

Submission of Evidence Form – National Development Framework

Name

Severn Trent Water

Contact details

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Date

7th March 2017

Title of evidence

Severn Trent Water & The Provision of Essential Infrastructure

Summary of evidence

Our evidence has been provided to detail the current plans and challenges faced by the company that the NDF needs to be aware of and which it could help support. We have provided detail of the planning we are doing for future water management and provision of new infrastructure. We also provide suggestions as to how the NDF could help to ensure that regional and local plans cater for the needs of us and other providers of essential infrastructure through the provision of appropriate planning policies.

Severn Trent Water has recently acquired Dee Valley Water and will work with the team to develop our business plans for the benefit of all our customers in Wales.

Summary of key issues/conclusions

Future Plans, Challenges and Investments in Wales

Every five years we put together our plans for improving the services we provide our customers and delivering them in a sustainable way. We want to ensure we create a lasting legacy for our customers.

We're currently in the early stages of developing our business plan for the five years 2020 to 2025. The decisions we make will impact the price customers pay, and the service they receive over that five year period and beyond. Our business plan for 2020-25 will be submitted to our Economic Regulator, Ofwat, in September 2018. Our plans will be subject to review by Ofwat before they are finalised to take effect from April 2020.

Our plan will include the investment we need to maintain our network of assets such as pipes, sewers, pumping stations and treatment works. The

plan also needs to include the investment needed to cope with a changing environment and changing customer needs. To inform our next investment plan, we are currently working to understand the future challenges that are most important to our customers and stakeholders.

We have identified the future challenges that are over and above the day-to-day activities that we already carry out. The issues set out below are ones where significant changes in approach, investment levels or service standards are required to meet the challenges ahead. It would be helpful if the National Development Framework for Wales could recognise these challenges to the water sector, and make allowance for the infrastructure that will be needed to meet them.

- Water resources: addressing the unprecedented pressure we face on the amount of water we can abstract in order to balance demand in the long-term (25 -50 years).
- Increasing supply resilience: our network's ability to provide a reliable water service to homes and businesses.
- Reducing flooding impacts: flooding is a nationally significant issue and the risks are increasing.
- Delivering a healthy environment: we rely on the natural environment. How we clean up sewage before we return it to streams, rivers and canals must be sustainable.
- Supply pipe adoption: private supply pipes affect leakage, pressure and water quality - these are currently owned by our customers and can be a burden to them. We see potential benefits to both sides from us taking ownership in the future.

Our investment plan for the 2020-2025 period is still at a very early stage of development. However, to meet the challenges outlined above, we already know that investment will need to be made at the following assets we own and operate in Wales:

- Llandinam boreholes and water treatment works. We want to improve the resilience of customers' water supplies by improving the treatment works and possibly providing new backup sources.
- Church Stoke, Guilsfield and Montgomery sewage treatment works. We think that improvements will need to be made to the current sewage treatment processes in order to help meet the river quality objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- Sections of the Elan Valley Aqueduct, including the Elan Conduit to Knighton Tunnel, Dulas Inlet Wellhouse, Carmel Masonry Crossing, Clwyedog Siphon, Lugg Siphon and the Arran Conduit.

Role of NDF to Inform Regional and Local Plans

We recognise that the NDF will inform the formulation of regional and local plans across Wales. A key element to the future development of Wales will be the provision of essential infrastructure and we would like to see this recognised in the NDF and a clear requirement placed on the local and regional plans to provide appropriate policy to support the provision of such whilst ensuring that any such infrastructure is developed with minimal impact to the environment.

As a key enabler to growth it is vital that developers engage with all infrastructure providers at the earliest opportunity. This enables developments to be planned effectively and for the costs to be planned for in good time to prevent delays to delivery. As such, the NDF can play a key role in requiring such early engagement where large developments are planned.

It is also important that the risk of flooding is raised through the NDF and appropriate direction given as to how new developments should be designed to minimise flood risk.

It is important that appropriate policy is put in place that supports the delivery of essential infrastructure, required to support the future growth and prosperity of Wales.

Why have you submitted this evidence?

We have submitted this evidence because we have strategic assets and customers in Wales that are important to both the future of Wales and our company. We want to inform the NDF in order that the needs for essential infrastructure are recognised and taken into account when spatial planning decisions are made and policies adopted.

How should this evidence inform the development of the NDF?

To support sustainable development in Wales for future generations we recommend the NDF proactively recognises the challenges surrounding provision of drinking water, the treatment of waste, management of flood waters and the essential role of the natural environment in supporting the water lifecycle. Active consideration should be given to how far the NDF should be planning/directing/influencing development taking into account the national network impact of development and setting the context of the relative timing of development in advance of sustainable systems being in place.

How does this evidence and any actions it recommends help achieve the 7 well-being goals?

We believe that the work we do in delivering services to customers helps Wales to achieve all of the well-being goals due to the obvious importance of essential infrastructure in sustainable development, growth, environmental stewardship and well-being. However, we believe that our role has a specific importance for the three well-being goals listed below.

- **A Prosperous Wales** – with our commitment to environmental stewardship we play an important role in the provision of sustainable infrastructure that is delivered to minimise environmental impact and to make the most efficient use of resources.
- **A Resilient Wales** – we are passionate about minimising our impacts on the environment and seeking innovative ways to utilise renewable energy technologies whilst ensuring the maximum possible resilience in our assets. Our commitments to these objectives ensures that we contribute in all we do to helping ensure a resilient Wales.
- **A Globally Responsible Wales** – as a company with large, strategic assets in Wales we recognise the need to make careful decisions about any major investments or changes in the way any of these might operate in the future.

Why is the evidence of national significance?

Resilience in the water and waste network is essential to maintain and promote sustainable development.

Do you agree for your evidence to be made public? (Only evidence that can be made public will inform the development of the NDF)

Yes

Submission of Projects Form – National Development Framework

Name

Contact details

Date

Interest in site

Details of landowner

Title of project

Summary of project

Location of project (Please attach location map)

What consents are required?

Consents already granted relevant to project

Public engagement to date

Has an environmental assessment been prepared? (Yes / No)

Are there any site designations or constraints affecting the site?

What is the delivery timescale for the project?

How would the project contribute to the delivery of the 7 well-being goals?
Why is the project of national significance?

Why is the project of national significance?

Do you agree for your project and any supporting information to be made public? (Only projects and information that can be made public will inform the development of the NDF.)