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FUNDING FOR FLOOD ALLEVIATION



Northamptonshire
County Council
Flood Toolkit

In the past, most flood defence projects were paid for by central government. This changed in May 2011, under a new system called Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership Funding.

This means central government now only pays the full cost of a scheme if it has high benefits (such as a large number of homes being protected).

For smaller schemes, the Government will pay a share, while the remainder can come from local contributions or budget savings. This will allow more schemes to be put in place across the country as a whole.

Partnership Funding

In the past, the Government paid the full cost of a limited number of large flood alleviation schemes. There were always more schemes proposed than there was government funding available in any one year. Now, the costs of worthwhile schemes are being shared between national and local sources, under the new Partnership Funding approach.

This is intended to allow a larger number of schemes to be put in place overall, and also to give local communities more of a say in what is done to protect them. For the first time, grants for surface water management and property-level protection are also being made available.

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid

The funding from central government for managing flood risk in England is known as 'Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid' or 'FCERM GiA'.

The total amount of FCERM GiA available is distributed across a number of bodies responsible for managing flood risk. These include the Environment Agency, Local Authorities and Internal Drainage Boards.

The amount of FCERM GiA available for a particular scheme is based on a formula that takes into account the number of households protected; the estimated value of damages being prevented; and the other benefits a particular project would deliver, such as environmental improvements.

Some projects will still be eligible for full funding from FCERM GiA but,

where the calculations show there is insufficient money available, then local contributions (from those who would benefit) will allow some of these projects to go ahead.

Some of the funding sources that could be used include:

- 'Local Levy' funding from Regional Flood and Coastal Committees
- Local Businesses
- Community Groups (including Parish Councils)
- Property Owners
- Others who would benefit from the scheme.

'Crowd Funding' methods have also been used successfully, as shown here: http://events.thecommunityfund.co.uk/?page_id=130

FCERM GiA Application Process

The process for applying for scheme funding is quite complex. Each year, all the flood risk management authorities across England have to draw up plans for the flood alleviation works that they believe are needed. These applications, known as 'Medium Term Plans' cover a six year period. They are submitted to the Environment Agency, which uses the information to draw up a prioritised list, indicating which schemes will be funded over the following year.

Further information on this is available here: http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/297431/LIT_9141_70de70.pdf

How Local People can get Involved

Under this new approach local people will have a bigger influence on what work is carried out in their area. For example, the more money they can raise towards a scheme, the more likely it is that it will be carried out.

Parish Councils and communities can both play an important role in managing flood risk at the community level. For instance:

- **FLOOD PLANS** should be prepared, by both communities and individuals at risk of flooding
- Any **FLOOD INCIDENTS** should be reported to increase the amount of information available on areas at risk
- Residents can get involved with Parish Council **FLOOD WARDEN** schemes
- Communities and Parish Councils can raise **ADDITIONAL FUNDING** for local flood resilience and flood defence measures and for undertaking regular maintenance.

Further information is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/292939/LIT_5286_b9ff43.pdf

Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

The Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs) include elected members from local authorities and representatives from local interest groups. They play an important role in agreeing programmes of flood alleviation work, and have the power to raise extra funding from local authorities, by means of a 'Local Levy'.

What is a Local Levy?

This is a source of funds raised from the County Council. It is used to support flood risk management projects that are not considered to be national priorities and hence do not attract FCERM GiA funds. A Local Levy can allow a locally important project to reduce the risk of flooding in a particular area.

More information on this is available here:

http://www.local.gov.uk/paying-for-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk/-/journal_content/56/10180/3600375/ARTICLE

For further information on the subjects covered in this leaflet, contact:

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