



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 12 October 2022

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name: NORTHUMBRIAN WATER AND WASTEWATER AMP6 - I  
 Project Number: 2015-0046  
 Country: United Kingdom  
 Project Description:

The Programme forms part of NWs capital expenditure programme for the regulatory period 2015-20 (AMP6). The schemes under the Programme are driven primarily by the need to ensure sufficient resilience and availability of water supply for a growing population, upgrades of wastewater treatment as well as prevention of sewer flooding, against a backdrop of climate change and demographic developments. The individual schemes are located throughout the entire service area with a served population of 2.6m in the North-East of England as well as 1.8m in Suffolk and Essex in the East of England.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.**

The promoter was Northumbrian Water Ltd ([www.nwg.co.uk](http://www.nwg.co.uk))

The Programme was mainly driven by compliance with EU Directives in the areas of water and environment as well as the need to maintain the quality, resilience and effectiveness of services. Furthermore, it would improve water management against a backdrop of environmental enhancement requirements, predicted localised climate change impacts and demographic developments. The programme aimed to upgrade existing facilities to support compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC), with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD 98/15/EEC), with the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) and with the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC). The project consisted of approximately 2,000 schemes, which were clustered around the following core investments objectives:

- Core environmental and public health drivers;
- Climate change adaptation;
- Climate change mitigation;
- Supply and Demand – Efficiency;
- Supply and Demand – Supply;
- Water Management; and
- Biodiversity.

The Programme was strongly environmentally driven and therefore had predominantly positive effects on the environment. Most of the works carried out under the Programme consisted of upgrades of existing sites, where the overall impact of construction had been limited. The promoter confirmed that none of the schemes required an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).



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A SEA process was carried out as part of a statutory Water Resources Management Plan, and following a public consultation in 2013, it was published in 2014. The River Basin Management Plans for the area served by Northumbrian Water Ltd were adopted in 2015 and were also subject to public consultation. The quality and environmental regulators (UK Drinking Water Inspectorate and the Environmental Agency (EA)) independently monitored compliance with the issued permits and prevailing quality standards throughout and after the implementation of the programme.

The promoter confirmed that all the schemes in the Programme were in alignment with EU Habitats and Birds Directives and none of the schemes had significant impact on Natura 2000 areas.

The promoter has also informed EIB that on 18 Nov 2021 the EA launched an investigation into potential non-compliances with flow to full treatment (FFT) permit conditions at a number of wastewater treatment works operated by the promoter. The process is still in its initial phase, therefore, it may take considerable time before its conclusions will be made available to EIB.

**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.

Regarding the ongoing investigation by the EA, even though the Project focused on delivering new assets and as such has nothing to do how the promoter has operated its existing assets, the Bank will closely monitor its progress and outcome, and take appropriate actions, as necessary.