



Essex Climate Action Commission
Powering positive change

The Essex Water Strategy

Update Oct 2022



Essex County Council

Project Background

In July 2021 the Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) reiterated the risks to our county of increasing extreme weather, rising sea levels, food shortages, and **water scarcity**.

The Emerging Water Resources Regional Plan for Eastern England (January 2022) highlights how **agriculture, growth, energy, food, and water supplies in this region will be affected by water insecurity**.

The consequences of having too little water and of uncertainty of supply can have **devastating effects on wellbeing, planning for economic growth and on the environment**.

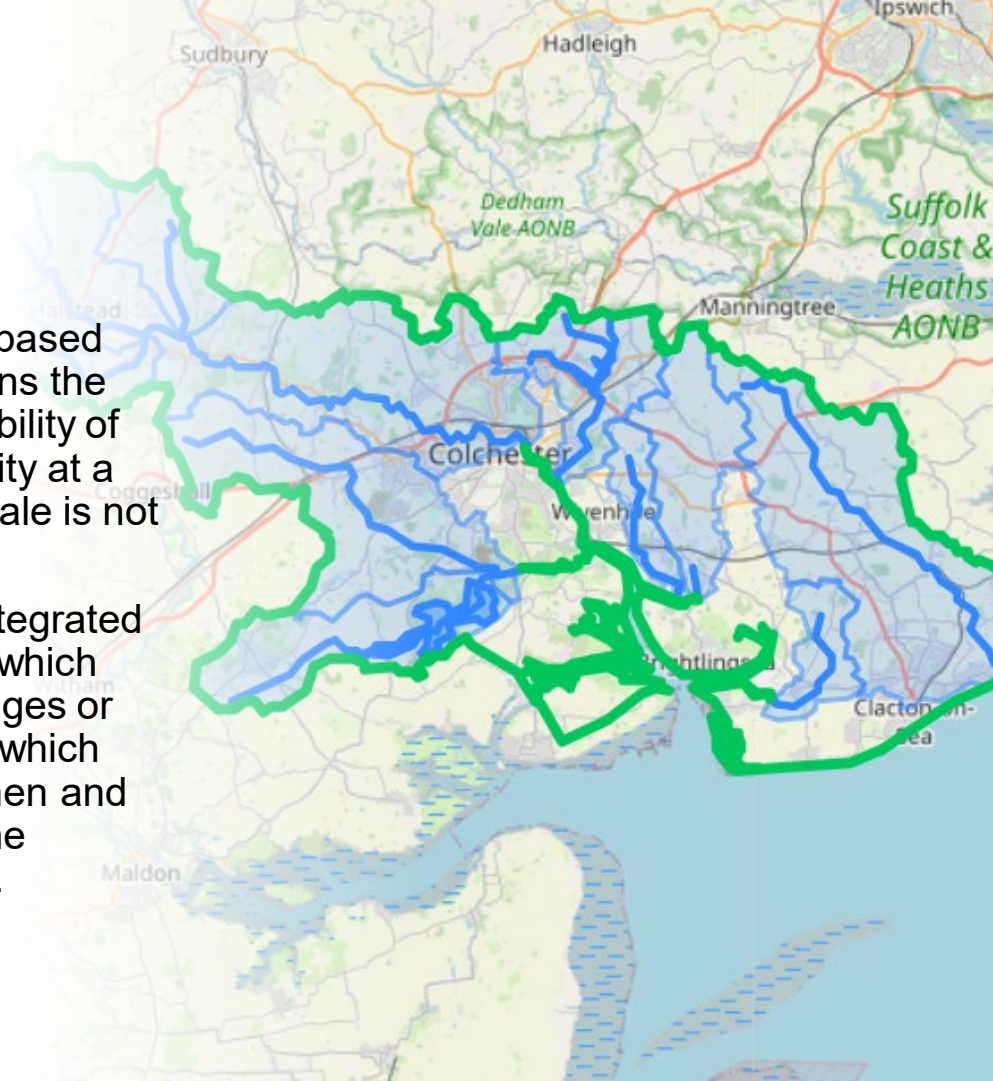
The Essex Water Strategy which will address the **gap in sub-regional holistic understanding and options** to deal with our water resources problem.



