

River Basin Management Plans 2015 - 2021

# Register of Plans and Programmes

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## Register of Plans and Programmes

### Table of Contents

1	Introduction .....	3
2	Planning topics .....	3
2.1	Land use planning .....	3
2.2	Agricultural planning .....	5
2.3	Water supply and treatment planning .....	7
2.4	Waste management planning .....	8
2.5	Natural heritage planning (biodiversity and Natura 2000).....	8
2.6	Forestry planning.....	9
2.7	Fisheries planning .....	10
2.8	Coastal planning.....	12
2.9	Flood planning.....	13
2.10	Climate change planning.....	14
2.11	Miscellaneous plans and programmes .....	15
3.	Table of Plans and Programmes	

## 1 Introduction

Annex VIIA (paragraph 8) of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires Member States to include ‘**a register of any more detailed programmes and management plans for the River Basin District dealing with particular sub-basins, sectors, issues or water types, together with a summary of their contents.**’ Although River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) are now the main plans in place in the field of water policy, they are not the only water-related management plans being implemented in Northern Ireland (NI). There is also an array of plans and processes related to land, biodiversity, climate change and water management planning which contribute to the aims of improving and maintaining water quality and enabling sustainable water use. It is important to integrate and co-ordinate these planning processes at a strategic level in order to protect and enhance Northern Ireland’s waters.

Many of these existing strategies, policies, programmes and plans act as drivers for change to the water environment, for example by directing where land-use or development change should take place or by providing agri-environment grant schemes. RBMPs and relevant plans and programmes must be coordinated to ensure that water objectives can be achieved and ensure that plans contribute to common goals and reinforce and support each other where necessary. The relationship between RBMPs and other water protection plans and programmes is two-way, each must influence the other’s objectives.

The focus of this annex is on key existing and future national frameworks, strategies, policies, programmes and plans that can help achieve WFD requirements. It does not highlight programmes at a local area level which were contained in Local Management Area Action Plans for the first cycle.

## 2 Planning topics

Ten planning topics have been identified as significant for Northern Ireland. These are *land use planning, agriculture, water supply and treatment, waste management, natural heritage, forestry, fisheries, coastal, flooding and climate change planning*. Plans and programmes set out under these topics are implemented at national, regional and local levels by a range of statutory bodies and organisations.

### 2.1 Land use planning

Land use planning mechanisms operate at national (Northern Ireland Regional Development Strategy and Planning Policy Statements) and local level (Development Plans commonly referred to as “Area Plans”). Effective integration between river basin planning and the implementation and ongoing refinement of planning policy is crucial to ensure that development is compatible with water objectives that we have set in our river basin management plan.

‘Building a Better Future’, the revised Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland sets out a strategic planning framework for the sustainable development of Northern Ireland until 2035. Its purpose is to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government and it complements the Sustainable Development Strategy. One of the eight aims in the strategy is ‘to protect the environment for its own sake’. Adjustments have been made from previous versions of the strategy to strengthen links

with WFD and ensure its requirements are met. It identifies eight areas of Strategic Natural Resource and provides Regional Guidance on how to promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services (RG 12) and flood risk management.

“Managing Stormwater - A Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within Northern Ireland” was produced in 2011 by the Northern Ireland Sustainable Drainage Systems Working Party, chaired by NIEA. Membership of the Working Party included representatives of Northern Ireland Water Limited (NIW), Department of Regional Development (DRD) Roads Service, Department of the Environment (DOE) Planning Service, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Rivers Agency, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), DOE Policy Division, Department of Finance and Personnel Central Procurement Directorate, the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and Belfast City Council. It proposes that the Northern Ireland Executive establishes SuDS as the preferred approach for managing the storm water discharges which arise from the development of land. The concept of SuDS should be promoted through future regional planning policy and via local development plans. Adoption of SuDs should assist with WFD compliance.

Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) set out policies on land use and other planning matters and apply to the whole of Northern Ireland. The final draft of the SPPS was completed in March 2015 following a period of extensive engagement with key planning stakeholders. The Department ~~aims to published~~ the SPPS in September 2015 in final form in the near future following Executive committee consideration.

~~When published in final form.~~ The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.

NIEA has fed into the development and revision of PPSs and the SPPS to ensure that, where applicable, WFD principles and targets are incorporated.

Following the Review of Public Administration (RPA) the 11 newly formed councils in Northern Ireland took responsibility for local planning and development plans on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. Development Plans may be in the form of area plans, local plans or subject plans and provide an essential framework for guiding investment by public, private and community sectors. They apply the regional policies of government at the appropriate local level. Development Plans inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions within their local area.

It is necessary to maintain and strengthen links between land use planning and river basin planning to ensure the successful delivery of the requirements of the WFD.

## Land use planning

### What land use planning can do for river basin planning?

- Recognise the strategic objectives covering WFD interests outlined in Regional Development Strategy planning framework.
- Ensure the economic, social and environmental objectives outlined in Development Plans

reflect those of the RBMP wherever possible, making for greater ease and speed in plan implementation.

- Ensure the requirements of the WFD (e.g. the requirement to promote sustainable flood risk management, protect aquatic habitats, ensure the sustainable use of water resources etc.) are taken into account from the outset of development plan preparation.
- Ensure that developments are appropriately located and designed to ensure sustainable use of our water environment.
- Take account of the requirements of the WFD in preparing relevant Planning Policy Statements and Advice Notes.
- Actively engage NIEA in the preparation of spatial plans. Promote the exchange of information between planning authorities and NIEA with a view to avoiding duplication of effort and minimising the risk of inconsistencies in the content of Development Plans and River Basin Management Plans.
- Give due consideration to Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans in allocating land for future development.
- Use of SuDs and effective storm water management should assist with compliance with WFD standards.

#### **What river basin planning can do for land use planning?**

- Ensure key partners involved in managing the water environment are actively engaged in addressing issues such as the availability of water supplies, maintaining water quality & minimising/managing flood risk, all of which have implications for development planning.
- Continue to work with regional and local authorities to help identify where development plans can help deliver WFD objectives and embrace WFD principles.
- Promote the exchange of information between planning authorities and NIEA.

## **2.2 Agricultural planning**

There are a number of agricultural planning mechanisms that will contribute significantly to achievement of water objectives established in the River Basin Management Plans. The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 set out strategic objectives for rural development in Northern Ireland. They included improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry in Northern Ireland by supporting development and innovation; improving the environment by supporting land management; improving the quality of life in rural areas; and encouraging diversification of economic activity.

The Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme (METS) is a capital grant scheme delivered under the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. The aim of METS is to encourage uptake of specific specialised slurry spreading systems and maximise the environmental benefits from this advanced technology. These technologies deliver a range of environmental improvements on farm:

- Increased nutrient efficiency of manures
- Improved water quality in rivers and lakes
- Lower greenhouse gas (GHG) and ammonia emissions
- Reduced odour from slurry spreading (wider public benefit)
- Reduced chemical fertiliser inputs

Some £3million of grant aid has been provided to date and this will fund some 300 machines. This represents a total investment of over £7 million in advanced slurry spreading technology.

The aim of the EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) (the Directive) is to improve water quality by reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. The Directive is currently implemented in Northern Ireland through the Nitrates Action Programme (NAP).

The NAP Regulations are supported by a water quality monitoring programme, guidance and training offered to farm businesses and an extensive programme of local scientific research on agricultural nutrient management. The programme included requirements for closed periods for spreading of organic and inorganic fertilisers; a minimum livestock manure storage requirement; a limit on the amount of nitrogen that can be applied to land from livestock manures of 170 kg nitrogen per hectare per year; the inclusion of nitrogen efficiency measures.

In accordance with the requirements of the Directive to review action programmes every four years, a review process for the NAP Regulations was initiated in summer 2013, and a new NAP for the period 2015-2018 has been put in place.

During the review an assessment of the contribution of the programme to achieving the objectives in the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) was also undertaken, thereby allowing for decisions to be made on what further measures may be required to ensure that WFD objectives are met.

