



Upper Medway IDB Resilience Fund

Funding and Supporting Flood Resilience Within the Medway Catchment

The Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board recognises its vital role within the internal drainage district that it serves, considering not only the need for land drainage but to provide services that offer alleviation and support against flooding where at all possible. To that end, the Board has committed itself to providing restricted, low-level funding for projects that can demonstrate suitable flood protection or biodiverse outcomes or benefit.

What The Fund Hopes to Achieve

The Fund will support small scale projects that offer the catchment natural flood management, habitat restoration, or river and stream enhancement.



The Fund hopes to create strong local partnerships and improved collaboration between local authorities and stakeholders alike, extending the influence of the Board into the catchment to better serve the district.

By offering low level funding for smaller innovations and projects, the Board hopes to create a mosaic of measures that will come together over time in its fight against climate change and the inevitable increased flooding risk.

The Board will assess the impact and sustainability of the fund on an annual basis and determine the long-term effect using both uptake and project outcomes.



Natural Flood Management (NFM)

The Fund will support small scale projects that offer the catchment, natural flood management, habitat restoration, or river and stream enhancement.

Natural flood management (NFM) utilises and replicates natural processes within a channel, flood plain, or catchment to control and slow flows of water. By working with local authorities, stakeholders, and interested parties we can look at how we can make small changes to the landscape and watercourses to better hold and manage flood waters into the future.

It is important to understand that these projects offer limited flood prevention opportunity. Once in place, they aid in the renewal of natural process that reconnect watercourses with floodplains, slow the flow of water, and create and sustain biodiverse habitats that enhance not only the downstream resilience, but the overall ecosystems in which they are part of.

Types of NFM Projects We Can Support

The Board has a preference to support projects that allow for measurable and tangible outcomes to ensure the appropriate spending of the public purse such as

- Leaky structures
- Wetland creation
- Wet woodland creation
- Online and offline ponds
- In channel enhancements including faggoting and tiering
- In channel deflection

We can also aid in costs for feasibility and outline planning, but this would be considered after practical solutions and outcomes



Rules, Guidelines, and Restrictions

Introduction

In this section, the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board is referred to as 'The Board' and represents the full extent of its jurisdiction.

The term 'the fund' relates to the resilience fund itself.

The following points are made as a framework for the application, consideration, and final decision-making process and are subject to change as required by the Board in order to maintain fiscal security of the public purse.

All alterations to these rules will be ratified by the Board at the next available meeting of the Board or Finance Committee (a committee of the Board) to which emergency delegation for the rules set, but not the final decision, will be made. Any alterations made by the Finance Committee is to be reported and agreed at the next full meeting of the Board.

The decision of the Board is always final and may not replicate this framework exactly but will in every case attempt to make judgements as close to the expectation of this framework as is possible.

Rules and Regulations

General Regulation

1. The application, regulation, timeframes, and overall final decisions relating to the funding (either in whole or in part), remains the prerogative of the Board and will not be open to question by the applicant once a decision is made outside of an official complaint regarding the process or manner in which a decision was deemed to be taken.
2. This complaint will be processed by the Clerk, the Chairman, and the Vice-Chairman of the Board, to which an official response will be forthcoming within 30 days of the complaint. Failure to act within 30 days will qualify the application for reconsideration.
3. The Finance Committee will have the ability to make alterations to the regulations as deemed appropriate by the committee so as to ensure the security of the public purse. Any alterations **MUST** be reported at the next meeting of the Board including justification.
4. The fund itself will be held within the Board's savings account and ring-fenced as a precautionary measure to ensure continuity within the initial years of its provision.
5. The fund is liable to be removed, without notice, at the discretion of the Board should it deem it to be
 - a. Poor value for money
 - b. In contravention of public spending regulations
 - c. Not in the interest of the Board and/or district
6. Any decision in relation to the provision of funding must be done while the Board is at quorum as per the byelaws and constitution of the Board.

