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29th March 2019

Vale of White Horse – Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites – Schedule of Proposed Draft Main Modifications – February 2019

Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you for consulting Thames Water Utilities (Thames Water) regarding the above. Thames Water are the statutory water and sewerage undertaker for the Vale of White Horse area and are hence a “specific consultation body” in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) Regulations 2012. We have the following comments on the Modifications:

Modification MM7 - Core Policy 14a: Strategic Water Storage Reservoirs

As per our previous comments to the draft Local Plan Part 2, we wholly support the safeguarded area for the proposed Strategic Reservoir site between the settlements of Drayton, East Hanney and Steventon.

We have no comment on the revised wording to Policy 14a which sets out that the safeguarding shall end if there is no prospect of the reservoir being built for example if it is not included in the finalised Water Resource Management Plan 19 (WRMP19) or is refused Development Consent.

By way of update on WRMP19, in February 2018 we published our draft plan which set out how we plan to provide a secure and sustainable supply of water for our customers for the next 80 years, from 2020 to 2100. We ran a public consultation on the draft plan in Spring 2018. We sought feedback via an online survey, in focus groups and interviews, and held a number of events across our area. We received over 540 representations to the public consultation, as well as other feedback from customers.

In October 2018 we published a report, called the Statement of Response, setting out the comments we received, and explaining how we have taken these into account, alongside new information, in revising our draft plan. We have also published our revised draft plan which is available on our website: <https://corporate.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/water-resources>

In Autumn 2018 we provided an opportunity for comment on the changes and revisions we have made to our draft plan. This further consultation closed on 28 November 2018.

In April 2019 we will publish a report, called the Statement of Response No.2, setting out the consideration that we have given to representations received as part of the further consultation and any further changes or revisions made to the revised draft WRMP19.

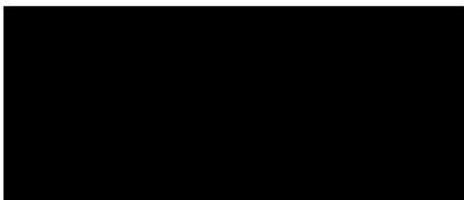
The key focus of the revised draft water plan is to use the water we have wisely before seeking to boost supplies. It proposes that from 2020-25 we will reduce leakage from our water mains by 15 per cent, we will install a further 700,000 smart meters and plan to undertake around 400,000 Smarter Home and Business Visits (water efficiency advice and retrofit visits). We also plan to develop new sources of water including new groundwater sources and a wastewater re-use plant in North East London (subject to the outcome of our draft Business Plan and water plan development processes and obtaining planning consent). In order to maintain water security in the longer term, we will need a new strategic resource, which our revised draft water plan proposes should be a new strategic reservoir in the upper Thames as safeguarded under Policy 14a – now called the South East Strategic Reservoir Option. This reservoir would be a shared resource with Affinity Water and would be supported in the latter century by a strategic pipeline transfer from the River Severn.

MM26 – Appendix A: Site Development Templates, Utilities

Thames Water support MM26. The proposed amendment wholly reflects the comments made within our representations in November 2017

We trust that our comments are of use. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Carmelle Textor 

Yours sincerely



Richard Hill
Head of Property