

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL

Minutes from the Meeting of the Environment and Community Panel held on Tuesday, 8th September, 2020 at 3.00 pm in the Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on WestNorfolkBC on You Tube - Zoom and You Tube

PRESENT: Councillors C Sampson (Chair), L Bambridge, C Bower, A Bubb, A Bullen, S Collop, M de Whalley, A Kemp, J Kirk, J Lowe, S Squire and M Wilkinson

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Councillor B Long – Leader of the Council

Councillor E Nockolds – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health.

PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34: Councillors P Kunes, C Morley, T Parish and A Ryves.

OFFICERS:

Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director

Lorraine Gore – Chief Executive

Ged Greaves – Senior Policy and Performance Officer

Nathan Johnson – Public Open Space Manager

Dave Robson – Environmental Health Manager

Henry Saunders – Climate Change Officer

BY INVITATION: Robin Price – Water Resources East.

EC110: **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair informed the Panel that the meeting was being broadcast live on You Tube. [The recording of the meeting is available here.](#)

EC111: **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There was none.

EC112: **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

EC113: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

EC114: **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

EC115: **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillor Kunes – Items EC118, EC119 and EC120.
Councillor Morley – Item EC119.
Councillor Parish – Items EC117, EC118 and EC119
Councillor Ryves – all items.

EC116: **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

[Click here to view the You Tube recording of this item.](#)

The Panel was informed that EC124: Amendments to the Refuse and Recycling Contract had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

The Chair explained that he had received correspondence which he would forward to the relevant officers. He had also received correspondence from Members regarding the start times of meetings.

EC117: **PRESENTATION FROM WATER RESOURCES EAST**

[Click here to view the You Tube recording of this item.](#)

The Chair welcomed Robin Price from Water Resources East to the meeting.

The Panel was provided with an overview of the work carried out by Water Resources East. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Chair thanked Robin Price for the update and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Kemp referred to an area east of Harding's Way which could be a potential wetland area. Robin Price explained that he would be interested in hearing about any areas that the Council could put forward as possible wetland areas or reservoirs.

In response to questions from Councillor Squire, Robin Price explained that with regards to develop on flood plain, Water Resources East agreed that it was not good to develop on flood plain area and would work with organisations as appropriate. He also explained that Water Resources East worked with the relevant organisations and landowners to encourage better water quality.

Councillor de Whalley referred to conversion of agricultural land into wetland and Robin Price explained that Water Resources East worked with the relevant Wildlife Trusts on potential projects.

Councillor Morley referred to Environment Agency statistics that in 2040 water would be at a deficit. Robin Price explained that if nothing was done then there would be a deficit, so the time to act was now. He also explained that Water Resources East also worked with water companies regarding the amount of water lost to leaks and it was noted that this region had one of the lowest leakage levels nationally.

In response to a question from Councillor Parish regarding rainwater harvesting, it was explained that this was encouraged where possible. He also referred to wildlife transferal when water was moved, and Robin Price explained that an open water transfer test and various risk assessments were carried out before any water was transferred.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Long explained that he was the Deputy Chair of a branch of ADA and Chair of an Internal Drainage Board. He acknowledged the importance of water management in the area, especially in areas such as Welney. He explained that it was important to have an overarching holistic view to deal with water management schemes. He thanked Robin Price for attending the meeting to provide the Panel with information on the role of his organisation.

In response to a question from the Chair, Robin Price explained that Water Resources East were not a statutory consultee for Planning Applications.

RESOLVED: The information was noted.

EC118: **BALLOON AND LANTERN POLICY**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The Public Open Space Manager presented the report which was included in the Agenda.

The Chair thanked the Public Open Space Manager for his report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Squire commented that it was important that the policy applied to all council land, not just for those that hired land/facilities. She also supported the addition of a ban of flying rings on Borough Council beaches. She acknowledged that it would be difficult, but she would like to see fines introduced.

Councillor de Whalley supported the addition of banning flying rings. He also explained that there was a risk of using flying rings near all water courses.

Councillor Kunes explained that he had researched this issue and was now aware of how much of an impact balloons could have on all types of wildlife.

Councillor Bubb commented that 'mass' should be replaced by 'all' with regard to balloon releases. The Public Open Space Manager explained that he could look at the wording. The Assistant Director reminded the Panel that the Council had no enforcement powers in this area, instead the Councils role was to advise, educate and inform. They also needed to be sensitive, but at the same time making sure that the Councils message was well known.

Councillor Bambridge explained that this was a good first step and it should be reviewed in a couple of years time to see if it could be expanded further.

