

Project_22761 FCERM Futures Strategy

Support the development of a new national strategic direction for flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) in England.

The Environment Agency are issuing this expression of interest to gauge interest in an upcoming tender. Below you will find information regarding the contract opportunity, we would like to understand if this is a requirement you would be interested in and the likelihood of you participating in a competitive tender exercise.

The contract will be advertised on the DEFRA procurement portal Bravo
<https://defra.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

If you are interested in this opportunity please send an email by **16th March 2018** to alicia.simms@environment-agency.gov.uk providing a brief summary of your organisations experience in this type of work, indicating your intention to participate in this tender exercise.

Outline Scope

The FCERM National Strategy project will develop a new national strategic direction for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England to cover the next 25 years.

The future is unknown, but we want to produce a strategy that can stand up to whatever may happen. We want to work with a 'futures'¹ consultant to develop a sophisticated understanding of how critical aspects of our business environment could be different in the future. And most importantly, to help us understand what to do about it. This will be used to 'future-proof' the FCERM strategy.

The revision of the FCERM National Strategy project has been broadly set out into five phases:

- Phase 1. Initial design
- Phase 2. Scoping
- **Phase 3. Development**
- Phase 4. Presentation to Government, publication and promotion
- Phase 5. Implementation.

This commission sits in **Phase 3 – Development**.

The strategy products need to be set in the long-term. We want to produce a strategy that has a long-term ambition and sets the actions to move the Flood and Risk Management sector toward that long-term ambition.

Decisions made now must enable flood, water, societal, economic and environmental outcomes to be delivered over the long-term in a sustainable and cost-effective way, taking into account how risks could develop into the future. How do we determine if current and proposed strategy will deliver the long-term objectives? What factors could jeopardise the effectiveness and efficiency of a revised strategy in the mid to long-term future? How should management actions be adapted, if deemed necessary?

¹ Note: Futures studies (colloquially called "futures" by many of the field's practitioners) seeks to understand what is likely to continue and what could plausibly change in the future.

It is important to understand how the future may unfold for the flood and coastal environments. Flood and coastal management are subject to a wide range of political, economic, social, technological, legal and environmental influences. Looking into the future, it is highly uncertain how these influences play out in combination and the consequences for those that benefit from flood and coastal erosion services.

The tasks for the futures specialist consultant will be:

We want the futures work to both **drive the development of strategy options and test those options** to identify those that are most robust and sustainable.

We anticipate that this will require the work to:

- Identify key factors likely to change flood and coastal risk across the range of timescale in terms of both the physical processes of, and human interventions in, the flooding and coastal systems;
- Provide a framework within which the project can assess changes in future flood and coastal erosion risk and the societal and political response to those changes.
- Provide a framework in which the interaction of the flood and coastal erosion risk factors and the flooding and coastal systems can be considered.
- Help guide us and our partners through using the framework to test a range of responses to see how they perform options for the strategy and/or test options that we and our partners have already identified.

In setting out the requirement we recognise that there are different approaches that could be taken within any 'framework', such as scenarios, trend analysis and so on. We are open to recommendations from consultants on a preferred approach, and the opportunity for you to present the approach will be welcomed at tender stage.

At the end of the project, the futures work will be published so that the widest set of stakeholders can see how and why we have designed the strategy to be robust to the future and sustainable.

This will also provide an analytical base for the next strategy review so the reviewers can consider whether the future has materialised as we had imagined and what the implications will be for that revision.

As part of the tender response the contractor is expected to set out:

- The conceptual framework and process to develop futures for the strategy development phase
- How the flood and coastal erosion risk management system will be described in a logical and coherent way
- How the baseline will be defined
- What relevant futures analyses there are that could be used to reduce costs and time
- How to synthesise different analyses to provide coherent futures
- Scenarios
- A process and material for testing strategy options against those scenarios to evaluate the options. Metrics to test the options could include:
 - Robustness to the future
 - Flexibility to uncertainty
 - Sustainability

- How resources will be used to apply the futures approach to the strategy development phase including how the futures work will interact with the on-going stakeholder engagement activities which will be delivered in parallel with his contract.

Definitions

Robust— options that work reasonably well across a large ranges of future conditions

Flexible— options that offer relatively easy adjustment if conditions that are significantly different from those condition that they are designed for eventually materialise

Sustainable— options that remain 'productive' under a range of future conditions.

Proposed Contract Start Date: April 2018

Proposed Contract End Date: March 2019