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## ASSESSING THE RELATIVE SUSTAINABILITY OF MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS USING MULTI-CRITERIA TECHNIQUES

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### Abstract

*The SWARD (Sustainable Water industry Asset Resource Decisions) research project funded by EPSRC and the Water Industry has developed a set of decision support processes (DSP) to assist Water Service Providers (WSPs) to assess the relative sustainability of water/wastewater system asset development decisions.*

*The disposal of gross sanitary waste (SW) via the WC, causes major problems for the operators of UK wastewater systems (e.g. blockages, deposition and sludge disposal problems) and leads to significant impacts on the environment via overflow discharges and 'escape' through screens. A case study has investigated six possible options for dealing with the problems of sanitary waste escape. These include end of pipe solutions, input reduction solutions and in-sewer storage solutions.*

*The selection of criteria, data assembly and the use of three multi-criteria analysis (MCA) techniques ELECTRE III, PROMETHEE and SMART to assess the relative sustainability of the six different options under consideration are presented.*

**Keywords:** Decision making, Multi-criteria analysis techniques, Sustainability, Sustainability Criteria, Sanitary Waste Escape

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### Introduction

It is estimated that 2.5 million tampons, 1.4 million sanitary towels and 700,000 panty liners are disposed of by WC every day in the UK. Of great concern is the increase in the amount of plastic being used in these items and changes in public usage patterns. Numbers and weights being disposed of are unlikely to reduce in the foreseeable future, even with government and other minimisation initiatives. The problems for wastewater system operators caused through disposal of sanitary waste (SW) items via the WC include: blockages; increased requirement for sewer maintenance; increased loads to wastewater treatment plants – necessitating screens; and significant impacts on the environment via overflow discharges and 'escape' through screens.

It is apparent that the best way of managing this waste needs to be determined both for the present and the future. A case study has investigated the problem of domestic sanitary waste escape in a catchment, using the SWARD (Sustainable Water industry Asset Resource Decisions) decision support processes (Ashley et al 2004). Six possible options for dealing with the problem of sanitary waste escape have been generated for assessment. These include a public information campaign, end-of-pipe solutions, the retrofitting of constricting WCs, and changes to the physical sewerage system.

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## **The Sanitary Waste Case Study**

The catchment used for the case study was a small coastal town (population c.1500) in Scotland. The catchment has 626 domestic properties, mostly detached or semi-detached. These properties have large impermeable roof areas, and the majority also have drives of which about 30% are porous (paving or gravel). A large portion of the town's developed area is on high ground above the original coastal floodplain. The catchment is served by 80% combined and 20% surface water sewers.

The case study has required active collaboration between the three Scottish Water Authorities and the SWARD team to produce a realistic case study. The collaborators were involved in each of the phases of the Decision Support Processes (DSP) during the case study.

## **Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA)**

The objective of multi-criteria approaches is to help managers to make better decisions in the presence of ambiguity and uncertainty by analysing the decision-making context, identifying the number and personality of actors (stakeholders), identifying and defining the different possibilities of actions (decisions), their consequences and stakes. This is done by getting the actors to cooperate in the decision-making process. A set of decision criteria is defined and proposed to facilitate a better mutual understanding of the decision-making framework, which is favourable to debate. The types of consequences and attributes defining the criteria are identified together with their imprecision, inaccurate determination and the conditions these criteria should satisfy. Comprehensive comparisons can then be made by quantifying the preference information related to the specific role of each criterion due to its own importance. These comprehensive comparisons are made using aggregation mathematical models that can use a synthesizing single criterion or more outranking relations of logic procedures which generate the required output of the decision process, namely the final selection, assignment or ranking.

SWARD sustainability criteria and indicators have been determined, and qualitative and quantitative data assembled. The precise definition of the criteria and the opportunity of their inclusion in the multi-criteria decision making process was determined through a series of workshops with a number of WSPs both in Britain and Romania. A separate workshop was organised with a number of decision-makers, academics and researchers from India experienced in the water industry. A wide range of techniques have been used to collect the information required, including Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) hydraulic modelling and surveys of public attitudes.

These criteria are classified under four categories, which aim to encapsulate the economic, environmental and social principles of sustainability, together with technical criteria, which relate primarily to the ability of the water/wastewater system to sustain and enhance the performance of the functions for which it is designed.

Within each category, a small number of primary criteria are specified. Under each of these primary criteria, a larger number of secondary criteria are specified. These can be used as the basis for indicators to assess the future performance of the water/wastewater system under the particular development option under scrutiny, in order to assess whether the system is moving towards or away from sustainability. The secondary criteria give more case specific types of impact under these headings (Foxon et al. 2002).

In the case study the pertinent primary criteria have been selected or informed by the generic list but were specifically defined for the given decision objective, to allow the assessment of the relative sustainability of the six options given in Table 1. Table 2 presents the primary criteria, secondary criteria and attributes used in the case study and Table 3 the full set of data collected that was used for all three MCA methods.