Councillor Parish suggested that a press release be issued to raise public awareness.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Long referred to the sale of balloons on council land. The Assistant Director reminded those present that street traders should have a licence and it would be difficult to restrict the sale of balloons, however it could be included in future Mart agreements if it was something that the Panel wanted to take forward.

It was clarified that 'mass' release referred to more than one balloon.

Councillor Squire explained that the Norfolk County Council Balloon and Lantern Charter website provided information on alternatives to balloon and lantern releases and access to publicity materials.

RESOLVED: The Panel supported the following be recommended to Cabinet:

1. Change the wording in the Code of Conduct to include a ban on mass release of balloons and sky lanterns by anyone on Borough Council land.
2. Include the ban on mass release in the Terms and Conditions of Hire, presently under development.
3. Borough Council to sign up to the Norfolk County Council Balloon and Lantern Release Charter.
4. Provide and promote links to alternatives to the mass release of balloons and sky lanterns such as those provided by the RSPCA.

5. To ban the use of flying rings on Borough Council Beaches and liaise with the friends of Horsey Seals to encourage public education including retailers.
6. To establish a Code of Conduct for the ban on flying rings.

EC119: **CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The Environmental Health Manager presented the draft Climate Change Policy.

The Chair thanked the Environmental Health Manager for his report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Kemp proposed that an Informal Working Group be set up so that Members could input into the commitments being put forward. This was seconded by Councillor de Whalley.

In response to questions from Councillor Kemp, the Environmental Health Manager explained that the Panel was being presented with the Policy and the Strategy and Action Plan would follow once the Policy had been adopted and this is where specifics would be included. He referred to the Green Infrastructure Group which were assisting with development of the Strategy and flood risk was more of a planning issue so should be raised through the Local Plan.

Councillor Squire referred to the wording 'adapting' within the policy and commented that it should be amended to 'preparing' in order to be more proactive.

Councillor Morley commented that the Policy should recognise the action that the Council had already taken and felt that the Policy should make more of a commitment rather than just identifying, understanding and reviewing. The Environmental Health Manager explained that there would be an action plan and strategy which would provide more details and provide detailed equality impact assessments.

Councillor de Whalley commented that the Policy needed further development and asked for further clarification of certain items and definitions within the Policy document.

In response to a query from Councillor Bambridge it was explained that currently the Policy was programmed for review every three years. Councillor Bambridge also commented that it was important to get public involvement in the strategy and action plan.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Bower commented that there should be a preamble in the Policy to promote what the Council had already done to address Climate Change.

Councillor Bullen commented that it was important that work was carried out with other organisations, neighbours and Norfolk County Council.

The Panel discussed the proposal put forward regarding the creation of an Informal Working Group. Concern was expressed that there had been no Member involvement in the creation of the Policy and that Members should have the opportunity to input into the action plan and strategy.

Councillor Kunes asked for clarification on what the role of the Informal Working Group as he felt that it was important that adoption of the Climate Change Policy happened as soon as possible so that the next stage of work could be carried out.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Long reminded Members that a Climate Change Policy had been presented at the request of the Council, following a Notice of Motion which had been referred to Cabinet and would be going back to Council. Cabinet had requested that the Policy be created, and the Leader stressed that it was important not to delay adoption of this Policy as it was vitally important to all. He did not want formation of an Informal Working Group to cause a delay in this. He commented that once the Policy had been adopted then the Panel could have input into the action plan and strategy.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Panel recommend to Cabinet that the Climate Change Policy be adopted.
2. That an Informal Working Group be set up to monitor the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

EC120: **AIR QUALITY MONITORING - ANNUAL REPORT**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The Environmental Health Manager presented the Air Quality Monitoring Annual Update.

The Chair thanked the Environmental Health Manager for the update and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Morley asked if lockdown had positively impacted air quality and it was explained that there had been some reductions, and these would be analysed. Councillor Morley also commented that plans for

Southgates could have an impact on air quality on London Road. The Environmental Health Manager explained that there had been improvements in this area, but nothing would be revoked prematurely. The Action Plan would also be monitored and amended if required in relation to the King's Lynn Transport Strategy.

Councillor de Whalley referred to monitoring on PM2.5 particles and calibration of equipment to ensure recordings were accurate. The Environmental Health Manager referred to the annual report which was available on the Borough Council's website. He also explained that there was quality control and assurance in place.

In response to a question from Councillor Bubb, the Environmental Health Manager explained that background maps were used to measure background levels. He also provided information on the monitoring carried out and transboundary pollution.

