

Water Neutrality in Sussex North

18th May 2023



from
**Southern
Water** 

Welcome!



from
**Southern
Water** 

The Southern Water logo graphic consists of three stylized, wavy blue lines of varying lengths, positioned to the right of the word "Water".

Housekeeping



Please note we will be recording today's session, this will be available on website next week [Water Neutrality \(southernwater.co.uk\)](https://southernwater.co.uk)



Please remain muted during presentations, we have a lot of detail to share and will take questions when all presentations are complete



Please submit your questions on [Slido](#) using code #2128647



Agenda

13:00 Welcome

13:05 Smart Metering Programme

Stuart Sharman – Smart Meter Programme Delivery Manager at Southern Water

13:25 The Offsetting scheme

Clark Gordon – Water Neutrality Project Manager at Horsham District Council

13:45 Waterwise Water Neutrality Model update

Sandra Norval - Future Growth Lead at Southern Water

14:05 Q&A for panel speakers

14:30 Close



Smart Programme Overview

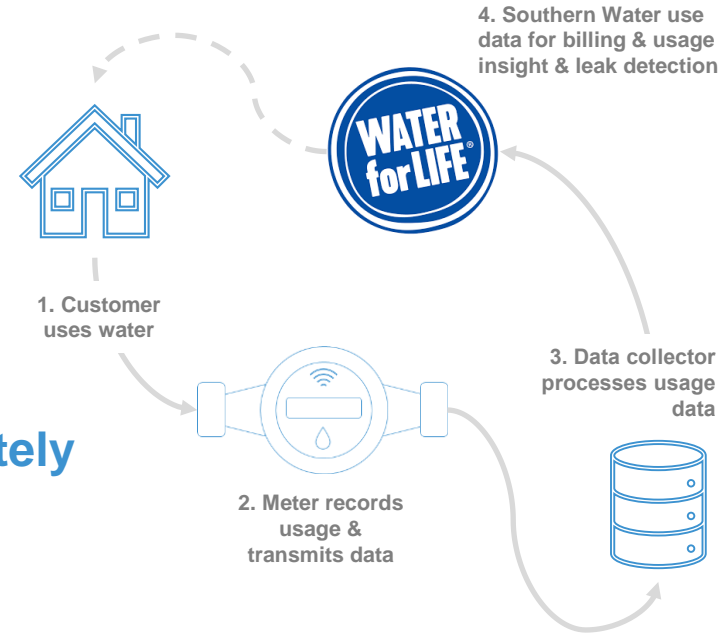
Stuart Sharman- Smart Meter Programme Delivery Manager



from
**Southern
Water** 

What is Smart Metering?

- **Similar in principle** to Energy Smart meters
- Data is transmitted back **automatically**
- Automated Meter Infrastructure (**AMI**) meters
- Make it possible to **measure flow more accurately**
- **Transform relationships** with customers



What are the benefits of Smart Metering?

- Enable **benefits for customers** and the water industry
- Could **cut the UK's carbon emissions** by 0.5%
- Will help save **one billion litres** of water every day

