

# Summary of Regional Plans for Water Resources



November 2022



## Foreword

In 2020 the Environment Agency published the first National Framework for Water Resources to transform how we plan for more resilient water supplies for consumers, the environment, agriculture and other water users. Five regional groups, made up of water companies and a wide range of other water users, along with local authorities, environmental groups, regulators and wider interested parties have worked together across boundaries, to develop plans that consider each region's needs and for those plans to fit together to provide a joined up national solution.

The plans will make our water supplies more resilient to droughts, leave more water in the environment and plan ahead for population growth and climate change.

The draft plans are ambitious: improving the environment by reducing water available from abstractions by over 2,500 Ml/d; increasing resilience of public water supplies in extreme droughts and in exploring the needs of all users, including agriculture, power, and businesses who depend on secure water supplies. Meeting those future needs requires ambitious action, with options that include reducing leakage from public water supply, helping individuals and organisations use less water, developing new sources, increasing the opportunity to store more water, identifying ways to move water around to meet the needs of multiple users, and identifying nature-based solutions to protect, restore and enhance the water environment.

The prolonged dry weather and drought this summer has had real impact on agriculture and food security, the environment, and a number of water companies introduced temporary use bans for their customers. The regional plans collectively seek to address some of the most significant future water resource shortfalls, challenges and aspirations which have been seen in decades. In many cases, the draft plans present key alternative plans and options, with decisions to be made on strategic choices, including the pace of increasing resilience to drought, the scope and pace of environmental needs and solutions, and the pace and policy interventions needed to reduce leakage and consumption.

The regional groups are keen to hear your views to influence the final plans.



**Jean Spencer**  
**Chair, The National Framework**

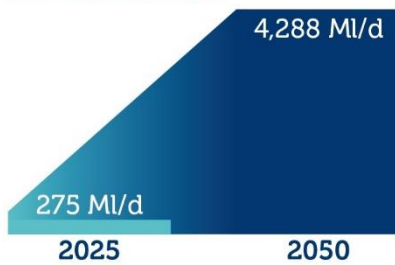
# Summary of Regional Plans

Five regional planning groups have collaboratively developed draft regional plans to tackle future water resource needs across England, and parts of Wales. The plans consider the needs of other sectors, as well as public water supply (PWS).

## The scale of the challenge

All regions have significant future supply-demand shortfalls to resolve, although these are greatest in the South and East.

### PWS shortfall



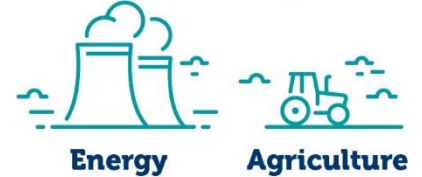
### Environmental needs

Over **2500 MI/d** of forecast PWS abstraction reductions are required to support environmental drivers.

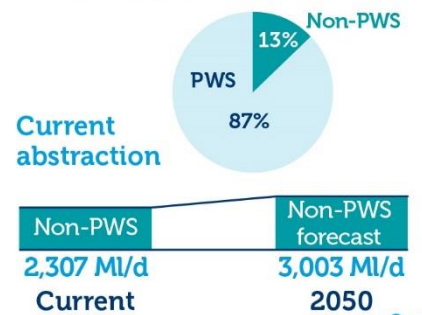
### Key common challenges



### Key growth industries across the regions

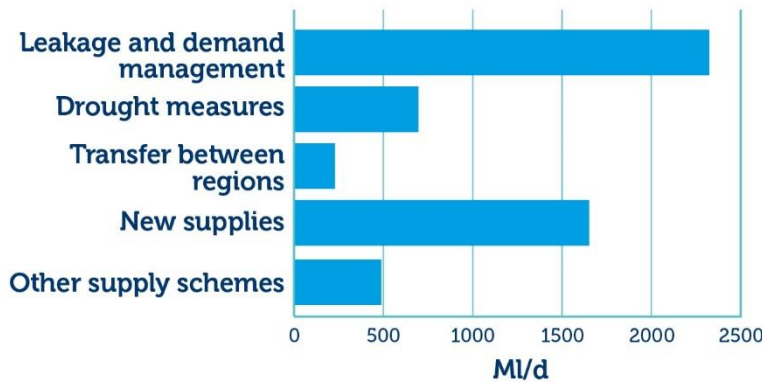


### Consumptive abstraction



## Planned approaches

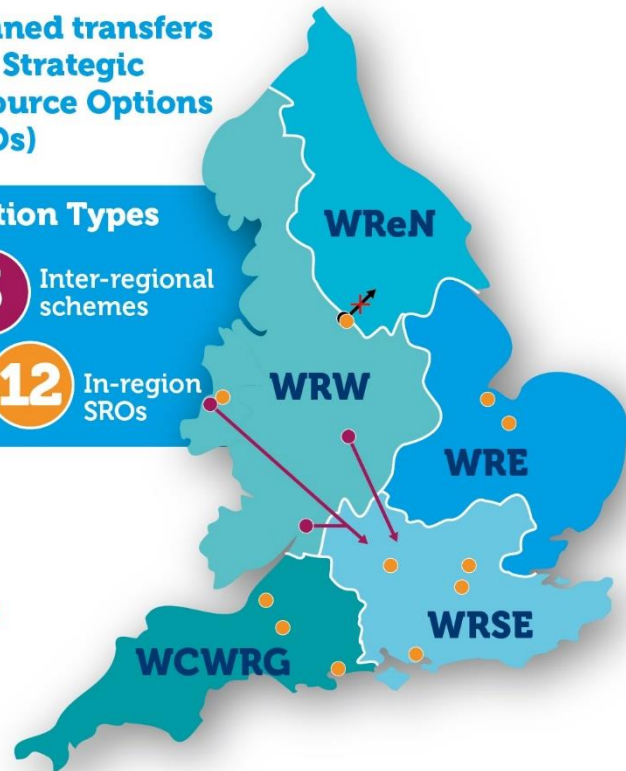
Each group has developed a best-value plan for their region, whilst considering the needs of other regions.



### Planned transfers and Strategic Resource Options (SROs)

#### Option Types

- 3 Inter-regional schemes
- 12 In-region SROs



### Personal consumption



**Current**  
135-151 l/h/d

**2050**  
110-115 l/h/d

### Leakage reduction



**50% reduction target in most regions by 2050**

Further investigations and studies are required in many areas to refine our future environmental destination.

Feedback on the draft regional plans can be provided via consultation

## Regional plans and the National Framework

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For the first time, five regional planning groups have developed a coordinated set of long-term strategic plans to tackle future water resource needs across England, and parts of Wales.