Councillor Bambridge referred to HGV and buses in the town centre and the impact this could have on air quality.

Councillor Kemp asked about industrial sources and diesel cars and felt that PM2.5 particles should be monitored and asked if funding was available to provide this service. The Environmental Health Manager explained that he had applied for funding in the past but had not qualified. Councillor Kemp referred to bus movement and it was explained that this would be looked at as part of the King's Lynn Transport Study.

The Environmental Health Manager encouraged Members to view the full report which was available on the Borough Council's website at https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20137/air_quality/169/air_quality_information and showed the location of monitoring stations.

RESOLVED: The update was noted.

EC121: **SCRUTINY AND THE EXECUTIVE PROTOCOL**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The draft Scrutiny and the Executive Protocol was presented to the Panel.

RESOLVED: The Panel recommended that the Scrutiny and Executive Protocol be adopted by the Council.

EC122: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

RESOLVED: The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

EC123: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel would be held on 20th October 2020.

The Chair requested that Members of the Panel forward him their comments and views on the start times of meetings.

EC124: **EXEMPT AMENDMENTS TO REFUSE AND RECYCLING CONTRACT (FOOD WASTE)**

This item had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm



Water Resources East

Dr Robin Price

Managing Director

Who are Water Resources East?



We are one of five Regional Planning Groups operating as part of a National Framework for Water Resources

