

SECTION 9 | IDENTIFYING A SOLUTION

DEVELOPING THE PREFERRED WAYS FORWARD

The ORiW coalition needed to identify a solution that could be delivered in practice, achieve significant environmental improvement, and avoid placing unacceptable impacts on local communities. To support this, all options were assessed through a rigorous appraisal process.

Following a year of comprehensive assessment working with independent leading engineers and international expertise, over 70 options were considered to achieve the ORiW ambition that have now been shortlisted to two preferred ways forward for further detailed assessment. These include options to discharge treated wastewater to either the River Leven or from Ulverston, with costs and benefits appraisal completed for each.

Best value cannot be demonstrated through a single headline figure. An option may appear favourable on cost or benefits in isolation but still represent poor value overall if it is difficult to deliver, creates unacceptable impacts for communities, or fails to meet public expectations for environmental improvement.

To identify the best overall solution, the appraisal looked at a wide range of factors. This includes benefits that can be measured financially, benefits that cannot easily be given a monetary value, how practical each option is to deliver, and who is affected by it. This helps ensure the preferred ways forward provide the greatest overall value from the investment.

The findings of this feasibility report are supported by a robust evidence base consisting of over 75 engineering reports and five HM Treasury Green Book-aligned business case chapters. These documents were created collaboratively with input from the Steering Group, global engineering expertise and subject matter experts who have delivered large

water infrastructure programmes. Combined, these documents give a clear assessment of the technical, environmental and delivery considerations appropriate to this stage of the programme. This analysis has informed the identification, appraisal and refinement of options, providing a strong foundation for the preferred options presented in this report.



1

**Development of
Critical Success Factors**

2

**Longlisting of
interventions**

3

**Shortlisting of
interventions**

4

Option development

5

**International
engineering review**

6

Final shortlist

7

Costing the options

8

Benefits appraisal

9

**The preferred
ways forward**

**Only
Rainwater
into
Windermere**