Provision of the fund

7. The fund exists as a decision of the Board and as such will be managed by its officers.
8. The money within the fund is subject to alteration and the minimum balances are to be determined after a trial period of 3 years (2026).
9. The ongoing input of money from the income of the Board (drainage rates and special levy) will be decided upon and an amount added to the annual budget prior to 2026 so that the burden on the ratepayers is not excessive.
10. The Board can at any time divert funds from other saving projects not previously ringfenced to maintain the minimum balance within the fund after a successful vote and agreement of the Board itself.
11. The initial figure (2023) to be part of the pilot is £150,000 of which there will be £30,000 of money available annually towards projects deemed appropriate by the Board.
12. Any monies received for the specific use in NFM from outside of the Board (i.e., donations or management of other authority funds) will be treated as separate to the minimum balance so as to maintain consistent funding into the future.

Application to the Board for Funding

13. Applications to the fund can be from any stakeholder within the internal drainage district, any stakeholder within the catchment of an IDB watercourse, any local body, authority, or organisation, or any person who can successfully demonstrate that contribution will result in a benefit to the Board, its district, or its catchment in relation to flooding and/or flood resilience.
14. Only applications submitted on the IDB application form will be accepted, with accompanying documentation, modelling data, and presentations to be clearly identifiable and linked to the project itself.
15. The submission of the application form and its associated documentation is an indication of compliance with the byelaws of the Board and an expression and acceptance that you are willing to demonstrate the project to the Board at a full meeting.
16. A decision by the Board to fund a project either in full or in part does not constitute a consent for works and as such a separate Land Drainage Consent may be necessary under the Boards byelaws or the Land Drainage Act.
17. All applications are to be complicit with local planning laws, guidelines, frameworks, and regulations. Where necessary they should also comply with nation frameworks.
18. All applications are subject to further scrutiny for a period of 5 years to allow for any related complaint, objection, or breach of law to be known by the Board.
19. Any application that is deemed to be purposefully misleading of the Board will be rejected, and any funds provided are to be returned to the Board, and where necessary chased via a county court.
20. A breach in the law (read local, national, or international law/regulation/directive etc.) by any project will render the relationship with the Board as null and void, and the full return of the agreed funding will be demanded, and where necessary retrieved through a county court.
21. The Board will not accept liability for any project that is required to be scraped, removed, altered, or moved. Nor will the Board accept any responsibility for increased costs or fees incurred during a project outside of the agreed funding or provisions.

Applications for Natural Flood Management Related Funding

22. The Board will actively rank applications that are of a practical or retrospective nature higher than those for feasibility or outline works, even if the projects are likely to be identical in outcome.
23. NFM related funding will require, in most instances, evidence of previous works, associated modelling and design, and demonstration of outcomes where possible.
24. Any requests for funding of feasibility should prove directly linked to benefit of IDB watercourses and catchments, and should provide evidence where similar studies, on similar topography, rendered tangible results.
25. Applications for NFM works should not exceed £30,000 in funding for any given project unless suitable demonstration is given, and the Board deem it necessary to exceed the £30,000 limit for a single project.
26. Retrospective funding will only be considered for practical measures installed within the last 3 months and must include all receipts/invoicing for the specific phase of the works for which funding is being requested.
27. The Board will consider year-on-year funding of projects but will actively rank them lower against a similar retrospective request, or a request that the Board deems will have a more suitable or beneficial outcome.
28. The Board is not obliged to give further reasoning for rejection of a year-on-year request other than stating 'it does not deem it suitable at this time'.
29. Successful applicants will be notified in writing within 14 days of the meeting of the Board unless there was a request for further information at said meeting. This may not include the total sum to be released should the Board approve only in principle subject to further negotiation.
30. Applicants who have been asked to provide additional information will have an opportunity to submit the additional information and present their case at the next meeting of the Board or at a time determined by the Board. This may be delegated into any committee the Board deems appropriate.
31. For successful applicants the Board will determine the best way to release funding which may be:
 - a. A single, whole amount
 - b. A pre-determined percentage-based release of a single amount
 - c. A pre-determined, staged, retrospective release of amounts related to successful outcomes totalling an agreed single amount.
 - d. A pre-determined, staged, pre-emptive release of amounts related totalling the agreed single amount.
 - e. In a fashion as decided as being suitable by the Board
32. The Board retains the right to alter the way any funding is released based upon circumstance of the Board, the project, or any other factor that is deemed of relevance to the Board. This will be notified to the applicant in every instance including the reason for the alteration.
33. The applicant has the right to appeal or make a complaint to the Board regarding an alteration to the provision which will be subject to the same parameters as regulation 1.
34. Projects will have 12 months in which the project must be realised, else the money must be returned to the Board, in full, and if necessary, this will be collected by a county court.
35. Any funding for projects that either fail or are not realised or completed under 12 months, is to be returned to the Board, in full, and if necessary, this will be collected by a county court.