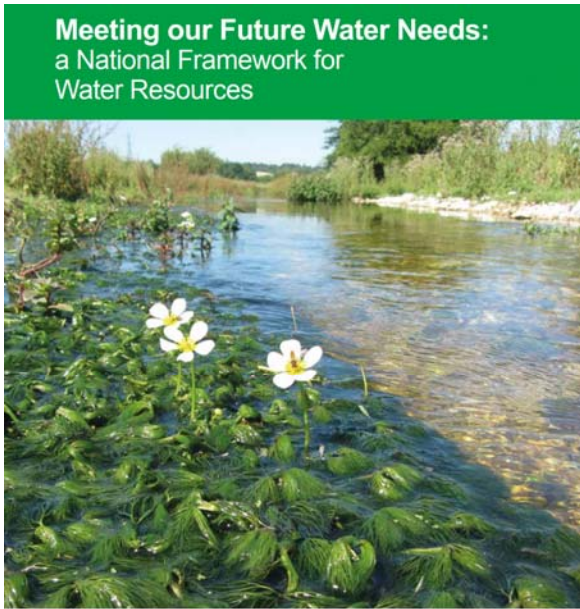


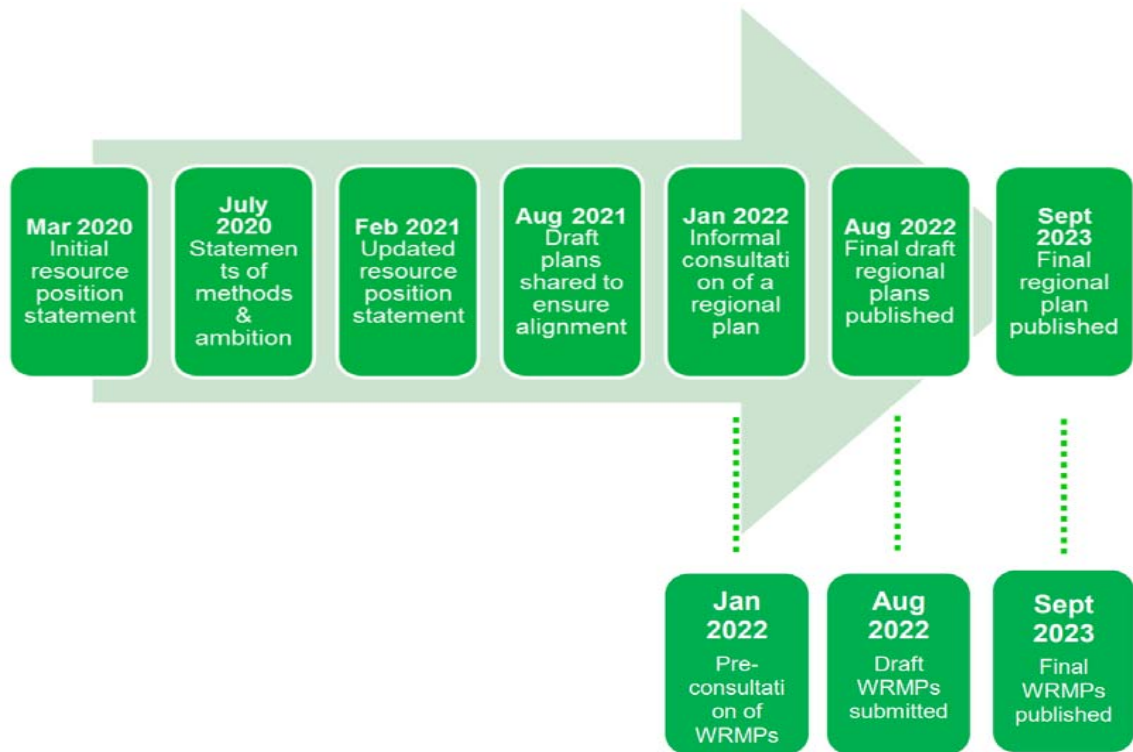
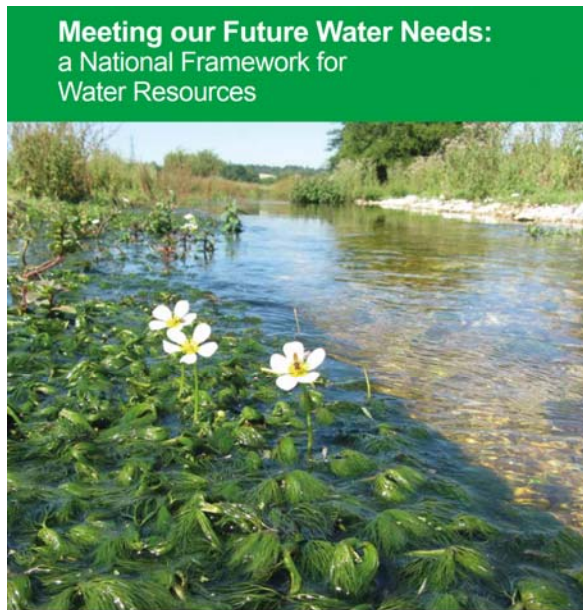
Image shows the River Mebourne near Little Misenden



Who are Water Resources East?



We will publish a Regional Plan in September 2023, in line with National Framework timescales.



Defining WRE's Regional Plan



A single, multi-sector Regional Plan for water management across Eastern England, working with water companies, Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships, the energy and agricultural sectors, landowners and environmental NGOs. Through co-creation, engagement and collective decision making, our plan will:

Meeting our Future Water Needs:
a National Framework for
Water Resources



Image around the River Maldeham near Little Maldeham



- Increase the level of resilience for water resources for all sectors and the environment.
- Deliver wider benefits in terms of flood risk, river flows and water quality.
- Ensure that water (either too much or not enough) is not a barrier to economic development in the region.
- Identify opportunities and delivery mechanisms to restore and enhance the environment, in line with the biodiversity net gain and wider aspirations of the 25 Year Environment Plan.
- Explore innovative funding and delivery models for water management solutions.
- Promote schemes which represent the best value for the region, seeking through collaboration to deliver more efficient solutions.
- Co-deliver the water related elements of other key regional strategies and plans,
- Focus on delivery of water-related climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies including net zero carbon ambition.
- Provide academically rigorous evidence to policy makers.

How does WRE work?



**CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF A
PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY**

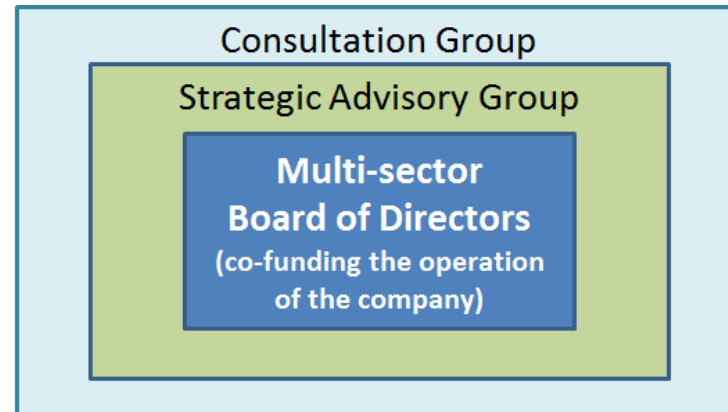
Company Number **12057670**

The Registrar of Companies for England and Wales, hereby certifies that
WATER RESOURCES EAST (WRE) LIMITED

is this day incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 as a private company, that the company is limited by guarantee, and the situation of its registered office is in England and Wales.

