

PLANNING POLICY EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANEL 5 September 2022

Report Title	Anglian Water Draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan
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Relevant Executive Member	Councillor David Brackenbury – Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide Members with an outline of the draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan prepared by Anglian Water; and to agree draft responses to a series of questions set through the consultation.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 A Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) is a long-term strategic plan that sets out how wastewater systems - and the drainage networks that impact them – can be maintained, extended and improved to make sure they're robust and resilient to future pressures. It is also used to understand current and future risks to drainage and water quality.
- 2.2 The DWMP is a high-level document covering the whole of the Anglian Water area, stretching from Essex to the south and Lincolnshire to the north, with Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire to the west and Norfolk and Suffolk in the east. The document sets out planning aims and key points, dealing with principles of drainage and wastewater management, rather than specifics with regards local incidents. It is however the knowledge of specific incidents that can feed the content of the Council's response to the consultation questions asked.
- 2.3 A total of 12 questions are asked, with a draft officer response provided for each in turn. Members are asked to endorse each response, any additions or amendments are delegated to the Executive Member for Growth and

Regeneration to determine, in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economy.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel note the contents of the Anglian Water Draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan and endorse the Council's response to the consultation.
- 3.2. Any proposed amendments or additions made by Members at the Panel meeting will be delegated to the Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economy.

Reason for Recommendations:

- 3.3. To inform Members of the Anglian Water consultation and agree the Council's response.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. A Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) is a long-term strategic plan that sets out how wastewater systems - and the drainage networks that impact them – can be maintained, extended and improved to make sure they're robust and resilient to future pressures. It is also used to understand current and future risks to drainage and water quality.
- 4.2. This version of the Management Plan will cover the period 2025-2050, where the impacts from growth and climate change over time will be monitored and predicted. This will ensure that customer needs are met alongside environmental regulations and maintenance of the network.
- 4.3. The current consultation follows the industry framework published in 2018 and liaison with stakeholders to publish the draft plan. Anglian Water's Draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) can be viewed at the link below:
<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/dwmp-draft.pdf>
- 4.4. The consultation period runs from 30th June to 16th September 2022. The final DWMP, a statutory document as embedded in the Environment Act, will be published in early 2023 ahead of the 2024 Anglian Water Business Plan.
- 4.5. The Authority and its predecessors have engaged with Anglian Water over many years to ensure that the supporting infrastructure is in place to support growth throughout the area. This partnership working has resulted in various evidence base studies that have supported plan making. The most recent infrastructure document prepared by the Council, the North Northamptonshire Investment Framework, included dialogue with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to ensure that wastewater requirements were considered fully.

5. Content of the Document

5.1 The DWMP follows nine stages, as set out by the industry framework:

1. Agreeing the aims
2. Identifying risks
3. Understanding the risks and problems over the next 25 years
4. An assessment of any other factors
5. Develop a range of solutions, working with partners, that would provide multiple benefits
6. Assess what is the best thing to do
7. Publication of the draft
8. Consult on the draft
9. Publishing the final DWMP (anticipated first half of 2023)

This consultation on the draft document is a significant way through the process and is the first time that the authority has been able to provide comment on this area of work.

5.2 There are 10 planning aims of the document which are covered by these three headings: Escape from sewers; Water recycling centre performance; and Environment and wellbeing. There doesn't appear to be direct information on these elements that are specifically related to North Northamptonshire, rather they are generic points that the document focuses on within the elements of work and planning that is set out.

5.3 The forecasting of growth in the region is an important factor to understand and one of the biggest challenges for water management. Data is based on local authority planning data and will include the information in the strategic and local plans provided by the local authorities. North Northamptonshire is identified as an area of high growth. Clarification with Anglian Water will be sought on the date that this data was secured for North Northamptonshire.

5.4 Within the consultation document there is a summary that sets out 11 key points that the document covers and the aspirations of Anglian Water.

