

Water Scarcity Group

Wednesday 31 July 14:00 – 15:55

1. Welcome and post-election update

The chair led an introduction of attendees. MHCLG provided an update on the new government, providing an overview of what this means for the work of the Water Scarcity Group.

2. WSG comms

MHCLG provided an overview of the proposed approach for comms for the Water Scarcity Group, which included plans to publish comms on Water Resources East's website. The group welcomed the proposal, providing the view that publishing comms would provide a level of assurance that work to address water scarcity in the Cambridge area is progressing. The group agreed that the comms proposal should be taken forward.

Action

- Comms for the WSG to be progressed with a group update at a future meeting.

3. Short-term measures

- MHCLG presented an update on short-term measures to address water scarcity in Cambridge, including a workstream update on retrofits and the Water Credits Scheme. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service also shared an update on sites and planning permissions.

Action

- Work on short-term measures to address water scarcity to continue to be progressed.
- Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service to provide a further planning update at the next WSG meeting.

4. Water company updates

Cambridge Water updated the group on the status of their Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP), including providing an overview of the interventions they plan to deliver from 2025 to 2040.

Anglian Water provided an update on the delivery of major infrastructure projects, including the Grafham pipeline transfer and the Fens reservoir. They noted that for the Fens reservoir, the second public consultation is currently ongoing. They also

noted that conversations with Ofwat are ongoing to ensure they have adequate funding in place for the programme.

Action

- Water companies to provide monthly updates at future WSG meetings.
- Ofwat representative to be invited to WSG meetings going forward.

5. Non-household water use

WSP presented their work on non-household water use, noting the aim of the work, which was to assess opportunities for non-household water users in Cambridge to meet their needs using non-potable water.

6. Any Other Business

The chair noted that the next meeting of the WSG is due to take place on 5th September, 14:30 to 16:30.