Given at Companies House, Cardiff, on **18th June 2019**.

The above information was communicated by electronic means and authenticated by the Registrar of Companies under section 1115 of the Companies Act 2006



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love every drop
anglianwater

CAMBRIDGE
WATER
COMPANY

Affinity Water
Your local supply, on tap

SEVERN
TRENT

ESSEX & SUFFOLK
WATER living water

Current Board Members

NFU

CLA



Catchment Based Approach

The Rivers Trust

Wildlife and Countryside LINK

rspb giving nature a home



Board of Directors:
Water Companies, agriculture, energy, the environment and regional development/Local Authorities

ada
Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

Broads Authority

Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL

Norfolk County Council

Suffolk Growth Programme Board

Suffolk County Council

Essex County Council

Water Resources East Membership



Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards **WATER RESOURCES EAST**

Essex County Council

love every drop anglia water

CAMBRIDGE WATER COMPANY

Affinity Water Your local supply, on tap

Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL

NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Suffolk County Council

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

SEVERN TRENT

ESSEX & SUFFOLK WATER living water

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Norfolk County Council

Breckland Council

RWE UK

Energy

East Suffolk Drainage Board

South Holland Drainage Board

Broads Authority

NEWANGLIA Local Enterprise Partnership for Norfolk and Suffolk

University of Suffolk

Suffolk New College

EDF ENERGY

Waterway Park

ada Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

Norfolk Rivers Drainage Board

University of East Anglia

Suffolk New College

Environment Agency

NATURAL ENGLAND

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Norfolk Farm Management Limited

Better Together CAVS

Environment Agency

SPAINS HALL ESTATE

Forestry Commission

dwi

THE JOCKEY CLUB Since 1750

o f w a t

RAPID

Drip UK

Thelveton Farms

The Nature Conservancy

WildAnglia Nature is our business

rspb

H & J Nevile & Son

IRRIGATION IN UK

BAWAG

SOMELCO

WOODLAND TRUST

McCain We are family

G's FRESH

FRIDRICK BEAN fh

ANGLING TRUST

NORFOLK RIVERS TRUST

NORFOLK FWAG

Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust

FeCRA - The Federation of Cambridge Residents' Associations

BROWN & CO

waterwise RWC TITTLESHALL LIMITED

BEDFORD GROUP OF INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS Managers of the local water environment

Essex Wildlife Trust

Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire Northamptonshire Wildlife Trusts

