

2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment
Funds Growth Programme

Call for Proposals
European Regional Development Fund

Priority Axis 5: Promoting climate change
adaptation, risk prevention and
management

Managing Authority:	Department for Communities and Local Government
Fund:	European Regional Development Fund
Priority Axis:	Priority Axis 5: Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management
Call Reference:	OC14R15P 0239
Local Enterprise Partnership Area:	Greater Lincolnshire
LEP Area Indicative Funding Available:	£4,000,000
Call Open:	1 December 2015
Call Closes:	23:59 29 January 2016

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1. Introduction

The 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds bring the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development together into a single European Union Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme for England supporting the key growth priorities of innovation, research and development, support for Small and Medium sized Enterprises, low carbon, skills, employment, and social inclusion.

The Funds are managed by the Department for Communities and Local Government for European Regional Development Fund, Department for Work and Pensions for European Social Fund and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs for European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. These Departments are the Managing Authorities for each Fund. In London, the Greater London Authority acts as an Intermediate Body for the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund programmes. Unless stated otherwise, the term “Managing Authority” will apply to all these organisations. The Managing Authorities work closely with local partners who provide:

- Practical advice and information to the Managing Authorities to assist in the preparation of local plans that contribute towards Operational Programme priorities and targets;
- Local intelligence to the Managing Authorities in the development of project calls (decided by the Managing Authorities) that reflect Operational Programme and local development needs as well as match funding opportunities; and
- Advice on local economic growth conditions and opportunities within the context of the Operational Programme and the local European Structural Investment Fund Strategy to aid the Managing Authority’s assessments at outline and full application stage.

This call is issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government and invites Outline Applications in respect of the European Regional Development Fund for England 2014 to 2020.

2. Call Context

On behalf of the national Growth Programme Board, the Department for Communities and Local Government (the Managing Authority) invites applications seeking European Regional Development Fund support under:

Priority Axis 5 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

Investment Priorities:

- 5b** promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.

The **European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme for England 2014 to 2020** sets out how the European Regional Development Fund will focus on investment to support economic growth and job creation. **Priority Axis 5** of the Operational Programme aims to target investment of ERDF into measures that safeguard and enable sustainable economic growth, reducing significant flood and coastal risk to business premises and as a result addressing investment and economic growth risk constraints.

Any application for funding will be required to clearly demonstrate that it meets the requirement of, and makes a meaningful contribution to, the delivery of the relevant Priority Axis of the [European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme](#).

In addition, applications will be expected to meet identified local development need, as expressed in the scope of this call and as set out in the [Greater Lincolnshire European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy](#).

Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the detail of the Operational Programme, local European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy and the relevant documentation listed in sections 5 through to 8 **prior to** submitting an Outline Application.

3. Scope of the Call

3.1. Scope

This call invites Outline Applications which support the delivery of **Priority Axis 5** of the European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme and responds to the local development need set out in the [Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership Area European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy](#).

Indicative Fund Allocation:	<p>Indicatively, through this call the Managing Authority expects to allocate up to £4,000,000.</p> <p>The Managing Authority reserves the right to increase or decrease the indicative allocation, or support more or fewer projects subject to the volume and quality of proposals received.</p> <p>There is no indicative allocation of European Regional Development Fund funding between capital and revenue activity, both capital and revenue is eligible dependent on the nature of activities/Investment Priorities set out in the call.</p>
Minimum application level	<p>European Regional Development Fund investment is intended to make a significant impact on local growth. Applications are expected to demonstrate appropriate scale and impact. The Managing Authority does not intend to allocate less than £500,000 European Regional Development Fund to any single project. Consequently projects with a total value of less than £833,333 will not be supported under this call.</p>
Duration of project approvals	<p>Projects should be for a maximum of three years, however the Managing Authority reserves the right to vary the maximum duration in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Geographical Scope	<p>All interventions are confined to activity and beneficiaries within England. This call is restricted to projects that are in the eligible area only which includes the Lincolnshire Coast and South Bank of the Humber Estuary.</p>
Specific call requirements	<p>. An indicative budget of £4 million has been allocated to this call. This is intended as a guide and may be reviewed</p> <p>All Applications are competitive. For this specific call, applications will be assessed after the close of the single deadline, and within this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposals can only contain activities which are eligible for ERDF support. The primary focus of the

