

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE WATER MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of the North Bedfordshire Water Management Alliance (NBWMA) is to agree a comprehensive and shared outlook for water management in North Bedfordshire so that: residents and infrastructure are more resilient to flooding, that the environmental quality of our rivers is enhanced, that sewage systems operate to the highest standards and to ensure the area has adequate water supplies during drought.

VISION

The NBWMA will be successful through the coordination of actions by statutory authorities, central to local government, commercial companies, land owners, farmers, environmental groups and local citizens.

These actions will enable North Bedfordshire to have secure and safe water supplies that meet the current and future needs of residents and businesses, together with consistently improving environmental standards of our water courses.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the NBWMA are:

- 1) To gain support for a shared vision between participating organisations.
- 2) To develop a comprehensive, long-term plan (the "Plan") to achieve the vision, focusing on issues of shared involvement or common interest.
- 3) To set timelines, accountabilities, and benchmarks as appropriate to give confidence that the Plan will be accomplished.
- 4) To identify, and where possible, secure, sources of external funding that will assist the implementation of the Plan.
- 5) To meet on a regular basis to assess progress with the implementation of the Plan.
- 6) To involve the wider community in the vision, plans and progress of the NBWMA

The flood risk objectives of the NBWMA

- 1) To develop a common flood risk picture for North Bedfordshire and a consolidated action plan that maps multi-agency activities and progress
- 2) To determine how to develop river management best practice for the River Great Ouse and its tributaries in North Bedfordshire
- 3) To ensure the planning (s) in North Bedfordshire is/are fully aware of NBWMA objectives and apply their processes so as not to exacerbate and, where possible, to mitigate, flood, sewage system overflows and drought risks
- 4) To develop shared response strategies to anticipated or frequent incidents that may arise from flood or drought

The environmental objectives of the NBWMA

- 1) To monitor and identify on a systematic basis the types and source of pollutants in the River Great Ouse in North Bedfordshire
- 2) To achieve Designated Bathing Water Status for the River Great Ouse in North Bedfordshire