NORTHUMBRIAN WATER living water

WRMP24 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

POST ADOPTION STATEMENT

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Report Title:	NW WRMP24 Strategic Environmental Assessment Post Adoption Statement
Report Author(s):	Jennifer Ridgewell & Claire Lorenc
Saved:	SEA Post Adoption Statement
Related Reports:	Draft Water Resource Management Plan, October 2022 Revised draft Water Resource Management Plan, September 2023 Environmental Report, October 2024 Final Water Resource Management Plan, October 2024
Distribution List:	Internal: Water Service Planning and Water Directorate External: Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England

DOCUMENT CHANGE RECORD

Release Date	Version	Report Status	Change Details
15.11.2024	1	Final	N/A

DOCUMENT SIGNOFF

Nature of Signoff	Person	Date	Role
Reviewer	Liz Corbett	05.11.2024	Water Resources Team Manager
Approver	Will Robinson	14.11.2024	Water Resources & Supply Strategy Manager

Northumbrian Water is a trading division of Northumbrian Water Limited which is a group company of Northumbrian Water Group Limited

Registered in England & Wales No. 2366703
Registered Office:
Northumbria House, Abbey Road
Pity Me,
Durham DH1 5FJ

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIGURES

TABLES

GLOSSARY

Term / Acronym	Definition
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BVP	Best Value Plan
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
EBSD	Economics of Balancing Supply and Demand
HLS	High-Level Environmental Screening
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IEA	Integrated Environmental Assessment
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
LSE	Likely Significant Effects
NCA	Natural Capital Assessment
NW	Northumbrian Water
NWG	Northumbrian Water Group
NWL	Northumbrian Water Limited
PCC	Per Capita Consumption
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SoR	Statement of Response
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
ToLS	Test of Likely Significance
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WReN	Water Resources North
WRMP24	Water Resource Management Plan 2024
WRPG	Water Resources Planning Guideline
WRZ	Water Resource Zone
UKWIR	UK Water Industry Research

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the Water Resource Management Plan

As a water company, under sections 37A to 37D of the Water Industry Act 1991, we are required to prepare and maintain a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) every five years (reviewed annually) which sets out how we intend to achieve a secure, resilient, and sustainable supply of water for our customers and a protected and enhanced environment, both now and in the long term. Our WRMP24 sets out how we intend to maintain the balance between supply and demand for water for each of our Water Resource Zones (WRZs) from 2025 to 2085, to identify appropriate solutions to meet future pressures, albeit with a focus on the statutory minimum 25 year planning period (2025 to 2050). In order to confirm what demand reduction and new supply schemes are required, we forecast how much water we will have available to our customers, taking account of future droughts, climate change, population growth and the need to protect and enhance the environment. Our WRMP24 ensures a secure and sustainable supply of water, focusing on efficiently delivering the outcomes that our customers want, while reflecting the value that society places on the environment.

Engaging with our regulators, customers and other stakeholders is an important element of the WRMP process. Our draft WRMP24, including a draft of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report, were published for consultation in November 2022. Following the formal consultation, we reviewed the feedback and produced an updated SEA Environmental Report, revised draft WRMP24 and Statement of Response (SoR) which were published in August 2023. As a result of the inclusion of the Supplying Teesside Industrial Water option, our SEA Environmental Report was updated again in April 2024 and published alongside our final WRMP24 in October 2024.

1.2. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Process

The objective of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), according to Article I of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ('SEA Regulations'), is 'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development'.

In order to do this, the SEA Directive requires certain statutory plans and programmes to undergo environmental assessment, which includes preparing an Environmental Report documenting the Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) of the plan, including reasonable alternatives, undertaking consultation on the draft plan and the accompanying Environmental Report, and accounting for the Environmental Report and the results of the consultations in decision making.

In the context of water resource management planning, SEA assists in the identification of the LSEs (adverse and beneficial) of the schemes available to secure water supply reliability in a defined water supply area. SEA also helps to identify a preferred programme of schemes for meeting long term water supply reliability through contributing to the WRMP programme appraisal process, informing the decision-making process through the identification and assessment of significant and cumulative effects a plan may have on the environment. The

SEA process is conducted at a strategic level and enables consultation on the potential effects of a plan with a wide range of stakeholders.