Understand
consumer
behaviour

Increased
customer
awareness

Improve
customer
experience

Improved
Billing

Customer
services
agent
experience

Product and
service
innovation

Supply
Interruption
reporting

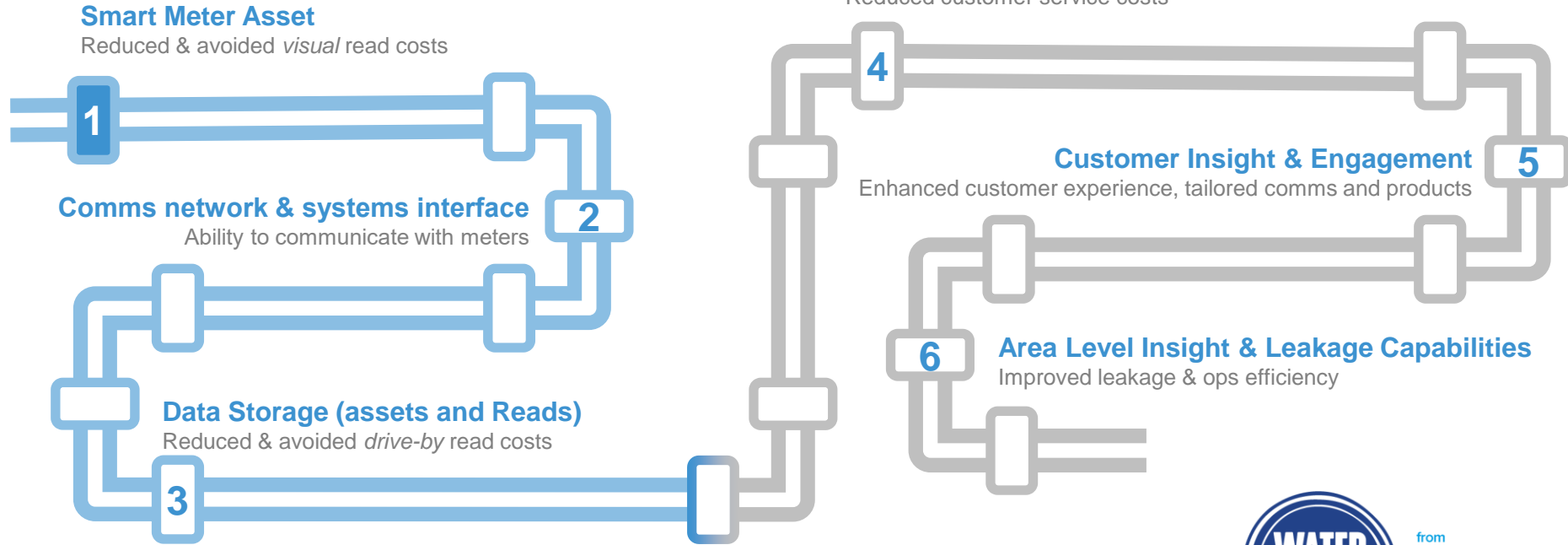
More
frequent
supply &
demand
balancing

Wider
network
enablement



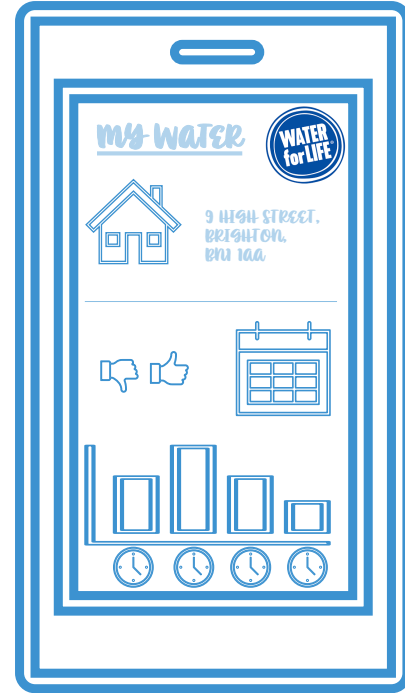
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Where are we on the journey?



Future view

- The **opportunity for transformation** is huge
- Smart data will **supercharge the connection** with customers
- Rich insight will enable **innovation & personalisation**
- Drive **better, quicker strategic and tactical decisions**
- Programme delivers regulatory, operational and **cost benefits**



What does it mean for developer partners?

Developer partners are key part of our Smart plans

- Smart Capable meters **fitted by default**
- **No change** to installation procedures
- **Utilise the experience** of water industry partners
- Build comms network strategy, **incl. developers**
- Keep abreast of **regulatory developments**



Thank you

stuart.sharman@southernwater.co.uk



The LPA's Offsetting Scheme

Clark Gordon - Water Neutrality Project Manager at
Horsham District Council



WATER NEUTRALITY
SUSSEX NORTH
OFFSETTING WATER
SCHEME
SNOWS



Hello!

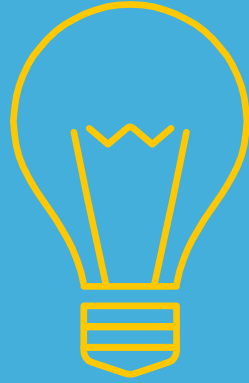
I am Clark Gordon

You can find me at:

clark.gordon@horsham.gov.uk



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/clark-gordon-39202013>



WATER NEUTRALITY

What is it?



SUSSEX NORTH

Where are we?

■ A BRIEF HISTORY

Arun Valley

One of the most biodiverse wetlands in England. Concerns were raised that Southern Water's Pulborough abstractions were impacting protected sites.

Natural England

The regulator issued a position statement to some local authorities in West Sussex in September 2021. This required water neutrality for new development.

Local authorities

Partnership working between the local authorities and other partners has enabled some progress. A Project Manager was employed in January 2023.

What are the challenges?

Regulatory



Any novel proposals for securing water neutrality need to be agreed with Natural England.

Southern Water



We are heavily reliant on Southern Water meeting their delivery targets.

Government



Unlike for nutrient neutrality, local authorities have had no financial support for water neutrality.

Planning



Planning is all but at a standstill across the affected authorities. They need to unlock growth opportunities.

Policy ambitions



The strength of action required by the local authorities does not seem to be matched by government ambition.

First mover



Water neutrality has never been tried at this scale. There is no authority-led water offsetting scheme elsewhere to learn from.

■ HOW HAVE WE RESPONDED?

Planning Policy

The local authorities have jointly developed a water neutrality policy to be included in forthcoming Local Plans.

