

# ADEPT – Flood and Water Management - Briefing Note

## **Boosting action to make homes and buildings more resilient to floods**

### **What is this briefing about?**

The new Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Pathfinder Projects, funding for which was announced in the 2018 Autumn Budget Statement.

We would like to:

- Ensure LLFAs are aware of this project,
- Promote the timescales for the Invitation for the Expression of Interest, and
- Encourage proactive collaboration between the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) in their RFCC area prior to the launch of the Invitation for the Expression of Interest.



### **Project Overview**

The Invitation for the Expression of Interest for this project is due to go live on **20<sup>th</sup> May 2019** for LLFAs to bid into. We welcome bids from any LLFAs, but we encourage LLFAs to collaborate and submit one bid per RFCC area.

Grant funding of up to £700,000 will be available to each of the three PFR Pathfinder projects nationally, starting this year and running to April 2021. The LLFAs will be required to establish a self-financing professional Hub for the longer-term which will lead on local innovation to help enhance the future take-up of flood resilience techniques in properties.

The funding will be provided to Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) in three selected locations to support the creation of the Hubs. These Pathfinders will be formally led by one LLFA, but bids will be encouraged from the consortia of LLFAs and the services the Hubs provide must cover the entire geographical RFCC area in which they are located or a clearly identified sub-region of local authorities in that RFCC area.

### **What will the outcome be?**

The core aim for this project is to change behaviour and increase the flood resilience of communities. To do this the successful LLFAs will:

#### **Inspire Behaviour Change**

- Need to understand the blockers and incentives to behaviour change leading to increased flood resilience.
- Find new, innovative and practical ways to engage and embed flood resilience throughout communities.
- Drive the increased uptake of PFR in properties at risk of flooding.
- Innovate to move beyond informing people to catalyse a change in the behaviour of those at flood risk, so that they actively seek to increase their resilience to flooding.

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### **Deliver Physical Activities**

- Work with the local building industry to encourage the use of flood resilient materials and measures as part of any construction, reinstatement and maintenance work.
- Deliver or enhance at least one hands-on demonstration property project in each of the three regions to show how properties can be made more resilient to flooding.

### **Provide a Professional Service that Supports Interventions**

The three selected Pathfinders will set up a self-financing professional hub to lead on local innovation. The hubs must not rely on future Government Flood Risk Management funding (beyond the 2 year life of this project) and the services they provide must cover their entire RFCC area. The hubs will:

- Provide technical advice services to Local Authorities including planning professionals, architects, developers, building control specialist and surveyors to promote and embed resilient adaptation methods and approaches for new and existing developments.
- Work with the public, community organisations, businesses and landlords to increase understanding and Innovate to change the behaviour of those at risk of flooding (moving beyond informing; they should seek to develop approaches that lead to change) and increase resilience.
- Work with the Local Insurance Industry, mortgage lenders and investors to encourage and influence the benefits of PRF to be reflected in Tools and Pricing models.
- Promote and embed the PFR Code of Practice by working with the local industry and professionals and drive up consistent and appropriate work standards for PFR.
- Promote the awareness and use of the Environment Agencies PFR Procurement Framework where appropriate.
- Provide PFR related training and Continued Professional Development to local professionals.
- Develop a local choice framework to support flood resilient decision-making for properties at flood risk and maintain a record of where PFR interventions have been applied.
- Demonstrate a capacity to move fast, building on existing strengths to spend grant funding quickly and effectively.

### **Where are we now?**

The invitation for the Expression of interest will be launched on the **20<sup>th</sup> May 2019** and will run for six weeks to the **28<sup>th</sup> June 2019**. Assessments will be made nationally and the three successful project locations will be announced by Therese Coffey MP in July 2019. It is expected that work will begin immediately following this announcement. Once funding allocation decisions are made, more detailed business cases will be required before funding is released.

### **For more information contact:**

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