The criteria were discussed and validated at a steering group meeting with senior representatives from the water industry. A workshop was also held involving members of staff from a water authority with the aim of weighting the importance of the selected criteria in the decision making process. A range of activities was completed in the workshop, involving individual ranking, placing the criteria into

categories, and ranking the four categories of sustainability criteria. The results of the SWARD workshops in particular highlight the difficulties faced when entering into processes that require the ranking or weighting of criteria, categories or indicators for decision support purposes (Table 4, 5 and 6). A group discussion took place at the end of the workshop in which the group rankings and categorisation of criteria were agreed. A further meeting with a water industry 'decision maker' allowed data to be obtained on preferences, indifference values and veto levels for all the criteria, which were needed for input into Multicriteria Analysis models. In this way the SWARD team could determine the weighting of the criteria for both situations, namely single decision-makers and group decision-makers, thus allowing a comparison of the two to be made.

Three MCA methods were used in the case study: ELECTRE (Roy 1978, Roy et al. 1992), PROMETHEE (Vincke 1992) and Simple Multiple Attribute Rating Technique (SMART) to help the decision-maker to find a preferred option among the 6 identified that will manage better the sanitary waste taking into account the defined 16 criteria (Oltean-Dumbrava et al. 2004). These methods were selected for the following reasons:

- PROMETHEE and ELECTRE III are non trade-off methods that can be used in strategic, complex decision-making problems, that have far reaching consequences in time or involve substantial capital costs. One of the differences between these two methods is that PROMETHEE has six predefined value functions. As such its use is recommended only if the criteria selected can be modelled by one of these predefined value functions. This restricts the use of this methodology.
- ELECTRE III, on the other hand, has no predefined value functions. When using this methodology one has to model these functions for each criterion individually. The methodology is more complex and can deal with a very high number of variables. By using a veto threshold unacceptable options and or values for criteria are eliminated from the analysis.
- SMART is a methodology recommended in everyday decision-making problems of a multi-criteria nature. The major weakness of this model is that it is a trade-off method and can be used for the analysis of up to 15 criteria at the most. Its compensatory nature can mask unacceptable values for criteria.

### **The Electre Analysis**

In the presence of a multicriteria decision problem with a finite set (6) of alternatives/options, a consistent family of 16 pseudo criteria the decision-maker needs expert help to rank these 6 options. The ranking of the 6 options, in a decreasing order of preference, is based on a fuzzy outranking relation represented by a credibility degree. The value functions developed for the 16 criteria used both the partial and complete pre-order using a descending distillation procedures by which the 'preferred' options are selected first each time from the remaining ones. The input data and parameter settings are presented in Table 7 and Table 8.

The outranking relationship between the 6 options is presented in a graphical form in Figure 1 using the descending order (from the best option to the worst option) and in Figure 2 using the ascending order (from the worst option to the best option). These two ways of ranking are called distillations. One can notice that they are slightly different. The final ranking is obtained through the average of the ranks of the two intermediate distillations and is presented in Table 9. ELECTRE III Analysis preferred option is SeRe followed by TBYF.

### **The Promethee Analysis**

The PROMETHEE procedure is based also on pairwise comparisons. From the 6 predefined preference functions the decision-maker was asked to select the one he considered better modelled the criterion in question. The DECISION LAB 2000 software was used for the analysis. It is developed for real world applications and can perform up to 3600 evaluations. The performance matrix is presented in Table 10.

Introducing the data from Table 10 and Table 11 in the software a partial ranking was obtained using PROMETHEE I. The partial ranking is the intersection of positive and negative outranking flows. The positive ( $\Phi+$ ) and negative ( $\Phi-$ ) outranking flows are usually not identical. In this case the information of both outranking flows is consistent and may therefore be considered as reliable. The partial ranking is presented in Figure 3.

The partial ranking does not indicate which option TBYP or SeRe is better. It is up to the decision-maker to take his/her responsibility in selecting one of them. That is why the decision-maker often requires a complete ranking. This is the balance between the positive and the negative outranking flows. The higher the net flow ( $\Phi$ ), the 'better' the option. A complete ranking is obtained with PROMETHEE II. The complete ranking is presented in Figure 4. One can notice that only the first three options have a positive net flow.

To conclude, the final ranking obtained using the PROMETHEE methods indicates the preferred option to be TBYP followed closely by SeRe.

### **The Smart Analysis**

As stated before SMART's main weakness is that it is a trade-off method and can be used for the analysis of up to 15-16 criteria at the most. Its compensatory nature can hide unacceptable values for criteria. The SMART analysis data are presented in Table 12.

The ranking order of Preference as determined from the SMART analysis is presented in Figure 5. SMART's preferred option is TBYP followed by RSSC.

### **Analyses of Results**

Sensitivity analyses were performed on the analyses in order to study if the results obtained by using the three multicriteria methods form a good support for building a recommendation to the decision-maker on the possible preferred option. For elaborating recommendations to the decision-maker it is important to consider the impact of the changes of weights on the overall ranking and to ascertain if the changes are significant. In summary, taking into account the sensitivity analysis also, the ranking results for each of the options in each of the analyses are presented in Table 13.

