

Newcastle declaration on Blue and Green Infrastructure

Newcastle City Council, Northumbrian Water, Newcastle University, the Environment Agency, Arup and Royal HaskoningDHV confirm their commitment to expanding the amount of Blue and Green Infrastructure in towns and cities across the UK. In establishing the declaration, the signatories acknowledge that:

- Flooding has a significant effect on the quality of life of our residents and the performance of the North East economy;
- Without continued effort, climate change threatens to increase this;
- Proactive investment in preparing for it is considerably cheaper and more preferable than dealing with damages;
- Investment in blue and green infrastructure has a significant role to play in managing flood risk in urban areas; and that
- Deploying such infrastructure can also make a significant positive contribution to many other important areas of life, including physical and mental health and wellbeing, biodiversity, carbon emissions, culture, quality of life and the economy.

We therefore commit to the following:

- Providing local, regional and national leadership, encouraging and collaborating with others to increase the uptake of blue and green infrastructure
- Developing a supportive policy framework for new and retrofit projects
- Prioritising the use of green and blue infrastructure in managing flood risk wherever possible
- Assessing and increasing deployment within our own estates and activities
- Working with developers to maximise the amount of blue and green infrastructure in new development
- Piloting new ways of working, and new funding models which help to realise the multiple benefits of blue and green infrastructure
- Continuing to build and share data, knowledge and understanding needed to successfully implement such approaches
- Raising awareness and building capacity amongst communities to develop and maintain blue and green space, as part of wider resilience building initiatives

Signed:

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