In 2018, the UK government published its 25-year environment plan for England<sup>i</sup>. Following this, the Environment Agency developed the *National Framework for Water Resources for England*<sup>ii</sup> in 2020, which also aligns with key legislation in Wales. The framework outlined the principles, expectations, and challenges for the five regional planning groups.

The framework was produced in recognition that planning solely at water company-level limited the potential to explore strategic solutions to secure water supplies and deliver environmental objectives at a national level. This is important because strategic transfers of water have the potential to offer cost-beneficial long-term solutions, yet require decision-making in a joined-up manner across companies and regions<sup>iii</sup>.

The regional plans are strategic, and consider the needs of multiple sectors. They complement the Statutory Water Resources Management Plans developed by individual water companies. Some areas of the process are relatively new and, in their infancy, and will naturally continue to mature over time (in particular multi-sector considerations). The regional planning process also exists in a complex landscape of other plans, legislation and guidance, that regions have considered as part of the plan development, where appropriate. Examples include the Water Resources Planning Guideline, River Basin Management Plans, and Wellbeing of Future Generations Acts (Wales).

The planning process is now at the stage where each region has published its draft regional plan for consultation. These build on the emerging regional plan reports published in January 2022, and the regional groups are keen to hear your views on the plans to shape the final versions.

Each region has produced a draft plan covering the period 2025-2050, and beyond, which aims to:

- Set out how the supply of water will be managed across their own region, while trying to achieve ambitious leakage reduction and lower personal consumption targets
- Understand and address the needs of the environment in a collaborative way
- Identify options potentially needed in their region and how the plan will deliver best value
- Explore how the plan will adapt to different future scenarios while considering all opportunities for water transfers (within and between regions)
- Increase resilience to drought by reducing the need for rota cuts and standpipes in extreme droughts.

### This report

This report aims to provide a high-level summary of the draft regional plans, on behalf of the regional planning groups. It provides an overview of the way regions have collectively developed their plans, of the needs and challenges faced by the regions, and the proposed solutions (and where solutions link between regions). The report seeks to assist stakeholders in understanding the collective regional planning picture for context, and to signpost key aspects detailed within the specific regional plans that may be of interest.

The document does not in any way override the regional plans themselves. The information contained here is representative at high-level of what the regions have submitted to regulators. It uses data provided by the regional groups available at the time of producing the document.



## Regional groups – who we are

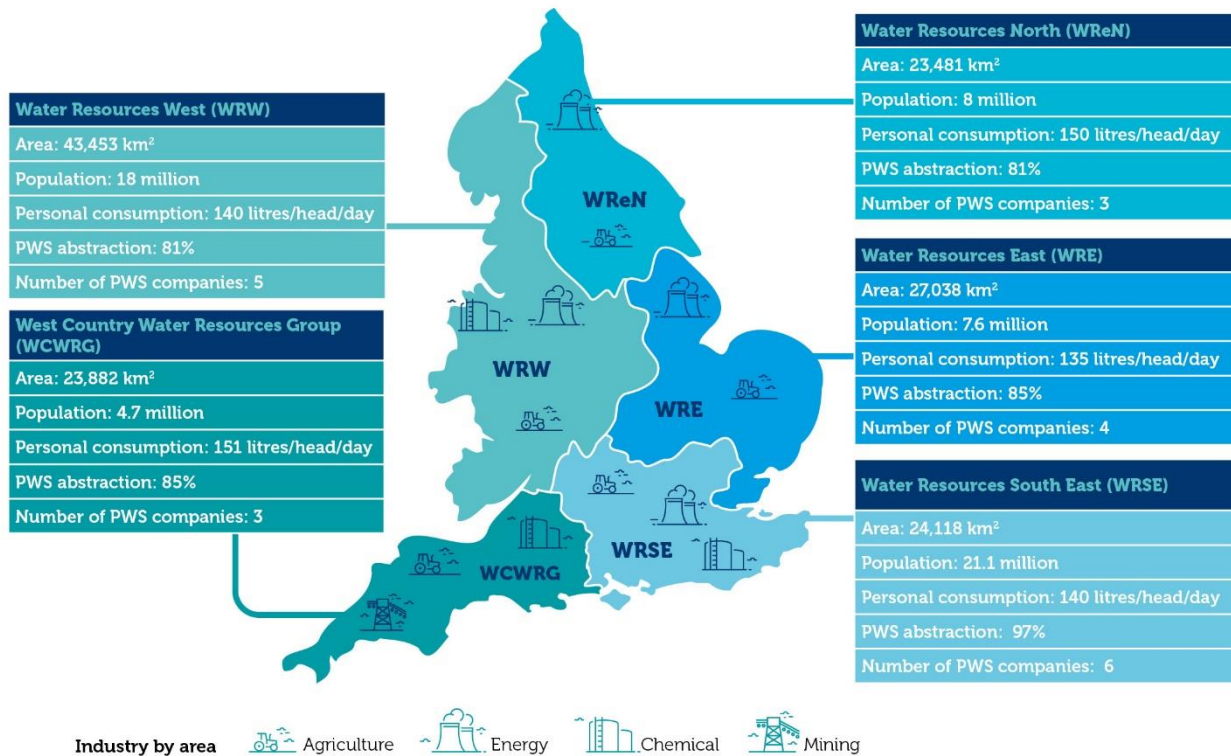
Each regional group includes water companies, representatives from multiple sectors, regulators and other organisations working collaboratively on solutions to tackle future water resource challenges.

The five regional planning groups cover an area of 141,972 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of around 59 million. They predominantly cover the area served by the water companies within each group. Water Resources West is the only cross-border group, as it also covers the parts of Wales which are intrinsically linked with shared catchments in the planning of water resources for England and Wales.

Each regional plan is tailored to address the needs of the environment, people and multiple sectors according to the nature and scale of the challenges faced. In terms of volume, water resources pressures are greatest in the south and east, although all regions have sizeable issues to address. Droughts occur in every region. However, the timing and characteristics of drought events differs on a broadly north west to south east gradient. This gives rise to the potential of sharing water between these regions, as they are less likely to experience extreme drought at the same time.

The proportion of consumptive abstraction for public water supply (PWS), in contrast to other sectors, varies noticeably across regions. The nature of the water supply systems is also different, with some regions having only a handful of water resource zones covering large areas, whilst others have a high number of separate zones. Such regional factors, along with many others, need to be considered when developing future water resource plans.

Figure 1: Overview of regions with key statistics and industries



## Our approach to working together

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Regional groups and regulators have worked closely together to help coordinate the development of the draft plans, explore the potential for water transfers between regions and ensure alignment of inter-regional options. Each group ultimately has the same aim, to develop a best-value plan for their region, whilst considering the needs of other regions.

