WRE
WATER RESOURCES EAST

Water Resources Planning and the Role of Catchment Partnerships

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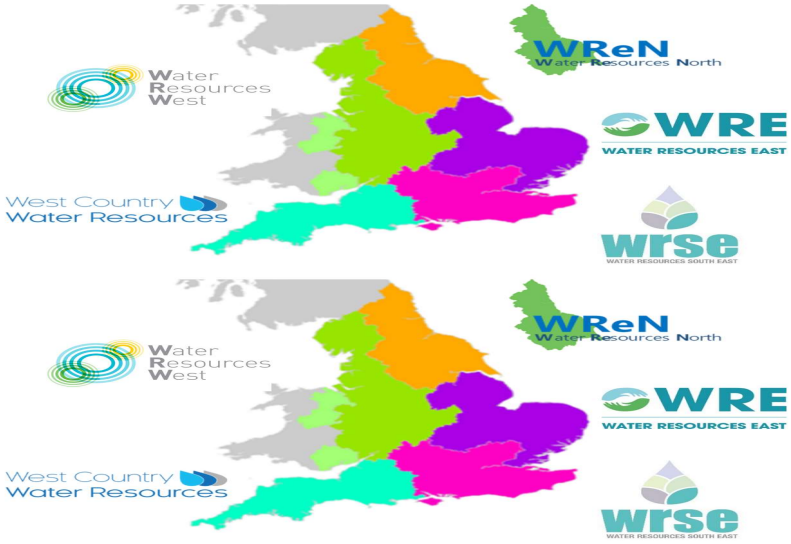

Meeting our Future Water Needs:
a National Framework for
Water Resources

- **National Framework:** published March 2020
- **Emerging Plans:** published January 2022
- **Draft Regional Plans:** published November 2022
- **Final Plans:** due Winter 2023

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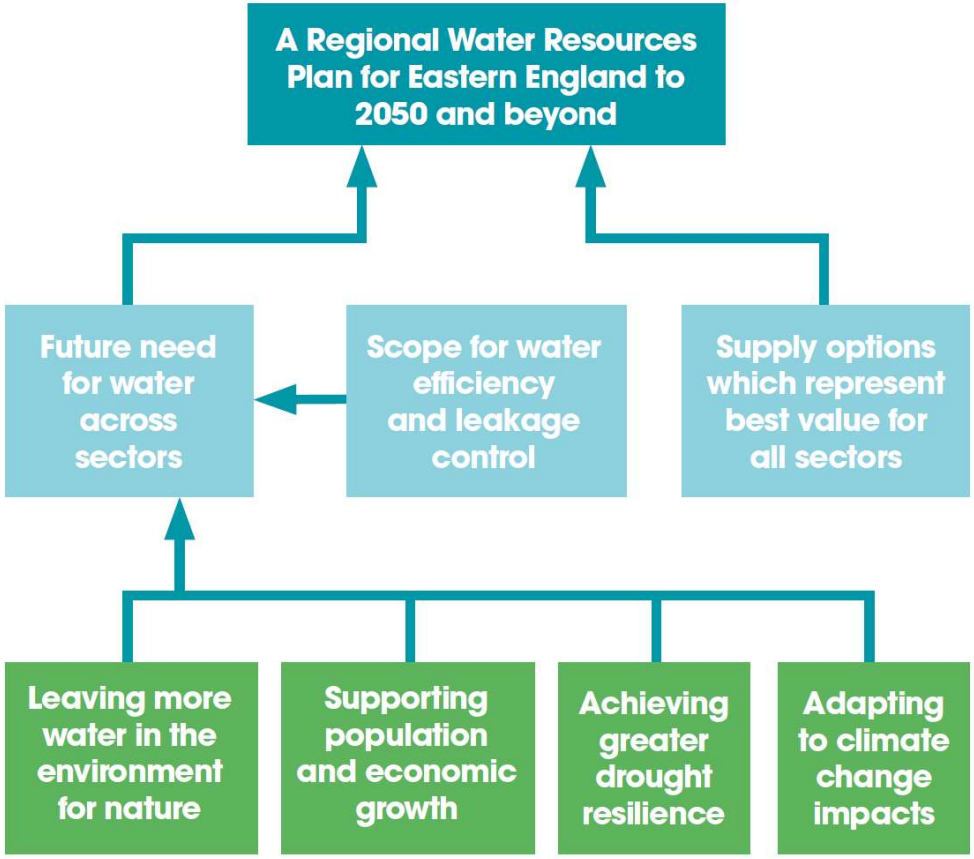
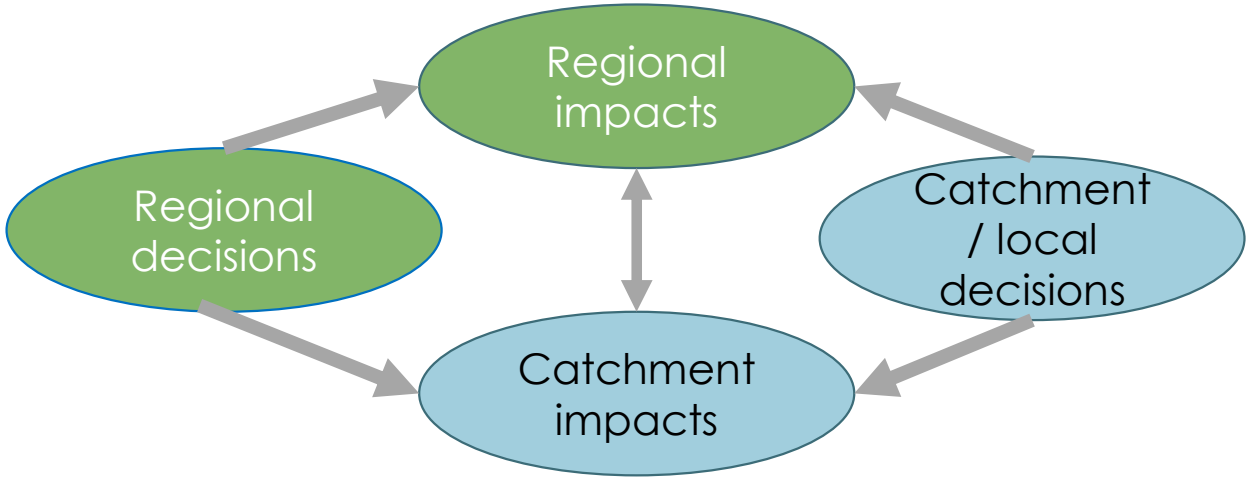