1. Outlines our adaptive plan to meet the challenges we face over the next 25 years.

2. Sets out a strategic direction for our approach to minimise the risks we all face.
 3. Takes a catchment based approach to these risks and challenges we face.
 4. Promotes the use of nature based solutions, especially when it comes to surface water removal.
 5. Protects the environment through improvements to our discharges.
 6. Demonstrates how we will serve our growing population over the next 25 years.
 7. Shows what's needed to protect our assets and customers from the impacts of heavy rainfall caused by climate change.
 8. Identifies opportunities for partnership working to release benefits and resolve risk through matched funding.
 9. Aligns with our other strategies, such as the Long-Term Delivery Strategy, Water Resources Management Plan, etc.
 10. Includes all of our water recycling customers, regardless of who serves their water.
 11. Excludes upstream water supply and downstream resources, which will be reviewed separately through the Business Plan.
- 5.5 These key points are supported however, it is difficult to find how these points have been translated to actions on the ground and what may happen within the catchments within North Northamptonshire and what specific projects may be taking place.

North Northamptonshire Context

- 5.6 The document looks at the catchments within the region and assesses the water recycling centres within each area. It also sets out the number of organisations involved, what the population increase will be between 2025 and 2050 what investment has been identified alongside any partnership opportunities. Those that are relevant to North Northamptonshire are the Nene (that includes the majority of Northamptonshire and Peterborough) and the Welland Catchment Partnerships. These are set out below alongside some of our neighbouring catchments. It would be useful to understand from Anglian Water the apparent lower anticipated investment in the Nene catchment compared to others that have similar or lower anticipated growth.

Catchment	Organisations involved	Population increase 2025 - 2050	Investment 2025 to 2050	Partnership opportunities identified
Nene	8	126,800	£258 million	2
Welland	4	29,700	£99 million	1
Upper and Bedford Ouse	4	136,350	£476 million	2
CamEO catchment	6	88,000	£462 million	0

5.7 There is no obvious information on the partnership opportunities identified, which for the Nene are in Islip and Raunds. Plus, it is unclear where the investment would be spent. It is considered that further dialogue with Anglian Water would be helpful, for us to understand what improvements that they are considering. Information on the capacity or otherwise of water recycling centres would be useful information to have in order to assess sites for the Strategic and Local Plans.

5.8 With many of the smaller water recycling centres in our catchment area there is the long-term aspiration to reduce surface water from entering the combined sewers and the recycling network. This has the potential to provide multiple benefits to nature and society. It is suggested that the Council link in with Anglian Water to see where natural flood attenuation can take place alongside other opportunities that there might be. This could utilise the Habitat Opportunity Mapping that the Council holds. Taking this forward there could be a potential link with the identification of areas and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, a statutory document that the Council needs to prepare over the coming year.

Consultation Questions and Draft Responses

5.9 There are 12 consultation questions posed, these are set out below with a draft officer response against each.

1. What are your highest priorities for future drainage investments over the next 25 years?

The highest priority for drainage investment should focus on minimising environmental issues and mitigating climate change and allowing sustainable development to take place in a timely way.

The reasoning for this as a priority is to minimise impacts on the environment by preventing, or reducing the numbers of flooding and sewage incidents from taking place. Where rainwater management needs to be improved to eliminate the majority of surface water using the sewage network, this should be prioritised to prevent associated issues and pollution from occurring.

2. *What are your highest priorities for future drainage investments over the medium term (to 2035)?*

Increasing resilience to flooding through nature-based solutions alongside the necessary infrastructure provided within new developments to prevent any flooding to residential properties, and other land uses or infrastructure.

3. *We've prioritised planning for a 2 degree increase in temperature due to climate change, where it is cost beneficial to do so over the whole 25 years of the dDWMP. Do you think this is the right assumption to plan against? Should we plan for no climate change, a 2 degree temperature rise, a 4 degree temperature rise, or not sure?*

The 2 degree temperature increase seems the most appropriate to select over a 25 year period.

4. *What level of climate change should we be planning to invest against in the medium term (to 2035)?*

We consider 2 degrees is the appropriate option in order to make significant improvements and plan for the future.

5. *We've used local authority data to align our growth forecast with the Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP). Our preferred dDWMP option takes a mid-range view of future growth, between a local plan and Office for National Statistics (ONS) forecast. Do you agree with this approach?*

The Council would like clarification on the data that was supplied, this would have been through the previous local authorities. Please can you advise of the data that you have used for North Northamptonshire.

