

Official - Sensitive



Our integrated
plan for delivering
clean and plentiful
water

Plan for Water ADEPT

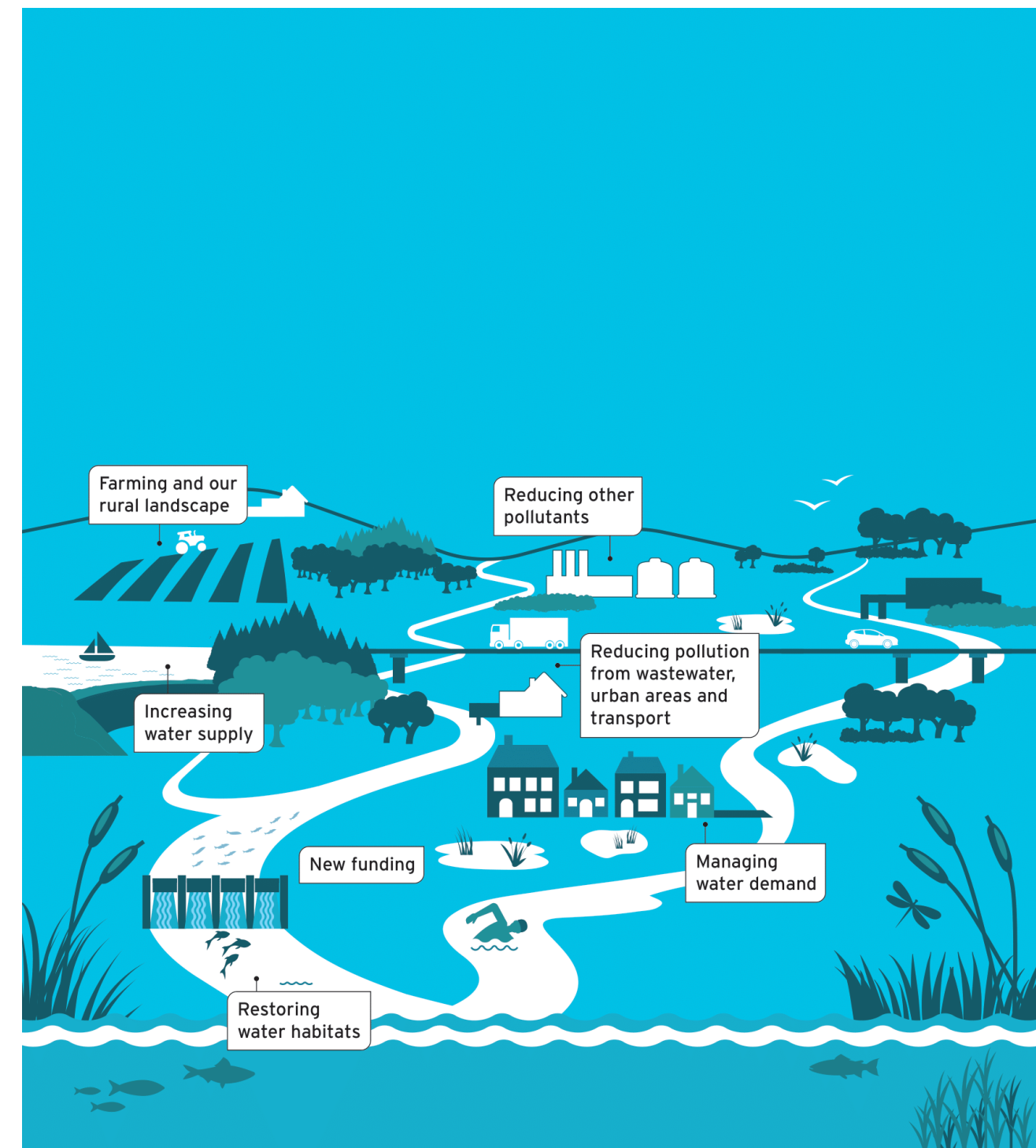
July 2023



Plan for Water - Background

The Integrated Plan for Water was published 4th April 2023.

- In the 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23), we set out the first steps of our reform programme for the water environment.
- The Plan builds on the EIP, bringing together the significant steps we have already taken with new actions. It is the Plan that contains all the actions we must take to meet our water goals and transform the water system.
- The Plan is focused across three key areas:
 - 1: Transforming management of the whole water system
 - 2: Delivering a clean water environment, for people and nature
 - 3: Securing a plentiful supply of water.
- The Plan will be underpinned by increased investment, including £2.2bn for new infrastructure, starting in the next two years.
- Additional funding will also be delivered for catchment groups, the £10m Water Management Grant for on-farm reservoirs and better irrigation equipment and by increasing slurry grant funding for farmers to £34m (up from £13m).
- Together with the Environment Agency, we will seek to achieve stronger regulation and tougher enforcement, including more EA inspections of water company sites through an increase to EA charge revenue, banning wet wipes containing plastic (subject to consultation) and new restrictions of 'forever' chemicals that damage our waters.
- We will also deliver bigger penalties for water companies and tighter control over water company dividend payments.



Delivering the Plan for Water

- The Plan sets out 28 policy actions to be developed by Defra, Environment Agency, Natural England, Ofwat, Rural Payments Agency, and Forestry Commission together
- Defra is now developing a delivery programme for the Plan for Water to ensure co-ordinated oversight and governance of the policy actions set out in the Plan
- This delivery programme will work holistically to facilitate delivery across all Government departments
- Catchment Plans will be critical to the delivery of the actions in the Plan, on a catchment-by-catchment basis. Work in this area is a high Ministerial and delivery priority.



Catchment Plans and streamlined policy framework – Action 1.1 and 1.2

Aims of actions 1.1 and 1.2 of the Plan for Water:

- To **improve delivery and coordination at a catchment level** with **tailored long-term catchment plans** that **cover all water bodies**.
- To set out the key issues and priorities for action, including priorities identified in Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- To **streamline the policy and legal framework**, to make it **more outcome-focussed** and **integrated with other environmental and government delivery plans**.
- Improve the regulatory system and targeting of investment to ensure environmental improvements provide greatest impact.
- To deliver the Plan for Water at a catchment-by-catchment, community-by-community scale.

Current status of catchment planning work:

- We are currently engaging with stakeholders across the water sector, having in-depth discussions to gain their views on catchment plans.
- Stakeholder views are guiding the conversation to develop options and generate ideas on how catchment plans will work in best practice.
- The main areas we are developing with stakeholders focus on the content, delivery, and finance of catchment plans.

Next steps:

- Collate stakeholder views
- Ministerial engagement on options
- Test options with stakeholders



Department
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Any questions?

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