

## **Direction to Nutrient Management Boards**

Relieving pressures on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) river catchments to support delivery of affordable housing: [Action plan](#)

*Action 1.2 - Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Welsh Government will provide a clear direction on the role and function of the Nutrient Management Board's (NMB) as a result of the review undertaken by Afonydd Cymru.*

### **Statement of Direction**

The Welsh Government has provided funding to relevant Local Authorities and National Parks to lead and enable effective operation of their respective Nutrient Management Boards or Catchment Partnerships to deliver against priorities outlined in the Grant Offer Letters. The NMBs will do this by identifying actions to enable improvements in water quality designed to restore and conserve favourable condition status, whilst also allowing development to continue within the SAC catchment without increasing the phosphorus loading (nutrient neutral development).

The NMBs are required to operate within the existing regulatory framework to address phosphorus pollution within their respective SAC catchment.

The key output of the NMBs is to produce an actionable Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) which sets out agreed actions, roles and responsibilities required to achieve the twin aims of reaching and maintaining favourable conservation status of the SAC, whilst also facilitating nutrient neutral development. The plan should set out rigorously evidenced short (1-5 year), medium (5-15) and long-term (15 years and beyond) measures or in a format individual NMBs favour. NMPs should also set the foundation for longer-term improvements with the aim of achieving and maintaining SAC compliance. The NMP short term measures must prioritise initiatives to unlock affordable housing at pace within the currently agreed WG funding period (by April 2025)

The NMP should be rigorously evidenced to meet the compliance requirements of the Habitats Regulations and devolved environmental legislation and complement the River Action Plan.

It is recognised that responsible water stewardship in the catchment will require ground up community collaboration. Therefore, NMBs are encouraged to develop strong, effective and cohesive partnerships.