

Fenland District Council Members Briefing

21 November 2023



Agenda

- **Project overview**
- **Phase One consultation**
- **Developing our proposals**
- **Keeping people informed**



Planning for the future: regional need

Our region is unique, low-lying and one of the driest in the UK:



A 1/3 less rainfall than the UK average

We need to protect supplies in the face of climate change.

Our region's precious landscapes and environment need water to ensure their survival:



the natural environment relies on rivers and groundwater

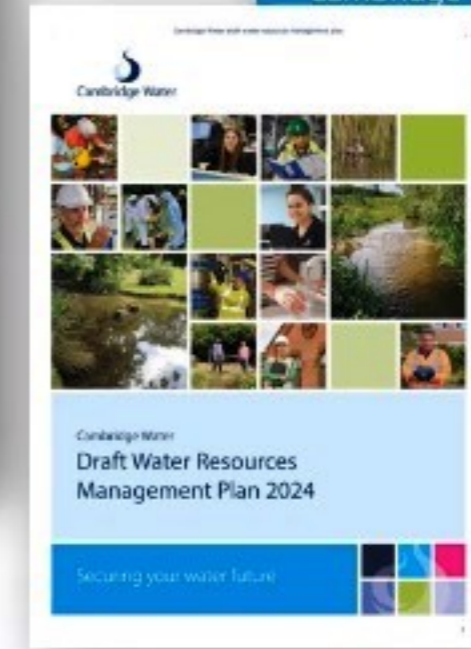
We need to reduce the amount of water we take from these sources.

We need to protect and restore the environment.

