

United Utilities Water

Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2028

Annual Progress Report 2026

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Disclaimer

Cautionary statement: This document provides an update on progress towards producing the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP). The updates provided within this document reflect knowledge and information available at the date of preparation and may be subject to change.

1. Purpose

The future of wastewater services in the North West will be shaped by the choices we make today. A growing population, a changing climate and rising environmental expectations mean that a long-term approach is essential to ensure our wastewater systems remain resilient and fit for the future. Our Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2028 (DWMP28) will set out our long-term ambition for delivering lasting change. Spanning the period from 2030 to 2055, the plan will shape how we will maintain and improve our wastewater systems, delivering a step change in environmental performance and building resilient, sustainable services for generations to come.

Since the publication of our last Annual Progress Report in August 2025, we have been making significant progress towards the publication of our draft DWMP28, due for consultation in November 2027. We have published our Strategic Context Document, setting out our long-term vision and ambitions for the North West; established our Level 1 North West DWMP Stakeholder Group; and worked with stakeholders to shape our options toolkit.

We are pleased to present this latest update, highlighting the significant progress made in developing DWMP28. We also demonstrate how the successful and accelerated delivery of our AMP8 (2025-30) programme is delivering early environmental and service improvements, while helping to shape the investments and options to be set out in DWMP28.

Please note that this document is accompanied by a supporting data table 'UUW DWMP Annual Progress Report Data Table 2026'.

2. Creating a stronger, greener and healthier North West

We are proud to live and work in the North West, a region as diverse as it is beautiful, from the remote fells of Cumbria to the great cities of Manchester and Liverpool. Serving approximately eight million people across five counties is both a privilege and a responsibility we take seriously every day.

Our purpose is to create a **stronger**, **greener** and **healthier** North West for all (Figure 1). Customer and stakeholder priorities are at the heart of what we do, and we listen to their views on what we should deliver and how we should deliver it, using this insight to inform our decision making.

The challenges we face are real and significant. Climate change is intensifying rainfall events and placing increasing pressure on our network. Our region is growing, and the environment demands we do more to reduce spills, protect rivers and improve bathing waters that communities love.

Figure 1 Overview of United Utilities' purpose to create a stronger, greener and healthier North West



Stronger

Delivering an essential service well, helping customers in vulnerable situations, investing in local communities and supporting jobs and the economy. Our plan gives the North West resilience in a changing world.



Greener

Protecting and enhancing urban and rural environments and adapting to the challenges of climate change. Our plan allows people, wildlife and nature to thrive, making the North West a better place to live now and for the future.



Healthier

Providing great quality water that people love to drink and safely removing and recycling used water. Our plan takes care of the North West's beautiful landscapes.

We are rising to that challenge. We have committed to our major AMP8 programme of water and wastewater infrastructure investment across the North West between 2025 and 2030, the largest investment in the region in over 100 years. Plans for a further circa £1.2 billion of investment are expected to be submitted for approval in 2027 and 2028, including transitional investment into AMP9, taking total incremental investment to circa £2.5 billion and total AMP8 capital investment to circa £11.5 billion. Our AMP8 programme is our most ambitious yet, and in year one we have made a strong start, delivering improvements across our performance measures, bringing schemes forward ahead of schedule, and making tangible differences to communities across all five counties.

Each July, we issue an [Annual Performance Report](#), which describes our progress against the commitments we make in our five yearly Business Plan to deliver customer service and environmental improvements across the North West.

In the next five years, we will deliver the largest investment in the region's water and sewerage infrastructure in over 100 years. Figure 2 highlights some examples of what we will deliver to ensure that the North West thrives now and long into the future.

You can read more about our plan on our corporate website (<https://pr24.unitedutilities.com/>).

Figure 2 Overview of our commitments to create a stronger, greener and healthier North West.



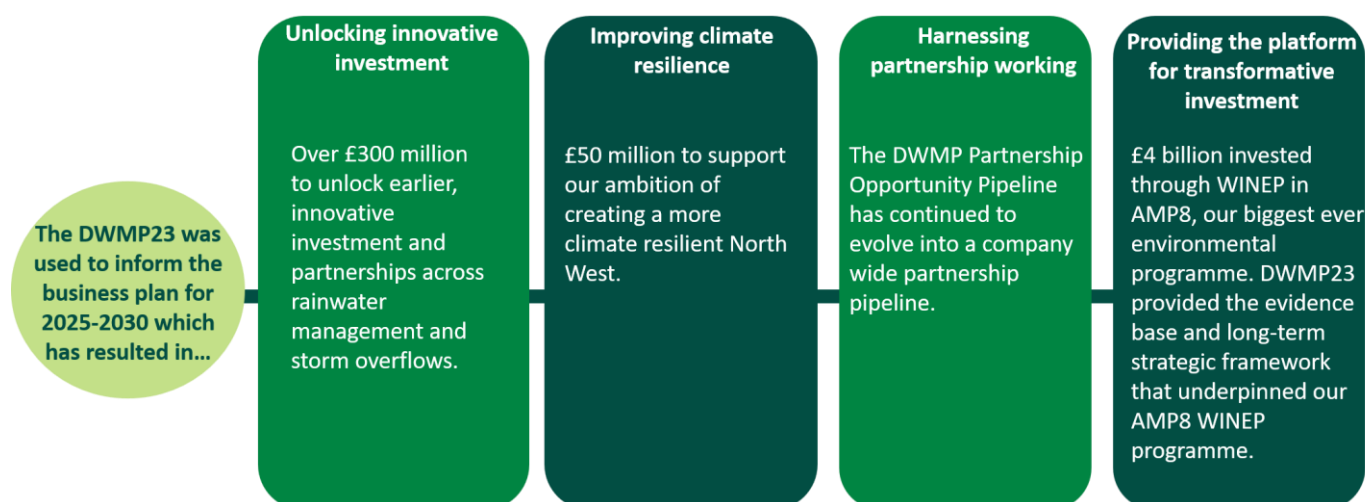
2.1 Purpose of the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)

Our PR24 business plan set out our investment for the next five years. It is also important that we plan further into the future to anticipate the investment needs required to deliver a great service and provide affordable and resilient services in the long-term. For wastewater, we will do this through our Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP).

