monkton FAS won the Sustainability category, Port Clarence and Greatham was highly commended in the Sustainability category and Tyne Green won the Community Partnership category. Community Engagement Officers were shortlisted in the Community Partnership category and Weardale NFM was shortlisted in the Innovative Approaches category.
- 2.2 Members were reminded to contribute to the FCERM Strategy Consultation by the closing deadline which is 4 July 2019.
- 2.3 A meeting between RFCC Chairs later this week (week commencing 24/06) is planned to discuss the next funding settlement following March 2021. An update on the meeting will be given at the July RFCC meeting.

3 PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE UPDATE

- 3.1 J McCarthy provided an update on programme performance for 2018/19.
- 3.2 The total capital investment for 2018/19 was **£24.79 million**. Other RMA's submitted additional claims towards the end of the year which resulted in a total GiA RMA expenditure of **£7.84 million**. **904 homes** were better protected from flooding and **204 homes** were better protected from coastal erosion. This is a strong position, with the coastal homes target being exceeded. The efficiencies target was exceeded with year-end efficiencies reaching **£1.37 million**.
- 3.3 J McCarthy provided an update on programme performance for 2019/20. The budget for this year is **£21 million**, **£11 million** of this is GiA. There has been a small reduction in the GiA budgets compared to budgets reported at April 2019 RFCC meeting. The Environment Agency affordable budget is now **£6.1 million** and the other RMA affordable GiA budget is **£5.1 million**,
- 3.4 Environment Agency are forecast to spend just under the budget and steps are being taken to increase the expenditure. Other RMAs are forecast to spend just more than budget by the end of the year. J McCarthy encouraged RMA's to submit claim forms as soon as possible. Claims can be made three months in advance of expected expenditure. Cllr M James reminded members that they should remind RMA Officers to claim three months in advance.

Agenda Item 4

- 3.5 J McCarthy informed the group that demand for GiA in the national programme exceeds the amount of GiA available. Spend is closely monitored nationally in order to keep within an affordable budget.
- 3.6 J McCarthy noted that current approved local levy allocations total **£3.8 million**, but there have been a number of new requests and requests to vary in-year allocations – see section 4. Year-end forecasts for levy spend are below allocations, but may not include new requests.
- 3.7 The group asked what can be done to address levy underspend. J McCarthy informed the group that work is being done to find out why underspend occurs and how to avoid this in the future. J McCarthy noted that local levy can be carried over to the next financial year but GiA cannot therefore it is important to utilise GiA to avoid losing out on this funding
- 3.8 J McCarthy stated that contributions make up the remainder of the **£21 million** investment programme. Work is under way which aims to understand the risks to securing contributions.
- 3.9 In 2019/20 the area is forecast to exceed targets of better protecting **761 homes** from flooding and **140 homes** from coastal erosion. **33 schemes are forecast** to complete better protecting **1,413 homes** from flooding and **279 homes** from coastal erosion. Targets do not include all projects deferred from 2018/19 and to ensure we remain on track to deliver our 6 year programme, we should aim to achieve current forecasts. The majority of schemes have now started construction or have completed their business cases, therefore we are confident forecasts are achievable.
- 3.10 The group raised concerns over capturing evidence for the work the Community Engagement Officers do in contributing to protecting homes from flooding and coastal erosion. L Huntington informed the group that this is of national interest and work is being done to collate the benefits which result from the work of the Community Engagement Officers.
- **There was an agreed action for The Chair to raise the issue of capturing benefits achieved by Community Engagement Officers with Environment Agency colleagues in a meeting later this week (week commencing 24/06).**
- 3.11 J McCarthy stated that achieving a 10% efficiency saving in FCRM GiA expenditure is a formal condition of the 6 year funding settlement. The minimum target for efficiencies in 2019/20 is **£1.1 million**. J McCarthy informed the group that we have a good track record for achieving efficiencies and that Roz Watson is working with Environment Agency Project Managers and RMA's to identify efficiencies. J McCarthy encouraged the group to provide regular updates on efficiencies and explained that all projects should have an efficiencies register (CERT).
- 3.12 It was noted that there will be close monitoring of progress and risks for priority programme projects (projects forecast to deliver majority of homes better protected). Contributions monitoring will also continue. There will be regular progress meetings between Environment Agency Officers and RMA leads. Monthly monitoring of the in-year programme using the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) Status will commence in June 2019.
- 3.13 J McCarthy outlined the following key messages:
- GiA – The local capital programme must be managed within our affordable budget
 - Claiming capital GiA and levy – RMA's should claim GiA and local levy allocations as soon as they are able to do so, noting that claims can be made up to 3 months in advance of planned expenditure (within same financial year). Allocated GiA not claimed cannot be rolled over to 2020/21.
 - Contributions – RMA's must inform Environment Agency of risks to securing expected contributions for 2019/20.

- Project updates – RMAs should provide regular updates on progress of all projects to the Environment Agency to ensure we can monitor progress of the overall programme.
- Efficiencies – All projects must have a CERT efficiencies form and should be actively seeking to achieve efficiencies.

3.14 L Huntington emphasised the importance of working towards achieving the forecasts and encouraged Environment Agency and RMA's to commit expenditure as early as possible.

Revenue Programme Update

- 3.15 J McCarthy informed the group the revenue maintenance programme for 2019/20 has GiA funding of **£2.47 million**, with forecasts are to spend **£2.65 million** by the end of the financial year, this is acceptable within the national context.
- 3.16 There is **£0.3 million** of private contributions to maintain the newly constructed FCRM assets at Port Clarence and Greatham Creek. J McCarthy informed the group that the amount to be spent in 2019/20 will be reported to the RFCC when it has been confirmed.
- 3.17 J McCarthy noted that the Environment Agency have a good track record of achieving efficiencies and the target of achieving at least **£296,000** efficiencies should be achievable.

4 LOCAL LEVY REQUESTS AND CHANGES

- 4.1 K Davison gave an update on local levy programme and local levy requests.
- 4.2 K Davison informed the group that the local levy budget for 2019/20 is **£3.95 million** and with a 10% overprogramme the total is **£4.35 million**.
- 4.3 There have been 23 requests to vary in-year local levy allocations, the result of the changes requested is a net decrease of **-£208,646 in 2019/20 allocations**. Changes are due to deferred or accelerated spend or the local levy no longer being needed and are shown in Table 1.
- 4.4 The subgroup recommended that the RFCC approve all requests vary in-year local levy allocations, as shown in Table 1.
- 4.5 Any further requested for 2019/20 variations arising as part of the programme refresh will be reported at July or October RFCC.

Table 1. Requests to vary in-year local levy allocations

Project name	Lead RMA	From (£k)	To (£k)	Change Value (£k)
Alston Watercourse Diversion	Cumbria County Council	0	89	89
Seahouses	Northumberland County Council	0	68	68
NIDP - Fleet Beck and Roger's Dyke Inland Flood Alleviation Scheme	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	50	90	40
Hendon Burn Culvert Capital Maintenance Design & Construction	Sunderland City Council	0	16	16
NIDP - Wallsend (Chicken Road) Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme	North Tyneside Borough Council	16	30	14
Chathill Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme	Northumberland County Council	0	13	13

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Project name	Lead RMA	From (£k)	To (£k)	Change Value (£k)
NW Partnership Coordinator	Environment Agency	16	32	16
St Omer's Haugh (Gateshead) Flood Defence	Environment Agency	0	10	10
Dene Street Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme	Sunderland City Council	0	9	9
Skinningrove Flood Alleviation Scheme	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	0	8	8
Town Foot (Haltwhistle) Flood Alleviation Study*	Environment Agency	0	14	14
Chapel Park Surface water variation	Newcastle City Council	0	7	7
Sherburn Park Estate (Rowlands Gill) Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme	Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	0	5	5
Wooler Water Defence Replacement and Realignment	Environment Agency	0	5	5
Charltons Inland Flood Alleviation Scheme	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	0	4	4
Ridgeway and Leam Lane (East Gateshead) Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme	Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	0	3	3
Cornwall Close Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme	Middlesbrough Borough Council	0	1	1
Dunelm Walk (Leadgate) Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme	Durham County Council	11	6	-5
Shotley Bridge Surface Water Flood Management Works	Durham County Council	10	0	-10
Red Row Surface Water Flood Alleviation Scheme	Northumberland County Council	15	0	-15
Headland Walls and Blocksands (Hartlepool) Coastal Protection Scheme	Hartlepool Borough Council	32.8	0	-32.8
Strategy Frontage 3	Sunderland City Council	100	0	-100
Guisborough Flood Alleviation Scheme	Environment Agency	368	0	-368

- 4.6 There are 9 new local levy requests for the 2019/20 financial year totalling £292,900.
- 4.7 K Davison informed the group that if the proposed local levy requests are approved, this would take allocations in 2019/20 to **£40,000** under the budget which would result in limited ability to accommodate requests in future.
- 4.8 Figures produced during the refresh process suggest an increased demand for levy next year, however the figures are yet to be confirmed as GiA is yet to be allocated.
- 4.9 **The subgroup recommended that the RFCC approve new local levy requests as shown in paragraphs 4.10 - 4.18**

4.10 Environment Agency – Town Foot, Haltwhistle

Request for **£7,500 new** local levy and request to **defer £7,000** remaining local levy from 2018/19 to 2019/20 for Town Foot (Haltwhistle) Flood Alleviation Study. This project is needed to update the existing model as updated hydrological methodologies and software updates are available. The results of the modelling study will allow more robust and informed decisions to be made on the need for future flood alleviation.

4.11 North Tyneside Council – Backworth Golf Course

Request for **£40,000** for undertaking a study and hydraulic modelling. North Tyneside Council intend to undertake a catchment wide study and model the entire length of the water course.

4.12 North Tyneside Council – Bywell Grove

Request for **£45,000** for undertaking a study and hydraulic modelling, North Tyneside Council intend to undertake a catchment wide study.

4.13 North Tyneside Council – Cauldwell Lane

Request for **£35,000** for undertaking a study to investigate the flooding problem, the study will include investigation of the current drainage arrangements.

4.14 North Tyneside Council – Hyde Park, Wallsend

Request for **£45,000** for a study to identify the cause of flooding and develop options to resolve the flooding experienced at Hyde Park and the larger area.

4.15 North Tyneside Council – Otterburn Avenue

Request for **£30,000** local levy to fund a study to identify the cause of flooding and develop options to resolve the flooding experienced at Otterburn Avenue.

4.16 Newcastle City Council – Studley Terrace

Request for **£62,500** for consultation, detailed design and procurement works within the 2019/20 financial year. The request is to provide match funding until the end of the current financial year that will de-risk the project going forward. The project currently has pipeline status on the Environment Agency programme, and these schemes cannot be “guaranteed” until the Environment Agency’s funding settlement is announced. The ERDF offer will be conditional on match funding being available, and this presents the most suitable way to take it forward and not lose over £1m in external funding.

4.17 Environment Agency – Greatham Beck

Request for **£15,000** for investigation, modelling and outline design at Greatham Beck to address the historic disconnection of the Tees Estuary from its tributaries due to tide control structures. The study aims to create new intertidal habitat and compensate for the impact of sea level rise.

4.18 Environment Agency – Holme Fleet

Request for **£15,000** for a study to confirm whether it is feasible to regenerate over 1km of degraded watercourse and reconnect it to the Tees Estuary, creating habitat and a resource for the local community.

5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019-2021

5.1 J McCarthy asked the group to support the final annual refresh of the 6 year investment programme. A draft programme summary for 2020/21 was given. J McCarthy informed the group the refresh bids are currently being reviewed and the final bid will be presented at the July RFCC.

5.2 There was discussion on GiA allocations throughout the 6 year programme. Some members felt our area has in the past benefitted from additional GiA when other areas have failed to spend their GiA in year, but this has put extra pressure on our delivery teams. This has sometimes

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resulted in local levy projects being delayed or expenditure being deferred. Members noted that through the 2018/19 refresh, our indicative GiA allocation for future years of the programme was reduced. Members agreed that deferring levy expenditure was not a concern.