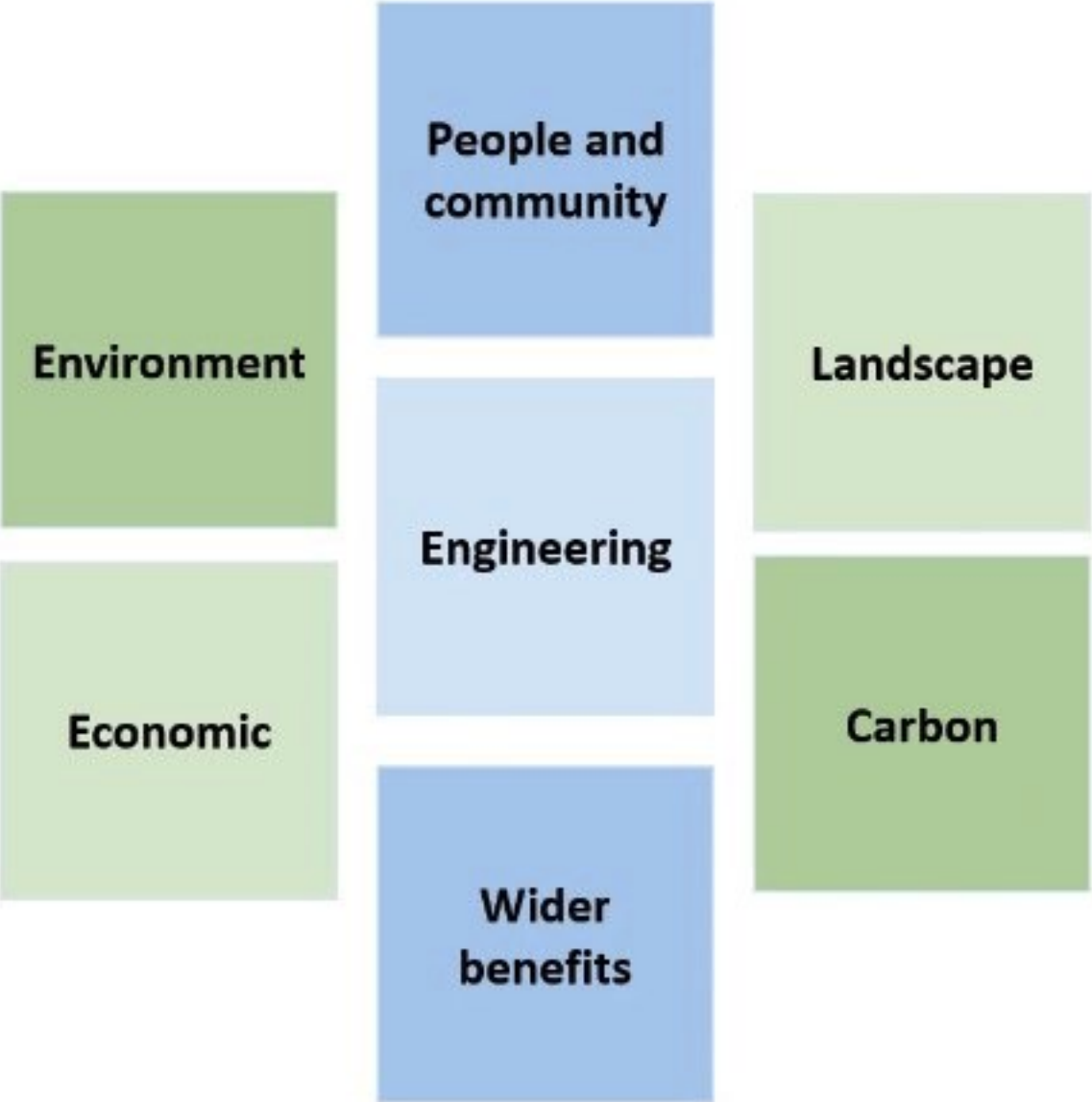


Planning for the future: WRMP

- Water Resources Management Plan
- Necessary large-scale investment
- Ground water recovery
- Sufficient resilience to droughts
- Environmental protection
- Community resources



Site selection process



The proposed site

Water surface area

Size:

5km²

(a little smaller than
Grafham Water)



Volume

55 million
cubic metres

(50 million usable volume)



The reservoir
could supply up to:

87 million litres
of water per day



250,000
homes

throughout the year



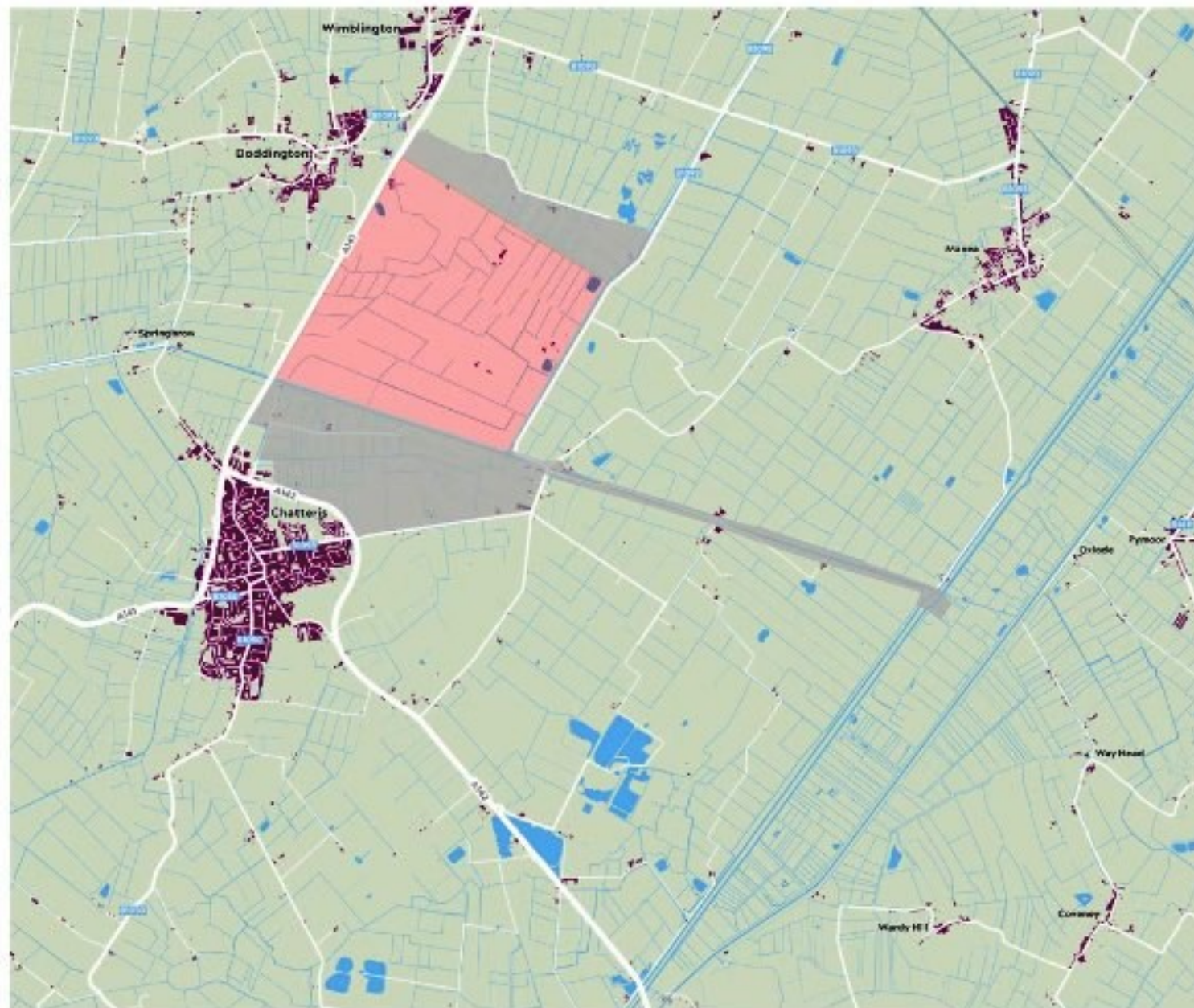
Water will
come from

**Great
Ouse**
catchment



Reservoir
needs to be in supply by

2040



Our vision

Our vision for the project goes beyond just building a reservoir. We want to create a place where water, people and nature come together. That means creating space for wildlife, such as wetlands, alongside enabling new recreational and educational activities and natural places for people to explore. It also means creating new jobs and providing opportunities for local businesses and tourism.



What we learned

Key suggestions included:

- Access routes
- Protected wildlife zones
- Outdoor recreation
- Visually sympathetic design

For further details, please visit:

<https://www.fensreservoir.co.uk/assets/images/downloads/Fens-reservoir-feedback-summary.pdf>



CONNECTIVITY WITH NEARBY COMMUNITIES

Easy access to the reservoir for local communities, including by foot and bicycle



ACCESS TO NATURE AND WATER

Green space and access to nature that can be enjoyed by all



VISUAL IMPACTS INCLUDING EMBANKMENTS

Making sure the reservoir blends in with the landscape



WILDLIFE AND NATURE

Protection for existing habitats, and creation of new habitats



INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING FEATURES

Exploration of navigable waterways and wildlife corridors



OUTDOOR RECREATION

Accessible routes and facilities for people of all ages

Our ambition

In response to a changing climate and the need to live more sustainable lifestyles as populations grow, we need to transform the way water is managed in the East of England.

The Fens Reservoir and Lincolnshire Reservoir will play a central role in this transformation. They'll secure a resilient supply of water to meet the needs of future generations, while helping to protect and restore the environment.

The reservoirs will be a once in a lifetime investment delivering benefits for biodiversity, recreation, health and wellbeing. Subject to funding and support from regional partners, they could also deliver significant wider benefits for the region.

The reservoir projects will be leading examples of great design. We'll develop and deliver them in collaboration with local people, stakeholders, and regulators at every stage to make sure their concerns are addressed, particularly during construction.

We're committed to making sure that both reservoirs inspire local and regional pride, and deliver a positive legacy for the communities and places they become part of.



Achieving our ambition

Local community and place

We want the reservoirs to be local and regional assets. We'll achieve that by engaging with the local community and following national government guidelines for exemplary design.

Socio-economic opportunity

We take our duty to deliver wider benefits to society seriously. The reservoirs are fundamental to our purpose of bringing environmental and social prosperity to our region.

Biodiversity and the environment

We believe caring for all species and habitats is the right thing to do. We're committed to delivering new water resources that leave nature better off than when we found it.

Leisure and recreation

We're committed to unlocking access to the outdoors and water while meeting our duty to protect the environment, encouraging health, wellbeing and social prosperity.

Transport and traffic

A sustainable transport and traffic plan is a key part of our plans. We'll prioritise safe and sustainable routes of access to the reservoirs for all.

Carbon and renewable energy

We have a track record in delivering significant carbon reductions. We'll make sure the reservoirs are operationally net zero from the day they open.

Flood management

Our region is low lying and on the front line of extreme weather patterns. Minimising flood risk will be key to the design of the new reservoirs – and so will building resilience to flooding.

Water quality

We're committed to making sure the reservoirs deliver a sustainable supply of high-quality drinking water that our customers can rely on.

Surveys



Surveys

Throughout 2023, our environment team will be conducting wildlife and ecological surveys of the proposed site to help inform our environmental assessments. We'll be working closely with landowners to agree access for surveys and also to answer ongoing questions about what our plans mean. We are in contact and having discussions with the RSPCA and businesses.



