

7 January 2021

**United Utilities Water Ltd: Green Recovery Investment and Partnership Working Proposals**

To whom it may concern

As an organisation involved in the protection and enhancement of the environment and communities across the Mersey Basin (covering Cheshire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester), the Mersey Rivers Trust is keen to engage with partners to develop new initiatives that help to further these objectives. We have been actively involved in the development of the proposals that United Utilities would look to deliver and are pleased that these are aligned to the work we are progressing in the Irwell catchment. We welcome the partnership approach taken by United Utilities in identifying what can be achieved and how best it can be delivered in an efficient manner to the benefit of water company customers and local communities.

We are keen to work in partnership to align delivery and maximise the results that can be achieved and are particularly supportive of the proposals put forward to enhance the River Irwell catchment which include:

- Tackling invasive species at a catchment level to improve safe access to the river, restore native biodiversity, reduce health and safety risks and prevent further spread of invasive species.
- 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.

We are fully supportive of these proposal and look forward to working with United Utilities in the future to ensure delivery of these benefits and wider benefits through development and delivery of complementary activities for the environment and local communities.

Yours faithfully



**JOHN SANDERS**  
**Executive Director (Strategic Planning)**  
**Mersey Rivers Trust**