



By Email Only

March 2022

## **Message from Chief Planner**

This newsletter provides an update on yesterday's announcements regarding nutrient pollution, which is having an adverse effect on some rivers and waterbodies in the catchments of Habitats Sites.

Yesterday, Natural England issued advice on Habitats Sites that are in an unfavourable conservation status and where additional nutrient loads, such as from development, may have an adverse effect.

Further information via links to published material is provided below, including what this means for the areas and local authorities affected and the funding and support available to local authorities from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS).

We will continue to monitor the impact of these changes and how we can best support those affected.

Kind regards

**Joanna Averley**  
**Chief Planner**



## **Nutrient Pollution**

Yesterday, Natural England published advice relating to nutrient pollution and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs laid a Written Ministerial Statement:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-03-16/hcws688>

Defra have published a policy paper on the issue which can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nutrient-pollution-reducing-the-impact-on-protected-sites/nutrient-pollution-reducing-the-impact-on-protected-sites>

## **Letter to affected Local Planning Authorities**

The Chief Planner has written directly to the Chief Planning Officers for the affected Local Planning Authorities. You can find a copy of this letter on Gov.uk:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1061531/Chief\\_Planner\\_Letter\\_about\\_nutrient\\_pollution\\_March\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1061531/Chief_Planner_Letter_about_nutrient_pollution_March_2022.pdf)

## **DLUHC funding for affected catchments**

DLUHC is offering £100,000 to each affected catchment to support cross-Local Authority work to meet Natural England requirements and enable development to continue. Further information has been provided in the [Chief Planner letter to affected LPAs](#).

## **Support from the Planning Advisory Service**

The Planning Advisory Service is putting in place a comprehensive package of support for the affected local planning authorities, including ideas for how to respond rapidly to the advice (details linked below), a series of workshops, the facilitation of sharing of best practice through an officer network and additional targeted support on an ongoing basis. For more information about dates (with the first workshops programmed for 24 March) and how local authorities can sign up, go to this link:

<https://local.gov.uk/pas/topics/environment/nutrient-neutrality-and-planning-system>