The initial screening stage indicated that an SEA was required for our WRMP24 under the SEA Regulations[1] as it constitutes a plan or programme which sets the framework for development consents. Figure 1 shows the stages in the SEA process.

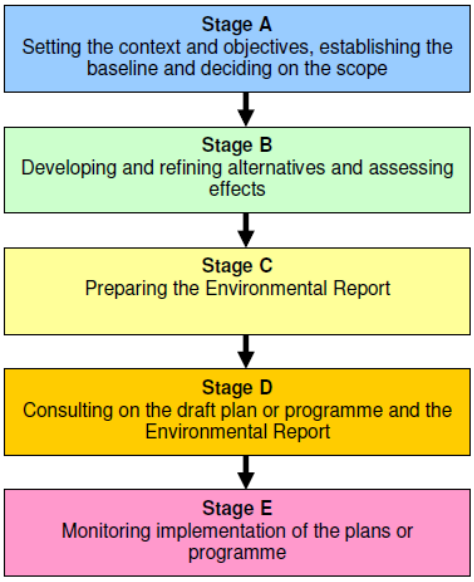

FIGURE 1: SEA PROCESS STEPS

Our approach to ensuring that our WRMP24 protects the environment and takes environmental effects into consideration throughout its development was to initiate the SEA process for WRMP24 in parallel with the WRMP24 planning process and to undertake a fully integrated suite of environmental assessments to meet legislative requirements and the wider expectations set out in the Environment Agency's Water Resource Planning Guideline (WRPG)[2].

We undertook early consultation with statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England, and Historic England) on the scope of our SEA and its objectives. These objectives formed the basis used to identify and describe the effects of the developing WRMP, and those related to alternative options, alongside evaluating if any of the predicted effects were likely to be significant. The outcomes of our SEA were reported in our Environmental Report. We also undertook Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment, Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) risk assessment, Natural Capital Assessment (NCA) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment of our WRMP24 options, where appropriate, which were also included within our Environmental Report.

We published our draft WRMP24 for public consultation alongside our draft Environmental Report describing the SEA of the draft WRMP24, and other supporting environmental assessments, in November 2022. Following the

[1] Part 2 (5) (2) of the SEA Regulations

[2] Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Office for Water Services (2023). Water resources planning guideline. Available at: Water resources planning guideline - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

end of this consultation in February 2023 we prepared a Statement of Response which presented all the consultation comments, our response and cross-referred to the revised draft WRMP24 reports, including the revised draft Environmental Report, and associated environmental assessments, where we made changes arising from the consultation comments. Our revised draft WRMP24, alongside our Statement of Response and updated Environmental Report and wider suite of environmental assessments, were submitted to our regulators.

Our final WRMP24 and Environmental Report and associated wider suite of environmental assessments were approved by Defra on the 21 August 2024 and published on our website (**WRMP (2025-2030)**) in October 2024.

1.3. Purpose of the SEA Post-Adoption Statement

Part 4 (Post Adoption Procedures) of the SEA Regulations requires that information on our published WRMP24, as well as how the SEA has been taken into account, should be published. The purpose of this SEA Post Adoption Statement is to describe:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into our WRMP24;
- How the SEA Environmental Report has been account for in the preparation of our WRMP24;
- How responses to the consultation on the SEA Scoping Report and SEA Environmental Report have been account for;
- The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered;
- The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of our WRMP24.

This Post Adoption Statement is therefore the last of a series of documents that have been produced as part of the SEA process as described in section 1.2 above.

2. HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO WRMP24

Our Northumbrian Water WRMP24 sits within the wider context of the Water Resources North (WReN) regional Water Resources Plan and establishes the water resource needs for public supply and other needs over the next 25 years for the region, accounting for significant challenges such as economic growth, population change, drought resilience, climate change, and environmental destination. While economic cost remains a key consideration, the objective for the regional plan was to build a Best Value Plan for our region and our WRMP24 contributes to this by also following a Best Value Planning approach, as promoted in the WRPG. Best value involves considering more than economic cost, and encompasses providing a benefit to customers, society, and the environment. For WRMP24 we used a Best Value Plan approach as the basis for our decision making to ensure we plan for the right outcomes for society, the environment, and our customers. The SEA process is a fundamental input to the Best Value Planning process, ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated into the plan. The integration of environmental considerations into our WRMP24 ranged from high level policy decisions, for example on leakage, metering, and water efficiency programmes, through to the inclusion of environmental metrics in Best Value Planning modelling, to specific environmental assessments of the concept stage design of individual supply side options and the cumulative and in-combination effects of these options.