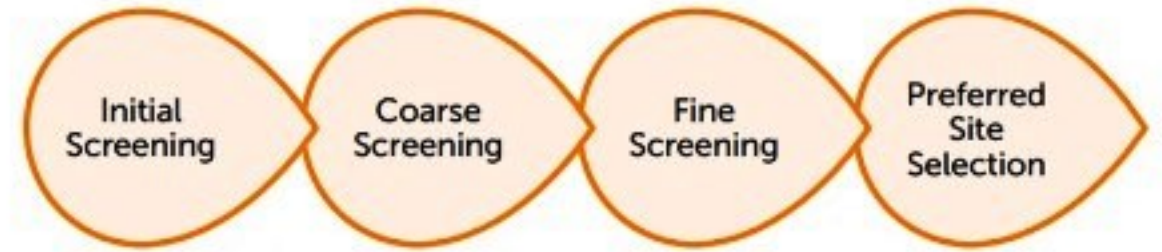
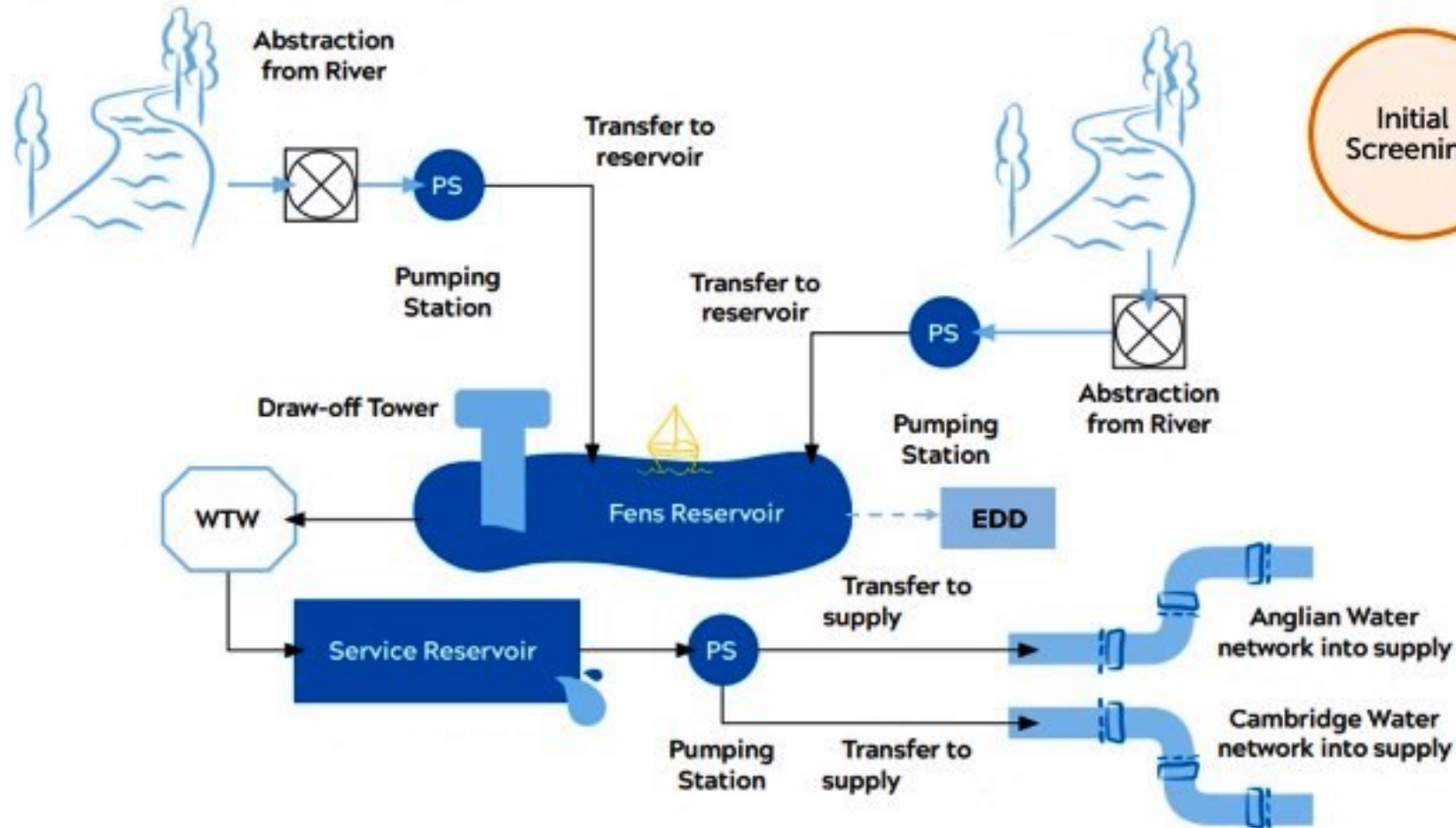
Developing our proposals

Combining early concept with context to give people a better idea of what the reservoir could look like, and the features it could include.



