

# Sustainable Water

## Helping to deliver European Directives

25 November 2017





Ben Crom Reservoir, with Ben Crom on right, Slieve Muck ahead and Slieve Lamagan on left



# Why a Long-Term Water Strategy?

## To deliver a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland

- Need to balance competing priorities
- Water needed to support economic growth - but can't compromise the environment or increase the risk of flooding
- Sustainable & integrated approach required
- Need to work across a number of Departments / Councils and public bodies





# Who is responsible for Water ?



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DfI Rivers



Drinking Water Inspectorate



The Consumer Council



Local Councils

DfI Roads



# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040)

- Developed in consultation with key stakeholders
- Approved by the NI Executive in February 2016
- Action Plan sets out ownership of Strategy actions and timescales for delivery
- Updates sought in March and September each year
- DfI has prepared the first Annual Progress Report for the Executive
- Subsequent reports will be provided to the Executive on an annual basis.



# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040)

## The Strategy focuses on four high-level aims:-

- to provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture
- to manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner
- to provide sustainable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs
- to achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive



# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040)

**The Strategy will help to deliver the environmental requirements of:-**

- Water Framework Directive
- Floods Directive
- Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
- Drinking Water Directive



# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040)

## How does the Strategy help to deliver the Water Framework Directive?

- A key target measure (KTM) of the Second Cycle River Basin Management Plans is to prepare a Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland
- Sets specific actions to help improve the water environment





# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040)

## Strategy Actions - Environmental Protection and Improvement

- EP1B (ii) Develop and maintain robust water quality models for rivers, lakes and groundwater to determine the main sources of pollution
- EP2A (iv) Review and investigate the effectiveness of constructed wetlands in the reduction of nutrient loadings to inform future policy on farm effluent treatment
- EP2A (v) Implement the Northern Ireland Nitrates Action Programme Regulations for 2015-2018 and the Phosphorus Regulations



# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040)

## Strategy Actions - Environmental Protection and Improvement

- EP3B (ii) Complete pilot sustainable wastewater treatment projects to inform a long-term investment programme
- EP3B (v) Future development plan zonings should make provision for both wastewater treatment facilities and sustainable drainage systems
- EP5E (vii) Promote involvement of farmers in the Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme as part of RBMP implementation



# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040)

## Strategy Actions - Drinking Water Supply and Demand

- DW1C (i) actively encourage sustainable land management practices around drinking water protected areas
- DW1C (ii) establish effective public / community voluntary partnerships to jointly deliver sustainable catchment initiatives and education campaigns to protect and improve raw water quality
- DW1C (iv) continue to implement and extend the SCAMP NI project to all drinking water catchments



# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040)

## Strategy Actions - Flood Risk Management / Drainage

- FRMD1A (ii) Ensure land-use planning decisions are informed to help minimise flood risk
- FRDM1C (i) Clarify responsibilities for long-term maintenance, ownership and liability associated with SuDS
- FRMD2C (i) Publicly funded drainage schemes should include SuDS (where possible)
- FRMD1D (ii) Design for drainage exceedance should be incorporated into all new drainage infrastructure





# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 - 2040)