The scoping stage of the SEA set the context and scope for our SEA and Environmental Report. Our SEA Scoping Report was issued for consultation to our statutory consultees in June 2022. The report presented our SEA objectives, a review of the policies, plans and programmes relevant to our WRMP24 and a review of current baseline environmental and socioeconomic information for our region.

As a precursor to the SEA, high-level environmental screening (HLS) assessments were completed in January and February 2022 on the supply-side options initially proposed. These highlighted environmental risks and constraints at an early stage in the option development process, in accordance with UK Water Industry Research (UKWIR) guidance[3]. The environmental screening findings were used to inform whether options should be rejected due to potentially significant environmental effects, or whether they could proceed to the next stage of consideration, and if so, to identify suitable mitigation measures to be incorporated into option development if necessary. On the Environment Agency's instruction, the Supplying Teesside Industrial Water option was added as an option in March 2024, after the publication of our revised Draft WRMP24, and therefore no HLS assessment was undertaken for the option; however, the option was assessed against the SEA objectives and screened for HRA, WFD, NCA, BNG and INNS assessments.

Following the HLS assessments, a detailed options-level assessment approach was undertaken, for both supply and demand side options, which was aligned with Water Resources North (WReN)'s Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) process to ensure consistency and efficiency. Each option was assessed against the SEA objectives, which can be found in section 3.7 of our Environmental Report, using defined effect assessment and evaluation criteria based on relevant spatial datasets and professional judgement. The assessment indicated

[3] Environmental Assessments for Water Resources Planning (21/WR/02/15) UKWIR (March 2021)

whether the proposed option would help meet (a positive effect) or prevent achievement (a negative effect) of the SEA objectives. The level of effect was assigned using a qualitative scoring scale ranging from positive effects (minor, moderate, major) to negative effects (minor, moderate, major), with neutral used for no or negligible effects. Where potential negative effects were indicated, mitigation measures were identified as part of the assessment process and fed back into iterative option development.

The SEA process produced a series of four metrics for each option summarising the output information. The metrics were positive construction, negative construction, positive operation, and negative operation effects.

To support the SEA, and inform the option selection, several other environmental assessments were undertaken:

- Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) - a separate statutory requirement, which also fed into the SEA biodiversity objective on designated sites. The HRA ensured that the options taken forward would not affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans. Where potential risks were identified in the HRA Test of Likely Significance (ToLS) process, the next stage HRA Appropriate Assessment was undertaken.
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment - a separate statutory requirement, which also fed into the SEA objectives on biodiversity and water. Options underwent an initial basic screening process and if required a detailed impact screening as well. Mitigation and monitoring recommendations supported option development, with the results used as part of the final assessment of the WRMP24 and its cumulative effects.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) - fed into the SEA objective on protecting biodiversity, priority species and habitats. BNG was considered at both the option and programme level.
- Natural Capital Assessment (NCA) - fed into several SEA objectives. NCA results provided a quantitative basis for qualitative professional judgements made throughout the SEAs. The outputs were also used to inform option selection and to further feed into decision-making as part of the Best Value Planning process.
- Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) - fed into the SEA objectives on biodiversity and water. The assessment looked at the risk, based on severity and frequency of an impact, for each option to cause the spread of INNS.

3. HOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT HAS INFLUENCED THE WRMP24

Environmental considerations, in the form of the results from our SEA, presented in Sections 5.4 and 5.5 of our Environmental Report, as well as the outputs from the other environmental assessments, presented in Section 5.6 of our Environmental Report, have influenced the development of our WRMP24, including the Best Value Plan (BVP), alternative plans and their constituent options.

Our Best Value Planning approach incorporated eight metrics generated by the environmental assessment process. These metrics were selected to show how options contribute to certain topics. The metrics enabled the environment to be directly considered in analysis and selection of individual options and portfolios / programmes of options at an early stage in the planning process. It is acknowledged in our Environmental Report that the option designs were assessed at concept stage and, as the detailed design of the options progresses, the environmental assessments and potential mitigations will be revisited.