The DWMP is a long-term, 25-year strategic plan that sets out how we will ensure that the needs of the environment, customers and communities are met now and in the future. We published our first iteration of the DWMP in May 2023 (referred to as DWMP23) which was well received amongst stakeholders, customers and regulators and this plan supported our PR24 Business Plan submission. You can read our DWMP23 on our corporate website (<https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate/about-us/our-future-plans/Our-long-term-plans/dwmp-publication-may-2023/>).

The evidence from DWMP23, which underpinned our PR24 business plan, was gathered from a combination of detailed modelling tools to understand future risks within the North West due to growth and climate change. DWMP23 marked a step-change towards embracing blue-green infrastructure such as sustainable drainage systems at scale to provide multiple benefits across the region, as highlighted in Figure 3 below. We're proud of what we achieved with the support of our stakeholders during the development of the plan.

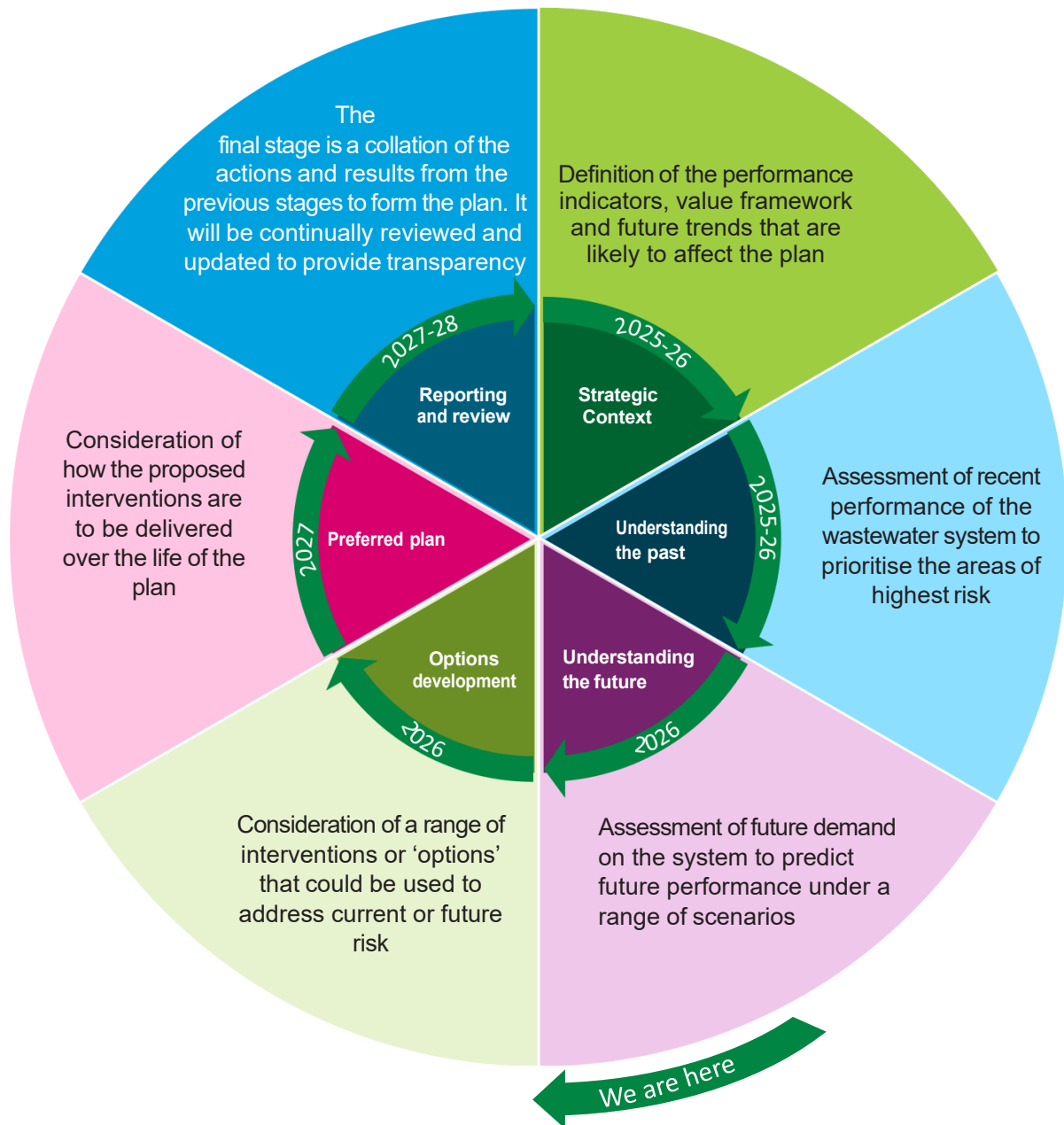
Figure 3 Summary of the successes that the DWMP helped to unlock as part of our business plan for 2025-2030 (AMP8)



We are now progressing towards publication of our next DWMP (DWMP28). Our draft DWMP28 will be published in November 2027 and followed by a public consultation on the plan. We are committed to building on the knowledge gained from the DWMP23 and our PR24 business plan, to maximise its value in supporting the long-term needs of our region.

