



**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT OF UNITED UTILITIES
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
PLAN**

POST ADOPTION STATEMENT

JANUARY 2010

United Utilities Water PLC
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Registered in England and Wales. Registered Number 2366678

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION
2. HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO THE WRMP
3. HOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT INFLUENCED THE WRMP
4. CONSULTING ON THE SEA
5. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE WRMP
6. MONITORING OF THE WRMP
7. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

APPENDIX 1. REFERENCES

APPENDIX 2. REQUIREMENTS OF A POST ADOPTION STATEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

This Post Adoption Statement describes the way in which United Utilities Water PLC (UU) has taken environmental considerations and the views of consultees into account in the adopted Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP). It has been prepared jointly by UU and specialist environmental consultants Entec UK Limited.

1.1 Background

UU provides water and sewerage services to customers throughout the North West of England.

As part of its water supply service, UU has prepared its WRMP, which provides a comprehensive statement of water supply and demand forecasts for North West England over the period to 2035. It also describes the actions that are proposed as part of the preferred strategy to achieve and maintain water supply reliability standards for UU's customers.

The WRMP has been subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), prepared by Entec UK Limited on behalf of UU. This was in compliance with the requirements of the Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (which has been transposed into legislation, Statutory Instrument 2004 No.1633 – The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004). Strategic Environmental Assessment is a statutory requirement for plans or programmes which could have significant environmental implications, and helps to identify where there are potential impacts and how any negative impacts might be mitigated. This Post Adoption Statement represents the conclusion of the SEA process.

UU's Draft WRMP was published on 2nd May 2008 for public consultation, together with the SEA Environment Report. The aim of the Environment Report was to influence the process of the development of the WRMP, and thereby assist in ensuring a high level of protection of the environment. Representations on the Draft WRMP and the Environment Report were received from a total of 14 consultees. On 30th January 2009 UU published a Statement of Response that describes the consultation and how UU had taken account of the comments received. UU also published an Addendum to the SEA Environment Report which gave further details and updated information.

UU's Final WRMP was published on 30th September 2009 following the granting of permission to publish received on 3rd August from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The timetable for the WRMP and SEA process is summarised in Table 1. The WRMP and SEA documents have been published on the company's website at www.uuplc.co.uk/WaterResourcesPlan.htm

Abbreviations used throughout this document:

- SEA = Strategic Environmental Assessment
- UU = United Utilities Water PLC
- WRMP = Water Resources Management Plan

Table 1. WRMP and SEA timetable

Date	WRMP document/event	SEA document/event
21 st May 2007	Pre-Draft WRMP consultation with key statutory stakeholders	Scoping report for the SEA issued to key stakeholders for comment
2 nd May 2008	Draft WRMP published for consultation	Environment Report published for consultation
31 st July 2008	14 Representations received	
30 th January 2009	Statement of response published	
30 th January 2009	Revised Draft WRMP published	Addendum to the SEA published
3 rd August 2009	Secretary of State grants UU permission to publish Final WRMP	-
30 th September 2009	Final WRMP published	-
20 th November 2009	-	Post Adoption Statement published

1.2 Purpose of the Post Adoption Statement

The purpose of this Post Adoption Statement, in accordance with Part 4 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, is to document how environmental considerations, the views of the consultees and the recommendations of the Environmental Report have been taken into account in the adopted WRMP. Therefore, this statement includes the following information in line with the Regulations:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Strategy (Section 2);
- How the findings of the Environmental Report have been taken into account (Section 3);
- How the opinions expressed in response to the consultation on the Draft WRMP and the Environmental Report have been taken into account (Section 4);
- The reasons for choosing the WRMP as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with (Section 5); and
- The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme (Section 6).

2. HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO THE WRMP

The purpose of UU's WRMP is to present a comprehensive statement of the region's supply-demand balance and the least-cost strategy to achieve the required level of service for water supply reliability for our customers.

All the water companies aim to meet this purpose through development and review of potential options to meet identified supply deficits. Each company considers the options available in their water resource zones. These options are then considered in terms of its impact on water supply or demand, the environmental and social implications, and the financial cost. Where credible data was available cost values were ascribed to environmental and social impacts for inclusion in average incremental social cost (AISC) comparisons of options, as described in Chapter 10 of the WRMP. In addition a strategic environmental assessment was undertaken of alternative combinations of solutions to include a wider range of environmental and social issues, and thereby provide a qualitative but more comprehensive appraisal, as described in the Environment Report. Table 2 below highlights the key environmental and social issues considered.

In each of the water resource zones, the plan might include a single option or a combination of different options, depending on the feasible options available, their financial and environmental and social costs, and the expected yield in terms of the water they could provide for supply.