### Collaborative working between regions

Effective collaboration between regional planning groups and regulators is essential to ensure that the regional plans, once aggregated, are capable of meeting the needs across all regions as outlined in the National Framework.

Therefore, in addition to bilateral engagement between neighbouring regions, the regions have collaborated together through dedicated forums such as the Regional Co-ordination Group (RCG). As well as nominated leads from the regional planning groups, this includes the Environment Agency, Ofwat, Natural Resources Wales, and the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID).

### Reconciling strategic transfers of water between regions

The water resources planning framework is 'risk-based', allowing regions and companies to approach plan development in a manner tailored to the challenges they face. However, the plans are inter-related, in particular through the exploration and appraisal of strategic transfer options. Therefore, a specific process was required to promote alignment between the regional plans in this regard.

In autumn 2021, prior to publication of the emerging regional plans, an iterative process of alignment was completed. Each region discussed its supply-demand balance, level of environmental ambition, and options that could support each other. This process was referred to as 'reconciliation'.

The emerging regional plans were at an early stage of development, and subsequently there has been significant further work on the underpinning data and modelling. As a result, another round of reconciliation was undertaken in Spring 2022 to enable and inform the development of the draft regional plans. Lessons learnt from the previous round of reconciliation were applied.

The process suitably defined the interlocking 'building blocks' of the plans in terms of transfers between regions prior to finalising the details of the draft plans. The Spring 2022 reconciliation also identified key alternatives or pathways that would benefit from being consulted upon in the draft plans. This was important where options could form viable alternatives beyond the reconciled position.

Change control and review processes were put in place by the RCG following reconciliation, to ensure alignment of inter-regional solutions prior to submission of the regional plans and Water Resource Management Plans.

## Current and future water needs

Whilst all regions have significant future supply-demand shortfalls to resolve, the volumes required are greatest in the south and east. The combined pressures of climate change and increasing demand, along with the need to tackle environmental issues and ensure resilience to drought, result in a sizeable inter-regional water resources challenge.

This section outlines the current and future predicted water resources needs before the choices and solutions in the plans have been applied to tackle them. The information presented draws on that used in the regional plans and has been provided by the regions. It is designed to be high-level, yet representative of the key drivers and challenges facing the regional groups. Long-term forecasts are subject to significant uncertainties, and so regions have also explored different scenarios around those<sup>1</sup> presented in this section; readers should refer to the plans for more detail.

### Current status of the water environment

The Government’s 25-Year Environment Plan commits to improving at least 75% of Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbodies to as close to their natural state as soon as practicable. Existing regulatory commitments require achievement of good WFD status by 2050, and to prevent deterioration in the status of waterbodies.

As seen in Table 1, many surface waterbodies do not currently achieve good ecological status or potential. Abstraction only forms a proportion of the problem overall, with factors such as pollution and water quality being hugely important. However, future abstraction reduction still plays a significant role in meeting environmental drivers, especially noting that the achievement of good status for groundwater specifically is directly influenced by abstraction overall.

Table 1: Current WFD waterbody status by regional area (% not achieving good status)

	WCWRG	WRE	WReN	WRSE	WRW
Not achieving good ecological status / potential ( <u>Overall, surface water</u> )	79%	92%	80%	67% <sup>2</sup>	79%
Not achieving good ecological status/potential ( <u>Abstraction / flow, surface water</u> )	3%	22%	8%	40% <sup>2</sup>	9%
Not achieving good quantitative status ( <u>Groundwater</u> )	7%	45%	17%	N/a <sup>2</sup>	75%

As improvements to waterbodies require further abstraction reductions, regional groups have developed their environmental destination visions for public water supply. Abstraction reductions contribute significantly to the future water resource challenge, as shown later in this section. Water companies have modelled different scenarios that range from a low to a high level of future abstraction reductions. The ‘BAU+ scenario’ is the minimum (but challenging) standard of

<sup>1</sup> Those presented are sometimes known as the central or declared (reported) scenario, in line with relevant WRMP24 and regional plan tables.

<sup>2</sup> The WFD assessment for the WRSE plan uses a different basis to the other regions presented in this table. The figures presented are purposefully included to ensure consistency with WRSE’s own technical assessments.

abstraction reduction that must be applied in regional plans, although regional groups have considered whether to adopt higher levels of environmental protection. The requirements should be locally verified. The BAU+ scenario is summarised below:

Table 2: BAU+ scenario - level of environmental protection<sup>iv</sup>

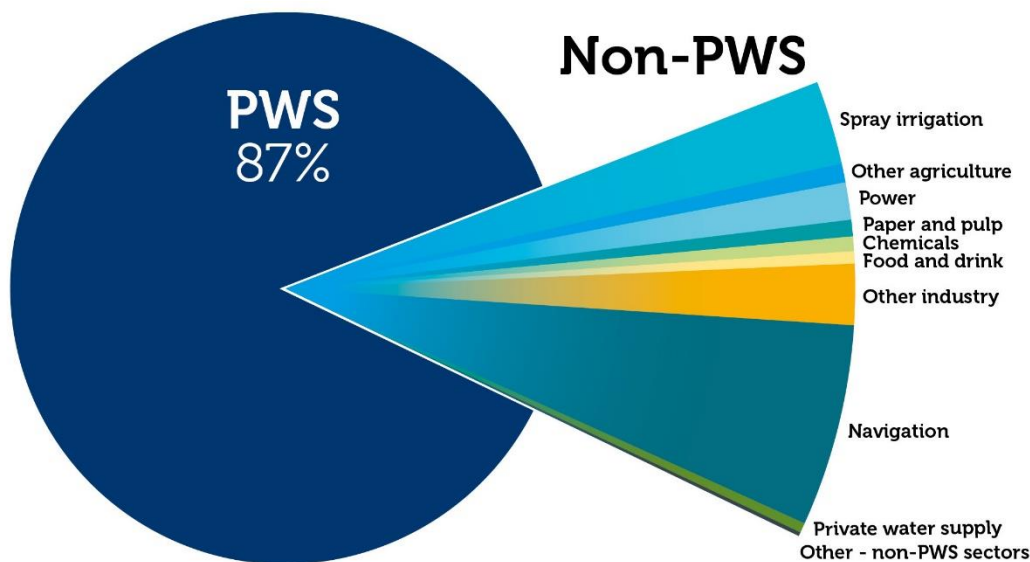
Environment Agency Scenario	Supports Good Status (WFD) by 2027	Supports Good Status (WFD) by 2050	CSMG <sup>3</sup> met for Protected Areas (European sites)	CSMG <sup>3</sup> met for SSSIs	Enhanced Abstraction Sensitivity Banding for Chalk	Enhanced Abstraction Sensitivity Band for Salmon
2050 Business as Usual plus locally verified (BAU+)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

More work is required to understand if the currently proposed scale of abstraction reductions is accurate and whether it will bring the benefits envisaged. All sectors will continue to work with the Environment Agency regarding non-public water supply abstractions. In many cases, securing no-deterioration and environmental flows in 2050 will require changes to both PWS and non-PWS licences.