### **Comparison of Results**

For ease of use SMART is superior, followed by PROMETHEE, as a result of its predefined value functions. The software is user-friendly and illustrates to the decision-maker (with the aid of the decision stick) the impact of changes in weights on the ranking of options. It also illustrates how each option is performing for each individual criterion. The ELECTRE III software is the most sophisticated of the three presented and as such is more difficult to use. It does not have the graphical instruments of PROMETHEE/PROMCALC, although the ranking can be presented in a graphical form. However, the most time consuming is not the analysis itself, but the data collection. Overall consideration of the results presented in Table 13 would suggest that the Think Before You Flush (TBYP) option generally dominates the top rankings, followed by sewer rehabilitation (SeRe) and then the retrofit source control (RSSC). The other three options are consistently placed in the final three positions. Whilst there would appear to be a reasonable degree of consistency between the outranking methods (PROMETHEE and ELECTRE), there is less consistency between these methods and the SMART analysis. This is likely to be due to the influence of trade-offs in the SMART analysis between positive and less positive scores for individual criteria within the analysis.

Based on the overall result and ignoring the fact that SMART is a trade-off method and as such distorting to a certain extent the results, the final ranking is presented in Table 14.

Decision-makers may not select the option that has been shown to be the more sustainable. This may be due to a number of reasons, leading to constraints that could not be fully included in the analysis above. It is the decision-maker's responsibility to consider if selecting option TBYP, the assumptions made about public changes in culture and habit are not too optimistic. The final decision depends very

much on the attitude to risk the decision-maker has. Both 'investment' option SeRe and RSSC are very close in terms of their utility and can complement the TBYF option in the case of an adverse to risk or neutral to risk decision-maker. The MCA ranking is in a stark contrast with the one established on the basis of professional judgement (with no MCA) by the decision-makers in a workshop. Their ranking is presented in Table 15. This table shows that the decision-makers have top ranked the least sustainable options thus emphasising the necessity to undertake a MCA especially for strategic decisions.

In order to simulate the final decision making stage, the results of the MCA and the sensitivity analysis were presented to a group of water industry experts with different professional backgrounds. A consensus was reached that a combination of unproven methods, which were generally identified by the MCA analysis as being more sustainable, and a complementary proven method was the appropriate approach to the problem. The final decision was taken to adopt a combination of TBYF and screen solutions with the screen providing a safety net if the TBYF campaign proved unsuccessful. This was deemed particularly important for this catchment as it was a holiday resort. In such catchments, holidaymakers may not have the same knowledge and understanding of sanitary waste issues and therefore screens may still be required. However, it was noted that when screen replacement was required (in ca. 20 years), the success of the TBYF campaign could be established and the screen may ultimately prove to be unnecessary.

## Conclusions

This case study has illustrated the application of the SWARD DSPs to compare the relative sustainability of a range of options for the management of SW. The outputs from three MCA models indicate that the traditional engineering solutions are less sustainable than the alternative options explored. Running public education campaigns appears to be the *most sustainable* of the six options. Institutional systems and regulatory targets in the UK sometime encourage the adoption of less sustainable technologies or solutions, hence the continuing reliance on screening and in-sewer storage. Despite the recognition of the need to contribute to sustainable development expressed by the industry and its regulators, sustainability issues are not properly reflected in the way in which performance targets are set, and the financial determinations allow only for the achievement of current performance standards within very short (5 year) timescale. Without a dramatic and fundamental change in the way in which these organisations operate, the move towards establishing more sustainable water/wastewater infrastructure is sure to be laborious.

The results of the SWARD workshops in particular highlight the difficulties faced when entering into processes that require the ranking or weighting of criteria, categories or indicators for decision support purposes. A range of explicit and implicit factors will always influence the value systems expressed, both in individuals and within a group.

The way that workshop questions are posed will also have an effect on the interpretation and thus the outcome, and whether an individual or negotiated group approach is used for stakeholder involvement in any project is likely to significantly affect the results of any ranking and weighting exercises undertaken. This emphasises the fact that dealing with the value systems of any stakeholder group/s is not as straightforward a task as is often portrayed, and this caveat should be borne in mind by all those involved in participatory exercises. However, despite the wide range of professional participants that took part in the SWARD workshops, some commonalities run through the results. The dominance of economic criteria as the most important of the SWARD categories in most workshops is perhaps unsurprising, cost ultimately being a major decision driver across all social and environmental transactions. Decision makers are accountable mainly in terms of costs and individuals will always think firstly in terms of financial affordability. Another explanation could be that decision makers and other stakeholders are more comfortable with quantitative criteria than with the more qualitative criteria. Although the latter may be measurable in particular 'units of measurements' these are, ultimately, always going to be less tangible than those that are expressed in more readily accepted financial value terms. This last aspect will make the measurement of sustainability more difficult.

