

## **Overview of next settlement period/programme**

In the Budget on 11 March the government allocated **£5.2bn capital** funding for the next 6 year programme, from April 2021 to March 2027, to better protect **336,000 properties**.

Due to the impact of coronavirus we need to adjust our usual timeline for the allocation process, primarily to give Environment Agency teams, other Risk Management Authorities and Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs) more time to make submissions for national prioritisation. We recognise that in these difficult times it will still be a huge challenge to prepare indicative programmes for the full 6 years. Our priority will therefore be to determine the final allocation for 2021/22. This is realistic as RFCCs already have a significant capital work programme ready for funding in 2021/22.

For the new 6 year programme, we plan to set out long term indicative allocations to engage communities and to give potential contributors the confidence to invest. We will retain the flexibility to accommodate change through our annual programme refresh.

In allocating funding we will also consider the wider benefits the portfolio of projects could achieve. We are introducing carbon metrics so we will be able to consider the carbon impact of the programme.

In developing our funding bid for the next 6 year programme our stakeholders, in particular the RFCC Chairs, advised us we should also promote the wider benefits of flood schemes. This is to build partnerships, attract investment and to celebrate the many wider benefits flood schemes achieve for people, the environment and local economies.

A map indicating the schemes proposed in Kent for the 2021-2027 programme is attached.