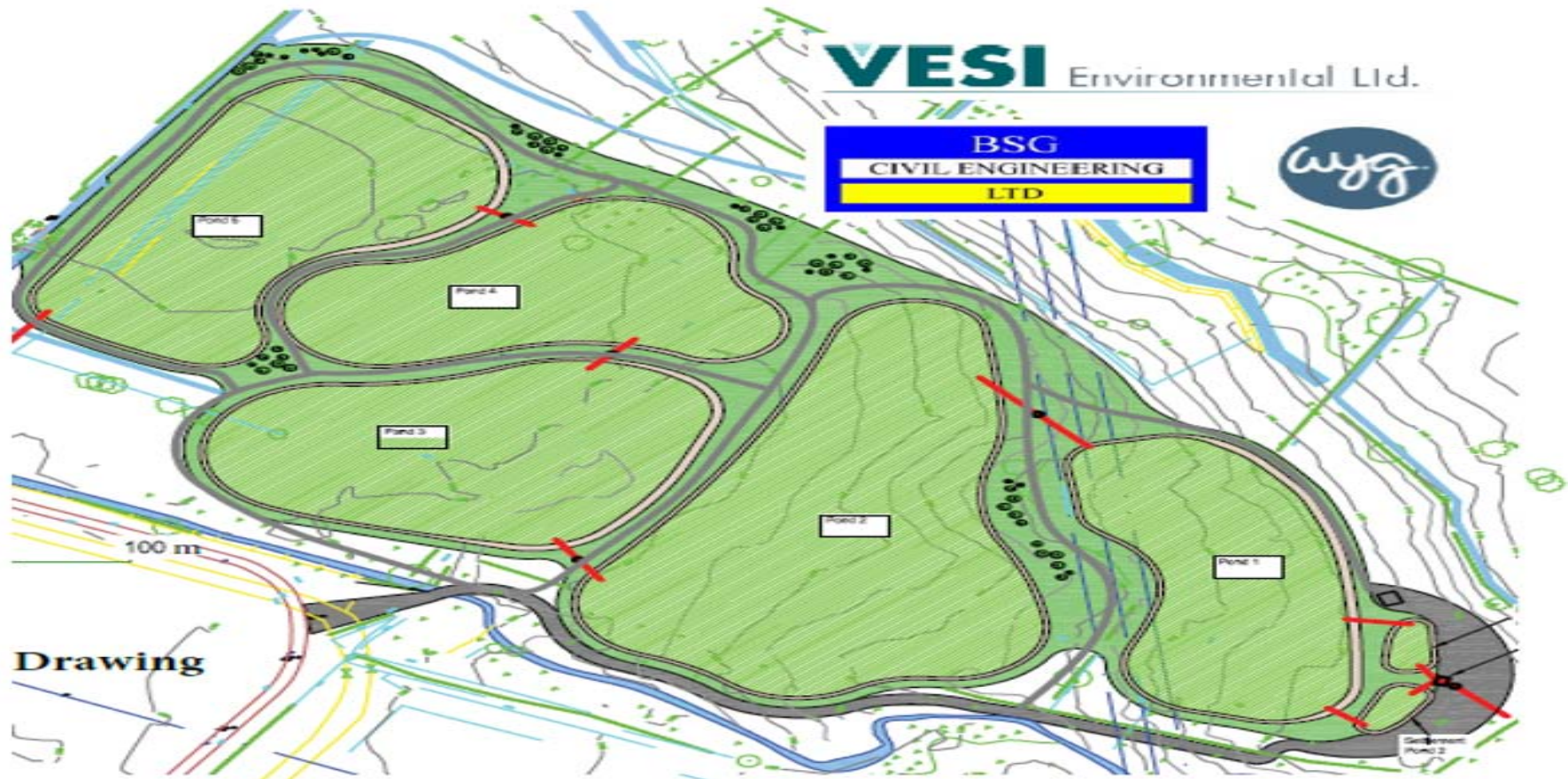
## Examples of Progress to date

- Legislation introduced:
  - to enable NI Water to adopt 'hard' SuDS and also to encourage developers to consider 'soft' SuDS – FRMD1C (i)
  - to facilitate the development of a single Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan – DW2B (i)
- DW3B (iv) NI Water has revised its project appraisal process to ensure that drinking water investment decisions are based on 'whole-life' energy and carbon costs
- FRMD4F (i) FloodRe insurance scheme launched and publicised
- DW1C (iv) Towards this action, NI Water has completed seven catchment management studies which will inform future projects to improve the water environment
- EP3B (ii) NI Water completed 2 pilot sustainable wastewater treatment projects at Stoneyford and Castle Archdale which will help inform its long-term investment programme



# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 - 2040)

## Site layout at Stoneyford



# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 - 2040)

## Integrated Constructed Wetlands at Stoneyford





# Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 - 2040)

## Way Ahead

- Greater engagement with stakeholders e.g. Local Government
- Encourage a more joined up approach between delivery partners
- Increase awareness of the aims and benefits of the Strategy





# Thank you for listening

**Long-Term Water Strategy** can be found at:-

[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/sustainable-water-long-term-water-strategy-northern-ireland-2015-2040](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/sustainable-water-long-term-water-strategy-northern-ireland-2015-2040)

**Strategy Implementation Action Plan** can be found at:-

[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/long-term-water-strategy-implementation-action-plan](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/long-term-water-strategy-implementation-action-plan)

Linda MacHugh  
Water & Drainage Policy Division  
Department for Infrastructure