Problem Statement

An accessible place-based strategy which explains the issue of in-year variability of water and water quality at a county and district scale is not currently available.

Neither is there an integrated multi-sector strategy which considers the challenges or identifies the actions which must be taken (by when and by whom) to tackle the problem at this scale.



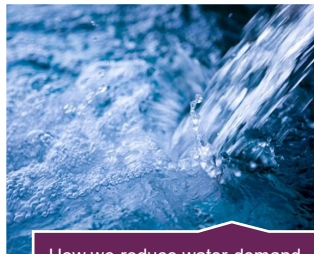
Project scope



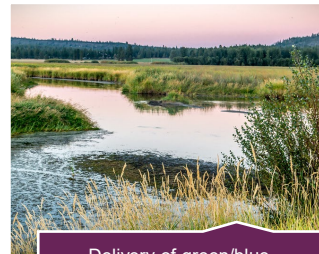
Understanding the water challenge in Essex, now and in future.



Creating an ambition for Essex which supports our environment commitments.



How we reduce water demand through efficiency and sustainable growth.



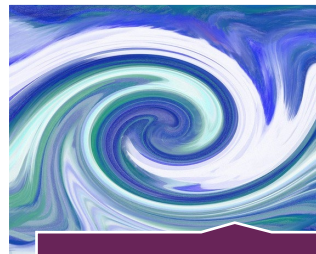
Delivery of green/blue infrastructure which retains water in our environment.



Our role in future strategic options including desalination and other sectors.



Identifying actions we must all deliver to meet the challenge.

