

## Securing the resources for future prosperity – water: a 3 year action plan

### Introduction

The Water Taskforce has committed to working together for the next three years to develop and implement an action plan that will achieve real impact. The Taskforce has identified three key focus areas with associated actions.

### Priorities and key actions:

#### 1. Resilience: Building and future proofing social and physical infrastructure

This action focuses on supporting businesses and communities to address the key risks and opportunities associated with water. Key actions include:

- **Water resilient places**

Bringing together groups of key stakeholders from the public, private and community sectors to take action on some of the issues that will need to be addressed to make places water resilient. The first project, focused on cities, is being led by Costain in Manchester and is looking at surface water impacts on flooding and water quality by testing ways to implement and manage sustainable drainage solutions.

- **Building business resilience to flood risk**

Working with Lloyds Bank and the Environment Agency's Climate Ready Programme to explore new ways to support SMEs in flood risk hotspots to take action to build their resilience to future incidents. We are running a pilot project in the West Midlands and South West to test the model of working with a bank to support their customers.

- **Supporting businesses to understand and manage their relationship with water**

Creating a water hub on BITC's website to provide guidance and signposting to help businesses take action as well as featuring water in environment knowledge swaps and as a focus area in our CR/Environment Index.

#### 2. Stewardship: Valuing and protecting nature's assets and services

- **Water stewardship in food supply chains**

Funded by Defra our first project is supporting the food and drink industry with water stewardship in their supply chains through:

- Developing a framework to support supply chain engagement with water stewardship.
- Practical projects that address key issues in water quality and/or flood risk hotspots.
- Collaborative supply chain workshops tackling issues with product or catchments.
- Two Seeing is Believing Visits to help business leaders understand the issues and how they can make a difference.
- Sharing knowledge and best practice through research and communications.

#### 3. Innovation: Integrating technical, collaborative and behavioural solutions to problems

We have three key projects:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Unflushables:   | bringing together a collaboration to explore product development and behaviour change to reduce the impact of products such as wet wipes disposed via the toilet.   |
| Fat Traps:      | Working with the water companies, Water UK, Sainsbury's and Waitrose to scale up the initiative to give out fat traps/funnels at Christmas, that saw more than 250,000 devices distributed across the UK in 2014. |
| Energy recovery | Exploring the opportunities for energy from waste related to 'fatbergs' and anaerobic digestion of sewage and other materials (currently being scoped).   |

## Securing the resources for future prosperity – water: a 3 year action plan

|  | 2015  | 2016   | 2017  |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Resilience – delivery</b>   | Build resource base and case studies to inspire business action towards water resilience<br>Begin Manchester urban pilot<br>Scope & start rural & costal projects<br>Complete pilot with Climate Ready & Lloyds & develop scale up plan.  | Deliver Manchester project<br>Deliver rural & coastal projects<br>Scale up Lloyds/Climate Ready pilot.<br>Share learning & outcomes  | Deliver Manchester project<br>Deliver rural & coastal projects<br>Review, collate & showcase shared learning & outcomes |
| <b>Resilience – opportunities</b>  | Natural deal for Manchester.  | LEPs, Innovate UK  | TBD   |
| <b>Stewardship – delivery</b>  | Deliver Defra funded project with food supply chains<br>Scope & develop wider stewardship theme activities  | Deliver stewardship theme  | Deliver stewardship theme<br>Review, collate & showcase shared learning & outcomes                                      |
| <b>Stewardship – opportunities</b>   | Run workshop on ecosystems services with key partners   | Life EU funding  | TBD   |
| <b>Innovation</b><br><i>Innovation framework</i><br><br><i>Unflushables</i><br><br><i>Fats, oils &amp; greases</i> | Finalise the framework and embed into projects<br><br>Support international ISO project<br>Support UK developments<br>Conduct research on behaviour<br><br>Collate best practice and disseminate<br>Develop next steps for customer campaigns<br>Identify how to support increasing recovery & use for energy | Share learning & outcomes<br>Review success. refine & share for use beyond water<br>Support international ISO project<br>Support UK developments<br>Implement a project to address research findings<br>Implement projects to maximise outcomes & learning on FOGS energy recovery | Implement innovation projects across the workstreams<br><br>Review, collate & showcase shared learning & outcomes       |
| <b>Innovation – opportunities</b>  | EU Life Best Water bid, Wrap  | Innovate UK, LEPs  | TBD   |
| <b>Opportunities across all themes</b>   | EU Life bid river basin management<br>Horizon 2020 bid  |  |   |