### Current water abstraction needs

The figure below shows the regional recent consumptive abstraction breakdown between public water supply, and non-public water supply uses. Overall, public water supply makes up the vast majority of overall abstraction, with spray irrigation, power and navigation comprising the next largest specific sectors.

Figure 2: Current PWS and non-PWS abstraction across all regions



This position does, however, mask individual differences between the regions in terms of these proportions, and what constitutes the dominant non-public water supply abstractors. For example, spray irrigation is mostly used during dry weather when resources are most stretched and can be concentrated in particular catchments; therefore, the small proportion underestimates its influence.

<sup>3</sup> Common Standards Monitoring Guidance (CSMG) flow targets



There may also be significant sectoral influences within specific parts of the regions, for example, related to sports (e.g. golf courses) that may lie within the non-defined ‘other non-PWS’ category.

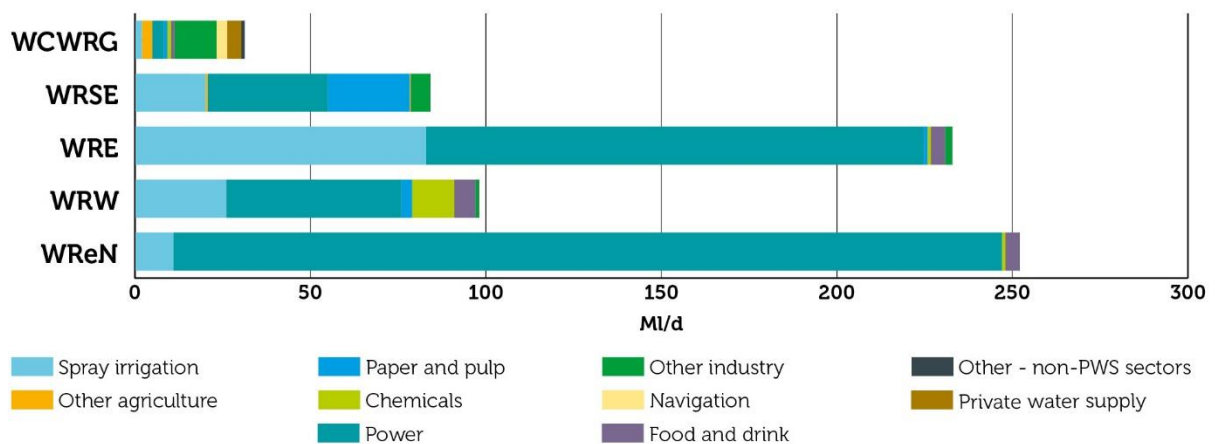
## Growth in non-public water supply abstraction

All regional groups have engaged with multiple sectors to better understand their future needs and to refine projections of future demand where possible. An illustration of the future abstraction growth for various non-public water supply sectors is shown in Figure 3.

In practice, the level of clarity for non-public water supply sectors’ future needs is different across the regions, and there are often significant uncertainties in the data available to understand the forecast growth across sectors. The composition of some sectors means they only have a very short horizon understanding of future needs. This is particularly the case where there is a high degree of competition or where use is influenced by wider factors such as the economy or climate agenda.

Similarly, the potential impacts of future changes in abstraction licences to prevent environmental deterioration and to achieve the future environmental destination remains uncertain.

Figure 3: Increases to non-PWS abstraction forecast to 2050



## Public water supply-demand forecasts

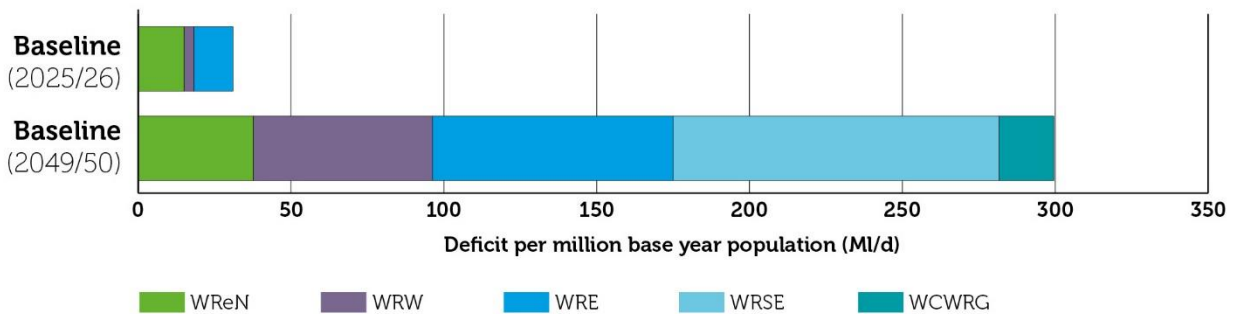
Every region has public water supply shortfalls occurring in one or more water resource zones by 2050 (Figure 4), although the scale of these challenges varies. WRSE area faces the greatest shortfalls, accounting for over half of the national total by 2050. However, Figure 5 shows sizeable supply shortfalls across most regions when taking into account region size or demographics. WRSE still has the greatest shortfall but, when their relative population is considered, the challenge is more evident the other regions.

In some regions, such as WReN, shortfalls are evident at the start of the plan period in 2025 which may not have been evident or expected in the previous planning round. Such changes may in part reflect the application of updated planning methodologies, for example, to assess drought resilience to the new policy standards and/or the exclusion of drought measures in the definition of the baseline forecast position.