Table 2. Issues considered within the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

	Issues considered in environmental and social costs and the SEA	Issues considered in the SEA only
Economy and employment		<p>Changes to the support for economic growth</p> <p>Changes in the quality, diversity or vitality of businesses</p> <p>Changes in employment and the effects of employment on local people (e.g. through skills development)</p>
Health	<p>Permanent changes in amenity value of sites for informal and in-stream recreation, including angling</p>	<p>Changes in health</p> <p>Temporary changes in the amenity value of sites for informal and in-stream recreation, including angling</p> <p>Changes in opportunity or participation in physical activity</p> <p>Changes in drinking water quality</p>
Community wellbeing	<p>Changes in levels of nuisance (e.g. noise, odour, transport, etc.), although some aspects may not be included in the quantified assessment</p>	<p>Change in access to facilities</p> <p>Change in number or quality of facilities or services</p>
Landscape and cultural heritage	<p>Temporary changes to landscape, e.g. during construction</p> <p>Permanent change in landscape, e.g. visual impact of new buildings</p> <p>Permanent changes to the quality of features of cultural heritage, although this may not be included in the quantified assessment</p> <p>Permanent change of use of land, although this is sometimes included as a capital cost or within landscape</p>	<p>Changes in access to buildings or land</p> <p>Temporary changes to the use of land</p> <p>Changes in land quality</p> <p>Changes to the quality of the built environment</p>
Use of water		<p>Changes in the demand for or use of water</p>
Use of other resources, including waste		<p>Changes in demand for or use of other materials, e.g. concrete, paper, plastic, fuel</p>

	Issues considered in environmental and social costs and the SEA	Issues considered in the SEA only
		Changes in waste produced or the way it is disposed of
Water	Changes in the quality or quantity of groundwater, surface water or seas	Changes in risks associated with droughts or floods Changes in the physical characteristics of water bodies
Energy and climate	Changes in the need for construction transport Effects of energy use on emissions of greenhouse gases	Changes in the need for transport or travel Changes in energy use, or the type of energy used Effects of transport or energy use on air quality or emissions of greenhouse gases Change in vulnerability to impacts of climate change
Wildlife and biodiversity	Changes in the value of commercial fisheries and shellfisheries	Changes to aquatic or terrestrial habitats or their species

3. HOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT INFLUENCED THE WRMP

The Environmental Report and the Draft WRMP were developed in tandem. Table 3 presents key stages of the SEA and its relationship with the development of the WRMP strategy.

The Environment Report endorsed the plans proposed for each water resource zone by applying the least cost approach (incorporating environmental and social cost values where they could be defined). It found no adverse impact of significance that would suggest the plans in the Draft WRMP should be modified.

Subsequently, the Addendum to the Environment Report and the Final WRMP were developed taking account of comments received from consultees on the Environment Report and the Draft WRMP. The only water resource zone found to have a supply deficit within the next 10 years was West Cumbria. Three alternative combinations of options were considered for the West Cumbria Water Resource Zone. The Addendum to the Environment Report identified that the most environmentally sustainable combination of solutions was not the least cost combination identified by the economic appraisal. The strategic environmental appraisal therefore modified the preferred solution, as described in Chapter 13 of the Final WRMP.

The Addendum complied with the requirements of Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales concerning Habitats Regulations Assessment of the WRMP, and thereby has ensured a more robust environmental appraisal.

Table 3. Relationship between SEA stages and strategy development

SEA Stage	Relationship with Strategy Development
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the Scope	
Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives	Other plans and programmes were considered in the WRMP development. For example the plans by the EA to review abstraction licence conditions, and the regional spatial strategy plans for housing development.
Collecting baseline information	The use of baseline information was important for determining base year supply and demand positions
Identifying environmental problems	Information on environmental issues helped determine constraints on the suitability of certain options
Developing SEA objectives	The SEA objectives ensured that the full range of social and environmental issues were considered in the WRMP development
Stage B: Deciding the scope of the SEA and developing strategic alternatives	
Testing the plan or programme objectives against the SEA objectives	The Environment Report and the WRMP strategy were developed together. The environmental and option appraisals were jointly used to derive the strategy.

