

Complementary funding - overview

Background

The finances required to implement the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) throughout the North West River Basin District greatly outweigh the resources available through Natural Course and traditional sources of funding within the water management sector.

The baseline cost to deliver the WFD outcomes in the NW River Basin District is £4.7billion above and beyond where funding is committed or there is an established funding mechanism.

Many measures proposed as part of the delivery of WFD objectives were classified as “technically infeasible” or “disproportionately expensive”

Our (original) approach

We started off with big ideas on how we would use complementary funding to deliver WFD outcomes...

(A8 Letters to organisations like Highways England)

Then, half way through Natural Course, we left the EU and various funding streams were gone...

So we had to take an opportunistic approach rather than strategic (influencing internal/organisational pots of money to deliver WFD – note it is impossible to reposition large structures like AMP and FCRM, so we worked at the edges to alter the tone of their content).

Phase 3 & 4 approach

Action A7 - Collaborative working to secure complementary funding and actions

The focus was on attracting funding from a range of traditional, and more innovative, sources to contribute to WFD drivers, and review the commitments (A8s) that were signed at the original application phase.

Two strategies have been produced as a result of this work:

- Complementary funding Strategy
- Strategies to address 4 Technically Difficult Waterbodies*

** Changes to the way the TIDE measures were considered has meant that they now no longer appear in the RBMP. However, there are Significant Water Management Issues (SWIMs) that, while not technically infeasible, are technically difficult and have the potential to prevent waterbodies achieving Good Ecological Status*

Phase 3 & 4 approach

Work has focused on influencing actions sustainably on the longer term, rather than on a short-term alignment on funds (which can be difficult to achieve due to different spending rules).

Internal influence has been shaping thinking around WFD targets and overall water ambition.

- The Environment Agency had work undertaken led to a new Action (FCRM opportunities toolkit) for Phase 4.
- Phase 4 projects such as ‘Using Local Natural Recovery Network Strategies to deliver WFD objectives’ and work on the Green Recovery Challenge Funding will help develop future co-ordination mechanisms for future complementary actions.

Complementary funding

Complementary funding is an estimate of the implementation of other measures planned during the project period that engage with our goals, but are outside of the project itself.

- **Amount committed** - funds confirmed for a complementary activity, but not yet spent.
- **Funds spent (mobilised)** - money that has been spent on a complementary activity.
- **Amount influenced** – money whereby a Natural Course Action or persons has been: a key part of the dialogue leading up to the investment / mobilisation; has had an impact on the policy/strategy underpinning the fund, or has influenced the conditions of the funding.
- **Cost savings** - where innovative water management solutions have resulted in cost savings, suggesting improvements in affordability in delivery of the NW RBMP.