

LCR Water Management Update

LCR Climate Partnership 20th June 2024



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A Vision for Water Management in the LCR



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Context

- 2015 Devolution Agreement:
 - LCR was committed to having “the cleanest river standard by 2030 and to a discharge free Mersey by 2040”
 - The Metro Mayor has subsequently brought the “Discharge free Mersey” goal forward to 2030
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority have:
 - Under their ‘Trailblazer’ devolution deal, greater independence in investment planning and delivery
 - An Integrated Water Management Plan
 - A memorandum of understanding with the Environment Agency and United Utilities
- Water management is particularly important to improve in the LCR, being a coastal region with multiple vulnerable areas with high population density and rates of deprivation, as well that 84% of the sewer system is combined.
- Several workstreams of partnership organisations overlap and work is already ongoing to coordinate delivery



Background

- It was identified that a document was needed to highlight key water management issues in the LCR and to set-out a **high-level vision** for where we want to be.
- A **workshop** held in October 2023 with representation from Local Authorities, the Environment Agency, Mersey Rivers Trust, United Utilities, Network Rail and National Highways.
- The document is being drafted by LCRCA and United Utilities, informed by the outputs from this workshop and existing stakeholder work/policy, such as the emerging Spatial Development Strategy.
- **Updates** will be provided to and **approval** sought from, where appropriate, LCR Communities & Neighbourhood Directors, Merseyside FCERM Partnership Tactical/Strategic groups (plus Halton and St Helens), LCR Climate Partnership.
- Indicative timescale for completion is in Winter 2024-25

4 Pillars

**Water
Quality**



Creating cleaner freshwater, estuarine and marine environments

Surface Water



Managing surface water runoff to avoid flooding and impacts on the sewer network

Coastal Water



Mitigating the impacts of sea level rise and storm events

**Water
Resources**



Maintaining the supply of clean water to communities and businesses in a changing climate

Key themes

The vision document will highlight:

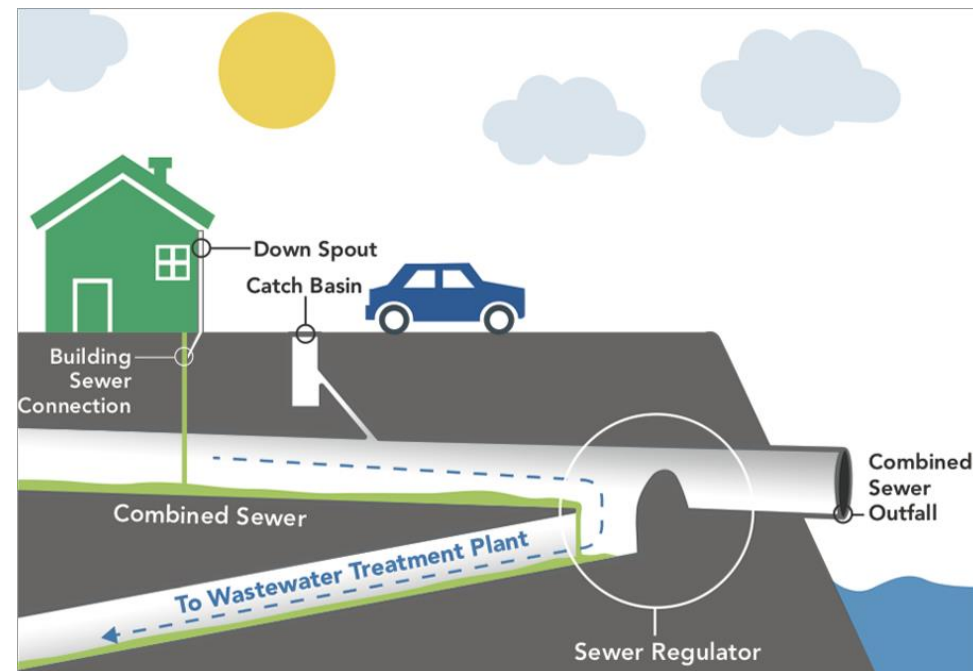
- Issues around **resource** availability for key stakeholders to address issues
- Acceleration and exacerbation of impacts due to **climate change**
- The role of deprivation in increasing **vulnerability** to water-related threats such as flooding
- Complexities around **infrastructure delivery**
- Potential for **natural interventions**
- The positive impact that **personal/business decisions** can make



Improved water quality

The vision document will cover:

- The wide range of sources and pathways of water pollution and their relative contributions
- Complexities around why water pollution happens such as those around CSOs
- The ways in which climate change is accelerating this issue and links to surface water flooding
- Existing projects, investment portfolios and policy to reduce water pollution
- Suggested interventions and co-benefits, including:
 - Engagement with industry, including the agricultural community
 - Accelerated infrastructure investment programmes
 - Natural wastewater treatment