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| <b>Option</b>                    | <b>Objective</b>  | <b>Measures</b>  | <b>Description</b>  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| A<br><i>End of pipe solution</i> | To meet the minimum discharge requirement for aesthetic pollution   | <i>A1 Install 6mm screens (or equivalent) at the storm overflow.</i><br>(In6S)   | There is a storm overflow at the town's wastewater treatment plant, which serves the storm/emergency overflow, discharging to a long sea outfall. The 12mm bar screen serving this outfall will be replaced by a 6mm drum screen or similar technology. The option only meets the present requirement & the likelihood of the standard changing should be taken into account.   |
| B<br><i>Habit change</i>         | To achieve a sustained reduction in the number of SW items disposed by the waterborne route, ideally removing them entirely from the waterborne system.   | <i>B1 Educational approach to habit change.</i><br>(TBYP)                        | The 'Think Before You Flush' (TBYP) campaign highlights the issue of SW & educates the public about the effect of flushing & encourages alternative disposal practices. However, the reduction in the number of items disposed of via WC cannot be guaranteed as this relies on the behaviour of individuals in private.  |
|                                  |   | <i>B2 Retrofit/fit low-flush small-bore outlets to existing/new WCs</i><br>(ROC) | Small-bore outlets on WCs will stop the flushing of large items of SW. This will force the public into using alternative methods of disposal. This method will also require education of the user regarding the smaller items that will still flush e.g. cotton buds.   |
| C<br><i>Spill reduction</i>      | To reduce flows in the sewer system, so that the overflows operate less frequently, discharging less SW to the environment. However, just as much SW will reach the treatment plant as currently. | <i>C1 In-sewer storage</i><br>(InSt)   | Increasing storage within the sewerage system will reduce the effect of increases in flow due to rainfall. Storage provides flow equalisation & reduces the peak flow rate. Storage may be in the form of on- or off-line storage tanks. Flow stored in the tanks is then drained & treated at the WwTW as the storm recedes.   |
|                                  |   | <i>C2 Source control of storm drainage</i><br>(RSSC)                             | Overflows occur entirely due to storm drainage. This approach is designed to reduce storm-water flows. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) can be used to reduce storm water input to the combined sewer. Source control systems are typically situated immediately alongside the surfaces they serve. For example, control by Minimising Directly Connected Impervious Areas (MDCIA) in the form of rainwater barrels will be implemented, as parts of the impermeable areas are already connected to infiltration systems (porous drives etc.). |
|                                  |   | <i>C3 Sewer rehabilitation</i><br>(SeRe)   | Infiltration into the sewerage system contributes significantly to the flows during both dry & wet weather; hence this increases the CSO spills. The reduction of infiltration can be achieved by sewer rehabilitation by re-lining or other means.   |

**Table 1.** The Six Options Generated for the SW Case Study

| <b>Primary SWARD criteria</b>    | <b>Secondary criteria (&amp; criteria code)</b>   | <b>Indicator</b>   | <b>Method of collection</b>  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Life Cycle Costs                 | E1: Capital cost: Investment (CC)   | £ per catchment  | Cost estimation for investment - consultation<br>Cost estimation - consultation<br>Cost estimation for investment - consultation |
|                                  | E2: Operation Costs (OC)  | £ per catchment per annum  |  |
|                                  | E3: Maintenance Costs (MC)  | £ per catchment per annum  |  |
| Financial Risk Exposure          | E4: Financial risk exposure (FRE)   | Qualitative expression of estimated risk   | Consultation   |
| Resource utilisation             | EV1: Energy Use (EnUs)  | Total energy (MJ) for 20 year life cycle   | Life Cycle Analysis  |
| Environmental impact             | EV2: Impact on air<br>IoAC<br>IoAN<br>IoAS  | Total CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (kg) for 20 year cycle<br>Total NO <sub>x</sub> emissions (kg) for 20 year cycle<br>Total SO <sub>4</sub> emissions (kg) for 20 year cycle | Life Cycle Analysis  |
| CSOD                             | EV3: CSO/SO discharges to the environment   | Volume per annum (cu.m)  | InfoWorks modelling  |
| Acceptability to stakeholders    | S1: Acceptability to stakeholders (customers) (AcSt)<br>S2: Perceived impact on the environment (PIE) | Percentage acceptability (Qualitative)   | Door-to door Questionnaire   |
|                                  |   | Percentage perceiving negative environmental impact (Qualitative)  | Door-to door Questionnaire   |
| Participation and responsibility | S3: Participation and responsibility (PaRe)   | Level of participation required for option, High –low (Qualitative)  | Consultation with water authority staff/SWARD team members   |
| Performance                      | T1: Sanitary Waste Escape (SWE)   | Quantity discharged to receiving watercourse per annum (kg)  | Infoworks modelling, Mass Balance + screen performance information   |
|                                  | T2: Sanitary Waste Transport In Sewer (SWT)   | Amount of sanitary waste detained in sewer system per annum (High – low)   | Consultation with water authority staff/SWARD team members   |
| Reliability                      | T3: Risk of Failure to provide service (RDF)  | High – low (Qualitative)   | Consultation with water authority staff/SWARD team members   |
| Flexibility and adaptability     | T4: Flexibility and adaptability (FlAd)   | Ability to accommodate future needs (Qualitative)  | Consultation with water authority staff/SWARD team members   |

