AtkinsRéalis

Addendum to the report

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

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CAMBRIDGE AREA WATER SUPPLY EVIDENCE

Notice

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

In 2025 a Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence report was prepared to form part of the evidence base for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which covers the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council areas. It complemented wider exploration of water issues in the Integrated Water Management Study. The report served the following purposes:

- Provide an understanding of current water supply availability in Greater Cambridge.
- Consider how water supply availability may change in the future due to challenges, such as climate change and environmental drivers.
- Provide an overview of the water planning process and how it functions in the Greater Cambridge area.
- Review evidence to determine whether the growth forecast in the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan 2025 can be supported by the water company plans for the Greater Cambridge area now and in the future.
- Identify potential approaches to help balance the future demand for water with available supplies, such as future policies, new technology and other initiatives.

The evidence presented in that report focused on the Cambridge Water supply area which supplies the Greater Cambridge region, but the northern section of the supply area includes part of the Huntingdonshire District Council area.

The report presented a summary of the water resources planning process, the current water supply situation and the plans in place to sustainably manage water resources in the Greater Cambridge area. It then summarised the local planning process, the current Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan and the Government's growth aspirations for Greater Cambridge. It reviewed whether the growth forecast in the Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan could be supported by the current Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) and Regional Water Resources Plan for the Greater Cambridge area. Finally, it considered ongoing initiatives, beyond those currently captured in Cambridge Water's WRMP24 preferred plan. These have been largely driven by the Greater Cambridge water scarcity challenges to help understanding, reduce uncertainty, and ultimately offer a solution to support further growth in Greater Cambridge.

1.2 Purpose

Since the report was published in late 2025, the draft Local Plan for Greater Cambridge was subject to consultation. The primary purpose of this addendum is, therefore, to review feedback from stakeholders and consider the extent to which the Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence should be revised and updated for the next stage of plan making, the Proposed Submission Local Plan. As a secondary purpose, it also allows updates to the water supply analysis to be made where revised forecasts are available.

As an Addendum, it should be read alongside the Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence (2025), which is available to view on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service website.

2. Feedback from stakeholders and the implications for the conclusions of the water supply evidence

The Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan was subject to public consultation between December 2025 and January 2026. A range of comments raised water supply issues. This section explores comments received from key water supply stakeholders and more general comments.

2.1 Anglian Water

Anglian Water confirms that it is the statutory sewerage undertaker for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan area and recognises that this region includes fast-growing cities and globally significant innovation, which requires the space to deliver sustainable, inclusive growth that is underpinned by infrastructure and water resilience.

Anglian Water provides commentary on a range of issues which relate to its role as a statutory sewerage undertaker, which are beyond the scope of the Water Supply Evidence Report.

Relating to water supply, Anglian Water notes that it is already working with Cambridge Water to address the water resource needs of the area, and enable more water to remain in the environment. Anglian Water states its support of the [Local] Plan's strategy to phase growth at new strategic sites to align with the delivery of strategic water supply options. It is important that these water supply options are also underpinned by demand management solutions, and tighter water efficiency standards for new development. Opportunities for integrated water management, including reuse, are significant factors for consideration in new development proposals coming forward, and align with the measures the Cambridge Water Scarcity Group has been developing.

Regarding water efficiency, Anglian Water expresses its support of policy refinement for tighter water efficiency standards in new development that can help make development more water efficient and allow sustainable growth. It observes that this policy may also reduce the need for water companies to restrict supply for non-domestic growth, and bring wider benefits (e.g. lower wastewater treatment requirements).

Anglian Water references the Shared Standards for Water Efficiency in Local Plans, which set out a collaborative and collective approach by Anglian Water, Cambridge Water, Essex & Suffolk Water, Affinity Water, the Environment Agency and Natural England, with the full endorsement of Water Resources East (WRE) as part of strengthening the Regional Water Resources Plan for Eastern England. It recommends that Local Planning Authorities include tighter water efficiency standards in Local Plan policies to support a clean and sustainable supply of water - essential for growth and nature recovery. Anglian Water cites three policies which the Shared Standards recommend for inclusion in Local Plans:

- Require new homes to be built to more stringent standards for water efficiency than the optional Building Regulations (part G) standard of 110 litres per person per day (l/p/d). Evidence indicates that a design standard of up to 85 litres/person/day (l/p/d) for residential developments is feasible (a range between 85-95 l/p/d should be considered subject to viability).
- Require new, extended or redeveloped non-domestic development to aim to achieve full credits in the BREEAM water calculator. The BREEAM water calculator calculates a building's predicted potable water use by assessing the efficiency and usage of fixtures and fittings, producing a l/p/d figure that determines how many water efficiency credits are awarded. It sits within the BREEAM sustainability framework, which provides a structured assessment system that evaluates and rates the environmental performance of buildings across multiple categories to promote more sustainable design and operation.

- Require new major non-domestic developments to include water saving measures and water reuse in their design.

Policies within the Local Plan have been updated to reflect the Shared Standards on Water Efficiency, albeit tailored to reflect the specific circumstances for the Greater Cambridgeshire area.

