

North Yorkshire Council

Resources and Environment Executive Members

25 July 2025

Upper Dales Flood Alleviation Scheme Grant Acceptance Approval

Report of the Assistant Director - Highways and Infrastructure

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request funding acceptance from the Chief Finance Officer sub-delegated to the Assistant Director – Resources authorises the acceptance of funding for:
- £103,382 of the available Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding to enable scheme development through 2025/25
 - £283,248 of the available Flood and Coastal Committee Local Levy

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In July 2019 unprecedented rainfall in the west of the county saw devastating flooding impacts. Richmondshire was hardest hit by the events, which saw approximately 238 individual properties internally flooded, bridges providing vital links to some remote communities destroyed, watercourses obstructed by tonnes of debris and several significant landslips impacting on the highway network.
- 2.2 The investigation focussed on Reeth, Arkengarthdale, Leyburn and Bellerby given these were locations which saw the most significant effects, although the resulting reports acknowledged that flooding was experienced elsewhere
- 2.3 Overall, the locations included in the studies were Reeth and Fremington, Arkengarthdale, Bellerby, Leyburn, West Witton, Bainbridge, Hawes, and Gayle, Redmire and Spennithorne
- 2.4 All options were considered with Property Flood Resilience being the preferred option
- 2.5 In August 2024, Flood Risk Management were granted approval to apply for £873,212 of Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding and £582,889 of the available Flood and Coastal Committee Local Levy for the Upper Dales Flood Alleviation Scheme (see Appendix A). Below table shows the breakdown of the funding requests.

Project title	Council contribution	Grant in Aid	Local Levy	Total
P1. Wensleydale	£97,500	£168,483	£58,017	£324,000
P2. Leyburn	£107,250	£143,910	£88,940	£340,100
P3. Leyburn & Redmire	£74,750	£82,185	£100,666	£257,601
P4. Leyburn 3	£100,750	£115,915	£110,035	£326,700
P5. West Witton & Spennithorne	£65,000	£103,382	£47,618	£216,000
P6. Reeth	£100,750	£138,637	£70,913	£310,300
P7. Upper Dales	£104,000	£120,700	£106,700	£331,400
Total	£650,000	£873,212	£582,889	£2,106,101

3.0 UPPER DALES FUNDING APPLICATION

- 3.1 Only projects P1. Wensleydale, P5. West Witton & Spennithorne, P6. Reeth and P7. Upper Dales funding applications were submitted for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Levy and EA Grant in Aid for year 2025/26. The (FCERM) Levy applications were successful. Leyburn projects will be submitted in year 2026/27.
- 3.2 Due to the withdrawal of the Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding only P5 West Witton and Spennithorne project funding was granted. The Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant in Aid is currently being reviewed by the Government with the revised process due for rollout for year 2026/27. There will be a supplementary report submitted when we become eligible for the rest of the funding.

Project title	Council contribution	Grant in Aid	Local Levy	Total
P1. Wensleydale	£97,500	Funding not granted	£58,017	£155,517
P5. West Witton & Spennithorne	£65,000	£103,382	£47,618	£216,000
P6. Reeth	£100,750	Funding not granted	£70,913	£171,663
P7. Upper Dales	£104,000	Funding not granted	£106,700	£210,700
Total	£367,250	£103,382	£283,248	£753,880

