

Water Scarcity Group

Thursday 12 December 14:30 – 16:30

1. Chair's introduction

The chair led an introduction and welcomed attendees.

2. EA position update

The Environment Agency (EA) provided an update on the EA's position on objections to planning applications.

Action(s)

- EA to review the position on the local plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the interaction with cumulative impacts on water supply.

3. WSG supply-demand update

MHCLG provided an update on the work of the WSG sub-group on the supply-demand balance in the Cambridge Water Resource Zone.

Action(s)

- MHCLG to coordinate the WSG subgroup to progress supply-demand work including agreeing assumptions with stakeholders, expanding the work beyond 2040 and stress testing the supply-demand balance baseline.
- MHCLG to clarify housing targets in Huntingdonshire relative to planned growth.
- EA to confirm if delays in abstraction licence reductions in the revised Water Resources Management Plan need to be reviewed or revised.

4. Cambridge Water non-household advisory demand limit

Cambridge Water provided an overview of Cambridge Water's proposed non-household advisory demand limit as set out in their draft WRMP.

Action(s)

- Cambridge Water and GCSP to discuss scope and predicted sectors in relation to the non-household advisory limit.

5. Project Management update

MHCLG provided a project management update.

6. Water company updates

Cambridge Water updated the group on the 2024 WRMP Annual Review letter from the Environment Agency, Ofwat and Defra, and the Cambridge Water response. Anglian Water provided an update on progress of the Fens Reservoir, including land acquisition and environmental assessment.

7. Any Other Business

The chair noted the next meeting of the WSG is due to take place on 23rd January 14:30 to 16:30.