Citing the Shared Standards, Anglian Water argues that they encourage the policy to go further in respect of developments of less than 100 dwellings, to use a water efficiency standard within the range set by the Shared Standards i.e. 85-95 l/p/d. It is noted that other emerging local plans across the WRE region are bringing forward tighter water efficiency standards within this range, dependent on viability. It cites the recent Inspector's Report on the Uttlesford District Council Local Plan, where the tighter standard of 90 l/p/d for all new residential development has been demonstrated to be sound.

Anglian Water notes that the standards provide guidance and local evidence to help make a case that more stringent water efficiency policies are justified, feasible and viable as part of Water Cycle Studies and Integrated Water Management Plans that effectively manage a range of challenges across the water environment and aid nature recovery. Anglian Water then draws a link between Local Plans and the sustainable use of water resources and address shorter-term water scarcity issues. Its response proposes that Local Planning Authorities can help ensure the risk of harm to habitats and deterioration to water bodies due to water scarcity is minimised by setting more ambitious, tighter water efficiency standards for new residential and non-domestic developments in local planning policy.

With reference to Fens Reservoir, Anglian Water provides information on the emerging plans for the delivery of the reservoir, citing both its 2019 and 2024 Water Resources Management Plans (WRMP). Anglian Water confirms that in line with its Phase Three Consultation (Autumn 2025), it is anticipated that the earliest date that the Fens Reservoir would be operational is 2036. This is consistent with the assumptions presented in the Water Supply Evidence Report.

Whilst wastewater has not been a specific focus for this study, it is clear that the import of water to Greater Cambridge will create more wastewater. This water has never been in the local environment and may therefore provide a valuable additional resource to help meet future demand. It requires aligned planning of future wastewater and water resources infrastructure, for example by using treated wastewater to satisfy appropriate non-potable demands. In addition, in its response, Anglian Water indicates that wastewater from Waterbeach New Town will be piped to Cambridge Water Recycling Centre (WRC), thereby bringing it closer to the heart of Greater Cambridge and potentially creating further opportunities for water reuse. Uncertainty regarding the funding of the Cambridge WRC relocation means that the development of potential reuse options is currently uncertain.

2.2 Cambridge Water

Cambridge Water confirmed the publication of its final WRMP for the period 2025 to 2050, noting that it is updated every 5 years (e.g. the next plan will run from 2030 to 2055). Cambridge Water makes several points of direct relevance to the water supply evidence. These are summarised in the following paragraphs:

1. Cambridge Water's WRMP includes significant reductions to current abstractions for the environment, and includes supply options to replace this [lost yield] and allow for planned growth. These will be in effect from 2033 and 2037, but in the interim, any increases to planned growth above that in currently adopted plans could increase demands above our forecasts.

   Response: This is consistent with the interpretation of the water supply situation presented in the report. No further updates are required.
2. Cambridge Water explains the important role that headroom plays in its forecasts as a means of dealing with uncertainty. It emphasises that whilst Cambridge Water can accommodate some variations in growth, should

growth drive significant changes to the demand forecast then it would require additional supply and/or demand options to be developed to maintain supplies whilst continuing to protect the environment.

Response: Calculations presented in the Water Supply Evidence Report did not assume that headroom could be eroded to meet local water supply needs. No further updates are required.

3. Cambridge Water: Current constraints on water availability mean that Cambridge Water is restricting non-household connections to those that are below 20m3/day. The draft Local Plan response also emphasises the importance of water efficiency, adopting 110 litres per person per day (l/p/d) as a minimum standard, and preferably specifying [even] lower consumption. Cambridge Water offers incentives for developers to adopted high standards of water efficiency when designing dwellings.

   Response: Per capita/person consumption is assumed at 110 l/p/d when forecasting demand associated household growth. The analysis underpinning the Water Supply Evidence Report also explored the potential value that would come by the implementation of lower per capita consumption, showing the potential value of enhanced demand management.

   Cambridge Water's incentivisation of higher water efficiency standards would support the delivery of development scale opportunities outlined in the Water Supply Evidence Report. No further updates are required.

4. It noted that proposed growth to 2032 is similar to the previous Local Plan and the WRMP24. It expressed its support in the short-term stability that this profile affords, giving confidence in the company's ability to meet demand whilst additional supply options are implemented (e.g. the Grafham transfer).

   Response: Acknowledgment of the alignment between Cambridge Water's WRMP24 and the forecasts presented in the Water Supply Evidence Report is helpful. No further updates are required.

5. It noted the growth from 2032 to 2045 is elevated relative to the WRMP, with the company remaining in a challenging position until further options are operational (e.g. Fens Reservoir). It emphasised the need for further engagement and the role that the Water Scarcity Group can play in unlocking additional [water supply] opportunities to support further [economic] growth [in Greater Cambridge].

   Response: This provides important context for future rounds of water resources planning. Whilst it does not undermine the conclusions of the Water Supply Evidence Report, it reinforces conclusions regarding the challenging water supply situation in the area.

6. It set out the timeframe for the preparation of the next WRMP, due in 2028 but for which will be developed from 2026. This will need to make allowances for future water supply needs as set out in the Local Plan. It confirmed that should proposed growth in the supply area require new water supply options, then these will be developed and costed through the WRMP planning process.