Figure 4: Sum of regional shortfall (2025 Vs 2050, excluding drought measures)



Figure 5: Forecast shortfall per million base year population (normalised)

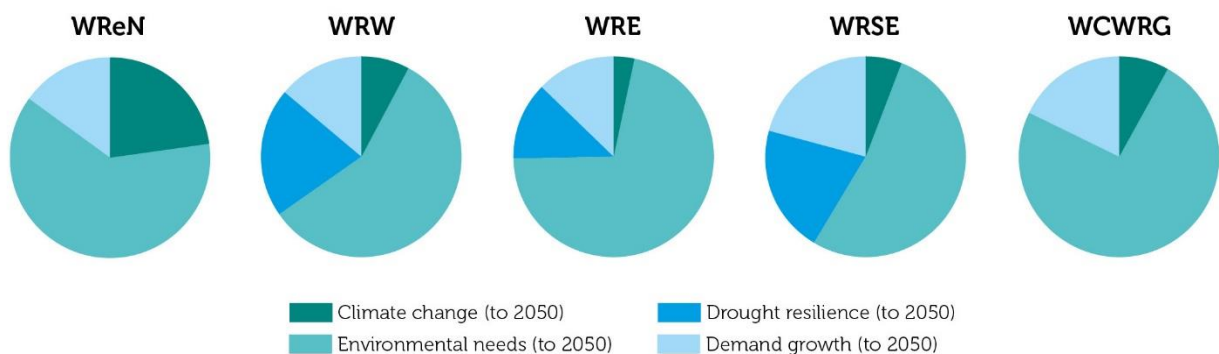


There are several key common pressures contributing to increasing shortfalls over time:

- Population and demand growth, including both household and non-household use
- Further impacts of climate change over time. All regions are now using the latest UK Climate Projections.
- Addressing environmental needs and legislation
- Meeting government policy for drought resilience of 1 in 500-years for emergency drought orders by 2039

Figure 6 below depicts the scale of these respective challenges, in terms of the pressures contributing to *additional* supply-demand shortfalls by 2050, from the 2025 position at the start of the plans. As seen from this figure, environmental needs dominate the influence on future shortfalls overall. In the case of drought resilience, there is little further influence on the scale of the deficit over time for WReN, because drought resilience needs contribute to the significant underlying deficit at the start of the plan period in 2025.

Figure 6: Key upward pressures contributing to further supply-demand shortfalls by 2050 (from 2025)





*Changing needs since the emerging regional plans*

The regions consulted on their emerging regional plans in early 2022. Since then, significant additional technical work has been completed towards the draft regional plans (in line with the submission of the draft Water Resources Management Plans at Company level).

Across the regions, the scale and nature of shortfalls has been most influenced by including the latest position on licence capping and environmental destination (using the latest clarifications and guidance from regulators). This has particularly impacted WRW and WReN, increasing the scale of deficit, whilst in WRSE updates altered the distribution of deficit in the region.








## Future choices

The regional planning groups, along with each of their constituent companies, have made important choices in their draft plans for consultation. Regions have considered how to support government policy targets and deliver environmental improvements. Options to deliver the plans have been considered against a range of best-value criteria.

Traditionally, water resources plans have been developed on ‘least-cost’ principles. In this planning round, there has been an increased focus upon developing ‘best-value plans’, which considers more fully wider factors (i.e. other than simply addressing a single forecast supply-demand deficit using the cheapest options). This includes making sure the plans are suitably adaptive to change and uncertainty, and that they deliver multiple benefits. Regions have defined objectives and associated metrics (i.e. performance criteria) to support decision-making on the chosen solutions to meet the needs, aspirations and challenges in the plans. Each region has developed these informed by customer and/or stakeholder views, so that they are tailored to the priorities for the region.

Whilst each region has unique challenges and needs to address, there are a number of strategic themes of relevance across regions. Table 3 below gives a flavour of the typical choices (non-exhaustive) which have been considered by regions in developing their plans:

Table 3: Considerations relating to plan development (strategic themes and choices)

Strategic plan area	Typical plan choices or themes
 <b>Environmental destination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements for further investigations on environmental needs and/or appropriate solutions; pace of delivery</li> <li>• Level of environmental protection / scenario assumed</li> </ul>
 <b>Personal consumption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether to adopt the 110 litres per head per day (l/h/d) government policy target by 2050 (or alternative level)</li> <li>• Pace of reduction in personal consumption over time</li> <li>• Interventions to deliver (including assumptions of government standards, e.g. water labelling)</li> </ul>
 <b>Leakage reduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of leakage reduction by 2050 (from 2017/18 levels), and pace to achieve through the planning period</li> <li>• Options selection to enable cost-effective delivery</li> </ul>
 <b>Drought resilience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the current level of resilience?</li> <li>• What further interventions are required to meet the 1 in 500-year resilience standard (for Emergency Drought Orders) by 2039?</li> <li>• Timing of meeting 1:500-year drought resilience level</li> </ul>
 <b>Options selection to meet shortfalls / drivers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What options are selected under a best-value plan(s), and why? What are the key alternatives?</li> <li>• Inter-regional transfer options selections (benefits of imports from neighbouring areas and impacts / viability of exports)</li> <li>• Potential joint resource development and consideration of impacts / benefits on multiple sectors</li> <li>• Environmental impacts of plan options and solutions</li> </ul>

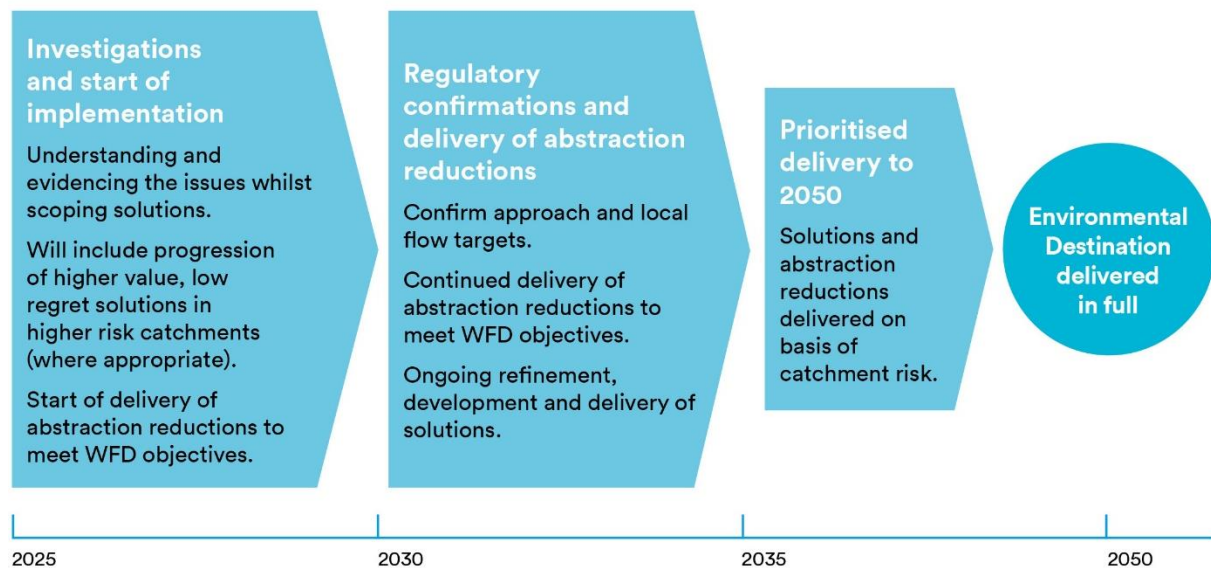
## Proposed plans

All regions are proposing significant further leakage reductions and contributions to reducing customer consumption by 2050. The range and scale of options selected in the plans is diverse. Several strategic resource options have been proposed as part of the draft plans, including the ‘Severn Thames Transfer’ supported by new options and transfers from the North West of England. Further investigations and studies are required in many areas to identify and evidence the future environmental destination.