For incorporation of the environmental assessments into Best Value Planning, it was assumed that recommended mitigation measures would be applied. The SEA results, alongside selected other assessment results were utilised to create metrics to support the Best Value Planning modelling. The values for each metric were determined using the SEA scores, with minor amounting to +/- 1, moderate amounting to +/- 4 and major amounting to +/- 8. These scores were input to the modelling alongside other metrics to guide WRMP decision making. The Best Value Planning environmental metrics are set out in Table 6.1 of our Environmental Report.

In the development of our WRMP24 we considered how selected options might interact and combine to yield positive or negative effects on the SEA objectives, as part of a cumulative assessment. This is covered in Sections 6.4 and 6.5 of our Environmental Report. We also considered the effects of the BVP and reasonable alternatives in combination with other known projects, plans and programmes in the Northumbria region and in the context of the WReN regional plan and other water companies' plans. The outcomes of these assessments are covered in Section 6.6 of our Environmental Report.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1. Consultation on the SEA

The SEA process consisted of the following consultation phases.

4.1.1. SEA Scoping Report Consultation

Our Scoping Report was issued for a formal consultation to the three statutory bodies, the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Historic England in June 2022.

Following the Scoping Report consultation period, all consultation responses were reviewed and considered as appropriate. A total of six comments were received, encompassing agreement with aspects of the proposed approach, sources to assist in its application, methodological questions and clarifications, and suggested modifications and enhancements to the proposed approach and SEA assessment framework.

As part of a best practice approach to the SEA, we also considered the scoping consultation comments that had been made on other water companies' WRMP SEA Scoping Reports, and some adjustments were made accordingly.

Further detail around the consultation feedback we received and the resulting amendments we made can be found in Section 3.6 and 3.7 of our Environmental Report.

4.1.2. Draft WRMP24 SEA Environmental Report

Our Draft WRMP24 SEA Environmental Report and the accompanying environmental assessment reports were published in November 2022, alongside our Draft WRMP24, for 14 weeks for statutory and public consultation. Following the closure of the consultation period, all consultation responses were reviewed and considered.

4.1.3. Statement of Response

In July 2023 we published our Statement of Response which presented all the consultation responses received during the consultation on our Draft WRMP24, Draft WRMP24 SEA Environmental Report and accompanying environmental assessments, our response to those comments, and set out the resulting changes which we made to these documents, to create our revised draft WRMP24, revised draft WRMP24 SEA Environmental Report and accompanying environmental assessment reports.

4.1.4. Feedback Following the Revised Draft WRMP24 Publication

Following the publication of our revised draft WRMP24 and SEA Environmental Report in August 2023, we received feedback from our regulators to include the Supplying Teesside Industrial Water option within the plan. As a result, our SEA Environmental Report was updated in April 2024 for publication alongside our final WRMP24.

4.2. Consultation on the draft WRMP24

As described above in section 4.1.2, our draft WRMP24, draft WRMP24 SEA Environmental Report and the accompanying environmental assessment reports, were published in November 2022 for statutory and public consultation. Following the consultation period we reviewed the comments that were related to our SEA and associated environmental assessments and made the appropriate changes. These are detailed in our Statement of Response, which was published in July 2023, alongside our revised draft WRMP24, revised draft WRMP24 SEA Environmental Report and accompanying environmental assessment reports, which were published in August 2023.

Table 1 presents a summary of the consultation responses that relate to the SEA, our response and any resulting changes made. To see the comments and our responses in full, please refer to our **Statement of Response**.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF DRAFT WRMP24 CONSULTATION RESPONSES RELATING TO THE SEA