Future growth is difficult to predict, and uncertain economic times will lead to further changes in predictions. Using the Local Plan provided data is likely to give a more certain future outlook based on site allocations for development and knowledge of the local area. In the past ONS forecasts have not always been appropriate as they haven't taken into account the levels of growth identified in some areas. It may be useful for the Council to be involved, and provide commentary on the two figures to ensure that it is an appropriate base for understanding future growth.

6. *Where it is shown to be cost beneficial, we're promoting green solutions, such as sustainable drainage (SuDS) and wetlands. When they are a feasible solution, how much of our plan do you think should implement these green solutions?*

Green solutions can offer multifunctional benefits and would be the most appropriate option in many cases. These can often be cheaper than hard engineering and provide other natural capital benefits. It would be sensible to prioritise the green solution when possible and for these to be considered for

every project, and assessment done of the cost and benefits when considering wider societal benefits.

7. The majority of our long-term strategies involve removing surface water from our sewerage system, to reduce the number of flood events, pollutions and storm overflow spills. Do you agree with this approach?

Yes, removing surface water into other SuDS would be the most appropriate way of managing wastewater flows and also allow for wider environmental benefits to be secured from water management.

8. We believe that we can achieve more collective benefits by working with partners and have identified catchments where we would like to have further conversations. On a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being high), how much do you support a partnership working approach?

The Council supports partnership working, so on a scale rate it as 5 (high), partnership working in catchments is a proven way of securing wide ranging benefits and also by engaging the local community allows for more acceptable solutions. Different organisations in a partnership can contribute in different ways to provide a better solution that meets a wider range of organisational priorities.

9. Protecting the environment is important to us. To support our Get River Positive commitment we're re-assessing all of our storm overflows in line with the recent Storm Overflow Action Plan consultation. The costs for managing storm overflows are not in this draft. Where would you expect us to focus first? Protecting bathing waters, protecting river habitats, both, other or not sure?

North Northamptonshire does not have coastal bathing waters, therefore there would be a preference for river habitats. However, it is noted that both bathing waters and river habitats are important areas to focus and therefore would consider protecting both across the region.

10. We've identified and shared with our stakeholders the risks and proposed solution strategies over the next 25 years. On a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being high), how confident are you that the plan sufficiently addresses the risks we face between now and 2050?

The plan addresses a range of risks through to 2050 however, there doesn't seem to be any mention of changes to employment land and manufacturing over this time period. In North Northamptonshire and other areas there is great pressure for logistics and more employment land to be delivered. Would this have any impact on water recycling catchments, or do they provide a way of mitigating other pressures in themselves, or the landscaping on developments to incorporate SuDs. This may need some consideration moving forward.

One of the main areas of focus is to remove surface water from the wastewater flow, new developments can play a significant part in this through a design led approach through the planning system. Liaison with local authorities on options for development should be discussed and options for removing surface water positively assessed where it is a genuine SuD with multifunctional benefits.

There is an identified risk around new planned residential developments, there will need to be understanding on planning, design, place shaping and Building Regulations that can help secure benefits for all parties. It is important to provide support to developers that will tend to go for the engineered solution that they have done for many years, suggestions on suitable alternatives would be welcomed. The nature based solution should be the first to be assessed.

With the inclusion of some of these other risks then it would appear more comprehensive, at present we consider a rating of 4 that all the risks are identified.

11. Our purpose is to bring environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to love every drop. Do you believe the draft DWMP meets our purpose?

One of the examples given in section 12 is to apply for new environmental permits from the Environment Agency as a strategy to cope with an increase in pressure. Without the detail it isn't known what the implications of this would be, but on the face of it, it doesn't appear to put environmental or social prosperity first.

However, the remainder of the document does appear to be putting the environment and social prosperity into the planning of future activity. It would be good to see more detail for the relevant catchments based in our area and what plans there are for the water recycling centres.

12. Do you have any further comments about our draft DWMP?

In relation to the Nene Valley Catchment, it is identified as having a population increase of 126,800 to 2050 with £258million invested in that time frame. There are 2 partnership opportunities identified in Islip and Raunds, it would be good to know what these involve.

