



Issue 1 – Summer 2026

Hello and welcome to our DWMP E-Newsletter

As the Drainage and Wastewater Management Planning Manager, I'm excited to lead the team in shaping the next **Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)** for 2028.



Amy Cooper

We'll regularly share our e-newsletter to keep you informed of what's happening now, what's coming next, and how we're working together to develop the plan over the next two years.

Shaping the future

The DWMP is a long-term, **25-year strategic plan** that will set out how we will **maintain, improve, and expand our drainage and wastewater systems**, to ensure that the needs of the environment, customers and communities are met now and in the future.

We published our first DWMP in 2023 and it laid the foundation for our most ambitious business plan yet, with the **largest investment** in the region's water and sewerage infrastructure in over 100 years.

We're proud of what we've achieved together since we began this journey back in 2018, and we **couldn't have done it without your support**. Now is your chance to influence the next DWMP.

You said, we did

During development of DWMP23, stakeholders championed **nature-based solutions**. This shaped our investment plan for 2025 to 2030 and helped us to secure **£280 million investment** for rainwater management. This is known as our **Advanced Water Industry National Environmental Programme (WINEP)** – a regulatory programme delivering rainwater solutions to reduce reliance on conventional storage for storm overflow spill reduction and flood resilience.

This marks a major milestone in our commitment to **embracing blue-green infrastructure**, and here are just a few examples already being delivered in collaboration with partners.

SuDS for Schools

We've helped provide **sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to 16 schools** to bring more sustainable forms of rainwater management to young people and to help schools around the North West become more resilient to flooding.



The project provided an impressive **78 planters and 64 rain gardens** across the scheme, as well as providing outdoor learning spaces in over half of the schools in the initiative.

Rainwater planters helping ‘slow the flow’

We’re working with the local community and Fylde Council to support **flood resilience in Freckleton** by offering **free rainwater planters** to selected suitable homes in the village.

The multi-purpose planters feature a **150-litre tank that holds back rainwater** to prevent it all hitting the sewer network at the same time. There’s also a 30-litre rainwater storage tank which acts like a mini water butt, perfect for use around the garden.



Through this scheme there is potential to **stop up to 65,000 litres of excess rainwater** from immediately entering the drainage network during just one heavy rainfall event – **that’s the same as 434 bathtubs**.

By slowing the flow of rainwater during times of heavy rainfall, the planters can play an important role **in easing pressure on the sewer network and help boost flood resilience**.

£500k flood reduction scheme with Alder Hey

We’re working with Alder Hey Hospital on a £536,000 scheme to reduce flooding in Deysbrook, Liverpool.



We’re powering ahead with investment both at the hospital and in the surrounding area by **disconnecting rainwater pipes from the combined sewer network** and reconnecting them to new surface water sewers.

£9m Sustainable Water Fund

We’ve launched a **new fund to help local authorities** across the region to manage rainwater in a sustainable way.

The **Sustainable Water Fund** is targeted at local authorities to support schemes within active travel, town regeneration, highways improvement, flood risk management, parks and recreation.

Types of projects that could be funded include Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS), Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Separation.

Looking to the future

As we look ahead to the next 25 years and beyond, one thing is clear: we must **adapt to a changing climate, growing demand, and evolving expectations**, so we can continue delivering a great service for our communities. Here are some of the realities shaping our future:

- **Population** – 1 million more people over the next 25 years
- **Climate change** – more severe rainfall events and drier summers



- **Diverse communities** – differing levels of prosperity across the region's communities
- **Growing expectations** – environmental requirements driving unprecedented levels of investment over the next 30 years

We can't do it alone

Our ambition is bold: **to create a stronger, greener, and healthier North West for everyone, and to do it together**. We developed the first plan in partnership with customers and stakeholders and are doing the same for the second plan.

We need your input to help shape the second DWMP. Your priorities for the North West, now and in the future, matter. You hold valuable insights, data, and strategic plans that are crucial to success.

We've already been **engaging with stakeholders to shape our long-term ambition** for the North West. These conversations have helped us understand regional priorities and **ensure our plan reflects the issues that matter most to local communities**. You can read more about this in our [Strategic Context document](#).

We'll continue to **work collaboratively with stakeholders** as the plan develops, building on strong relationships with partners and **using existing stakeholder forums** wherever possible.

What's next?

Over the coming months, we'll work with stakeholders to consider a range of interventions that could be used to address current or future risk across all aspects of drainage and wastewater – this will create our Options toolkit.

We will then consider what options will deliver the most benefit, and where there are opportunities to collaborate.

DWMP website

For more information, updates, and engagement opportunities, visit our [dedicated DWMP website](#).