The heart of the DWMP28 plan will be built around collaborative and innovative working whilst encompassing all activities relating to drainage, flooding and protecting the environment. In developing this plan, we will be working closely with other organisations, such as the Environment Agency and local authorities, to ensure our plan is robust, fit for purpose, and incorporates the needs of our key stakeholders and customers.

There are six stages in the DWMP process, shown in Figure 4. Stakeholder and customer engagement flows throughout each stage to ensure views are continuously incorporated into the development of the plan.

Figure 4 stages of the DWMP process

The DWMP will be structured across four levels of collaboration (as shown in Figure 5) for analysis, studies and reporting, providing a consistent framework for planning and decision-making.

We have a clear plan for how we will engage with stakeholders across all levels throughout the DWMP cycle.

We have established a Level 1 North West DWMP Stakeholder Group to shape the strategic direction of the plan and maximise benefits for customers, the environment and local economy. This group includes environmental and economic regulators, independent challenge group Your Voice and local authority representatives.

At Levels 2 and 3, we are utilising existing stakeholder forums across our river catchments and local authority areas to support more detailed discussion and collaboration. These forums bring together stakeholders such as environmental groups, local authorities and other risk management authorities. We recognise that, as the plan progresses, there will also be a need for bespoke engagement sessions focussed on specific issues and locations.

To date, we have engaged with 22 existing stakeholder forums involving more than 65 organisations. We will continue to work closely with these stakeholders as the plan develops, while proactively identifying new engagement opportunities to broaden our reach and ensure diverse perspectives are reflected in the DWMP.

Figure 5 Geographical levels of the DWMP

Level 1

This is **United Utilities wastewater area**, used to set the strategic direction of the DWMP. We will produce a company level plan to summarise the overall investment in the North West. Level 1 provides the basis for engagement with regulators and stakeholders at a regional scale.

1

Company level

- covers the whole area of operation.



Level 2

Our area is divided up into **14 Regional River Basin Management Areas**. We will work with key stakeholders to explore catchment-scale solutions and produce a plan for each area.

14

River catchment boundary - main level for collaboration with stakeholders.



We will also produce **five county plans** to make our proposed investment meaningful for customers across our five counties: Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria.

5

County level - to tailor the plan to the communities we serve.

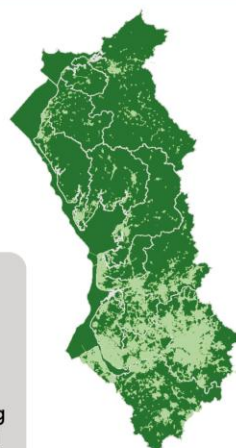


Level 3

Level 3 boundaries include the area of our sewered network that drains to each WwTW. We will produce summary reports for Level 3 areas.

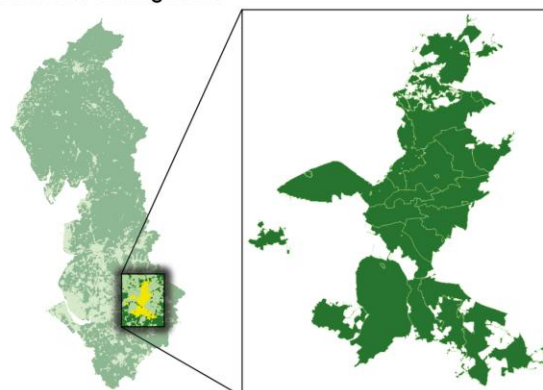
583

Sewerage catchments - main level for assessing and developing the plan. Smaller catchments will be considered as part of the study of a larger adjacent catchment or grouped with other smaller catchments into one study.



Level 4

These are local smaller scale sub-catchments. Working at this level allows planning on a more granular scale. For example, Davyhulme level 3 in Greater Manchester is a large, complex catchment. We have subdivided it into its smaller level 4 sub-catchments to make planning more targeted and manageable.



3. DWMP Annual Progress Report

The different stages that are followed in producing a DWMP are summarised in Figure 6, and our annual progress reports will enable transparency throughout the process and keep track of activity between now and when we publish our draft DWMP28 in November 2027.

In alignment with the DWMP guidance, our progress report is also provided in the form of a data table and summarises the following information:

At a North West company level (Level 1):

- percentage of the total population covered by each stage of the plan; and
- percentage of the total population covered by a plan delivered in the last five years.

At a wastewater drainage catchment level (Level 3):

- catchment name;
- current and forecast population;
- whether a detailed planning study is required;
- whether a water quality impact study is planned;
- date of most recent revision of the full plan including dates from earlier DWMPs;
- date of most recent revision of the short-term plan including dates from earlier DWMPs;
- whether a revision is required due to performance or trend changes; and
- the current stage of study.

The following sections provide a high-level overview of our progress towards DWMP28. These should be read alongside the Annual Progress Report data table and accompanying glossary of terms and definitions, both of which are set out in Appendix A.

3.1 Where are we up to?

DWMP28 builds on the evidence, investment priorities and strategic direction established through DWMP23 and our PR24 Business Plan. This section provides an update on both:

- progress in delivering the AMP8 investment programme that forms part of our DWMP28 launch position; and
- progress in developing the next iteration of the DWMP.