- 5.3 There was discussion surrounding packaging projects. J Heslop informed the group that we can't package project lines on the programme to seek an allocation for multiple projects but packaging projects for delivery purposes was acceptable and good practice.
- 5.4 J Heslop noted that we are awaiting Government decision on funding 2021/22 onwards. We need to ensure that the pipeline of projects reflects our need for investment. The Northumbrian Integrated Drainage Partnership (NIDP) aims to have RMA's agree priority areas and undertake integrated studies in order to progress the best solution for the area. The new collaborative delivery framework is now in place for up to the next 8 years.
- 5.5 P Armin informed the group that his authority were unable to fund their NIDP projects over the next two years, and possibly beyond March 2021. P Armin stated that all authorities are under pressure and suggested that where schemes which have passed stage 1 and are fully fundable by GiA, with evidence to support, then we should seek to use this instead to fund the studies. It was suggested that this was a good time to review the NIDP and identify any learning points.
 - **There was an action for Aaron McNeill to reschedule the cancelled Northumberland Partnership meeting, where a conversation about NIDP could take place.**
- 5.6 There was discussion surrounding contributions. It was suggested that through working with businesses we could attract more contributions. The Chair has a meeting with Defra later in the week (week commencing 24/06) to discuss. An update will be given at the next RFCC meeting.
- 5.7 J McCarthy informed the group that **4,043 homes** had been better protected from flooding / coastal erosion by the end of March 2019. We are on track to deliver the minimum programme level target of **5,581 homes** better protected by the end of March 2020. The number of homes better protected after March 2020 depends on funding secured, however we forecast to better protect at least **6,000 homes**.
- 5.8 J McCarthy stated that the top risks to delivery are: GiA funding, securing outstanding contributions, and timescales remaining for delivery.

6 FCERM STRATEGY

- 6.1 S Merrett gave an overview of the FCERM Strategy and encouraged the group to submit responses to the FCERM Strategy Consultation.
- 6.2 The FCERM Strategy Consultation opened on 9 May 2019 and will close on 4 July 2019. There have been FCERM Strategy Workshops and a FCERM Strategy joint Webex with the North West RFCC. P Rothwell encouraged submissions of responses to the consultation.

7 AOB

- 7.1 A McNeill informed the group of a Pathfinder Opportunity. The deadline for submission is Friday 28 June 2019. The group were encouraged to submit responses, A McNeill agreed to circulate the spine submission to the group after the P&I meeting.

Phil Rothwell

**Northumbria RFCC and Programming and Investment subgroup Chair
June 2019**

New Local Levy Request forms – included in information pack

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Meeting: **NRFCC Meeting**

Subject: **North East Area Flood & Coastal Risk Management Report**

Date: **July 2019**

Paper No: **NRFCC/224**

Lead: **Leila Huntington, Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager**

Purpose:

To give the Committee an overview of all aspects of Flood & Coastal Risk Management in the Northumbria RFCC's area.

Key points:

- The capital investment programme aims to reduce risk and impact of flooding and coastal erosion in our area. The investment programme in 2019/20 is **£21 million**, including **£11 million** of government Grant in Aid funding.
- Through our programme, we are forecasting to better protect **1,692** homes from flooding and/or coastal erosion through **33 schemes** in 2019/20
- The Environment Agency's revenue maintenance budget in 2019/20 is **£2.47 million**. This will be used to maintain our flood assets, which help protect our communities from flooding.
- The excellent work of our four community engagement officers continues to help make our communities **more resilient to flooding**. Officers have recently been working in Yarm, Middlesbrough, Chester-Le-Street, Newcastle, Acomb, Wooler and Morpeth.
- Incident response teams at the Environment Agency and other Risk Management Authorities, were ready to respond to potential flooding in mid-June. Our area escaped the worst of the rain, with no reports of property flooding.
- At the national Project Excellence Awards in Telford the Tyne Green scheme won the Community Partnership category, Port Clarence and Greatham South was Highly Commended in the Sustainability category and South Tyneside Council's Monkton scheme won the Sustainability category.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report covers progress on investment programmes in the area, provides details of any recent incident response and provides updates on our major schemes.

2.0 Capital FCRM Investment Programme 2019/20

- 2.1 The Environment Agency manages government's investment to reduce flood risk and coastal erosion in England. The current 6 year flood and coastal erosion risk management investment programme in England runs from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2021. During this programme, the Environment Agency is committed to reducing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion to at least **300,000** homes, by investing **£2.6 billion**.

- 2.2 The programme of investment includes many separate projects, led by either the Environment Agency, or another Risk Management Authority (RMA), such as a local authority (council) or water company. Projects include construction of new flood defences, replacement of existing defences, to directly reduce flood risks. The programme also includes projects such as funding engagement officers to help increase community flood resilience.
- 2.3 This part of the report summarises the investment programme in the Northumbria RFCC area in 2019/20 and the benefits the programme is forecast to bring.
- 2.4 The capital investment programme for Northumbria in 2019/20 is **£21 million**, including £11 million of Grant in Aid (GiA), £3.88 million of Local Levy, £5.06 million of public contributions and £1.13 million of private contributions.

2.5 Grant in Aid (GiA)

- 2.5.1 The capital allocations for 2019/20 set out in the April RFCC paper, included a degree of over-allocation that needed to be managed back during the year. In response to feedback, including from RFCCs, the National Portfolio Management Office have now issued revised affordable budgets for 2019/20. In the Northumbria area, that resulted in a small reduction of £367,000 in GiA budget. RFCC Committees will be kept informed of any further proposed changes.
- 2.5.2 The total GiA budget for 2019/20 is **£11 million**. Since April RFCC, there have been requests to vary in-year GiA allocations; changes have all been reviewed and are acceptable within the current budgets.
- 2.5.3 The **Environment Agency** affordable budget is **£6.1 million**. Spend to end of June is £500,000, with year-end forecasts currently **£5 million**. We are investigating action we can take to increase spend up to the affordable budget. The **other RMA** affordable budget is **£5.14 million**. Year-end forecasts are currently **£5 million**, but no RMA claims have been made yet. RMAs should claim funding as soon as able to, noting claims can be made up to 3 months in advance of planned expenditure.

2.6 Local Levy

- 2.6.1 The current approved Local Levy allocations for 2019/20 are **£3.83 million**. Several new requests and requests to vary in-year allocations were taken to the Programming and Investment (P&I) sub-group, and recommended for RFCC approval. Since P&I there have been several further requests to defer 2019/20 allocations to 2020/21. Further details of these are in Item 6. If these are all approved, in-year allocations would reduce to £2.58 million.

2.7 Contributions

- 2.7.1 As well as direct funding from government as Grant in Aid (GiA), the capital programme includes vital funding contributions from others, including other public organisations, such as local councils, and other private companies. These contributions are an incredibly important to the programme and without them, many projects would be unable to go ahead. Securing contributions of 15% of the government GiA funding settlement, is also a condition of the 6 year funding settlement.
- 2.7.2 The Northumbria RFCC area has an excellent track record in securing contributions to the programme. The contributions to the capital programme in Northumbria in 2019/20 are currently expected to be £6.2 million, including £5.06 million public and £1.13 million private. This represents nearly 30% of total expected investment. Work is underway to understand any risks to securing these contributions.

2.8 Benefits of programme 2019/20

- 2.8.1 The 6 year capital investment programme aims to better protect 300,000 homes from flooding / coastal erosion. Each area is given annual targets to meet to ensure we achieve our national target.
- 2.8.2 The Northumbria 2019/20 targets are to better protect 761 homes from flooding and 140 from coastal erosion. We are forecasting to exceed this target by some way, with forecasts to better protect **1,413 homes** from flooding and **279 homes** from coastal erosion through **33 schemes**. To ensure we remain on track to deliver our 6 year programme, we should aim to achieve current forecasts, as the targets don't include all projects deferred from 2018/19.
- 2.8.3 As well as better protecting homes from flooding, our schemes deliver wider benefits by better protecting other vital parts of communities, such as businesses, public buildings, and roads. These benefits are not always as easy to quantify as number of homes better protected. Our schemes completing in 2019/20 are estimated to deliver benefits of **£230 million in damages avoided**. Further details of some of these schemes is provided in section 3.0.

As well as investment in schemes delivering benefits this year, part of the programme is to work to develop projects and schemes that will deliver benefits in future years 2021/22 onwards.

- 2.8.4 We are forecasting to create or improve up to **82 hectares of habitat** in 2019/20. Whilst there are no formal targets set for this, this is an example of the fantastic additional environment benefits the programme delivers.

2.9 Efficiencies

- 2.9.1 Achieving a **10% efficiency** saving in our FCRM GiA expenditure is a formal condition of the national 6 year funding settlement of £2.6 billion. It has been established to ensure that the programme remains affordable in line with the costs associated with inflation over the 6 year period.
- 2.9.2 Efficiency claims for Northumbria for 2018/19 totalled **£1.33 million** against a minimum target of **£1.27 million** and a stretch target of **£1.37 million**. Performance over the last 4 years has been excellent and we are on track to achieve the 6 year target.
- 2.9.3 This year's minimum Northumbria efficiency target is **£1.12 million**. During Quarter 1 (April to June 2019), **£362,000** of efficiency claims have been submitted. Further potential efficiencies are being explored for a number of schemes which have significant GiA allocations. It is important that all projects continue to explore efficiencies and capture them through the submission of quarterly reports.

2.10 Progress of programme

- 2.10.1 Continued excellent partnership working between all organisations is vital to ensure the delivery of the programme and delivery of flood and coastal risk benefits to the communities at risk in the Northumbria RFCC area. The performance of the programme is closely monitored to ensure we are on track to meet our targets and projected spend is within our budgets. Detailed reports are provided to the P&I sub-group. In 2019/20 the programme is progressing well, with the vast majority of the 33 schemes forecast to deliver benefits this year now either have started construction or have completed their business cases.

3.0 Capital FCRM programme highlights

3.1 Environment Agency Scheme Updates

- 3.1.1 **Marton West Beck and Stokesley:** Business cases have been approved to progress both these projects through detailed design to Full Business Case. We have awarded a contract to Bam and Mott Macdonald who will be progressing detailed design through the summer and autumn. Funding has been requested through the programme refresh for 2020/21 for both projects. If funding is secured, work could start in spring 2020 and complete by March 2021. Works at Marton West Beck will better protect around 300 homes from flooding and works at Stokesley will better protect 500 homes from flooding.
- 3.1.2 **Ponteland:** A Business Case has now been approved to progress with detailed design for asset improvements in Ponteland with a concurrent surface water flood risk review. We are in the final stages of awarding the design contract to Arup through the new supplier arrangements. The aim is to be on site as early as possible in 2020.
- 3.1.3 **Hexham Industrial Estates Flood Alleviation Scheme: This scheme** An Outline Business Case (OBC) is currently with our National Project Assurance Service. The scheme will then progress to detailed design with Arup with delivery planned for 2020.
- 3.1.4 **Corbridge Phase 2 (Devils Water):** The potential to realign defences at Corbridge was being considered as potentially the most economically viable option. The complexity of doing this led to the construction being delayed until 2020. Following discussion with the landowner there is significant potential for collaboration which may lead to a hold the line approach being justifiable. A detailed design contract is planned to be awarded to Arup to develop the design in advance of construction tender for delivery in 2020.
- 3.1.5 **Team Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme:** An OBC is to be submitted by the end of July for this large scale phased scheme to reduce risk to the industrial estate. Due to a number of external factors (aligning with partnership funding and delivery opportunities/constraints with Highways England and Network Rail) the urgency of progressing the larger elements of the project have reduced. Through the programme refresh, additional GiA funding has been requested in 2020/21 to progress with some elements of work, with major construction works planned for 2021/22.
- 3.1.6 **Spring Gardens Screen Improvements:** This project is to improve the screen at the Spring Gardens dam on the River Gaunless. The full business case for this project has been approved and a design and build contract awarded to Bam and Mott Macdonald. Delivery is planned for autumn 2019 and the works will better protect 279 homes from flooding.
- 3.1.7 **Lustrum Beck Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2:** The vast majority of the natural flood management for this scheme is planned for delivery in the late summer early autumn of 2019
- 3.1.8 **Acomb Flood Alleviation Scheme:** A full business case for the project will be submitted in the next few weeks. The project aims to better protect up to 37 homes from flooding, with work planned to start in 2019/20.
- 3.1.9 **Guisborough Flood Alleviation Scheme:** The new modelling for the scheme has demonstrated a much reduced flood risk from the Chapel Beck, as was expected. It has therefore not been possible to justify major capital improvements for the beck and as such this project will be closed down. The modelling has provided a much improved understanding of risk for the many smaller watercourses in the town. With the Environment Agency's Project and Contract Management (PCM) team delivering projects on behalf of Redcar and Cleveland council they have developed an Outline Business Case for the construction of a flow diversion bund and environmental

improvements for a scheme to be known as the Hunter's Hill FAS. The OBC will be submitted by the end of July with delivery in late summer/autumn 2019.

