



Water Resources East (WRE) Ltd  
The Enterprise Centre  
University of East Anglia  
University Drive  
Norwich  
NR4 7TJ

7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Adrian Cannard  
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority  
The Mayor's Office  
72 Market Street  
Ely, Cambridgeshire  
CB7 4LS

Dear Adrian

### **Water Resources East**

Water Resources East (WRE) is one of five Regional Planning Groups working under the National Framework for Water Resources to develop a long-term integrated water management plan for Eastern England. Given the diverse range of water users in the region, Water Resources East became an independent legal entity (a Company Limited by Guarantee) in 2019, and a multi-sector Board of Directors was formed along with a new membership model. Water Resources East (WRE) Ltd now operates as an independent, inclusive, collaborative, exploratory and forward-thinking membership organisation, working with over 200 stakeholders.

Eastern England is characterised by its low rainfall, internationally important habitats and diversity of water use, including very significant non-public water supply users, particularly irrigated agriculture, food production, energy and conservation organisations.

WRE's vision is for Eastern England to have sufficient water resources to support a flourishing economy, a thriving environment and the needs of its population, and for the region to be seen as an international exemplar for collaborative integrated water resource management.

The Articles of Association for Water Resources East (WRE) Ltd detail the types of membership being offered for Water Resources East (WRE) Limited. In summary, they detail two tiers of membership, namely **Primary Funding Members** (PFMs) who will form the **Board of Directors** and **Standard Members** who will form the **Strategic Advisory**

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**Group.** Those organisations represented on the Board will collectively fund or otherwise facilitate WRE's function. This funding could be a direct financial contribution of a minimum 3% of the day to day operational costs for the organisation (salaries, accommodation and expenses), or could be an 'in kind' contribution which is equivalent to a 3% direct contribution. This could take the form, for example of the provision of a support service which reduces the overall operational cost of the business. For 2021/22, a 3% contribution is equivalent to £15k.

The broader technical programme for WRE will be funded separately, for example via external grants such as Inter-Reg or via academic partnerships, or could be funded by members of the company. Agreement around funding for the technical programme will be via Business Cases brought to the Board.

The Board of Directors will have specific duties:

- Appointment of the Chairman and the Managing Director.
- Remuneration policy for the Chairman, Managing Director and Technical Director.
- Approval of the annual budget and the Business Plan.
- Appointment of new PFMs and Standard Members.
- Appointment of sub-committees and specific working groups, and approval of resources for the delivery of key workstreams.
- Setting of the overall strategy and vision for Water Resources East.
- The decision as to which issues require voting by the entire membership, and which matters can be agreed by the Board. It is expected that the draft and final Regional Plan will be approved by the entire membership.

### **Board Membership:**

The **Board of Directors** will be in control of, and at the heart of the shaping and development of the overall water strategy for Eastern England. Board members have the opportunity to employ WRE and its team of experts in the co-delivery of the water elements of relevant organisations' water strategies, with the explicit aim of more than recovering the cost it has invested. This cost recovery may be non-financial (ie the perceived value of the significant influence a Board seat will have over the development of the Regional Plan), or could be financial by utilising the technical expertise of the WRE team to avoid more expensive consultant costs.

As part of its influence, the WRE Board will also be able to help shape broader strategies alongside the other sectors and organisations who have already agreed to join the Board. We also hope that there will be positive communication and engagement opportunities around being closely associated with WRE, with an organisation being seen to be at the heart of solving a fundamental issue for our region.

WRE is unique in that it is completely independent of any organisation or sector, with the ability to convene groups to work together to solve particular issues. Overall, WRE has already helped inform and set government policy around multi-sector water resource planning and management, and the aim is that we will continue to do this. Board

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membership therefore provides an opportunity to directly influence government thinking around integrated water management.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

Signature redacted

**Dr Robin Price**  
Managing Director