Climate change accelerator



- Wetter winters
- More intense and frequent storms
- Hotter average year-round temperatures

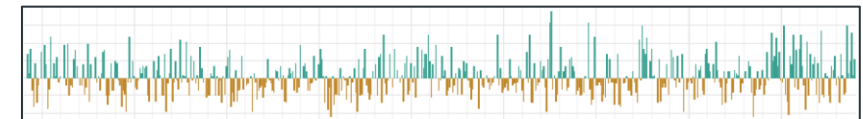
Reduced surface water flooding

The vision document will cover:

- How the urban nature of the LCR leaves it at risk from surface water flooding
- Factors which contribute to the vulnerability of residents to surface water flooding
- The ways in which climate change is accelerating this issue
- Existing projects, investment portfolios and policy to prevent and mitigate surface water flooding
- Suggested interventions and co-benefits, including:
 - Hard and soft rainwater attenuation measures including SuDS and tanks
 - Engagement on premises/garden/driveway design



Climate change accelerator



- Wetter winters
- More intense and frequent storms

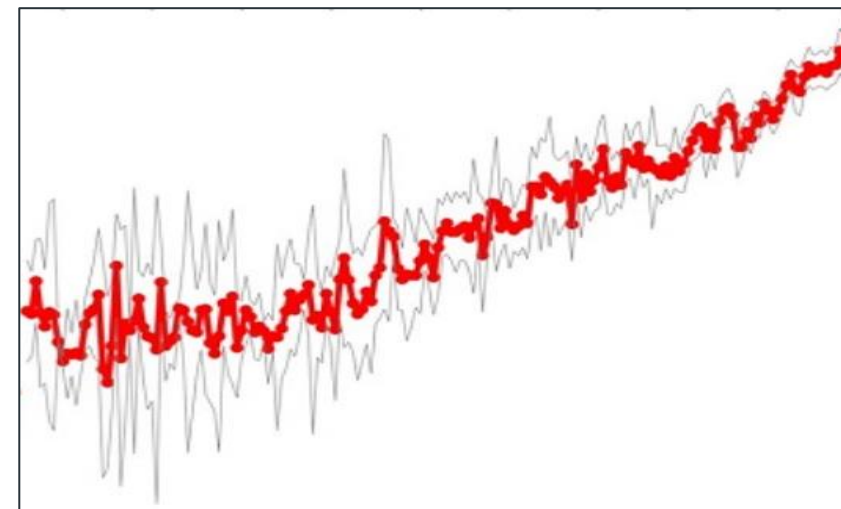
Reduced coastal flooding

The vision document will cover:

- How the coastal nature of the LCR leaves it at risk from coastal flooding and storm damage
- Factors which contribute to the vulnerability of residents to coastal flooding
- The ways in which climate change is accelerating this issue
- Existing projects, investment portfolios and policy to prevent and mitigate coastal flooding
- Suggested interventions and co-benefits, including:
 - Appropriate hard coastal defence measures
 - Dune and saltmarsh restoration



Climate change accelerator



- Sea level rise
- More intense and frequent storms

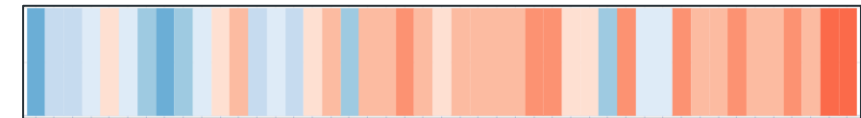
More secure water resources

The vision document will cover:

- Challenges of water supply in a dense urban area
- Regional factors which contribute to maintaining a sustainable water supply
- How climate change is lowering water security
- Existing projects, investment portfolios and policy to increase water security
- Suggested interventions and co-benefits, including:
 - Increased water circularity
 - Engagement on more efficient use of water to reduce demand
 - Reduction of leakage from the water supply system



Climate change accelerator



- Drier summers
- Hotter average year-round temperatures
- More intense and frequent storms

Memorandum of Understanding



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Memorandum of Understanding

- In his manifesto, Steve Rotheram committed to signing a memorandum of understanding with United Utilities within 100 days of re-election.
- Mersey Rivers Trust will be the third signatory of this agreement on 10th July 2024.
- The memorandum of understanding will formalise a working relationship that has been ongoing for over a year.
- It will allow for greater collaboration towards shared objectives and make our voices collectively stronger as we ask for more resource to move faster.



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