

* **Green Bullet**

28th August 2018

North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West.

We are members of VSNW, the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

This bulletin is intended to keep NWEL members and wider networks up to date on events and issues that will be of interest to environmental voluntary and community sector organisations in the North West. Please send any items for inclusion in the next bulletin to andyyuille@gmail.com - and feel free to forward all or parts of these bulletins throughout your own networks to help spread the word!

The Green Bullet is also available to download from the [VSNW](https://www.vsnw.org.uk/green-bullet) website.

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# *Campaigns*

**Climate change**

* New research suggests that a new [‘Hothouse Earth’](http://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2018-08-06-planet-at-risk-of-heading-towards-hothouse-earth-state.html) climate is likely to be triggered by average global temperature increases of only 2C, as the direct effects of this temperature rise create positive feedback loops (melting sea ice decreasing the earth’s albedo effect, melting permafrost releasing methane, etc) which lead to increased and rapid warming.
* Axios have [mapped the extreme weather events of this summer](https://www.axios.com/heat-records-temperature-climate-change-map-f82a017b-4383-43d0-ae52-42517138b108.html), plotting all the high temperature records that have been broken, with [more extreme temperatures likely for the next four years](https://www.edie.net/news/9/-Extreme-temperatures--especially-likely-for-next-four-years-/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20b7241f7899-dailynewsletter_COPY_365) as natural factors augment man-made changes
* A new survey by YouGov on behalf of ClientEarth reveals the most up-to-date [UK public attitudes towards climate change](https://www.edie.net/news/9/In-numbers--the-UK-public-s-attitudes-towards-climate-change/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%203063ea9945-dailynewsletter_COPY_367) and what the public views as the main drivers and barriers towards a low-carbon economy.
* More than [100 MPs have now signed an open letter](https://www.edie.net/news/11/More-than-100-MPs-back-calls-for-net-zero-emissions-target/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20829937c8ca-dailynewsletter_COPY_353) calling on Prime Minister Theresa May to establish a net-zero emissions target for 2050. You can invite your MP to sign through the [Climate Coalition’s landing page.](https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/joint-letter/)