	<p>call activity is to redress flood risk and disaster resilience, but especially targeted at flood risk and mitigation. Emphasis should be on activity on the coast to prevent flooding around business and commercial areas located in/around or near flood plains and rivers. Evidence will also be needed to demonstrate how the proposals will address flood risk (a web link for flood areas http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/)</p> <p>Although 'hard' and 'soft' actions are eligible, there will be an emphasis on 'soft' which refers to land management, embankments, dunes, shoreline, river walls. 'Hard' is capital infrastructure like seawalls, quays, concrete embankments which must have a very strong case and link to flood prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants will need to have eligible match funding for the balance of costs which must be from a source other than the European Union. • Operations must cover the whole or part of the GLLEP LEP area. • All activity must be procured in line with EU regulations and be compliant with state aid law. <p>ESIF cannot be used to duplicate existing activities or activities that do not address market failure. ESIF can only be used to achieve additional activity or bring forward activity more quickly. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that what they are proposing is additional to what would have occurred anyway or enables activity to be brought forward and delivered quicker than otherwise would be the case.</p>
<p>Call Deadlines</p>	<p>For this specific call, applications will be assessed after the close of the single deadline Applications received after the published call close date will not be considered.</p>

3.2. Local Development Need

Projects must deliver activity which directly contributes to the objectives of Priority Axis 5 of the Operational Programme, one or more of the relevant Investment Priorities and meet the **local development need** expressed in the table below.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT NEED

Local Economic Context :

This call is restricted to projects that are in the eligible area only which includes the Lincolnshire Coast & South Bank of the Humber Estuary

Flooding risk presents a significant challenge to the Greater Lincolnshire area as it is one of the lowest lying and vulnerable areas to flooding in the country. This is especially the case along the coast (but does not exclude inland areas) where much of the agri- food, visitor and port infrastructure is located. Security from flooding is a key infrastructure requirement for these sectors, and the housing growth sector.

Flooding, and the threat of flooding, is a barrier to growth for the following reasons:

- Any failure in flood defences could lead to massive economic loss as roads and buildings would be damaged
- Greater Lincolnshire grows around 1/8th of the country's food and processes more from other areas, so the impacts on the Agri-food industry would be significant locally and nationally.
- The risk of flooding and uncertainties over future flood risk management affect investor confidence.

Our coast and the south bank of the Humber are strategically important for social, economic and environmental reasons – not just locally but also nationally and internationally. Were defences to fail, or cease to be maintained there would be significant negative economic impacts especially to the key agri-food, petro chemicals, ports, tourism and emerging renewable energy sectors.

Climate change and predicted sea level rise will bring increased levels of risk. In order to adapt to these changes alongside an increasing population and economic growth, future investment in flood risk management is needed to ensure economic investment is enabled and protected..

Local Priorities:

Proposals should demonstrate alignment with local development need and priorities including:

- To support investments in flood defences to improve the economic viability of areas to enable growth and mitigate the impacts of climate change;

- To support investment in surface water run-off and drainage particularly around the agri-food sector.
- Investing in the responsible management of the natural environment that leads to economic growth.
- The removal of obstacles to business growth through investment in physical infrastructure;
- Deliver flood mitigation and resilience with sustainable environmental management by complimenting activity under PA6.