- 3.1.10 Weardale Natural Flood Management (NFM) Demonstrator project:** We have completed construction of a demonstration site for the Weardale NFM project. The aim of the demonstration site is to show local land managers the sort of green engineered interventions we are planning to construct in the area. The site will help land managers visualise the features we would like to construct on their land. We hope showing landowners the site will build trust, allay concerns and help them make informed decisions. The demonstration site comprises a soil bund built to attenuate river flows and intercept flow coming across the landowner's field. It has been constructed using local material to avoid the risk of bringing material into an area of outstanding natural beauty; as well preventing increased costs. The demonstration site has also been used to inform future construction for the project as a whole, the contractor has been commissioned to create a lessons learnt report. The recent rainfall has shown the feature in action with some flow following its natural path and some entering the feature. It demonstrates its effectiveness in managing water coming both from the river and the run off on the field.



Weardale NFM demonstration site in action during high flows

3.2 Other Risk Management Authority Scheme Updates

- 3.2.1 Northumberland County Council – Seahouses Coastal Protection Scheme:** The scheme will bring the pier up to a structural standard to last at least another 100 years and better protect 139 properties from coastal erosion. Work commenced on the main pier at Seahouses in April 2019 and contractors have been undertaking hydro-demolition works on both seaward and inner elevations in order to complete concrete pours under the Marine Management Organisations (MMO) limits. A website has been set up to share key messages and progress updates. It can be found via <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Highways/FCERM.aspx#floodriskmanagement>



- 3.2.2 **Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council – North Skelton Flood Alleviation Scheme:** Following the completion of detailed design, works to install a trash screen commenced in June 2019. The scheme will reduce the risk of blockage to a culvert under Holmbeck Road and will better protect 12 properties in North Skelton from flooding. Using a pre-fabricated headwall and screen has reduced time on site and disruption to the local community. Works are expected to complete in July 2019.
- 3.2.3 **Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council – Charlton Flood Alleviation Scheme:** The Charlton Flood Alleviation Scheme will better protect 39 properties from flooding. Earth bunding and excavation work is expected to commence in August 2019, creating a flood water storage area to the south of the village. Through the detailed design process, the cut and fill ratio has been calculated to reduce any requirement to remove or import material to site. Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and the Environment Agency have worked closely throughout the development of this project to engage with landowners and manage the design phase. The construction phase is expected to last for 3 weeks.
- 3.2.4 **South Tyneside Council – Monkton, Elberfeld Court and Newcastle Road Flood Alleviation Schemes:** At the end of 2018, South Tyneside Council appointed Whitehouse Construction to carry out surveys and flood protection works to identified properties in South Tyneside. Surveys were undertaken at the beginning of the year and installations on site began at in June. Whitehouse are expected to be on site until the end of July installing measures to properties..

3.3 Environment Programme Highlights

- 3.3.1 The capital FCRM programme provides part funding for several projects which are also on our Environment Programme. In 2019/20 £545,000 of FCRM GiA funding is contributing to 5 projects.
- 3.3.2 **Rural Skerne:** This project is being delivered as the Bright Water Landscape Partnership ('Discover Bright Water') from 2018 to summer 2022. A full delivery team employed by Durham Wildlife Trust is now in place to restore, enhance and promote access to the Skerne catchment. Discover Bright Water are in the process of commissioning contracts to deliver natural and built heritage restoration works, engagement and communication activity. Additional land has been secured for water dependant habitat and potential Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures.
- 3.3.3 **Pennine Peat Partnership:** Pennine PeatLIFE is funded through EU LIFE funding, Defra Grant in Aid, and funding from Yorkshire Water, United Utilities and Northumbrian Water. Peatlands are a vital carbon store, providing much of the UK's drinking water, helping to reduce flooding by slowing water flow and providing a unique habitat for wildlife and plants. The project aims to restore 1,353 hectares and create at least 150 hectares of blanket bog across the North East, Yorkshire, Cumbria & Lancashire. The delivery phase has now commenced in line with schedule.
- 3.3.4 **Woodlands for Water:** This project enables advisors to work with landowners to prepare and develop high quality and well-designed Countryside Stewardship (CS) Scheme applications for Woodland Creation Grant. The project focuses exclusively on Woodland for Water target areas across Yorkshire and the North East of England. Deliverables within this project include soil protection, improved water usage, increased soil infiltration rates and greater hydraulic roughness of the flood plain. The advisors have been appointed across the area and they are working with Forestry Commission officers and Environment Agency catchment coordinators to ensure a unified approach for delivery. The project is progressing well.
- 3.3.5 **Till SSSI restoration, Northumberland:** The project is working with landowners, stakeholders and delivery partners to implement river restoration plans with the aim of improving the Site of Special Scientific Interest's (SSSI) ecological status towards 'favourable condition'. The project is progressing well, with landowners, stakeholders and delivery partners fully engaged.

4.0 Environment Agency Revenue Investment Programme 2019/20

- 4.1 The total Environment Agency revenue programme for 2019/20 is £5.9 million. This includes funding for the maintenance programme and for all other revenue expenditure including salaries.
- 4.2 The Environment Agency maintains a wide range of flood and coastal risk management (FCRM) assets, which reduce the risk of flooding to people and property. The 2019/20 revenue maintenance programme has £2.47 million of GiA funding, and is forecast to spend £2.65 million.
- 4.3 We expect a target of achieving 97.1% of North East FCRM assets at the required condition by the end of 2019/20. We are expected to achieve this target. There is a target of achieving at least £296,000 of efficiencies within the revenue maintenance programme, we have a good track record of realising efficiencies and the target should be achievable.
- 4.4 The Environment Agency hold a £0.3 million private contribution to maintain the newly constructed FCRM assets at Port Clarence and Greatham Creek. The amount to be spent in 2019/20 will be reported to be RFCC when it is confirmed.

4.5 Environment Agency Maintenance Activities

- 4.5.1 **Progress of maintenance programme:** The first grass cuts are ongoing and operational checks are progressing in line with the programme.



Grass cutting at Mitford Dam



West Auckland flood bank chipping



Tree removal on River Derwent



Ormesby Beck tidal flap clearance

4.5.2 We have two tender packages of intermittent works which have been awarded. These are:-

1. Tees/Wear Area Works (approx value £150,000).
2. Tyne/Northumberland Area Works (approx value £120,000).

Works are currently progressing well in each package. Additional works have also been identified for each package and will be included for delivery this financial year subject to acceptable costs estimates.

4.5.3 A number of direct awards will be issued to carry out vegetation clearance, vermin control and maintain conveyance. These are currently being compiled.

4.5.4 The structural inspections we carried out last financial year provided invaluable information in the development of pipeline schemes. We are currently developing a further package of structural inspections to continue this work for delivery under our new Collaborative Delivery Framework. Initial estimates put the value of this work at £180,000.

4.5.5 The North East area is one of two areas that has been given permission to operate a drone as part of a national project. We are continuing to investigate a number of common potential uses and trialling these to assess the costs, resource level requirements, benefits, risks and limitations of the Environment Agency owning and operating drones. The project continues to show a huge amount of potential and the trial has now been expanded nationally. Notable projects in the North East Area carried out to date are:-

1. Marsden Coast (South Tyneside Council) - recce of decaying cliff face and caves
2. Binchester (Environment Agency) – survey of geomorphological changes to river after erosion control works
3. Sunderland Waste Fire (Environment Agency & Sunderland Council) – assessment of volume of waste on site.
4. Corbridge (Environment Agency) – Recce for potential alignment of new flood bank



Marsden Cliff face recce



Binchester Geomorphological study



Sunderland Waste Fire Waste Volume Assessment



Corbridge floodbank realignment recce

4.5.6 Drone operations are planned to continue at number of locations throughout the North East. These include, Nent & West Allen – algae blooms in metal polluted waters and Lynemouth Cliffs - erosion and waste leakage.

4.5.7 The second set of grass cuts will begin in the next quarter alongside further operational checks. Other planned works next quarter include:-

1. Handrail repairs at Portrack scene
2. Wydon Reservoir fencing
3. Sedgeleth floodbank
4. The Parks outfall

5.0 Flood Response

5.1 Following a dry period over the winter and early spring the North East began to experience wetter conditions during June. The North East Area Incident Room was open to respond to a period of heavy rainfall between 11 June and 13 June 2019. During this period 1 Flood Warning and 7 Flood Alerts were issued with our messages being sent out to over 500 properties. As part of our response field teams were deployed to clear trash screens, media interviews were conducted and staff carried out data collection and public liaison tasks in order to validate our alerts and warnings. There were no reports of property flooding during this event.

5.2 Two Coastal Flood Alerts were also issued on 8 May in response to spring tides, flood warnings thresholds were not met during this event and again there were no reports of property flooding. A summary of all Flood Alerts and Warnings issued in Quarter 1 can be found in Table 1.

Table 1 Flood Alerts and Warnings issued April – June 2019

Date	Flood Alert / Warning	Location	Details / Impacts
08/05/19	Flood Alert	Tyne & Wear Coast	Wave overtopping spray in coastal areas, no flooding of properties.
08/05/19	Flood Alert	Wear Estuary	Wave overtopping spray in coastal areas, no flooding of properties.
13/06/19	Flood Warning	Waren Burn at Waren Mill	Access to campsite flooded, customers forced to move tents and caravans, no property flooding
12/06/19	Flood Alert	River Leven	High river levels and flooding of low lying land, no property flooding
12/06/19	Flood Alert	Ouseburn	High river levels and flooding of low lying land, no property flooding
12/06/19	Flood Alert	River Derwent, Team & Don	High river levels and flooding of low lying land, no property flooding
12/06/19	Flood Alert	Lower River Wear	High river levels and flooding of low lying land, no property flooding

12/06/19	Flood Alert	Middlesbrough Becks	High river levels and flooding of low lying land, no property flooding
12/06/19	Flood Alert	Coastal Rivers in North Northumberland	High river levels and flooding of low lying land, no property flooding
12/06/19	Flood Alert	River Till and Tributaries	High river levels and flooding of low lying land, no property flooding



Flooded campsite entrance at Waren Mill – 13 June 2019

6.0 Flood Warning Improvements

- 6.1 The Environment Agency operates a flooding warning service to provide advance warning of flooding from rivers and sea to the public, professional partners and the media across England and Wales.
- 6.2 We continue to make improvements to our flood warning service wherever possible to ensure we can send accurate and timely flood warnings. During Quarter 1 we reviewed properties which can receive the warning and the levels at which we issue them. Updates were made to our Flood Warning areas at Morpeth, Ponteland, Fatfield, Wooler and West Auckland.
- 6.3 In May we also introduced a new Operational Message which specifically informs residents of flood gate closures in Yarm. When our flood gates are operated certain car parks within Yarm become cut off and cars can be trapped until the gates are opened again. This message now gives residents and commuters the opportunity to hear about our operational plans and move cars before flood gates are closed.

- 6.4 A new 3 year national project has also begun which is aiming to deliver a new flood warning service to 26,000 properties which are at a high risk of flooding across the country. During Year 1 of the project in the North East we will be targeting locations where our existing flood warning areas can be extended to include adjacent properties at risk. During Year's 2 and 3 we will be working with the national project team to deliver a new service in areas where flood warnings aren't currently available.