   Response: As with previous comments, this provides important context for future rounds of water resources planning and the challenging water supply situation in the area.

7. It emphasised the extended lead-in time to deliver significant water supply infrastructure, which would have to be considered in a regional context.

   Response: As with previous comments, this provides important context for future rounds of water resources planning and the challenging water supply situation in the area.

Key conclusions from the feedback received from Cambridge Water:

- Shared concern around the early part of the planning period (i.e. to 2032) driven by forecast domestic growth and planned abstraction reductions. This is planned for within the WRMP24, however deviations from already planned growth will be difficult to accommodate.
- The role of new regional water resources solutions (e.g. Grafham transfer and Fens Reservoir) to meet long-term growth forecasts, with further regional solutions likely to be required to support any further growth at the end of the planning period. Whilst at the end of the planning period, these regional solutions are complex, long-term solutions for which the Water Scarcity Group will play an important role in developing.

2.3 Environment Agency

The Environment Agency's response to the Draft Local Plan covers a range of issues reflecting its areas of interest. This addendum focuses on Environment Agency comments that relate to water supplies. The Environment Agency provides its feedback with reference to specific policies, as follows:

Policy S/DS: development strategy

With reference to Policy S/DS, the Environment Agency acknowledges and is positive about the inclusion of a statement on the need for developers to engage with the water industry regarding water supply. It requests inclusion within policy CC/WE.

Policy CC/WE: water efficiency in new developments

The Environment Agency supports the ambition of the water efficiency policy and encourages Greater Cambridge Shared Planning to commit to monitoring reports to give periodic updates on the policy's effective implementation. As per Anglian Water, the Environment Agency cites the Shared Standards for Water Efficiency, encouraging Greater Cambridge Shared Planning to refer to it within its policy justification.

With reference to Part 2, the Environment Agency raises several points regarding the effectiveness of the policy, relating to water efficiency of buildings and per capita consumption (pcc), non-household water use, water efficiency of data centres and groundwater. These are summarised in the following points which are directly relevant for the Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence:

1. The Environment Agency supports the enhanced 80 l/p/d policy, but recommends that Greater Cambridge Shared Planning reviews its 2021 evidence base in light of additional evidence provided in the Shared Standards for Water Efficiency and to include this within its policy's justification to improve its future soundness at later examination stages.

   On this point, the Environment Agency's recommendation is sensible but does not require an immediate update to the Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence.
2. The Environment Agency suggests rewording of "subject to amendments to relevant water legislation" be amended to "subject to amendments to relevant water re-use policy". It requests clarification on the degree to which water reuse and recycling expectations are dependent on amendments to relevant water legislation occurring and what the implications would be on the policy's effectiveness if this reform does not occur.

   On the second part of this point, the calculations underpinning the Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence were based on the 2024 WRMP which assumes 110 l/p/d. This does not undermine the value of efforts to further reduce household demand which may come from water reuse and recycling.

   Importantly, in its emerging Local Plan Huntingdonshire District Council assume is proposing to adopt a 90 l/p/d standard. This would apply to new allocations and it is estimated that half of the forecast housing growth would be at this lower standard.
3. The Environment Agency responded positively regarding the high standards being promoted for non-household development. It recommends that Greater Cambridge Shared Planning defines how "non-practicable" will be assessed when that argument is presented by developers. The Environment Agency also encourages a minimum of 3 credits for Wat 01 where 5 credits cannot be achieved, as per the Shared Standards for Water Efficiency.

   On this point, the Environment Agency's recommendation is sensible but does not require an immediate update to the Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence.
4. The Environment Agency also recommended the inclusion of a section dealing specifically with Data Centre water efficiency, as these are an emerging sector with a high-water consumption.

The Environment Agency also makes specific recommendations on data centres relevant to the Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence.

Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence

The Environment Agency notes the inclusion of the no/low deterioration risk level when assessing the water available for use (WAFU) for the early years of the Local Plan, but questions the level of concern that is given.

The Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence bases its conclusions on Cambridge Water's published WRMP24, which is a statutory plan. To set its preferred plan into context, Cambridge Water has evaluated a range of scenarios within the WRMP, including a low/no deterioration risk scenario. The low/no deterioration scenario is based on the Environment Agency's estimate of a level of abstraction which can be maintained whilst avoiding further harm to aquatic systems as defined in the National Framework for Water Resources. Figure 4-5 indicates that total demand (including headroom) could exceed this, whilst the other total demand scenarios presented do not exceed this value.

Cambridge Water is relying on demand management to offset growth in demand caused by growth. The company has agreed the capping of its existing groundwater abstractions with the Environment Agency. These caps have been informed by detailed WINEP investigations conducted during AMP7, which address concerns about the risk of deterioration of the environment due to current levels of abstraction.

Cambridge Water is currently undertaking further investigations of its sources to determine what further abstraction reductions may be required. These will be finalised in the coming years and the conclusions will inform WRMP29.

For this reason, it is not considered necessary to revise the overall conclusions of the analysis. However, the Environment Agency is correct to cite that there is a residual risk associated with the no/low deterioration risk.

