

Date: 26 April 2021
Our Ref: LA/IDB Final Grant/2021

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Dear Peter

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid Allocation

In its spring budget last year, Government announced a £5.2 billion, six year programme (2021/22 to 2026/27) of flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) capital investment. A further £170m was announced in the Summer Economic Update to accelerate 22 specific FCERM schemes. The aim of this investment is to better protect 336,000 properties (homes and non-residential) in communities across England, increasing our resilience as a country to future climate change and increasing flood risk.

The £5.2bn capital programme was re-confirmed in the latest Government spending review and I am pleased to confirm that the Environment Agency's Board has approved the allocation of FCERM Grant in Aid (GiA) funding for the first year of this new programme, including eligible Reading Borough Council schemes and studies.

The enclosed programme details the funding available for schemes in Reading Borough Council. The full national programme will be published on gov.uk shortly.

Please note that the amounts shown on the enclosed programme relate to full indicative costs of the schemes, and that the grant in aid actually paid will be confirmed on a scheme-by-scheme basis in line with Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) rules for allocating funding on approval.

As set out in both the December and January Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) papers, the capital allocation for 2021/22 has been created using a prioritisation method based on partnership funding score, which compliments the allocation principles, and maximises the wider benefits that flood and coastal schemes can achieve. The programme has been reviewed and 'consented' by the Thames RFCC.

We would like to thank all Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and RFCCs for their excellent partnership working in helping to define how FCERM GiA is best used within the Thames RFCC area. You make a vital contribution to FCERM planning and delivery, and will continue to do so over the next 6 year capital investment programme. There are around 2,000 schemes within the new programme (compared to 1,300 schemes in the last 6 year programme), of which around 55% are led by RMAs.

The partnership funding contributions required to achieve the 336,000 properties better protected target for the 6 year programme are in the range of £1.3bn to £1.6bn. The good news is that around £990m has already been secured, £810m of which was from Government and was announced in the March 2020 Budget. The remaining £310m to £610m will need to be sourced locally. This is really important as the Partnership Funding framework provides 'at-

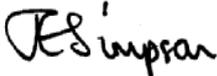
risk' communities the opportunity to invest in, and benefit from, local flood and coastal erosion risk management measures that could not be afforded from central Government funding alone.

Throughout 2020 we have collectively delivered a great deal for FCERM despite all the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic. The Government wants construction and maintenance activity to continue where it is safe to do so. We recognise however, that due to the ongoing implications of coronavirus it may be difficult to progress some schemes and of course, the health and safety of our colleagues, partners and suppliers remains paramount. Please let us know if any schemes are not progressing as planned as we may be able to offer advice and support.

If you are interested in using the Collaborative Delivery Framework for procuring and tendering work for any part of project identification, development or delivery please discuss this with your Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager.

Finally, on 24th March we were able to announce that together we have achieved our target to better protect 300,000 homes from flooding and coastal erosion risks during the 6 year capital investment programme 2015/16 to 2020/21. This is a fantastic achievement. We have also protected nearly 600,000 acres of agricultural land, 280 miles of railway lines and 5,000 miles of roads, protected and improved the environment and helped to unlock development and deliver economic growth. Thousands of business and major pieces of infrastructure are also now better protected from the effects of climate change. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement in delivering this £2.6 billion programme and the important part you played in better protecting homes in communities across England.

Yours sincerely



Julia Simpson
Area Director
Environment Agency

Please direct any enquiries to the Area Flood and Coast Risk Manager, Sarah Hale Sarah.Hale@environment-agency.gov.uk.

cc. Caroline Douglass Executive Director, Flood and Coast Risk Management

Encs: 2021/22 FCERM Programme

National Project Number	Project Name	RFCC	EA Area	Lead Risk Management Authority - Name	Total Project Expenditure - PROJECT TOTAL £s	Total Project Expenditure 21/22 £s	Grant in Aid 21/22 £s	Local Levy - 2021/22 £s	OM2+3 21/22
THC501E /000A/15 6A	Stone Street Flood Alleviation Scheme	Thames	Thames	Reading Borough Council	200,000	175,000	150,000	0	48