

Policy & Programmes

HEAD OF SERVICE: Harry Barrington-Mountford

By email: AFFINITY WATER c/o
Water.resources@defra.gov.uk

CONTACT OFFICER: [REDACTED]

planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk

Tel: 01235 422422

Textphone: 18001 01235 422422

Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon,
OXON, OX14 3JE

20 February 2023

Dear Sir or Madam

Affinity Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan 24 (WRMP24) consultation

These comments are made on behalf of our Council in response to the invitation to make representations on the above document. These comments are made on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council in Oxfordshire where the proposed South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) is located.

I attach a copy of the Vale of White Horse Response to WRSE draft regional plan (20/02/2023). Our Council will also be responding to the Thames Water's Water Resources Management Plan 2024 in detail.

Our Council (and Oxfordshire County Council) consider that the SESRO should be removed from the regional plan and any other water company management plans, including the Affinity WRMP24.

On 8th our Council agreed a motion to;

'reaffirm its position from the previous public enquiry that it opposes the reservoir proposal unless or until the case for need for this specific solution (over and above the other potential cheaper, less disruptive, and less environmentally impactful solutions) has been clearly tested, demonstrated and agreed by independent scientific experts.'

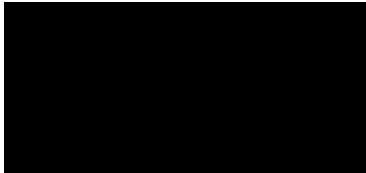
Our Council does not consider that the information published by the water companies and WRSE to date is sufficient to demonstrate the case for the reservoir over and above other solutions. Our Council considers that Affinity Water and the other water companies should

be doing more to prevent leakage and water efficiency, to avoid the need to invest resources in expensive projects like the proposed Abingdon reservoir (SESRO) which will adversely impact the local community and the local environment as well as contribute to climate change through carbon emissions. Affinity Water should not be relying on the SESRO to meet its water needs.

We also consider that the timeframe for bringing forward the proposed SESRO scheme is too ambitious and for this reason Affinity Water customers should not be relying on a transfer enabled by the SESRO to meet its future water needs as outlined in WRMP24.

Please could you acknowledge receipt of this letter and we trust that you will act to address the concerns that are set out above.

Yours sincerely,



**Planning Infrastructure Team Leader
Vale of White Horse District Council**

cc: Andrew Down – Deputy Chief Executive – Partnership and Planning
Harry Barrington-Mountford – Interim Head of Policy and Programmes