1.   Content:

        What is happening, project update, any new efficiencies/innovations, any lessons learnt, what makes it award winning?

        Key stats: efficiencies, value, protected, habitat etc.

        Target audience is the WEM supplier community (EA, contactors and consultancies) so making it interesting to them is paramount.

2.      Word Count: 500 words

3.     Head and shoulders photo of author

4.     Links to any online content / links/ images/ vids

5.     Relevant photo x2 (hi res jpeg)

6.     Relevant quote from client/stakeholder

7.     Deadline **20th April**

# Town Beck FAS: Why the hype?

The Town Beck FAS scheme was substantially completed in March 2018 after almost 3 years of construction works. The project has featured in Current magazine before, but after receiving the ‘Highly Commended’ award at the Project Excellence Awards in the ‘Efficiency’ category, it was deemed worthwhile to share some of the key project learnings.

To re-cap, this £9.6milion scheme in Ulverston, Cumbria protects 407 residential properties and 118 commercial businesses including critical infrastructure from a 1% AEP event within the Town Beck catchment.

The successful delivery of this scheme stemmed from extremely strong project team relationships and a can-do attitude to problem solving. Strategic partnerships were forged with LLFA’s and other key stakeholders, to identify and agree funding contributions as well as expediting the delivery of mutually beneficial works, some of which were originally outside of the scope.

This collaborative approach, combined with innovative design and build solutions, generated over 17% efficiencies on the contract, worth circa £1.6m. These efficiencies were ultimately reinvested into the project to ensure the EA were able to deliver ‘more for less’.

## How did we do it?

The project team had a pro-active approach to efficiency and created a plan to identify, pursue and ultimately claim efficiencies. Rather than looking for ‘big-ticket’ items, a mantra of ‘little and often’ was adopted and we systematically reviewed the works to ensure maximum efficiency of delivery using the following approach:

1. Identified and sought opportunities to combine works more efficiently with other stakeholders

* Secured financial contributions for planned works
* Expedited and jointly delivered un-planned works
* Minimised mobilisation/demobilisation costs
* Minimised disruption to the public

1. Identified those activities that carried the most significant cost and time impact
   * Large or discrete items/areas of work
   * Works around critical infrastructure
   * Works subject to more stringent legislation (e.g. reservoirs)
   * Works around significant statutory services
2. Challenged the scope and objectives of the works
   * Considered alternative contracting approach, temporary works, simplified proposals
   * Standardised products, utilised trenchless solutions and other emerging technologies (shotcrete, epoxy spray liners)
   * Sought passive designs rather than actively managed ones
   * Worked with Statutory Undertakers to ‘accommodate’ services and future-proof
3. Considered, and tried to better, how the asset would be installed/refurbished, operated and maintained.
   * Improved access in to working areas/asset to maximise efficiency of construction ease maintenance
   * Minimised temporary works by utilising existing structures in proposed works
   * Rationalised the number of temporary works setups (incl. over-pumping) to reduce setup/dismantle costs
   * Thought strategically about maintenance to avoid unnecessary equipment purchase

### What did we achieve?

We successfully claimed more than £1.6million of efficiencies during the construction period, some of the highlights are summarised as follows:

* £244K by altering temporary works methodology
* £450K by utilising alternative construction techniques/materials such as GRP lining
* £250K by challenge of design principles and doing something different
* £300K by working around planned statutory service diversions
* £107K by re-programming to avoid in-channel works in winter periods

### In Summary

Truly open and honest collaboration builds great project teams and leads to significant efficiencies and the ultimately, delivery of a better solution for all.