

Helen Golightly
Chief Executive
North East Local Enterprise Partnership
1 St James' Gate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4AD

23rd October 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Letter of support for Northumbrian Water's North East Flood Risk Reduction scheme

I am writing on behalf of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership in response to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) provisional price control determination relating to Northumbrian Water Limited.

Ofwat's final price determination rejected Northumbrian Water's proposals to invest in a proactive scheme of improvements to increase resilience and protect against sewer flooding. We are disappointed that this decision was not overturned by the CMA in their provisional determination.

In my previous letter to the CMA, I noted that Northumbrian Water's proposals received support from 91% of their customers as part of an independent evaluation process. Protecting against flooding resulting from extreme weather events is a priority for our businesses and residents given recent experience in parts of our region.

The impacts of climate change and increasing urbanisation has led to an increase in sewer flooding in the North East. The proposed proactive scheme addressing sewer capacity in areas that have not previously flooded is a sensible and proportionate response. Northumbrian Water has engaged with local authorities and the local business community in developing the scheme and it has wide support.

As the North East's economy recovers from the impacts of Covid-19, the LEP and partners in the region are committed to a Recovery and Renewal plan that addresses the issue of climate change and makes progress towards a target of net zero emissions. Northumbrian Water's plan to proactively build resilience against future sewer flooding, protecting homes and businesses, is in line with our desire to "build back better". We ask that you reconsider your decision with these points in mind.

Yours faithfully,



Helen Golightly
Chief Executive
North East Local Enterprise Partnership