



Department for
Communities and
Local Government



Department
for Transport

Severe weather recovery scheme – terms of the scheme

Local authority areas in England affected by flooding caused by the east coast tidal surge 5th and 6th December 2013 and severe weather in December 2013 and up to 7th February 2014

These notes set out the terms under which the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Secretary of State for Transport are prepared to make available Severe Weather Recovery Scheme Grant to local authorities in England under Section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, in support of their costs in dealing with recovery from flood damage caused by the East Coast tidal surge on 5th and 6th December 2013 and severe weather in December 2013 and up to 7th February 2014. There are two elements of the scheme: one in respect of support to communities and one in respect of damage to local highway infrastructure.

Eligible Authorities for the Communities element

1. Local authorities who have been affected by the East Coast tidal surge on 5th and 6th December 2013 and severe weather in December 2013 and up to 7th February 2014 can claim for assistance under this scheme, subject to meeting criteria set out at paragraph 8 below. Eligible local authorities¹ under this scheme are:
 - District Councils
 - County Councils
 - London Borough councils
 - The Common Council of the City of London
 - The Council of the Isles of Scilly

¹ Includes unitary counties, unitary districts and metropolitan boroughs

2. Separate arrangements are being put in place for Somerset County Council and the District Councils in its area: these Councils are not therefore eligible for this Scheme.

Eligible Authorities for the Local Highways Infrastructure element

3. For the Department for Transport funding, only local highway authorities in England (excluding London and Somerset County Council) who have encountered damage to their local highway network will be eligible for a share of the £3.5 million capital funding being made available as part of this scheme. Highway authorities eligible to apply for funding for transport damage caused by the recent floods are those who currently receive Highways Maintenance Capital Block Funding from the Department for Transport.
4. Eligible Local Authorities for either (or both) elements of the scheme should make their applications to the Department for Communities and Local Government by 5pm on Wednesday 19th February 2014 (details at paragraph 14 below).

Scope of scheme

5. The total amount of funding available under this scheme is **£7 million** - £3.5 million of which is available to contribute to costs incurred on A and B roads and bridges which are the responsibility of each individual local highway authority, and £3.5 million of which is available to contribute to costs incurred by local authorities in supporting affected communities during the recovery phase.
6. For this scheme, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and/or the Secretary of State for Transport will pay a grant to eligible local authorities in England who apply for funding.

Eligible Expenditure

7. Expenditure that has been, or will be incurred by Local Authorities on, or in connection with, recovery from the impacts of the East Coast tidal surge or severe weather on property, communities and local infrastructure and is not ineligible by reason of paragraph 11 below.

Communities Element

8. In order to qualify for grant under this scheme, local authorities must be able to demonstrate that:
 - a) they have incurred, or will incur expenditure on supporting their communities during the recovery phase following the East Coast tidal surge and severe weather between December 2013 and 7th February 2014. Qualifying activities may include one or more of the following:-

- offering council tax discounts,
- providing assistance for long-term displaced households,
- placing households in temporary accommodation
- support payments to flood affected households,
- purchase / provision of new household items for those affected, provision of temporary caravans etc.
- use of rest centres
- tourism impacts

and

b) that at least 10 residential and/or commercial properties have been reported as flooded (water having entered the property) in their local authority area.

9. Local authorities in two tier areas must confirm that they have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that there is no double counting in the number of properties in their claim with neighbouring or constituent local authorities.

Local Highways infrastructure element

10. In order to qualify for the Local Highways infrastructure element, eligible local highway authorities must be able to demonstrate that damage has been encountered due to the East Coast tidal surge and severe weather over the Christmas and New Year periods to the length of A and B roads and bridges damaged and which form part of the highway and with spans over 1.5 metres or more for which the local highway authority are responsible.

11. Local authorities should not include expenditure for which a claim can be made under either of the Bellwin schemes in respect of the East Coast Tidal Surge and severe weather between December 2013 and 7th February 2014.

Distribution of grant

12. Communities element

The communities element of the grant will be distributed using a simple formula based on the number of residential and commercial properties affected (water having entered the property) as a proxy for scale of wider impacts.

13. Local Highways Infrastructure Element

The local highways element of the grant will be distributed using a formula based on lengths (in miles) of A and B roads damaged, as well as the number of bridges (with spans over 1.5 metres) damaged.

Claims

14. Claim form *Recovery (01-14)* is to be used when making the claim. The claim should be signed by the authority's Chief Financial Officer and sent by email to 2014recovery@communities.gsi.gov.uk to arrive no later than **5pm on Wednesday 19th February**.
15. A final claim received after this deadline will be disregarded unless an extension to the deadline is agreed as a result of exceptional circumstances beyond an authority's control.
16. The claim form must be certified by the Chief Financial Officer to the effect that it complies in all respects with the terms of this scheme.
17. The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport, as appropriate, will check the claim form on receipt, and may request the authority for evidence to validate the claims submitted by authorities. When a claim has been accepted, the Department for Communities and Local Government or the Department for Transport will notify the local authority and confirm that payment of the agreed grant can be made.

Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport

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