Consultee	Summary of Comment	Summary of Our Response & Resulting Changes made to SEA Environmental Report or Related Assessments
Environment Agency	The SEA Environmental Report lacks clarity.	*Note: At this stage no supply options were included within the plan.* More information was added to the Environmental Report detailing how, during the operational phase, the demand management options are largely positive, with no residual moderate or major effects. Additionally, more detail on the proposal and SEA outcomes was added to the main revised draft WRMP24 report itself.
Environment Agency	Report states Natural Capital Assessment (NCA) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessments have aided decision-making and yet these were not completed due to the plan not including any supply options.	*Note: At this stage no supply options were included within the plan.* The wording within the main report and within the Environmental Report was amended to improve clarity regarding scoping out NCA and BNG assessments. Demand management options are not associated with changes in land-use have no physical footprint and do not require planning permission or NCA and BNG assessments.
Natural England	NW has not carried out its own assessments for the proposed Yorkshire Water transfer.	Hydrological modelling was undertaken. We have also summarised Yorkshire Water's Environmental Assessments for the proposed water export within our own Environmental Report, including potential cumulative and in-combinative effects with our own options.
Historic England	General lack of suitable reference to the historic environment.	*Note: At this stage no supply options were included within the plan*. The historic environment is considered as part of the SEA under topic 7.1, as presented within the Environmental Report. Demand management options are not associated with changes in land-se, do not have a physical footprint and do not require planning permission and are therefore very unlikely to impact on the historic environment and heritage assets.
National Trust	Reserved position on the proposal for the transfer with Yorkshire Water due to the scheme being in the early stages of development.	We will work collaboratively with Yorkshire Water, who are committed to a full assessment of the transfer. Assessments include cumulative SEA assessments for all options.

5. RATIONALE FOR SELECTION OF THE FINAL OPTIONS FOR THE FINAL WRMP24

5.1. Option Level Alternatives

As we are forecasting final plan supply surpluses in both our WRZs with only demand management options needed to meet national targets for leakage and demand reduction, the only supply option needed in our final plan is the Supplying Industrial Teesside option. This involves re-commissioning an existing licensed abstraction intake and raw water pumping station on the River Tees, in order to meet growth in demand for non-potable water to industrial customers on Teesside. This includes applying to vary the abstraction licence (at our Low Worsall and Blackwell intakes) to increase licensed quantities back to 2016 levels, and to install new eel screens at Low Worsall. Given Low Worsall is an existing intake and designed specifically to supply industrial Teesside, the Environment Agency agreed that it was reasonable not to consider alternative supply options. However, we have included the scheme in our environmental assessments, to ensure that are no potentially significant environmental effects following the incorporation of any suitable mitigation measures.

5.2. Programme Level Alternatives

As described above, we are forecasting final plan supply surpluses in both our WRZs with only demand management options needed to meet national targets for leakage and demand reduction, the only supply option needed in our final plan is to re-commission our Low Worsall intake on the River Tees in order to meet growth in demand for non-potable water to industrial customers on Teesside. Therefore, there are no programme level alternative plans to be included within the SEA process.

6. MONITORING OF THE WRMP24

Regulation 17 of the 2004 SEA Regulations[4] requires the responsible authority (Northumbrian Water) to monitor the significant environmental effects (both positive and negative) of the implementation of our WRMP24. This is an essential on-going element of the SEA process. Monitoring helps ensure that the identified SEA objectives are being achieved and track environmental effects to show whether they arise as anticipated in the SEA appraisal. This allows for early identification of any unforeseen adverse effects and would trigger the deployment of any mitigation or remedial actions.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance states that it is inappropriate to monitor everything, but that monitoring proposals should be focused on the following areas:

- Identify potential breaches of international, national, or local legislation, recognised guidelines, or standards.
- Actions which may give rise to irreversible damage, with a view to identifying trends before such damage occurs.
- Where there was any uncertainty in the SEA and where monitoring would enable prevention or mitigation measures to be taken.

Table 2 presents the SEA monitoring proposals for our WRMP24. Indicators have been adapted to those developed as part of the SEA Framework, which is presented in Table 3.2 in our Environmental Report.

Any site and project specific monitoring requirements for options included within the Best Value Plan will be developed during the planning process closer to the time of implementation. Monitoring proposals will be discussed with relevant key regulatory bodies and stakeholders. This monitoring is important to build up an understanding of the developing environmental risks associated with the implementation of our WRMP24, but also to share knowledge, best practice, lessons learned and innovation.

Further information on the monitoring of our WRMP24 is presented in Section 8 of our Environmental Report.

