

THE LUNE RIVERS TRUST

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

Support for United Utilities' Green Recovery Plans

Lune Rivers Trust is very supportive of United Utilities' ambitious green recovery plans.

We have discussed at length a collaborative partnership between United Utilities, Lune Rivers Trust, and other environmental NGOs to address water quality issues affecting water quality in the Fylde area. More particularly, issues in the Lune catchment that affect the quality of raw water supplying the Franklaw water treatment works.

Lune Rivers Trust, in partnership with United Utilities, will engage with local farmers to identify water quality issues, the factors that are causing these issues, and interventions to correct the situation. Lune Rivers Trust will draw from a wide palette of possible corrective approaches including: farm infrastructure audits, nutrient management plans, land use management plans, soil management strategies and nature based solutions to intercept diffuse pollution. All interventions will strive to maximise multiple benefits such as water quality, habitat improvement, flood risk reduction, biodiversity improvements climate change adaptation. The level of funding identified by United Utilities will be sufficient to achieve the intended objectives.

This aligns strongly with Lune Rivers Trust's overall ethos that water resources management should be based on an integrated approach at the scale of a river catchment. The proposed activities in partnership with United Utilities also mirror work that Lune Rivers Trust is already doing with farmers in other parts of the catchment. This project will hence benefit from the experience we have gained in these other locations.

During the project, Lune Rivers Trust will also strive to attract match funding from other funding sources for activities that will complement and build on the achievements of the United Utilities' supported work. It is anticipated that this match funding will in particular build on the multiple benefits of an intervention. For example, an intervention aimed at reducing diffuse pollution runoff could be expanded in order to improve public access to green spaces.

Lune Rivers Trust's involvement with United Utilities' green recovery plans will also contribute to supporting employment in the area. The project will require the recruitment of a new staff member for Lune Rivers Trust. It is envisaged that this will be quite a young staff member who has recently finished university. The length of the project will allow us to develop the capacity of this person to enable them to become an experienced and skilled environmental worker. The Lune catchment is predominantly rural and skilled job opportunities, such as this, for young people are rare. The implementation of the project interventions will also provide valuable work for small local contractors and farmers (who we frequently contract to do the work on their own farm).

Best regards,

Tim Pitt
Trust Manager