National Trust

Cambridgeshire County Council

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Sustainable Water Solutions

Dr Jilly Hall Supporting the People who Support Nature

CVF

RCCE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ESSEX

The River Lark Catchment Partnership

Fenland CAMBRIDGESHIRE Fenland District Council

Lark Abstractors Group

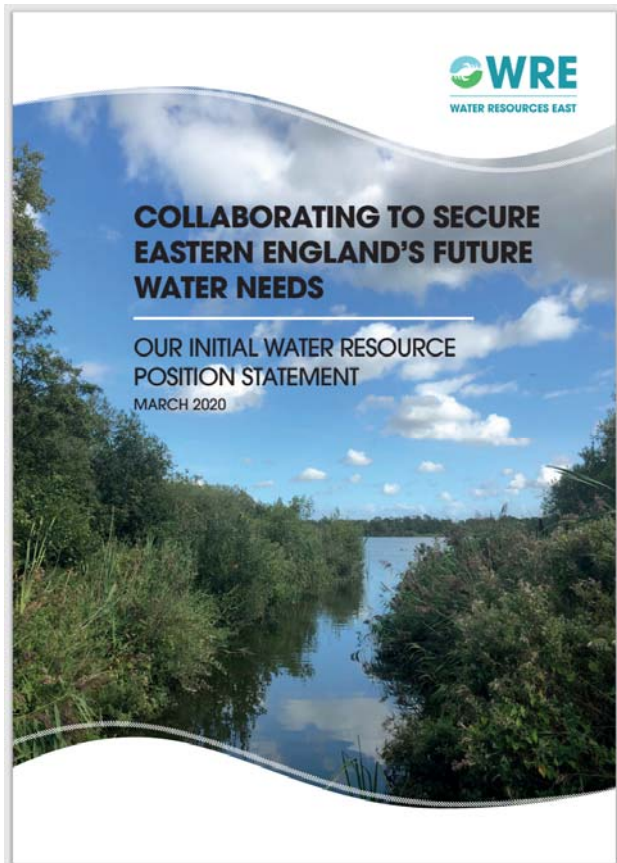
WILLMOTT DIXON SINCE 1852

Sustainable Direction Ltd

INTERNATIONAL

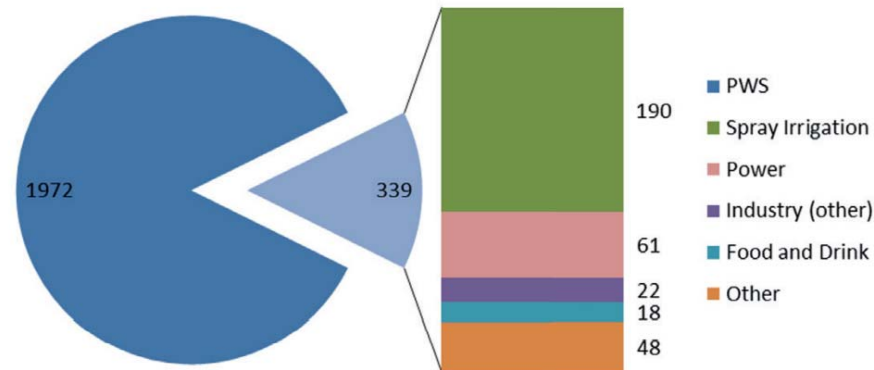
Cam Valley Forum Protecting and enhancing the environment of the river Cam and its tributaries

What is the problem we're trying to solve?



BASELINE (2020/21):

On an average day, in a dry year, the total consumptive demand for water in the WRE region is equivalent to 2,311 million litres (megalitres) per day. Most of this water (85%) is used for public water supply (PWS). Most of the rest is used for spray irrigation (8%), power generation (3%) and in the manufacturing, food and drink sectors (2%). A breakdown in megalitres per day (Ml/d) is given below:



Eastern England in the 2050s.....

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Sector	Pressure	Dry Year Annual Average Estimated Impact (MI/d)		Comment
		Lower	Upper	
Public Water Supply	Climate Change	54	180	Includes range of possible high/low climate change impacts - mostly on reservoir yields
	Sustainability Reductions	139	500	Upper limit accounts for indicative levels of enhanced environmental ambition
	Growth (population)	159	408	Upper limit accounts for maximum possible build-out rates in OxCam Arc and failure to make significant progress with planned demand management measures
	Drought resilience	88	88	Note: methodology uncertainties which are subject to work in progress
	Regional exports	(-)	(-)	Unknown at this stage, although 100 MI/d export is currently assumed for work on the South Lincolnshire Reservoir scheme
Power	Decarbonisation	17	192	Assumes rapid transition to Hydrogen economy with 20% of the national production in WRE region
Agriculture	Growth (irrigation)	74	288	Based on range of plausible growth factors for spray irrigation in the WRE region
Total		531	1,656	

Our strategy.....



Working with all water users in Eastern England to identify ways in which they can become as water efficient as possible



Our strategy.....



Promoting the need for additional storage of water within the landscape, increasing resilience for all water users and seeking to identify multi-sector opportunities to link water scarcity with flood risk management solutions



Our strategy.....

Transferring water from areas of surplus to areas of deficit, seeking to increase connectivity using both open water channels as well as pipelines



Our strategy.....

Linking land and water management more effectively, increasing resilience and restoring and enhancing the natural systems and resources on which all abstractors depend.



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs





Environmental Land Management Policy discussion document

February 2020

A partnership with **BROWN & CO**

Interventions targeting water quantity

Intervention 1	Intervention 2	Intervention 3
<p>Ground water recharging through creating or managing long term water sinks.</p> <p>Woodlands Wetlands</p>  	<p>Slowing water flows and increasing soil moisture content through operations and techniques applicable within and around annual farming rotations</p> <p>Green covers Increasing Soil organic matter Cultivation techniques</p>	<p>Effective water management to mitigate flooding and enable water driven economic growth (focus on the value of water).</p> <p>Capturing peak flows Water storage Water sharing Usage efficiencies (eg irrigation)</p>
<p>Analyse financial benefit at farm (and economic at regional) level and associated incentives (financial and non financial) required for uptake.</p>		
<p>Capture and account for Natural Capital benefits</p>		



Our strategy.....

Understanding where abstraction is having a detrimental impact on the environment, and develop options which restore and enhance it whilst ensuring sustainable economic development, for example around agriculture and food production.

1332



Messing about with the river: water firms accused of draining the Cam dry



Eastern Daily Press



Our strategy.....

