

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

To whom it may concern

### **Irwell Catchment Partnership Letter of Support for United Utilities Green Recovery Proposals**

As CaBA Catchment Host and on behalf of the Irwell Catchment Partnership CaBA Group, which has a particular focus on the protection and enhancement of the environment and communities, I am keen to lead engagement through the Partnership to develop new initiatives that help to deliver objectives aligned to the Irwell Catchment Plan.

Having been involved in the development of the proposals that United Utilities would look to deliver I am pleased to note that these support the ambitions of the Irwell Catchment Plan and that a partnership approach has been taken in identifying what can be achieved and how best it can be delivered. The Irwell Catchment Partnership, through Defra's Catchment Based Approach (CaBA), provides a unique opportunity for coordination of a consortium of partners to co-design, co-fund and co-deliver improvement measures on the ground. The Irwell Catchment Partnership is a well-established Partnership with a good track record of leveraging funding, seeking efficiencies and innovating.

As Host for the Irwell Catchment Partnership, I am keen to continue to lead collaboration with United Utilities and others, to align delivery and maximise the results that can be achieved. The Partnership are particularly supportive of the proposals put forward under the Green Recovery to enhance the River Irwell catchment, which include:

- Tackling invasive species at a catchment level to improve access to the river, restore native biodiversity, reduce health and safety risk and prevent further spread
- Catchment phosphorus management to reduce rural and urban pollution in line with the requirements of the water framework directive as well as reducing other urban pollutants
- Sustainable drainage and natural flood management to reduce flooding associated with surface water and sewers

The complexities of the River Irwell Catchment require partners to collaborate in order to achieve real change; partners appreciate that 'business as usual' approaches will not tackle the failures identified or achieve the standards required – we need to find ways of working that are effective, complementary, offer value for money and maximise the local context.

Continued

TRAFFORD ECOLOGY PARK, LAKE ROAD, MANCHESTER, M17 1TU  
GREATERMANCHESTER@GROUNDWORK.ORG.UK / 0161 220 1000

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In summary, the Irwell Catchment Partnership are supportive of United Utilities' Green Recovery proposals and look forward to working with you in the future. We are keen to ensure delivery of these and wider benefits through development and delivery of complementary activities for the environment, and for the communities of the North West.

Yours sincerely,



Paula Pearson  
Irwell Catchment Host Officer  
Partnerships and Projects Lead



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