

## **THE NATIONAL 'CFRAM' PROGRAMME**

### **DEVELOPING OPTIONS TO MANAGE FLOOD RISK**

The Office of Public Works' (OPW) National Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme involves:

- (a) a comprehensive flood risk assessment, focused on 300 areas of potentially significant flood risk, and
- (b) the development of long-term, sustainable plans to reduce and manage flood risk.

The CFRAM Programme has three principal milestones:

- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (Completed 2011)
- Preparation of Flood Maps (2014 - 2015)
- Preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans (2015 - 2016)

The OPW is now at the third phase, where we recommend how best to deal with the flood risk in the relevant areas, and bring these recommendations into regional "flood risk management plans".

### **ASSESSMENT OF PRELIMINARY OPTIONS FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT**

Flood maps, showing the lands, streets, etc. that will be impacted by floods of varying rarity / severity, are now substantially complete for the 300 Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs). Using this information, we can now plan what actions and works could reduce the causes, risks, or consequences of flooding in many of these communities. This process is known as "optioneering".

**STEP 1 - SCREENING OF MEASURES** - Developing a list of all relevant measures, unique to each Community, that could help to reduce the flooding. Typical measures might include defence walls, reducing the amount of flow from the surrounding area, upstream storage areas, flood warning systems, larger bridges or culverts, river deepening, or improving the resilience to flood waters of buildings. Each Community's list, however, will depend on the type, depth and speed of flooding, where the flood waters come from, and how they spread.

**STEP 2 - DEVELOPING OPTIONS** - Developing a number of "Options" for dealing with the flood risk, comprising appropriate and sensible combinations of the above measures, using best engineering judgement about how the different measures may work together.

**STEP 3 - APPRAISING OPTIONS** - Scoring and ranking the Options for each Community using a system known as a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA). This is a fair scoring system that takes account of what is most important within each Community (e.g. the local economic activity, community facilities, infrastructure, the environment and the cultural heritage of the area).

**STEP 4 - IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED OPTIONS** - Identifying the preferred Option for managing the flood problems in each Community, using the MCA methodology described above, as well as detailed economic and environmental assessments.

## **WILL A FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME BE BUILT FOR EVERY COMMUNITY?**

It will not be viable or possible to construct physical flood protection works in each and every Community. In some cases, the costs of building or implementing any option might far outweigh the long-term damages that are caused by flooding. In others, the impact to protected environment habitats or species may mean that construction would not be allowed to go ahead. In many areas, flood warning, individual property protection, or other forms of "non-structural" options may be effective in managing flood risk. While they may not stop the flood from occurring, they can help reduce the consequences of flooding.



**Examples of measures that may be used to reduce flooding.**



Demountable flood defences



Maintenance of water course



Urban flood defence wall



## HAVE YOUR SAY

Everybody has the opportunity to comment on how various aspects of their area are reflected in the scoring of Options. Public input will play a strong role in helping to form preferred Options, and developing strategic flood risk management plans.

The OPW and their CFRAM Project teams will hold public consultation events on developing flood risk management options in relevant communities around the country in the coming months, where you can learn more about the process and discuss emerging options with members of the team.

These events will be advertised locally and on the project websites which can be accessed via [www.cfram.ie](http://www.cfram.ie). You can make a submission on the options either at the public consultation days, or via the Contact details set out on the project websites. The OPW and their project teams will consider all submissions made.

## WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER INFORMATION?

Visit [www.cfram.ie](http://www.cfram.ie) for information on the National CFRAM Programme and to connect to the relevant CFRAM Study website for your region. For information on other current OPW flood-related activities and operations, visit [www.opw.ie](http://www.opw.ie).