



South Tyneside Council

Competition and Markets Authority
Via email: waterdetermination2020@cma.gov.uk

Date: 26 October 2020
Our Ref: IM/JS

Dear Sir/Madam,

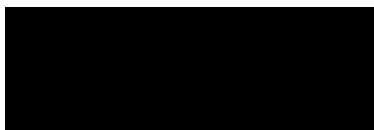
We again write in support of Northumbrian Water's proposals in its Business Plan for 2020-25 to invest in schemes to alleviate future flooding in our region due to climate change and urban creep. We were disappointed to hear that CMA's provisional decision is not to allow Northumbrian Water any additional funding, through enhancement allowances, to improve its sewer flooding performance in the North East region.

Residents in our area expect the company to plan for the future, and to invest in its infrastructure in order to plan for population growth, climate change and the potential for more severe weather events. These are significant issues in the North East, but we have a good track record of working in partnership with Northumbrian Water and other agencies to deliver innovative solutions.

We understand that Northumbrian Water customers, when presented with the choice of large bill reductions or investment now to reduce the risk of more serious problems happening in the future, clearly indicated the company should invest now.

Striking the right balance between affordable bills today and investing to ensure future generations have a resilient service, is clearly an important judgment, particularly given our understanding of growing environmental pressures. Residents in South Tyneside have recognised that in what they have asked Northumbrian Water to deliver over the next five years, and we would urge you to support their choices by taking a long-term view and ensuring the company's plan to deliver this package of schemes is financially viable as you make your final determination.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Iain Malcolm
Leader of the Council



George Mansbridge
Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment