

# Strategic Solution Interim Update

## Regulator and other statutory bodies engagement plan

27 September 2021



from  
**Southern  
Water** 

# Contents

Contents	2
1 Context	3
2 Engagement Principles	3
3 Engagement Plan	4
Appendix 1	7

Please refer to Strategic Solution Interim Update Submission Summary Appendix 1 - Submission Navigation and Glossary for the glossary of terms, definitions and abbreviations for this document.

# 1 Context

As part of Southern Water's (SW) Regulatory Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) Interim Update (IU) on 27 September 2021, this document sets out the proposal for a Regulator and other statutory bodies engagement plan to be implemented ahead of the Gate 2 submission on 6 December 2021.

By way of background, and as detailed in the Interim Update Submission Summary document, to allow time for the further work to be undertaken we have requested of RAPID, and are anticipating reaching agreement, that the arrangements for Gate 2 are modified as follows:

- a. Gate 2 is rescheduled to 6 December 2021
- b. RAPID will agree to expedited determination timescales in respect of the rescheduled Gate 2, to enable SW to get on at pace with progressing the selected option towards Gate 3. We suggest 21 January 2022 for a Draft Determination. This is on the basis that we commit to share the evidence we are developing for Gate 2 with the relevant regulators in good time before the gate and that their advice is incorporated.

In turn the engagement set out in this document is focused on the information planned to be submitted at Gate 2, although it will also be utilised to pick up issues and clarifications that may arise from the information submitted at the IU on 27 September.

The intention is to work through the Gate 2 submission information with regulators, and also the other statutory bodies identified in this plan where it is relevant to do so, during the October and November period. This is in order to ensure that the key information, and the supporting assessments and technical work, have been briefed to, and where appropriate, shared with and reviewed by, the regulators and any relevant statutory bodies. Where it is possible and appropriate to do so, SW will have regard to their feedback in the Gate 2 submission.

The purpose of the engagement is to ensure that when the Gate 2 submission is submitted there are 'no surprises' for RAPID and its component regulators, and also to ensure that there is alignment between SW and relevant statutory bodies as SW progresses with the development of the emerging preferred option.

In turn, engaging and receiving feedback in the run up to the Gate 2 submission will facilitate RAPID and its advisers to be able to respond more quickly with the Draft and Final Determinations, as has been agreed between RAPID and SW.

This plan should be read in conjunction with Interim Update: Activity Plan to Gate 2 and Interim Update: Customer and Stakeholder Engagement plan.

## 2 Engagement Principles

The principles of the Engagement Plan are set out within this document. This will be shared and agreed with the regulators to confirm the frequency of meetings, turnaround times for responses and the process for minuting and agreeing decision records.

The engagement will have different purposes and content, depending on the body concerned. For example, the engagement with RAPID and its component regulators will be focussed on ensuring a "no surprises" approach at Gate 2, in order to facilitate a shorter decision making process at Gate 2. Engagement with other statutory bodies will focus on discussing and understanding the emerging outcome of Gate 2, plus engaging on early assessment and scheme development work as we progress into the consenting process. For those bodies with a role in the planning consent process, engagement will include discussion on the content, nature and frequency of engagement for us and each body to understand what is required ahead of planning application being made formally.

We will also ensure that our Solution Partner, Portsmouth Water (PW), is closely involved in the work ahead of Gate 2 for the options that involve the Havant Thicket Reservoir.

The principles we will follow are:

- Open and transparent discussion of all issues
- Agendas to be provided 2 working days on advance
- Technical content to be provided in advance wherever practicable
- Notes to be recorded for each meeting detailing issues raised, decisions, actions etc
- Notes to be reviewed and agreed by each party in the meetings
- SW will share new and amended information between meetings, where appropriate
- Where a written response is requested by SW, the timeframes requested will be reasonable and by agreement with the other party
- SW will record all engagement in a central register and will provide information on other parties' engagement as appropriate.

Accurate recording of some types of engagement is necessary ahead of formally commencing the planning application process.

The materials to be shared with regulators and other statutory bodies will be tailored, depending on the specific purpose of the engagement with each organisation, but generally it will include, but not be limited to, sharing the following, as appropriate:

- Context and purpose of Gate 2
- Information, outcomes and emerging conclusions of the technical work to be submitted at Gate 2
- Updates to plans for delivery of solution
- Interim measures to mitigate from 2027 to delivery of operational Strategic Resource Option (SRO)
- Evolution Plan for emerging preferred option and back-up option
- Requirements for engagement beyond Gate 2, in particular what concerns and issues must be addressed as we prepare for consenting and delivery.