3.1.1 AMP8 Delivery

AMP8 has started strongly, and the North West is already feeling the benefit. Across AMP7 we built a strong environmental track record, delivering all our WINEP commitments, achieving industry-leading blockage performance and maintaining upper ratings in the EA's Environmental Performance Assessment every year since it began in 2011. But AMP8 raises the bar significantly higher and in year one, we are already demonstrating we can meet it. Where AMP7's final year was hampered by the wettest conditions since 1871 causing us to miss our sewer flooding targets, year one of AMP8 tells a very different story. We met our stretching targets on both internal and external sewer flooding, and storm overflow spills fell despite above-average rainfall across the North West. This is a genuinely strong start, and one that reflects the scale and pace of investment we are bringing to the region.

Our wastewater performance in 2025/26 reflects the ambition of our programme and demonstrates that we are delivering real improvements for customers and the environment:

Sewer flooding- we met our stretching targets on both internal and external sewer flooding, two of the outcomes' customers value most. Internal sewer flooding fell by 42% and external sewer flooding by 25% year on year, driven by long-term investment in our Dynamic Network Management model, delivering results even through another stormy year for the North West.

Storm overflow spills- despite above-average rainfall across the region, storm overflow activations fell 23% and spill duration fell 27% versus the prior year. We remain firmly on track to deliver our industry-leading commitment of a 60% reduction in spills by 2030, one of the most ambitious overflow reduction programmes in the sector.

Pollution incidents- we reported zero Category 1 pollution incidents in 2025/26, the most serious category of environmental harm, and saw an overall reduction in pollution incidents despite severe storms in January 2026, driven by our Pollution Incident Reduction Plan including power-resilience upgrades, digital monitoring and proactive sewer cleansing.

Capital programme delivery- despite scaling up to our biggest ever investment programme, our Capital Programme Delivery Incentive score hit 100%, providing a strong start to delivering our **BIG North West Upgrade**.

We were also proud to be recognised externally for our approach, becoming the first UK water company to achieve the updated ISO 55001:2024 Standard for Asset Management, an international benchmark for getting the best long-term value from assets. In the most recent Environment Agency Environmental Performance Assessment, UuW was rated green in four out of seven metrics, positioning us third across all water companies, maintaining the strong environmental standing we built throughout AMP7.

Underpinning much of this is our Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP), developed in collaboration with the Environment Agency and Natural England. Our AMP8 WINEP represents a step change from our previous AMPs: over £4 billion invested across more than two thousand individual actions to enhance and protect the environment across the North West. These actions span the full breadth of our wastewater programme and include:

- spill reduction at 449 storm overflows;
- 888 investigation drivers — the majority at storm overflows — including strategic catchment investigations at Merseyside, Irwell and Davyhulme;
- investing £539 million to reduce nutrient pollution by removing phosphorus and nitrogen from treated wastewater, protecting river and coastal water quality across the region;
- installing continuous water quality monitors at 633 sites;
- monitoring 475 emergency overflows;
- delivering an innovative catchment-scale rainwater management programme using sustainable drainage systems and green infrastructure to reduce surface water entering the sewer network and reduce storm overflow impacts.

Since the start of AMP8 in April 2025, we have already been making a difference to the local environment, customers and communities as highlighted in Figure 6-

Figure 6- Improvements delivered across our five counties in the past 12 months

County	What we have done	What this means for communities and the environment
Cumbria	Delivered 50 interventions across 43 storm overflows , including a new storage tank at Blennerhasset Pump Station and improvements at Kirkbride Wastewater Treatment Works	Prevented 3,040 storm overflow activations in 2025 . Spills at Blennerhasset Pump Station, previously one of our highest-spilling sites, fell from 199 in 2024 to just 31, improving water quality in the River Ellen. Interventions at Kirkbride WwTW delivered a 77% reduction in spills
Lancashire	Delivered 37 interventions across 36 storm overflows , including the deployment of five WaStop non-return valves and additional onsite storage capacity at Gisburn, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Wray wastewater treatment works	Prevented 1,685 overflow spills , protecting rivers and watercourses across Lancashire from storm overflow discharges during periods of heavy rainfall
Gtr. Manchester	Delivered 129 interventions across 125 storm overflows , including adding extra onsite treatment capacity, enhancing automated return systems on five storm tanks, and inspecting and cleaning nine kilometres of sewer	Prevented 4,225 storm overflow activations , the largest volume of prevented activations across any county in 2025, improving water quality across Greater Manchester's river network.
Merseyside	Delivered 31 interventions across 31 storm overflows , including the installation of an innovative WaStop non-return valve to prevent tidal backflow and the inspection and cleaning of 5.564 metres of sewer	Prevented 485 storm overflow activations , protecting the River Mersey and coastal watercourses from storm overflow discharges and tidal backflow during periods of high sea levels
Cheshire	Delivered improvements at 64 storm overflows , including the inspection and cleaning of 9,488 metres of sewer, the single most impactful intervention type across the county	Prevented 808 storm overflow activations in 2025 , including 192 activations prevented through sewer cleansing alone, improving water quality across Cheshire's rivers and watercourses

Read more: [United Utilities cuts storm overflow spills across the North West](#)