Applications for Theory Based Funding (feasibility, modelling, design, etc.)

36. The Board will actively rank applications for feasibility and modelling lower than practical projects and may only offer a percentage of the total outlay.
37. Applications for theory based NFM works should not exceed £30,000 in funding for any given project unless suitable demonstration is given, and the Board deem it necessary to exceed the £30,000 limit for a single project.
38. The Board may request that any funding is subject to presentation of completed studies and may stage the funding process in any case.
39. Any applications for theory-based funding will require demonstration of likely outcomes and how the project is likely to be deemed successful. Where possible, the use of similar projects should be used as evidence of the likelihood of an overall practical outcome.
40. Should the project have a joint or matched funding stream the Board will consider applications after discussion with the partner company/authority and will then base a decision upon the decreased risk presented to the public purse.
41. Any applications from bodies or stakeholders that have NOT previously worked with the Board or are not previously known to the Board will incur additional scrutiny as an increased diligence check.
42. Any application submitting technical information, will require suitable layman presentation and where necessary may require additional presentations to satisfy the Board.
43. The Board will favour theory-based applications that are likely to provide benefit to housing or industrial buildings over those presenting little or no direct flooding prevention/benefit.
44. The Board will favour theory-based applications that are related to current IDB adopted watercourses/catchments, then COWS watercourses (including main river), and finally, those applications that do not benefit Board controlled watercourses or catchments.
45. The Board will offer funding and gauge suitability utilising the same criteria as regulation 26 -34

Use of the Board's Name For Publicity Purposes

46. The Board will permit the use of its name for those projects that are successful in their applications. Use of the name could be but is not limited to:
 - a. Reference to the Board in social media posts
 - b. Use of the Board's name and logo on site literature and signage
 - c. Reference to the Board in official communications relating to sites where the Board has funded in full or in part the project.
47. The Board expects that mention is given as per regulation 46 in all instances where funding is provided.
48. The Board retains the right to request removal of its name, or reference to its name, in all instances relating to funding applications.
49. For applications where there has been a granting of a request and subsequent removal of funding, the Board expects all mention of its name to be removed from relation to the site and project.

Use of the Project in Board Communications

50. The Board retains the right to publish all applications and their outcomes as part of its transparency and official minutes. These will be published on the Boards website once approved.
51. The Board retains the right to mention and reference the site and project in all communications including but not limited to:
 - a. Social media posts
 - b. Website blog/posts
 - c. Annual Newsletters
 - d. Publications related to the Board, its associates, or its objectives.

Prioritising and Limitations to Funding

Applications will be identified and prioritised using 3 scales which will then be used within a priority matrix.

