River basin planning - Challenges and Choices 2019

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| Alternative response proforma | [Version 1.1] October 2019 |

**Overview**

The Environment Agency has launched a consultation seeking views on the challenges our waters face and the choices we all need to make to improve and protect this precious resource.

The responses to this consultation will help shape the future approach to the management of the water environment and will be used to update the existing river basin management plans in 2021.

The Challenges and Choices consultation seeks your views on:

* the challenges that threaten the water environment
* how we can work together to manage our waters
* who should pay

# Consultation questions

For the significant water management issues in Wales for the Severn River Basin District we are seeking your views on:

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| **The water story**  1. The way we treat water today will shape all our futures. What changes can you make to improve the water we rely on? |

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| **Climate and biodiversity crisis**  2. What more can we do to tackle the impacts of climate change on the water environment and what additional resources (including evidence, targets, tools and additional mechanisms/measures) do we need to do this?  3. What can we do to address this biodiversity crisis and meet the 25 Year Environment Plan targets for wetlands, freshwater and coastal habitats and wildlife?  4. Environmental targets can generate action and provide a strong signal of intent. Could additional statutory targets contribute to improving the water environment? If so, what types of targets should be considered? |

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| Challenge 1: Changes to water levels and flows  5. What can be done to address the challenge of changing water levels and flows?  If you have read the further information about this challenge, you may also like to answer the questions below:  6. The abstraction plan, referenced in the changes to water levels and flows narrative, explains our current and future approach for managing water abstraction. What else do we need to do to meet the challenges of climate change and growth while balancing the needs of abstractors and the environment?  7. What kind of a water flow environment do we want? Should we maintain statutory minimum water flow and level standards universally across England as we do now, or go further in some places based on environmental risk? |

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| Challenge 2: Chemicals in the water environment  8. What can be done to address the challenge of chemicals in the water environment?  If you have read the further information about this challenge, you may also like to answer the question below:  9. Do you support the Environment Agency's proposed strategic approach to managing chemicals as referenced in the Chemicals in the Water Environment challenge document? If not, what changes would you make?  10. What balance do you think is needed between current chemical use, investing in end-of-pipe wastewater treatment options and modifying consumer use and behaviour? |

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| Challenge 3: Invasive non-native species  11. What can be done to address invasive non-native species?  If you have read the further information about this challenge, you may also like to answer the questions below:  12. How would you promote Check, Clean, Dry to all recreational users of water, including those who are not in clubs or attend events?  13. Are there any barriers stopping you adopting good biosecurity when you are in or near water? |

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| Challenge 4: Physical modifications  14. What can be done to address the physical modification of our rivers and coasts?  If you have read the further information about this challenge, you may also like to answer the question below:  15. Giving more space for rivers and coasts to move and adjust naturally will regenerate habitat, improve wildlife and help us adapt to climate change. What can you and others do to support these changes? |

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| Challenge 5: Plastics pollution  16. What can be done to address plastics pollution in the water environment?  If you have read the further information about this challenge, you may also like to answer the question below:  17. What actions should the Environment Agency take to reduce plastic pollution? |

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| Challenge 6: Pollution from abandoned mines  18. What can be done to address pollution from abandoned mines? |

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| Challenge 7: Pollution from agriculture and rural areas  19. What can be done to address pollution from agriculture and rural areas?  If you have read the further information about this challenge, you may also like to answer the question below:  20. How can we support the farming sector to excel at innovative solutions which benefit both productivity and the environment? What should these solutions look like? |

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| Challenge 8: Pollution from towns, cities and transport  21. What can be done to address pollution from towns, cities and transport?  22. How can sustainable drainage systems and green infrastructure be most effectively used to tackle pollution from urban areas? What challenges are there to using them? |

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| Challenge 9: Pollution from water industry wastewater  23. What can be done to address pollution from water industry wastewater?  If you have read the further information about this challenge, you may also like to answer the question below:  24. What opportunities exist for water companies to collaborate with other sectors and organisations on measures to improve the water environment? |

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| Catchment partnership working  25. How can local partnerships become more inclusive and representative of all of the stakeholders within their catchments?  26. How can local partnerships achieve a better balance of public and private funding to support and sustain their environmental work? |

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| Who pays?  27. How should the step change in protecting and improving the water environment be funded and who should pay? Are there any barriers to doing this? |

# Submit your response

We encourage you to submit your responses via the link below:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/challenges-and-choices>

This will allow us to gather and summarise responses quickly and accurately. However, you can also use this document to submit your responses.

You should return responses by 24th April 2020 to:

[RBMPconsultation@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:RBMPconsultation@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Or in writing to:

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