Development Management

The local authorities have convened a DM group to agree water neutrality principles and discuss emerging proposals.

Partnership working

There are multiple governance layers to include many of the key stakeholders involved in water neutrality.

“

*Avoiding the **jaws of death** is a joint effort. We will only succeed if we all work together.*

James Bevan, EA Chief Executive, March 2019

**WHAT'S
THE
SOLUTION?**



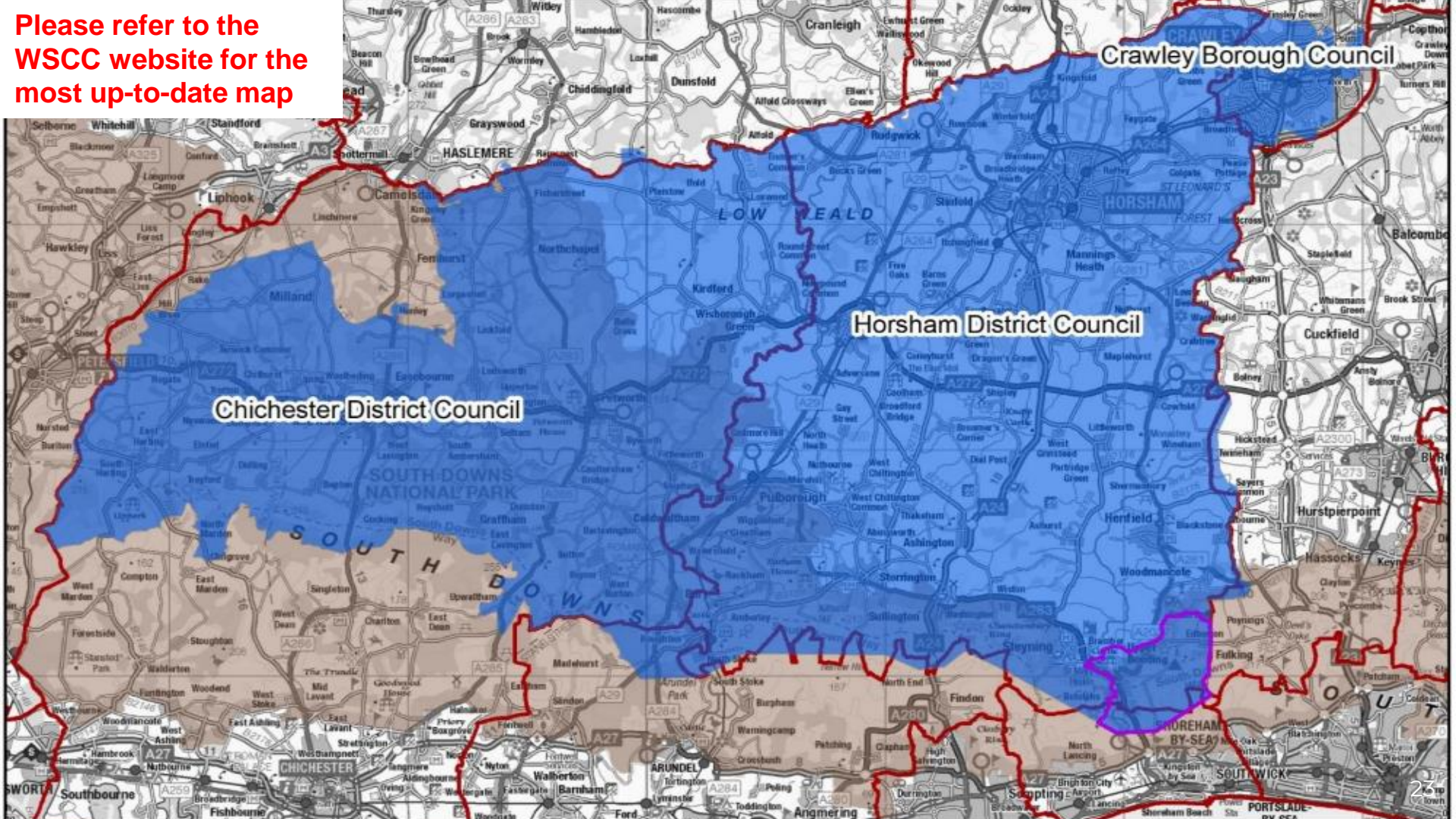


SNOWS



Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme

Please refer to the WSCC website for the most up-to-date map



Chichester District Council

Horsham District Council

Crawley Borough Council

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

SNOWS OVERVIEW



MILESTONES TO DATE

Local Enterprise
Partnership seed
funding secured in 2022

1

Water Neutrality
Strategy ('Part C') signed
off in November 2022

3

Stakeholder Comms
& Engagement
Strategy finalised in April 2023

5

Partnership governance
agreement finalised in
April 2022

2

Water Neutrality
Project Manager employed
in January 2023

4

Outline Business
Case approved in April
2023

6

MILESTONES TO DATE

Detailed project
scope agreed in May
2023

7

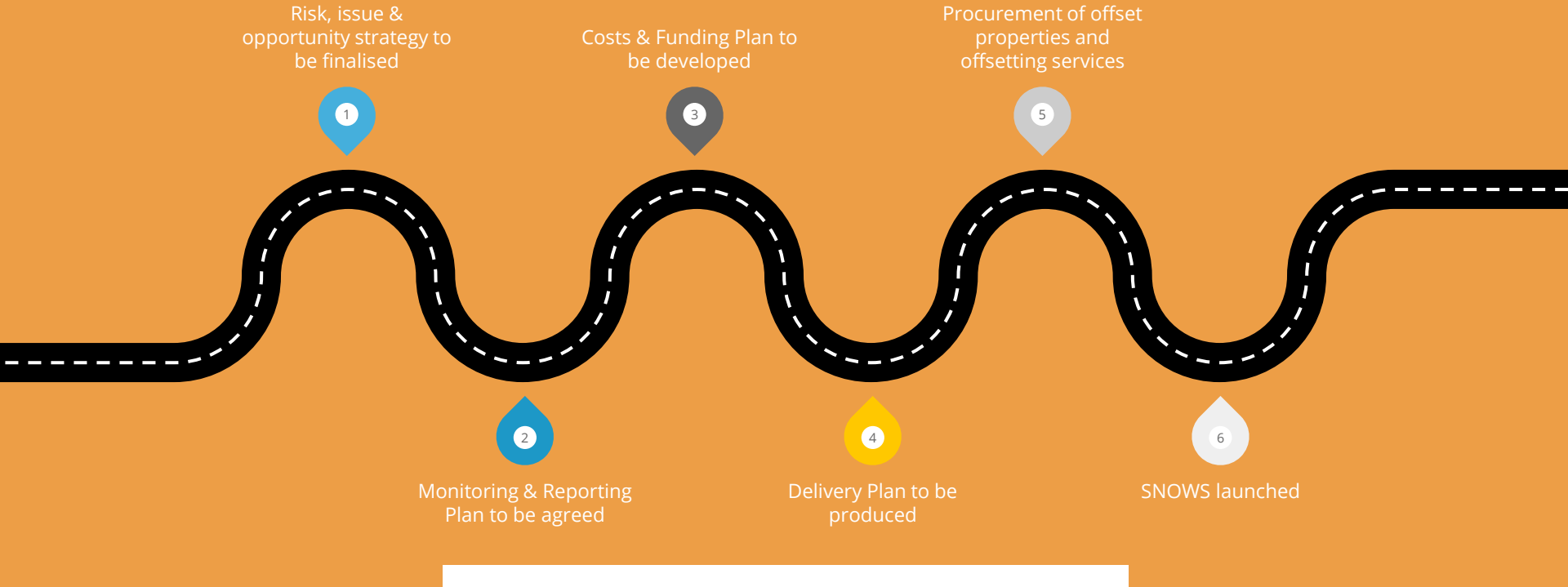


8

Project delivery schedule
is now
under development



MILESTONES TO COME



PROJECT **ENGAGEMENT**

We will be engaging with key stakeholders over the coming months.

Keep informed! Sign up to our project update newsletter:

<https://shorturl.at/erwx7>



What are the **benefits?**

Unlocks planning



The local planning authorities can deliver sufficient housing and business growth to support the local economies.

Cost of living