Effective integration between river basin planning and the implementation and refinement of agricultural programmes, plans and grant schemes will ensure that WFD objectives are met. Objectives in river basin management plans will also help to inform and target where education and advisory visits and agricultural inspection and enforcement activity are focused.

## **Agriculture**

### **What agricultural planning can do for river basin planning?**

1. The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme
  - Input to and support development and implementation of the RBMPs
  - Target funding of agri-environment schemes towards areas where agricultural pressures have been identified.
  - Encourage Statutory Management Requirements and Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions to avoid pollution to water
  - Encourage Special Environmental options and projects

### **What river basin planning can do for agricultural planning?**

1. Provide information on the water environment (classification, objectives and measures)
  - to inform targeting of agricultural planning and funding to achieve the greatest environmental and public benefits
  - to raise awareness within agricultural sector of the pressures impacting on water bodies and of the actions they can take to alleviate these pressures.
2. Continue to work with and influence other agricultural planning processes to help ensure delivery of WFD objectives and the integration of WFD principles of sustainable, catchment based, integrated approach to water management.

### **2.3 Water supply and treatment planning**

A Long Term Water Strategy is being developed by the Department for Regional Development, in partnership with Northern Ireland Water, DARD Rivers Agency and NIEA. The Strategy aims to encourage a sustainable and integrated approach to managing the different water needs within a catchment while promoting regional development without compromising the environment or increasing flood risk. Consultation on the draft Strategy was completed in October 2014 with the final Strategy due to be published in 2015.

The Department for Regional Developments draft Long term Water Strategy is expected to run from 2014 to 2039. It covers four key areas:

- To provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture.
- To manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner
- To achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner
- To provide sustainable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs

The Northern Ireland Water (NIW) Capital Works Programme prioritises upgrade and investment in water and sewerage infrastructure. The Capital Works Programme Strategic Business Plan covered the period 01 April 2013 to 31 March 2015. PC 13 ran until 31 March 2015 and following consultation a final PC15 determination was published in December 2014 and will run 2015- 2021. The majority of the investment in this current Capital Works Programme is directed towards sewerage assets reflecting the necessary priority given to meeting required standards and realising environmental improvements. This will ensure that improvements are delivered to meet the requirements of European Directives such as the Shellfish Waters, Bathing Waters and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directives which all contribute to achieving the objectives outlined in the RBMP.

The current capital works programmes for NI Water is Price Control 15 (2015 – 2021). NIEA will continue to review the environmental investment required beyond PC15 and will work with Northern Ireland Water to prioritise the environmental issues so that indicative lists can be developed. These lists will prioritise schemes on the basis of the scale of the environmental, social and economic benefits that can be delivered. The output from this process will be the basis of NI Water's submission to the next Price Control (PC21) investment round and will also be used to provide the basis for identifying indicative WFD objectives for 2021 and 2027.

#### **Water Supply and Treatment Sector**

##### **What the investment programmes can do for river basin planning**

1. Plan and fund improvements to meet objectives of the WFD

##### **What river basin planning can do for the investment programmes?**

1. Identify those water bodies which require improvements
2. Establish a cost effective programme of measures
3. Place strong emphasis on source control to minimise pollutants entering the water supply and sewage systems

The WFD places a strong emphasis on source control to reduce pollutants entering water supplies. Drinking Water Safety Plans have been prepared by Northern Ireland Water. Under Article 7 of the WFD, water bodies used for the abstraction of water for drinking water purposes were designated by NIEA as Drinking Water Protected Areas. Production of these plans will link directly with the river basin planning process and both plans will help promote and deliver catchment based measures to protect drinking water supplies.

#### **Drinking Water Safety Plans**

##### **What Drinking Water Safety Plans can do for river basin planning?**

1. NIW have developed Drinking Water Safety Plans to safeguard water quality

##### **What river basin planning can do for Drinking Water Safety Plans?**

1. Inform the process of drinking water safety planning to ensure delivery of WFD objectives
2. Encourage all stakeholders to agree and deliver measures necessary to protect drinking water supplies to support NIW.

## **2.4 Waste management planning**

The Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy 2006 – 2020 and the Regional Waste Management Plans direct waste management planning and control in Northern Ireland and are contributing to the achievement of WFD objectives.

#### **Waste Management**

##### **What waste management planning can do for river basin planning?**

- Reduce the quantities of waste produced and where waste is generated manage to minimise impact on the environment and public health
- Reduce / remove the supply of waste that may be poorly managed or illegally disposed
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##### **What river basin planning can do for waste management planning?**

- Continue to work in conjunction with Waste Management to help ensure delivery of WFD environmental objectives.
- Provide information that allows WM to take targeted action to protect and improve the water environment.

## **2.5 Natural heritage planning (biodiversity and Natura 2000)**

There are a variety of natural heritage plans in place in Northern Ireland such as Habitat Action Plans, Species Action Plans, Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Conservation Objectives for Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Areas of



Special Scientific Interest. An updated Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland was published in July 2015. The main areas where river basin planning and natural heritage planning have the potential to interact are the development of objectives and delivery of measures to maintain, enhance or protect water dependent habitats and species. Objectives and management actions within natural heritage plans will also contribute to achievement of objectives for water bodies in the RBMP.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan provides a programme of action for the UK's most threatened or rarest habitats and species. Implementation of the programme is established through development of Species and Habitat Action Plans and through a network of Local Biodiversity Action Plans. Some of the actions within these plans, which are related to water dependent habitats and species, will contribute to achievement of objectives in the RBMPs. Likewise measures that are implemented as part of the RBMPs will also help to achieve the objectives of these plans.

Sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive. Collectively they are referred to as the "Natura 2000" network. The WFD objective is to achieve favourable conservation status by 2015, where appropriate for those Natura sites with water dependent features. River basin planning can help in the planning process to restore those Natura 2000 sites, which have water dependent features that are not in favourable condition.

In May 2013, DOE published an Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland. This strategy sets out a series of key actions and objectives for tackling invasive species over the next five years. An implementation plan is in place.

### **Natural Heritage Planning**

#### **What Natural Heritage Planning (Biodiversity & Natura 2000) can do for river basin planning**

- Provide more information on key areas for biodiversity action e.g. local groups gathering data on species of conservation concern or presence of invasive non-native species
- Establish links with existing groups and initiatives already taking forward action on biodiversity priorities e.g. Local Biodiversity Action Plans

#### **What river basin planning can do for Natural Heritage Planning?**

- Continue to work with, inform and influence natural heritage and biodiversity planning processes to help ensure delivery of WFD objectives and principles
- Provide classification, measures and objectives information in River Basin Management Plans to inform biodiversity planning processes including the requirement for action to protect/improve the water environment.
- Assist in taking forward measures to address pressures on ASSI and Natura 2000 sites with water related features in unfavourable condition.
- Target resources at pressures impacting on WFD water bodies

## **2.6 Forestry planning**

The UK Forestry Standard provides the policy framework to the UK government's commitment that forests will be managed in a sustainable way. The Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 is inextricably linked to the Forestry Strategy, articulated in

“Northern Ireland - a Strategy for Sustainability and Growth” (March 2006).

Northern Ireland forestry policy is a devolved matter, but operates in a global economy in an international context of deforestation, climate change and loss of biodiversity. The Forestry Strategy is built around the twin pillars of the sustainable management of existing woods and forests and a steady expansion of tree cover to increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide.

Forest management plans are the basis for monitoring sustainable forest management. All Forest Service plantations and woodlands in receipt of assistance from the DARD will have a plan, the detail and complexity of which will vary. Plans cover the whole range of major forest operations including harvesting, planting, aerial fertilising and road-making. Clear proposals for management of riparian areas are an integral part of all plans. In addition, all Forest Service plantation and a proportion of private woodland, amounting to 58% (figures for 2014) of all woodland in Northern Ireland, is subject to independent certification approval and audit against the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS). This is a voluntary certification standard which addresses concerns such as the impact of management practice on biological diversity, the impact of timber haulage on roads, consultation with stakeholders and sustainable management of forests.

