

# Approval for maritime local authorities

Coastal erosion studies, strategies and projects

April 2013

## Who does this apply to?

It applies to:

- Area flood and coastal risk managers
- Area asset management teams
- Partnerships and strategic overview (PSO) teams and the national capital programme management service
- Asset management
- The head of Flood and Coastal Risk Management
- Head of FCERM and Business Finance
- The national environmental assessment service

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## Background

Under the Coast Protection Act, you need technical approval for your project. Under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 (section 16), you need formal approval for your project (section 21 of the Coastal Protection Act has been withdrawn).

Technical approval under section 5(5)  
We will review the business case for your project in line with project appraisal guidance and environmental assessment regulations.

Formal approval for grant under section 16  
We need to confirm that the costs of the awarded bid for the project can be justified economically and that we can pay the grant.

Under the act, you can also carry out projects without a grant and on behalf of a private owner. These projects will still need our technical approval.

## Objections to projects

All objections to projects should be sent to Defra, Flood Management, Nobel House, London. They will acknowledge the objection and send a copy of their letter to you.

If you cannot resolve an objection to your project, the Secretary of State may nominate an inspector and hold a local inquiry. A formal report will be made and the Minister of State will decide what action to take. Once an objection has been resolved, you can apply for approval for your project.

## Technical approval

You normally apply for technical approval for a project at the detailed design stage. You should send your application to your area flood and coastal risk Manager (AFCRM). Your application must include the project appraisal report, supporting documents and form CPA1. This simplified form (CPA1) is for you to tell us the outcome of advertising your project and statutory consultations.

We will use the same approval procedures as for flood risk management projects – see guidance note 1 (April 2013).

[http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/guidancenote1\\_1826827.pdf](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/guidancenote1_1826827.pdf).

Recommendations for technical approval will be made by either a regional project assessment board or the large projects review group (LPRG). The AFCRM will tell you when technical approval has been given.

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0845 988 1188

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Formal approval

Once we have given your project technical approval, the project will go on to the tendering (bids) stage. To apply for formal grant approval you need to send form CPA2, together with supporting information (usually in the form of a tender assessment report), to the ACFRM.

The ACFRM will sign off the application and send a copy of the completed CPA2 form to the Head of Flood and Coastal Risk Management and Business Finance for formal approval for grant payment under section 16 of the act.

The ACFRM will tell you when formal approval has been given.

## Studies and strategies

We treat studies separately – they need only formal approval for a grant because they are not treated as coastal erosion work. You will need to send an application for strategies and studies, using form FCERM7.

Send us your strategies using the project appraisal report template. We will approve strategies in the same way as flood risk management strategies.

## Emergency projects

Emergency projects are included in the Coast Protection Act, under section 5 (6). You can carry out emergency work without formal approval. However, you must tell us and other statutory authorities (for example Natural England) if you need to carry out emergency work and get our approval to go ahead. (This is a condition of applying for future grant.) You can then start the work and at the same time apply for a grant for the emergency work. If an SSSI (site of scientific interest) is involved, you must tell the nearest office of Natural England as soon as possible.

You can do emergency work without a grant, but if you want to apply for a grant, you should do so as if the work is a stand-alone (separate) project needing both technical and formal approval. You do not need to meet all the requirements of planned work in the project appraisal report for emergency work. The Head of Flood and Coastal Risk Management and Business Finance will decide whether funding is available and what if any grant will be paid.

## Related documents

- 187\_07 FCERM capital grant guidance note 1
- RMA capital grant easinet page