The regulatory engagement will need to be timed to take place in parallel with ongoing SW technical work, and also alongside the stages of technical and other assurance that is required on the Gate 2 submission documents. It will also take place alongside finalising the decision-making process for the Gate 2 submission. It is important that regulator and statutory body briefing and engagement is all undertaken in this context, and that whilst we have confidence in the outputs and information being shared, there remains the potential for changes ahead of the Gate 2 submission date as assurance and decision making is finalised.

Recognising that there is a finite time available, we will have regard to the feedback received, where this is possible, so that it can inform the evidence and information that is presented at Gate 2, and to build confidence that our planned Gate 2 activities will support the successful consenting and delivery of the Emerging Preferred Option.

Alongside the regulatory engagement, we will also continue with wider stakeholder engagement activities and customer communications ahead of Gate 2.

### 3 Engagement Plan

The SW Lead for owning this Engagement Plan (EP) is the Head of Corporate Strategy. They will be supported by the Regulatory Engagement Manager who will provide administration and co-ordination support, particularly focusing on arranging meetings, note taking and seeking to agree notes and key decisions made with attendees at the meeting. This is important part of the engagement for SW so that it has a documented record of key decision as it progresses through the option and scheme development process into the consenting process.

A draft engagement plan is enclosed at Appendix 1 of this document, for the purposes of the 27 September 2021 IU. This version of the EP is subject to agreement with the individual regulators and statutory bodies, and it includes indicative timelines for the proposed engagement at this stage.

Working under the supervision of Head of Corporate Strategy, each relationship with the regulators and statutory bodies is owned by individual SW and supplier teams, detailed in Table 1.

Contact by members of the SW team should only be made with the named contacts at the respective organisations following the authorisation and agreement of the SW relationship owner.

**Table 1 - Contacts for Regulator and other statutory bodies**

Contact	Regulator and/or other statutory bodies	Main purposes of engagement	External Named Contact(s)	SW Named Contact(s)
Government	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarity on emerging results</li> <li>Implications for WRMP and WRSE processes</li> <li>Application for DCO direction</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Head of Corporate Strategy [Redacted] Policy Lead – Communications
Other Government Bodies	RAPID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarity on purpose, content, and implications of the Gate 2 submission, to facilitate faster decision-making process.</li> <li>Activities needed beyond Gate 2 to facilitate delivery needed</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Head of Corporate Strategy [Redacted] Senior Responsible Owner
Regulators	Environment Agency (EA) (including the National Assessment Unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implications for WRMP and WRSE processes of the Gate 2 result</li> <li>Preparation of planning application</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Head of Delivery WfLH Enabling Manager
	DWI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality and water safety issues from the Emerging Preferred Option</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Principle Process Engineer [Redacted] Head of Water Quality
	Ofwat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarity on emerging results</li> <li>The DPC process</li> <li>Implications for PR24</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Head of Corporate Strategy [Redacted] Senior Responsible Owner
Other Statutory Bodies	Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implications for WRMP and WRSE processes of the Gate 2 result</li> <li>Preparation of planning application</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Enabling Manager

Contact	Regulator and/or other statutory bodies	Main purposes of engagement	External Named Contact(s)	SW Named Contact(s)
	Marine Management Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality and water safety issues from the Emerging Preferred Option</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Head of Delivery WfLH [Redacted] Enabling Manager
	Consumer Council for Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarity of emerging options and implications for customers</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Head of Customer Insight
	Historic England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality and water safety issues from the Emerging Preferred Option</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Consenting Planning Manager
	Relevant Local Planning Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of planning application</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Consenting Planning Manager
	Forest Services and Forestry Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of planning application</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Consenting Planning Manager
Solution Partner	Portsmouth Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the Emerging Preferred Option</li> <li>Development of delivery plans aligned between both partners</li> </ul>	[Redacted]	[Redacted] Director of Wastewater and Asset Management [Redacted] Director of Regulation

# Appendix 1

Figure 1 - Engagement Plan – indicative timelines for engagement (all to be agreed with individual regulators)



Regulator and other  
stakeholder engagem