**Table 2.** SWARD Sustainability Criteria



|                                      | 1. Screen<br>In6S | 2. TBYF  | 3. Storage<br>InSt | 4. Source<br>control RSSC | 5. Rehabilitation<br>SeRe | 6. Retrofit<br>ROC |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Sanitary Waste Escape (Kg/yr.)       | 5.38              | 36.86    | 52.7               | 89.21                     | 70.3                      | 6.54               |
| SW Transport                         | low               | low      | medium             | medium                    | high                      | medium             |
| Risk of failure                      | very low          | high     | low                | medium                    | low                       | very high          |
| Flexibility & adaptability           | medium            | medium   | low                | high                      | low                       | low                |
| Capital cost (£)                     | 68 000            | 10000    | 70 000             | 3925                      | 39 000                    | 32 446             |
| Operational cost (£/yr.)             | 628.67            | 800      | 0                  | 0                         | 0                         | 800                |
| Maintenance cost (£/yr.)             | 3167              | 0        | 680                | 0                         | 0                         | 0                  |
| Financial risk exposure              | medium            | low      | high               | low                       | low                       | high               |
| Acceptability (%)                    | 68.8              | 85.9     | 62.5               | 51.6                      | 89.1                      | 65.6               |
| Perceived impact on environment (%)  | 60.9              | 78.1     | 59.4               | 57.8                      | 71.9                      | 68.8               |
| Participation & responsibility       | low               | high     | low                | high                      | low                       | high               |
| Energy use (MJ)                      | 2.6E+05           | 1.67E+04 | 1.41E+06           | 2.16E+05                  | 3.97E+04                  | 1.48E+05           |
| Impact on air - CO <sub>2</sub> (kg) | 1.64E+04          | 806      | 1.5E+05            | 7.23E+03                  | 3.13E+03                  | 4.59E+03           |
| Impact on air – Nox (kg)             | 18.9              | 0        | 1.88E+03           | 3.63                      | 7.94                      | 31.1               |
| Impact on air – SO <sub>4</sub> (kg) | 423               | 3.75     | 1.89E+03           | 44.4                      | 15                        | 60                 |
| CSO Discharge (m <sup>3</sup> /yr)   | 58564.23          | 58564.23 | 28062.68           | 48480.28                  | 38607.65                  | 56626.74           |

**Table 3.** The Full Set of Data Collected for the SW Case Study

|                                | <i>Individual</i> | <i>Subgroup</i> | <i>Full Group</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Acceptability to stakeholders  | 2                 | 2               | 2                 |
| Affordability                  | 4                 | 4               | 1                 |
| Durability                     | 11                | 14              | 12                |
| Environmental impact           | 5                 | 6               | 4                 |
| Financial risk exposure        | 15                | 10              | 11                |
| Flexibility & adaptability     | 14                | 16              | 14                |
| Health impacts                 | 1                 | 1               | 4                 |
| Life cycle costs               | 11                | 6               | 8                 |
| Participation & responsibility | 13                | 3               | 6                 |
| Public awareness/understanding | 3                 | 9               | 6                 |
| Reliability                    | 10                | 8               | 9                 |
| Resource utilisation           | 7                 | 11              | 9                 |
| Service provision              | 6                 | 5               | 2                 |
| Social inclusion               | 9                 | 13              | 15                |
| System Performance             | 16                | 15              | 16                |
| Willingness to pay             | 8                 | 12              | 13                |

**Table 4.** The differences in criteria ranking given within workshop

| Workshop number | Individual |   |   |   |   |   |   | Group |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|                 | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Economic        | 1          | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1     | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Environmental   | 3          | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2     | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Social          | 4          | - | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3     | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Technical       | 2          | - | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4     | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |

**Table 5.** Ranking of SWARD categories – individual and group results

| Criteria // Profession       | Engineer | Engineer | Strategy/<br>policy | Finance | Water qual/<br>environment | Water qual/<br>environment |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Accept. to stakeholders      | 5        | 8        | 10                  | 1       | 6                          | 11                         |
| Affordability                | 3        | 3        | 5                   | 4       | 9                          | 15                         |
| Durability                   | 8        | 5        | 11                  | 14      | 14                         | 6                          |
| Environmental impact         | 4        | 9        | 9                   | 11      | 3                          | 7                          |
| Financial risk exposure      | 13       | 6        | 6                   | 3       | 15                         | 13                         |
| Flexibility and adaptability | 7        | 4        | 12                  | 6       | 5                          | 9                          |
| Health impacts               | 6        | 10       | 7                   | 2       | 4                          | 4                          |
| Life cycle costs             | 2        | 3        | 4                   | 9       | 12                         | 8                          |
| Participation/responsibility | 14       | 12       | 15                  | 16      | 7                          | 12                         |
| System Performance           | 1        | 1        | 1                   | 8       | 1                          | 1                          |
| Awareness/understanding      | 12       | 13       | 13                  | 10      | 7                          | 7                          |
| Reliability                  | 9        | 5        | 2                   | 12      | 8                          | 5                          |
| Resource utilisation         | 11       | 11       | 8                   | 13      | 2                          | 3                          |
| Service provision            | 10       | 7        | 3                   | 7       | 10                         | 10                         |
| Social inclusion             | 15       | 14       | 14                  | 15      | 11                         | 14                         |
| Willingness to pay           | 3        | 15       | 16                  | 5       | 13                         | 16                         |

