

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the aim of the Thames Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) Natural Flood Management (NFM) fund?**

In December 2020, the Thames RFCC awarded £1million of local levy towards the delivery of small scale NFM schemes, up to the value of £50,000 per scheme.

The NFM fund was agreed with the intention to develop a new proportionate method for Lead Local Flood Authorities to apply for the funding. It follows recognition that it is inhibitive difficult for the intended small-scale schemes to demonstrate the benefits usually required to access Grant in Aid (GiA) funding.

The proportionate application process consists of an NFM Application Form and NFM Application Calculator, instead of an Outline Business Case and Partnership Funding Calculator.

Learning from this application process will be shared with the Thames RFCC and the relevant Environment Agency teams to help demonstrate the benefits of a more streamlined and proportionate application process.

## **Who can apply for the funding?**

Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs).

## **Can LLFAs collaborate with other organisations on an application and delivery?**

Yes, LLFAs can collaborate with other organisations on an application, but the LLFA must commit to being the application lead and be able to resource this. Current statutory funding guidance states that Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management grants, including Local Levy, can only be paid to certain organisations. This is why only LLFAs can apply to the Thames RFCC NFM funding.

If an LLFA wanted to commission the delivery of the work to another organisation this may be an option as long as this is transparent and all LLFA procurement rules are followed.

All communication regarding the application will be directed through the application lead.

## **How does the NFM Calculator relate to the NFM Application Form?**

Majority of the scores the applicant provides in the NFM calculator are driven by answers to the NFM application form questions. The application form should justify the scores provided in the calculator.

## **What is the monitoring expectation for projects?**

Only low-level monitoring is expected to demonstrate project success. Monitoring isn't specifically funded through the Thames RFCC NFM fund.

Although only low-level monitoring is expected it is important to be included within the application so that project successes and lessons learnt can be captured and feedback to the Thames RFCC for future learning.

Some examples of monitoring from the first funding round include;

- Flow monitoring
- Fixed point photography
- Flood Group Monitoring (Visits to NFM features, photos etc)
- Drone imagery

A monitoring budget could be justifiable in the case of newer, less researched, NFM techniques that would add to the NFM knowledge base. This would be assessed on a case by case basis and would be subject to Thames RFCC approval.