



Water Resources Partnership Manager

Reports to:	Specialist Lead Water Resilience, South East Rivers Trust
Responsible for:	Liaison between Water Resources South East and Catchment Partnership Hosts to facilitate Catchment Partnership input to regional water resources planning.
Duration:	Fixed term for two years (aligned to Regional Plan development timeframe for water industry Price Review PR29)
Location:	Hybrid working with travel across the Water Resources South East (WRSE) region, including attendance at external meetings, stakeholder events and partnership venues. Some independent travel and occasional lone attendance at external meetings or events may be required. Ability to work at SERT office based in Leatherhead up to 4 times/month.

Overall Aim

To support effective, informed and joined-up engagement between catchment partnerships and regional water resources and resilience planning processes, ensuring that local knowledge and priorities are reflected in regional plans produced by Water Resources South East, while minimising duplication and unnecessary burden on partnerships.

The role

This role will act as a link between catchment partnerships which have been established through the [Catchment Based Approach \(CaBA\)](#) and the [Water Resources South East \(WRSE\)](#) regional planning process for PR29. It will facilitate the inclusion of local knowledge and priorities - particularly nature based interventions - to provide catchment solutions to water resource issues. This will include linking in with planning processes for drainage and wastewater.

This will provide a pathway for local information to be included in water resource and drainage and waste water planning and inform a programme that will be funded and delivered through water company business plans.

You will work with WRSE, their consultants and Environmental Stakeholder Advisory Board who will provide guidance, technical input, and support your work. Together you will develop a model for successful engagement and involvement of catchment partnerships in water resource planning for priority catchments.

You will liaise with catchment partnership hosts and their partnerships to engage them in the process and support them in contributing local knowledge, data, and priorities to Environmental Destination scenarios, Regional Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) options, and the wider regional plan. The regional plan will be

used to inform individual water company Water Resource Management Plans (WRMP). The role will help translate technical outputs into practical, catchment-relevant insight to support catchment partnerships.

Key duties and responsibilities

1. Catchment Engagement and Partnership Working

- Act as the primary liaison between WRSE, catchment hosts and catchment partnerships within priority catchments.
- Lead and facilitate engagement activities, ensuring participation is effective, proportionate and coordinated with wider programmes.
- Support catchment partnerships to engage with Environmental Destination, WINEP and wider regional water resources planning processes.
- Capture and communicate catchment priorities, opportunities and challenges to inform decision-making.

2. Evidence, Option Development and Prioritisation

- Coordinate and synthesise existing catchment evidence, including Water Framework Directive (WFD) investigations, WINEP studies and partnership activities.
- Support the identification of key issues, pressures, opportunities and catchment priorities.
- Facilitate the development of catchment-focused options, including nature-based solutions, working with partners to explore feasibility, constraints and delivery opportunities.
- Identify barriers to progressing options and work with partners and WRSE to develop solutions.

3. Integration and Strategic Alignment

- Support the development and refinement of Environmental Destination approaches through catchment engagement and evidence gathering activities.
- Promote alignment between Environmental Destination, WINEP and other relevant planning processes, including Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs), River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRs).
- Help reduce duplication in engagement, evidence gathering and planning activities across programmes.
- Share learning and best practice across catchments, regions and relevant CaBA initiatives.

4. Communication and Knowledge Exchange

- Supported by the WRSE technical team, translate technical water resources, resilience and modelling outputs into accessible information for catchment partnerships and stakeholders. This will include developing clear briefings, summaries and engagement materials to support informed participation and decision-making.
- Support effective communication between catchment hosts, WRSE, consultants and technical teams.

- Ensure catchment knowledge, evidence and stakeholder perspectives are effectively reflected within Environmental Destination and related planning processes.
- Any further duties where appropriate and consistent with the role's levels of responsibility, competence and risk profile.

Person Specification

Requirements		
Training & Experience	Essential	Desirable
Degree, qualification or equivalent experience in environmental management, water management, geography, planning or a related field.	✓	
Experience working with catchment partnerships, environmental stakeholders or multi-partner programmes.	✓	
Experience facilitating engagement, workshops or collaborative decision-making processes.	✓	
Experience coordinating projects or programmes involving multiple organisations and interests.	✓	
Experience working with environmental evidence or technical information to support decision-making.	✓	
Experience working within the water sector or with regional planning processes.		✓
Experience supporting funding proposals, business cases or investment programmes.		✓
Knowledge & Understanding	Essential	Desirable
Understanding of catchment-based approaches and the key pressures affecting river and catchment health.	✓	
Understanding of water resource issues and pressures on the environment as well as water users from a variety of sectors.	✓	
Understanding of how evidence, partnership working and stakeholder engagement contribute to environmental planning and delivery.	✓	
Awareness of water resources planning and the role of catchment partnerships in influencing environmental outcomes.	✓	
Knowledge of water resources strategy and planning processes (e.g. The National Framework, WRMPs, WINEP, DWMPs and Environmental Destination).		✓
Understanding of nature-based solutions, natural capital and ecosystem services approaches.		✓

Skills & Personal Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Excellent communication, facilitation and relationship-building skills, with the ability to work effectively across a wide range of organisations and interests.	✓	
Ability to interpret technical information and translate it into accessible and practical messages for different audiences.	✓	
Strong organisational skills, with the ability to coordinate activity across multiple workstreams and priorities.	✓	
Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.	✓	
Proactive and self-motivated, with the ability to work independently and collaboratively.	✓	
Experience preparing reports, briefings or communication materials.		✓
Experience using spatial information or mapping tools to support planning and decision-making.		✓
Miscellaneous	Essential	Desirable
Commitment to equality of opportunity	✓	
Full UK driving licence and vehicle which can be used for work purposes.	✓	
Ability to work occasional evenings and weekend if required.	✓	
Suitable, safe home working environment	✓	