**Waste**

* The amount of [food wasted each year worldwide is set to rise by a third](https://www.bcg.com/publications/2018/tackling-1.6-billion-ton-food-loss-and-waste-crisis.aspx) by 2030 without "urgent and aggressive" action from nations and corporates, according to a damning new report from Boston Consulting Group (BCG), which warns that the current approach to the food waste issue is too weak and fragmented. Currently, around 1.6 billion tonnes of food worth approximately $1.2trillion goes to waste each year, representing about one-third of the food produced globally by weight, according to BCG. They predict that by 2030, the scale of the problem will grow to a point where 66 tonnes of food will be wasted each second, with 2.1 billion tonnes, worth $1.5trn, sent to landfill annually.
* Fight waste and built-in obsolescence at a [repair café](https://repaircafe.org/en/location/levenshulme-repair-cafe/) – or diversify your organisation by setting up your own! Bring along items that need fixing and volunteers will do their best to help. You might even learn (or teach!) a few skills along the way. Currently in the North West in [Penrith](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001b2v_uwrA1ygvV4dD3oPBuXejyLI223csUNIkAULtGZdHCnrP5HHl3g-BOUKfovc0AZU9GSiNyJdF7K0KAv_VXiY-Eb22Il6BIx5UnuxEWlF30rXlOWztoG7EsqVh3B5DWheZY-tRu4B7HSrUXP5_0osNX4iAUDd0o7Fe7S-ApBUMaAj-67TFmOWiF-IvLcxbe-ak9q9WnZQ=&c=TP5EvlJ5tsEZVLG9Zdnmh627QJrfcKl3PNco3UUsAyCfyCQT_B1-ng==&ch=p4SdvjTpFy6TFMer717BIJQ0GNWVEsXQefzYlQRYilvjW4nSTqfxBg==); [Kirkby Stephen](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001b2v_uwrA1ygvV4dD3oPBuXejyLI223csUNIkAULtGZdHCnrP5HHl3iAEsFOOnQdsk5Ap9HrgERJj1VwhnZEPa0Hain4zMmje_b2ZG30F5stun5SvRLjzH48rrLQv1RoOa9cSTb1hyoT6CcGQyBakyVtVVJjNqEiJmm1xZbCT1mztUSMrLTS3kAK-BM3N9_Tr4AE7CNsTQ02lv5TgJlrtjJ9wcYHRBATD&c=TP5EvlJ5tsEZVLG9Zdnmh627QJrfcKl3PNco3UUsAyCfyCQT_B1-ng==&ch=p4SdvjTpFy6TFMer717BIJQ0GNWVEsXQefzYlQRYilvjW4nSTqfxBg==); Alston Moor (Sun 23 Sept, 10am-1pm, Nenthead Village Hall), [Simply Repair South Lakes](https://www.facebook.com/SimplyRepairSL/), [Manchester](https://stitchedup.coop/event/manchester-repair-cafe-4/2018-07-21/) and [Levenshulme](https://repaircafe.org/en/location/levenshulme-repair-cafe/).
* An unprecedented number of respondents to a UK Government consultation examining [plastic waste](https://www.edie.net/news/5/Public-backs-tax-reforms-to-tackle-plastic-waste-in-record-numbers/?adfesuccess=1) have called for tax reforms to tackle plastic waste. [Single-use plastic bag sales at major supermarkets have plummeted](https://www.aol.co.uk/news/2018/07/27/single-use-plastic-bag-sales-at-major-supermarkets-down-86-sinc/?guccounter=2) by 86% since the 5p charge was introduced, showing the effectiveness of simple measures.
* [1,000 tonnes of illegally exported waste](https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2018/08/13/poland-waste-uk-illegal-investigation/) is being returned to the UK from Poland. The UK is facing a crisis in its ability to deal with its own waste since [China refused to accept any more](https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2017/12/07/china-plastic-scrap-ban-crisis-uk-recycling/) earlier this year.
* Penrith Action for Community Transition is leading a [campaign for a plastic-free Cumbria](https://www.penrithact.org.uk/plastic-pledges), suggesting pledges that individuals and organisations can make to reduce plastic waste in the county, especially single-use plastics.

**Land reform**

An open letter has been sent to Government from organisations across the political spectrum calling for reform of the way that the [increase in land value is captured](http://www.ukonward.com/landreform/) when planning permission is granted, in order to provide benefits to communities instead of excessive profits to development corporations. Anyone can sign: please consider it!

**Air quality**

New research on air quality shows that

* while increasing urban vegetation can [help mitigate the effects of air pollution](https://www.airqualitynews.com/2018/07/30/plants-and-trees-not-the-solution-to-air-pollution-in-cities/), very substantial decreases in pollution have to be achieved as well; and
* exposure to low levels of air pollution significantly below the UK legal limit (which is already substantially higher than the WHO recommends) [changes the physical structure of the heart](https://www.airqualitynews.com/2018/08/03/clear-association-between-air-pollution-and-heart-structure/) and [impairs cognitive functioning](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/27/air-pollution-causes-huge-reduction-in-intelligence-study-reveals).

**Trees & woods**

A new Accord between the Forestry Commission and National Parks England that aims to [expand and enhance woodland in National Parks](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-accord-launches-to-enhance-national-parks-and-woodland) to protect wildlife and connect people with nature has been launched. The Accord will bring together decision makers to ensure woodland is managed sustainably and in line with a natural capital approach. This will take into account the environmental, social and economic impact of trees and forests.

