

Statutory Officers Group (SOG) updates

Update from the November meeting

Officers from the organisations with relevant statutory responsibilities met on 13 November. They agreed to:

- Review the funding provided by Welsh Government to ensure it was being used to best effect.
- Use the resources provided to develop a Diffuse Water Pollution Plan (DWPP) to help review and update the Nutrient Management Plan for the English part of the catchment but work across border to ensure coherence. An outline plan for this work will come to the December SOG meeting.
- Review the scope, potential funding sources and hosting of a joint officer to support coordination of the Technical Advisory Groups.
- Communicate clearly and transparently on decisions and priorities. Initially through sharing regular updates with the NMB Chair and Vice-Chair but also by sharing information through member organisation's own platforms.

Update from the December meeting

Officers from the organisations with relevant statutory responsibilities met on 11 December. The discussion was focussed on work ongoing to review the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

The group recognised that there are various other existing plans which include actions also in the NMP – the main one is the EA's Diffuse Water Pollution Plan (DWPP) but others include DCWW's investment plans and NRW's catchment projects. The group discussed the balance between recognising these sit within the individual organisation's statutory remits and hence this work needs to be done as part of delivering that requirement, but equally there it would be inefficient for a separate NMP to duplicate this. The group agreed to consider a proposal for an officer to help SOG have an overview of the various plans, with a view to using the work necessarily being done under individual remits to help refresh the NMP. The proposal would also look at coordination of the Data and Evidence task and finish group with a view to first making best use of the data and evidence collected to date, and then identifying further work needed.

Alongside this, the SOG heard an update from the EA on work ongoing around the Farm Tool task and finish group (see attached pdf). The group met to review various existing tools and consider options going forward. The key next step is understand work needed and likely benefits of each option. The group was clear that the resulting product must be easy to use.