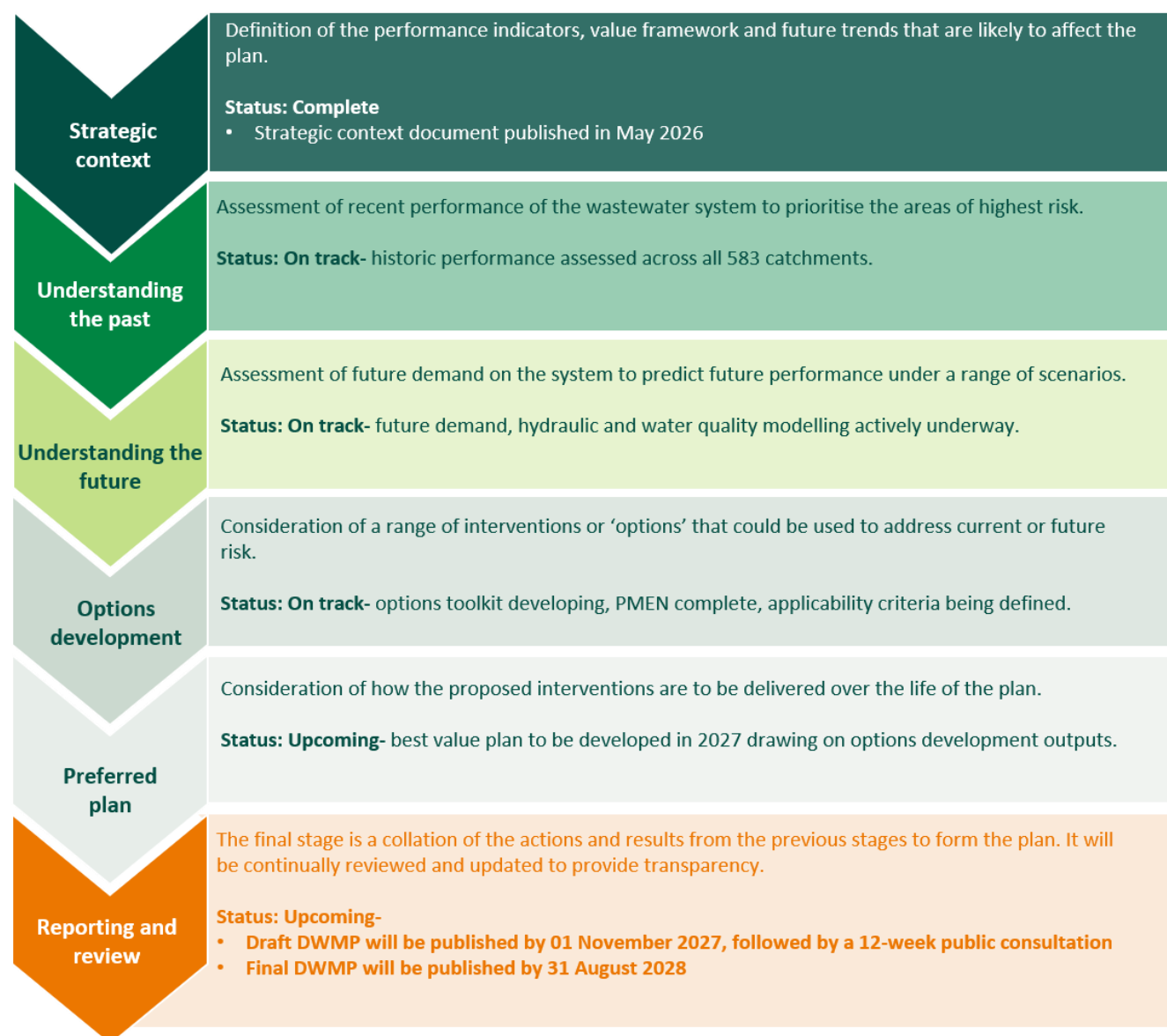
Now one year into AMP8, the full wastewater WINEP programme is well underway, with projects live across all five counties of the North West. Every scheme highlighted in Figure 6 represents a real improvement for real communities, fewer homes at risk of flooding, cleaner rivers, safer bathing waters and fewer storm overflow spills. We are proud to be making this difference, and proud to be doing so at pace, bringing schemes forward ahead of schedule and delivering environmental benefits earlier than planned. The CSO scheme in Arlecdon is a prime example, completed 40 months ahead of schedule. Between 2025 and 2030 we will publish regular updates on our progress delivering this investment.

3.1.2 Progress towards DWMP28

With regards to the development of DWMP28, we are building real momentum. Stage 1 is now complete, we have defined our long-term vision for the North West through our published Strategic Context, and Stage 2 is well on track, with our comprehensive assessment of the historic performance of drainage and wastewater systems across all 583 Level 3 catchments nearing completion. These strong foundations are driving our active progress through Stages 3 and 4, both of which are on track to complete by the end of 2026.

In Stage 3 we are looking forward, assessing the future demands that climate change, population growth and tightening environmental standards will place on our wastewater network through to 2055. In Stage 4 we are already identifying the interventions that could address those demands, drawing on our options toolkit and the insights from our market engagement. Together, these two stages will give us the evidence base we need to develop a robust, ambitious and best-value preferred plan in 2027.

Figure 7 DWMP progress bar



Strategic Context

The first stage of the DWMP28 process is now complete. In May 2026, we published our strategic context, which sets out our overall approach to developing DWMP28 and our strategic ambition for drainage and wastewater across the North West over the next 25 years. You can read the document in full via the link: [Strategic Context Document 2026](#).

The strategic context covers three core areas:

- **Performance indicators:** We have defined 25 performance indicators to assess current and future system performance, including: 12 common indicators aligned to the national DWMP performance framework across flooding, water environment, and economy and community; six emerging indicators; and seven

bespoke indicators developed in response to the specific needs and priorities of communities across the North West.

- **Future trends:** We have assessed the key drivers of change and things that could affect our wastewater systems over the next 25 years. Climate change remains at the forefront of defining the long-term challenges, with more extreme rainfall events, rising groundwater levels, and drier summers all placing increased pressure on our network and treatment works. Population growth is a further key driver, with the North West anticipated to increase by around one million by 2050 and 310,000 new homes projected to be built by 2030. We have also considered the regulatory transformation that is underway in the sector, including proposals set out in the Government's A New Vision for Water White Paper¹, which followed the Independent Water Commission's final report published in July 2025.
- **Value framework:** We have defined the value framework that will be used to assess the cost and benefit of investment throughout the DWMP process, ensuring we deliver best value solutions for customers and the environment.