# *Information update*

## Energy

* Cuadrilla has received yet another warning from the Environment Agency after [breaching its permit conditions for the sixth time](https://drillordrop.com/2018/08/14/cuadrilla-warned-over-another-environmental-breach-at-lancashire-fracking-site/). The Environment Agency are not empowered to take any other action at this point despite Cuadrilla’s repeated failures to comply with their agreed operating conditions.
* The Government has decided to address public opposition to fracking, by [stopping asking the public what they think about fracking](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/16/uk-government-drops-fracking-question-from-public-attitude-tracker). If they don’t ask the question, how can they possibly be blamed for not caring about the answer?
* A UK government report concluding that [shale gas extraction increases air pollution](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/02/buried-uk-government-report-finds-fracking-increases-air-pollution) was left unpublished for three years and only released four days after ministers approved fracking in Lancashire
* Members of the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) have criticised the Government for "relying on past successes" towards tackling climate change, after a damning report revealed that [clean energy investment in the UK fell by 56% last year.](https://www.edie.net/news/11/Government-accused-of--coasting-on-climate-change--after-fall-in-clean-energy-investment/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20829937c8ca-dailynewsletter_COPY_353)
* Government advisors have called for a [series of small nuclear reactors](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/news/article/579/planning_news_-_16_august_2018?utm_source=PPQ+Newsletter&utm_campaign=b04256cb56-Newsletter_16082018_HTML&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_734e0b63a9-b04256cb56-6976173#three) to be built on existing nuclear sites, to avoid ‘problems’ with the planning system and public consultation
* The Select Committee scrutinizing the draft National Policy Statement for geological disposal infrastructure (ie [where to bury our high-level nuclear waste](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nuclear-waste-national-parks-radioactive-aonb-energy-lake-district-beis-a8470376.html)) has put the Lake District firmly back on the map by explicitly refusing to rule out national parks as radioactive waste dumps. Cumbria had previously been the Government’s favoured location for the big hole.

## Planning

* The ever-reliable Andy Boddington has produced an overview of what he considers the most significant [changes in the new National Planning Policy Framework](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/01c62fa78c9fd83358f428a65/files/8f2aeec1-2628-4e3c-8903-0370109285e1/CPRE_South_East_eBulletin_August_2018_NPPF.01.pdf) from a countryside protection perspective.
* CPRE have described the new NPPF as ‘a speculative developer’s charter’ and have produced [a series of briefings on the implications of the new policy](http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/sound-bites/item/4923-new-planning-rulebook-heavily-criticised-by-cpre) geared around six themes: the purpose of planning, planning and democracy, housing targets, affordable housing, brownfield, and countryside protection.
* Insights on the most significant changes to the NPPF from a range of other perspectives can be found in briefings by [Friends of the Earth](https://cdn.friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/NPPF2-analysis.pdf), [Historic England](http://content.historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/planning/he-nppf-briefing-jul18.pdf), the [RTPI](https://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/9/8/0/4/7/files/511298_revised-nppf-briefing-note.pdf), the [Local Government Association](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/300718%20LGA%20Briefing%20-%20revisions%20to%20the%20National%20Planning%20Policy%20Framework.pdf), and [Pegasus Group](https://www.pegasusgroup.co.uk/national-planning-policy-framework-nppf-briefing-note/)
* The Government has confirmed that the new housing need methodology should be used immediately for decision-making, although plans currently at a late stage of development can be tested against the old rules until January. The Planning Inspectorate has said that appeals that have been heard but not yet decided could be re-opened to take the new rules into account.
* The Government has launched its new [Garden Communities Prospectus](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/garden-communities-prospectus?utm_source=ea164940-ad3b-44a1-ace2-7a6b9af24de0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate), inviting garden town and village developers to bid for additional government support for projects. The new NPPF has changed from saying that new large-scale settlements or urban extensions can ‘sometimes’ be the best solution for delivering housing to saying that they ‘often’ will be, while CPRE has warned that if handled badly they could ‘[lead to low-density, car-dependent, residential-led sprawl](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/08/15/new-generation-garden-cities-will-lead-random-residential-sprawl/)’. Four of the 14 garden villages so far supported by Government are in the North West:
	+ [North Cheshire (Handforth) Garden Village](http://www.wilmslow.co.uk/news/article/17963/council-sets-out-vision-for-new-garden-village) (1,500 homes and 29.6 acres of employment land) is also about to be subject to a six-week consultation to establish the vision and strategic objectives of the site, identify the planning requirements that all planning applications must include, and set in place an overall masterplan and design guide to frame development proposals, in a Supplementary Planning Document expected to be approved by Cheshire East at the end of this month.
	+ [St Cuthbert’s Garden Village](http://www.stcuthbertsgv.co.uk/) south of Carlisle (10,000 new homes) has recently closed a consultation on its [Concept and Vision proposals](http://www.stcuthbertsgv.co.uk/GET-INVOLVED/News-and-Updates/ArticleID/7/Concept-Proposals-and-Vision-Consultation), proposing a landscape-led approach which would include a new Caldew Country Park, Petteril River Park and connecting Greenway. There is also an [RTPI Young Planners event](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/events/events-calendar/2018/september/st-cuthberts-garden-village%2C-carlisle/) about the Garden Village to be held on 13th September in Carlisle.
	+ The [Bailrigg Garden Village](https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/bailrigg-garden-village) south of Lancaster (3,500 homes) concluded a consultation on Issues & Options in July this year, and will be further tested during the public examination of Lancaster’s Strategic Policies and Land Allocations document this autumn.
	+ [Halsnead Garden Village](http://councillors.knowsley.gov.uk/documents/s48304/Appendix%20A%20SPD.pdf?StyleType=standard&StyleSize=none) in Knowsley (1,600 homes and 22.5ha of employment land) will be developed according to the Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document adopted last year
* A written ministerial statement in December 2014 required [Sustainable Drainage Systems](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-review-of-the-application-and-effectiveness-of-planning-policy-for-sustainable-drainage-systems) (SuDS) to be provided in all major new developments. A Government review published this month found that while the vast majority of councils now have policies requiring this, less than a third have any means of monitoring or enforcing it.

