



**January 2022  
Emerging plan  
Consultation  
overview**

**April 2022**

## Introduction

Water Resource North (WReN) would like to thank stakeholders for their continued engagement in the regional plan development and for consultation feedback on our emerging plan which was published in January 2022. During the consultation period on the emerging plan in January and February 2022, we received comments from a range of stakeholders including regulators and statutory bodies; water retailers; energy sector; industry consultants and suppliers; and landowner associations such as National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association. These comments have been collated, reviewed and categorised. Where applicable, owners within WReN have been assigned to specific comments so that appropriate actions can be identified and incorporated into development of the regional plan as we move towards publication of our draft plan for further consultation in autumn 2022.

This short document summarises some of the key headlines that came through in the emerging plan consultation.

## General approach to planning and decision making

In general, your responses to the emerging plan consultation confirmed that the WReN decision making approach and support tools for the regional plan development are seen as appropriate to the scale of the problem faced in the region.

### Demand management



Leakage reduction



PCC reduction

The focus on demand management in the plan such as the testing of resilience levels through demand management measures, is widely seen as a positive step. It is also recognised that there is significant potential for improved water efficiency and demand management is viewed as a key priority for further action in order to better understand the impact of demand management measures and to optimise outcomes and pace of delivery.



**ACTION:** WReN will continue to work collaboratively across regions and nationally as well as engaging with household and non-household customers and retailers to further understand demand management potential and optimisation of outcomes.

### Collaboration

**Intra- and inter-regional collaboration** across companies, regions and nationally to develop and align processes and plans such as the reconciliation process, is recognised as a big step forward.

It has also been widely acknowledged that the plan demonstrates **collaboration across sectors and non-public water supply** (non-PWS) and this is very much welcomed.



**ACTION:** It is recognised that there is still more work to do and WReN will continue to work with other sectors to understand and validate non-PWS needs and definitive cross sector opportunities. We are setting up sector specific sub-groups with particular priority sectors for the current round of planning, namely energy and agriculture.

## Transfer Options

It was recognised that the uncertainty around the ***potential loss of Severn Trent Water (STW) transfer*** has been clearly highlighted and that it could present a material change to the WReN regional plan.



**ACTION:** WReN will continue to work with Severn Trent Water and Water Resources West to develop options and understand the national picture and needs through the reconciliation process. We will also continue to develop the options and alternative plan in event that the Severn Trent Water transfer is lost.

It has also been widely noted that ***transfers from WReN have not been selected*** by other regional groups and that there is a need to evidence that robust decision-making has been undertaken around the option choices available to other regions, particularly why export options from Kielder have not been chosen.



**ACTION:** Compared to other options available to other regions, the WReN exports are less favourable in terms of unit cost and against other criteria. However, it is recognised that further work across regions is required to ensure that this is robustly tested, demonstrated and communicated through further analysis and modelling, as well as clear supporting narrative in our draft plan.

## Environmental destination

Environmental destination has general support but there is further work needed to fully understand and prioritise changes required to water abstraction, to further understand the long-term view and evidence an agreed way forward.



**ACTION:** It is recognised that WReN has a good level of information at catchment level and can build on this to frame future ambition with catchment stakeholders including continued dialogue with other sectors and environmental regulators; gathering additional information to prioritise needs for further investigation; further sensitivity testing and consideration of abstraction changes

A number of targeted meetings have already been undertaken with Ofwat and other stakeholders to clarify and discuss specific comments and key topic and to identify actions where necessary. We will continue to engage with stakeholders over the coming months to further clarify and address feedback as necessary.

The WReN Draft Regional Plan will be published this Autumn (2022) and this will highlight where the on-going process of stakeholder consultation and feedback has helped to develop and shape the plan.