**Table 6.** Results of the individual criteria ranking exercise – Scottish Water Authority staff

|      | SWE   | SWT | RoF  | FIAd | CC    | OC     | MC   | FRE | AcSt | PIE  | PaRe | EnUs | IoAC   | IoAN | IoAS | CSOD  |
|------|-------|-----|------|------|-------|--------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|-------|
| In6S | 5.38  | 0   | 0    | 0.6  | 68000 | 628.67 | 3167 | 0.3 | 68.8 | 60.9 | 0    | 260  | 16400  | 18.9 | 423  | 58564 |
| TBYF | 36.86 | 0   | 0.75 | 0.6  | 10000 | 800    | 0    | 0   | 85.9 | 78.1 | 1    | 16.7 | 806    | 0    | 3.75 | 58564 |
| InSt | 52.70 | 0.5 | 0.15 | 0    | 70000 | 0      | 680  | 1   | 62.5 | 59.4 | 0    | 1410 | 150000 | 1880 | 1890 | 28062 |
| RSSC | 89.21 | 0.5 | 0.4  | 1    | 3925  | 0      | 0    | 0   | 51.6 | 57.8 | 1    | 216  | 7230   | 3.63 | 44.4 | 48480 |
| SeRe | 70.30 | 1   | 0.15 | 0    | 39000 | 0      | 0    | 0   | 89.1 | 71.9 | 0    | 39.7 | 3130   | 7.94 | 15   | 38607 |
| ROC  | 6.54  | 0.5 | 1    | 0    | 32446 | 0      | 800  | 1   | 65.6 | 68.8 | 1    | 148  | 4590   | 31.1 | 60   | 56626 |

Table 7. Performance Matrix for ELECTRE III

|                        | SWE    | SWT    | RoF    | FIAd   | CC      | OC     | MC     | FRE    | AcSt   | PIE    | PaRe   | EnUs   | IoAC   | IoAN   | IoAS   | CSOD   |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Weight                 | 8      | 4      | 9      | 7      | 10.5    | 10.5   | 10.5   | 3.5    | 4.5    | 7.5    | 3      | 3.5    | 3.5    | 3.5    | 3.5    | 8      |
| Dir. of Pref.          | Decr.  | Direct | Decr.  | Incr.  | Decr.   | Decr.  | Decr.  | Decr.  | Incr.  | Incr.  | Incr.  | Decr.  | Decr.  | Decr.  | Decr.  | Decr.  |
| Mode of Def.           | Direct | Direct | Direct | Direct | Inverse | Direct | Direct | Direct | Direct | Direct | Direct | Direct | Direct | Direct | Direct | Direct |
| Indiff. Coef. $\alpha$ | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| B                      | 1      | 0.3    | 0.2    | 0.39   | 10000   | 1      | 200    | 0.2    | 1      | 4      | 0.3    | 99     | 50000  | 300    | 250    | 12000  |
| Pref. Coef $\alpha$    | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| B                      | 19     | 2      | 0.3    | 2      | 20000   | 500    | 500    | 2      | 10     | 5      | 2      | 100    | 50000  | 300    | 250    | 15000  |
| Veto Coef $\alpha$     | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| B                      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      |

Table 8. Characteristics of the Criteria

| Rank | Alternative |
|------|-------------|
| 1    | SeRe        |
| 2    | TBYF        |
| 3    | RSSC<br>ROC |
| 4    | InSt        |
| 5    | In6S        |

Table 9. Ranks in Preorder

|      | <b>In6S</b> | <b>TBYF</b> | <b>InSt</b> | <b>RSSC</b> | <b>SeRe</b> | <b>ROC</b> |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| SWE  | 5.38        | 36.86       | 52.70       | 89.21       | 70.30       | 6.54       |
| SWT  | 0.0000      | 0.0000      | 0.5000      | 0.500       | 1.0000      | 0.5000     |
| RoF  | 0.0000      | 0.7500      | 0.1500      | 0.4000      | 0.1500      | 1.0000     |
| FIAd | 0.6000      | 0.6000      | 0.0000      | 1.0000      | 0.0000      | 0.0000     |
| CC   | 68000.00    | 10000.00    | 70000.00    | 3925.00     | 39000.00    | 32446.00   |
| OC   | 628.67      | 800.00      | 0.00        | 0.00        | 0.00        | 0.00       |
| MC   | 3167.00     | 0.00        | 680.00      | 0.00        | 0.00        | 800.00     |
| FRE  | 0.3000      | 0.0000      | 1.0000      | 0.0000      | 0.0000      | 1.0000     |
| AcSt | 68.8000     | 85.9000     | 62.5000     | 51.6000     | 89.1000     | 65.6000    |
| PIE  | 60.9000     | 78.1000     | 59.4000     | 57.8000     | 71.9000     | 68.8000    |
| PaRe | 0.0000      | 1.0000      | 0.0000      | 1.0000      | 0.0000      | 1.0000     |
| EnUS | 260000      | 16700       | 1410000     | 216000      | 39700       | 148000     |
| IoAC | 16400       | 806         | 150000      | 7230        | 3130        | 4590       |
| IoAN | 18.90       | 0.00        | 1880.00     | 3.63        | 7.94        | 31.10      |
| IoAS | 423.00      | 3.75        | 1890.00     | 44.40       | 15.00       | 60.00      |
| CSOD | 58564.23    | 58564.23    | 28062.68    | 48480.28    | 38607.65    | 56626.74   |