### **Forestry Planning**

#### **What forestry planning can do for river basin planning?**

- Implement targets within the Northern Ireland Forestry strategy for sustainability and growth
- Ensure that best practice guidelines and standards are aligned with achieving WFD objectives and secure the effective implementation of this guidance
- Improved guidance based on scientific research for highly sensitive and protected areas

#### **What river basin planning can do for forestry planning?**

- Continue to work in conjunction with Forest Service to inform and influence forestry planning processes to help ensure delivery of WFD environmental objectives.
- Provide classification, objectives and measures information that allows Forest Service to take targeted action to protect and improve the water environment.

## **2.7 Fisheries planning**

Freshwater fisheries planning in Northern Ireland concentrates on Atlantic salmon and eels and there are requirements for the production of management plans for these species. These management plans have been developed in line with RBMP objectives and will contribute to the fulfilment of WFD requirements. Through coordination with river basin planning there will be opportunities to identify measures and actions to be undertaken by a range of Departments that will deliver against priorities shared with RBMPs. Implementation of measures outlined in the RBMPs will also help to ensure that objectives outlined in fishery management plans are also realised.

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) pursues a strategic approach to attempt to address the decline in Atlantic salmon. The Atlantic salmon Management Strategy for Northern Ireland has been developed to meet the objectives of the North Atlantic salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO), an intergovernmental body

established by treaty. The core concept is to establish spawning targets (conservation limits) at a river and regional level to ensure that in most rivers in most years sufficient adult salmon are spawning to maximise output of smolts from freshwater. The Loughs Agency is responsible for implementing this in the Foyle and Carlingford areas and reporting back to NASCO annually through DCAL. In addition the Loughs Agency in conjunction with AFBI produces the annual report to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) on the status of stocks of salmon within the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC) and NI areas.

The European Eel Regulation aims to establish measures for the recovery of the European eel stock. The Regulation requires the establishment of Eel Management Plans for each eel river basin, of which there are three in Northern Ireland, which will demonstrate that at least 40% of the biomass of adult eels from each river basin relative to the best estimate of the potential escapement in the absence of human activities affecting the fishing area or stock are escaping to spawn. Work is on-going in conjunction with other UK departments, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in Ireland and the commercial eel industry to meet the requirements of this Regulation. Essentially DCAL is seeking to arrive at a balance between permitting a level of commercial fishing to continue and ensuring that there are adequate measures in place to contribute to conservation of the species and thus allow for both a sustainable eel stock and a sustainable industry in the future. Accordingly, DCAL continues to operate conservation oriented management policies through the regulation and monitoring of commercial eel fisheries. National Eel management plans have been produced for the three eel river basins. European Fisheries Funding is being sought to implement eel management plans to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel.

DARD proposes to amend fisheries legislation (mainly the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 and the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967) to modernise fisheries enforcement powers and aquaculture licensing. It is also proposed to amend the Foyle Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1952 to allow for the introduction of a system of fixed penalties for inland fisheries offences. DCAL is also proposing to take the opportunity to modernise its enforcement activity (including allowing for the introduction of a system of fixed penalties for inland fisheries offences) and to align within the new legislation, the inland fisheries aspects of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 with its obligations under a number of EU Directives, including WFD.

The Marine Plan Team (DOE Marine Division) is currently developing marine plans for both the inshore and offshore regions, which will be published as a single document entitled the **Marine Plan for Northern Ireland**. It will provide an integrated, spatial planning approach to Northern Ireland's inshore and offshore areas, its resources, and the activities and interactions that take place within these areas. It is anticipated that public consultation on the draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will begin in November 2015.

## **Fisheries Planning**

### **What fisheries planning can do for river basin planning?**

- Ensure that the range of environmental improvement and protection measures undertaken by

DARD, RA, DCAL and LA are clearly set out in fishery management plans and can be linked to WFD priorities in the area and RBMPs.

- Undertake an ongoing programme of environmental monitoring and data gathering that may be available to NIEA during RBMP implementation.
- Work together to ensure that measures which deliver against shared objectives are funded or become priorities for funding from others.

#### **What river basin planning can do for fisheries planning?**

- Continue to work with, inform and influence fishery management planning processes to help ensure delivery of WFD objectives and the integration of WFD principles of sustainable, catchment based, integrated approach to water management.
- Provide pressure and impact assessments, classification and objectives information for water bodies to help prioritise the work programmes of the fishery management plans.

## **2.8 Coastal planning**

In Northern Ireland Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Plans for Ports and Harbours and a Coastal Contingency Plan have been prepared to provide a structured framework to address coastal pollution incidents.

The new Marine Act (NI) 2013 is to be implemented in Northern Ireland. The subsequent Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will provide an integrated single marine planning framework that will further augment coastal planning and protection and contribute to the achievement of RBMP objectives. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is being implemented on a UK-wide basis, as it focuses on achieving 'good environmental status' within regional seas, like the Irish Sea. This Directive links with WFD at 1 nautical mile and extends out to the limit of UK territorial seas. Standards between WFD and MSFD are comparable and there is significant overlap in coastal areas. MSFD explicitly recognises the overlaps with WFD and makes it clear that in coastal waters, MSFD is only intended to apply to those aspects of Good Environmental Status which are not already covered by WFD (e.g. noise, litter, aspects of biodiversity).

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) may be designated for various purposes including the conservation of marine species and habitats, while taking fully into account any economic, cultural or social consequences of doing so. MCZs will exist alongside European Marine Sites to form an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) reformed the marine licensing system for Northern Ireland. The purpose of the Marine Licensing system is to aid industry and encourage investment by enabling more strategic decisions to be made about what activities are permissible in the marine environment. The overall objective of marine licensing is to regulate sustainable development in a cohesive and fair manner.

The Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006-2026 forms the basis for a new approach to the management of the coastal area and will provide a useful framework for all users, planners, managers and developers in deciding how best to balance competing resource demands with environmental needs. It will also aid the development of an integrated programme of social, environmental and economic improvements for future generations. ICZM and marine issues are highlighted in the Review of the Regional Development Strategy (published in 2012).

## **Coastal Planning**

### **What coastal planning under the Marine Act (NI) 2013 and MCAA 2009 the can do for river basin planning?**

- Introduction of a more consistent marine licensing regime.
- Introduce marine planning to clarify marine objectives and priorities for the future.
- Assist decision-makers and users towards more efficient, sustainable use and protection of our marine resources.

### **What river basin planning can do for coastal planning under the Marine Act and MCAA**

- Work with and inform future marine planning processes to help ensure delivery of the WFD objectives.
- Input classification, objectives and measures into marine planning framework.

## **2.9 Flood planning**

Rivers Agency is a division of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. It is the statutory drainage and flood defence authority for Northern Ireland. Rivers Agency responsibilities include maintaining watercourses and sea defences and constructing and maintaining drainage and flood defence structures.

The EC Floods Directive 2007/60/EC came into force in 2007 and will help establish stronger links between river basin planning and flood risk management planning in the second river basin planning cycle. The Directive aims to reduce the adverse consequences of floods on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. To achieve this, the Directive establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks. This framework requires member states to take action in three areas:

- Preliminary flood risk assessments (produced December 2011)
- Flood hazard maps and flood risk maps (produced December 2013)
- Flood risk management plans (to be produced by December 2015)

Significant work has been undertaken to fulfill the requirements of the Floods Directive, for example a policy framework 'Living with Rivers and the Sea' published in September 2008 sets out a framework for the delivery of flood risk management in Northern Ireland for the next 10 years. Rivers Agency has produced an interim Flood Mapping Strategy, a Strategic Flood Map for Northern Ireland and has completed flood risk assessments which aid to the development of Flood Risk Management Plans by December 2015 (draft produced December 2014). The Floods Directive promotes the enhancement and restoration of natural floodplains which may also help deliver certain WFD objectives. All this work will be aligned with the River Basin Management Plan and its objectives. The Draft Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 came into effect on 14 December 2009.

