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Councillor Emily Smith
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I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council regarding Thames Water's plans to build a reservoir south of Abingdon. The council wishes to reiterate its opposition to this suggested development in the strongest terms and asks that you reconsider your proposals.

The construction of a reservoir in this area is, in our opinion, an unnecessary and costly proposal which will cause immense disruption to residents and have a profoundly negative impact upon the environment. We are, therefore, requesting that Thames Water commissions a thorough assessment of all the potential solutions to the issue of water scarcity in the South East of England. This work should rigorously test and evaluate every option – demonstrating clearly the pros and cons of each proposal – and have its findings verified by independent experts. We would also expect that the environmental and climate implications of every alternative would be considered in-depth.

In specific relation to the suggested Abingdon reservoir, the Vale remains disappointed that Thames Water has not provided sufficient details regarding its environmental impact. As a council, we are committed to cutting the district's carbon emissions by 75% by 2030 and are, therefore, keen to understand the potential effects of this project. The council would, therefore, like for more information to be made available to us – in particular, we would like to know how Thames Water arrived at its assessment of the carbon impact of the proposed reservoir (the data currently available is not supported by any publicly available calculations).

I wish to make clear that without providing a conclusive, independently assessed case for a reservoir south of Abingdon (which pays sufficient heed to the potentially enormous environmental impact of such a development) Vale of White Horse District Council will continue to remain unconvinced by Thames Water's proposals.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Smith', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council