## Environmental investigations and delivery

The draft plans have drawn on and used the latest estimates of abstraction reductions required for public water supply over time. However, given the scale of uncertainties, and the need for investment to be based upon robust evidence and deliver value, the plans include a phasing of future investigations, review and delivery over time. This is illustrated below, although each region will have a specific approach tailored to their region, as detailed further in their draft plans.

Figure 7: Illustrative delivery of environmental destination over time in the plans for public water supply



Solutions to meet environmental drivers go beyond developing options that benefit the supply-demand balances. Activities in the regional planning organisations also include nature-based solutions to benefit the environment, such as catchment management or biodiversity enhancement schemes.

## Non-public water supply abstraction

All regions have engaged and collaborated with non-public water supply sectors in the development of their plans. This marks a major step forward in the water resources planning process, and the appreciation of the requirements across multiple sectors has greatly increased.

It is clear that power and agriculture sectors are concerned with the impacts of reduced abstractions on energy and food-security. The Environment Agency will continue to work with and review the licences across sectors over time. Many farmers rely on single water sources and are already facing challenges during dry weather. Likewise, the power sector is dependent on abstractions and if these are reduced and capped, their assets could be stranded. Hence, although some impacts may be localised, but their magnitude could be high.

These issues are being explored in parallel to public water supply by all regions, recognising that solutions to address them will be developed in time, as uncertainties are resolved. Given the lack of long-term water resource planning historically within many sectors, regional groups plan to build upon this progress through into the next round of regional plans for completion in 2029. This will be supported by the Environment Agency’s update of the National Framework, to provide greater definition on the framework and approaches required for multi-sector planning.

## Demand management and leakage reduction

As reflected in the 2018 National Infrastructure Commission report *Preparing for a drier future*<sup>iii</sup>, demand management and leakage reduction has a key role to play in future plans to meet water resources needs. Many regions are in deficit prior to inclusion of further activity in these areas, and so delivery will be a high priority. The regions have put forward stretching demand management and leakage reductions as part of the plans towards the government policy aspirations (Table 4).

The historic water resource position will influence the starting position for each region, with the more water stressed areas likely having previously implemented enhanced programmes to reduce demand. Each water company in an area will be subject to its own targets and plans. In the case of personal consumption reductions, the scale of aspiration cannot be achieved alone by the water industry without wider intervention, for example, adoption of new water labelling and building regulations by government. With government interventions, some regional forecasts may actually reduce personal consumption lower than the policy target. For WRSE, the 110 l/h/d government target could be achieved, but only with further government intervention.

Table 4: Personal consumption ambition and leakage reduction by 2050

	Regional Group				
	WRE	WRSE	WRW	WReN	WCWRG
Personal Consumption by 2050 (litres per head per day)	110	115	110	110	110
Leakage reduction by 2050 (%)	29	51	50	50	50

## Regional plan options selections by type (at 2050)

As part of defining their best-value plans, the regions have considered all available feasible options. In terms of supply options, whilst larger strategic transfers and resource options may be included in the plan, an array of smaller options typically also contributes to meet the required needs. All options are considered on an equal footing, in terms of merit.

Figure 8 shows the scale and type of options selected across the regional groups by 2050 (the reader is referred to the regional plans themselves to consider their consultation feedback on the specific options in detail). The scale of demand-side measures compared to supply-side schemes is clearly evident, with these representing a major and ambitious part of the overall solution portfolio.

It should be noted that transfers between water companies within a regional area are excluded from Figure 8, given complexities in reporting simplified summary statistics for this option type (e.g. potential double-counting of benefits where these are supported by new supplies). However, they



form an important part of the regional plans, with the regional planning process having served to support their exploration across companies. These are shown in Figure 9.

Figure 8: Selected options grouped by classification (2050) - % by regional group

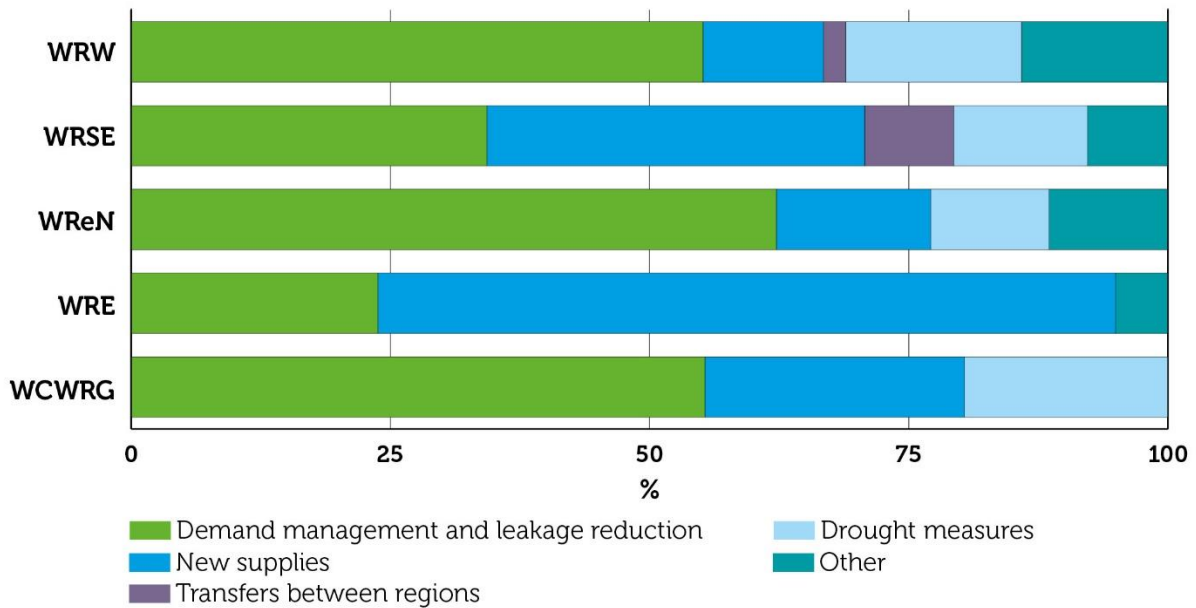
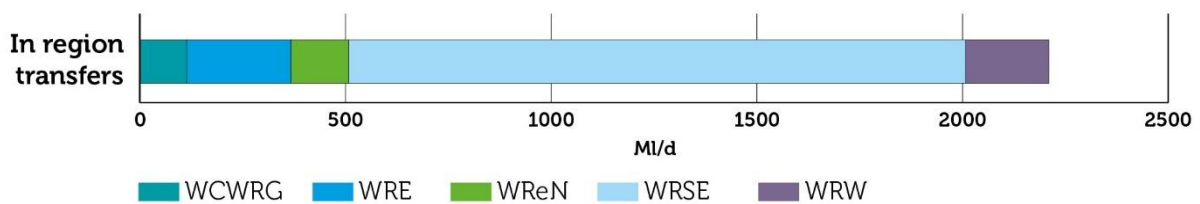