The Environment Agency recommends that Greater Cambridge Shared Planning considers what further measures can be put in place to ensure that the most ambitious water supply and efficiency targets are met. These are as follows:

- stipulating how policy requirements will be met through a Water Efficient Design Statement
- require completion certificates of standards having been met to have been verified and fully implemented prior to first occupation
- establish a process to monitor and demonstrate how developments continue to comply with the policy over the duration of the plan

The Environment Agency recommends that the Water Supply Evidence is updated to include the latest non-household growth forecasts for Huntingdonshire District Council. Huntingdonshire District Council has provided advice on the assumptions it makes when linking forecasts for new houses, population and commercial development. These assumptions have been used in this addendum.

The Environment Agency also enquires about the representation of service industries in the analysis presented in the Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence. The concern arises as a consequence of the different methods by which the WRMP and other forecasts account for non-household demand. The WRMP in particular has a prescribed methodology which must be followed by water companies when forecasting demand. The analysis presented therefore has to apply assumptions to scale certain figures to allow their comparison. A degree of misalignment and uncertainty will remain in estimated changes in non-household demand by sector as actual change will be driven by investment decisions taken by many parties. It is therefore prudent for all key parties to continue to work together to understand emerging demand and how these can be accommodated, for example

under the umbrella of the Water Scarcity Group. Further, it would be sensible to monitor actual build rates and water use over time.

2.4 General comments on water supply

In addition to the feedback received from Anglian Water, Cambridge Water and the Environment Agency, wider feedback on the Local Plan included comments that are relevant to Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence. This feedback has been grouped into key themes:

Timing of new water supply infrastructure and planned abstraction reductions under Environmental Destination

The Wildlife Trust expressed concern that these planned changes all take place in the 2030s, with potential adverse consequences for Chalk Streams in the area. In addition, a concern was raised regarding the reliability and potential environmental effects of the Fens Reservoir.

Environmental Destination is a national programme of abstraction reductions, which water companies are adopting in the coming iterations of their WRMPs. This process builds on previously delivered sustainability reductions for existing abstractions and wider delivery of the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP).

The proposed new water supply infrastructure, most notably Fens Reservoir and the Grafham transfer, are being developed and sized to explicitly meet the forecast demand for water.

Uncertainty regarding the delivery date for significant water supply infrastructure

The Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence has been informed by the latest WRMP. Stakeholder comments on the dependence of the Local Plan on delivery of key infrastructure raise important issues. Monitoring of delivery will be an important action for all parties, ensuring that delivery risks are tracked and the implications of any delays known. The Water Scarcity Group can potentially play a valuable role in this.

Uncertainty regarding water resources availability for Fens Reservoir

The Fens Reservoir scheme is currently being developed by Anglian Water and Cambridge Water. This includes design, environmental assessment and consenting which will all consider the water resource availability for the scheme. Anglian Water's 2024 WRMP assumes a yield of approximately 80 Ml/d, up to a 1 in 500 year drought. Further detailed water resources assessment work is currently underway as part of the emerging design to ensure that this yield can be provided. Whilst this work may conclude that the yield needs to reduce, it is also feasible that it may increase. The scheme will be subject to regulatory scrutiny through the examination of a Development Consent Order and the abstractions will be controlled by licensing. Adaptive planning within both the WRMP and Regional Water Resources Plan will be important components in managing uncertainty in water resources planning.

3. Updated analysis

Analyses presented in the Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence Report (2025) were based on forecasts available at the time of publication. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning have subsequently updated their trajectories to inform the Proposed Submission Local Plan (2026). Data was requested from Huntingdonshire District Council, and they provided an updated development trajectory for the part of their district in the Cambridge Water Zone in March 2026.

The housing trajectory for Greater Cambridge shows a slightly lower overall total housing numbers to 2045 than tested in the 2025 study. This is because the original study used the trajectory which included the North East Cambridge (Hartree) development. Following the withdrawal of government Housing Delivery Funding for the relocation of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment works that site no longer forms part of the trajectory.

Cambridge Water will provide annual reporting on the WRMP24, however the first annual report is not yet available. Where forecasts have been updated these are presented in the following tables and figures, which use the numbering from the original Water Supply Evidence Report.

An updated forecast of house builds in Greater Cambridge is shown in Table 3-1. These values indicate a slight reduction in forecast new houses for all parts of the plan. Whilst this will reduce forecast household demand, this does not represent a material change. The implications of the reductions in forecast new houses and associated population are illustrated in the figures that follow.

Table 3-1: Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan (2025) house build forecast [Updated]

Forecast type	Updated forecast or Draft Local Plan	Time period 2024/25 to 2031/32	Time period 2032/33 to 2039/40	Time period 2040/41 to 2044/45	Time period Total in plan period (2024-2045)
Total houses built (in period)	Updated forecast	18,758	21,878	11,391	52,027
Total houses built (in period)	Draft Local Plan forecast	19,305	21,999	13,143	54,447
Total houses built (in period)	Difference in forecasts	-2.8%	-0.5%	-13.3%	-4.4%
Total estimated population (in period)	Updated forecast	48,933	55,824	31,171	135,928
Total estimated population (in period)	Draft Local Plan forecast	50,364	55,754	34,501	140,619
Total estimated population (in period)	Difference in forecasts	-2.8%	0.1%	-9.7%	-3.3
Average houses built (per year)	Updated forecast	2,345	2,735	2,278	2,477
Average houses built (per year)	Draft Local Plan forecast	2,413	2,750	2,629	2,593
Average houses built (per year)	Difference in forecasts	-2.8%	-0.6%	-13.4%	-4.5%