7.0 Communications and Engagement

7.1 Highlights

- 7.1.1 On 13 May 2019 two representatives from Ovingham community attended a meeting to receive an update regarding the recent modelling results. They appreciated the early engagement and a future event is planned with the wider community in July where NWL and NCC will be in attendance.
- 7.1.2 On 23 May 2019 we hosted a consultation event in Haydon Bridge with Northumbrian Water Ltd and Northumberland County Council to deliver the results of the JBA modelling for the area. The event was well attended and the results of the modelling well received. A number of people signed up to the Flood Warning Service during the event
- 7.1.3 On 21 June 2019 we attended the Tynedale Flood Forum event with partners Northumbrian Water Ltd and Northumberland County Council, to talk about the successes in flood risk reduction and new flood modelling for key communities in the Tynedale Valley. The event was well attended with really positive feedback.



Tynedale Flood Forum

7.2 Community Engagement Officer Update

- 7.2.1 We have four Community Engagement Officers in the Northumbria RFCC area, funded through local levy. Across the area our Community Engagement Officers work with schools, communities and businesses to raise their flood risk awareness and improve resilience. Some highlights over the past quarter are detailed below and further information is available in the officers monthly highlight reports.

7.2.2 In **Cleveland** Sarah has been working with Yarm Flood Wardens to develop a community flood plan for the area. Further work in Yarm has been focusing on the engagement roll out for Operational Message to ensure residents, visitors and staff are aware of the possibility of Yarm Gates closing. The new signs have been installed and an event held on 21 June 2019 with the Environment Agency Incident Command Vehicle to launch the new operational message. Sarah has also been working on building links with Middlesbrough at risk communities and has appeared on CVFM Radio 'Ramadan Live' with 5000 – 6000 listeners where she hosted a slot focusing on flood resilience in the community.

7.2.3 In the **Durham & Darlington** area, Anna has been finalising the Chester-Le-Street flood plan and working on exercising the plan with the town group which is scheduled for later in the year. Anna has started work on planning the Weardale Natural Flood Management engagement with Citizen Science and school engagement sessions. Anna also attended the Fire Cadets Community Safety Award Flood Scenario Day with the RNLI, Fire service, CCU and British Red Cross. The day had great feedback and will be repeated in the future.



Fire Cadets Community Safety Award Flood Scenario Day

7.2.4 In the **Tyne and Wear** area, Taryn attended the Fire Service Water Safety Day at Newcastle Quayside, highlighting the flood safety and resilience message. The event was really well attended by the public and included displays from a number of emergency services from across

the local counties. Taryn has also been working with deaf pupils to create flood resilience messaging at Percy Hedley School.

- 7.2.5 In **Northumberland** Colin has been working with Acomb Flood Warden Group to finalise the updates on their flood plan. Colin has also delivered a flood safety and STEM session at Newminster Middle School with Rebecca Croft from Northumberland County Council's FCERM. Colin also showcased flooding using the sandbox model with the Fisheries and Biodiversity team at the Glendale Show Children's Day in Wooler, raising awareness of flood resilience in the community.

8.0 Other Information for the Committee

- 8.1 **Award winning schemes.** Many of our projects in the North East have been successful in winning awards recently. At the ICE North East awards in May, South Tyneside Council's Monkton scheme was Highly Commended in the Medium category, with the winner being North Tyneside Council's Whitley Bay Central Promenade (delivered by Hartlepool Borough Council). The Environment Agency's Port Clarence and Greatham South also won the large projects category. At the CENE awards in June, Hartlepool Borough Council's Headlands scheme won the Innovation and Value award categories and was also Highly Commended in the Civil Project of the Year category. Finally, at the national Project Excellence Awards in Telford we had further North East success with the Tyne Green scheme winning the Community Partnership category, Port Clarence and Greatham South was Highly Commended in the Sustainability category and South Tyneside Council's Monkton scheme won the Sustainability category. Congratulations to all of those involved and it's great to see FCERM schemes in the North East being recognised across the sector and across the country.



Monkton Flood Alleviation Scheme – winner of the sustainability category

- 8.2 **Working with our suppliers to deliver flood risk management:** Next Generation Supplier Arrangements (NGSA) replace the Water and Environment Management (WEM) framework. The new ways of working will bring Environment Agency staff and our suppliers together in collaborative teams to plan and deliver our capital programme. These teams are open to other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) to work with, or to access the skills and capacity needed to help deliver their programme. The successful suppliers for the North East and Yorkshire Collaborative Delivery Team were Ove Arup and BAM Nuttall. We are now working closely with these suppliers on developing an annual plan, which includes themes around identifying schemes for delivery, developing a stronger pipeline and embedding co-location and collaboration within our ways of working. Jim Heslop at the Environment Agency can provide further information.

- 8.3 **Draft FCERM Strategy 2100 consultation** On 9 May the Environment Agency launched consultation on the draft national flood and coastal erosion risk (FCERM) management strategy for England. The draft strategy marks the culmination of engagement with over 90 organisations. The draft strategy sets out a national ambition for England. Every place is different and there is no one size fits all solution to flood and coastal resilience. We need to put people and local communities at the heart of decision making. The strategy sets out how together we can reduce the risk of harm to people, the environment, and the economy from flooding and coastal change.

The draft strategy sets out a vision for “a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100”. It has three ambitions:

- Climate resilient places
- Today’s growth and infrastructure to be resilient in tomorrow’s climate
- A nation of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation.

- 8.4 **2nd Cycle Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs)** The Environment Agency is progressing with preparations for the 2nd cycle of flood risk management plans (FRMPs) under the [Flood Risk Regulations \(2009\)](#). We would like FRMPs to show a direct link to the 25 Year Environment Plan and the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England in order to contribute towards its objectives. All Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) have received invites to ask whether they would like to work with the Environment Agency to develop the FRMP for our area so that it covers all sources of flood risk. The 2nd cycle of FRMPs should be completed by December 2021.

- 8.5 **Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pathfinder:** RFCCs have been invited to submit expressions of interest to secure funding for Property Flood Resilience (PFR) pathfinder projects. The project will fund three individual Pathfinder Projects, which must be led by LLFAs. Grant funding of up to £700,000 will be available to each of the three PFR Pathfinder projects, starting this year and running to April 2021. LLFAs will be required to establish a self-financing professional Hub for the longer-term which will lead on local innovation to help enhance the future take-up of flood resilience techniques in properties. The funding will be provided to LLFAs in three selected locations to support the creation of the Hubs and the delivery of measurable behaviour change, demonstrator property, and enduring technical and professional resources. NRFCC have submitted an expression of interest building on the strong framework we have of NIDP, community engagement officers and the water hub. Successful projects will be announced in July 2019.

Leila Huntington
Flood & Coastal Risk Manager

Alan Cadas
Operations Manager

July 2019

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Northumbria RFCC Committee Meeting

Meeting date: July 2019

Paper no. *NR FCC/225*

Appendix 1: *Next Generation Supplier Arrangements announcement briefing*

Appendix 2: *Next Generation Supplier Arrangements Risk Management Authority briefing*

Appendix 3: *Capital and revenue allocation process overview – reference document*

Appendices – included in information pack

**Paper by: Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM)
- Allocation and Asset Management**

Subject: FCRM capital and revenue programme refresh

Recommendations:

The RFCC Committees are asked to:

1. Support the annual refresh of the capital and revenue programmes;
2. Support delivery of the 300,000 homes target during the final 21 months of the programme, through both in-year budget management and the refresh;
3. Note the preparations for the next long term funding settlement through Spending Review 2019;
4. Note the announcement of the Next Generation Supplier Arrangements.

Headline messages:

- This year's refresh is the final one of the current 6 year capital programme and is key to ensuring we achieve the 300,000 homes better protected target. The refresh is also important in identifying the future pipeline of schemes to inform the next programme.
- Significant work is currently taking place in collaboration with Defra to prepare for Spending Review 2019 which will set our future allocation.
- We need to maximise our outcomes and exceed our 300,000 homes better protected target. All programme changes which cannot be managed within current budgets, or any identified new schemes, must be escalated to the national Portfolio Management Office to ensure we get the best outcome across the country.
- The Environment Agency's Next Generation Supplier Arrangements are now live and available for all Risk Management Authorities to use to deliver schemes.
- An overview of the capital and revenue allocation process for the year is set out in the April 2019 National Allocation paper, appendix 2. This should be used as a reference document throughout the year, as required.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on the capital and revenue refresh for 2020/21, the final year of the current 6 year programme, and confirms arrangements for in-year budget management to maximise outcomes.
- 1.2 An overview of the annual capital and revenue allocation process and what Committee members can expect at each meeting is set out in appendix 3 (as was provided in the April 2019 paper). This should be referred to throughout the year as required.

2.0 Latest position

- 2.1 Over the first 4 years of the programme, both the Environment Agency and other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have better protected over 193,000 homes. This was against a target of 185,000 homes at this point in the programme, and is a significant achievement by all those involved. We would like to thank the RFCC committees for their role in achieving this.
- 2.2 We remain on track to achieve our 300,000 homes better protected target but cannot be complacent as risks remain in achieving this. Across the country we are working together to manage capital programme delivery and putting in place various interventions to ensure a successful outcome.
- 2.3 In terms of our revenue maintenance programme, at the end of financial year 2018/19 we were at 97.9% for our asset condition target, against an end of year target of 97.5%. Our overall target is 98% of high consequence assets being at target condition by March 2020, when the current asset maintenance programme finishes. As with the capital programme, there are risks and challenges associated with achieving this target and we are working closely with Area teams to identify these risks and put in place suitable mitigation measures.
- 2.4 We welcome the RFCC committees continued support and role in ensuring we collectively meet all our capital settlement condition targets (300,000 homes better protected, 15% partnership funding contributions, and 10% efficiency target), our revenue maintenance targets, in shaping the outcomes of Spending Review 2019, and in developing our next long term capital and revenue programmes.
- 2.5 We are aware that the focus on the current 300,000 homes target could be compromising efforts to develop a future programme and a pipeline of new schemes. To help mitigate against this we have set aside some funding to enable Areas teams to work with partners to ensure new projects are being identified and developed.

3.0 Spending Review 2019

- 3.1 Work is ongoing to influence, shape and secure a future funding settlement for FCRM. We are working with all departments across the Environment Agency and with the RFCCs to develop a range of funding scenarios for consideration in Spending Review 2019 (SR19).
- 3.2 We are listening to feedback and working with Defra to seek changes to their partnership funding rules and key outcomes for the future investment programme. We are putting more emphasis on the wider benefits that flood and coastal erosion schemes achieve for people, the environment, local economy and other infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, road and rail.

- 3.3 We are expecting the settlement to be announced in the Autumn Budget 2019. We will keep RFCC committees updated as any announcements are made.

4.0 Annual refresh of the 6 year capital investment programme

- 4.1 The July Committee meeting is the opportunity for members to review any proposed new projects or changes to the existing programme before it is submitted to the national team – the National Portfolio Management Office. This is a key step in the development of the programme. This is for projects seeking funding in the final year of the current 6 year programme, as well as building our pipeline and future programme beyond March 2021.

5.0 Capital programme in-year budget management 2019/20

- 5.1 Overall we want to make sure we get the best outcomes across the country for the money available for FCRM.
- 5.2 Financial year 2018/19 was a strong year for programme delivery. As in previous years, we started the financial year with an over-allocation and Area teams were asked to over-programme. We do this to ensure we deliver on year-end targets and budgets. Whilst this strong performance was good, tough choices were needed to manage back to budget at year-end. Feedback, including that from the RFCC Chairs, was that earlier notice of year-end budget targets would make budget management easier. This is being addressed through our 2019/20 financial management.
- 5.3 The allocations for 2019/20, as set out in the April RFCC committee paper, include a degree of over-allocation that will need to be managed back during the year. In response to the feedback we have issued a revised affordable budget for 2019/20.
- 5.4 Due to the dynamic nature of the programme and inherent risks associated with projects, we know from experience that some Areas may spend less than what has been allocated, and others may have the opportunity to spend more. As a result, we want to ensure there is enough flexibility to enable the best outcomes to be achieved.
- 5.5 All Area teams have been given revised homes targets and affordable budgets for this year, along with guidelines to empower local management of agreed programmes. Where local programme pressures mean that change cannot be managed within current budgets, or new schemes are looking to come into the programme which will deliver homes within the 6 year programme, Area teams will need to escalate these to the National Portfolio Management Office to seek revisions to their targets and budgets.
- 5.6 The National Portfolio Management Office will accommodate these changes where appropriate, based on overall affordability of the national programme and ability to meet the 300,000 homes targets and other priorities.
- 5.7 The RFCC Committees will be kept informed of any proposed changes to current budget allocations and targets throughout the year.

