

National Framework Senior Steering Group Summary November 2022

The national framework senior steering group held its sixteenth meeting on 29 November 2022. This was the tenth virtual meeting held and was chaired by Jean Spencer. The meeting focused on the published draft regional plans and how stakeholders can engage with them, followed by an update on Extraordinary SSG proposals and next steps.

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, uncertainty around pace, scale and scope of ambitious environmental water needs resulting in failure to make necessary decisions or to meet government, eNGO, customer, EA, NE, NRW expectations or introduces inconsistency across regional groups.
- Lack of clear government policy, resulting in plans that do not meet government or stakeholder expectations or are open to successful legal challenge.

The first item of the meeting was a presentation from the Regional Groups on their [published draft Regional Plans](#). These presentations referenced increasing water demands, how the Regional Groups plan to provide sustainable water supplies and resilience, considerations regarding the non-public water supply and opportunities for stakeholder engagement. Discussions focused on the funding required for the next round of regional planning and multisector studies. how to achieve water reduction targets and concerns around changes to abstraction licences.

The Environment Agency led the following item on an update on Extraordinary SSG proposals and next steps. The EA provided a recap on the Extraordinary SSG meeting, including the feedback received from the SSG which covered water efficiency initiatives (including household, non-household and smart metering), leakage measures, accelerating infrastructure, accelerating environmental and other-sector resilience and regulatory policies. The EA also shared the outputs from the [September](#) and [October](#) National Drought Group meetings.

The group was updated on Defra's latest progress on water demand and water resources, including regarding progress being made on the development of outcomes from its consultations on Water Demand Targets and mandatory water efficiency labelling, its roadmap to greater water efficiency in buildings, its intention to designate the National Policy Statement for water resources infrastructure next year, its project on acceleration proposals and its £10 million Water Management grant scheme which was launched in 2021.

SSG reviewed the forward look for 2023. The next SSG meeting will be taking place in April and will include an update on the future of regional planning and a summary of the regional plan consultation feedback. To close, Jean Spencer thanked the item presenters and the attendees for their contributions to the meeting.