



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

17th May 2017

Dear Lead Local Flood Officer,

Development of a pipeline of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management schemes

As part of continued improvements to our Programme, we have committed to prioritising the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Schemes nationally based on risk to life and also to create a prioritised pipeline of schemes to be taken forward. This pipeline will include schemes led by both local authorities and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

We have recently received a longer term capital settlement rather than an annual budget, and know what our yearly budgets will be for the next four years, up to the end of March 2021. We now need to establish a national pipeline of schemes to take forward as part of the flood programme. This will also assist in verifying the required levels of capital funding following the committed 4 years.

Pipeline of flood and coastal risk management schemes

To help us to bring together a national pipeline of schemes we need information about what schemes local authorities and NRW are considering over the coming years.

Whilst budgets are confirmed for 4 years, we are looking for you to consider what you may be planning over the next 5 years, which will then be combined with the NRW medium term plan and prioritised nationally with the support of the FCERM Programme Board.

The FCERM Programme Board was established in December 2016 and includes representation from Welsh Government, NRW, WLGA, two local authorities, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and the Institution of Civil Engineers. The Board will assist us to consider all schemes from local authorities and NRW and to prioritise these schemes using the Communities at Risk Register along with information about local flood risk and historic flooding.

Benefits

A prioritised pipeline of schemes is something we have been looking to bring together for a while. As we now have a confirmed four year budget settlement for flood and coastal erosion risk management, this pipeline will allow us to better plan schemes over multiple years and make the case for future budget settlement rounds.

We will be able to share with local authorities and NRW the prioritised pipeline, meaning that you will be able to see where your schemes fit within a national scale programme and when funding is likely to be available.

A prioritised pipeline will ensure funding is focussed on the most at risk areas across the whole of Wales and provide a more transparent method for allocating funding both to risk management authorities and the public.

Understanding the location and type of works planned around the country will allow us to consider with local authorities whether similar schemes in neighbouring authorities could progress together and also link with NRW or DCWW's works. This is in line with our aim of a catchment management approach and further promoting regional working. This could also provide economic benefits as well as potentially reducing disruption to the public.

What information do we need from you?

In order to generate a pipeline of potential schemes, we need to gather information about schemes which local authorities may be considering submitting to Welsh Government seeking grant funding for between now and March 2021. This includes all schemes with expected construction costs over £100K (below this value, works should proceed through the small scale works grant).

The attached spreadsheet asks for basic information about proposed flood (ordinary watercourse and surface water) and coastal works. Information you provide should set out all stages of a scheme separately with your programmed dates for taking each stage forward. Guidance is attached at the bottom of this letter explaining the information being asked for.

We recognise that some of this information, particularly around plans for the next 5 years, may not be readily available, therefore we are proposing that this is collected in a 2 phased approach. Firstly, schemes that are ready, or will be ready, to be put forward for the 2018/19 programme will be considered in detail at the next FCERM Programme Board meeting at the end of June. Secondly, we will bring together a 5 year pipeline to be published in autumn 2017. Please see below details of what information is being requested and by when.

- **By Wednesday 14th June 2017**
 - Full details on the attached spreadsheet of schemes which you are likely to be seeking funding for in the next financial year and what stage they are currently at.
 - Draft details of scheme to be included within the 5 year pipeline.

- **By end September 2017**
 - Full details on the attached spreadsheet of the schemes you are considering over the next 5 years, or
 - An email explaining why your local authority is not considering any schemes over the next 5 year period.

For local authorities not putting forward any schemes for the 5 year pipeline, please provide an explanation for this decision. **By not including schemes to us by the end of September deadline you risk not being able to progress schemes at a later date, as the programme up to March 2021 will be published in late autumn.**

We are aware that you cannot always plan where and when funding may be needed quickly, for example damages following a flood event, however any requests for emergency funding to make repairs to flood damaged assets will be considered on a case by case basis in discussion with the Welsh Government Flood Team and in consultation with the FCERM Programme Board.

Please do not include schemes you have already submitted for the Coastal Risk Management Programme. If this programme is over subscribed and schemes are not successful, these will be placed into this pipeline.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me by email at sarah.dafydd@wales.gsi.gov.uk or by phone on 0300 062 5696.

Please return completed spreadsheets for phase one to me by **Wednesday 14th June**.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Dafydd
Programme Manager, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, Welsh Government

Guidance for completion of spreadsheet

Please complete one line of the spreadsheet for every stage (PAR, design, construction) of each scheme which you are considering taking forward

For ease of completion, please find below summary of information we are looking for under each heading

- Location – please provide the nearest town/village and postcode – this should link to the Communities at Risk Register area
- Grid Reference (Easting and northings)
- Communities at risk rank – combined max ranking
- Local evidence of flood risk – what is your evidence – S19 reports, modelling etc.
- Historic flood events – Dates of recent flooding, numbers of properties affected etc.
- Stage of work – PAR, Design, Construction
- Estimated cost – for each stage of the scheme
- Benefits to properties – estimated number of properties at risk, split homes and businesses where possible
- Programmed start and end dates – for each stage of the scheme
- Link to FRMP/LFRMS – What is the strategic context – how does this link to your Flood Risk Management Plan or Local Flood Risk Management Strategy