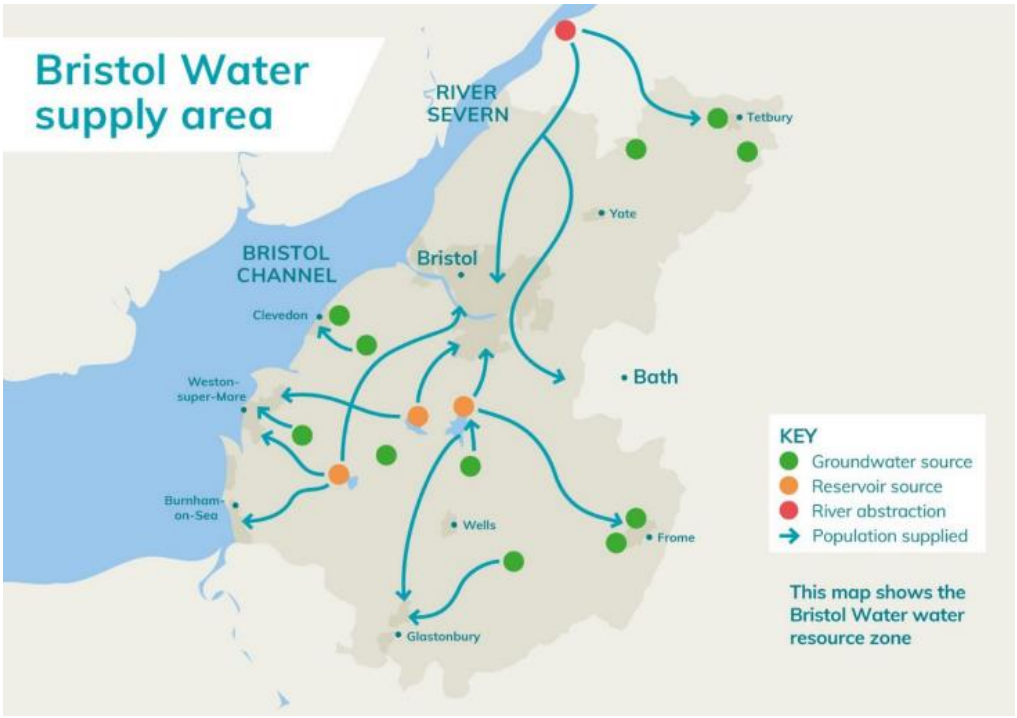
Water (Bristol Water)

Infrastructure Delivery Plan Topic Paper

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This topic paper considers water supply infrastructure in South Gloucestershire. Bristol Water is the principal provider. Bristol Water is now part of South West Water which also includes Bournemouth Water & Isles of Scilly Water.



2.0 Regulatory Framework

2.1 Bristol Water is financially regulated by the Office for Water Services (OFWAT) who form part of Department for Environment & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Water quality regulation is with the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) and abstraction is regulated by the Environment Agency (EA).

2.2 Bristol Water submits for approval a 5 yearly Business Plan (Asset Management Plan (AMP)) to OFWAT specifying proposed investment requirements including funding requests for new infrastructure. The plan is assessed, and final determination is published including specifying charges in water tariffs for customers. The current AMP period is 2020-25. The Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) is a water resource plan and sets out strategic priorities to 2050. Further information on these plans can be found at: Our Plan for Change 2025 – 30 (bristolwater.co.uk)

3.0 Development

3.1 There are three principal routes to obtaining water infrastructure for new developments:

- Requisition – Developer pays Bristol Water to install water infrastructure which is owned and maintained by Bristol Water.
- Self-Lay – Developer contracts a Self-Lay Provider to install water infrastructure which Bristol Water then subsequently adopts and is responsible for maintenance.
- NAV - Developer requests that a NAV (New Appointment & Variation) installs and maintains on site water infrastructure with usually a bulk supply from Bristol Water. There are currently 3 NAV's operating in the Bristol & South Gloucestershire area with sites at Emersons Green, Cribbs Causeway, Fishpool Hill, Filton Airfiled, Harry Stoke, Ladden Garden Village & Lyde Green. NAV penetration is growing year on year with 600+ additional properties served by NAV's in the Bristol Water area in 22/23.

3.2 Charges for developer services/connections are published annually so that Developers are able to calculate costs, however once an application is made a site-specific quotation is provided to the applicant. Applications are processed by our Developer Services team including diversions of pipelines (we do not permit build over of water assets). New service connections are processed by our New Supplies Team.

4.0 Key Assets

4.1 South Gloucestershire is well served with water supply infrastructure. Principally, water is supplied from Purton Treatment Works in Stroud District, taking water from the Sharpness Canal and pumping to either Littleton treatment works near Thornbury and the service reservoir at Pucklechurch.

4.2 In recent years Bristol Water has invested in water infrastructure in the South Glos & Bristol area to serve existing and new developments for example:

- 700mm main serving North Bristol developments from the Harry Stoke area/Cheswick Park area to Filton Airfield and Fishpool Hill.
- a new main from Almondsbury Reservoir (just behind "The Mall") to new developments at the western end of Filton airfield.

5.0 Future Infrastructure Investment Plans

5.1 Bristol Water produces a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) for forecasting future demand over a 25-year period. This was used to develop our business plan for the period 2025 – 2030. It identifies a need for further investment to reduce leakage by a further 30% by 2050 (from 2017 levels) whilst also achieving a 25% reduction in household water consumption. This goes much further than previous plans. If successful, it is anticipated that no further resources will be required in the supply area.