

Water Scarcity Group

Wednesday 12th November 14:30 – 16:30

Actions:

- MHCLG to keep the WSG updated on progress on assessing the outcomes of the water efficiency programme and impact on household/non-households.
- MHCLG to share learning from WSP commission on Water Credits Scheme with Anglian Water.
- MHCLG to provide draft WSG comms report to the WSG group – e.g. with the ambition that all WSG stakeholders should be able to input in/ provide review prior to publication.
- Cambridge Water and GCSP to consider how to update the Cambridge water supply/demand dashboard to reflect changes to consumption data or water company activity.

1. Ox-Cam Announcement (MHCLG)

MHCLG gave an overview of the Ox-Cam announcement of 23rd October. This package brings together government and private sector partners to invest in critical infrastructure, growth-driving sectors, and community assets.

Major projects include reopening the Cowley Branch Line in Oxford to improve local transport, supporting the Ellison Institute's multi-billion-pound expansion in science and technology, and the announcement of Government's intention to consult on a development corporation for Cambridge, alongside £400m of investment to drive growth in the city.

Alongside this, Government is investing in a new National Forest to enhance the environment and create green infrastructure that supports development, whilst delivering significant benefits for nature, communities and the economy.

2. Updates on Phase One and Two of the Water Efficiency Programme (MHCLG)

MHCLG gave an update on Phase One and Two of the Water Efficiency Programme, including status of current and future workstreams, alongside the assurance work with the Environment Agency that is underway to assure water savings.

3. WSG communications plan

WSG agreed to publish a short update report in the next quarter on the WSG programme, with the content to be agreed between HMG and partner organisations.

4. Cambridge Water non-household demand limit

Cambridge Water gave an update on their current policy on non-household water requests of over 20m³ per day. Cambridge Water are progressing feasibility work in parallel to support non-household growth, to ensure additional demand reduction activity as well as exploration of additional supply options.

5. Project Management Update

MHCLG provided a project management update, including updates on the Graftham Pipeline project, as well as project updates for the Water Efficiency Programme in Cambridge and the Agriculture workstreams.

6. Cambridge Water Update

Cambridge Water provided an update on progress to deliver short-term demand management interventions, including their metering programme.

Cambridge Water also updated on the Graftham Pipeline transfer project and delivery of dependency infrastructure (the Grand Union Canal and Minworth Recycling System).

7. Anglian Water update

Anglian Water provided an update on the Fens Reservoir, including information on upcoming consultations.

There was also a discussion during the meeting on wastewater treatment capacity issues and how they can be addressed.