Residents in properties with offset measures installed will benefit from lower water bills and reduced water heating costs.

Offsetting market



Implementation of the scheme will help to support the developing market for the provision of offsetting measures.

Sustainability



There will be wider environmental and sustainability benefits for all stakeholders, such as lower carbon emissions.

Behaviour change



Residents and businesses are positively 'bought into' saving water, creating an engaged, captive audience for positive sustainability behavioural changes.

Showcase project



As a first-of-its-kind scheme, the local authorities and partners involved can be proud to be at the 'leading edge' of solving a huge national issue.

IN SUMMARY...

Pressures...

...on our water resources from an increasing population and climate change are leading to supply vs demand issues - "the jaws of death".

Sussex North...

...is the first area in the UK where this issue requires immediate, concerted action by the local authorities and other partners.

SNOWS...

...is the local authorities' proposed solution to address water neutrality and to unlock the local planning system to deliver much needed growth.

THANKS!

Any questions?

You can find me at clark.gordon@horsham.gov.uk

Waterwise Water Neutrality model

Sandra Norval – Future Growth Lead



Enabling the shift to a water positive future



Panel Q&A

Panellists:, Stuart Sharman, Clark Gordon & Sandra Norval

Please submit your questions on [Slido](#) using code #2128647



from
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Water** 

Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you again at our next event!