Forecast type	Updated forecast or Draft Local Plan	Time period 2024/25 to 2031/32	Time period 2032/33 to 2039/40	Time period 2040/41 to 2044/45	Time period Total in plan period (2024-2045)
Average estimated population (per year)	Updated forecast	6,117	6,978	6,234	6,473
Average houses built (per year)	Draft Local Plan forecast	6,295	6,969	6,900	6,696
Average houses built (per year)	Difference in forecasts	-2.8%	0.1%	-9.7%	-3.3
Average estimated occupancy rate		2.61	2.54	2.63	2.58

Figure 4-2 provides an updated comparison of the housing growth forecast by Cambridge Water's WRMP24 and the Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan. In aggregate, the total forecast has approximately 10,000 fewer households than the forecasts used in the Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence Report. The updated data for Huntingdonshire District Council now extends to 2044-45, meaning it is only necessary to extrapolate for the last five years of the forecast, giving greater confidence in the validity of the forecast at the end of the planning period. The forecast number of houses to be built in the area of Huntingdonshire supplied by Cambridge Water are higher in 2026/27 (17 more homes) and 2041/42 (60 more homes) but in all other years the forecast number of houses is lower than the previous estimates assessed. In total, the revised forecast has 4,290 fewer houses for the area of Huntingdonshire supplied by Cambridge Water.

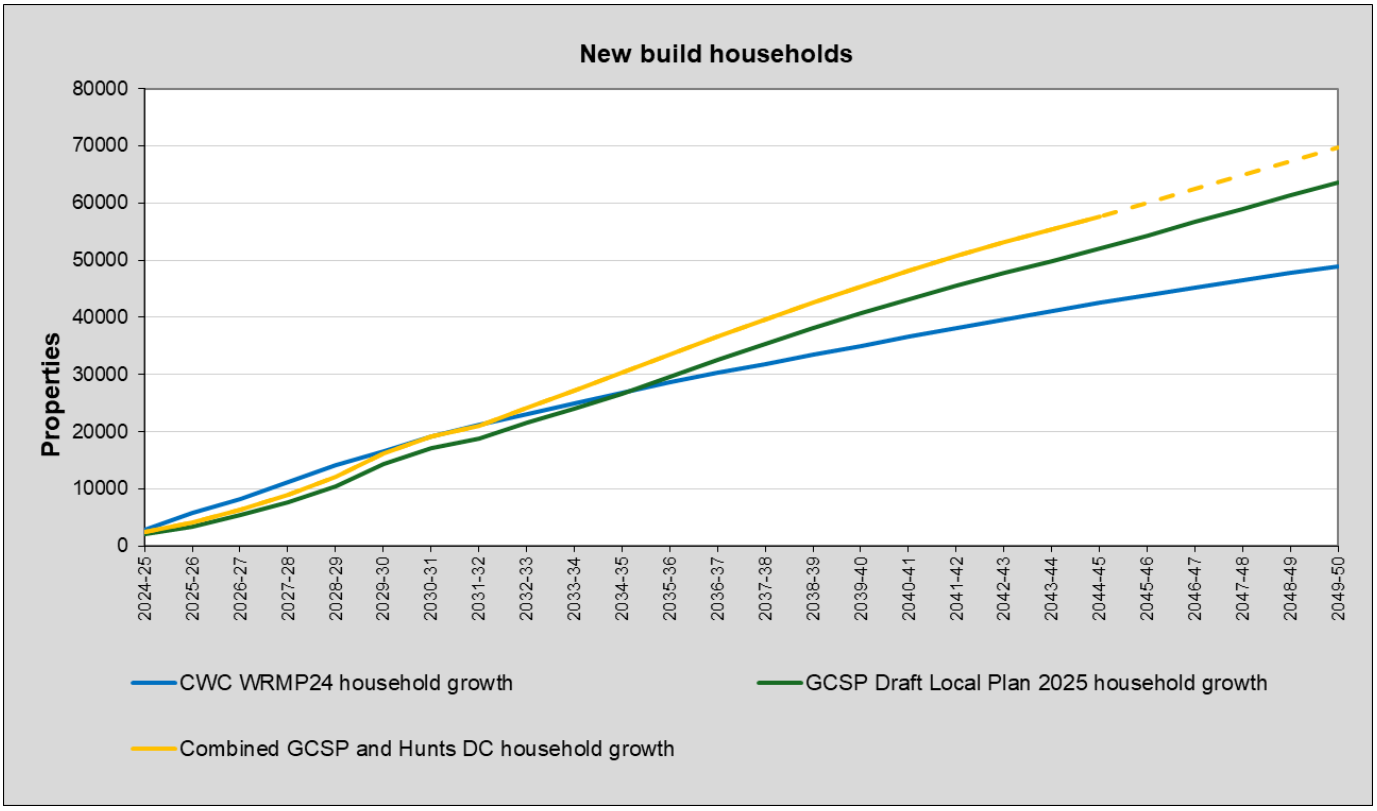


Figure 4-2: Comparison of household growth forecast in the Cambridge Water WRMP24, the Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan, 2025 and Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan combined with Huntingdonshire District Council's draft forecast for the area supplied by Cambridge Water