- 3.3 The total project cost for P1, P5, P6 and P7 is £961k leaving a shortfall of £207k to complete all properties within the scheme. Due to this shortfall, the above projects were reviewed as a whole, and it is proposed that we prioritise those properties that have been identified as at high risk of both fluvial and surface water flooding by location. These locations, in order, are Bellerby, Fremington including Grinton, Arkengarthdale Upper Dales and Swaledale. This equates to 81 properties. Upper Dales (12 properties) and Swaledale (20 properties) will be delivered once funding is available.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There are no further funding options available to us at this moment, the project will be closely monitored to ensure available funding is not exceeded.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The estimated total value of these scheme elements to be delivered by NYC is presently £754k to Bellerby, Fremington including Grinton, Arkengarthdale and the Upper Dales. It is however important to stress that the scheme is a package of works, and this value is an outline estimate, some elements being subject to third party agreement, and is therefore not definitive at this point in time.
- 5.2 There was an original indicative allocation of £650k flood risk base budget funding in the flood risk management forward programme to enable the work in the Upper Dales over the next three years this was agreed in the August 2022 Flood Risk Management Programme Delivery Update by Business and Environmental Services Executive Members. £75k of this has already been spent in project development. The remaining £575k will continue to be drawn upon in support of the scheme. There is presently £976k amount in the flood risk reserve and this money is allocated from here.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Memorandum relating to capital grants has been reviewed by Legal Services should any further grant terms be issued these will be reviewed by Legal Services. The points raised are as follows:
- 6.1.1 Should the design of a project after approval has been granted and the change affects the cost, extent, scope or type of outcome a FCERM 4 form must be completed to obtain approval of the EA. Should the project cost more than the amount outlined in the Outline Business Case then a form FCERM 4 must be sent to the Environment Agency.
- 6.1.2 The EA must be informed immediately if NYC are unable to complete the project and provide reasons. NYC must properly maintain all FCERM work constructed using the Capital Grant and undertake all repairs promptly. The EA can review the project at any time so full records must be kept for inspection.
- 6.1.3 Any construction signboards, or permanent commemorative plaques or published material including all media, website etc must refer to the fact that the Project was supported by a Capital Grant and/or a local levy grant provided by the Environment Agency
- 6.1.4 The EA must be informed of the start and finish date of the Project and send a project completion form FCERM 8 once the Project has been "substantially completed" i.e. earliest date on which benefits are realised. The grant will be withheld if you do not meet the conditions in the statutory guidance.
- 6.1.5 Interim Capital Grant can be applied for by way of form FCERM3, and the grant will only be paid once the EA received written confirmation by post or e mail that the Project has begun. The grant can be withheld if you do not inform the EA of the start date or if the amount of Capital Grant changes over one financial year without the agreement of the EA.
- 6.1.6 Once the project is completed a form FCERM 8 must be completed you will then have 2 years to send a final account to the EA using form FCERM5. Form FCERM 4 when sending a final account must provide a record of the original amount allocated, including use of any contingency and supplementary Capital Grant approval. The EA would however prefer the final account to be sent asap. It is important deadlines are met at section 25 of the guidance as if you do not NYC may not be entitled to the Capital Grant
- 6.1.7 When procuring work in respect of the grant you must achieve best value in general via competitive tendering it is advisable to work with our Procurement department in respect of all contracts under the Grant. Please note templates and forms must be requested by subscribing to Supporting Flood and Coastal Projects line in the guidance
- 6.2 Conditions of the Grant in Aid funding will be reviewed when the submitted Business Case is agreed.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The scheme benefits all those with protected characteristics by reducing the risk of surface water flooding in the Upper Dales and thereby the associated effects upon businesses, residential properties, the public health of the community living at flood risk and the associated economic growth of the area, see Appendix A

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Flood mitigation offers positive benefits to resilience to future climate change projections. The proposals are anticipated to have a positive impact in response to climate change, see Appendix B.

9.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Property Flood Resilience (PFR) is offered to all eligible residents who meet the criteria, the identified properties have either flooded or been identified as high risk of flooding within the Environment Agency guidelines and the scheme will improve living conditions for those flooding has affected. The implementation of PFR will offer piece of mind to residents that in adverse weather conditions their properties and themselves are protected.
- 9.2 It is therefore appropriate to continue with the scheme as revised. This will permit those properties at highest risk to be progressed within this financial year, leaving the remaining eligible properties on the programme into 2026/27 when we are confident funding will become available through the revised EA programme.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 It is recommended that the Chief Finance Officer sub delegated to the Assistant Director-Resources, authorises:
- i. the acceptance of funding to the amount of £103,382 of the Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding to enable scheme development during 2025/26 2026/27 subject to appropriate terms and conditions being received
 - ii. authorises the acceptance of funding to the amount of £283,248 of the Flood and Coastal Committee Local Levy funding to enable scheme development during 2025/26 and 2026/27 subject to appropriate terms and conditions being received

APPENDICES:

- Appendix A Initial Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix B Initial Climate Change Assessment

Background documents: None

Barrie Mason
Assistant Director - Highways and Infrastructure
Environment Directorate
County Hall
Northallerton
25 July 2025