[4] The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, SI 1633, 2004, available here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents

TABLE 2: WRMP24 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

SEA Objective	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Timescale
To protect designated sites and their qualifying features.	Area (ha) and number of statutory and non-statutory ecological sites what will be harmed or lost to WRMP options Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) monitoring	Annually
To deliver BNG, protect biodiversity, priority species and vulnerable habitats such as chalk rivers.	Area of blue and green infrastructure created % of habitat creation or existing habitat enhancement	Annually
To avoid spreading and, where required, manage invasive and non-native species (INNS).	% of INNS risks mitigated	During construction
To meet WFD objectives relating to biodiversity.	Ecological status of water bodies	Annually
To protect and enhance the functionality and quality of soils, including the protection of high-grade agricultural land, and geodiversity.	Area of agricultural land (by grade) lost to WRMP options	Annually
To reduce or manage flood risk, taking climate change into account.	% of flood risks noted in Flood Risk Assessment for projects mitigated	During construction
To enhance or maintain surface water quality, flows and quantity.	Chemical status of water bodies	Annually
To enhance or maintain groundwater quality and resources.	Number of geological sites affected Groundwater quality testing	Annually
To meet WFD objectives and support the achievement of environmental objectives set out in River Basin Management Plans.	Achievements against WFD objectives	Annually
To increase water efficiency and increase resilience of water supplies and natural systems to droughts.	Number of supply disruptions per annum	Annually
To reduce and minimise air emissions during construction and operation.	Local air quality monitoring	During construction
To minimise/reduce embodied and operational carbon emissions	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions per Ml/d Energy use from new operations and change in energy use per Ml/d % energy supplied by renewable sources Reduction of operational and capital carbon emissions Number of options that utilise existing infrastructure Volume of waste generated Waste disposal method by %	Annually
To introduce climate mitigation where required and improve the climate resilience of assets and natural systems.	% of climate risks mitigated	Annually
To conserve, protect and enhance landscape and townscape character and visual amenity.	Number of WRMP options including additional landscaping	Annually

SEA Objective	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Timescale
To conserve/Protect and enhance the historic environment including the significance of designated and non-designated cultural heritage (including archaeology and built heritage), including any contribution made to that significance by setting.	Number of historic assets damaged by a WRMP option Number of historic assets enhanced by options	Annually
To maintain and enhance the health and wellbeing of the local community, including economic and social wellbeing.	Number of complaints	During construction phases
To secure resilient water supplies for the health and wellbeing of customers.	% of people with deficits for each WRMP	Annually
To increase access and connect customers to the natural environment, provide education or information resources for the public.	Number of public rights of way closures or diversions Number, type, and area of community assets created Km of new footpath/cycleway created	During construction phases Every five years
Maintain and enhance tourism and recreation	Number of tourism assets created	Annually
Minimise resource use and waste production	% of A-Rated, recycled, reused material used in infrastructure options Number of options that utilise existing infrastructure Volume of waste generated Waste disposal method by %	Annually
Avoid negative effects on built assets and infrastructure	Number of complaints Number of road closures or diversions	During construction

7. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

Our final WRMP24, SEA Environmental Report and supporting environmental assessment documents can be found on our website at:

https://www.nwg.co.uk/responsibility/environment/wrmp/wrmp-2025-2030/

8. APPENDIX A - POST ADOPTION PROCEDURES

Part 4 of the SEA Regulations Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires Northumbrian Water, 'as soon as is reasonably practicable' after the adoption of the WRMP24 to:

1. Make a copy of the final WRMP24 and SEA Environmental Report available on a public website at which documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge.
2. Provide a copy of the relevant adoption documents by email or post to any person who requests a copy, as soon as reasonably practicable after receipt of that person's request.
3. Notify the public and potentially affected parties of their availability.
4. Inform the statutory consultees and other parties who responded.
5. Issue a statement containing:
    - How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan.
    - How the SEA Environmental Report has been taken into account.
    - How responses to the consultation on the SEA Environmental Report have been taken into account.
    - Reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, and why other reasonable alternatives were not taken forward.
    - The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan.

Northumbrian Water evidence of delivery of the above:

- Requirements 1, 2 and 3 have been fulfilled by the publication of the WRMP24 and SEA documents on Northumbrian Water's website and a press release on 14th November 2024.
- Requirement 4 has been fulfilled by informing the statutory consultees and other parties who responded to the SEA consultation of the adoption of the WRMP24. This has included the provision of the website link to the final WRMP24, SEA Environmental Report and supporting documents, including this document.
- Requirement 5 has been fulfilled by the publication of this document.