6.0 Annual refresh of the revenue maintenance programme

- 6.1 As noted in the April Committee paper, the revenue maintenance allocation for 2020/21 is subject to the results of Spending Review 2019, which is not expected until the autumn. As a result, we will prepare a range of scenarios for the RFCC committees to review at their October meetings.

7.0 Next Generation Supplier Arrangements announcement

- 7.1 The Environment Agency's Next Generation Supplier Arrangements (NGSA) are now live. The new frameworks can be used by all Risk Management Authorities to deliver their FCRM projects. The briefing in appendix 1 highlights who our new delivery partners are and what each framework will deliver. Appendix 2 provides specific details for RMAs. Please contact your local Area team for any further information and how you can use these new arrangements.
- 7.2 These new arrangements and partnerships will help to deliver the final 21 months of the capital programme, and deliver our future programme beyond March 2021, more efficiently as well as providing better value for money.
- 7.3 There still remains an important programme of work that will be delivered through the legacy WEM framework, and we will continue to work with our WEM partners to deliver this commitment.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 The RFCC Committees are asked to:
 - 1. Support the annual refresh of the capital and revenue programmes;
 - 2. Support delivery of the 300,000 homes target during the final 21 months of the programme, through both in-year budget management and the refresh;
 - 3. Note the preparations for the next long term funding settlement through Spending Review 2019;
 - 4. Note the announcement of the Next Generation Supplier Arrangements.

Author: John Russon, Deputy Director, Allocation and National Programme Management

Sponsor: Ken Allison, Director, Allocation and Asset Management

Date: 14 June 2019

Environment Agency North East Area

Meeting: **NRFCC Meeting**

Subject: **2020/21 FCRM Programme Refresh**

Date: **19 July 2019**

Paper No. **NRFCC / 226**

Purpose:

To present the Committee with the Northumbria RFCC capital investment programme refresh bid for 2020/21 onwards and provide an update on the progress of the 6 year capital programme 2015 – 2021.

Recommendations:

The RFCC Committee is asked to:

1. Recognise the excellent progress that has been made in the 6 year capital programme, which has better protected 4,043 homes from flooding / coastal erosion between 2015/16 and 2018/19, with a further 1,692 homes forecast in 2019/20.
2. Support the submission of the refreshed capital investment programme for 2020/21 onwards for national consideration, as shown in Appendices 1 and 2.
3. Approve Local Levy variations to 2019/20 allocations, as shown in Appendix 3.

Summary:

Refresh bid for 2020/21

- Up to **1,513** homes better protected from flooding and coastal erosion
- **£23.1 million** of investment, including a bid for £12.8 million of Grant in Aid (GiA) – a £5.5 million increase compared with current indicative allocations
- £5.32 million of Local Levy
- £5 million of other public and private contributions

Refresh bid for 2021/22 to 2027/28

- Up to **14,232** homes better protected from flooding and coastal erosion
- **Total investment of £282.5 million**, including £134.5 million of GiA.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Northumbria RFCC is asked to support the final annual refresh of the current 6 year capital investment programme. This final refresh will need to ensure we deliver the 300,000 homes better protected target, and meet our settlement conditions set by government for partnership funding contributions (15%) and efficiency (10%).
- 1.2 The national paper ref NRFCC/225 provides further information on this year's refresh process and Spending Review 2019.

2.0 Progress of capital refresh

- 2.1 All project teams, including those from the Environment Agency and other Risk Management Authorities (RMA), have considered and updated their capital scheme proposals, and looked for opportunities to further add to their 'pipeline' of schemes for delivery 2021/22 onwards.
- 2.2 A full list of capital refresh bids by project for 2020/21 onwards, along with summaries by lead RMA are included in Appendices 1 and 2. The RFCC is asked to support submission of this bid for national consideration.

3.0 Northumbria RFCC programme refresh bids 2020/21

- 3.1 The total bid for 2020/21 is for **£23.1 million**. This includes a bid for **£12.8 million** of Grant in Aid and £5.3 million of Local Levy, and contributions of £5.0 million. If funding is secured, up to **1,513 homes** could be better protected from flooding and coastal erosion in 2020/21.
- 3.2 A summary of the current indicative programme and refresh bids is shown in figure 1 and table 1 below.

Figure 1: Summary of refresh programme bid for 2020/21

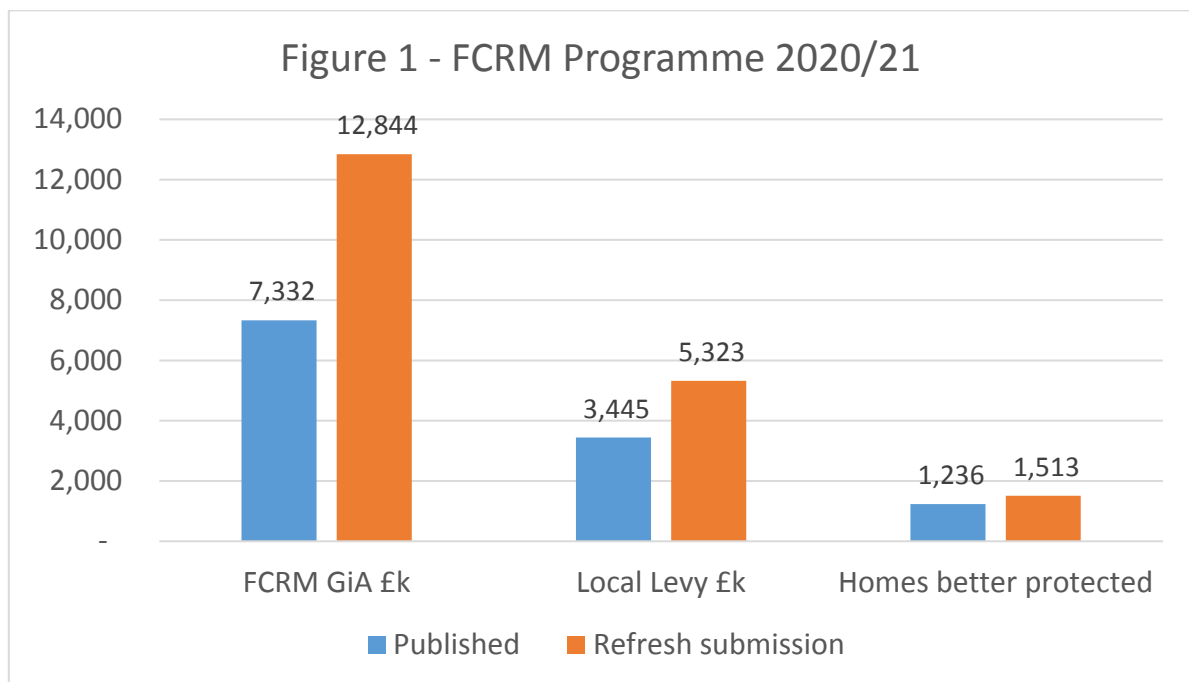


Table 1: Summary of refresh programme bid for 2020/21

2020/21 Programme	Grant in Aid (£)	Local Levy (£)	External and Other Contributions (£)	Further funding required (£)	Homes better protected
Published	7.33 million	3.45 million	8.71 million	0.31 million	1,236
Refresh submission	12.84 million	5.32 million	5.04 million	0.20 million	1,513
Difference	+5.51 million	+1.87 million	-3.67 million	-0.11 million	+277

Grant in Aid 2020/21

- 3.3 The bids for GiA funding in 2020/21 total a net increase of £5.51 million, compared with the current indicative allocation. Many individual changes to projects make up this increase. Notable changes include a **£1 million** increase for Stokesley, **£1.4 million** increase for Hexham Industrial estates, a **£1 million** increase for Team Valley and an **£0.9 million** increase for Marton West Beck.
- 3.4 The request for an increase in GiA for **Stokesley and Team Valley** is to accelerate delivery. The requests for an increase for **Marton West Beck** is to deliver wider flood risk benefits. **Hexham Industrial estates** is funded as part of an additional government settlement of £76 million announced in 2017. The increase in GiA requested is within the original amount of funding made available for the scheme and is likely to be granted.
- 3.5 The national programme team have confirmed there are no guarantees that additional funding can be made available in 2020/21, other than for Hexham, as described above.

Local Levy 2020/21

- 3.6 The bids for Local Levy funding in 2020/21 total £5.32 million; an increase of £1.9 million compared with the current indicative allocation.
- 3.7 Through the refresh process a number of additional requests to vary 2019/20 Local Levy allocations have been picked up. The majority of requests are to defer Local Levy from 2019/20 to 2020/21. A total of £1.33 million of the £1.9 million additional request in 2020/21 relates to 9 existing projects requesting to defer allocations from 2019/20.
- 3.9 The 2019/20 Local Levy variations are presented for RFCC approval in Appendix 3. We recommend that the Committee approve these requests. If these are approved, along with all other Levy requests detailed in the P&I report (Item 4), 2019/20 Local Levy allocations would reduce from £3.83 million to £2.58 million.
- 3.10 The total requested Local Levy in 2020/21 is around the estimated affordable budget, including around a 10% over programme. Many requests for Local Levy funding are however connected to requests for GiA funding.
- 3.11 We recommend that the RFCC support the submission of the refresh bid as shown in Appendices 1 and 2, with the Local Levy programme for 2020/21 finalised as part of Local Choices at the October 2019 RFCC meeting, when we have the indicative GiA allocation for the year.

4.0 Northumbria RFCC programme refresh bids 2021/22 onwards

- 4.1 The total value of the pipeline programme from 2021/22 to 2027/28 is **£282.5 million**, including £134.5 million of GiA and £18.47 million of Local Levy. The programme identifies £47.21 million of public and private contributions and £82.29 million of further funding contributions required. Up to **14,232** homes could be better protected from flooding and coastal erosion through this programme.
- 4.2 Through the refresh many new projects have been added to the pipeline programme, with an additional £10 million GiA and £0.6 million Local Levy funding required to better protect over 2,000 additional homes from flooding.
- 4.3 A summary of the current programme and refresh bids for 2021/22 to 2027/28 is shown in figure 2 and table 3 below. A full summary of the pipeline programme 2021/22 onwards is shown in Appendix 2.

