

# Government pledges £62m flood funding for communities in England

Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers has announced a new round of flood defence investment today (Tuesday, 10 September 2019) for communities across Yorkshire, Cumbria, the North East and the South East of England.

Thirteen projects across England will benefit from a share of over £62 million, which as well as helping develop existing flood defences, will boost economic regeneration and increase prosperity in those areas. Many of the projects are located in communities which suffered from flooding during winter 2015.

In total, more than 9,004 homes will be better protected against flooding through this round of funding. The extra funding is in addition the government's commitment to invest a record £2.6 billion over six years up to 2021 to better protect 300,000 homes across the country.

Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers said:

I am delighted to announce over £60m of additional funding to better protect communities which are vulnerable to flooding, particularly across parts of northern England.

Events this summer have shown that investing in flood risk management is more important than ever, and this funding builds on our long-standing £2.6 billion commitment to better protect 300,000 homes from flooding and coastal erosion over six years.

Funding will support the development of 11 projects in the Northern Powerhouse, including seven in Yorkshire, four in Cumbria and Lancashire and two in the North East.

£19m is set to go to Calder Valley, where the Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge and Brighouse schemes will be developed. More than 3,000 properties flooded in the West Yorkshire valley during the 2015 floods, leaving communities in the area badly affected. With this new boost, the two projects at Hedden Bridge and Brighouse are now to be developed, with work due to begin next year. Communities in Yorkshire will also receive additional funding with more money for the Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme and additional funding for defences at Sowerby Bridge.

Minister of State for the Northern Powerhouse, the Rt Hon Jake Berry MP said:

This new funding for flood defences in the North of England adds to the £5.4 billion already invested into the Northern Powerhouse to drive jobs and economic growth, and a record £13 billion to upgrade

transport infrastructure across the North.

We're investing in public infrastructure so that local communities have the support and backing they need to flourish and seize all of the opportunities that come with leaving the European Union on the 31st October.

Cumbria and Lancashire are due to receive the second largest amount of funding, with £22.8m now available to support four flood projects in Kendal, Egremont, Flimby and Preston and South Ribble. The proposed scheme for Kendal involves three phases, of which the first will provide a 1 in 50 level of protection for 1,480 homes and 1,151 businesses.

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury Simon Clarke said:

Flooding can have a devastating impact on communities.

The government's injection of an additional £62.35m will help protect communities, and ensure they remain vibrant places for people to live, work, and visit.

This round of funding will also allocate £6.3m to projects outside of the Northern Powerhouse, in Essex and Lincolnshire. In Essex, the River Roding project at Shonks Mill will better protect 550 homes in Woodford and its surrounding areas, while in Lincolnshire, the Lincoln Defences project is set to reduce flood risk to 1,842 homes and 424 businesses.

Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency and UK Commissioner on the Global Commission on Adaptation said:

This extra funding will help us to go even further in our mission to better protect communities up and down the country from the terrible effects of flooding. We will work closely with these communities to design and build projects which not only reduce flood risk but which also benefit wildlife and the local economy for decades to come.

This vital investment comes on the same day that the Global Commission on Adaptation has released a report which issues a rallying cry to the international community to invest more in climate resilience including better protection for flood risk.

The Environment Agency has completed construction of more than 500 new flood and coastal erosion schemes since April 2015, better protecting over 195,000 and thousands of businesses. By the end of this year, the government will set out its policies to better prepare the country for flood and coastal erosion in a government policy statement. Informed by this policy, the Environment

Agency will update its national strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management, which sets out a long term plan for tackling, preparing for and adapting to the additional risks that climate change will bring.

## Further information

A table with details of the schemes is below.

Project	Location	Additional Funding (£m)	Potential leveraging of partnership funding contributions (£m)
Lincoln Defences	Lincolnshire	1.2	0.8
Stokesley Flood Alleviation Scheme	North Yorkshire	1.8	0.0
Marton West Beck – Middlesbrough	North Yorkshire	1.8	0.4
Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area (River Roding Project)	Essex	5.1	4.8
Preston and South Ribble	Lancashire	15.8	9.5
Sowerby Bridge	West Yorkshire	1.7	0.0
Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme	North Yorkshire	9.0	1.0
Kendal	Cumbria	5.0	6.8
Egremont	Cumbria	1.6	5.0
Flimby	Cumbria	0.4	0.0
Mytholmroyd	West Yorkshire	3.0	4.5
Hebden Bridge	West Yorkshire	11.0	1.5
Brighouse	West Yorkshire	5.0	6.4

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## [News story: Government pledges £62m flood funding for communities in England](#)

New flood boost will better protect over 9,004 homes.

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# UK gets international backing to host global climate summit

The UK today received a huge boost for our work to tackle climate change as international allies formally gave their backing for Britain to host COP26 in 2020.

The event in Glasgow next year will be the UN's 26th climate change conference, and bring together over 30,000 delegates from around the world, including climate experts, business leaders and citizens to agree ambitious action to tackle climate change.

Today's announcement means the UK is now officially backed by the group of countries responsible for nominating the 2020 host.

This follows the PM's commitment at the G7 Summit in Biarritz to ensure that the COP26 Summit addresses both climate change and biodiversity as two sides of the same coin.

We expect the UK's nomination to be formally accepted at December's COP25 summit in Chile and we will host COP26, in partnership with Italy, in Glasgow in 2020.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab welcomed the news:

The UK has just received a huge vote of confidence from our international partners. We're poised to host the next major global climate negotiations, in partnership with Italy. Over 30,000 delegates from around the world will come together to commit to ambitious action to tackle climate change.

We're ready to bring the world together to make sure we leave our precious environment in a better state for our children.

Claire Perry, UK nominated President for COP26 said:

In 2020, world leaders will come together to discuss how to tackle climate change on a global scale – and where better to do so than Glasgow, one of the UK's most sustainable cities with a great track record for hosting high-profile international events.

I welcome the nomination from our partners in the UN regional group to host COP26 in Glasgow in partnership with Italy. The UK is a world-leader in emissions reduction, and we have recently committed to reducing our net emissions to zero.

International Development Secretary Alok Sharma:

This nomination is testimony to the UK's leading role in the global fight against climate change. UK aid has helped millions of people in developing countries to access clean energy and prepare for the impact of climate change. This is protecting our planet for future generations.

**Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab welcomes our COP26 nomination**

[Video](#)

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## **Food allergy -jointly organised one day conference**

The Government Chemist is collaborating with IGFS in Queen's University Belfast, to run a one day conference, 'Food Allergy – Human, analytical and regulatory implications'.

With a special focus on helping SMEs understand more about food allergy, the conference in Belfast brings together well-known experts in the fields of food allergens, including specialists from the food industry, (both large and small companies, and caterers), researchers, enforcement officers and regulators. This special mix of scientific and practical input to the conference will provide a valuable opportunity to grow your knowledge base, learn from practical experiences, and exchange ideas with peers.

The enforcement perspective will represent both Northern Ireland views, as well as feedback from officers who have prosecuted a landmark manslaughter case in England. There will be a discussion on allergen analysis including new innovations, and reference materials and legal implications.

Find out more, including [speaker information and the full programme](#) and [how to register](#).

If you have any enquiries related to allergen testing or current research performed by the Government Chemist, contact: