

DWMP NEWS

Date: January 2022

Issue number: 8

INTRODUCTION

Hi everyone.

Happy New Year. We hope you are all staying safe and well. Welcome to our latest DWMP Newsletter. We hope you still find these newsletters useful; Feel free to contact us by email at dwmp@nwl.co.uk with suggestions or comments.

UPDATE SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Since October we have been working on the option development for the DWMP, considering short and long term options as well as more strategic options. Of course, part of this process includes looking back at all the stakeholder data we collected back in August and seeing where that may fit into the plan.

The option development and appraisal is a complex phase of the DWMP process and we will be hosting a Strategic Planning Group meeting later this month to discuss progress and next steps.

INNOVATION FESTIVAL

During October, Northumbrian Water hosted its annual Innovation Festival, which was attended by a range of stakeholders from outside of the business. The DWMP was part of a sprint named "Collaboration for a Sustainable Nation" where we concentrated on several aspects which could make the plan even better in the future. It is exciting to share the news that three "Big Ideas" are to be taken forward for development. We will share more as this happens! Find out more at the link below:

[Northumbrian Water's Innovation Festival](#)



STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

It is important to know the impact that the DWMP has on the environment, so we can make sure it will deliver benefits and avoid detriment. For this reason, we are carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on individual options and the overall plan.

The SEA provides an opportunity to consider ways by which the plan can contribute to improvements in environmental conditions. It is also a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse environmental effects that the plan might otherwise have. It informs the decision-making process through the identification and assessment of significant and cumulative effects a plan or programme may have on the environment. By doing so, it helps make sure that the proposals in the plan are the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives. The SEA process is conducted at a strategic level and enables consultation on the potential effects of a plan with a wide range of stakeholders. During January, the SEA Scoping Document will be issued to stakeholders for comment. This document will form the basis of how the SEA will be conducted.

The SEA Directive was transposed into UK law via the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ('SEA Regulations'). The SEA Regulations require an assessment of the effects on the environment of "plans and programmes which are prepared for water management and sets the framework for development consents".



This newsletter will also be posted on our website at: <https://www.nwl.co.uk/dwmp>