Figure 2: Summary of refresh programme bid for 2021/22 onwards

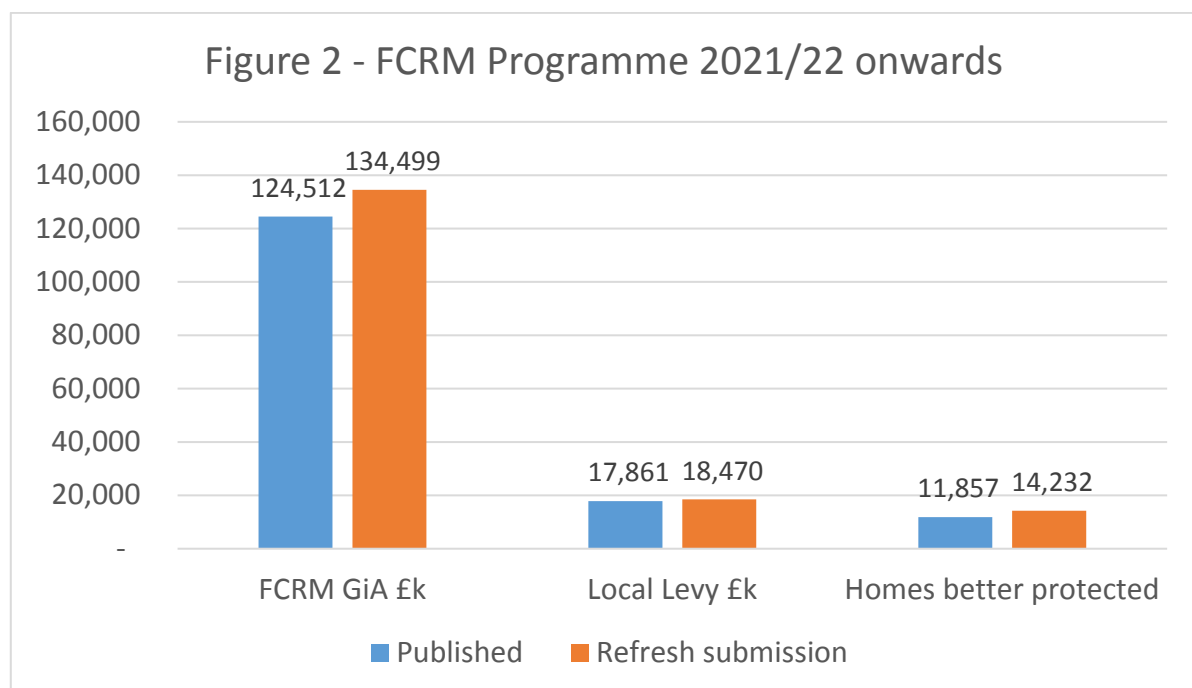


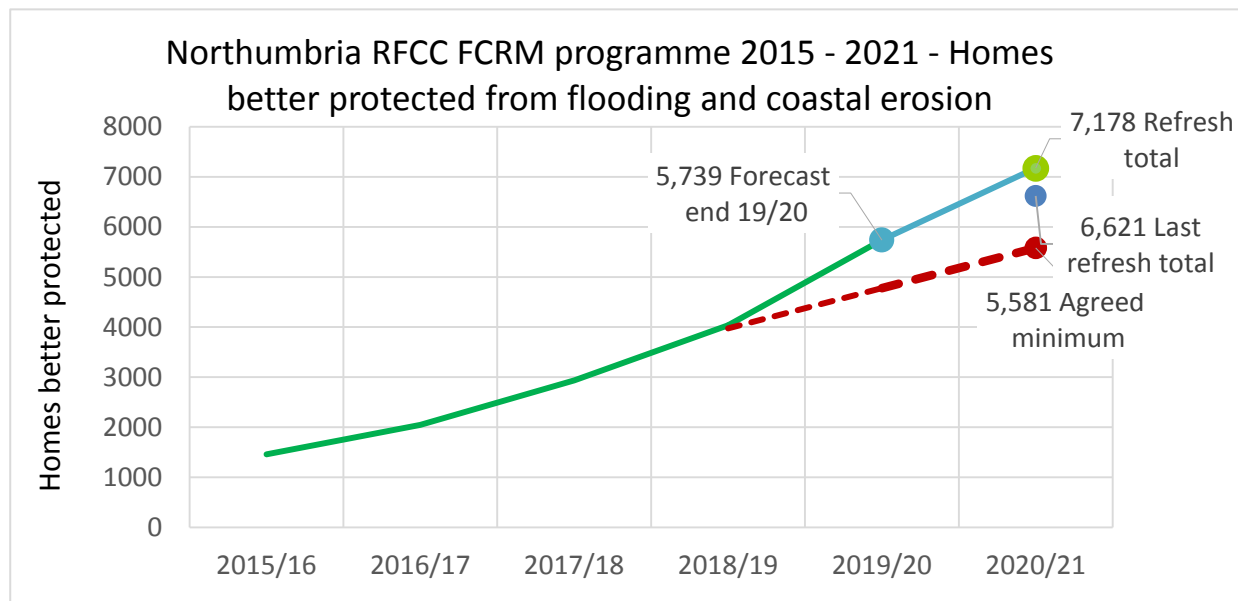
Table 2: Summary of refresh programme bid for 2021/22 onwards

2020/21 Programme	Grant in Aid (£)	Local Levy (£)	External and Other Contributions (£)	Further funding required (£)	Homes better protected
Published	124.51 million	17.86 million	77.15 million	41.51 million	11,857
Refresh submission	134.50 million	18.47 million	47.21 million	82.29 million	14,232
Difference	+9.99 million	+0.61 million	-29.94 million	+40.78 million	+2,387

5.0 Programme overview 2015 – 2021

- 5.1 Fantastic progress has been made in the Northumbria RFCC Area. By March 2019, **4,043 homes** had been better protected from flooding / coastal erosion. **Another 1,692 homes** are forecast to be better protected by March 2020. We are on track to deliver the minimum programme target of **5,581 homes better protected** by March 2020.
- 5.2 Our progress and forecasts for better protected homes from flooding and coastal erosion over the 6 year programme are shown in figure 3.

Figure 3: Homes better protected 2015 – 2021



- 5.3 Key local capital programme level risks include: working within GiA funding limits; securing outstanding contributions; and timescales remaining for delivery (21 months of programme remaining)
- 5.4 Work will continue throughout the year with RMAs to closely monitor project and programme level risks and take action to manage and mitigate their impact. The RFCC Red Amber Green (RAG) monitoring system will continue to be used to monitor in-year delivery

6.0 Recommendations

The RFCC Committee is asked to:

1. Recognise the excellent progress that has been made in the 6 year capital programme, which has better protected 4,043 homes from flooding / coastal erosion between 2015/16 and 2018/19, with a further 1,700 homes in 2019/20.
2. Support the submission of the refreshed capital investment programme for 2020/21 onwards for national consideration (as shown in Appendices 1 and 2).
3. Approve Local Levy variations to 2019/20 allocations, as shown in Appendix 3.

Jenny McCarthy
Programme Manager

Appendix 1 – Summary of Refreshed FCRM Capital Programme 2020/21
Appendix 2 – Summary of Refreshed FCRM Capital Programme 2021/22 onwards
Appendix 3 – Local Levy variations for 2019/20 for RFCC approval

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Meeting: **NRFCC Meeting**

Subject: **Drone Operations**

Date: **18 June 2019**

Paper No: **NRFCC/227**

Lead : **David Huntington, Local Delivery Lead, Environment Agency**

PURPOSE

To inform on an Environment Agency (EA) project on owning and operating drones for business as usual activities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The project has successfully delivered a range of drone surveys/operations to the business and compared costs with the alternative option of using a contractor. This has highlighted the benefits across a wide range of day to day activities where drones are a very useful tool and that owning and operating drones has the potential to provide a flexible and cost effective way of operating.
- Risks have been managed through formal Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) training of EA staff drone operators to commercial operator standards and providing national guidance and Operational Instruction procedures.
- It has highlighted instances where the use of a drone has a safety benefit to staff, regardless of whether in-house or contractor operated.

RECOMMENDATION

- For information only

1 Background

- 1.1 This project has been undertaken by Geomatics and Area teams to better understand the risks, benefits and likely usage of this technology and make a comparison to the current situation of employing external contractors.
- 1.2 The Environment Agency now holds a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) approved Operations Safety Case (and Manual) and three fully trained (to commercial standard) pilots, within two Area Teams (KSL and NEA). The CAA approved Operating Safety Case is the basis for any Operational Instructions for the business. A variety of drone surveys have been successfully completed to date under these operating instructions. These have highlighted a wide range of day to day activities where drones are a very useful tool.

2 Training

- 2.1 In order to fly as a commercial operator in the UK it is a requirement that individuals obtain a Permission for Commercial Operations (PfCO) Certificate.
- 2.2 In order to achieve this, individuals are required to complete a ground school course including assessment, have an approved Operations Manual and carry out a practical flight assessment. Current costs for this are approx. £1079 per person.

- 2.3 On completion of the above the individual is then eligible to apply for a PfCO from the Civil Aviation Authority. This must be renewed annually. Initial costs for the PfCO are £253 and renewal costs £190.

3 Operating Standards

- 3.1 The operating standards/rules we conform to are those set out by the UK Civil Aviation Authority.

4 Drone Costs

- 4.1 These vary depending on which drone is purchased. The Environment Agency have opted to purchase a DJI Inspire 2. This cost £4063. It is a very capable professional quadcopter and is future proof in terms of hardware and software.

5 Project Summary

- 5.1 After completion of the initial objectives of training, documentation and procedural set up, the project moved into the practical phase.
- 5.2 Our area team drone pilots have engaged with their local area colleagues and professional partners and received a large number of enquiries and requests for drone operations. All drone deployments are fully documented to enable assessment of risks, resource level requirements and cost comparisons.
- 5.3 Over 50 requests have been received by our Area team colleagues and Geomatics, some of which involve multiple sites and repeat surveys. Approximately half of these have been carried out under this project with the remainder of requests either pending, withdrawn or have been referred to a contractor due to resource availability & location (i.e. outside of the two Areas involved with this project).
- 5.4 We have been able to deploy drones in a wide range of environments and for a variety of applications, from standard imagery capture in Environment Agency owned locations, to complex requests with access issues and airspace restrictions. The Thames barrier survey is a good example of a site that required significant planning. As an urban location in close proximity to London City airport it is subject to complex regulation and multiple permissions are required.

6 Use Cases and Costs

- 6.1 The majority of requests for a drone to support the work of the Environment Agency and professional partners fall into the categories of Inspection, Monitoring and Communications. Within these are two additional specialist sub-requirements - 3Dimensional survey grade data collection and incident (recovery) role.
- 6.2 **Inspection Case Example – Marsden Cliffs (for South Tyneside Council)**
To better understand the undercutting, caves and cracking prevalent in the cliff face. Historically this information would have been obtained by foot with access over difficult terrain and time constraints due to the tide. This example highlighted the time savings and safety benefits of using a drone.



Marsden Cliffs



Marsden Cliff – fresh rock fall

- 6.3 **Informing and communications Case Examples** – Weardale Natural Flood Management (Environment Agency partnership with Natural England, North Pennines AONB) & Kielder Hatchery (for Environment Agency)
- 6.4 Weardale Natural Flood Management is a large scale project where drone footage is being used to highlight the works over a large area and act as a video log. The drone comes into its own in these environments due to the size of the areas involved. Kielder Hatchery footage is used in the public visitor centre to showcase the work which goes on there.



Weardale NFM Demonstrator Site



Kielder Hatchery

- 6.5 **Monitoring Case Examples** – Spurn Point, Wooler Water & Binchester (for Environment Agency)
- 6.6 Drone images were collected at Spurn point in the Humber to help the assessment of Seagrass in the area. This site was difficult and dangerous to access by other means, imagery was collected at a low level which produced very detailed high resolution images. Wooler Water & Binchester footage is being used to monitor the geomorphological impacts of works on the river. All drone surveys have the benefit of repeatability such that on subsequent flights, the drone will fly the exact same route.



Binchester – geomorphology monitoring after works to river bank



Wooler – geomorphology monitoring of gravel shoals



Spurn Point Seagrass Survey

- 6.7 **3 Dimensional survey Case Example** – Waste Fire at Sunderland (for Sunderland City Council)
- 6.8 At a waste fire in Sunderland we produced an elevation model and an estimation of stockpile volumes which was used to aid the site recovery. These types of survey use photogrammetry to derive measurements from imagery. In order to produce accurate outputs such as orthomosaics and Digital Elevation Models reliably a good understanding of ground survey principles is required to ensure adequate ground control is employed during the survey and understand the relative and absolute accuracies involved. These outputs require additional time to produce and therefore are more costly.

- 6.9 As with all surveying techniques, drones have their disadvantages as well as advantages. There are legal implications to consider, particularly with respect to RIPA (The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000) and using drones to produce quantitate data submitted as evidence in court. Clear caveats on the intended use and limitations of the data need to be provided.



Waste Fire Site - Sunderland



Digital Elevation Model to calculate volumes

Cost comparison for project use case examples:

	Risk assessment & pre-flight prep (Hr)	On site & Travel time (Hr)	Image/ data processing (Hr)	2 person team	EA Cost (FTE only)	Typical Contractor cost
Marsden Cliffs	2	4	0.5	2	£340	£750
Wooler Water	1	5	5	2	£380	£1,250
Binchester	1	4	5	2	£310	£950
Wolfeleugh Peatlands, Weardale	3	8	5	2	£750	£1200
Kielder Hatchery	2	5	0.5	2	£400	£1000
Sunderland Waste Fire Site	1	2	4	2	£500	£1,250

- 6.10 At present the insurance cost for the project is £1,100. The project team liaised with the legal services team to understand the insurance requirements and training requirements for Environment Agency drone operations.
- 6.11 The insurance is required to conform to CAA regulations for UK commercial or equivalent drone operations. The legal advice is that the EA operate drones to CAA commercial permission standards (as we have done). This is also the same with other Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) agencies and government departments.
- 6.12 Other cost related considerations include local storage of imagery. There are potentially large volumes of data / video and photography.