3.3. Operational Programme Investment Priorities

Applications must specify the activities to be delivered and are expected to directly contribute to **one or more** of the following Investment Priorities:

Investment Priority	5b – Promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems.
Specific Objectives	Enabling and protecting economic development potential through investment in flood and coastal flooding management where there is demonstrable market failure.
Indicative Actions	<p>England has a particular vulnerability to extreme weather, climate change and flood and coastal risk because it has areas of high population and economic density that are exposed to the increasingly dynamic impacts of North Atlantic low pressure systems.</p> <p>The specific objective is to target investment of ERDF into measures that safeguard and enable sustainable economic growth in these contexts. It will help ensure that at risk communities, businesses and their local economy can adapt. As a result they will be able to contribute to and benefit from sustainable local economic growth</p> <p>ERDF, along with EAFRD where relevant, will be used to complement the UK Government’s Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Grant in Aid and other domestic</p>

investment, as per the Flood and Coastal Resilience Partnership Funding Policy. This will help to achieve viability for schemes that have a high potential economic development and growth value but that have relatively low eligibility to domestic flood and coastal resilience funding which focuses more on residential properties.

Flood mitigation measures will support the protection of major employment areas and SMEs and unlock derelict, underused or neglected land on strategically important sites/areas identified as central to realising growth aspirations. This will include incorporation of flood risk management and river restoration into employment sites and surrounding areas, and into design and lay-out so that flood risk and surface water management is actively addressed in a sustainable way such as through Green and Blue infrastructure.

Flood mitigation and associated environmental measures will also aim to bring back into use, in a sustainable way (such as through green and blue infrastructure), dormant land in need of remediation identified as strategically important for business growth and employment.

Investment under this Priority Axis is being targeted into areas of the East coast, North West & South West of England, where exposure to flood and coastal risk, the impacts of climate change and related constraints on economic growth are most significant.

The focus will be on sections of coasts and rivers that are most susceptible to these risks, to places along them identified as priorities for sustainable economic growth, where ERDF investment can be matched and aligned with other sources to make appropriate risk management actions affordable.

Along the East Coast priority areas will be; the Tees the Team Valleys; the Northumbrian and Yorkshire Coasts; the River Aire and Calder; the Humber Estuary; the Lower Derwent (Derby); the Lincolnshire Coast; and the Norfolk Coast. In the North West the focus will be on addressing coastal and fluvial constraints to towns with growth opportunities in Cumbria and Lancashire. In Cornwall and the South West, it will help to address coastal and flood risks to settlements with the greatest sustainable development potential.

Actions, specific to the needs and circumstances of the

prioritised locations, will be both “hard and soft” and determined via an options appraisal process. The types of actions and estimated proportions of them can be broken down into three headings: coastal resilience, fluvial risk management and surface water run-off and drainage systems. In many contexts it will require a combination of measures to address an interaction of sources of risks to deliver the specific objective.

Coastal resilience

- managed realignment and mitigation of coastal squeeze
- shoreline re-nourishment, cliff and dune system stabilisation
- harbour, port and waterfront enhanced protection and adaptations. These investments are not linked to transport
- improvements to coastal frontages and seawalls
- strengthening and extensions to estuary embankments

Fluvial risk management

- onsite or upstream attenuation and slowing the flow measures
- diversion channels
- raising strengthening and/or extending river walls and frontages
- fixed and temporary barriers and gates
- stepped back embankments
- resilience measures for business infrastructure, including for example wet or dry flood-proofing
- river restoration and improved conveyance measures

Surface water run-off and drainage systems

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integration, including retrofitting, of surface water and run off management measures into urban and commercial redevelopments • innovative measures in contexts where flood risk and land management relies on pumping and inter-relates with drainage <p>Across all three, there may be actions to promote knowledge transfer and exchange of information relating to adaptations to climate change, risk management and resilience.</p>
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4. Required Outputs under this Call

Projects must deliver against the Priority Axis 5 outputs and results of the European Regional Development Fund 2014 to 2020 Operational Programme. For projects coming forward under this call the expected outputs and results are:

ID	Output Indicator
C23	Surface of habitats supported to attain better conservation status
P6	Businesses and properties with reduced flood risk

Applicants will need to demonstrate how the eligible activity, funded by the European Regional Development Fund, will achieve the deliverables committed to within the proposal. The application should clearly state the methodology used to determine the levels of outputs proposed.