Figure 9: In-region transfer schemes by volume



## Inter-regional transfers and Strategic Resource Options (SROs)

The selection and inclusion of inter-regional transfers (and supporting SROs) in the plans was explored during the reconciliation process in Spring 2022 and was further refined prior to draft plan submissions. Through the process of developing the draft regional plans, regions have also defined which SRO options are required as part of their best-value plans, for use solely in-region.

The most prominent transfers of water included in the best-value plans are from WRW to WRSE, via the Grand Union Canal (GUC) and Severn Thames Transfer (STT), with supporting options from Netheridge, Minworth and the North West Transfer (NWT). In the case of the NWT, the option benefits both WRSE and WRW in the plans. Exploration of the plans under alternative scenarios informed the case of the NWT and STT schemes in the plans, with the potential balance of use being adaptable depending on how aspects such as future environmental needs manifest. These schemes were also included in the emerging regional plans, although the timing, volumes and case for their inclusion has been reexplored for the draft plans.

A key change from the emerging regional plans was to cease an existing transfer of water from WRW to WReN in 2035, driven at this time by a lack of viable alternatives towards meeting environmental drivers. However, further work is being undertaken on one of the SROs to explore whether this may form a viable alternative to include in the best-value plans, and as such, the potential for this has been included as an alternative pathway in the plans.

Other transfers of water have been considered through the plan process, such as from WReN to WRW (i.e. from Kielder) and WReN to WRE, which have been discounted at this stage largely on the grounds of cost. In the case of Kielder, as a well-known potential strategic resource, the current WReN plan includes an internal transfer of water from the Kielder resource zone to support shortfalls in Yorkshire.

A summary view of draft plan inter-regional transfer selections and water into supply dates, along with the selection of SROs selections in-region is shown overleaf in Figure 10.



A key part of the reconciliation and plan development process has been not only to identify a proposed best-value plan, but also to consider and present key alternatives to support consultation. This may also include presenting a ‘least-cost’ view alongside the best-value plan.

In reconciliation, Beckton desalination and re-use schemes were both observed to be potential alternatives in place of the STT, or for use in other scenarios. The use of the Mendip Quarries SRO to support transfers from WCWRG to WRSE from 2045 is also considered a potential alternative, if ongoing work on the SRO enables WCWRG to offer this option as viable for export. As mentioned above, the potential to retain existing transfers of water between WRW and WReN is also under ongoing exploration.

The regional plans themselves will also consult on alternative pathways, plans or options, and this includes intent by the regions to continue to work together to explore transfer options that may not be currently included.

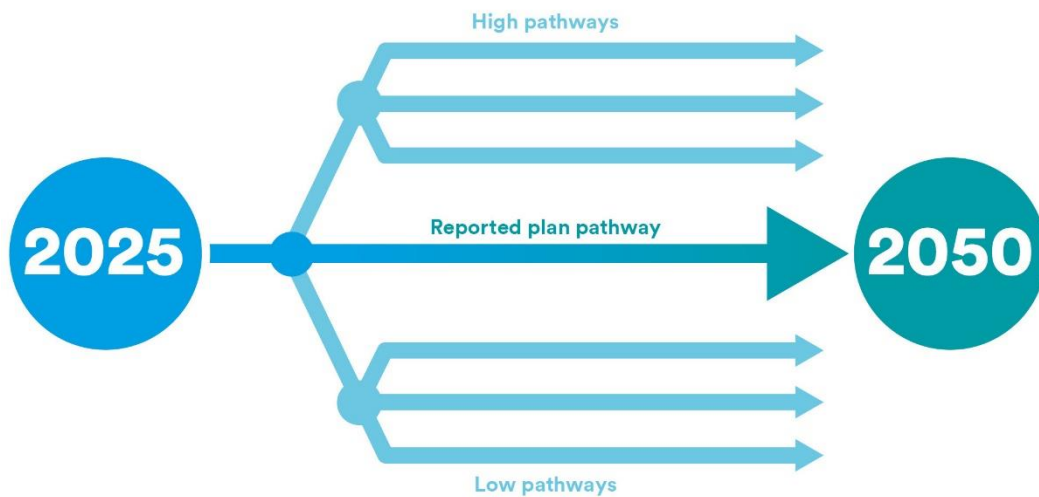
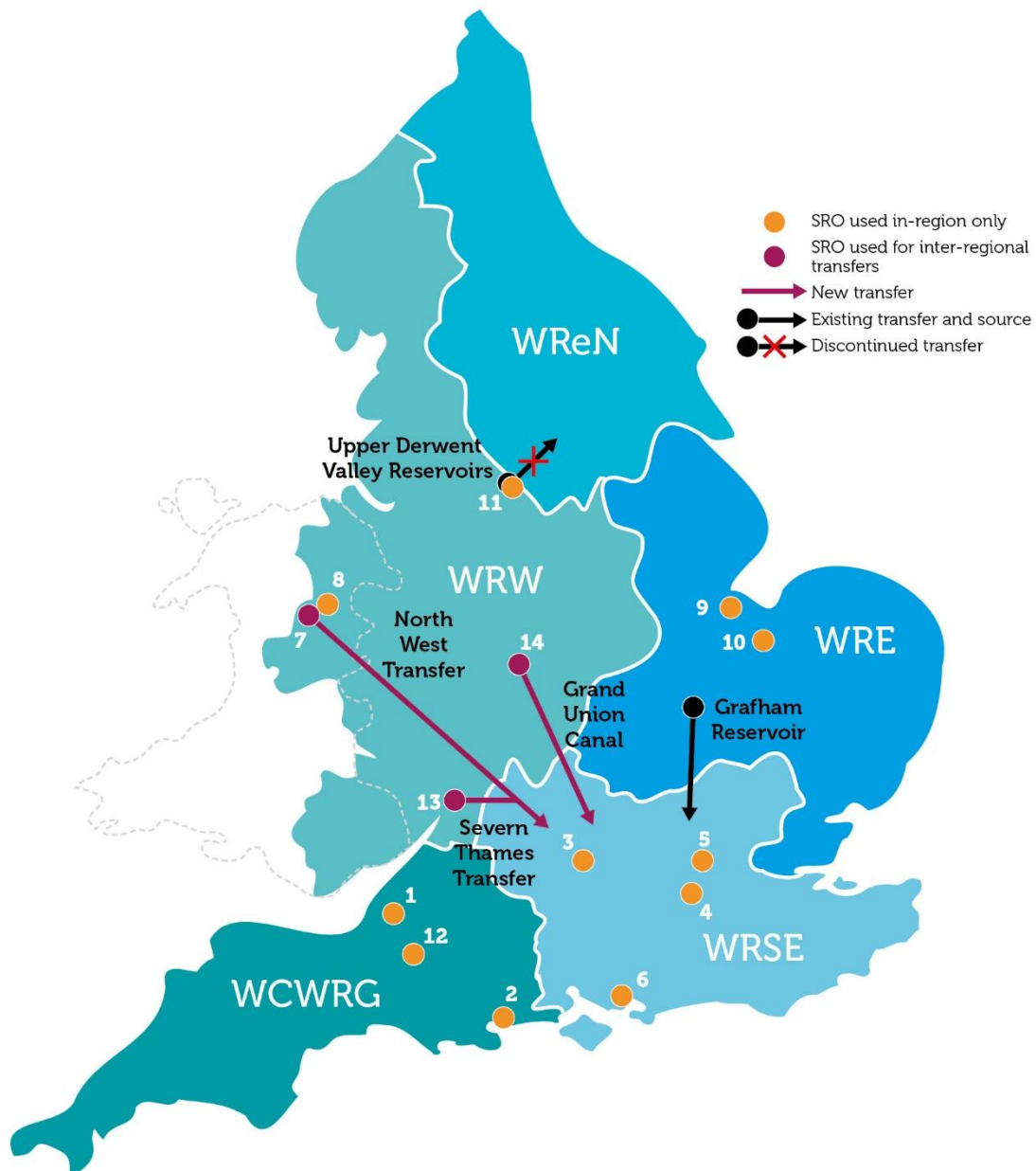