7 Incidents

- 7.1 The remaining situation where drones are advantageous is when responding to incidents. The 24/7 drone incident response service contract, currently held by Team UAV, guarantees to provide a drone team anywhere in England within 6hrs from call-out. The Fire and Rescue service (FRS) have a growing number of teams operating drones and during those incidents where we have a mutual interest (flooding, waste fires) drone services can be requested from the FRS either via local arrangement or through the National Resilience Fire Control. FRS charge for these services. An EA/FRS agreement is being developed with Incident Management and Resilience colleagues.
- 7.2 Business as Usual drone operations have the potential to deploy, within safe legal parameters, and support our capabilities during and after an incident. Both teams (NEA & KSL) have provided aerial response for safety or evidential capture at two waste fire sites to date. This imagery has proved very useful for recovery purposes. It is possible that a faster response time could be achieved to local incidents with trained staff, using local knowledge and equipment available within Area.

8 Benefits and Risks

- 8.1 The benefits to date include the flexibility and ease to deployment when owning and operating and enabling the testing of a wide variety of applications. It has shown Health and Safety benefits, for example with inter-tidal habitat surveys. The in-house deployment can be cost-effective, in many cases cheaper than a contractor and sometimes more flexible. It promotes innovation by ease of use and low cost when owning and operating. The operators are also familiar with the sites and the activities which further reduces time and costs.
- 8.2 Risks are mitigated through formal training of operators and ensuring procedures are in place for the best practice of the safe and legal operation of drones. There is a safety and reputational risk to the organisation if we are not seen to be operating drones to the highest standards and correctly observing the legal regulations.
- 8.3 The Environment Agency procedures, set up under this project, follow commercial operating standards set by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), considered industry best practice. This is also the approach being taken by other government departments such as Natural Environment Research Council – British Antarctic Survey (NERC BAS) and within DEFRA with other bodies such as Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and Natural England (NE).
- 8.4 The area operators are all CAA trained and qualified to CAA commercial operator standards. Our CAA approved Operating Safety Case is the basis for the Operational Instruction for the business and provides national guidance. There is further guidance on operating drones (contractors and in-house) in relation to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) imagery issues and advising the public of deployments where necessary during incidents. Contractors with specialist equipment and in particular specialist CAA operating permissions can provide drones for certain situations and jobs.
- 8.5 Clear accuracy/caveat statements should be recorded on intended use for any drone photogrammetry derived outputs, particularly with 3 dimensional survey and for any legal purposes.

9 End Note

- 9.1 The drone project is progressing well with additional areas now involved. Approval from Toby Willison (Executive Director Operations) has given further support to the project. It is anticipated that drone operations will gradually form part of Business As Usual activities.

David Huntington
Local Delivery Lead, Environment Agency

18 June 2019

Northumbria RFCC Committee Meeting

Meeting date: July 2019

Item no. NRFCC/228

Appendix 1: Strategic planning approach and timetable

Paper by: Director of Digital and Skills

Subject: Approach to 2nd cycle flood risk management plans and demonstration of the new digital flood plan explorer tool

Recommendations

The RFCC Committee is asked to:

1. Note the timetable for reviewing and refreshing 1st cycle flood risk management plans (FRMPs) and producing 2nd cycle FRMPs.
2. Discuss the approach to 2nd cycle FRMPs and strategic planning and the benefits of applying the digital tool – flood plan explorer (FPE).
3. Encourage risk management authorities and other partners to work together on strategic planning.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The draft flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England (FCERM Strategy) aims for a nation ready for, and resilient to, flood and coastal change, today, tomorrow and to the year 2100. We want our FRMPs to show a direct line of sight from the FCERM strategy, such that they show how our actions will help achieve:
 - climate resilient places
 - today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate
 - a nation of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation
- 1.2 People in every place need to be able to identify the decisions for managing flooding and coastal change that need to be taken now and those which can be made in the future. We need to be agile and be able to respond to the latest climate science, growth projections, investment opportunities and other changes to our local environment.
- 1.3 It's not possible to separate the management of our natural environment from the way we manage flooding and coastal change. We should be looking for adaptive approaches that enhance the resilience of our environment to future flooding.
- 1.4 In the 1st cycle we worked in partnership with lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) and water and sewerage companies (WaSCs) to develop FRMPs using information from catchment flood management plans (CFMPs), shoreline management plans (SMPs) and local flood risk management strategies (LFRMS).
- 1.5 In the 2nd cycle we are aiming to improve our ways of working building on good practice in local areas like OxCam, so that 2nd cycle FRMPs are the product of better strategic planning. This will help us to look longer term, be more place-based and create better integration internally and externally in a way that supports the delivery of wider environmental and growth ambitions of society. The approach aligns well with the draft FCERM strategy and will be an important step towards delivering the ambitions of the strategy as part of our revised suite of objectives and measures.

2.0 Strategic planning

- 2.1 Our ambition is that FRMPs are used to show what is happening in FCERM across river basins, demonstrating a clear line of sight to the draft FCERM strategy. The 2nd cycle FRMPs will be published in December 2021 while some of the new approaches in the draft FCERM strategy are in development. However, FRMPs will play an important role in supporting the delivery of the strategy by developing the right ways of working (including the leadership and culture we need) backed up by measures that directly align with strategy ambitions.
- 2.2 Strategic planning brings partners together to set the strategic direction and identify common priorities based on a common understanding of the risks (now and in the future). Our FRMPs will:
- be based on a set of common strategic objectives which have direct line of sight to the draft FCERM national strategy
 - use the latest FCERM climate change guidance based on UKCP18 and infographics which set out the projections at a river basin scale
 - drive the investment of resources, time and funding to where it can deliver optimised reductions in current and future flood risk in a joined up, collaborative and evidence based way
 - build on the strategic planning that is already happening in many Areas (eg Medway, York, Calderdale and OxCam)
 - encourage and facilitate collaboration with others, both internally and externally, to ensure all partners understand the shared challenges and opportunities of managing flood risk and that the work of all organisations is complementary
 - integrate with other place-based plans to reduce flood risk and deliver our ambitions for places through sustainable growth (eg LFRMs, WaSC drainage wastewater management plans, surface water management plans, natural capital plans and SMPs)
 - include measures which contribute towards the delivery of the FCERM national strategy such as developing adaptive approaches
- 2.3 This work area is included in Area Integrated Service Levels. We recognise the need to ensure we have the right people with the right skills working on this so have identified a FRMP lead for each area ensuring a clear line of sight. We are working closely with this group of leads to provide support and to help share best practice.

3.0 2nd cycle flood risk management plans

- 3.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (FRR) set out a statutory process for flood risk planning. We must review and update each element at intervals of no more than 6 years. The Environment Agency and LLFAs are required to:
- assess risk from flooding for human health, the economy and environment including cultural heritage
 - decide where we consider risk to be significant, and identify these areas as flood risk areas (FRAs)
 - prepare maps that show the flood hazard and flood risk in FRAs
 - prepare FRMPs that set objectives and measures to reduce the risk in FRAs
- 3.2 We have produced simple guidance and a template to support the production of the FRMPs. These have been developed with the risk management authority (RMA) group of LLFAs, water companies and internal drainage board (IDB) representatives. We will be inviting RMAs to work with us again to produce 2nd cycle FRMPs at a river basin district (RBD) scale covering all sources of flooding.

Agenda Item 8

- 3.3 We are working closely with our river basin management planning colleagues to ensure our Area teams work together in their planning and engagement so that the updates to the plans are aligned. There will be a joint consultation on both plans in October 2020. We are also working with asset management colleagues to ensure FRMP measures and objectives are aligned with the asset management activities described in the proposed Catchment Asset Management Plans.

4.0 Preliminary flood risk assessment and flood risk and hazard maps

- 4.1 We published our preliminary flood risk assessment report for main rivers and the sea in England in December 2018, completing the first stage of the planning cycle.
- 4.2 The risk assessment covers past and potential future floods, describes how we assess flood risk and gives a high level overview of the risk. The report uses infographics to give a clear and simple description of flood management which is a helpful introduction to those new to flood risk.
- 4.3 Our next milestone is updating our flood hazard and flood risk maps by December 2019. Having consulted some representative LLFAs, we will prepare all the necessary maps on behalf of LLFAs. This will provide consistency across the country and reduce the burden for LLFAs.

5.0 Flood plan explorer

- 5.1 We are developing an exciting new digital tool, Flood Plan Explorer, to support and facilitate the 2nd cycle FRMPs. The tool will be accessible to both the public and RMAs. It will allow users to look up the flood risk actions that are planned or underway in their area by simply 'clicking' on their location. RMAs will be able to create, store and edit new flood risk actions more simply, saving time and effort. The tool includes visualisation to enable RMAs and partners to identify opportunities for partnership working and align investment planning to improve the resilience of local places.
- 5.2 FPE uses a similar layout to the digital asset information and maintenance programme (AIMP) which displays information related to asset maintenance and the capital programme. We are working with Asset Management to find a roadmap to create a more integrated experience for users (eg links, common landing page or shared portal).

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The RFCC Committee is asked to:
1. Note the timetable for reviewing and refreshing 1st cycle flood risk management plans (FRMPs) and producing 2nd cycle FRMPs.
 2. Discuss the approach to 2nd cycle FRMPs and strategic planning and the benefits of applying the digital tool – flood plan explorer (FPE).
 3. Encourage risk management authorities and other partners to work together on strategic planning.

Author: Kylie Russell

Job title: Project executive - flood risk regulations and improving strategic planning