All operations will be required to report regularly on progress toward achievement of targets. This will need to include both quantitative and qualitative data relevant to the appropriate geographical areas. Applicants will need to explain how they will collect and record this information to maintain a fully evidenced audit trail. It should be noted that if an operation fails to deliver contracted deliverables, a performance penalty may apply.

5. Application Process & Prioritisation Methodology

There are two stages to the European Regional Development Fund application process;

- (i) Outline Application and, if successful
- (ii) Full Application.

Acceptance of an Outline Application to progress to full application stage does not in any way indicate or constitute an offer of European Regional Development Fund grant.

Applicants must fully complete the [Outline Application](#) which will be assessed by the Managing Authority against the national [Selection Criteria](#).

Outline Applications will be assessed in two stages, Gateway assessment and Core assessment.

Gateway assessment considers:

- applicant eligibility;
- activity and expenditure eligibility; and
- fit with the National Operational Programme and the local development need set out in section 2.

Proposals that fail the Gateway assessment will be rejected. Proposals which pass the Gateway assessment will then be assessed against the Core assessment criteria:

- Strategic Fit
- Value for money
- Management and control
- Deliverability
- Compliance
 - Procurement
 - State Aid
 - Publicity requirements
- Cross cutting themes
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Equal Opportunities

Having assessed projects against these criteria the relevant Local Economic Partnership area European Structural and Investment Fund Sub-Committee will advise the Managing Authority on the contribution to local economic growth conditions and opportunities within the context of the Operational Programme and

local European Structural and Investment Fund Strategy to aid the Managing Authority's assessments (at outline and full application stage).

Please note:

Actions supported under this Axis will need to comply and deliver aspects of the relevant local flood and coastal risk plan and where relevant the shoreline management plan of the context. Where they are aligned and are integrated with measures being implemented as part of the domestic Government-funded FCRM six year (capital) investment programme they will need to be selected in accordance with FCRM appraisal guidance. This guidance clearly identifies the importance of valuing and preference in favour of approaches which sustain and enhance the natural and built environment, habitat and biodiversity.

Preference will be given towards using natural approaches to flood risk and water management which also have biodiversity benefits (green and blue infrastructure) as opposed to hard infrastructure, where possible and appropriate.

Investments will take account of the UK's National Planning Policy Framework which includes requirements for local planning authorities to "set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure".¹

Where an investment is planned for a site that is designated as part of the Natura2000 network, or sits in proximity to such a site, reference should be made to the Prioritised Action Framework to ensure any proposed interventions complement the designated site's objectives.

6. General Information

6.1. National Eligibility Rules

When developing an application, Applicants must refer to the [National Eligibility Rules](#) setting out the requirements of the 2014-2020 European Regional Development Fund Programme. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the Rules are adhered to both at application stage and following approval. Failure to do so can lead to financial penalties leading to recovery of up to 100% of grant. Applicants are strongly advised to seek specialist advice if in doubt on any requirement.

European Regional Development Fund eligibility rules apply to **all** project spend within the eligible costs, including match funding.

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/60777/2116950.pdf

The European Regional Development Fund is governed by European regulations and national rules. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the relevant documentation, (Section 8 Key Document refers) prior to submitting an Outline Application. If successful, Applicants will enter into a Funding Agreement and must abide by the standard terms and conditions contained therein. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to read these terms and conditions to ensure that they are able to enter into such an agreement prior to responding to the call. Once a Funding Agreement has been issued it should be signed and returned within 30 days, unless otherwise agreed with the Managing Authority.

