

Flood Risk Management Working Group
7 March 2024
Microsoft Teams

Attendees

- [REDACTED] SG (Chair)
- [REDACTED] – SG,
- [REDACTED] – SG, Flood Risk Management Team
- [REDACTED] – SG, SG Flood Risk Management Team
- [REDACTED] – COSLA
- [REDACTED] -COSLA
- [REDACTED] – SEPA
- [REDACTED] – Inverclyde Council Director of Finance
- [REDACTED] – SEPA
- [REDACTED] - Chair of the Lead Local Authority Forum
- [REDACTED] - SCOTS
- [REDACTED] - SCOTS
- [REDACTED] - Falkirk Council Director of Finance
- [REDACTED] – North Ayrshire Council, Director of Finance.

Note of Discussion

1. The Chair opened the meeting.

Letter to local authorities after recommendation 2 deadline

2. The group had previously agreed that a letter should be sent to all local authorities to seek confirmation that their scheme has been notified by 31 March 2024. It was agreed that, for simplicity, the only evidence required would be a copy of the notification from the Edinburgh Gazette.
3. The letter would also seek information whether the local authority wanted the Scheme to be considered for future funding, and assessed against other new schemes. If so it would ask for information on current costs and benefits, stage of progress of Scheme, reasons why the Scheme has not progressed
4. The letter would be issued by the SG, on behalf of the Working Group. A draft would be circulated for comments.

Implications of recommendation 2

5. This item will be discussed again in the April FWG meeting as it is not possible to have a full discussion on the implications of recommendation 2 until the deadline has passed and the agreed information is gathered from local authorities.
6. It was noted that those who do not meet the cut-off date will want to understand how they will be considered for future funding.

7. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8. It was also agreed that costs of all the Schemes put forward for cycle 2 would need to be updated in due course to ensure a level playing field when considering which cycle 1 schemes should also be considered in cycle 2.

Alternatives to forward funding and future funding

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Next Steps

13. The next steps for the Group:

- Write to all local authorities post recommendation 2 (March 31st 2024)
- Redo and discuss financial analysis post March 2024.
- Agree end point of funding for each of the schemes that exit

[REDACTED]

Flood Risk Management Working Group
25 January 2024

Attendees

[REDACTED] SG (Chair)
[REDACTED] – SG, Flood Risk Management Team
[REDACTED] – SG, Flood Risk Management Team
[REDACTED] – SG, SG Flood Risk Management Team
[REDACTED] - SG LG Finance
[REDACTED] – COSLA
[REDACTED] -COSLA
[REDACTED] – SEPA
[REDACTED] – Inverclyde Council Director of Finance
[REDACTED] – SEPA
[REDACTED] - Chair of the Lead Local Authority Forum
[REDACTED] - SCOTS

Note of Discussion

1. The Chair opened the meeting.

Storm Babet

2. SG gave some feedback on the impacts of Storm Babet and the over topping of the Brechin Flood Protection Scheme. JBA had been contracted to do 2 pieces of work. A hydrology report and an optioneering report. The hydrology report was close to being finalised. The optioneering report was due to be finalised by the end of February.

Paper 1 – Financial Analysis

3. Analysis was based on returns from local authorities in October/November 2023. A number of schemes are expected to complete after 2025/26.
4. If no further grant is available after the 10 year funding period (2025/26) then there would be a small overall deficit in the total programme spend by the time all the schemes are complete.
5. If the grant continued on a rolling basis at the same rate then there would be a surplus to 2029-30 when all the cycle 1 schemes are due to be completed.
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6. The analysis shows a surplus by the end of the current funding period (2025/26) against the estimated spend profiles of the remaining schemes up until 2025/26.

7. However, the estimated costs of the remaining schemes which have yet to out to tender remain sensitive to cost inflation and are expected to increase. It is expected that further schemes could be removed from cycle 1 if they are not notified by the end of March 2024.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Paper 2 – Recommendation 4, next Steps

9. The Working Group agreed to write to all remaining schemes once the March 2024 deadline has passed, to ask for confirmation that the scheme has been successfully notified. The FWG meeting in April can then focus on the implications of recommendations 4, and whether further recommendations are required.

Next Steps

10. The next steps for the Group:

- Redo and discuss financial analysis post March 2024.
- Agree end point of funding for each of the schemes that exit
- Agree (re)entry point where applicable for schemes that exit due to recommendation 2 .
- Consider options for the 24/25 PfG distribution (£46.5m) and explore alternatives to forward funding in 24/25.
- Begin to discuss options for future funding and distribution post 2026