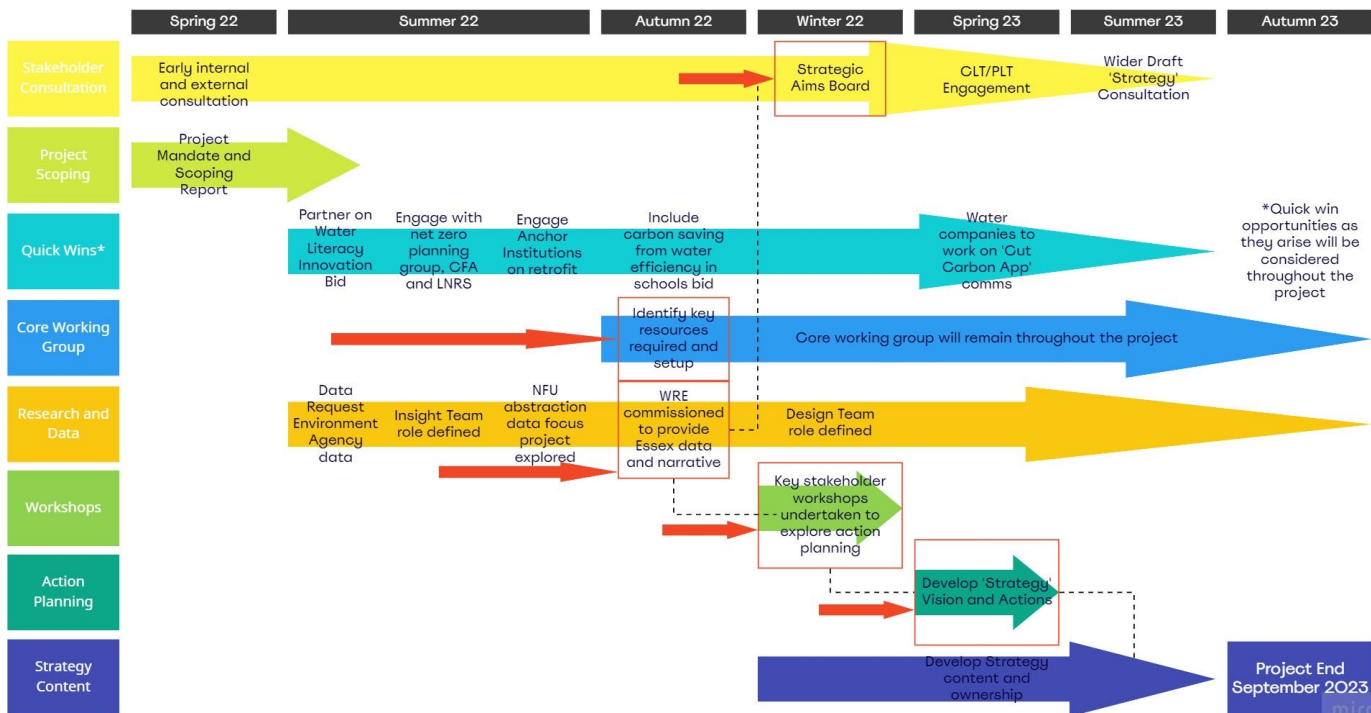


Achieving integration and a holistic view of activity.



Where we are

Essex Water Strategy Roadmap



Key Achievements

Stakeholder Consultation

- Extensive stakeholder engagement.
- Comms collaboration AW and E&SW confirmed involvement in Cut Carbon App content

Project Scoping

Quick Wins*

- Water Efficiency in Schools and Salix Decarbonisation Fund
- Opportunity to explore Water Efficiency at Anchors Climate Action Workshop

Core Working Group

- Chigwell Water Neutral Project – E&SW
- Water Literacy Bid to Ofwat Innovation Fund – E&SW

Research and Data

- Collaboration with the Climate and Planning Unit to ensure water efficiency targets implemented.

Workshops

- WRE and WSP providing Essex water resources data and interpretation support.

Action Planning

- Intelligence Teams engaged and resource allocated

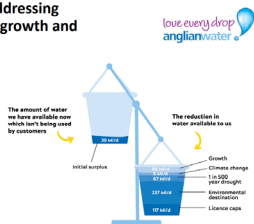
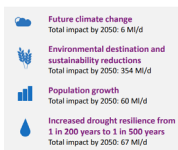
Strategy Content

- Design Teams engaged on interactive action plan elements

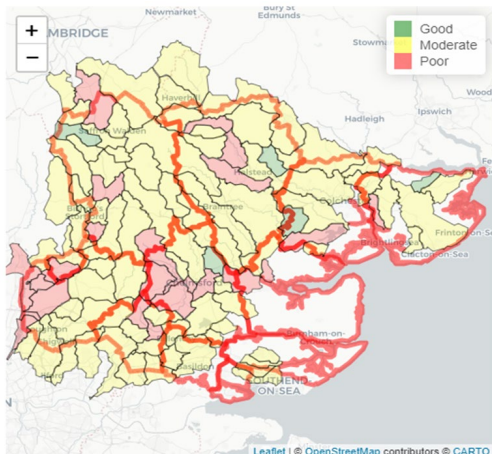


What's Next?

Scale of the challenges in addressing climate change, population growth and environmental protection

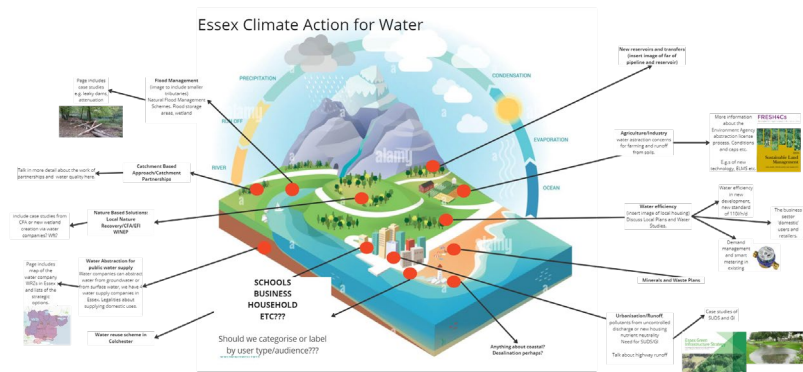


WRMPS



WFD Data

- Each of our 4 water companies Water Resources Management Plans will be published for consultation.
- We are examining publicly available WFD catchment data.
- Sector workshops will be held this winter once we have the best data available.
- Possible development of an interactive action plan tool or guide to illustrate complexity of the system.



System View

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