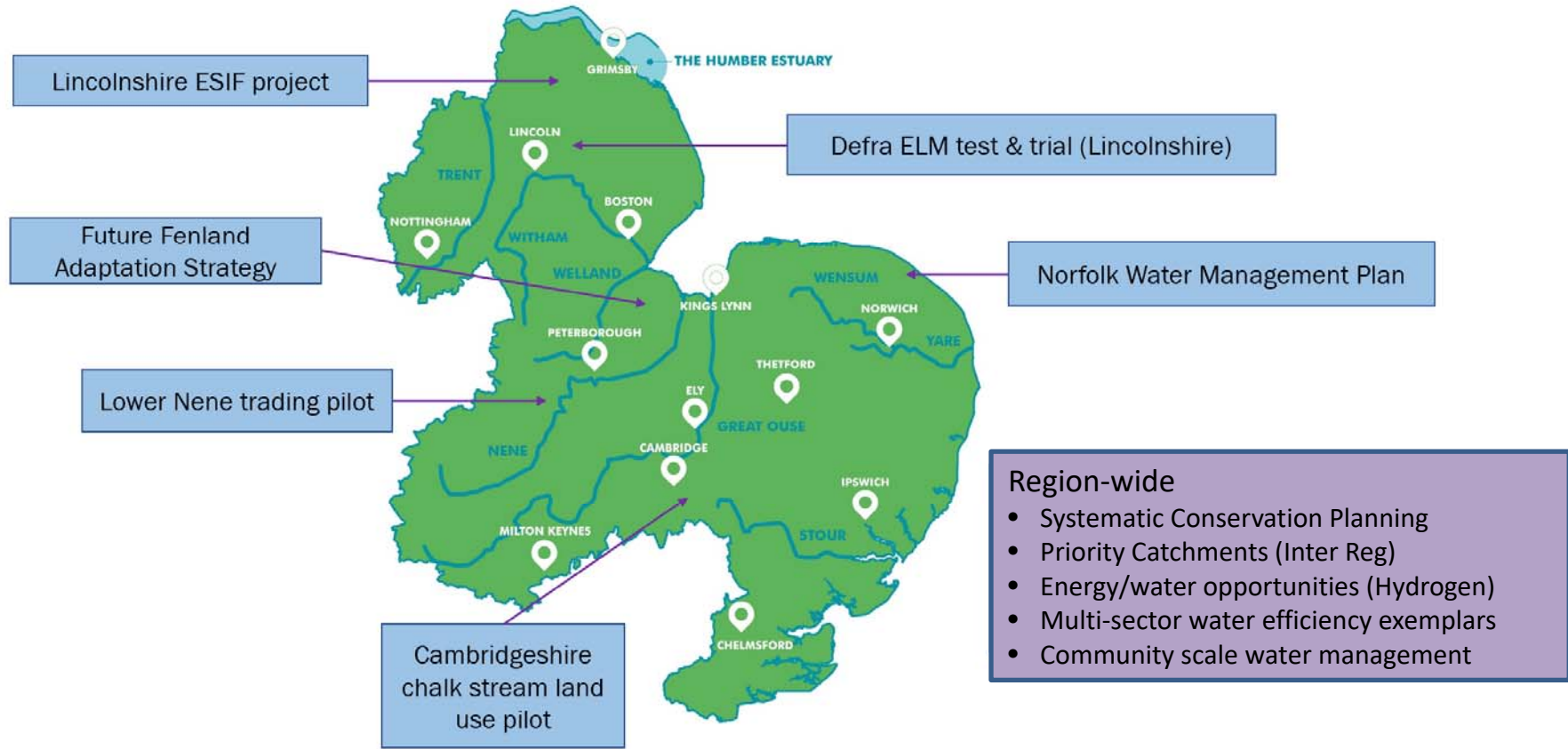
Actively explore other potential sources of water for our region, for example desalination and water re-use



Testing theories and approaches at various scales through pilot projects across our region



