

## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Natural Flood Management Capital Grant Scheme
<b>Date of decision:</b>	21 December 2022
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Mark Averill, Interim Service Director Transport and Highways
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>The authority is for the specified officer to take this decision, in the key decision taken by cabinet member Infrastructure and transport for the Herefordshire Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project on 20 April 2022, see <a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8758">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8758</a></p> <p>The decision included provision that: all operational decisions and spend of the £1,273,600 funding in accordance with the Business Case (Annex 1) be delegated to the Interim Service Director Environment, Highways and Waste, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Infrastructure and transport.</p>
<b>Wards:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	Cabinet member for Infrastructure and transport, Legal, Finance, Delegated Grants, NFM Steering Group
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>A NFM Capital Grant Scheme with a non-recurring budget of £250,000 is made available for the installation of measures that slow the flow of water and reduce flood risk to downstream communities within the project's priority sub-catchments.</p> <p>The Directorate Services Team Leader be authorised to determine grant awards in accordance with the scheme criteria as set out in Appendix 1.</p> <p>To recharge the costs of the Delegated Grants Team in supporting the NFM Capital Grant Scheme.</p>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>It was identified within the Business Case for our Natural Flood Management Project that delivery on the ground will largely be through the deployment of Catchment Advisors who will engage with landowners and communities to advise them as to how they can implement NFM measures. A <a href="#">Record of Operational Decision</a> was taken on 14 July 2022 to award a contract to the Wye and Usk Foundation for these services.</p> <p>This decision is to formalise the arrangements for the NFM Capital Grant Scheme and to invite applications for grant funding to support landowners and farmers within the project's priority sub-catchments in altering their land and water management practices to slow the flow of water and reduce flood risk to downstream communities. Guidance for this grant scheme is attached at Appendix 1 which has been shared with partner organisations through the NFM steering group and which builds upon the successful round of grants we ran under the NFM pilot project.</p> <p>The budget allocated until 31 March 2027 for this grant scheme is £250,000. We anticipate that it will fund measures such as: Soil Management; Over winter cover; In field water retention; In channel water retention; Fencing; Trackway; Tree planting; and Landowner innovation. Alternative measures can also be proposed where there is a clear benefit to flood risk reduction.</p>

	<p>The grant scheme will be promoted through Catchment Advisors, the council's website, partner networks and via social media to ensure the opportunity is well-publicised.</p> <p>Further information regarding the grant criteria and the appraisal process is contained within the scheme guidance document.</p> <p>The amount of support required from the Delegated Grants Team in assisting with the NFM Capital Grant Scheme will be reviewed but will be up to a maximum of £5,000 per annum.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<p>Finance None. This tender is in accordance with this Project's approved Business Case which estimated a budget of £250,000 for a NFM Capital Grant Scheme. The Project is externally funded through Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) and Local Levy funding. The approved Business Case estimated a budget of around £297,000 for staff costs and so Delegated Grants Team support of up to £5,000 per annum will be funded from this.</p> <p>Legal The grant fund is less than £500,000 and is therefore an operational/non key decision and is covered by the delegated authority above.</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>Not taking this decision has been rejected as this would not be in accordance with this Project's approved Business Case.</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	

Signed: Mark Averill

Date: 21 December 2022