## Transport

* Lancashire has approved a ten year cycling and walking strategy dubbed ‘[Actively Moving Forward](http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/documents/s137345/Appendix%20A.pdf)’, which aims to double the number of people cycling in the county and increase the amount that people walk by up to 10%.
* Friends of the Earth has launched a legal challenge against the government’s decision to approve a [third runway at Heathrow Airport](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/news/article/579/planning_news_-_16_august_2018?utm_source=PPQ+Newsletter&utm_campaign=b04256cb56-Newsletter_16082018_HTML&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_734e0b63a9-b04256cb56-6976173#one), claiming it is unlawful because it fails to address the UK’s climate change obligations. [Plan B](https://planb.earth/plan-b-v-heathrow-expansion/) have made a similar challenge. [Greenpeace](https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/34097/Judicial-review-launched-against-Heathrow-expansion) is part of a multi-party challenge with the Mayor of London and several London Borough Councils on grounds of air quality, inadequate environmental assessment, climate change, surface access, breach of the habitats directive and a flawed consultation process. There are also [three other legal challenges](https://www.bdb-law.co.uk/blogs/planning-act-2008/804-six-challenges-to-airports-nps/?utm_source=Blog&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Planning%20Act%20blog%20804), two from individuals and one from a rival runway promoter.
* The metro mayors of Manchester and Liverpool city regions have written to the Secretary of State for Transport to [demand a freeze on rail fares](https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/news/burnham-and-rotheram-plead-for-fare-freeze/#utm_source=Place+North+West&utm_campaign=Place_Daily_Briefing__Monday_1_2018-08-13&utm_medium=email), following a dramatic collapse in service levels since new timetables were introduced in May.

# *Publications*

**Civil Society Strategy**

**The Government has launched the first** [Civil Society Strategy](https://mclist.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=140ee44361693f8e02f797653&id=dea04f84da&e=412c20b608) **in 15 years, which, they claim, aims to build stronger communities by bringing businesses, charities and the public sector together, and put communities and charities at the heart of decision-making.** They claim that this Strategy should be seen as a companion to the Industrial Strategy, but promoting community and social growth rather than productivity and economic growth.

**Greening Greater Manchester**

Following on from the inaugural Green Summit in March, the [Greater Manchester: Springboard Report to a Green City Region](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/info/20005/green_city_region/117/green_summit/2) is an action plan that takes on board feedback from its 600 delegates as well as over 1,200 individuals who attended listening events leading up to it, and sets out the first steps they will take this year. A number of online workstreams will also be set up to work with others to develop detailed delivery and investment proposals, focussing on buildings efficiency and energy generation, over the next year. This will all come together to define a 5 year plan to be agreed at the next Green Summit on 25th March 2019. To get involved or give feedback before then, please contact LCH@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk.