Figure 10: Strategic transfers and SROs in draft regional plans

Name	Indicative year of option selection (into supply)	Name	Indicative year of option selection (into supply)
1 Cheddar 2	2040	8 Vyrnwy / North West Transfer (Vyrnwy Aqueduct and United Utilities Sources - STT): potable water from Vyrnwy aqueduct	From 2041, with further enhancements in 2051 and 2061
2 Poole Effluent Re-use	2035	9 South Lincolnshire Reservoir	2039-40
3 SESRO (Abingdon)	2040	10 Fens Reservoir	2035
4 Direct river abstraction - Teddington	2031	11 Derwent Valley Storage Increase	2040
5 London reuse - Deephams	2061	12 Mendip quarries	2042
6 SWS Water Recycling	2031	13 Netheridge via STT	2050 (to WRSE)
7 North West Transfer (Vyrnwy Aqueduct and United Utilities Sources - STT): Raw water releases from Vyrnwy to River Severn.	2031-2060: in-region transfer From 2060: out of region transfer	14 Minworth via GUC	2031, increased in 2040 (to WRSE)





## Consultation and next steps

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The regional plans collectively seek to address some of the most significant future water resources shortfalls, challenges and aspirations in decades. The regional planning groups are excited to be consulting on their plans for future water resources, and are keen to hear your views to influence the final plans. The draft plans also present key alternative plans, options or pathways for consultees to consider in their responses.

The regional plans are at a draft stage for consultation. On a similar timescale, the water companies are also publishing their Water Resources Management Plans for consultation.

This document has signposted the major themes of the draft regional plans at national level, aiding readers to focus their attentions on relevant aspects across the regional plans. As such, the reader is encouraged to review the regional plan publications themselves to gain further insight on the issues that matter to them, and respond to the consultations. Each region has a suite of publications, ranging from short summary documents to detailed technical reports, allowing interested stakeholders to choose the level of detail they wish to explore the plans.

All regions welcome views on the draft regional plans, to inform the revised draft plans in 2023. The draft plan publications and consultation areas may be found by clicking the links below (or following the web addresses at the end of this document):



Following the consultation window, the regional groups will update the regional plans towards a final plan in autumn 2023. The final regional plans will take account of, amongst other things:

- Your consultation views and feedback on the draft regional plans, and those of others;
- The outcomes of consultation and further revision of the draft Water Resources Management Plans;
- Updated information on SROs and Water Resources Management Plan level options, where appropriate, but in particular for newer or less mature RAPID schemes subject to the amended 'Gate 2' milestones in Spring 2023. Gate 2 reports will be published and Ofwat will consult on Gate 2 decisions; and,
- Revisions to the profiling of licencing changes and environmental destination impacts over time, reflecting ongoing work between water companies and the Environment Agency.

## Key references

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<sup>i</sup> A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment - HM Government, January 2018.

<sup>ii</sup> Meeting our Future Water Needs: A National Framework for Water Resources - Environment Agency, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

[Meeting our future water needs: a national framework for water resources \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/864217/meeting-our-future-water-needs-a-national-framework-for-water-resources.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> Preparing for a Drier Future: England's Water Infrastructure Needs - National Infrastructure Commission, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

[Preparing for a drier future \(nic.org.uk\)](https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/preparing-for-a-drier-future)

<sup>iv</sup> Review of England's emerging regional water resources plans: National summary and expectations – Environment Agency, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022

[Review of England's emerging regional water resources plans - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/107117/review-of-england-s-emerging-regional-water-resources-plans-national-summary-and-expectations.pdf)

## Regional planning group websites

- Water Resources West - <https://waterresourceswest.co.uk/>
- West Country Water Resources Group - <https://www.wcwrg.org/>
- Water Resources East - <https://wre.org.uk/>
- Water Resources North - <https://www.waterresourcesnorth.org/>
- Water Resources South East - <https://www.wrse.org.uk/>