6.2. Eligible Applicants

Section 4 of the [National Eligibility Rules](#) sets out who is eligible to apply.

Applicants must be legally constituted at the point of signing a Funding Agreement. If the application is approved the Applicant organisation will enter into a legally binding Funding Agreement and therefore will carry the liability for ensuring that the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement are met.

If there is more than one organisation applying for the funds, a lead organisation must be selected to become the Applicant with the remaining organisation(s) acting as Delivery Partner(s). In this situation the Applicant would be responsible and liable for the Delivery Partner(s) and ensuring the project is operating compliantly.

During the application process the Managing Authority will consider the Applicant's track record, both positive and negative. If the Applicant has been involved in the delivery of previous European grants and any irregularities have been identified, the Managing Authority will expect to see how and what steps have been taken to ensure that the risk of further irregularities in the future is mitigated. It is acknowledged that some organisations will be new to European Structural and Investment Funds funding and will not have a track record.

6.3. Contribution Rate & Match Funding

European Regional Development Fund is normally expected to intervene where no other funding can be obtained (i.e. the funder of last resort). The level of European Regional Development Fund awarded will be the minimum in order for the project to proceed.

The maximum Contribution Rate is 60% of the total eligible project costs subject to State Aid regulations.

The remaining 40% or more must come from other eligible sources as specified under section 6 of the National Eligibility Rules. Applicants will need to demonstrate

that they have eligible match funding in place for the balance of costs. Other European Union funds cannot be used as a source of match funding.

European Regional Development Fund investment is limited by State Aid regulations and where the award of European Regional Development Fund would constitute State Aid the European Regional Development Fund grant rate may fall below the 60% maximum.

European Regional Development Fund is paid quarterly in arrears and expenditure must be defrayed prior to the submission of any Grant claims. Applicants may be asked to demonstrate how they are able to cash flow the operation.

6.4. Project Timescales

European Regional Development Fund funding will normally be approved for three years, however the Managing Authority reserves the right to extend the contract term in exceptional circumstances.

Projects approved through this call are expected to:

- Submit a detailed and complete full application within three months of formal selection at outline stage. Projects which fail to meet this deadline may be deselected,
- Commence delivery (defraying European Regional Development Fund eligible costs) within three months of formal approval. Projects which fail to meet this deadline may be deselected, and
- Be completed by June 2023.

6.5. Capital Projects

Applicants seeking European Regional Development Fund to support a capital project (i.e. land and/or property) will need to meet Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method or Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment 'Excellent' for new builds and 'Very Good' for refurbishments.

Applicants will need to provide evidence of how they will achieve the rating required (unless otherwise agreed with the Managing Authority).

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they have the rights and permissions to undertake the project and must provide:

- Proof of current interest in the land and/or property, which includes evidence of the freehold ownership or any lease arrangements that may be in place; and
- Evidence of the approval of any planning permission, or in certain circumstances a clear statement on the process for securing such consents and any risks to the project.

Royal Institute of British Architects Stage D costs must be supplied with the Full Application and be certified by an independent Quantity Surveyor and Land/Property contributions certified by a Real Estate Valuation expert who are current and chartered members of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors/ Chartered Institute of Builders or equivalent body.

Successful Applicants will be required to provide security to the Managing Authority in the form of a Legal Charge and/or Deed of Covenant over the land and/or property. Applicants will be responsible for registering the charge at their own cost.

6.6. Cross Cutting Themes/Horizontal Principles

All applications received under this call should demonstrate how the Cross Cutting Themes have been addressed in the project design and development. Cross Cutting Themes for European Regional Development Fund are 'equality and anti-discrimination' and 'sustainable development'. Further information is available in the [European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme](#).

6.7. Additionality, Duplication and Displacement

Additionality is a core principle of European Regional Development Funding. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the activity paid for out of European Regional Development Funding adds value to new or existing activity. Projects need to demonstrate that without the support of European Regional Development Funding the activity would not have taken place.