**Table 10.** Performance Matrix for PROMETHEE

|      | <b>Function Type</b> | <b>Min/Max</b> | <b>P</b> | <b>Q</b> | <b>S</b> | <b>Unit</b> | <b>Scale</b>  | <b>Weight</b> |
|------|----------------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|---|---------------|
| SWE  | III                  | Min            | 19       | -        | -        | Kg/yr       | Numerical   | 8             |
| SWT  | II                   | Min            | -        | 0.3      | -        | Qualitative | Low<br>Medium<br>High<br>0<br>0.15<br>1                                   | 4             |
| RoF  | IV                   | Min            | 0.3      | 0.2      | -        | Qualitative | V.Low<br>Low<br>Medium<br>High<br>V.High<br>0<br>0.15<br>0.4<br>0.75<br>1 | 9             |
| FIAd | II                   | Max            | -        | 0.39     | -        | Qualitative | Low<br>Medium<br>High<br>0<br>0.6<br>1                                    | 7             |
| CC   | V                    | Min            | 20000    | 10000    | -        | £           | Numerical   | 10.5          |
| OC   | III                  | Min            | 500      | -        | -        | £/yr        | Numerical   | 10.5          |
| MC   | V                    | Min            | 500      | 200      | -        | £/yr        | Numerical   | 10.5          |
| FRE  | II                   | Min            | -        | 0.2      | -        | Qualitative | Low<br>Medium<br>High<br>0<br>0.3<br>1                                    | 3.5           |
| AcSt | III                  | Max            | 10       | -        | -        | %           | Numerical   | 4.5           |
| PIE  | IV                   | Max            | 5        | 4        | -        | %           | Numerical   | 7.5           |
| PaRe | II                   | Max            | -        | 0.3      | -        | Qualitative | Low<br>High<br>0<br>1   | 3             |
| EnUS | V                    | Min            | 100000   | 99000    | -        | MJ          | Numerical   | 3.5           |
| IoAC | II                   | Min            | -        | 50000    | -        | kg          | Numerical   | 3.5           |
| IoAN | II                   | Min            | -        | 300      | -        | kg          | Numerical   | 3.5           |
| IoAS | II                   | Min            | -        | 250      | -        | Kg          | Numerical   | 3.5           |
| CSOD | V                    | Min            | 15000    | 12000    | -        | Litres/yr   | Numerical   | 8             |

**Table 11.** Parameters for Use in the Decision Lab Software

| Criteria | Weight (Normal) | In6S        |        | TBYF        |        | InSt        |       | RSSC        |       | SeRe        |       | ROC         |        |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|--------|
|          |                 | Pref. Score | Score  | Pref. Score | Score  | Pref. Score | Score | Pref. Score | Score | Pref. Score | Score | Pref. Score | Score  |
| SWE      | 8               | 95          | 760    | 75          | 600    | 60          | 480   | 40          | 320   | 50          | 400   | 90          | 720    |
| SWT      | 4               | 100         | 400    | 100         | 400    | 50          | 200   | 50          | 200   | 0           | 0     | 50          | 200    |
| RoF      | 9               | 100         | 900    | 25          | 225    | 85          | 765   | 60          | 540   | 85          | 765   | 0           | 0      |
| FIAd     | 7               | 60          | 420    | 60          | 420    | 0           | 0     | 100         | 700   | 0           | 0     | 0           | 0      |
| CC       | 10.5            | 45          | 472.5  | 80          | 840    | 40          | 420   | 95          | 997.5 | 65          | 682.5 | 70          | 735    |
| OC       | 10.5            | 85          | 892.5  | 80          | 840    | 100         | 1050  | 100         | 1050  | 100         | 1050  | 100         | 1050   |
| MC       | 10.5            | 35          | 367.5  | 100         | 1050   | 80          | 840   | 100         | 1050  | 100         | 1050  | 75          | 787.5  |
| FRE      | 3.5             | 70          | 245    | 100         | 350    | 0           | 0     | 100         | 350   | 100         | 350   | 0           | 0      |
| AcSt     | 4.5             | 69          | 310.5  | 86          | 387    | 63          | 283.5 | 52          | 234   | 89          | 400.5 | 66          | 297    |
| PIE      | 7.5             | 61          | 457.5  | 78          | 585    | 59          | 442.5 | 58          | 435   | 72          | 540   | 67          | 502.5  |
| PaRe     | 3               | 0           | 0      | 100         | 300    | 0           | 0     | 100         | 300   | 0           | 0     | 100         | 300    |
| EnUs     | 3.5             | 25          | 87.5   | 95          | 332.5  | 0           | 0     | 30          | 105   | 90          | 315   | 50          | 175    |
| IoAC     | 3.5             | 80          | 280    | 95          | 332.5  | 70          | 245   | 85          | 297.5 | 90          | 315   | 95          | 332.5  |
| IoAN     | 3.5             | 85          | 297.5  | 100         | 350    | 20          | 70    | 95          | 332.5 | 90          | 315   | 70          | 245    |
| IoAS     | 3.5             | 60          | 210    | 95          | 332.5  | 10          | 35    | 85          | 297.5 | 90          | 315   | 80          | 280    |
| CSOD     | 8               | 10          | 80     | 10          | 80     | 50          | 400   | 25          | 200   | 30          | 240   | 15          | 120    |
| Score    | (100)           |             | 61.805 |             | 74.245 |             | 52.31 |             | 74.09 |             | 67.38 |             | 57.445 |

