



SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 7 JUNE 2017

SEVERN TRENT WATER: HOUSING GROWTH AND WATER

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose

1. The purpose of this item is to enable Severn Trent Water to answer questions relating to their approach to Housing Growth and Water. A copy of the questions, which have been sent to STW in advance, and a statement provided by STW in response is appended to this report. STW will also give a powerpoint presentation at the meeting.

Background

2. Representatives from STW were previously invited to attend the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission on 8 March but were unfortunately unable to do so. They did, however, provide a written response to a number of questions put forward by the Commission. The response can be viewed via <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=4915&Ver=4>
3. At the meeting on 8 March, the Commission resolved to seek a meeting with STW in the summer, to enable members to ask questions in regard to housing growth and STW's capacity to respond, as well as how the Council might be able to assist. STW responded positively to this request.

STW Stakeholder Engagement

4. STW will strive for continuous overall improvement in its environmental performance and as a minimum, comply with all applicable legal and other environmental requirements and all relevant industry codes of practice by operating in a responsible way across our business activities for the benefit of our customers, shareholders, employees and other stakeholders.
5. STW is also mindful that our current operations must make a positive contribution to the future and therefore fully embrace the concept of sustainability.
6. STW has established a Water Forum which is an independent panel of experts. Its role is to challenge STW to provide an even better service to its customers, both now and in the future. The Forum does this by:

- Evaluating the quality of Severn Trent's customer research and engagement
 - Checking that the business plans the company produces have seriously considered customers' expectations and priorities.
7. East Midlands Councils is represented on the Water Forum by Stuart Young. For more information about the Water Forum, its terms of reference and membership, please see <https://www.severntrent.com/about-us/future-plans/water-forum1/>
 8. STW started developing its Water Resource Management Plan in 2016. This will be finalised in 2019 and will set out how STW intends to provide a secure and sustainable supply of water to its customers over the next 25 years and beyond. It consists of several elements, including:
 - A 25 year demand forecast. This describes how much water STW thinks its customers will need in the future, considering factors such as climate change and population.
 - A 25 year supply forecast. This illustrates how much water is available for use now and how this may change in the future. STW considers the impact of climate change and potential reductions in the volume of water it can take from rivers and groundwater.
 - An assessment of STWs options to meet demand, including leakage reduction and sustainable abstraction.
 9. STW held two pre-consultation workshops in September 2016 and April 2017. The workshops yielded some great feedback from stakeholders from which actions have been identified. The next pre-consultation meeting will be in Autumn 2017 at STW's head office in Coventry.
 10. For more information about the Water Resource Management Plan and workshops, please visit <https://www.severntrent.com/about-us/future-plans/water-resource-management/water-resource-managment-plan/>.

Further Information

11. Members may find the following web page helpful in aiding their understanding of the breakdown of responsibilities for managing flood risk: <http://www.local.gov.uk/topics/civil-emergencies/flooding/local-flood-risk-management/managing-flood-risk-roles-and>

Officers to Contact:

Rosemary Palmer, Democratic Services Manager
 Tel: 0116 305 6098
 Email: rosemary.palmer@leics.gov.uk

Bernard Evans, Infrastructure Planning Manager

Tel: 0116 305 6834

Email: Bernard.evans@leics.gov.uk

Lonek Wojtulewicz, Head of Planning and Historic and Natural Environment

Tel: 0116 305 7040

Email: lonek.wojtulewicz@leics.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix - List of questions submitted to Severn Trent Water

This page is intentionally left blank