Report Author – Patricia Gourley Flood Risk Management Project Manager
Presenter of Report – Meirion Jones, Lead Local Flood Authority Team Leader

Initial equality impact assessment screening form			
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
Directorate	Environment		
Service area	Highways – Flood Risk Management		
Proposal being screened	Upper Dales Flood Alleviation Scheme		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Trish Gourley		
What are you proposing to do?	Implement Property Flood Resilience to at risk properties to Reeth and Fremmington, Arkengarthdale, Grinton, Bellerby, Leyburn, West Witton, Bainbridge, Hawes, and Gayle, Redmire and Spennithorne		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	Properties have experienced flooding or have been identified as high risk of flooding.		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	Yes, the project will run for 2 to 3 years and will have a positive impact.		
Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics			
As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? 			
If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your directorate representative for advice if you are in any doubt.			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		No – positive impact	
Disability		No – positive impact	
Sex		No – positive impact	
Race		No – positive impact	
Sexual orientation		No – positive impact	
Gender reassignment		No – positive impact	

Appendix A

Religion or belief		No – positive impact	
Pregnancy or maternity		No – positive impact	
Marriage or civil partnership		No – positive impact	
People in rural areas		No – positive impact	
People on a low income		No – positive impact	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		No – positive impact	
Are from the Armed Forces Community		No – positive impact	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (for example, disabled people’s access to public transport)? Please give details.	No		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (for example, partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No		
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	ü?	Continue to full EIA: ü?
Reason for decision	* The scheme benefits all those with protected characteristics by reducing the risk of surface water flooding in the Upper Dales and thereby the associated effects upon businesses, residential properties, the public health of the community living at flood risk and the associated economic growth of the area.		
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Barrie Mason		
Date	17/07/2025		

Initial Climate Change Impact Assessment (Form created August 2021)

The intention of this document is to help the council to gain an initial understanding of the impact of a project or decision on the environment. This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. Dependent on this initial assessment you may need to go on to complete a full Climate Change Impact Assessment. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process. If you have any additional queries, which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Title of proposal	Upper Dales Flood Alleviation Scheme
Brief description of proposal	<p>Implement Property Flood Resilience to properties who have experienced flooding or identified as high-risk to Reeth and Fremmington, Arkengarthdale, Grinton, Bellerby, Leyburn, West Witton, Bainbridge, Hawes, and Gayle, Redmire and Spennithorne.</p> <p>Properties within the Yorkshire Dales National Park will require planning permission. Outside of the park there are two grade listed building who will also require planning permission.</p> <p>This initial climate change impact assessment is for other locations.</p>
Directorate	Environment
Service area	Highways – Flood Risk Management
Lead officer	Trish Gourley
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	John Ward-Campbell

The chart below contains the main environmental factors to consider in your initial assessment – choose the appropriate option from the drop-down list for each one.

Remember to think about the following;

- Travel
- Construction
- Data storage
- Use of buildings
- Change of land use
- Opportunities for recycling and reuse

Appendix E

Environmental factor to consider	For the council	For the county	Overall
Greenhouse gas emissions	No effect on emissions	No Effect on emissions	No effect on emissions
Waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste
Water use	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage
Pollution (air, land, water, noise, light)	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution
Resilience to adverse weather/climate events (flooding, drought etc)	Increases resilience	Increases resilience	Increases resilience
Ecological effects (biodiversity, loss of habitat etc)	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology
Heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape

If any of these factors are likely to result in a negative or positive environmental impact then a full climate change impact assessment will be required. It is important that we capture information about both positive and negative impacts to aid the council in calculating its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

Decision (Please tick one option)	Full CCIA not relevant or proportionate:		Continue to full CCIA:	
Reason for decision	<p>*PFR will have a positive impact on properties with resilience to flooding which may result in reduced waste and potential increase of greenhouse emissions.</p> <p>*Waste from the implementation of PFR is one off and limited. Any waste will be removed by the contractor overseen by a North Yorkshire Council Project Manager.</p> <p>*Construction for Property Flood Resilience is one off and limited with no effect on greenhouse emissions and pollution.</p>			
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Barrie Mason			
Date	17/07/2025			