**State of the Green Belt**

CPRE’s annual [State of the Green Belt](https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/housing-and-planning/green-belts/item/4931-state-of-the-green-belt-2018?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=campaigns-update-2018-aug&utm_content=Campaigns+Update+2018+Aug+-+non+members)report assesses the ‘strategic shrinking’ of the Green Belt, showing that currently 460,000 homes are being planned to be built on land soon be released from the Green Belt, with less than just over 20% classed as affordable. Local authorities with Green Belt land have enough brownfield land for over 720,000 homes, the report finds, much of which is in areas with a high need for housing and existing infrastructure.  The report finds that the ‘exceptional circumstances’ required to roll back Green Belt boundaries are becoming anything but exceptional.

**National & regional infrastructure**

A report by the [Confederation of British Industry (CBI)](http://www.cbi.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/driving-delivery/) has called for the government to establish an inter-departmental group that includes all departments with responsibilities for infrastructure so policy, planning and delivery is better coordinated. They claim that "inconsistency between regions means different parts of the country are seen to be playing by different rules".

**NW coastal path (and culture)**

Natural England have produced an [update on progress on the North West coastal path](http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2018/08/23/north-west-coastal-access-june-update-and-cultural-value-of-the-cumbrian-coast-survey/), which will (hopefully, eventually) provide continuous access around the length of the north west coast. They have also linked up with a Dublin University project investigating the cultural influences and values - and impacts of ecosystem change - on and of the Cumbrian coastline: you can [find out more and participate here](https://culturalvalueofcoastlines.com/).

# *Events*

**Cumbria Green Build Festival**

Cumbria Green Build Festival brings you an exciting programme of events across the county, to help you make your buildings more energy efficient and your lifestyle that little bit greener. [Find out about events](https://cumbriagreenbuild.org.uk/events/) all the way through September on topics from energy conservation and generation to permaculture and re-wilding.

**Locality Convention '18**
7 - 8 November, Bristol Marriott City Centre.Join hundreds of people at the [biggest community sector event of the year](https://locality.org.uk/events/convention/book-tickets-to-convention/), for inspiration, new skills and to celebrate the power of community. Early bird ticket offer ends 31st August.

**Natural Infrastructure Scheme**

**The** [Natural Infrastructure Scheme](https://www.green-alliance.org.uk/natural_infrastructure_schemes_in_practice.php) is a market in avoided costs in which water utilities, infrastructure operators and public agencies would contract farmers to implement measures on their land to slow the flow of water and improve water quality. The scheme is being developed by the Green Alliance in partnership with the National Trust. [This webinar](https://ecosystemsknowledge.net/investmentforum) (Wednesday 26th September 2018, 1:00 to 2:00pm) will explore the potential for the NIS model to form the basis for attracting new capital investment in the farmed environment. It will examine the security of the likely revenue streams and how outcomes might be assured to buyers in NIS schemes. The webinar is available to members of the Natural Capital Investment Forum: to become a member email info@ecosystemsknowledge.net or [find out more](https://ecosystemsknowledge.net/forums).

**Tree Health, Green Infrastructure, Health & Wellbeing.**

The [Landscape Institute](https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/event/licpdday-mersey-2018/) are holding a continuing professional development day at Risley Moss, Warrington, on 25th September. Join them for a day of landscape learning and knowledge-sharing through presentations, guided tours, advocacy workshops and networking sessions.

# *Resources*

**Greater Manchester FarmStart Programme open for Applications**

If you’re looking to make a gradual transition from community or allotment growing to commercial production, [FarmStart](https://kindling.org.uk/farmstart) offers the perfect opportunity to build up your skills and experiment with organic growing on a larger scale. Upcoming events include: 'Do you want to be a farmer?' Q&A Sept 10th and ‘Commercial Growers Course’: October 6th,7th, 20th and 28th. FarmStart: Jan-Dec 2019, 2 days a week @ FarmStart Woodbank, Stockport.