## **Flood Planning**

### **What flood planning can do for river basin planning?**

- Increased involvement of authorities responsible for flood risk management in managing the wider functions of the water environment.
- Cooperation between Departments, agencies and stakeholders to manage flood plans
- Greater stakeholder awareness of the value of the water and land environment in managing flood risk.

**What river basin planning can do for flood planning?**

- Work with, inform and influence future flood risk management planning processes to help ensure delivery of WFD objectives and principles.
- Help to deliver more sustainable options for flood risk management by working with natural processes at the catchment scale
- Help increased awareness amongst stakeholders involved in managing the water environment regarding their role in flood risk management.

## **2.10 Climate change planning**

Commitments and targets for the UK to achieve its goals of greenhouse gas emissions are set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. Northern Ireland's long term approach to climate change is to ensure its consideration is fully incorporated into all policy, strategy and future plans. Climate change considerations must be fully integrated into the river basin planning process. It may be necessary to adapt to the impacts of climate change on our waters but it will also be necessary to ensure that the measures that are adopted as part of the RBMP do not contribute to climate change (i.e. through increased emissions) but rather contribute to climate change adaptation, by for example through measures to support sustainable flood management.

The water environment is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and for this reason the European Commission has identified water management as a priority area in which the impacts of climate change must be taken into account. That must happen in all of the key steps of implementation including characterisation, the analysis of pressures and impacts, economic analysis, monitoring, design of the programmes of measures and the objective setting process. Fortunately, the cyclical approach of WFD implementation makes it well suited to adaptation to climate change.

Temperature increases, seasonal rainfall variations, and other climate changes which have been detected within the UK and Ireland, are likely to affect the existing pressures and impacts identified in the River Basin Management Plans to date. In some circumstances, climate change may make it more difficult to achieve WFD objectives. It is not anticipated that climate change will require significant amendments to currently planned implementation – it is however important that climate change is taken into account when implementing measures and in planning for the future. There is also potential for synergies between WFD objectives and climate change adaptation aims.

The measures in the RBMP help ensure that we firstly protect waters from deterioration due to climate change and secondly take into account climate change factors when developing and implementing measures to improve the water environment.

### **Climate change planning**

**What climate change planning can do for river basin planning?**

- Provide better information and data on how future climate change may influence how we need to manage land and water in the future to adapt to and limit climate change.
- Provide a framework for climate change risk assessment.

**What river basin planning can do for climate change planning?**

- Work with, inform and influence climate change planning processes to help ensure the promotion of sustainable ways of adapting to climate change, such as water efficiency to deal with potential water shortages and coastal realignment to adapt to rising sea levels.
- Ensure that climate change is embedded in the decision making process when developing plans and implementing measures to protect or improve the water environment.
- Consider how measures can help with adaptation to climate change.

**2.11 Miscellaneous plans and programmes**

Plans and programmes that do not fit directly into the 10 planning topics are included in the *miscellaneous* section of the table.

### 3. Table of Plans and Programmes

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
<b>Land Use Planning</b>	
Northern Ireland Regional Development Strategy 2035	<p>This strategy launched in 2012 guides the future development of Northern Ireland to 2035 and helps meet the needs of a fast growing region. It replaces the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) that was published in 2001 and amended in 2008. The RDS has a statutory basis and its purpose is to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government. It complements the Sustainable Development Strategy and informs the spatial aspects of the strategies of all Government Departments</p> <p>The strategy sets out the strategic planning framework for the promotion of sustainable development in the region. The strategy recognises that a high quality environment is an essential component of the quality of life and that economic development must be integrated with environmental quality. It identifies eight areas of Strategic Natural Resource and provides Regional Guidance on how to promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services (RG 12) and flood risk management.</p>
Reform of Public Administration (RPA)	Northern Ireland implemented a two-tier planning system on April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2015. 11 new councils (reduced from 26) are now responsible for local area plans.
Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) The SPPS was published in September 2015	The Draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement was consulted on in 2014 and the final SPPS was published in September 2015 in the context of wider planning and local Government reforms. It has a key role in underpinning the delivery of the reformed two-tier planning system and gives support to the planning reform legislation. The SPPS consolidates 20 current planning policy statements (PPS) into one, with environmental considerations at the core.
Relevant Planning Policy Statements (PPS) will be consolidated in the SPPS.	<p>Current Planning Policy Statements contain policies on land-use and other planning matters, for example telecommunications or the built heritage and apply to the whole of Northern Ireland. They set out the main planning considerations that the planning authorities take into account in assessing proposals for the various forms of development and are also often relevant to the preparation of development plans.</p> <p>All Planning Policy Statements refer to the context in which their particular policies are formulated. The context in turn refers to the requirements of relevant European Directives thus policy formulation should conform with all the relevant legal /statutory requirements.</p>
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	"Managing Stormwater - A Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within Northern Ireland" was produced by the Northern Ireland Sustainable Drainage Systems Working Party, chaired by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Membership of the Working Party included representatives of Northern Ireland Water Limited (NIW), Department of Regional Development (DRD) Roads Service, Department of the Environment (DOE) Planning Service, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Rivers Agency, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), DOE Planning and Environmental Policy Group (PEPG), Department of Finance and Personnel Central Procurement Directorate, the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and Belfast City Council. It



Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	proposes SuDS as the preferred method of storm water management.
<b>Agricultural Planning</b>	
Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2014-2020	<p>The main areas identified for support in the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve the competitiveness of the agri-food industry through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving the skills and knowledge and promoting innovative ideas which will be needed for businesses to grow and become more profitable.</li> <li>- Improving resource efficiency by reducing operating costs.</li> <li>- Investing in capital equipment and buildings to ensure the long-term success of the industry.</li> <li>- Improving the health and welfare of animals through increased knowledge and skills.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To improve the natural environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting farming practices which improve water and soil quality.</li> <li>- Ensuring the growth of the agri-food industry is sustainable through the reduction of the Greenhouse Gases which damage our environment.</li> <li>- Supporting those that own and actively manage the land and woodlands to improve biodiversity.</li> <li>- Planting new woodlands and managing existing forests to help reduce the effects of climate change.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To develop and improve our rural areas through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting economic growth by supporting rural businesses and rural tourism.</li> <li>- Reducing poverty and social isolation by targeting support to tackle inequalities, deprivation, and improved access to key services including ICT.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018	<p>The Nitrates Action Programme implements the EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) which aims to improve water quality by reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution. The action programme is designed to address high nitrate levels in surface and groundwater's and eutrophication in surface waters. It promotes better management of animal manures, manufactured fertilisers and other nitrogen-containing materials spread onto land, with measures regulating manure storage, manner of fertiliser and manure application, closed periods for fertiliser and manure application limits on the amount of nitrogen that can be applied to land from livestock manures and other fertilisers and the inclusion of nutrient efficiency measures. In addition to protection of water quality, the action programme should have positive benefits for agricultural nutrient management and nutrient efficiency.</p>
Environmental Farming Scheme (delivered as part of the NIRDP 2014-2020)	<p>A new agri-environment scheme for the NIRDP 2014-2020 is being developed and will run from 2016 to 2020. The Environmental Farming Scheme will have three levels:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A targeted level, primarily for environmentally designated sites.</li> <li>• A wider level to deliver benefits across the countryside, outside of environmentally designated areas.</li> </ul>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A group level to support co-operative action by farmers in specific areas such as a river catchment or commonages.</li> </ul> <p>The scheme will aim to sustain and enhance biodiversity, improve the quality of our water, air and soil, and help to mitigate climate change.</p>
Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme (METS)	<p>The technology funded under the Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme (METS) will have a long term positive impact on both production efficiency and the environment. Benefits include increased nutrient efficiency of manures, improved water quality in rivers and lakes, reduced chemical fertiliser usage resulting in lower greenhouse gas emissions and reduced ammonia emissions and odour from slurry spreading.</p> <p>The number of band spreading/trailing shoe/shallow injection spreading systems which were operating in Northern Ireland by September 2013 is estimated to be approximately 275 following the second tranche of the METS. Over 90 % of the machines are fitted with trailing shoe equipment.</p>
Education and awareness programme run by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)	<p>The programme aims to encourage a greater understanding of the role farmer's play in caring for their environment, issues affecting agriculture and the environment, by providing information on biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, habitat management, endangered species, water quality and waste management.</p>
<b>Water / Wastewater Treatment and Supply Planning</b>	
Long Term Water Strategy 2014 - 2039	<p>The Department for Regional Development has completed a public consultation on a Draft Long Term Water and Strategy for Northern Ireland (2014-2039)</p> <p>The document presents a clear framework for action which will facilitate a range of initiatives aimed at delivering "a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland".</p> <p>The Draft Strategy has 4 key strategic aims;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture;</li> <li>• to manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner,</li> <li>• to achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner; and</li> <li>• to provide sustainable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs</li> </ul> <p>Consultation on the draft strategy was completed in October 2014 with the final consultation report published in April 2015. The final strategy will be published in 2015.</p>
PC 15 Business Plan for the period 2015 to 2021	<p>Following completion of PC 10 and PC13, PC15 will run from 2015 to 2021. The final determination is the economic regulator's (Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation) assessment of NI Water revenue requirements over this six year period. The PC15 price control proposals were subject to a period of public consultation which closed on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Following the consultation a final PC15 determination was published in December 2015, and is still</p>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	subject to PC settlement.
Rural works upgrade programme	For small wastewater treatment works a priority list has been developed by Northern Ireland Water in conjunction with <a href="#">Planning Service and NIEA</a> . <a href="#">Headroom and growth requirements are considered during the prioritisation of works for upgrade</a> . Delivery of upgrades is subject to allocation of funding throughout PC15.
Drinking Water Safety Plans	Drinking Water Safety Plans have been prepared by Northern Ireland Water. Under Article 7 of the WFD, water bodies used for the abstraction of water for drinking water purposes are to be designated by NIEA as Drinking Water Protected Areas. The plans act as a means of assessing hazards and controlling any risks from those hazards within the collection, abstraction, treatment and distribution of drinking water. This process enables Northern Ireland Water to determine whether any actions are required to reduce or eliminate the risk. The actions could be improved operational or maintenance procedures or they could require capital investment in new controls or barriers. Drinking Water Safety Plans also help identify where catchment based measures are required to protect drinking water sources.
Groundwater Protection Strategy	This strategy is under development, publication expected in 2017 following consultation. It aims to set out the legislative framework and principles for the management and protection of groundwater resources from pollution and demand for now and into the future.
Drainage Area Plans	The sewer network in a number of towns and villages throughout Northern Ireland has been or will be appraised through Drainage Area Studies. Northern Ireland Water is taking forward this programme of just over 100 drainage-area studies across the larger areas of population in Northern Ireland. The studies use models to assess the hydraulic capability of the drainage systems to cater for current and future development. The drainage-area studies will determine the improvements required to the sewerage network in order to reduce pollution and the risk of flooding and to meet environmental objectives within a 30-year horizon. Drainage Area Plans are developed and implemented as a result of these studies. A consultation in December 2013 brought proposals forward to widen the scope of Drainage Area Studies Plans to include 'design for excellence' in high flood risk areas and include an emphasis on improving sewerage records held on the corporate Asset Register (CAR).
<b>Waste Management Planning</b>	
Towards Resource Management – The Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy 2006-2020	The aim of the Waste Management Strategy is to manage waste and resources effectively by using material resources in a way that reduces the quantities of waste produced and, where waste is generated, to manage it in a way that minimises its impact on the environment and public health. The strategy places emphasis on waste prevention and reinforces the need to increase waste recycling and recovery through a mixture of approaches including the renewal of recycling targets, focused awareness campaigns and the possible introduction of incentive schemes. Volume 2 contains a set of waste stream summaries.
Revised Waste Management Strategy	The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy entitled 'Delivering Resource Efficiency' sets the policy framework for the management of waste in Northern Ireland, and contains actions and targets to meet EU Directive requirements and the Department's Programme for Government commitments. This includes the development of a waste Prevention Programme. The programme was revised in January 2013 via consultation. A synopsis of the consultation responses was published in April 2013.
Operational Waste Plan	The Operational Waste Plan published in 2014 underpins the NI Waste Management Strategy and is designed to help reduce / remove the supply of waste that may be poorly managed or illegally disposed.
Mills Action Plan	Details the measures for implementing the 14 recommendations of the Mills Review ( A review of waste disposal at the

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Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	Mobyuoy site and the lessons learnt for the future regulation of the waste industry in Northern Ireland)
Landfill site closure plans	<p>A mechanism for the Closure of Landfill Sites in Northern Ireland was finalised at the start of 2008 in conjunction with local councils. Closure plans for individual landfill sites were adopted using this framework and address a number of issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the current site conditions, both environmentally and physically;</li> <li>• recommendations for works to minimise the environmental impact of the site after the site's closure, and to comply with the requirements of the Landfill Directive; and</li> <li>• Provisional cost estimates for the recommended works.</li> </ul> <p>In 2010, there was an agreement with the minister on funding of the closure plans</p>
North West Region Waste Management Plan 2006-2020	<p>The purpose of the Plan is to set out a framework for the management of controlled wastes arising in the North West Region over the period 2006 to 2020. This includes identifying capacity needs, potential sites and/or siting criteria, and the services needed for the collection, treatment and disposal of the wastes.</p> <p>The North West Region plan was prepared by the North West Region Waste Management Group and consists of three councils- Causeway Coast and Glens, Derry City and Strabane and Mid-Ulster Districts (formerly Ballymoney Borough Council; Coleraine Borough Council; Derry City Council; Limavady Borough Council; Magherafelt District Council; Moyle District Council; and Strabane District Council)</p>
Arc 21 (Eastern) Region Waste Management Plan 2006-2020	<p>The Arc21 (formerly Eastern Region Waste Management Group) Waste Management Plan was adopted in January 2003. The central focus of the plan is an analysis of the waste streams arising in the Arc21 Region and associated potential for waste prevention, recycling and recovery and disposal. The plan sets out the range of facilities that will be needed to deliver the strategic targets and criteria for locating these.</p> <p>The Arc21 region plan is governed by a collective agreement by 6 councils - Mid and East Antrim District, Antrim and Newtownabbey District, North Down and Ards District, Newry City, Mourne and Down District, Lisburn City and Castlereagh District and Belfast City Council (formerly Ballymena Borough Council, Antrim Borough Council, Ards Borough Council, Down District Council, Carrickfergus Borough Council, Newtownabbey Borough Council, North Down Borough Council, Castlereagh Borough Council, Larne Borough Council and Belfast and Lisburn City Councils).</p>
Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2006-2020	<p>The purpose of the Plan is to set out a framework for the management of controlled wastes arising in the southern region of Northern Ireland over the period 2006 to 2020. This includes identifying capacity needs, potential sites and/or siting criteria, and the services needed for the collection, treatment and disposal of the wastes.</p> <p>The Southern regional plan is managed by the Southern Waste Management Partnership comprised of four councils- Fermanagh and Omagh, Mid-Ulster, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and Newry City, Mourne and Down Districts (formerly Fermanagh District Council, Omagh District Council, Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, Cookstown District Council, Armagh City and District Council, Craigavon Borough Council, Banbridge District Council, Newry and Mourne District Council).</p>
Port Waste Management Plans	<p>The Merchant Shipping (Port Waste Reception Facilities) Regulations 2003 (S.R. 2003/1809) require harbour authorities in the UK to prepare a waste management plan with respect to the provision and use of facilities for the management of prescribed wastes from ships using the port. This encourages the regular disposal of vessel generated wastes in an environmentally correct manner and incorporates the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle.</p>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
<b>Natural Heritage Planning (Natura 2000 and Biodiversity)</b>	
Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy	In October 2000 the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group's 'Recommendations to Government for a Biodiversity Strategy' outlined a series of recommendations to further protect Northern Ireland's biodiversity. It provided specific recommendations to produce a range of Habitat and Species Action Plans which aimed to protect Northern Ireland's wetlands and coastal resource. Following on from this in August 2002 the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy was launched and a revised version was published in July 2015.
Northern Ireland Biodiversity Delivery Groups	Following on from the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group's 'Recommendations to Government for a Biodiversity Strategy' in 2000 Six Biodiversity Delivery Groups have been set up. One of these groups looks specifically at Wetland Habitats and Species. Whilst other groups cover water dependent habitats and species such as the Peatlands and Uplands Biodiversity Delivery Group and the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Group.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	The UK Biodiversity Action Plan sets out the governments commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity signed in 1992. It provides a detailed plan for the protection of these resources and includes Species Action Plans, Habitat Action Plans and Local Biodiversity Action Plans.
Northern Ireland Habitat Action Plans (HAPs)	<p>Habitat Action Plans have been developed for 37 priority habitats in Northern Ireland, of which a variety are water dependent. Linkages between the River Basin Management Plan and the Habitat Action Plans are required to ensure that conservation and Water Framework Directive requirements are met and aligned.</p> <p>Details on each of these plans can be found in the Biodiversity section of the NIEA website (<a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity</a>).</p>
Northern Ireland Species Action Plans (SAPs)	<p>A list of Northern Ireland priority species was published in March 2004 and subsequently approved by the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group in October 2004. This list formed the basis for selecting species requiring Northern Ireland Species Action Plans.</p> <p>To date detailed SAPs have been developed for 34 priority species in Northern Ireland and for 7 species at an All-Ireland level. A number of these species are water dependent and therefore linkages between the River Basin Management Plan and the individual Species Action Plan are required to ensure that conservation and Water Framework Directive requirements are met.</p> <p>Details on each of these plans can be found in the Biodiversity section of the NIEA website (<a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity</a>).</p>
Regional Management Groups	Across Northern Ireland there are a series of regional management groups, such as the Strangford Lough Management Committee and the Lough Neagh Advisory Committee. These regional management groups consist of representatives with an interest in the management of their wetland and coastal resource. Several of these groups have developed Management Strategies and/or websites which take into account the conservation and enhancement

