



November 2017

Internal Drainage Districts - finding a sustainable solution to future funding

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has been working with the Internal Drainage Districts Advisory Groups to find a long-term solution to financing vital work to manage Internal Drainage Districts (IDDs).

This funding review will create a more secure foundation for managing IDD as a key component of agricultural land.

Funds to operate IDD come from three places - IDD landowners and occupiers, Local Authorities and NRW.

Together, these payments cover the cost of NRW's maintenance and clearance work on main rivers and other watercourses – work which has a direct benefit on water levels and managing flood risk in and around IDDs.

One aspect of the funding review has involved creating a consistent formula for calculating the Local Authorities and agricultural landowners or occupiers' contribution to the cost of managing main rivers within IDDs - known as 'precepts'.

As the precept level has not increased in 20 years, NRW appreciates that this new funding formula will have an impact on some landowners and occupiers. While some will see very little change, others will find a significant increase.

To help prepare for this, NRW intends to phase in any increased payments over the next three years.

Overall the review will bring about a better and fairer system for everyone, ensuring the right funding is available in the right place for the right work.

The amount of work required to manage IDDs is assessed every year to calculate Local Authorities, landowners and occupiers' annual contributions. The figures are published in February each year for the financial year ahead.

A series of IDD Advisory Group meetings have been arranged to give all IDD landowners and occupiers an opportunity to discuss the new approach to funding and how it will be implemented. They are:

- Malltraeth IDD Advisory Group – Thursday 9 November 2017 2:30pm – NRW Office Maes y Ffynnon, Bangor.
- Borth IDD Advisory Group – Tuesday 14 November 2017 7:00pm – Llanfach, Tre Taliesin
- De Meirionnydd Advisory Group (Dysynni, Mawddach & Wnion, Tywyn IDD) – Tuesday 21 November 2017 3:00pm – NRW office Dolgellau
- Afon Conwy and Afon Ganol IDD Advisory Group – Thursday 23 November 2017, 7:00pm – Glasdir, Llanrwrst
- Dwyfor & Meirionnydd Advisory Group (Llanfrothen, Glaslyn Pencyflog, Harlech Maentwrog, Ardudwy IDD) – Thursday 30 November 2017 7:00pm – Plas Tan y Bwlch Maentwrog.