Water resources planning

- Water resource management occurs at very different scales and levels of detail
- Water companies – small number, years of experience, lots of guidance.
- Other sectors - fragmented, less water experience, little support
- Multi-sector working needed, but how to bridge the gap?



National Framework for Water Resources requirements.....

Feedback themes - Regional Plans

Pace of change in energy sector over next decade

Flexibility within framework appreciated

How far should agriculture expect to have needs met by regional plans?

Energy sector Uncertainty:
- Demand for water
- Location of demand (clusters & dispersed)

Support approach of long-term environmental thinking & planning adaptively

Value chain of agriculture should be considered beyond water availability

Energy sector competition and contract bid process – limiting the forward look available

Planning for non-PWS challenges
- Scale – site based
- Engagement
- Funding
- Remit

Data and funding – how? Support the approach but need help in planning system, funding, regulation

Environment Agency

Aim of next National Framework

The refreshed national framework for water resources will provide a framework for planning secure, sustainable, and efficient water supplies across sectors to:

- enhance multi-sector planning alongside improvements to public water supply planning;
- provide an updated assessment of future water need with a focus on public water supply, energy and agriculture; and,
- embed long term-planning that protects and enhances the environment, ensuring future water needs for the environment are central to multi-sector water resource plans.

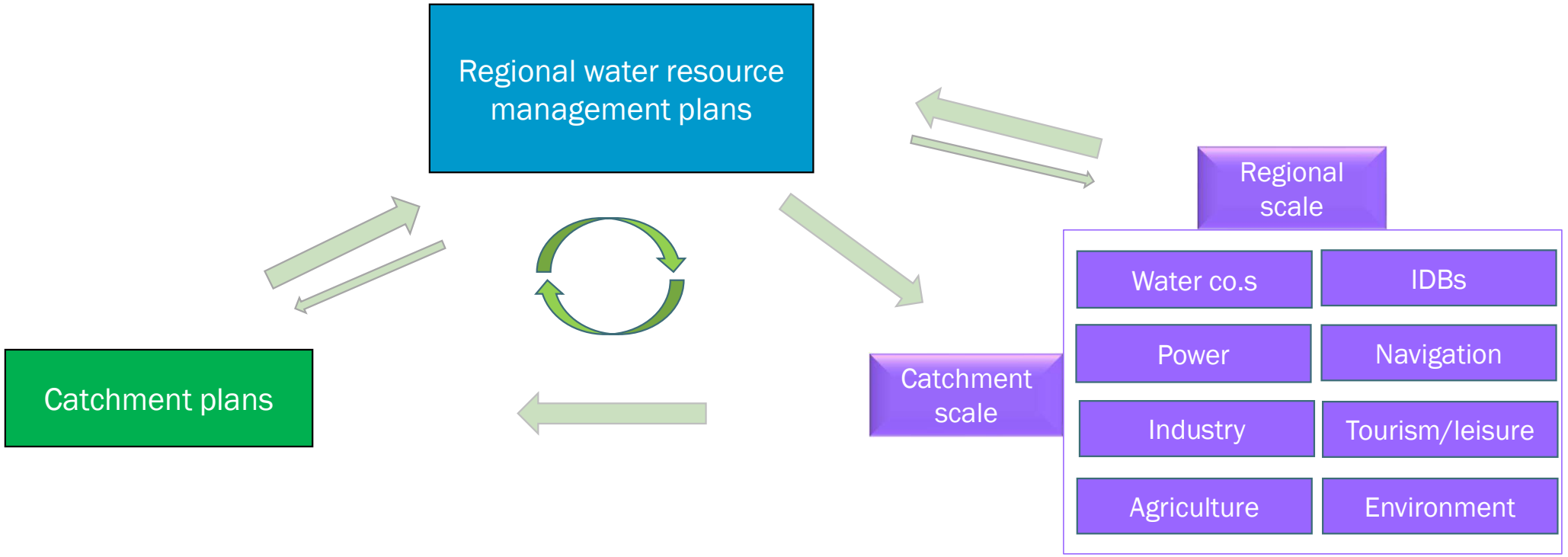
Environment Agency

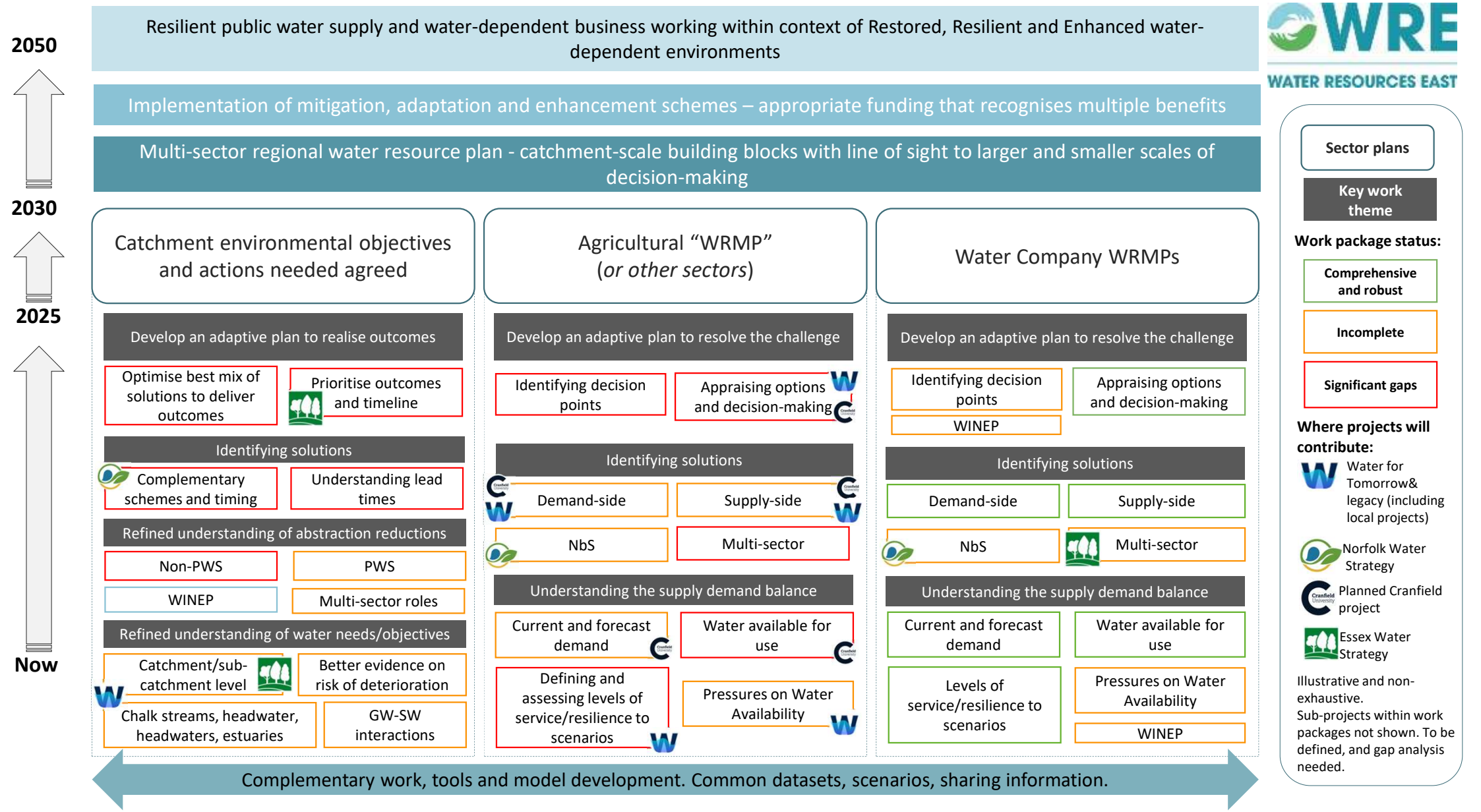
Sector and catchment links

WINEP

ALL VERY MUCH UNDER DISCUSSION – CONSIDER THE DEFRA PLAN FOR WATER FOR A START!

