

## **National Framework Senior Steering Group Summary June 2022**

The national framework senior steering group held its fourteenth meeting on 28 June 2022. This was the eighth virtual meeting held and was chaired by Jean Spencer. The meeting focused on how the regional plans are lining up for consultation, followed by a focus on securing progress on water efficiency and concluded with an item on how regional planning is going from the attendees' point of view, including exploring how it should change in the future.

The meeting agenda was shaped to help manage the following risks from the risk log maintained by the regional coordination group:

- The risk that there is a lack of alignment between regional plans – in particular the risk that strategic transfer schemes do not line up between plans
- The risk that, despite investment in managing demand, it is not possible to reduce consumption to the levels water companies and regional groups are aiming for. This could have substantial impact on the plans which are very sensitive to projected demand.

The first item of the meeting was a presentation from the Regional Groups on how the regional plans are lining up in preparation for the next round of consultations on draft regional plans. This included a summary of projected water needs and drivers, a look at the resource options to be included in the individual regional plans, a look at how the regional plans will fit together and an overview of consultation dates and the joint regional engagement piece around these consultations. Discussions focused on how to make sure that the plans are understandable and an effective means of engaging stakeholders.

Defra, WaterUK, Waterwise and Natural Resources Wales led the following item on securing progress on water efficiency. Defra provided an update on its plans for its water efficiency policy, next steps following its consultation on statutory water demand management targets and the progress being made in its pre-consultation stakeholder workshops on mandatory water labelling. Defra are also developing a roadmap on water efficiency in building regulations alongside the department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. WaterUK are commissioning a roadmap on future water demand reductions and are developing the terms of reference for this work. Waterwise provided an overview of its UK Water Efficiency Strategy to 2030 consultation. Natural Resources Wales provided an update on the Welsh water demand group and water efficiency group.

Jean Spencer presented an item on how regional planning is going and how it should change in the future, with a focus on input from the National Framework Senior Steering Group attendees. Meeting attendees were asked to provide further feedback via a survey.

SSG reviewed the November forward look. The meeting will include an opportunity for the regional groups to present the national narrative and to discuss plans for their national workshops. There will also be an update on the approach to the next national framework, an update on the WaterUK water efficiency roadmap and an item on work outside public water supply: potentially agriculture or power. To close, Jean Spencer thanked the item presenters and the attendees for their contributions to the meeting.