Sponsor: Catherine Wright

Date: 15 June 2019

Appendix 1: Strategic planning approach and timetable

Figure 1: How 2nd cycle FRMPs relate to Area strategic planning¹

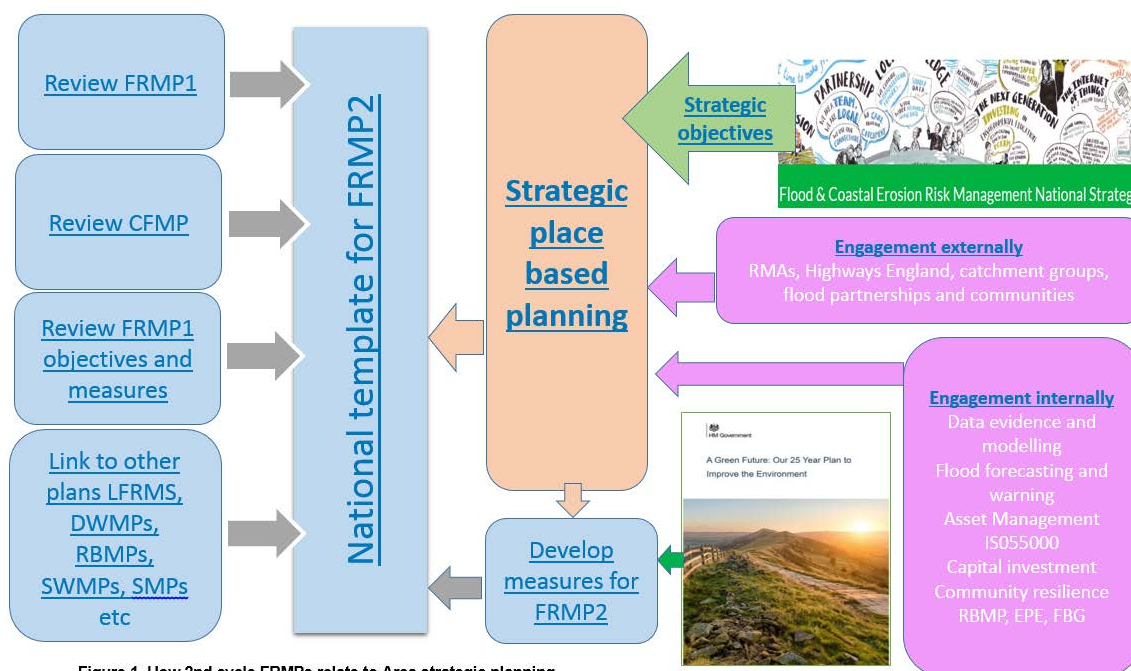
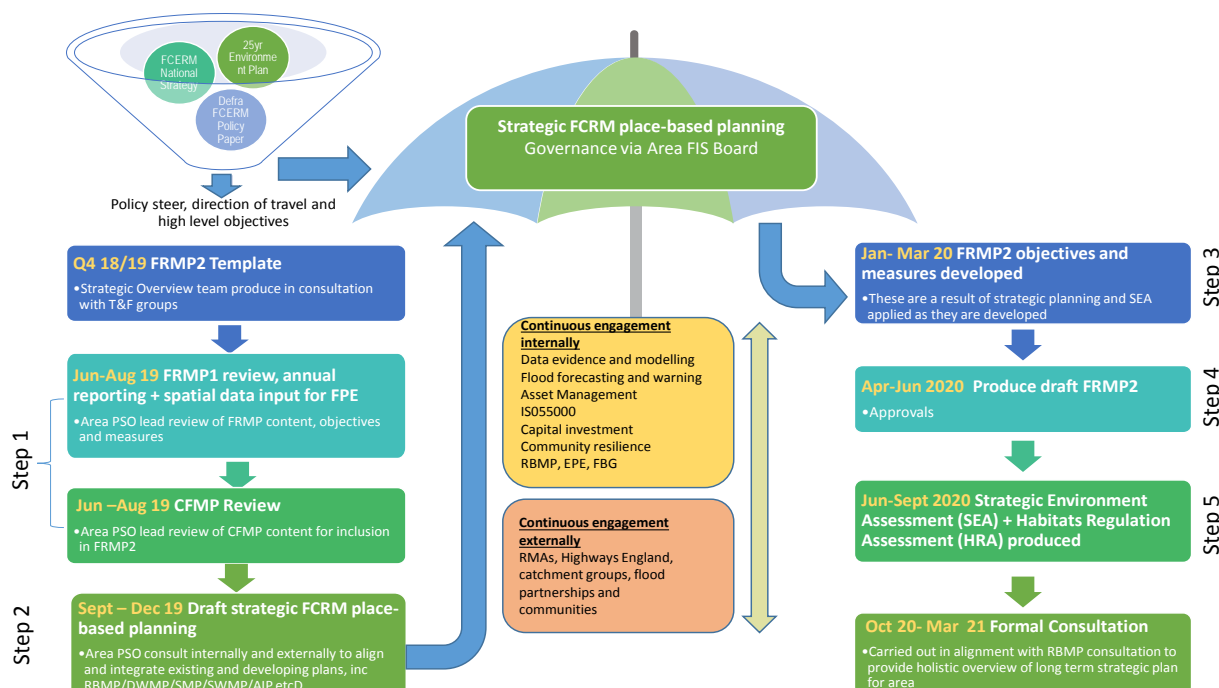


Figure 1. How 2nd cycle FRMPs relate to Area strategic planning

Figure 2: Timetable and how 2nd cycle FRMPs relate to Area strategic planning



¹ Acronyms: FRMP – flood risk management plan, CFMP – catchment flood management plan, LFRMS – local flood risk management strategy, DWMP – drainage wastewater management plans, RBMP – river basin management plan, SWMP – surface water management plan, SMP – shoreline management plan, RMA – risk management authority, EPE – environment planning and engagement, FBG – fisheries, biodiversity and geomorphology.

Meeting: **Northumbria RFCC**

Subject: **Decommissioning by permanent withdrawal of maintenance of assets**

Date: **July 2019**

Paper: **NRFCC / 229**

Lead : **Alan Cadas, Operations Manager**

PURPOSE

To update RFCC members on assets for permanent withdrawal of maintenance by the Environment Agency and seek approval for work planned in 2019/20.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Environment Agency intend to permanently withdraw maintenance of 6 assets in 2019/20. These assets provide limited FCRM benefits and maintenance by the Environment Agency is now not economically justifiable.
- Between now and December 2019 we wish to seek the views of the Committee and those affected by the plans.
- We will report back by exception to the RFCC in January 2020 on the views received and our decision of how we proceed.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The RFCC approve our plans for initiating the process of withdrawal of maintenance for the list of candidate assets in section 3.1, allowing us to focus on protecting areas at greatest risk of flooding.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Our asset maintenance protocol sets out our approach to maintaining flood and coastal risk management (FCRM) assets in England (included as information paper). It describes how we decide which assets we maintain and how we work with those affected by our decisions. The protocol is based on our powers to undertake maintenance being permissive, so there is no duty of the Environment Agency (EA) to carry out maintenance at a specific location. The Protocol sets out the framework for decommissioning assets that we have maintained in the past that are no longer economically justifiable or the work may not have a high enough priority for central government FCRM funding over the long term
- 1.2 This approach is sometimes referred to as the 'effectiveness initiative'.
- 1.3 We must obtain the best value for money from our maintenance work which means that sometimes we need to make changes to our work programmes to reflect the direction given in the Protocol. In our area, we are identifying assets that have limited FCRM cost benefit so these can be considered for permanent decommission. This allows us to focus on protecting areas at greatest risk of flooding in our area.
- 1.4 An information paper was provided to the Northumbria RFCC in January 2019 to provide details of the assets we intend to formally decommission maintenance from in

2019/20. In April 2019, Committee members requested an opportunity to discuss these plans and for further information to be provided. The original paper has therefore been updated and is now presented for discussion and to seek approval of our plans.

2.0 Role of RFCC

- 2.1 The Environment Agency will consult the Committee when we identify assets where our intent is to decommission by permanently withdrawing maintenance.
- 2.2 We will consider views made from the Committee and from those directly affected, and reach a decision on whether or not withdrawal of maintenance is still appropriate. We will advise the Committee, by exception, of views and our decision.

3.0 Plans for Northumbria RFCC in 2019/20

- 3.1 The *candidate* assets for decommissioning by permanent withdrawal of maintenance by the Environment Agency in 2019/20 as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Candidate assets for decommissioning

Location	Watercourse	Local Authority area	Asset type	Reason	Potential new arrangements
Between Falstone & Bellingham (N Tyne)	Tarset Burn	Northumberland County Council	Embankment(s)	No FCRM benefit to properties	To be confirmed
Billingham	Billingham Beck	Stockton- on-Tees Borough Council	Penstock (gate valve)	Not used for FCRM Function	Local Authority to maintain
Whitecliffe Woods	Skinningrove Beck	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	Culvert and x2 screen(s)	Legacy Issue – LA Responsibility	Local Authority to maintain
Anickgrange Haugh (Hexham)	River Tyne	Northumberland County Council	Embankment	No FCRM benefit to properties	To be confirmed

- 3.2 All of these assets provide limited FCRM benefits, and provide no property protection.
- 3.3 Between now and December 2019, we will seek views from the Committee and other affected parties on our intention to permanently withdraw maintenance. This will include discussions with landowners and local authority's (LA). Through these discussions we will ensure that landowners and affected parties are aware of their options which may include maintaining the assets themselves, adopting an alternative land use or seeking other funding. Initial discussions which have already been held with landowners and LA's have indicated there is no objections to our plans.
- 3.4 We will advise the RFCC, by exception, in January 2020 of views we have received and our decision of how we proceed.

- 3.5 Given the nature of these assets, and in most cases, the limited flood risk benefits they provide, we do not anticipate there being any significant concerns arising from others on our proposals.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 The RFCC approve our plans for initiating the process of withdrawal of maintenance for the list of candidate assets in section 3.1 allowing us to focus on protecting areas at greatest risk of flooding.

Alan Cadas
Operations Manager, Environment Agency
July 2019

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Meeting: **Northumbria RFCC**

Subject: **Chairs report**

Date: **19 July 2019**

Paper No: **NR FCC/230**

Lead : **Phil Rothwell Northumbria RFCC Chair**

PURPOSE

To inform Committee of Chairs relevant activity since the last meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A summary of relevant RFCC Chair activity over the last three months is presented for information and comment

RECOMMENDATION

- That the Committee notes the report and comments as appropriate.

1.0 RFCC Chairs Meeting

- 1.1 RFCC Chairs meet regularly throughout the year to consider specific topics of interest and hear from Defra and Environment Agency at a senior level about topical issues and programme progress. This quarter also had the annual Chairs two-day regional visit.
- 1.2 Much of our discussions are detailed in the Environment Agency Stakeholder paper which accompanies the papers for this meeting (item 1 – papers for information).
- 1.3 The three Chairs from the North of England also meet regularly to look at Northern England issues. We took the opportunity at the Flood and Coast conference [see section 5] to consider issues that we might investigate and promote. We have agreed that we will pursue two topics.
 - The Northern Powerhouse
 - The role of the University and College sector in the north in providing training and courses for young engineers and flood and coastal risk specialists.

2.0 Environment Agency FCRM Strategy

- 2.1 Meetings and telecons featured a lot in this quarter leading up to and beyond the launch of the FCRM Strategy. There was considerable press activity around the launch which was strongly focussed on preparation for climate change and the role of young people and communities in building support for the action that will be needed in the future. Northumbrian Water CEO, Heidi Mottram, spoke in support of the strategy and the need for integration between sectors. This was a strategy for all and not just for the Environment Agency. The closing date for the consultation was 4th July. I hope that all RFCC members or the organisations they represent were able to respond. It is hoped to produce an amended strategy by the Autumn for presentation to Parliament in early 2020.

3.0 Defra Policy Statement

- 3.1 Alongside the Environment Agency FCRM strategy, Defra are to produce a flood and coastal risk policy statement. They will be calling for evidence for this shortly. I will let members know as soon as I can as to the content and process.

4.0 RFCC Recruitment

- 4.1 Interviews for RFCC independent members and appraisals for existing members were held. I am pleased to welcome Keith Hutton and Ed Rollason as new appointees. Hugh Clear-Hill is reappointed for a further term and additionally Steena Nasapen-Watson will be extending her role advising the committee beyond the Northumbrian Water issues to include a broader view on programme and project issues as well as some special issues such as training and apprenticeships which I am keen that committee begins to address.

5.0 Annual Flood and Coastal Conference - Telford

- 5.1 The conference was very well attended and full of fascinating talks, presentations and exhibition stands. The Environment Agency FCRM Strategy was a regular feature throughout the three days. Issues related to it such as the scale of climate change, the challenges of communicating flood risk, the views and role of young people.

- 5.2 The North East Area gave the following presentations at the conference:

- Tyne Green – Chris Hood, Environment Agency
- Port Clarence & Greatham – Phil Marshall, Environment Agency
- Chester-Le-Street – Simon Wilson, Environment Agency
- Marton West Beck – Ted Thomas, Environment Agency
- Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership (NIDP) – Steena Nasapen-Watson, Northumbrian Water

- 5.3 Many of our projects in the North East were successful at the awards:

- Monkton Flood Alleviation Scheme won the Sustainability category
- Tyne Green won the Community Partnership category
- Port Clarence & Greatham was Highly Commended in the Sustainability category
- Community engagement officers were shortlisted in the Community Partnership category
- Weardale Natural Flood Management scheme was shortlisted in the Innovative Approaches category

- 5.4 In addition, Hartlepool's Headland scheme was also successful at the recent Civil Engineers North East awards, winning the following categories:

- Innovation category
- Value Award category
- Highly commended in the Civils Project of the Year category.

6.0 Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership (NIDP)

- 6.1 A number of RFCC chairs have expressed an interest in emulating the success of our NIDP. In response we organised a seminar for interested parties in London addressed by Jim Heslop and Richard Robinson. This was not as well attended as we might have hoped but three RFCC regions are now pursuing the development of a similar arrangement and the Environment Agency centrally are considering how to advocate the approach more widely.

Phil Rothwell
Chair Northumbria RFCC
3 July 2019