Understanding the past

We have developed a comprehensive understanding of the historic performance of drainage and wastewater systems and their assets across the North West. Our analysis has given us a robust view of present-day performance, identifying priority areas and establishing the baseline from which we will assess how risks and opportunities may change as we progress through stage 3, where we assess the impacts of growth and climate change.

The outputs of this stage have been used to prioritise which Level 3 catchments require a detailed planning study for Cycle 2, using our Risk Based Planning (RBP) assessment and Prioritisation of Studies (PoS) screening methodology. The prioritisation methodology is set out in Appendix B and has been shared with our Level 1 stakeholders for comment.

Understanding the future

We are making strong progress in understanding the pressures and demands that will shape wastewater services across the North West over the next 25 years. Key workstreams currently underway include:

- **Population forecasting:** Population forecasts have been completed for all individual Level 3 catchments, based on local authority plan data. This gives us a robust, locally grounded picture of where growth is expected and at what scale, informing where investment will be needed most.
- **Demand forecasting:** We are currently undertaking demand forecasting for future flows and permit compliance, assessing how increasing flows from development and population growth will affect our ability to meet discharge permit requirements at wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) across the region.
- **River water quality modelling:** We are assessing future final effluent water quality compliance, helping us understand where tightening environmental standards and increased flows may place pressure on our treatment works, and where investment will be needed to protect and improve river quality.
- **Hydraulic network modelling:** We are currently preparing the analysis tools necessary to determine our future hydraulic flood and storm overflow spill risk across the network. We have developed rainfall models and have been reviewing our hydraulic model stock to ensure models are able to adequately represent observed performance.
- **Asset health deterioration modelling:** Deterioration modelling is underway to forecast asset health related failures including sewer flooding, collapses and descriptive permit failures, enabling us to anticipate and prioritise investment needs.

¹ [A new vision for water: white paper - GOV.UK](#)

Options Development

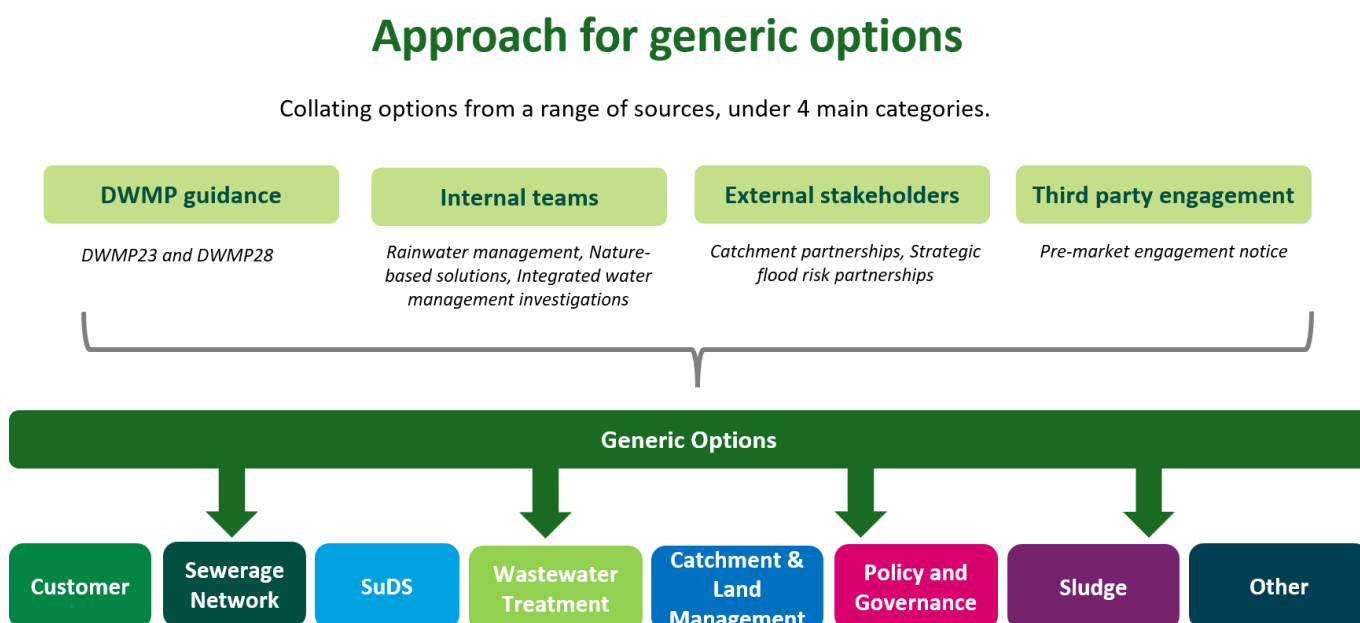
The first phase of options development is the creation of our options toolkit. The options toolkit is a structured catalogue of potential interventions that could be deployed to address current and future risks. It brings together a broad range of solution types, providing a consistent and evidence-based menu of options that can be assessed against specific performance indicators and catchment needs as we progress through Stage 4 of the DWMP28 process.

To develop the toolkit, we have sourced potential options from a variety of internal and external sources, building upon the DWMP28 guidance requirements and DWMP23 options to ensure the toolkit incorporates the latest technologies and preferences of our stakeholders across the North West. This included engaging with over 70 individual representatives, including members of the Douglas, Weaver Gowy and Beacon Catchment Partnerships, the Cumbria Strategic Flood Risk Partnership and the Level 1 North West DWMP Stakeholder Group.