Associated Infrastructure

Figure 3: Schematic of the scheme



Ref: IEMA Impact Assessment Outlook Journal June 2023

Community Liaison Group

- Forum of discussion and project updates.
- For those representing local communities.
- Quarterly meetings - the next will be held in February.
- Records will be added to the project website www.fensreservoir.co.uk.
- We will be electing an impartial Chair.



Communications and updates

- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Delivering a shared ambition
- Residential Property Support Scheme



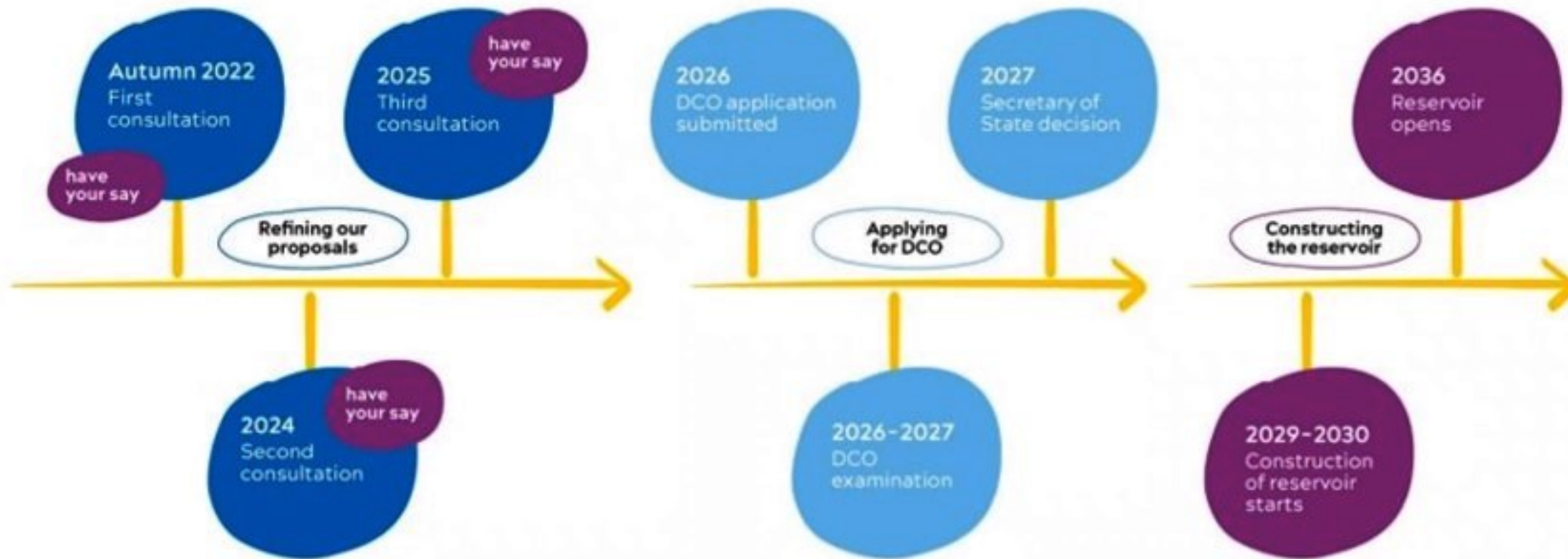
Working with Fenland District Council

- FDC DCO Planning Work coordinated by FDC Senior Development Officer (Gareth Martin)
- **Bi-monthly Strategic Planning Meetings** with AW, FDC & CCC (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- July to present date FDC participated in the **Statutory Consultee Meetings** on Associated Infrastructure Site Selection
- FDC attend **Fens Water Partnership**

RECENT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

3/11/2023	TWG Noise & Air Quality
7/11/2023	TWG Masterplanning
8/11/2023	TWG Historic Environment
9/11/2023	TWG Water Resources
10/11/2023	TWG Landscape & Visual
10/11/2023	TWG Traffic & Transport
10/11/2023	TWG Socio-eco, Access, Health

Lookahead



Please note: this timeline is indicative only and may change as our proposals develop

Thank you – any questions?

Find out more and stay up to date:

- **Website:** www.fensreservoir.co.uk
- **Email:** info@fensreservoir.co.uk
- **Tel:** 0800 915 2492
- **Post:** FREEPOST Fens Reservoir

