

Our Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2025-2050



What is our DWMP?

Our Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) sets out how our wastewater systems, and the drainage networks that impact them, are to be maintained, improved and extended over the next 25 years to ensure they're robust and resilient to the future pressures we face in our region.

The next 25 years will bring significant population growth challenges, alongside more intense rainfall due to climate change, and 28% of our region being below sea level. Given the uncertainties we face, a DWMP is crucial.

Co-created over the past three years through engagement with our key stakeholders, this collaborative plan identifies current and future risks to drainage and water quality and the solutions we need to deliver to address them.

It recognises the interdependencies between drainage systems and areas where we can generate efficiencies.

This DWMP covers 2025-2050 and supports the development of our Long Term Delivery Strategy (LTDS) and our Price Review 2024 Business Plan (PR24).



What's in it?

It identifies strategies to:

Manage the risk from growth in our region.

Manage the risk of climate change.

Meet the Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan targets set by Defra.

It is:

A Best Value Plan, identifying the solution that provides the best range of benefits for our customers and the environment for the cost.

A future-proofed plan, meeting a range of future scenarios.

Adaptive, we'll adjust our plans based on new information.

Shaped through stakeholder and customer feedback

Engagement with **117 key organisations** throughout the process, including: all country and district councils, Lead Local Flood Authorities, the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, River and Wildlife Trusts, Natural England, Ofwat, and local river and environmental groups.

Eight stakeholder engagement opportunities.

Three customer engagement sessions.

Final plan

Takes into accounts medium level of risk acceptance, including:

A **proportionate view of growth**, protection to two degree **climate change**, addressing flood and pollution risk in over **200 catchments**, addressing treatment work compliance in almost **100 catchments**, and choosing **least regret options**.

Outlines the **strategic direction** for our water recycling catchments.

Follows the DWMP framework and meets the **Storm Overflow Discharge Reduction Plan targets**.

Will be reviewed against **wider business needs** and progress monitored.

Indicates a 25-year spend of up to **£5 billion** to manage the risk from growth, climate change and to meet storm overflow targets.

Our DWMP goals

1

To meet the challenges we face over the next 25 years.

2

Be strategic to minimise the risks we all face.

3

Take a catchment-based approach to risks and challenges.

4

Promote the use of nature-based solutions, especially for surface water removal.

5

Protect the environment through discharge improvements.

6

Demonstrate how we'll serve our growing population over the next 25 years.

7

Show what's needed to protect our assets and customers from the impacts of heavy rainfall due to climate change.

8

Identify partnership opportunities where matched funding can release benefits and resolve risks.

9

Align with other strategic plans.
[Click here to view our plans.](#)

10

Include all water recycling customers, regardless of water supplier.

Our DWMP documents, and an interactive version, can be [found on our website](#).

