

When: 18 February 2021

Location: Teams call

Invitees	Richard Aylard, Thames Water (Chair)	Trevor Bishop, WRSE	Meyrick Gough, WRSE
	Lesley Tait, Thames Water	Jonathan Dennis, RAPID	Karen Gibbs, CCW
	David Howarth, Environment Agency	Alan Turner, Kent County Council	Martin Pilbin, RWE
	Louise Bardsley, Natural England	Charles Rangeley Wilson, Chalk Streams First	Polly Chancellor, RAPID
	Sean McKee, South East Councils	Simon Cocks,	
Apologies	Penny Hodge, C51	Jonathan Dennis, RAPID	Daniel Bicknell, GLA
	Richard Benwell, WCL		

Minutes – to be read in conjunction with meeting slides

Discussion points and actions

Trevor presented the refreshed purpose, membership and Terms of Reference of the WRSE Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB) which were supported by the SAB members. Points of discussion were:

- Regulators are invited to join the SAB and WRSE SLT as observers, their input is valued in discussions but need to ensure it does not conflict with formal regulatory processes.
- Engagement and input of the “Business and economy” sector had previously been part of WRSE’s plan and it was questioned how these views were incorporated. WRSE advised that a specific sub-group had not been established for “Business and Economy” but there has been engagement. WRSE will review action to date to ensure engagement is sufficient.
- WRSE offered to act as the secretariat for the proposed SAB report to WRSE SLT. It was agreed that the decision-making process needs to be transparent, with publication of information and reports as appropriate.
- It was agreed that there would be trade-offs in determining the preferred plan and the current process to make decisions around trade-offs is not considered to be sufficiently clear. **Action WRSE (TB/MG)**
- WRSE agreed to set up a file sharing site for SAB members to ensure efficient sharing and storing of documents. A link and details will be provided. **Action WRSE (MG)**

Meyrick presented an overview of the current consultation on the process to determine a Best Value plan for the region including the proposed objectives, criteria and metrics. The main discussion points were:

- The challenge of delivering for public water supply and other water users was raised, as there will be constraints, not least in respect of funding. Cross-sector subsidisation is not acceptable and therefore transparency on the costs and benefits for shared schemes is needed.
- How to determine what is acceptable - WRSE outlined the engagement activity it is intending to undertake to understand customers’ preferences. Also Defra have offered to provide its (Treasury’s) model to estimate costs to customers, this will help to ensure consistency in assessments across the regional plans. It was also noted that the model needs to be tested to ensure it is fit for purpose – reference was made to over-estimation of the initial cost with the Thames Tideway work. The SAB wanted to receive further information on the model, or the components of it, to ensure there is confidence that it is robust. **Action WRSE (MG)**
- It was also noted that the discussion focused on acceptability from a water company customers perspective and customers of other water users also need consideration.
- Lead time for solutions was highlighted as an important decision-making parameter. Meyrick confirmed that timings is part of the sensitivity analysis to ensure the plan that is promoted is robust.
- The WRPG is due to be published by the EA imminently, with supplementary guidance on specific topics to follow. **Action WRSE to circulate (MG)**

WRSE Stakeholder Group 18 June 2020

- Dates and agendas for future meetings are noted below and diary invitations will be sent. Included below.

	Agenda
18 Feb 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Advisory Board, agree ToR and the work programme • Best Value (BV) planning approach - objectives, criteria and metrics for comment
19 April 15:00 - 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of BV criteria and metrics consultation responses and agree recommendations to SLT • Introduction to the customer and stakeholder visualisation tool • Review the Future Water Resource Requirements update including environmental ambition scenarios
18 May 14:00 - 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on the development of the visualisation tool and programme of stakeholder and customer engagement
19 July 10:30 - 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the results of customer and stakeholder engagement activity on the alternative plans and agree recommendations to the SLT on the preferred plan
26 August 11:00 - 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRSE to feedback on the preferred plan that has been put forward for regional reconciliation
8 Nov 10:30–12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRSE feedback on the outcome of regional reconciliation process • Draft plan consultation process for discussion and role of the Advisory Board in the consultation activity
1 March 2022 13:00-15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the output of draft plan consultation and agree recommendations to the SLT on how this should inform the plan
2 June 2022 10:00-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRSE report back on final plan and handover to WRMPs