Moreover, to reflect the broadest possible range of innovative and sustainable solutions, we issued a Pre-Market Engagement Notice (PMEN) as an open call for ideas from the market. We received eighteen responses indicating strong market capability across four key areas: nature-based and catchment-scale interventions, smart monitoring, data platforms and predictive analytics, asset optimisation and rehabilitation, and demand management measures.

Figure 8 summarises the broad range of sources that were used to develop our options toolkit.

Figure 8 Generic Options



We are now defining the constraints and applicability criteria for each option, providing an initial filter to identify where particular interventions are suitable for addressing risks within individual Level 3 catchments.

4. What's next?

Over the coming months, our focus will be on completing risk assessments of future performance across our 583 level 3 catchments, undertaking options development and defining a best value plan. We will continue to work closely with our stakeholders as the plan develops. Our Level 1 North West DWMP Stakeholder Group will continue to shape the strategic direction of the plan, whilst engagement through our Level 2 and Level 3 forums across river catchments and local authority areas will support more detailed collaboration as options are developed and refined. We will proactively identify new engagement opportunities to ensure diverse perspectives are reflected in the DWMP28.

Delivering a resilient wastewater system for future generations will require continued collaboration across the region, and we look forward to working with customers, communities and stakeholders as DWMP28 progresses.

Where to find out more-

DWMP Website:

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate/about-us/our-future-plans/Our-long-term-plans/>

News updates:

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate/about-us/our-future-plans/Our-long-term-plans/dwmp-resource-centre/in-the-know/>

Get in touch at:

DWMP@uuplc.co.uk

Appendix A-

Refers to our UUW DWMP Annual Progress Report Data Table 2026 and table of definitions. The table below explains the terminology used within the UUW DWMP Annual Progress Report Data Table 2026, in alignment with the Defra DWMP guidance published in May 2025.

Table 1 Table of definitions

Defra DWMP Metric	UUW definition
The below metrics are applicable at the North West company level (Level 1)	
Level 1 catchment name	This is the North West region that UUW serves.
Population served by each stage of the DWMP28 (planned)	This is the domestic and tourist population served in each stage of the current DWMP process, expressed as a percentage.
Population served by the stage delivered in the last 5 years	This is the domestic and tourist population served in each stage of the DWMP process as part of the May 2023 publication, expressed as a percentage.
The below metrics are applicable for every wastewater drainage catchment (Level 3)	
County name	There are five counties that make up the North West, these are Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire.
Level 2 catchment name	These are the 14 river basin catchments within the North West.
Level 3 catchment name	These are our wastewater drainage catchments that encompass all drainage and sewerage systems in the local area. We currently have 583 across the North West.

Defra DWMP Metric	UW definition
Current population	This refers to the current estimated population equivalent served within each of the level 3 drainage areas. The population equivalent value is the sum of the current estimated domestic plus tourist population, plus the calculated trade population equivalent, in 2026.
Forecast population	This refers to the future estimated population equivalent served within each of the Level 3 drainage areas in the year 2055, expressed as a percentage change from the DWMP28 baseline (2030). Population equivalent is a metric based on forecast domestic and tourist populations, plus trade discharges. Residential forecasts are estimated based on local authority housing plans and data provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) long-term annual growth to the year 2055. The estimates are provided to UU by an external company, Edge Analytics, using the core 'Housing Plan P' growth scenario. To ensure population estimates only include our customer base, the values are reconciled against United Utilities' billing data and validated against occupancy data provided by Consolidated Analysis Centers Inc (CACI). Current tourist population is estimated at Level 3 by our provider Global Tourism Solutions (GTS), with the exception of a small number of sites where a more detailed study has been undertaken. For future tourist populations, the current residential to tourist ratio has been retained. Current and forecast populations have been updated since the previous Annual Progress Report to reflect the latest best estimates.
Whether a detailed planning study is required	Whether the wastewater drainage catchment has been identified as a priority area for further understanding or action during our Risk Based Planning (RBP) assessment and Prioritisation of Studies (PoS) screening process. Priority catchments have been identified using a combination of regulatory obligations, DWMP performance indicator assessments, and bespoke DWMP criteria, as set out in Table 2 Selection Criteria. Those catchments identified as requiring a detailed planning study are subject to predictive modelling and detailed investment forecasting and planning as part of Cycle 2.
Whether a water quality impact study is required	Whether a water quality impact study is required as part of the AMP8 Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP). This includes investigations specifically attributed to wastewater treatment works and assets, that are being undertaken as part of WINEP, that we believe will have an output that may impact water quality.
Date of most recent revision of the full plan including dates from earlier cycles	Last publication date of the DWMP which was in May 2023. Any catchments marked as N/A were not included in the DWMP23.
Date of most recent revision of the short-term plan including dates from earlier cycles	Last publication of our business plan which was in October 2023.
Revision required due to performance or trend changes	A revision may be required where there have been changes that could significantly impact the plan such as updates to climate change, growth forecasts or regulatory requirements.
Current stage of study	Which stage of the DWMP process we are currently undertaking. The various stages are listed in Figure 7

Appendix B- Prioritisation of Studies (PoS) methodology

As part of our DWMP28 process, we have undertaken an initial prioritisation assessment across all 583 Level 3 catchments to identify those requiring a detailed planning study for Cycle 2. Our approach follows a structured three stage methodology:

- 1) The first stage involves undertaking Risk Based Planning (RBP) assessments carried out across fourteen risk categories: internal and external flooding, flooding of open spaces, blockages, collapses, total pollution events, serious pollution events, self-reported pollution events, storm overflows, spills to bathing waters, spills to shellfish waters, wastewater treatment works compliance (DWF), wastewater treatment works (FFT) and wastewater treatment works compliance (non-compliant works). Each risk category is scored on a scale of 0-2, where:
 - 0 indicates the risk in the catchment is not significant and falls below the threshold for that indicator
 - 1 indicates a moderately significant risk meeting the threshold for PoS consideration
 - 2 indicates a very significant risk exceeding the threshold and presenting a priority for detailed study.
- 2) The second stage applies Prioritisation of Studies (PoS) screening criteria to each catchment, drawing on Defra guidelines, with the criteria outputs shown in Table 2 Selection Criteria.
- 3) Where catchment meets these criteria, it goes to a detailed investment planning and predictive modelling, otherwise it is subject to estimated modelling.
- 4) The outputs from this activity were shared with our Level 1 North West Stakeholder Group to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to feedback on the catchments proposed for detailed study.

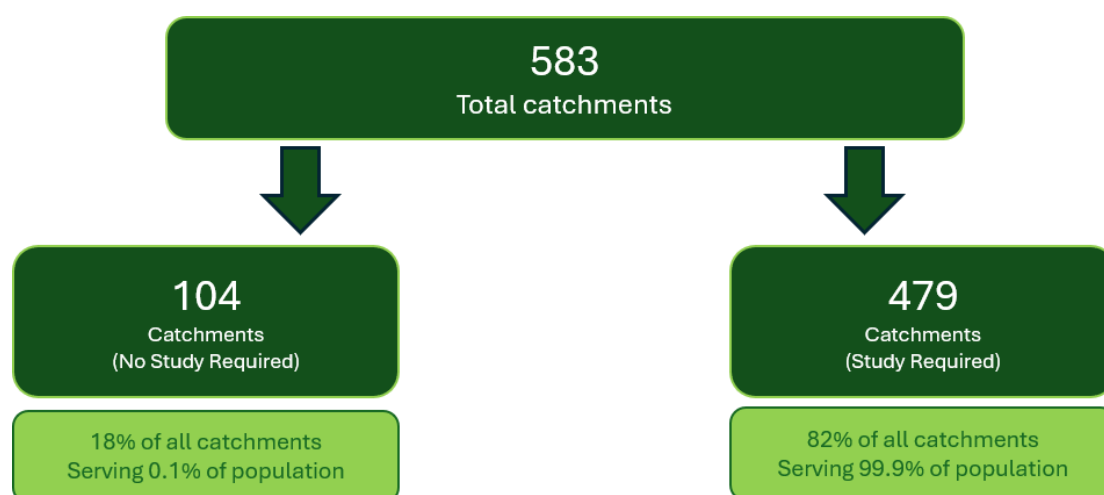
Table 2 Selection Criteria

Guidelines	UU Criteria	Detail
All catchments with regulatory obligations to be met in the first 10 years of the plan	Growth Schemes	Catchments included in the Growth re-opener 2026
	No Detriment schemes	Sites currently likely to require investment to meet No Detriment obligations
	UWWTR Sensitive/ Eutrophic waterbodies	Sites likely to require investment under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations (UWWTR)
	SODRP (all AMPs)	Catchments with a SODRP scheme
	AMP 9 Phosphorus	Assets currently estimated to require a WINEP investment scheme in AMP9 to address phosphorus
Catchments with treatment works currently failing permit conditions	WwTW with failing samples 2020-2025	Wastewater treatment works that have had samples that cause a full failure of an environmental permit condition between 2020 and 2025
Catchments with treatment works currently at technically achievable limits for final effluent quality	Permitted at TAL	Sites that are currently permitted for Ammonia, Phosphorus or BOD at TAL (1mg/l, 0.25mg/l and 6mg/l respectively)
Catchments that include local areas of current poor service such as: • Properties with an annual probability of flooding of more than 1/20	Internal Flooding (1 or 2)	Catchments which, when having undergone analysis through the risk based planning assessments, score a 1 or 2 (moderately significant or very significant) for internal sewer flooding

- Pollution incidents - For England overflows discharging 20 or more times in an average year or have triggered a Storm Overflow Assessment Framework (SOAF) investigation - For Wales overflows causing the greatest impact on the environment	External Flooding (1 or 2)	Catchments which, when having undergone analysis through the risk based planning assessments, score a 1 or 2 (moderately significant or very significant) for external sewer flooding
	Open Space Flooding (2)	Catchments which, when having undergone analysis through the risk based planning assessments, score a 2 (very significant) for open space sewer flooding
	SOAF (Storm Overflow Assessment Framework)	Catchments where there is a storm overflow with a SOAF study required
	Pollution (1 or 2)	Catchments which, when having undergone analysis through the risk based planning assessments, score a 1 or 2 (moderately significant or very significant) for total pollution incidents
Bespoke Criteria	Blockages (1 or 2)	Catchments which, when having undergone analysis through the risk based planning assessments, score a 1 or 2 (moderately significant or very significant) for sewer blockages
	Collapses (1 or 2)	Catchments which, when having undergone analysis through the risk based planning assessments, score a 1 or 2 (moderately significant or very significant) for sewer collapses

Through our assessment and analysis, 479 (82%) of Level 3 catchments require a detailed planning study for Cycle 2, reflecting the scale of our environmental programme across the North West (as shown in Figure 9). The outputs of this prioritisation are reflected in the Annual Progress Report data table in Appendix A, which identifies where a detailed planning study is/isn't required for each Level 3 catchment.

Figure 9 Catchments that need a predictive study and ones that do not need a predictive study



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