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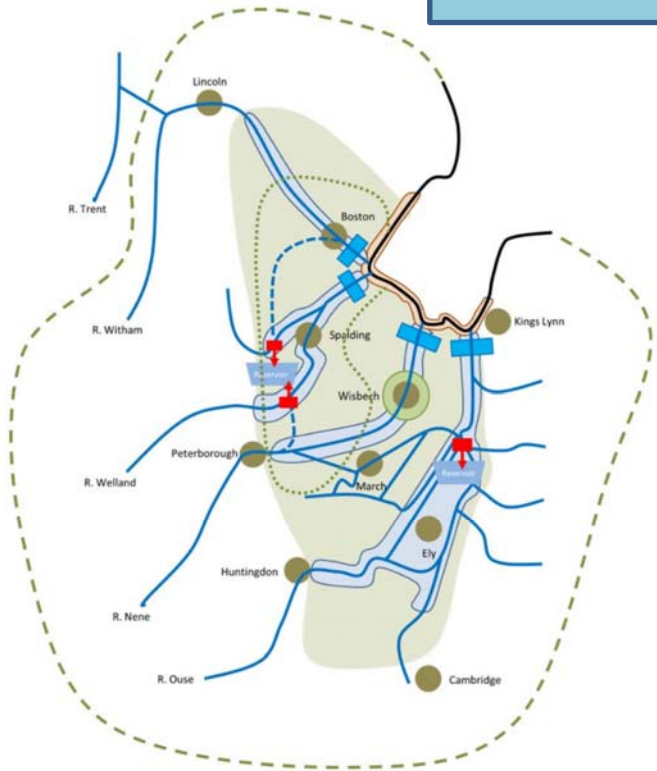
The Fenland Adaptation Strategy



Lincolnshire ESIF project

Defra ELM test & trial (Lincolnshire)

- New multi-sector reservoirs providing additional water supply resilience for water companies, farmers and the food industry.
- Downstream flood barriers or barrages to protect growth areas in the Fens, enabling key local infrastructure projects such as a rail connection from Wisbech to Cambridge and the dualling of the A47 to move forward.
- Open water channels to provide water storage, biodiversity, navigation and tourism, and further flood risk management benefits.
- The opportunity to collaborate to manage land and water across the Fens in a new and integrated way, seeking to secure the future of the peat landscape given its crucial role in carbon sequestration.

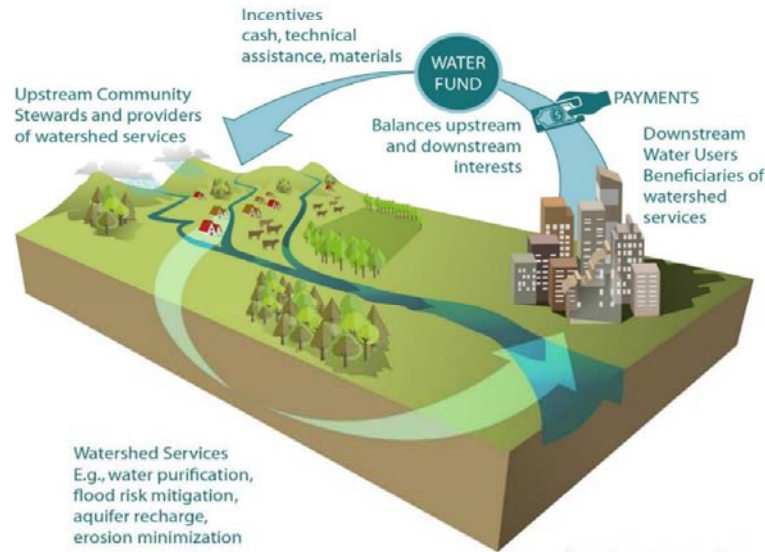


A Norfolk Water Management Plan

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Water Funds: a tested approach for investing in watershed services where collective action is needed



Source: Forest Trends; modified

All water funds share some characteristics:

- (1) Science-Based Plan
- (2) Multi-stakeholder Governance
- (3) Long-term Financing
- (4) Implementation Capacity



Priority Catchments – Water for Tomorrow



Policy paper

Water abstraction plan

Updated 11 February 2020

1338



Water efficiency exemplars within our region

waterwise



South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

Adopted September 2018



Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030
Adopted version (this document contains the final text which will be typeset in due course)

January 2020



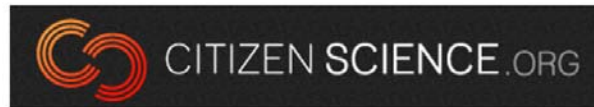
What does an exemplary community look like?



waterwise



Managing water in gardens



Working to strengthen local communities



1340



LinkedIn Jobs Water Resources East Huntingdon



Water Resources East

Nonprofit Organization Management

Norwich, England · 202 followers

WRE is pioneering an innovative, collaborative approach to resilient water management in Eastern England

See jobs

Follow

View all 3 employees



Water Resources East

@WaterREast

Water Resources East is pioneering an innovative, collaborative approach to resilient integrated water management in Eastern England.

Eastern England wre.org.uk Joined March 2019

339 Following 525 Followers

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes

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