Defra funding for household flood protection Workshop

Process overview, funding and reporting

John Goudie, Defra
Defra funding for household flood protection

Content of the presentation:

• Purpose and format for the workshop
• Overview of the grant scheme
  ➢ Funding
  ➢ Timetable
  ➢ Focus of the scheme
• Guidance document
Purpose of the workshop:

• identify those aspects of the guidance document and the application process that are not clear
• Capture possible improvements through discussion in breakout and feedback sessions
• Update you on current progress

After the workshop:

• Update guidance and application process ready for first round applications
Overview of the grant scheme – Aims

- to create demonstration areas that will promote the benefits of property-level flood risk mitigation
- to stimulate the supply of high quality, independent flood risk mitigation surveys
- to encourage the development of new and innovative flood protection and resilience measures
Defra funding for household flood protection

Aims achieved by:

- Providing funding for surveys to inform understanding of the extent of the flood problem at the property and how to mitigate it
- Providing funding for the implementation of qualifying property-level flood risk mitigation measures
Overview of the grant scheme

• Funding is £5m overall in this CSR period, split into 2 blocks
• Applications for the first block of £2m will be received by 17th March 2009
• Applications for the second block of £3m will be sought Autumn 2009
• All funding expended by 31 March 2011

Focus of the scheme is on protection rather than resilience because of current legislative constraints
Guidance document – key sections for discussion:

- Eligibility and selection (Section 2) – covered by Session 2
- Quality standards (Section 4) – covered by Session 3
- The application and implementation process (Section 5) – covered as follows:
  - Sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10 by Session 1
  - Sections 5.6 by Session 2
  - Sections 5.3, 5.4, 5.5 by Session 3
Constraints and flexibility – Section 5.1

• Constraints:
  - Must be legal
  - As set out in the guidance and application process

• Opportunities:
  - Flexibility to make the best use of the funding
  - Flexibility with respect to distribution processes
  - Empowers people to help themselves
Defra funding for household flood protection

Funding allocations – Section 5.2

• Funding for administration costs limited to £700 per property provided with a survey

• Survey and provision of measures:
  ➢ Average funding for survey and measures does not exceed £5,000 per property
  ➢ Average funding for measures does not exceed £4,500 per property
  ➢ Maximum funding on any property £7,000
  ➢ Funding only available for qualifying measures
  ➢ All measures identified in the survey must be implemented

Note: reference to ‘funding’ above is Defra grant funding.
Defra funding for household flood protection

Agreements with beneficiaries – Section 5.7. Things to consider

• Ownership of products
• Care, maintenance and replacement responsibility
• Transfer of responsibilities
• Commitments to sign up for services such as flood warning, community engagement, etc.
Defra funding for household flood protection

Project reporting and post-event performance – Sections 5.8 and 5.9

- Lessons learnt at the end of the project
  - Scope of report noted in the guidance document. The focus is on the performance of the process and possible improvements
- Performance of measures after a major event
  - A report that captures the performance of key measures to improve the specification of measures and their implementation/mobilisation in the future
Financial audit and liability – Section 5.10

• Grant funding will be available for audited qualifying costs
• 5% will be retained until a valid audit certificate is provided
• Timescales for financial processes will be set out in the agreement to provide grant funding
• Payment at the end of the project
• Phased payments are not envisaged
• The Government provides no warranty that measures will be successful. Authorities will need to ensure that their funding processes reflect the level of liability they wish to adopt.