Table 12. SMART Analysis

|   | PROMETHEE       | ELECTRE          | SMART           |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 6mm Screen at storm overflow at Treatment Works | 5 <sup>th</sup> | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| Think before you flush                          | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Install flow storage                            | 6 <sup>th</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 6 <sup>th</sup> |
| Retrofit stormwater source control              | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | =3 <sup>rd</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Sewer rehabilitation                            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Retrofit outlet chokes                          | 4 <sup>th</sup> | =3 <sup>rd</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup> |

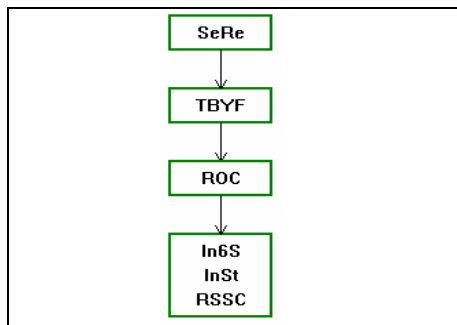
**Table 13.** Ranking Results for ELECTRE, PROMETHEE and SMART

| Rank | Alternative |
|------|-------------|
| 1    | TBYF        |
| 2    | SeRe        |
| 3    | RSSC        |
| 4    | ROC         |
| 5    | In6S        |
| 6    | InSt        |

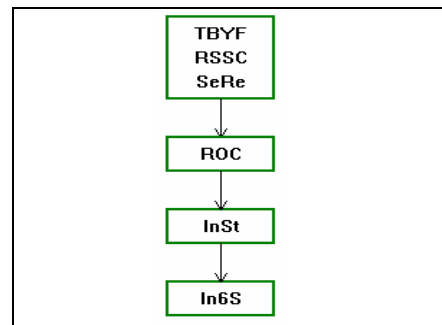
**Table 14.** Final Ranking

| Rank | Alternative |
|------|-------------|
| 1    | In6S        |
| 2    | InSt        |
| 3    | SeRe        |
| 4    | RSSC        |
| 5    | TBYF        |
| 6    | ROC         |

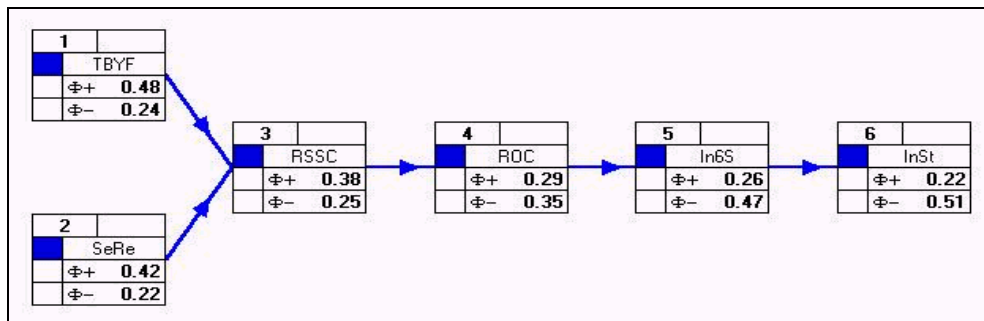
**Table 15.** Decision-Makers' Ranking



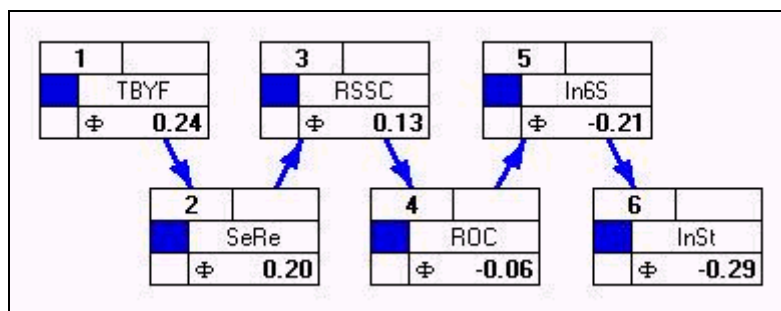
**Figure 1.** Descending distillation



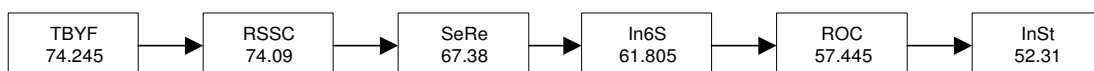
**Figure 2.** Ascending distillation



**Figure 3.** Partial Ranking (PROMETHEE I)



**Figure 4.** Complete (Final) Ranking (PROMETHEE II)



**Figure 5.** SMART Ranking