

Committee: Council
Title: Water Resources East
Report Author: Sarah Nicholas, New Communities Senior Planning Officer
snicholas@uttlesford.gov.uk

Date:
Thursday, 8
October 2020

Summary

1. This report explains the role of Regional Water Resource Plans and the Strategy of Water Resource East.
2. Uttlesford lies within the Water Resources South East Region but has close connections with the Water Resources East Region.
3. Water Resources East offers the opportunity to become a member with the intention of the membership meeting regularly and co-creating solutions.
4. Water Resources South East does not offer membership and has a more consultative approach with regular elements of the development of the regional plan consulted on as it is developed.

Recommendations

5. That Uttlesford District Council applies to become a Standard member of Water Resources East (WRE) Ltd.

Financial Implications

6. The liability of membership is limited to £1, which is the amount each member of the company would contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up. Members will be issued with a guarantor certificate by the company.

Background Papers

7. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Water Resources East Business Plan 2020-2023

Impact

- 8.

Communication/Consultation	n/a
----------------------------	-----

Community Safety	n/a
Equalities	n/a
Health and Safety	n/a
Human Rights/Legal Implications	n/a
Sustainability	By being a member of WRE the District Council can influence the Regional Plan on sustainability issues
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	n/a

Situation

9. England has been divided into five Regional Planning Groups operating as part of a National Framework for Water Resources. Each Region is made up of the water companies covering that Region. Within Uttlesford potable water is supplied by Affinity Water, wastewater collection and treatment is undertaken by Anglian Water in the north and east of the District and Thames Water in the south and west of the District.
10. Thames Water and Affinity Water in are in Water Resources South East (WRSE) and Anglian Water is in Water Resources East (WRE). Uttlesford lies within WRSE area, but there are obvious links with WRE. The aims of the Regions are to secure the water supply for future generations through a collaborative regional approach to managing water resources. Each Regional Plan will be used by each water company in the region to ensure the delivery of an affordable, resilient and sustainable water supply to the public, industry and natural environment for years to come.
11. WRE's strategy is
 - a. To work with all water users in Eastern England to identify ways in which they can become as water efficient as possible;
 - b. To promote the need for additional storage of water within the landscape, increasing resilience for all water users and seeking to identify multi-sector opportunities to link water scarcity with flood risk management solutions;
 - c. Linking land and water management more effectively, increasing resilience and restoring and enhancing the natural systems and resources on which all abstractors depend
 - d. Actively explore other potential sources of water for our region, for example desalination and water re-use;

- e. Contribute to low carbon strategies and plans, helping the region to meet net zero ambition.
12. WRE is testing theories and approaches at various scales through pilot projects across the region. One such project of interest to Uttlesford is the Cambridgeshire chalk stream land use pilot.
 13. The governance of WRE is Primary Funding Members who form the Board of Directors and Standard Members who form the Strategic Advisory Group. It is proposed that Uttlesford apply to become a Standard Member.
 14. The Board of Directors appoint chair and directors, approve budget, resources and Business Plan, appoint Standard Members, sub-committees and working groups, set the overall strategy and vision. WRE is independent of any controlling interest but is funded either financially or 'in kind' by the organisations represented on the Board.
 15. Members of the Strategic Advisory Group are formally members of the company and will support and enable the Board of Directors to make informed decisions, and will be key to the development of an effective Business Plan and future strategy. Individual members will provide specific advice where WRE activities or outcomes have positive or potentially negative impacts on their specialist activities. The Strategic Advisory Group will formally vote on key matters as deemed by the Board of Directors.
 16. There is also a Consultation Group who do not have formal voting rights but are integral in bringing a broad view beyond the membership.
 17. Membership of the Strategic Advisory Group and the Consultation Group aims to be open, inclusive and diverse, to ensure that the broadest possible set of views are sought and considered early on and throughout the development of the Regional Plan.

Risk Analysis

1.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Application for membership of WRE is unsuccessful.	1. Little	2. Would be unable to influence regional plan	Make case for membership if necessary.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.