

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy**

Report to:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>10 April 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Anglian Water's Consultation Draft Water Resources Management Plan</b>

**Summary:**

Anglian Water has recently published its consultation draft Water Resources Management Plan, a five-yearly statutory document which seeks to manage pressure on public water supplies arising from population growth, climate change, environmental protection and increasing risk of drought. In responding to the consultation draft, the County Council has an opportunity, working with its partners, to engage in shaping longer term approaches to these issues, and to present a clear statement of its preferences for the future management of water resources.

**Actions Required:**

Members are asked to consider the key elements in the consultation draft Water Resources Management Plan, as outlined in the attached executive summary, and to guide officers in preparing a formal response on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council by the closing date of 1st June.

## **1. Background**

Anglian Water has recently published its draft Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP), which seeks to manage pressure on public water supply from population growth, climate change, and to balance these with environmental protection and increasing resilience to severe drought. Within the Anglian region these challenges are acute and they drive the need for investment, particularly in the short and medium-term.

### **The Consultation Draft WRMP 2019**

Water resources in the East of England are under increasing pressure from a rapidly growing population, climate change and environmental needs. A key challenge is to maintain an appropriate balance between supply and demand, and to increase the region's resilience to severe drought.

In addition, there remains uncertainty over the scale of sustainability reductions that may be required of water companies in 2025 to protect the amount of water available to the environment. There is therefore a need to ensure the proposed WRMP is flexible enough to be adapted to meet unknown future needs, including possible exports to support neighbouring water companies.

To achieve this, the WRMP proposes two planning scenarios: the 'Principal Planning Scenario' and the 'Adaptive Planning Scenario'. The Principal Planning Scenario includes confirmed impacts of sustainability reductions as well as the forecast impacts of growth, climate change and severe droughts. The Adaptive Planning Scenario builds on this, and includes additional uncertain impacts of future (2025) sustainability reductions and possible exports.

Both of these scenarios present significant challenges, and to meet this the WRMP proposes a demand management strategy to meet customer and Government expectations for leakage and reduction, to save water that would otherwise be abstracted from the environment, to mitigate deterioration risk, and to ensure the reliability, sustainability and affordability of water resources over the long term.

The WRMP includes strategies for trading water with neighbouring companies (Affinity Water and Severn Trent Water), increasing connectivity and extending the current network of large capacity mains to create a strategic grid, and the development of new resources. The plan also sets out solutions to allow for the treatment and transfer of surplus water in North Lincolnshire to deal with deficits in other parts of the AW system. These solutions include new treatment processes, transfer mains and pumping stations, and new storage reservoirs.

Water Companies have a legal duty to produce a WRMP every 5 years in order to 'ensure a secure and sustainable supply of water, focus on efficiently delivering the outcomes that customers want, while reflecting the value that society places on the environment'. Water companies must also have regard to broader government policy objectives, for example, as set out in Defra's Guiding Principles.

Through the WRMP process water companies are expected to:

- Take a long term strategic approach to developing their WRMPs
- Engage meaningfully with customers and collaborate with others over the long term
- Fully consider every potential option, including collaboration with other sectors
- Promote the efficient use of available resources

The draft WRMP covers the 25 year period from 2020-2045.

### **Key features of the WRMP**

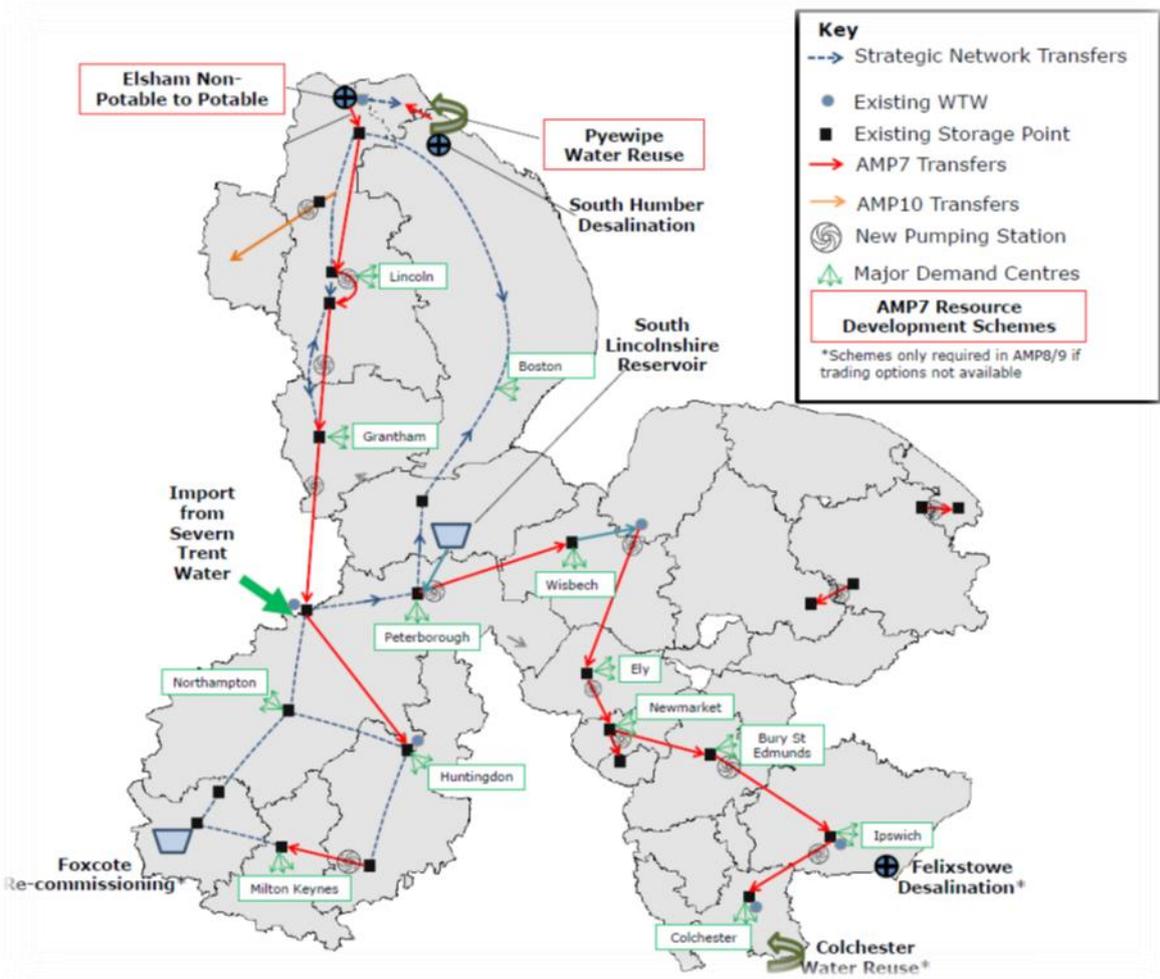
Demand management remains a priority, and this is essential in mitigating short-term environmental risks. In the medium term, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive may drive large sustainability reductions between 2025 and