Figure 4-4 provides an updated comparison of the water needs of household growth forecast in the Cambridge Water WRMP24, the Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan and a combined forecast for the Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan and Huntingdonshire District Council's draft forecast for the area supplied by Cambridge Water. The most striking change is with the combined forecast for Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan with Huntingdonshire District Council's draft forecast. In the previous draft, this forecast an additional 20 Ml/d of demand by 2050. The revised values, which include updated forecasts for both Greater Cambridge and Huntingdonshire have a cumulative additional demand of 18 Ml/d by 2050. There is little change in forecast demand in the early years of the plan. As noted, approximately half of new houses built in the Huntingdonshire areas will be built to a more stringent PCC than is used for the analysis and consequently the combined forecast shown is a conservative value based on a uniform 110 l/p/d for all new houses.

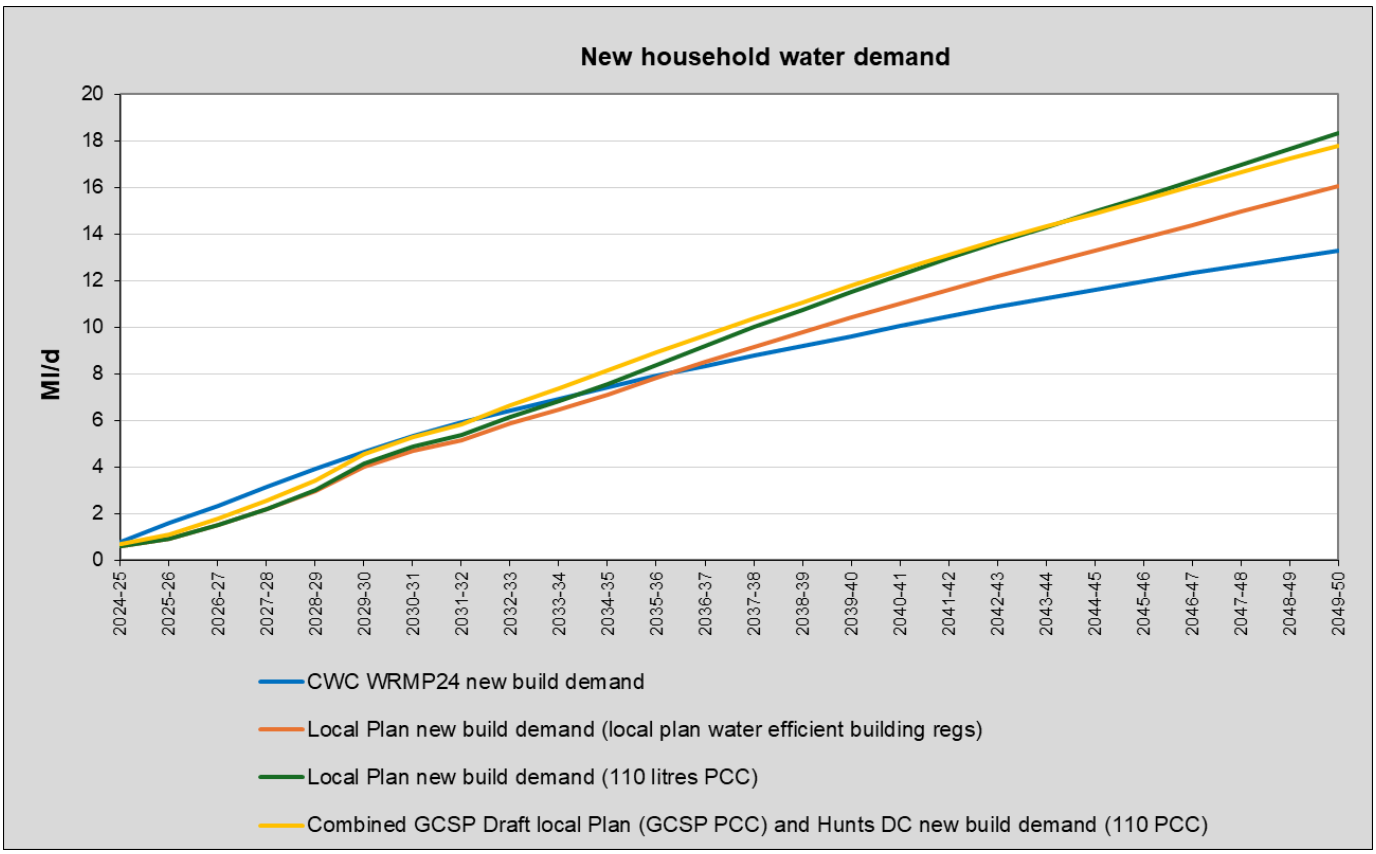


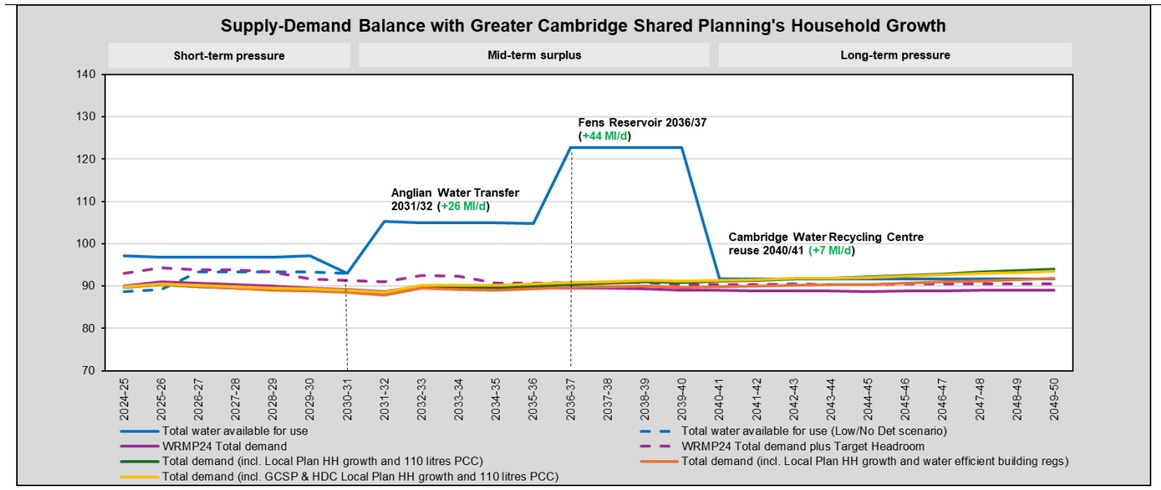