- a. Project content
- b. Project status
- c. Project alternative funding

Project Content

Tier 1 Project Content with a provision of up to 100% of the full amount or the maximum £30,000:

- a. Wet woodland creation in the district
- b. Flood water management projects within the district (such as NFM schemes)
- c. Flood storage opportunities within the district or catchment of an IDB watercourse
- d. Conservation projects relating to aquatic life within IDB watercourses
- e. Rewilding and river restoration of non-critical watercourse within the district

Tier 2 Project Content with a reduction in the contribution of up to 100% of the required full amount or a sum up to a limit of £22,500 (75% of maximum):

- a. Wet woodland creation within the catchment of an IDB watercourse (outside IDD)
- b. Flood water management projects within the catchment of an IDB watercourse (outside IDD)
- c. Conservation projects relating to aquatic life within the district or relating to critical watercourse or main river
- d. Rewilding and river restoration of non-critical watercourses within the catchment of an IDB watercourse, or of main river.
- e. Invasive species projects within the district

Tier 3 Project Content with a reduction in the contribution of up to 100% of the required full amount or a sum up to the limit of £15,000 (50% of maximum)

- a. Wet woodland creation within the district and within the catchment of a main river
- b. Flood management projects within the Medway catchment (outside IDD)
- c. Rewilding and river restoration within the Medway catchment
- d. Invasive species projects within the catchment of an IDB watercourse (outside IDD)
- e. Watercourse pioneering/cleansing requests from within the district. (Internal applications accepted)

Project Alternative Funding

Tier 1 Funding

Match funding secured from IDB partner authority (County, Borough, District or Parish Council within the district), or private/self investment – Up to 100% of the request (if lower than maximum).

Tier 2 Funding

Contribution already established as a nominal amount and IDB funding is required as a top up between 25-50% of total cost – Up to 90% of the request (if lower than maximum).

Tier 3 Funding

No additional funding – Up to 80% of the request (if lower than the maximum).

It is entirely left to the discretion of the Board if it sees fit to change this guideline at any time.

Project Status

Tier 1 Project Status

Practical project delivery

Retrospective	Up to 100% of total available remaining
Pre-emptive	Up to 100% of total available remaining

Tier 2 Project Status

Design stage ahead of project delivery

Retrospective	Up to 100% of total available remaining
Pre-emptive	Up to 75% of total available remaining

Tier 3 Project Status

Feasibility study / pre-design modelling

Retrospective	Up to 50% of total available remaining
Pre-emptive	Up to 25% of total available remaining

Example of Funding Availability

The following is an example application:

- Natural flood management funding request outside the IDD, looking for funding of £10,000 for design level work after successful demonstration of feasibility.
- **Tier 2 Project (Up to £22,500 maximum)**
- Match funding from local council secured by applicant.
- **Tier 1 Funding (Up to 100% of requested funding)**
- Pre-emptive design stage request.
- **Tier 2 Status (Up to 75% of requested funding)**
- Priority against Board objectives = **Medium**
- Funding potential against requested amount = **Moderate**
- **Potential total available for applicant £7,500**
- Board to make decision on £7,500 donation as part of the fund.



Application Instructions

1) Download and fill out the Calculator Tool from
www.medwayidb.co.uk/resilience

2) Fill out the NFM Funding Application Form
<https://forms.gle/ERZc9yVyPXoCMSvy5>

Applications for NFM funding will need to provide the following additional information:

- Project Outline Document including:
 - Location plans
- Evidence of feasibility study for the area (if requesting design funding)
- Evidence of designs for the specific site (if requesting delivery funding)
 - Evidence of project scheduling
 - Evidence of project costing (in all instances)
- Receipts or other proof of purchase (for retrospective funding applications)

You may also need to provide:

- Evidence of professional competency
- Evidence of similar or previously completed work relating to NFM
 - Evidence of comparative studies or works

3) Send all documentation to enquiries@medwayidb.co.uk

For help or additional information contact the office using enquiries@medwayidb.co.uk

The Board will endeavour to reply within 30 days and then make a decision within 90 days of receiving the application.

Subject to change, all rights reserved. The Board maintains the right to alter or remove this funding scheme at any time.

