

Introduction

This funding programme will encourage a number of community groups and / or Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) to carry out measures to reduce the risk of surface water flooding in a sustainable way. It is expected that this will be achieved through contributions to schemes which will also deliver a benefit to Welsh Water. The level of our contribution to a scheme will be based upon the scale of the anticipated benefit. However, once the allocated programme budget has been spent, the fund will close until the following financial year.

Whilst the proposed measures will be targeted towards surface water flooding, we will consider projects that benefit the public sewer network or Welsh Water in the following ways:

- Reduced risk of flooding to vulnerable communities;
- Reduced peak river flows (by up to 25%) in a small number of catchments;
- Reduction in surface water entering our networks in affected catchments;
- Reduced impact of flood events on water quality;
- Enhanced reputation.

Principles

The funding programme (up to 31 March 2020) is built upon the following key principles:

- To encourage partnership working that aims to deliver:
 - Natural Flood Management;
 - SuDS;
- Funding is allocated only where the benefits to the public sewer network / Welsh Water have been quantified;
- To support investigations that assess the risk and the benefits, either through the contribution of funding, data or both;
- To support grant applications for Lead Local Flood Authorities as part of a strategic flood alleviation scheme;
- To deliver potential efficiencies across / between RMAs;
- Improving the consistency between our internal decision-making process and the Welsh Government Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management scoring / prioritisation mechanisms;
- Alignment with Welsh Water's internal approach to risk / project prioritisation;
- A fair and consistent assessment of applications.

Process

The process for application, assessment and approval is as follows:

- Expression of Interest (EoI) form – separate forms to be completed by the applicant (only where funding is required) at each of the following project stages:
 - Outline Business Case;
 - Detailed Design;
 - Construction;
- At the relevant stage submit a completed EoI form via email to the Welsh Water riskmanagementauthority inbox (riskmanagementauthority@dwrcymru.com);

- Application Assessment Criteria – assessment and recommendation by Welsh Water Wastewater Assets team, which will take account of known issues in the catchment as well as any supporting material provided by the applicant;
- Approval by the Welsh Water Drainage Policy Group – review of the application by senior managers, who meet every 2 months;
- Confirmation – confirmation will be sent to the applicant informing them of the outcome of their application, details of Welsh Water’s offer to contribute (where approved) and any conditions applied.

Where the support of Welsh Water is required in the form of data provision, attendance at meetings etc., there is no requirement to complete an application form. An email request to the Welsh Water riskmanagementauthority inbox (riskmanagementauthority@dwrcymru.com) will be sufficient in these cases. We will subsequently assess the request and respond accordingly in-line with our decision.

Assessment

The assessment of an application and the recommendation made to the Drainage Policy Group will be based upon an evaluation of the following:

- The anticipated impact of a scheme upon Customers, Compliance, Cost;
- A proposal’s alignment to our key policy principles and targeted areas for delivering benefit;
- An assessment of the cost-to-benefit ratio from Welsh Water’s perspective.