

Annex B - EIR 202500449438

Flood Risk Management Working Group
5 September 2024, 10:30-12:00
Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Anne Aitken (Chair)	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	Scottish Government
[Redacted]	COSLA
[Redacted]	COSLA
[Redacted]	COSLA
Alan Puckrin	Inverclyde Council – Director of Finance
Amanda Templeman	Falkirk Council – Director of Finance
Will Burnish	Chair of the Lead Local Authority Forum
[Redacted]	SEPA
[Redacted]	SEPA
[Redacted]	SCOTS
[Redacted]	SCOTS

Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Note of Previous Minute

2. The minute of the previous meeting was agreed, with one amendment to a typo on a date in paragraph 10.
3. It was confirmed that the actions in the minute are being taken forward.

Feedback from the Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy and Next Steps with FRM Funding

4. The group considered a paper which set out the feedback from the Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy, as previously requested by the group. The paper also set out options for next steps on FRM funding. It was noted that the Acting Cabinet Secretary, whilst committing to funding FRM beyond 2025/26 (level to be confirmed), also wanted more reassurance about what would be delivered with the funding.
5. In relation to the £26m of forward funding of flooding funding being repurposed for local authorities' pay deals, assurance was given that this should not cause any issues for councils running schemes in 2024/2025.

6. The group discussed the nature of the funding model, particularly in relation to advance funding and whether this was the best approach, with there being a timing difference between projects which are going to be delivered and when the spend would occur. It was noted that there is a commitment to completing cycle 1, before progressing to cycle 2. The group also noted that there are affordability and timing issues, and that it is not that the funding is not required, as the flood resilience issues still need to be addressed.
7. In relation to the £26m being repurposed, it was highlighted that reassurance had been given by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government that this would be returned in the next financial year.

8. [Redacted]

ACTION: [Redacted]

9. The group discussed it's previous conclusion that funding for cycle 1 needs to be guaranteed, given the point in time for these schemes when the affordability issue fully came to light. This noting the existing recommendations, in particular the need for schemes to be at tender stage by 31st March 2026.

10. [Redacted]

11. [Redacted]

ACTION: [Redacted]

12. The group discussed what should be done with future funding for flood protection cycle 2 and beyond, once cycle 1 is complete. Considerations include whether to carry on with the cycles approach or to look at other flood measures and how the gateway model (being worked on by the technical working group) could apply. It was agreed that it should be broadly based around the gateway model, with further discussion on this to take place.

Practical Elements of How to Select, Cost and Deliver a Sub-Set of Projects

13. It was agreed that this item would be brought back to the group at a future meeting.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

14. To be confirmed.

AOB

15. There was no other business raised.

Date of Next Meeting

16. To be confirmed.