

Water Scarcity Group

Thursday 23 January 14:30 – 16:30

1. Defra Update

Defra provided an update on the DCO decision for the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project. It was noted that the decision is now due to be made by 14 April 2025.

2. Supply-Demand Balance Update

MHCLG provided an update on the work of the WSG subgroup to assess the supply/demand balance in Cambridge. It was noted that phase one of this work has enabled us to make an initial assessment of the current supply/demand balance. Work is now underway to refine our assumptions and collect further data.

MHCLG noted that they are commissioning external consultants to undertake the next phase of this work, which will provide an evidence base for Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service's (GCSP) Emerging Local Plan. GCSP provided an update on the commission for this work, noting the key outcomes we would like to see from the work and what it will be used for.

Action(s)

- WSG members to provide any feedback on the commission for phase two of the supply-demand balance work to GCSP and MHCLG.
- MHCLG, WSG Chair and Anglian Water to consider scope to undertake work to understand wastewater capacity in Cambridge.

3. Ofwat PR24 Final Determinations

Ofwat, Cambridge Water, Anglian Water, and Affinity Water provided an overview of the PR24 final determinations. Ofwat noted that total allowances came to £104bn across the industry. It was noted that Anglian Water received 2% less than they had requested at a company level, but for water enhancements (which includes funding for the Fens Reservoir and the Grahams Pipeline Transfer), their allowance exceeded what they requested. South Staffs Water (Cambridge Water) received 8% more than they had requested at a company level. This includes funding for their section of the Grahams Pipeline Transfer, funding to address leakage and metering, and funding to implement climate change mitigation measures. WSG members discussed what the determinations mean for the delivery of water companies WRMPs, including Cambridge Water's efficiency programme.

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4. PMO Update

MHCLG provided a project management update, noting updates to the Water Efficiency Programme, Nature-Based Solutions and Agriculture programmes, which are all progressing to agreed timelines.

5. Cambridge Water Update

Cambridge Water provided an update on the retrofitting trial they are undertaking in Cambridge. It was noted that the trial will provide insights into the level of water savings we can expect to achieve in the region through retrofitting of water efficient devices. Cambridge Water noted that delivery of the pilot is expected to commence in February 2025.

Action(s)

- Cambridge Water to provide a further update to the WSG when delivery of their retrofitting trial has commenced.

6. Any Other Business

WRE noted that they have published their first [annual progress report on their regional water resource plan](#), which includes progress against key metrics and targets, the latest on schemes and investments.

The WSG meeting originally planned for 20 February will now take place on 25 February, 14:30 to 16:30.

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