European Regional Development Funding cannot support activities that duplicate existing provision/services within the region.

Applications need to identify and evidence the beneficiaries will use the service and demonstrate that the project does not displace other activity available in the market place.

6.8. State Aid & Revenue Generation

Applicants are required, in the Outline Application, to provide a view on how their proposal complies with State Aid law. Applicants must ensure that projects comply with the law on State Aid.² Grant funding to any economic undertaking which is State

² Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that: "Save as otherwise provided in the Treaties, any aid granted by a Member State or through state resources in any form whatsoever which distorts or threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods shall, in so far as it affects trade between Member States, be incompatible with the internal market."

Aid can only be awarded if it is compatible aid, in that it complies with the terms of a notified scheme or is covered by the De Minimis Regulation. Guidance for Grant Recipients, explaining more about [State Aid](#), is available; it is important that Applicants take responsibility for understanding the importance of the State Aid rules and securing their full compliance with them throughout the project, if it is selected into the Programme.

The Managing Authority is not able to give legal advice on State Aid. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the operation is State Aid compliant.

Where the Applicant does not perceive that there is any State Aid, it should state whether or not it considers Articles 61 and 65(8) of regulation 1303/2013 to apply. Article 61 refers to monitoring revenues generated after completion of the project, and Article 65(8) how to deal with differences in the forecast and actual revenues at the end of the operation. This revenue should be taken into account in calculating eligible expenditure. The details of this will be tested at the full application stage.

6.9. Funding Agreement

The Funding Agreement is a standard, non-negotiable and legally binding document. Any successful Applicant will be subject to the terms and conditions contained within this agreement. Applicants are strongly advised to seek relevant advice to ensure that they would be able to enter into and abide by the terms of the Funding Agreement.

Applicants are advised that additional provisions and securities may be included within the Funding Agreement to protect the investment. Detailed advice will be given if appropriate at the Full Application stage.

Failure to meet any of the conditions of the Funding Agreement or the commitments within the application will result in claw back of the Grant (which may include interest).

6.10. Procurement

All costs claimed by the Applicant (Grant Recipient and/or Delivery Partner(s)) must be recovered on an actual cost basis. Other costs must be procured in line with National (including [Public Procurement Regulation 2015](#)) and European Union regulations. Procurement will be subject to audit and verification and any irregularity will result in financial penalty of up to 100% of the grant paid. Robust and transparent procurement is required to ensure that Grant Recipients:

- Consider value for money;
- Maximise efficient use of public money; and
- Maintain competitiveness and fairness across the European Union.

It is **strongly recommended** that Applicants seek and follow legal advice in respect of procurement requirements. Procurement irregularities remain the most substantive cause of error and clawback of grant.

7. Support

Please note that this is a competitive call and to preserve impartiality we are unable to enter into correspondence with applicants over their Outline Application. Details of where guidance can be found are contained throughout this calls document. In exceptional circumstances, if there are issues with accessing this guidance, please contact: EM.ERDFENQUIRIES@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

8. Key Documents

- European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme;
- Outline Application Form;
- Outline Application Form Guidance;
- Local Enterprise Partnership area's European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy;
- Eligibility Guidance;
- Target Definitions; and
- Funding Agreement (Revenue and/or Capital).

9. Document Checklist

Incomplete applications will be rejected. Please ensure the following information (documents) are submitted.

Outline Stage:

- Fully completed Outline Application;
- Financial Tables;
- Outputs, Results and Indicators Tables.

10. Document Submission

Completed Outline Applications must be submitted via **email** to the address in Section 7.

Outline Application forms not received by the deadline will not be assessed. Outline Applications which are not fully completed will be excluded.

For this call applications will normally be required to **commence delivery/activity within three months** of the award of Funding Agreement.

Any changes related to the deadline for the submission of the Outline Application form will be notified on the [European Growth Funding](#) website pages.