Figure 4-4: Comparison of the water needs of household growth forecast in the Cambridge Water WRMP24, the Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan and the Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan combined with Huntingdonshire District Council's draft forecast for the area supplied by Cambridge Water

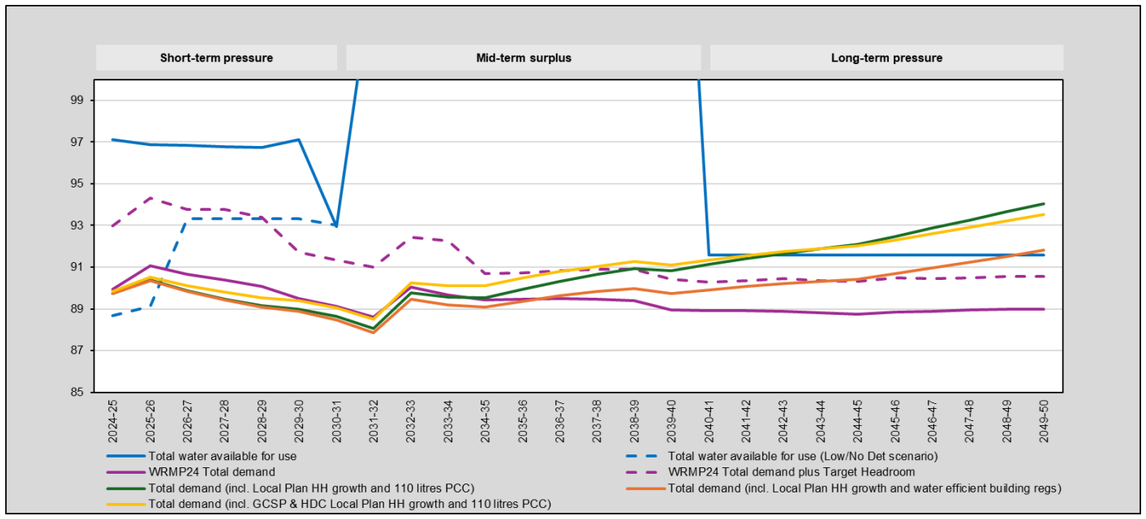
When considering non-household (NHH) demand, there are only modest changes in forecasts within the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Given the levels of uncertainty regarding NHH demand, these changes do not drive a change the conclusions reached. It re-enforces representations made by the Environment Agency regarding the potential value of monitoring NHH demand. As stated, all interested parties should continue to work together to understand emerging demand and how these can be accommodated, for example under the umbrella of the Water Scarcity Group.

Figure 4-5 shows total demand forecasts for water once needs for household growth are met. The updated forecasts for Greater Cambridge and Huntingdonshire are shown on the left of the figure, with the forecasts used in the draft Local Plan and Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence report shown on the right.