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	of the natural environment.
Local Biodiversity Action Plans	The Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) listed have been developed by local councils in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and NGOs. They aim to conserve biodiversity through local partnerships, taking into account both national and local priorities. LBAPs involve local people and local organisations through the practical delivery of biodiversity conservation.
'Our Nature with Aggregates' Strategy	The strategy aims to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in the Aggregates and Quarry Products Industry in Northern Ireland. It is a five year strategy that guides the protection, enhancement and management of biodiversity and geodiversity on the variety of quarries and associated products manufacturing sites belonging to Quarry Products Association NI (QPANI) member companies. Under the strategy the QPANI and its member companies will work together with government, planners, councils and nature conservation organisations to achieve shared goals, for the benefit of wildlife and society.
Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme (ALCS)	On joining the ALCS mineral extractors, including quarry operators and sand and gravel extractors sign a legal agreement to comply with all regulatory requirements and to carry out environmental improvements identified by the Department of the Environment (DOE), following periodic review. On joining the Scheme operators receive a Code of Practice and Audit Protocol which identifies the type of environmental requirements needed to remain within the Scheme. In order to avail of the Scheme (80% reduction in the Levy), an operator must have in place and comply with all relevant environmental consents/licenses. Regular audits are carried out by the DOE to assess compliance with the scheme.
Local Biodiversity Action Plans for quarries	A number of QPANI member companies have prepared company site Biodiversity Action Plans, detailing priority habitat and species and management plans.
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have Conservation Objectives  Special Area of Protection (SPAs) have Conservation Objectives	SAC and SPA Conservation Objectives include descriptive information about the site and have a management framework section which outlines objectives and management actions for the site.  Site condition is monitored as a requirement of the Habitats Directive through Common Standards Monitoring. Through this monitoring these sites are classified into condition categories based upon their features.  Restoration Plans will be produced for those sites which are deemed to be in unfavourable condition.  NIEA requires an Appropriate Assessment to be carried out on activities that could potentially be damaging to these sites under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)	Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are areas that have been identified as being of the highest degree of conservation value. ASSIs are found across Northern Ireland in each of our River Basin Districts. Many of these ASSIs contain water dependent habitats and species.  ASSI Conservation Objectives include descriptive information about the site and have a management framework

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	<p>section which outlines objectives and management actions for the site.</p> <p>Details of ASSIs can be found in the Biodiversity Section of the NIEA website (<a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/biodiversity</a>).</p>
NIEA Natural Heritage Grant Aid Programme	The Northern Ireland Environment Agency administers the Natural Heritage Grant Programme to support projects in Northern Ireland to encourage the conservation and enhancement of key elements of the environment and its wildlife, and the provision of facilities which help as wide a range of people as possible to enjoy and appreciate our natural heritage.
DOE Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland.	This strategy was published in 2013 and sets out a series of key actions and objectives for tackling invasive species over the next five years. An implementation plan is in place.
<b>Forestry Planning</b>	
Northern Ireland Forestry - a Strategy for Sustainability and Growth 2006	The strategy focuses on how more forests can be created and on the sustainable management of existing forests. It commits the Forest Service to continuing in its role as the major source of advice on forestry and promoting the use of forests and forest products. It will also continue to be the main provider of access to forest based recreation and of timber and forest products. The Strategy commits the government to ensuring that all forests are managed to national standards.
Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010	<p>The Forestry Act is built around the twin pillars of the sustainable management of existing woods and forests and a steady expansion of tree cover to increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide. It will also promote the protection of the environment, biodiversity and the mitigation of, or adaptation to, climate change.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Forestry policy is a devolved matter, but operates in a global economy in an international context of deforestation, climate change and loss of biodiversity.</p>
Forest Management Plans	All Forest Service woodlands are subject to a detailed management planning process and are reviewed on a five-yearly rolling basis. The plans cover the full range of major forest operations. The protection and improvement of water quality is a key consideration when preparing forest management plans. Design plans are prepared clearly identifying riparian zones and their future management objective of improvement of biodiversity. Plans are subject to wide consultation ranging from statutory bodies to local populations.
Short Rotation Coppice Scheme	<p>This scheme supports the planting of Short Rotation Coppice crops for renewable energy purposes.</p> <p>All proposed Woodland Grant Schemes must comply with the UK Forestry Standard and Guidelines including the Forests and Water Guidelines. Special conditions may apply where planting is proposed within sensitive water catchment areas following consultation with NIEA. Grants are conditional on such conditions being met.</p>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
Community Woodland Supplement Grant	This scheme aims to encourage the creation of new woodlands and the management of existing woodlands by providing money towards the cost of the work involved.
Farm Woodland Premium Scheme	This scheme is designed to encourage the creation of new woodlands on farms through annual payments which help offset the loss of income resulting from taking the land out of agriculture.
Woodland Certification under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard	The UK Woodland Assurance Standard is a voluntary standard primarily for use in UK woodlands and verified through independent audit. This standard covers the key components of sustainable forest management. It addresses legislative issues, management planning, and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. The majority of Woodland's in Northern Ireland have been certified in accordance with this standard.
<b>Fishery Planning</b>	
Northern Ireland Atlantic Salmon Management Strategy and Plans	<p>The main objective of the Atlantic Salmon Management Strategy is to conserve, enhance, restore and rationally manage salmon stocks in catchments throughout Northern Ireland through Catchment Management Plans (CMPs). The core concept of the plans is to establish spawning targets at a river and regional level. The central aim of management is to ensure that in most rivers in most years sufficient adult salmon are spawning to maximise output of smolts from freshwater. The river or catchment is monitored for salmon numbers and where levels are not being attained the problem is identified and addressed. Implementation of the plans is reported to and assessed by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO).</p> <p>CMPs will aim to provide a scientific evaluation of each salmon population and its habitats at catchment or sub catchment level including an assessment of Conservation Limits, an evaluation of quantity and quality of habitat units, identification of impacts and threats, and prioritisation of management actions in consultation with stakeholders.</p>
Consultation on Policy Proposals for a Fisheries Bill, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, August 2014, consultation ended on November 10 <sup>th</sup> 2014.	<p>DARD proposes to amend fisheries legislation, mainly the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 and the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967, to modernise fisheries enforcement powers and aquaculture licensing. It is also proposed to amend the Foyle Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1952 to allow for the introduction of a system of fixed penalties for inland fisheries offences.</p> <p>DCAL is also proposing to take the opportunity to modernise its enforcement activity (including allowing for the introduction of a system of fixed penalties for inland fisheries offences) and to align within the new legislation, the inland fisheries aspects of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 with its obligations under a number of EU Directives, including WFD.</p>
Eel management plans and legislation	The European Commission adopted the European Eel Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 on 18 September 2007 which aims to establish measures for the recovery of the European eel stock. The main aim is to permit the escapement to the sea of at least 40% of the biomass of adult eels relative to the best estimate of escapement that would have existed if no human influences had impacted the stock. Measures to attain this target might include reduction in commercial



Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	<p>fishing effort, restocking measures, improvement of passage, combating predators and addressing problems caused by hydro electric power stations. The Regulation requires the establishment of Eel Management Plans for each river basin district; these were published by DCAL in 2010.</p> <p><a href="http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/inland_waterways-fisheries-r08/angling-conservation-and-protection/eel_conservation.htm">http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/inland_waterways-fisheries-r08/angling-conservation-and-protection/eel_conservation.htm</a></p> <p>DCAL have also introduced the Eel Fishing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 (<b>Eel Fishing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011</b>) to arrive at a balance between permitting a level of commercial fishing to continue and ensuring that there are adequate measures in place to contribute to conservation of the species and thus allow for both a sustainable eel stock and a sustainable industry in the future.</p>
<p>Outreach and education programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Adopt a stream'</li> <li>• 'Salmon in the Classroom'</li> </ul>	<p>A number of out reach programmes are undertaken such as 'Salmon in the Classroom' and 'Adopt a Stream' which target schools. The Adopt a stream programme encourages groups to tidy up local streams. The various outreach education programmes increase stakeholders knowledge and level of understanding and encourage stakeholders to take ownership of waterways.</p>
<p>Marine Planning (DOE)</p>	<p>The Marine Plan Team (DOE Marine Division) is currently developing marine plans for both the inshore and offshore regions, which will be published as a single document entitled the <b>Marine Plan for Northern Ireland</b>. The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will provide an integrated, spatial planning approach to Northern Ireland's inshore and offshore areas, its resources, and the activities and interactions that take place within these areas. It is anticipated that public consultation on the draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will begin in November 2015.</p>
<b>Coastal Planning</b>	
<p>Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006-2026</p>	<p>The Strategy forms the basis for a new approach to the management of the coastal area and will provide a useful framework for all users, planners, managers and developers in deciding how best to balance competing resource demands with environmental needs. It will also aid the development of an integrated programme of social, environmental and economic improvements for future generations.</p>
<p>Marine Planning (DOE)</p>	<p>The Marine Plan Team (DOE Marine Division) is currently developing marine plans for both the inshore and offshore regions, which will be published as a single document entitled the <b>Marine Plan for Northern Ireland</b>. The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will provide an integrated, spatial planning approach to Northern Ireland's inshore and offshore area, its resources, the activities and interactions that take place within these areas. It is anticipated that public consultation on the draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will begin in November 2015.</p>
<p>Marine Strategy Framework Directive</p>	<p>The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is being implemented on a UK-wide basis, as it focuses on achieving 'good environmental status' within regional seas, like the Irish Sea. This Directive replaces WFD at 1 nautical mile and extends out to the limit of UK territorial seas.</p>
<p>Marine Act (NI) 2013 and Marine</p>	<p>The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 was given Royal Assent on 17th September 2013. It enables the Department</p>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
Conservation Zones (MCZ)	of the Environment to designate areas as Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). These MCZs, which are a type of protected area, may be designated for various purposes including the conservation of marine species and habitats, while taking fully into account any economic, cultural or social consequences of doing so. MCZs will exist alongside European Marine Sites to form an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas.
Marine licensing reform	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) reformed the marine licensing system for Northern Ireland. The purpose of the Marine Licensing system is to aid industry and encourage investment by enabling more strategic decisions to be made about what activities are permissible in the marine environment. The overall objective of marine licensing is to regulate sustainable development in a cohesive and fair manner.
Bathing Water Pollution Reduction Programme	Focus on reducing pollution at designated Bathing Waters is lead by DOE with a number of partners such as NI Water, Marine Conservation Society, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and local councils who meet regularly at the Good Beach Summits. Targeted pollution source apportionment studies are undertaken by DOE/NIEA within catchments of bathing waters to identify and resolve potential sources.
UK National Contingency Plan (Maritime and Coastguard Agency)	After saving human life, the key purpose of responding to a maritime incident is to protect human health, and the marine and terrestrial environment. The UK National Contingency Plan sets out detailed plans to ensure there is a timely, measured and effective response to marine pollution incidents.
Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Plans for Ports and Harbours	A statutory duty has been imposed on harbour authorities, harbours and oil handling facilities of a certain size and or turnover to produce plans to respond to marine pollution incidents in their waters. These plans are commonly referred to as Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Plans and dovetail with the UK National Contingency Plan to ensure an effective response to marine pollution incidents.
Pollution Response in Emergencies: Marine Impact Assessment and Monitoring (PREMIAM project )	<p>The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is a partner in a cross-UK government project referred to as PREMIAM.</p> <p>The project is funded by the Department of Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Produce guidelines for the assessment and monitoring of the marine environment following pollution incidents</li> <li>▪ Develop and maintain a network of partners from the scientific and emergency response community to deliver post-incident response and assessment.</li> </ul> <p>PREMIAM is being co-ordinated by emergency response and impact assessment experts from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS). It has wide support from all the main government stakeholders and will fully engage the scientific and emergency response community in delivering its aims.</p>

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
Port Master Plans	<p>The nature of the ports' business means that investment decisions are generally over the medium to long term. Port master planning is therefore designed to provide an objective basis for the ports to engage with local stakeholders, including planning authorities and development agencies, in order to help co-ordinate medium-term planning of the port within their wider context.</p> <p>The major commercial ports (only) are encouraged to produce master plans, though this is not statutory obligation: effectively – these are the ports of Belfast, Derry, Larne and Warrenpoint.</p> <p>The main purposes of a master plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clarify the port's own strategic planning for the medium to long term</li> <li>• assist planning authorities (at both regional and local level) and Roads Service in the preparation and revision of their own strategies and plans</li> <li>• inform port users, employees and local communities as to how they can expect to see the port develop over the coming years</li> </ul>
<b>Flood Risk Management Planning</b>	
Annual Watercourse Maintenance Programme	The Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 is concerned with annual maintenance of watercourses to ensure the free flow of water. This programme involves routine maintenance work on designated main, minor and urban watercourses, and also minor works regarding repair / refurbishment to ancillary structures and installations to ensure that watercourses are kept free flowing to prevent flooding.
Preliminary flood risk assessment	Part of the Flood risk Management plans. Carried out on all river basins and coastal zones in Northern Ireland by December 2011.
Flood hazard and flood risk maps	Part of the Flood risk Management plans. Production of detailed flood hazard maps and flood risk maps for the areas determined to be at potential significant flood risk by December 2013. These maps were made available to the public in March 2014.
Flood Risk Management Plans	The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 which entered into force on 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 are focused on prevention, protection and preparedness and which contain objectives and measures to reduce significant risk in these areas. The draft plans were produced in December 2014 and published for consultation until June 2015. The final plans will be completed by December 2015.
<b>Climate Change Planning</b>	
Climate Change Act 2008	The Act provides a long-term framework for the UK to achieve its goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and will ensure that steps are taken towards adapting to the impacts of climate change. The Act puts into statute the UK's carbon budgets and targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through domestic and international action by 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, against a 1990 baseline. The Act also makes it a requirement that Northern Ireland departments develop a climate change adaptation programme which will address the findings of the most recent report