**Defra Local Action Project Resources**

Defra's Local Action Project worked with local communities to enhance the value of natural capital in urban areas. Resources form the project are available [here](https://ecosystemsknowledge.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0422cf0f805cd08eadbae5392&id=1b0476bfe2&e=324a5c6036) including case study examples, workshop materials, communication tools, cost-benefit frameworks and planning advice for integrated water management.

**Urban ecosystem accounts**

The Office for National Statistics have published [UK ecosystem accounts for urban areas](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/uknaturalcapital/ecosystemaccountsforurbanareas) on their website. The accounts provide information about the extent and condition of green space in urban areas as well as the value of the services these green spaces provide. The areas, number and function of green space sites across Great Britain have been estimated and indicators have been included to determine their condition.

**Sustainable Development Goals**

Sustainability and CSR professionals looking to [embed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)](https://www.edie.net/downloads/Achieving-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals--A-Blueprint-for-Business-Leadership-/304) within their organisation's business strategy now have access to a comprehensive new report which breaks down everything there is to know about the global Goals, and offers clear, practical steps on how businesses can advance global progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs by 2030.

**Community Energy**

Electricity North West has launched a [community and local energy strategy](https://www.enwl.co.uk/globalassets/community-and-local-energy/documents/enwl-community-and-local-energy-strategy.pdf), setting out how it will forge links with community and local energy groups, increase understanding of the challenges facing them and hopefully develop new ways of working together to deliver collaborative solutions.

# *Consultations*

**Fracking**

The two Government consultations on fracking are still open: on [bringing the ‘production’ stage of fracking into the Planning Act 2008 regime](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727044/NSIP_Consultation_Document_Final.pdf). (ie bypassing local councils and reducing the opportunity for public participation in decision-making) and on making [exploratory drilling for fracking permitted development](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/permitted-development-for-shale-gas-exploration) (ie subject to approximately the same level of planning control as putting up a garden shed). This is despite the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee issuing a report on 2 July that [concluded that these changes should absolutely should not happen](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmcomloc/767/767.pdf): ‘Fracking planning applications should not be brought under the NSIP regime’ (para 83, p 28); ‘Shale gas development of any type should not be classed as a permitted development.’ (para 91, p 30), because they would be ‘hugely harmful to local democracy’. But why listen to experts, eh? Deadlines: 25th October.

**River Basin Management Plans**

The Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have launched [consultations on the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) process](http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2018/07/05/consultation-working-together-river-basin-management-plans/). The current plans run to 2021 and must be reviewed and updated every 6 years. This consultation is the start of this updating process; it sets out the steps for review, the proposed timetable and how stakeholders can get involved in order to produce revised RBMPs for the period 2021-27. Deadline: 22 December 2018.

**The future of mobility**

The Government is seeking views and evidence to inform their work on [the future of mobility](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-mobility-call-for-evidence) – addressing the structural questions of how we get around, looking at trends over the next few decades. No small task! Deadline: 10 September.

**The last mile**

The Department for Transport is calling for views as to how delivery firms can be encouraged to [shift to less polluting ‘last mile’ operations](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-last-mile-a-call-for-evidence), including **solutions such as cargo bikes, electric vans and ‘micro vehicles’.** Deadline: 10 September

# *Awards*

**Coastal Excellence Awards**

The North West Coastal Forum has announced the opening of nominations for the [5th biennial North West Awards for Coastal Excellence](http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2018/07/06/call-for-entries-north-west-awards-for-coastal-excellence-2018/), established in 2010 to encourage and inspire better coastal management by showcasing the work and achievements of individuals, community groups and bigger organisations making the coast a better place for all, now and in the future. Deadline: 30th September.

**Rural Community Ownership Awards**

The Plunkett Foundation are inviting entries for their [Rural Community Ownership Awards](https://plunkett.co.uk/awards/) - an annual celebration of the achievements of rural community businesses in tackling rural issues across the UK. The awards aim to celebrate and raise awareness of the unique contributions community businesses make to creating resilient, thriving and inclusive rural communities. Deadline: 14th September

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North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West.

VSNW is the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

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