WRMPs




2050
2030
2025
Now
Resilient public water supply and water-dependent business working within context of Restored, Resilient and Enhanced water-dependent environments
Implementation of mitigation, adaptation and enhancement schemes – appropriate funding that recognises multiple benefits
Multi-sector regional water resource plan - catchment-scale building blocks with line of sight to larger and smaller scales of decision-making
Catchment environmental objectives and actions needed agreed
Develop an adaptive plan to realise outcomes
Optimise best mix of solutions to deliver outcomes
Prioritise outcomes and timeline
Identifying solutions
Complementary schemes and timing
Understanding lead times
Refined understanding of abstraction reductions
Non-PWS
PWS
WINEP
Multi-sector roles
Refined understanding of water needs/objectives
Catchment/sub-catchment level
Better evidence on risk of deterioration
Chalk streams, headwater, headwaters, estuaries
GW-SW interactions
Agricultural "WRMP" (or other sectors)
Develop an adaptive plan to resolve the challenge
Identifying decision points
Appraising options and decision-making
Identifying solutions
Demand-side
Supply-side
NbS
Multi-sector
Understanding the supply demand balance
Current and forecast demand
Water available for use
Defining and assessing levels of service/resilience to scenarios
Pressures on Water Availability
Water Company WRMPs
Develop an adaptive plan to resolve the challenge
Identifying decision points
Appraising options and decision-making
WINEP
Identifying solutions
Demand-side
Supply-side
NbS
Multi-sector
Understanding the supply demand balance
Current and forecast demand
Water available for use
Levels of service/resilience to scenarios
Pressures on Water Availability
WINEP
Complementary work, tools and model development. Common datasets, scenarios, sharing information.
Sector plans
Key work theme
Work package status:
Comprehensive and robust
Incomplete
Significant gaps
Where projects will contribute:
Water for Tomorrow& legacy (including local projects)
Norfolk Water Strategy
Planned Cranfield project
Essex Water Strategy
Illustrative and non-exhaustive.
Sub-projects within work packages not shown. To be defined, and gap analysis needed.

Catchment water resources planning

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- Uncertainty - objectives, responsibility, governance and funding.
- Does a catchment partnership plan ahead?
- What would you need to play a greater role in water resources management?
- Support from the National CaBA Water Resources Group envisaged.
- What would a catchment plan covering water resources look like?
- Start to consider water resources in the upcoming catchment plan review OR wait until a later plan when there would be more time to develop the detail?

Training

The CaBA Water Resources and Engagement Fund specifically requires successful projects to:

- *Convene and facilitate multi-sector stakeholder engagement within catchments to build a shared understanding of water resources challenges and appropriate actions that can be taken to address them.*
- *To align with current CaBA catchment plans and emerging regional water resources plans as part of the national planning framework*
- *To accelerate and improve the uptake of sustainable water resources management practices within catchments.*
- *Share best practice on the above, across sectors and settings.*

Over the longer term, it is intended that all catchment partnerships can have greater engagement with, and understanding of, water resources planning. Partnerships will hopefully be able to support catchment decisions that best balance local needs alongside environmental risks and drivers, with a greater understanding of the impact of local and national decisions on a catchment. Ultimately this will lead to improved catchment-scale water resources planning nationally in line with the expected aims of a new National Framework for Water Resources due for publication in 2025. It will also allow catchment partnerships to have more influence over investment decisions and achieve better environmental outcomes.

Training

- Upskilling training, developing a training package template for Partnerships
- Strategic topics piloted online with the Upper & Bedford Ouse and two others
- More local detail piloted in person with the Broadland Catchment Partnership
- Slides shared with all groups
- Feedback required!!!
- National template developed

Training topics

Pilot with the Upper & Bedford Ouse, Old Bedford & Middle Level and Broadland CPs

- Water company Water Resource Management Plans (WRMPs)
- WRE Regional Water Resource Plan
- Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP)

Pilot with the Broadland Catchment Partnership

- What are the gaps, what's happening, pathways to action
- Water sources, abstraction and licencing in the Broadland Rivers Catchment
- What is 'environmental destination'?
- Other sectors' water needs

Upper & Bedford Ouse only?

- Water in the LNRS?

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Thank you

Questions?