Further dialogue on the Broadholme catchment would be welcomed, especially as we progress with the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan. The long-term plans for 10% surface water removal are supported but we would like to know more detail on this considering the size of the catchment.

There are many centres that are going to require surface water removal across North Northamptonshire, we would welcome further insight into how this can happen and how we can work together to ensure that it is done successfully for all.

The Council has to produce a statutory document called the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, there could be clear benefits in looking at nature based solutions for surface water to link into habitat creation and enhancement in some areas. The Council also has evidence with Habitat Opportunity Mapping that may be useful to identify areas that would most benefit from solutions to provide multiple benefits. We would be happy to discuss this further.

Further information would be welcomed on the apparent lower level of investment for the Nene Catchment compared to the levels of growth anticipated.

We would like information on how pollution and flooding incidents will be dealt with in timely ways, the response from relevant stakeholders including Anglian Water should be proactive and supportive of people that may have unfortunately been impacted by flooding incidents.

The Council will welcome ongoing dialogue with Anglian Water on all matters in relation to water use and water recycling, both that are relevant now and also what future changes and infrastructure may be required associated with climate change and growth.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. To finalise the consultation response and submit these before the close of the consultation period. It is proposed a response be agreed by the Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economy.
- 6.2. To re-engage with Anglian Water to understand local pressures, what is being undertaken to prevent historic sewage pollution incidents from happening again and what future infrastructure may be identified to support the existing population and growth for both residential and employment development.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1. Ongoing dialogue with consultees is currently part of the remit of planning policy and delivery in relation to local plans and future growth. This may impact on delivery of sites especially the larger garden communities, or development in areas where there are current issues with water recycling. This may take more resources depending on what issues may be identified. There is also the potential for cross departmental issues with environmental health and also the natural environment team.

7.2. Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1. The requirement for Anglian Water to produce this document is enshrined in the Environment Act 2021. There is no impact on North Northamptonshire Council through responding to the consultation and engaging with Anglian Water.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1. The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy provides Policy 5 – *Water Environment, Resources and Flood Risk* Management sets a series of criteria to guide how development should contribute towards reducing the risk of flooding, and to protect and improve the quality of the water environment. Policy 10 – *Provision of Infrastructure* is also of significance highlighting the need for the timely delivery of infrastructure, naming improvements to Broadholme Sewage Treatment Works within its supporting text.
- 7.3.2. In terms of the Council's Corporate Plan, *Safe and thriving places* and *Greener, Sustainable Environment* are both key priorities in the Corporate Plan.

7.4. Risk

- 7.4.1. If the Council does not engage with Anglian Water on this matter, then local information and understanding may not be considered. This could lead to issues becoming worse and incidents occurring. However as Anglian Water is a responsible body they will be undertaking relevant work to ensure that their infrastructure is fit for purpose.

7.5. Consultation

- 7.5.1 The Council is a consultee to this Anglian Water consultation. Officers have not undertaken a separate consultation in formulating the Council's draft response to this consultation.

7.6. Consideration by Scrutiny

- 7.6.1. This report has not been considered by Scrutiny.

7.7. Equality Implications

- 7.7.1. By engaging with Anglian Water and maintaining a continuous dialogue will improve the standards within the area that will benefit all members of North Northamptonshire's diverse communities.

7.8. Climate Impact

- 7.8.1. The Anglian Water consultation document considers climate and the environment throughout their processes. North Northamptonshire could benefit by engaging and supporting nature based solutions that have multi-functional benefits for climate and wider net environmental gain.

7.9. Community Impact

7.9.1. The community impact where water recycling centres have been identified for partnership working will benefit from this work, as well as other locations that will benefit from solutions and improvements to infrastructure.

7.10. Crime and Disorder Impact

7.10.1. There is no perceived impact on crime and disorder through this workstream.

8. Background Papers

8.1 The Document can be found using the link below:

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/dwmp-draft.pdf>

8.2 Other supporting technical information can be found at the link below:

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/drainage-wastewater-management-plan/>

8.3 The North Northamptonshire Investment Framework

www.nnjpdu.org.uk/publications/north-northamptonshire-investment-framework/