



# Leicestershire County Council:

## Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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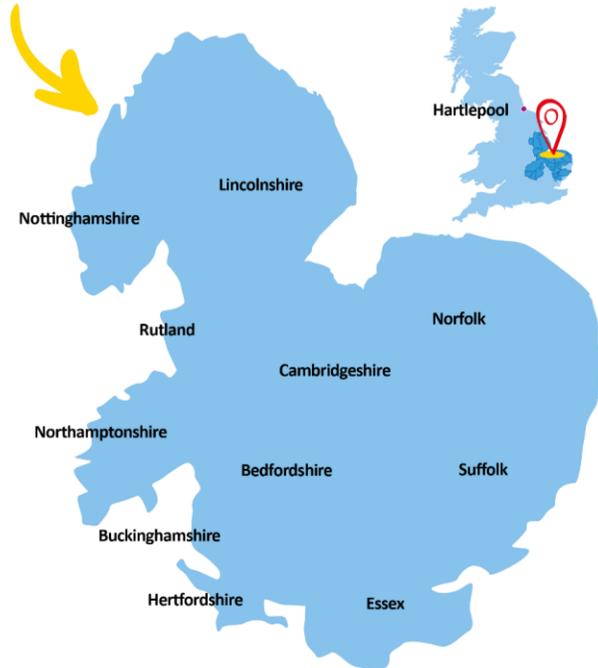
19 January 2023



# Our water company



The **largest** water and water recycling company in England by geographic area



Employing more than

**5,000**  
people

Serving almost

**7 million**  
customers across the East of England and Hartlepool

The driest region in the UK with

 **2/3**  
of the national average rainfall each year



One of the UK's fastest-growing regions, projected to grow by

**175,000**  
homes by 2025

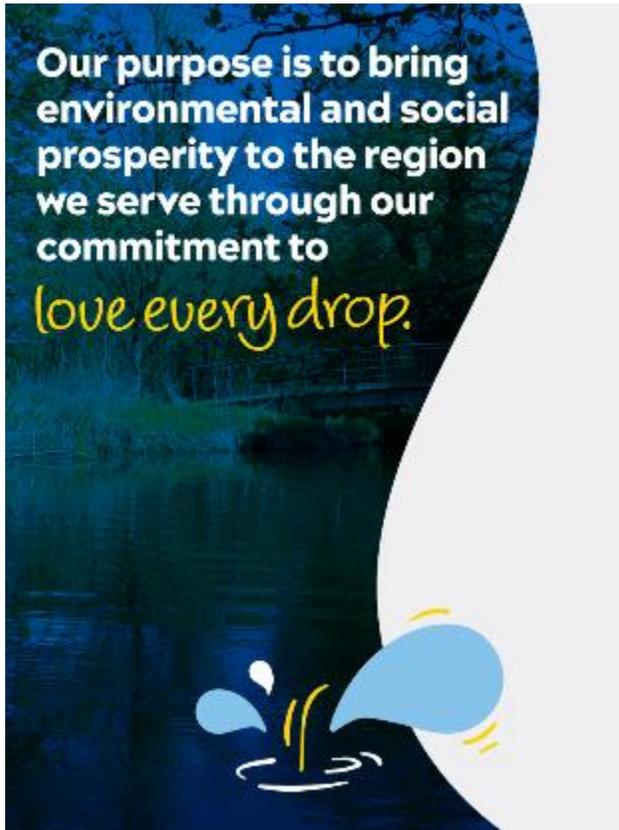
Operating more than

**76,000km**



of sewers - almost twice the world's circumference! - and **1,128** water recycling centres.

# A look at the big picture: strategic goals and ambitions driven by purpose



Our four key goals for 2020-2025 are guided by the views and needs of our stakeholders

- 1 To **make life better** for our customers, every single day
- 2 To **deliver our 2020–2025 Final Determination**
- 3 To **deliver our identified business priorities**
- 4 To **create a sustainable future** for our region

Our 25-year strategic ambitions are shaped to deliver on our purpose and drive us to achieve more, for everyone

 By 2030, be a **net zero carbon** business and reduce the carbon in building and maintaining our assets by 70%.

 Work with others to **achieve significant improvement in ecological quality** across our catchments.

 Make the **East of England resilient** to the risks of drought and flooding.

 Enable **sustainable economic and housing growth** in the UK's fastest growing region.

# Get River Positive

Driven by our purpose, and the shared expectations of our customers that rivers should be beautiful places, rich in nature, Anglian Water joined forces with Severn Trent in March 2022 to launch [Get River Positive](#),

This means we will strive to do no harm to UK rivers and do everything we can to ensure they can thrive.

