

STRATEGIC REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES SOLUTIONS: GATE 2 DRAFT DECISION

FOR RIVER SEVERN TO RIVER THAMES TRANSFER, 30th March 2023.

CLOSING DATE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION, 11th May 2023.

SUBMISSION BY EAST HENDRED PARISH COUNCIL, 5th May 2023.

1. East Hendred Parish Council (EHPC) welcome Ofwat's draft Gate 2 decision that the Severn – Trent Transfer (STT) "is a potentially valuable way of supplying water to customers," which should be progressed to Gate 3.
2. EHPC welcome that the STT is included in Table 2 Draft Decision Criteria as:
 - i) Chosen in Thames Water draft Water Resources Management Plan (WRM24),
 - ii) Chosen in the Water Resources draft South East Regional Plan (WRSE),
 - iii) Chosen in the Water Resources draft West Regional Plan (WRW),
 - iv) Timetabled to be construction ready by 2028.
 - v) Has the potential to be better value (environment, social & economic) compared to other solutions.
3. EHPC support Ofwat's significant concern that the timing of the construction of the STT is not consistent between the WRW and the WRSE Regional Plans.
 - i) EHPC agrees with Ofwat's Priority Action in Appendix A, Item 6, that the timetable for the construction of the STT by 2028 should be aligned within Thames Water, United Utilities & Severn Trent Waters Management Plans (WRMP) & Regional Plans by December 2023.
 - ii) EHPC agrees with Ofwat's Action for Gate 3, Appendix A, Items 1-6, for Thames Water to explain how the STT solution will interact with the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO), & the Thames Transfers to Affinity (T2AT) & Southern (T2ST), with a construction ready programme, the conjunctive benefits, preferred volumes & configuration, & how risk scores are calculated.
 - iii) EHPC seeks that Ofwat apply a Delivery Incentive Penalty on Thames Water's SESRO proposals, or similar action, for the failure of Thames Water to address Ofwat's Gate 1 recommendations, in Appendix B, Recommendations 1-2. These recommendations sought to ensure that relationships with receiving SROs are closely managed, & the benefits of each solution are aligned (e.g. with SESRO).
4. The Ofwat Gate 2 draft recommendations, in 3 i) & ii) above, show that Thames Water has still not addressed these same Gate 1 recommendations, shown in 3 iii) above. This justifies a Delivery Incentive Penalty, or similar action.