



**Water Sector Innovation Leadership Group
Meeting minutes 9 January 2013
Ergon House, Defra**

Attendees:

Tom Flood (Independent Chair)	Dr David Smoker (SBWWI)
Chris Newsome (UKWIR and Anglian Water)	Keith Mason (Ofwat)
Simon Cocks (Severn Trent Water)	Mark Worsfold (Ofwat)
Paul Mullord (British Water)	John Whittall (Observer - Technology Strategy Board)
Lynne Currie (BIS)	Sonia Phippard (Defra)
Daniel Osborn (UKRIP)	Alison Maydom (Defra)
Piers Clark (Thames Water)	Graham Lott (Defra)
Ian Barker (Environment Agency)	
Rupert Kruger (Thames Water rep: Water UK)	

1. Introductions

Tom Flood welcomed members to the first meeting of the refreshed Water Sector Innovation Leadership Group. The Group is well positioned to provide the level of expertise required to promote innovation in the water sector. It was intended that this Group would work together to determine measurable outcomes, and identify and overcome barriers to innovation. The group is responsible and accountable for developing a strategy for innovation that is recognised within the water sector as driving the real benefits of innovation. It was agreed this first meeting would focus on reaching broad agreement on the Terms of Reference and first year goals.

2. Setting the scene

(Paper on current activity, circulated.)

Alison Maydom updated the Group on current innovation activity in the water sector.

The Group discussed how to stimulate innovation, particularly how regulation can support innovation. The Group considered representation of other sectors

of the industry such as the food sector, utilities and supply chain. Although the current Group should remain tight and focused, agreed that any sub-groups should include representation from other sectors. Chair to invite a member of the National Trust to the next meeting to present their current water activity work.

Daniel Osborn presented the work being done by NERC on mapping existing water initiatives against water sector innovation priorities. A graph showing existing initiatives with high and low relevance against different areas of the water sector was circulated to the group for comment. The Group agreed this was an extremely good visual tool at identifying areas where there was a lack of research activity and agreed the graph should be further developed to show further the relationship between the different areas of research being conducted and the work being implemented as innovation on the ground. It was noted that there were several other areas of research which can be added to the graph. It was agreed to maintain and develop the document further to inform the Group at future meetings.

The Group discussed funding opportunities and although local authorities had reduced resources for research and innovation, the group agreed that if there were good/positive ideas on innovation then there would be opportunities to generate local authority interest. The Group will also consider where existing innovation knowledge can be applied to make savings and to drive business. The group felt that there was already a wide knowledge base available and that further research was not necessarily a high priority, instead the group should stimulate post research to move into implementation and applied innovation.

It was suggested that research areas should be defined to establish what is actually being done and identify those areas best placed to provide an actual outcome. The Group discussed the level of expertise required to understand and evaluate the innovation/research. One concern raised was whether the supply chain would share their commercial innovative developments until they have been fully developed.

The group discussed the innovation leadership role and authority of the group. It was agreed that the group needed to be clear on what it's deliverables were and to whom they would be communicating this information to. A draft communication plan will be presented to the April meeting for agreement. Agreed that communication could be very time consuming if the group are promoting innovation to the water sector, many of the issues surrounding innovation are interlinked across different sectors including the same barriers to innovation. However the group should maintain a broad approach and not be drawn into specifics/detail.

3. Draft Terms of reference

The group discussed the terms of reference. Piers Clark will to conduct a workshop to identify deliverables, priorities and mechanisms for the group's objectives, and how success will be measured. The Group agreed there was a strong need to learn from other sectors.

4. TSB Overview

John Whitthall provided the Group with an overview of the TSB structure, priorities and ongoing projects.

5. Water Innovation Partnership (Commission presentation circulated to the Group)

Alison Maydom provided an overview of the Commission presentation.

6. Key Actions

It was agreed to retain the current membership of the group. Where necessary additional expertise of individuals would be secured in sub-groups as appropriate.

Develop a draft communication plan for comment by the next meeting.

Piers Clark will facilitate a small working group to establish metrics for the terms of reference and provide a draft for comment by the next meeting.

Dan Osborn will further develop the research model in time for the next meeting.

7. Date of next meeting

10 April 2013. 10.00am to noon, Defra.