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	on the risks and opportunities from climate change to Northern Ireland.
Carbon Budgets	<p>To ensure that regular progress is made towards this long-term target, the Climate Change Act 2008 also established a system of five-yearly carbon budgets running out to 2027, placing a restriction on the total amount of greenhouse gases the UK can emit over a 5-year period. Under the carbon budgets system, every tonne of greenhouse gases emitted is counted. By doing so, the carbon budgets ensure regular progress is being made and provide a level of predictability for UK firms and households to plan and invest for a low-carbon economy. The budgets must also be consistent with UK obligations towards EU targets, and as a contribution to required global emission reductions.</p> <p>The first four carbon budgets have been set in law, covering the period from 2008 to 2027. The UK Government has committed to halving UK emissions relative to 1990 during the fourth carbon budget period (2023 to 2027).</p> <p>Specifically, the carbon budgets limit UK greenhouse gas emissions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,018 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e) over the first carbon budget period (2008 to 2012). Final emissions data recently published confirmed the net emissions was 2,982 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e for the first carbon budget period, 36 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (1.2%) below the budget of 3,018 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e.</li> <li>• 2,782 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e over the second carbon budget period (2013 to 2017)</li> <li>• 2,544 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e over the third carbon budget period (2018 to 2022)</li> <li>• 1,950 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e over the fourth carbon budget period (2023 to 2027)</li> </ul>
Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme	<p>The CRC Scheme was introduced in 2010 and is a mandatory UK-wide trading and reporting scheme. It is designed to improve energy efficiency by targeting emissions not already covered by Climate Change Agreements (CCAs) and the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) in large public and private sector organisations. The scheme features a range of drivers to encourage organisations to develop energy management strategies that promote a better understanding of energy usage. Participants include supermarkets, water companies, banks, local authorities and all central government departments. These organisations across the UK together are responsible for around 10% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. The scheme is expected to reduce non-traded carbon emissions by 17million tonnes by 2027, supporting the objective to achieve an 80% reduction in UK carbon emissions by 2050.</p> <p>The second phase of the scheme runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. CRC data from all participants is published annually by the Environment Agency. The 2013/2014 data is due to be published later this month. This new scheme will apply mandatory emissions trading to cut carbon emissions from large commercial and public sector organisations (including supermarkets, hotel chains, government departments, large local authority buildings) by 1.1 MtC / year by 2020.</p>
Cross Departmental Working Group on	In May 2010 the Northern Ireland Executive approved a proposal by the Minister for the Environment to establish the

Key Plans and Programmes	Details
Climate Change– Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan	<p>Cross-Departmental Working Group on Climate Change made up of senior officials of all Departments. This group was tasked with providing the Northern Ireland Executive at the Stormont Assembly with an annual report on progress.</p> <p>In February 2011 the Group published the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction action plan, detailing the actions and targets for all Northern Ireland departments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Group reviews the action plan annually and submits a progress report to the Executive in May each year.</p>
EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)	<p>EU ETS seeks to ensure optimum effectiveness of emissions trading to provide for continued reductions in greenhouse gas levels by energy-intensive industries in the transition to a global low carbon economy.</p> <p>The EU ETS will account for over 50% of the emissions reductions needed to meet UK targets between 2013 &amp; 2020. It also has a crucial part in ensuring the UK complies with its legally binding carbon budgets and emissions reduction targets set out in the Climate Change Act.</p>
Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP)	<p>Northern Ireland’s commitment to address the impact of climate change is set out in the UK Climate Change Act 2008. The first Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (Adaptation Programme) was laid in the Assembly in January 2014; it contains the Government’s response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland, which was published in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA.</p> <p>The Adaptation Programme covers the period 2014-2019. It contains the first steps in ensuring Northern Ireland’s preparedness for the impacts of climate change and sets out the strategic direction and objectives in preparing for the impacts of climate change. It also establishes a range of adaptation activities and actions (policies and proposals) for the next five years, including the development of a second round of River Basin Management Plans for which DOE has lead responsibility.</p>
<b>Miscellaneous plans and programmes</b>	
UK Shared Framework for Sustainable Development ‘One future – different paths’	<p>The UK Shared Framework for Sustainable Development sets out the common challenges and goals for the UK. The framework affirms that, although powers have been devolved to democratic bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the UK will work to common goals. The first Sustainable Development strategy for Northern Ireland was published in 2006. The Executive published a revised strategy called “Everyone’s Involved” in 2010. The associated Implementation Plan, “Focus on the Future”, was published in 2011.</p>
‘Focus on the Future’ sustainable development implementation plan 2011 – 2014 <a href="#">Remove as this covers 1<sup>st</sup> cycle period?</a>	<p>The NI executive’s Sustainable Development Implementation Plan was published in April 2011. There are six priority areas for action, within which progress on the application of the principles will be actively pursued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty,</li> <li>• Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone.</li> <li>• Driving sustainable, long term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development.</li> <li>• Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment.</li> <li>• Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint.</li> </ul>

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Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond government.</li> </ul>
Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland – 'Building a Better Future' Investment Strategy 2011 – 2021.	<p>Originally a strategy for 2008 to 2018, 6.5 billion has been invested since from 2008 to 2011 and the project was expanded. The strategy identifies priority areas for investment and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead to deliver the investment programme. There are a number of cross cutting objectives of the strategy based on economics, society and the environment. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic – investment in infrastructure to accelerate economic growth and improve competitiveness of business;</li> <li>Societal – investment in infrastructure to promote equality of opportunity and the desirability of good relations, promote regional balance in future development, and tackle areas of social disadvantage; and</li> </ul> <p>Environmental – investment in infrastructure to protect and enhance our environment, particularly addressing areas affected by EU Directives.</p>
Programme for Government 2011 – 2015 <a href="#">Remove?</a>	<p>The Programme for Government set out strategic priorities and key plans for 2008-2011. On 12 March 2012, It was updated for the period of 2011 – 2015. The Programme for Government is used to determine the Budget and Investment Strategy and together, these demonstrate how resources and capital investment will be allocated in support of priorities.</p> <p>Priorities under the Programme for Government are divided into a number of key Public Service Agreements (PSAs). These confirm the key actions that will be taken in support of priorities and the outcomes and targets that will be achieved over the 2008-2011 period.</p> <p>A number of these PSAs are applicable to the Water Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSA 22 - Protecting our environment and reducing our carbon footprint;</li> <li>PSA 15 - Water and sewerage infrastructure; and</li> <li>PSA 23 - Managing the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea.</li> </ul>
NIEA Regulatory Transformation Programme	<p>The Regulatory Transformation Programme modernises and simplifies NIEA's approach to regulation to help the competitive position of business by lowering the administrative burden and at the same time, improve the quality of the environment.</p> <p>NIEA has embarked on an ambitious Regulatory Transformation Programme to modernise and simplify regulation for businesses through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New primary and secondary legislation;</li> <li>Intelligence and risk-based approaches to environmental and heritage protection;</li> <li>A more integrated service for businesses on all environmental aspects of their activities via a single point of contact system and an integrated permit.</li> <li>Unified regulatory powers to enable regulators to address a wider range of environmental issues;</li> <li>Agency support for organisations that aspire to comply and go beyond compliance;</li> <li>Access to performance-related civil sanctions and penalties for environmental offences; and</li> <li>Development of standardised ICT systems, online services and other supporting frameworks, to enable the integration of regulatory processes in the provision of effective customer service.</li> </ul>

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Key Plans and Programmes	Details
	The Department of Environment consulted on: The Environment and Economy in partnership: 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Regulatory Innovation May 2013 and has also published a vision document - <i>Regulatory Transformation Vision: What will success look like?</i>