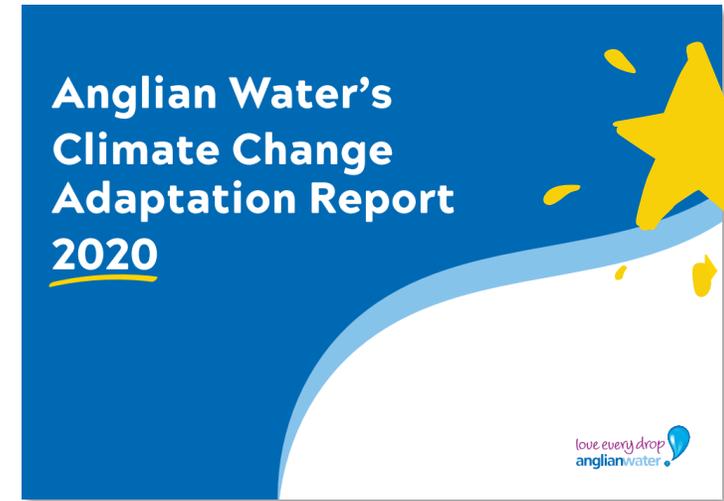


## Our five Get River Positive commitments

- ▶ Ensure storm overflows and sewage treatment works do not harm rivers.
- ▶ Create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy our region's rivers.
- ▶ Support others to improve and care for rivers.
- ▶ Enhance our rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive.
- ▶ Be open and transparent about our performance and our plans.



# Leadership on climate change mitigation and adaptation



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First company in UK to publish Climate Change Adaptation Report



**Winner**  
three Net Zero awards in 2020 and 2021



**Water company world first**  
£300m bond linked to 2025 transitional carbon targets



**61.2%** reduction in capital carbon

10k tonnes of operational carbon saved since April 2020



# Welcome scrutiny on water recycling and pollutions



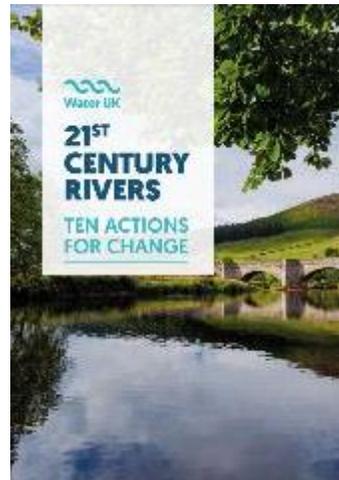
Over the next five years we're investing £811 million as part of our Water Industry Natural Environment Programme

## Setting the scene: the big picture

Across the UK combined sewer overflows contribute just 4% of the reasons why UK rivers are not high quality (and only 1% in the East of England).

Other drivers impacting river water quality include:

- Agriculture and rural management
- Urban development and transport
- Non-native species
- Misconnected plumbing



## Storm spills investment in numbers

- Our accelerated £200 million+ AMP7 programme
- Installing more storm tanks: £80 million
- Increasing capacity at water recycling centres, reducing the risk of spills to the environment: £56 million
- Targeting investment to increase monitoring, directly reduce spills and pollutions, and protect the environment: £46 million
- Improving bathing water quality: £21.5 million
- Installing sustainable drainage solutions: £20 million

## The future we want to see

- The statutory need to tackle storm overflows ensuring prioritisation through the price review process
- A new, jointly owned national plan for rivers
- An end to the automatic right to connect
- A ban on wet wipes that don't meet Fine to Flush standards
- Collaborative action to restore rivers and natural habitats



# What are CSOs?



<https://youtu.be/-7M1XoPZAuQ>

- Combined Storm Overflows
- Built in Victorian times and 60s and 70s – none have been built since privatisation (1989)
- Event duration monitoring programme complete by end of 2023
- Data reported to the Environment Agency
- Opportunity to target investment in CSOs

## Factors that affect how sewers operate

- Surface water run off
- Ground water infiltration
- Sewage related debris (also sometimes known as unflushables such as plastic, sanitary products or wet wipes)
- Fats, oils and grease
- Poorly constructed connections or misconnections
- Building over sewers
- Tree and plant root ingress



# Water resources

Water companies have a statutory obligation to prepare and maintain a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP).



- In their WRMPs, companies must set out how they will ensure they have **sufficient water resources to meet the current and future demands** of their customers, over a **minimum 25-year period**.
- WRMPs are published on a **five-yearly basis** and must follow government planning guidelines.
- Our latest plan is now available as a draft for consultation until 29 March 2023.

# Investment in Leicestershire

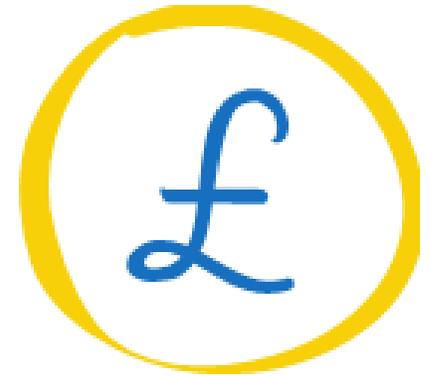


We provide a water supply over two District Metered Areas in Leicestershire - South Witham and Rockingham.

Investment in Leicestershire by 2025 includes:

- Over £120,000 in installing EDMs at Sewage Treatment Works
- Over £900,000 in a new storm tank/ improving storm tank capacity at Market Harborough and Tilton on the Hill
- Just over £100,000 on the creation of wetland habitats at Market Harborough

We are also working closely with Severn Trent Water on our Get River Positive partnership which sets out five key commitments to safeguard and improve river health in both companies' regions.



# Pre-submitted questions

# Thank you for listening