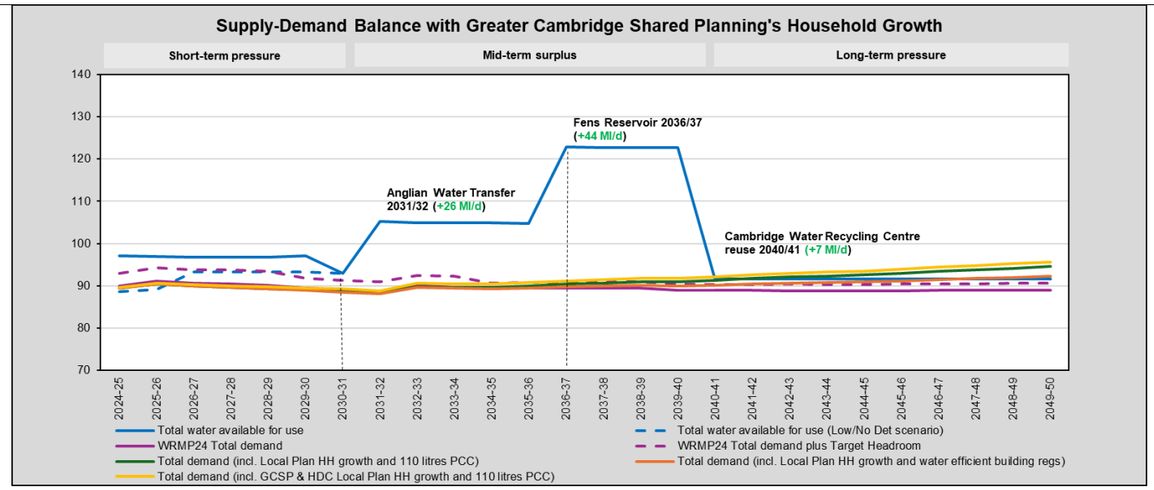
As in the previous version of Figure 4-5, the comparison is made against the water availability forecast by Cambridge Water's WRMP24 Preferred Programme. The bottom graph provides a closer view to allow the reader to see more detail.

Updated forecast





Draft Local Plan



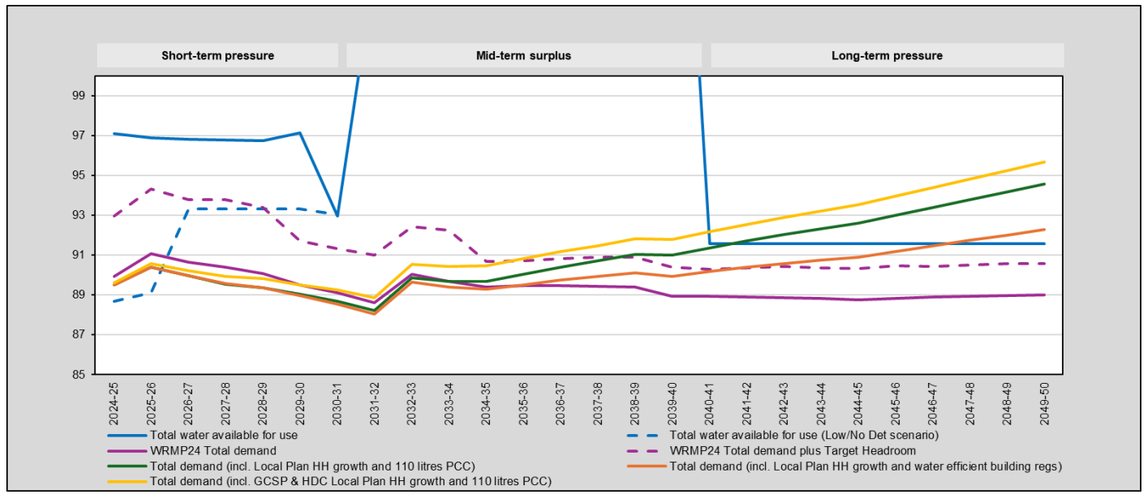


Figure 4-5: Graph showing total demand forecasts for water once needs for household growth are met. This is shown with the water availability forecast by Cambridge Water's WRMP24 Preferred Programme. The bottom graph provides a closer view to allow the reader to see more detail.

The revised figures show a small reduction in overall demand for water. The period of particular interest is 2040-41 where the updated forecast shows that total demand remains at a slightly lower level than total water available for use. These updates do not change the conclusions of the analysis:

- Solutions will need to be sought due to the large reductions in abstractions for Environmental Destination.
- These solutions should be sought over the next two planning periods (WRMP29 and WRMP34) to ensure that growth during the mid-term is supported beyond 2040.
- We must be mindful that there is a long lead-time for large infrastructure projects – the current funding issues associated with Cambridge Water Recycling Centre illustrate this.
- Adaptive planning within the WRMP and Regional Water Resources Plan will be important components of delivery.

The opportunities identified to manage demand for water remain valid:

- To support growth in the region beyond 2040 and meet Environmental Destination, there is a need to explore a wider range of solutions, at scale, to both reduce demand for water (from households and businesses) and provide new sources of supply beyond the 'traditional' approaches that have been taken in the UK to date.
- Given the stakeholder interest in the water supply situation for the region, Greater Cambridge is providing a unique opportunity to trial new, innovative approaches to managing water and ongoing initiatives are using Greater Cambridge as a test bed for solving future water supply challenges that may one day be experienced in other parts of the UK.
- The UK Government is supporting work to deliver measures which will support further sustainable growth in Greater Cambridge. These include a water efficiency programme, innovative nature-based solutions and agricultural trials.
- Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are developing higher water efficiency building standards through the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. These are based on learnings from projects such as the Future Homes Hub and the Enabling Water Smart Communities project. A review of national Building Regulations standards is also underway.
- Water Companies and Regional Planning Groups are exploring and planning more innovative solutions such as water and wastewater re-use for non-potable purposes and desalination.

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