2030. This uncertainty will not be resolved until 2023 at the earliest. Demand management is considered an essential component of any long-term, sustainable water resource strategy for the region. If demand were left to grow unchecked, it results in widespread deficits and service failures.

The WRMP's Principal Planning Scenario is based on least-cost optimisation, including trading with Affinity Water and Severn Trent Water, increasing system connectivity to fully integrate norther, eastern and western systems thus creating a strategic grid, alongside a series of solutions that create new water resources.

The Adaptive Planning Scenario will help to manage the uncertainty associated with sustainability reductions and future exports if the regulator determines that further sustainability reductions are required for the period 2025-2030.

Suggestions put forward for consultation in the Adaptive Planning Scenario include the potential for large supply-side options, such as a new winter storage reservoir, water reuse and desalination. Due to the long lead-in time for these options, this approach involves undertaking pre-planning activity for specific options that may be selected. As can be seen in the diagram below this includes a suggested option for a South Lincolnshire Reservoir.



The proposed strategy includes a series of investments which together increase deployable output across the region. For example the South Humber bank to Central Lincolnshire transfer includes treatment processes, transfer mains, a pumping station, storage reservoirs and a connection into an existing Anglian Water system.

The plan highlights that within the Anglian region, particularly southern and western parts of Lincolnshire are affected by a combination of the impacts of growth, vulnerability of groundwater and surface water sources due to climate change and the impacts of sustainability abstraction reductions. In addition, although the existing AW system is now more resilient to severe drought than was previously the case, there are still vulnerabilities, the impacts of which need to be planned for in the longer term.

Another key element of the plan is to ensure that there are no deficits in any of Anglian Water's Water Resource Zones at any point during the 25 year period between 2020 and 2045. There have been progressive increases in several areas and amongst the largest within the Anglian region are those areas of Central and South Lincolnshire.

Defra has established the Water Resources East initiative as a means of exploring potential strategic solutions to managing water resources at a regional scale. This includes identifying and engaging with the key stakeholders regionally and locally, a process which is continuing to develop. The present WRMP includes consideration of longer term potential solutions that are being explored through the WRE initiatives, particularly in the Adaptive Planning Scenario which looks further ahead beyond the time limit of the WRMP itself.

Many of the options that are being proposed would have long lead-in times and as such would require detailed technical design work. In addition, some options (such as new reservoirs and desalination plants) may be classified as 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure' and so be required to go through the Development Consent Order planning route. This includes a formal consultation process with Local Planning Authorities and other stakeholders including the County Council. The delivery of any of these options remains contingent on their selection as appropriate measures in the next WRMP (2024), and this dependency would be made clear in any related preparatory and exploratory activity.

## **2. Conclusion**

This consultation provides Lincolnshire County Council and its partners with the opportunity to help to shape the long term planning of water resources within the county and the region. The range of the subject matter covered by the plan means a more thorough exploration with members of the key areas for the county will be undertaken prior to a formal submission being made to the consultation (deadline 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018).

### 3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out??

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

### 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Executive Summary

### 5. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Consulation Draft Water Resources Management Plan	<a href="http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/draft-water-resources-management-plan/2019.aspx">http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/draft-water-resources-management-plan/2019.aspx</a>

This report was written by David Hickman, who can be contacted on (01522) 554809 or [david.hickman@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.hickman@lincolnshire.gov.uk) .

This page is intentionally left blank