SEA Stage	Relationship with Strategy Development
Appraising the strategic alternatives	The SEA was used to assess the effects of alternative combinations of solutions in order to identify any unacceptable adverse effects
Consulting on the scope of the SEA	Consultation on scoping of the SEA was carried out before the WRMP option appraisal was commenced
Stage C: Assessing the effects of the plan or programme	
Predicting the effects of the plan or programme, including alternatives	The results of the SEA were incorporated into the WRMP alongside the option appraisals, before determining the preferred WRMP strategy
Evaluating the effects of the plan or programme, including alternatives	The SEA was used to assess the effects of alternative combinations of solutions in order to identify any unacceptable adverse effects. In particular it resulted in a changed approach for West Cumbria
Mitigating adverse effects	The SEA and option appraisal studies were undertaken in tandem so that any adverse environmental effects could be identified and mitigated
Proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of plan or programme implementation	The WRMP accepted the monitoring requirements identified by the SEA Addendum
Preparing the Environmental Report	The Environment Report and the WRMP strategy were developed together. The environmental and option appraisals were jointly used to derive the strategy.
Stage D: Consulting and decision making	
Consulting on the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report	The consultations were undertaken jointly to ensure full consistency
Assessment of significant changes	The SEA identified that the best combination of solutions for West Cumbria in the Final WRMP was different to the least cost combination. The plan was modified accordingly
Decision making and provision of information	The SEA identified that the best combination of solutions for West Cumbria in the Final WRMP was different to the least cost combination. The plan was modified accordingly
Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the plan or programme	
Monitoring implementation of the plan or programme	The WRMP accepted the monitoring requirements identified by the SEA Addendum

4. CONSULTING ON THE SEA

Consultation has been an integral part of the SEA of UU’s WRMP. UU has engaged with key stakeholders and the statutory consultees in a variety of ways, as summarised in Table 4. These consultation actions sought their involvement in the development and appraisal of the proposed supply and demand options in an attempt to ensure that the SEA and WRMP had their support.

Table 4. Timetable of consultation on SEA issues

Publication/Event	Consultees	Period
Scoping Report	Statutory consultees plus other key stakeholders	21 st May to 25 th June 2007
Environmental Report	Consultation with statutory consultees, stakeholders and the public	2 nd May 2008 to 31 st July 2008
Addendum to Environmental Report	Discussions with Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency, which clarified the need for and the issues to be included in the Addendum. A draft of the Addendum was issued to these organisations for comment before publication on 30 th January 2009	October 2008 to January 2009
Post adoption statement & Adopted Water Resources Management Plan	Issued to Environment Agency, Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales, English Heritage and Cadw	November 2009

It is a statutory requirement that UU consulted on the content of the SEA Scoping Report with the Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage, and any other bodies that it deemed appropriate. In consequence, UU determined to take an inclusive approach to this early consultation. The SEA Scoping Report was sent by email to 125 people in a wide range of organisations predominately based in North West England and with a potential interest in the Water Resources Management Plan.

During the statutory five week consultation period on the scoping report, which ran from 21st May to 25th June 2007, fifteen organisations and individuals sent comments on the Scoping Report. Responses were received from representatives of Cadw, United Utilities’ Conservation, Access and Recreation Advisory Committee, Countryside Council for Wales, Cumbria Tourism, Derwent Owners’ Association, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Friends of the Lake District, Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board, Manchester City Council, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority, Yorkshire Fly, as well as from two individuals not responding on behalf of an organisation.

The responses were used to amend some of the baseline information, and the questions used for undertaking the assessment. None of the responses suggested changing the general approach to assessment, and so the strategic environmental assessment recorded in the Environment Report was undertaken as set out in the Scoping Report.

Once the Environmental Report was complete it was issued for a 13 week consultation period from the 2nd May 2008. UU produced a “Statement of Response” that details the comments received and how UU have taken into account the opinions expressed by the respondees. The main issues raised were as follows:-

- UU was asked to more clearly acknowledge our statutory environmental protection responsibilities, and to confirm that the document relates to water resources in Wales as well as in England.
- UU was asked to provide further clarification on how the potential impact judgements have been assigned in the SEA, to make our assessment of potentially significant effects on landscape more explicit, and to review/clarify the approaches to differentiating between the effects of alternative schemes and to assessing cumulative effects.
- UU was asked to describe in more detail the actions that we would take to mitigate any adverse impacts that might arise and the proposals for monitoring any effects from the implementation of the WRMP.
- UU was challenged on whether Habitats Regulations Assessment had been adequately applied in the SEA.

These points were incorporated in the “Addendum” to the Environment Report. UU and Entec UK Limited met with Natural England and Countryside Council for Wales, as they had the most detailed comments on the SEA report, to better understand their concerns and ensure adequate compliance with Habitats Regulations Assessment of the WRMP. Natural England and Countryside Council for Wales recognised that the SEA contained most of the required information, and we were able to agree the additional information that needed to be included in the Addendum to respond to their concerns.

The Final WRMP, published on 30th September 2009, took all these issues into account.

5. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE WRMP

The adoption of the WRMP is justified on the following grounds:-

- Environmental issues have been fully taken into account. A strategic environmental assessment was completed and the results incorporated into the WRMP.
- Consultation has been undertaken. The views of consultees on the SEA Scoping Report, the Environment Report and the Draft WRMP have been incorporated into the Final WRMP.
- Approval given for publication. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs granted UU permission to publish its final plan, having taken account of the detailed review of the Environment Agency of the degree of compliance with the requirements of a WRMP.

The Final WRMP was published on UU's website on 30th September 2009.

6. MONITORING OF THE WRMP

The monitoring programme has been developed through the SEA process. The proposed monitoring framework is summarised in Table 5. As part of Ofwat's annual June Return reporting process UU will provide an annual update on progress made in implementing the plan, any issues arising and any needs to modify the plan as a result of new information or changed circumstances.

7. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The adopted Final Water Resource Management Plan along with the Environmental Report and this Post Adoption Statement are available on UU's website at:-
www.uuplc.co.uk/WaterResourcesPlan.htm

The documents are also available for inspection free of charge at: United Utilities, Thirlmere House, Lingley Mere, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 3LP.

If you require any further information or have difficulty obtaining any WRMP documents from UU's website, please contact Simon Boyland, Water Supply Demand Manager, United Utilities at the above address or by email to:- water.resources@uuplc.co.uk .

Table 5. Monitoring framework

Objective	Issue monitored	Organisation monitoring
1. Economy and employment	Number, satisfaction and benefits of own staff	United Utilities
	Health and safety of own employees	United Utilities
2. Health	Drinking water compliance	United Utilities
3. Community wellbeing	Properties affected by low pressure or interruptions to supply	United Utilities
	Financial investment in local communities	United Utilities
	Properties at risk of sewer flooding	United Utilities
	Education initiatives	United Utilities
4. Landscape and cultural heritage	Area of land owned	United Utilities
	Landscape and cultural heritage impacts at particular sites	United Utilities
5. Use of water	Leakage	United Utilities
	Abstraction volumes	United Utilities
	Compliance with abstraction licences	Environment Agency
	Customer water demand	United Utilities
6. Use of other resources, including waste	Waste generated and waste recycled	United Utilities
	Wastewater sludge recycled	United Utilities
	Spoil produced and spoil recycled	United Utilities
7. Water	Number of pollution incidents	United Utilities, Environment Agency
	Environmental offences and fines	United Utilities
	Failures at wastewater treatment works	United Utilities
	Water quality of rivers and canals, estuaries, coastal, bathing, shellfish and ground waters (including the biology, chemistry, nutrients or aesthetic quality)	Environment Agency
	Rainfall	United Utilities
	River flows, and levels of lakes and reservoirs	United Utilities
	Compensation flow releases from reservoirs (water released to mitigate the potential impacts of low flows in rivers downstream of reservoirs)	United Utilities
8. Energy and climate	Electricity consumption	United Utilities
	Renewable energy generation and use	United Utilities
	Greenhouse gas emissions	United Utilities

Objective	Issue monitored	Organisation monitoring
9. Wildlife and biodiversity	Number of Biodiversity Action Plans in place Site-specific impacts, e.g. pearl mussel surveys	United Utilities United Utilities

APPENDIX 1. REFERENCES

Entec UK Limited (2008), *Strategic Environmental Assessment of United Utilities' Draft Water Resources Management Plan* (Report for UU)

Entec UK Limited (2009), *Addendum to Strategic Environmental Assessment Environment Report* (Report for UU)

Statutory Instrument 2004 No.1633 – *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*

United Utilities (2008), *Draft Water Resources Management Plan* (published on 2nd May 2008)

United Utilities (2009), *Statement of Response to the Consultation on United Utilities' Draft Water Resources Management Plan*

United Utilities (2009), *Final Water Resources Management Plan* (published on 30th September 2009)

APPENDIX 2. REQUIREMENTS OF A POST ADOPTION STATEMENT

Part 4 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Post Adoption Procedures, requires that UU 'as soon as is reasonable practicable' after the adoption of the WRMP, will:-

1. Make a copy of the final WRMP and ER available for inspection to the public (free of charge)
2. Notify the public and potentially affected parties of their availability
3. Inform the statutory consultees and any other consultees who responded
4. Issue a statement containing: how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme; how the environmental report has been taken into account; how opinions expressed during the consultation have been taken into account; the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

Items 1 to 3 have been completed by publication of the WRMP and ER documents on UU's website and informing all the WRMP consultees of the publication.

The publication on UU's website of the Post Adoption Statement (this document) fulfils the requirements of item 4.