

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

BETWEEN

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (NHDC)

AND

THAMES WATER UTILITIES LTD

IN RESPECT OF

**THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN, PROPOSED SUBMISSION VERSION,
NOVEMBER 2016**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared jointly by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) and Thames Water Utilities Ltd (Thames Water).
- 1.2 The Statement sets out the confirmed points of agreement between NHDC and Thames Water with regard to the North Hertfordshire Local Plan and supporting evidence base, which will assist the Inspector during the Examination of the Local Plan.
- 1.3 Local Authorities are required through the Duty to Co-operate (the Duty) to engage constructively and actively on an on-going basis on planning matters that impact on more than one local planning area.
- 1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the requirement that public bodies should cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries and, at Paragraph 156, identifies a series of strategic priorities:
 - The homes and jobs needed in the area.
 - The provision of retail, leisure, and other commercial development.
 - The provision of infrastructure for transport telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management.
 - The provision of minerals and energy (including heat).
 - The provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities.
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment including landscape.
- 1.5 The NPPF requires Local Planning Authorities to work collaboratively with other bodies to make sure that these strategic priorities are properly co-ordinated across local boundaries and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans.
- 1.6 Local Planning authorities are expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross- boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination.

2 Background

- 2.1 This Statement of Common Ground relates to the representations made by Thames Water to the District Council's Proposed Submission Local Plan (2016) regarding a number of matters.

3 Duty to Cooperate

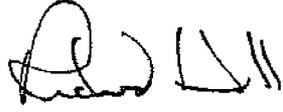
- 3.1 As set out in the Council's Duty to Cooperate statement the District Council has continuously engaged with Thames Water over the duration of the plan's production.
- 3.2 Thames Water has continuously responded to public consultations and liaised with Officers as the Local Plan process has developed which has helped inform both the strategy and policy framework within the plan.
- 3.3 Comments received from Thames Water have been used to draft the different iterations of the plan so that it delivers the infrastructure and framework required to support sustainable development for water and wastewater infrastructure.

4 Agreed Matters

- 4.1 NHDC and Thames Water **agree** that the draft North Hertfordshire Local Plan, November 2016 is sound insofar as it relates to matters covered by the Duty to Cooperate.
- 4.2 The Thames Water representation to the Proposed Submission Local Plan identified additional wording for inclusion within Policy NE10 as well as site specific commentary in relation to the proposed sites. The latter is considered of greater relevance for developers rather than the local plan process; however the policy amendment was considered reasonable and is included in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 It is **agreed** that subject to the change detailed in Appendix 1 that, the strategy, sites and policies within the NHDC Local Plan provide a sound basis for the delivery of water and wastewater infrastructure in the Thames area of the district.
- 4.3 It is **agreed** that the supporting evidence including water cycle studies and Infrastructure Delivery Plan provide a robust assessment of the extent and requirement of water infrastructure to support the planned growth.
- 4.4 It is **agreed** that there are no outstanding issues in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure in the area of North Hertfordshire covered by Thames Water (in addition to the changes set out in the schedule of minor modifications) and that the proposed and amended policies will ensure ongoing collaboration between the Council, Thames Water and developers to ensure that any necessary water and wastewater upgrades are delivered prior to the occupation of development.. It can

therefore be agreed that the plan constitutes sustainable development in accordance with paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012.

- 4.5 Thames Water has set out a position statement in relation to the capacity of Rye Meads STW. A copy of the position statement is appended to this Statement of Common Ground.

Name	RICHARD HILL	Cllr David Levett
Position	HAAS of PROPERTY	Executive Member for Planning and Enterprise
Signature		
Company	Thames Water	North Hertfordshire District Council
Date:	11/4/17	18/04/17

Appendix 1

Para / page	Change	Reason
Policy NE10(d), p.123	'Mechanisms for delivering any necessary new or improved water and/ or wastewater infrastructure are secured under the requirements of Policy SP7 and adequate foul water treatment and disposal already exists or can be provided in time to serve the development.'	In response to Anglian Water [0861] and Thames Water [16168] comment



THAMES WATER JANUARY 2017 POSITION STATEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT IN THE RYE MEADS SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS CATCHMENT

This is a draft statement from Thames Water on our position regarding development in the Rye Meads STW catchment for the current asset management plan period.

It is our position as of January 2017 and subject to revision.

SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

Rye Meads Sewage Treatment Works is currently being upgraded; the project is due to complete in 2018. The main scope of the project is to extend the treatment capacity and improve discharge quality standards of the existing sewage treatment works to enable it to treat an increased volume of incoming flow.

The upgrade will provide Rye Meads STW with a treatment capacity of 447,134 PE (Population Equivalent). A number of local authorities within the Rye Meads catchment are proposing significant housing growth. Based on our current growth forecasts, our recent high level assessment indicates that we currently expect the site to have headroom until 2024. We are currently producing our business plan for the period 2020-2025 and any planning for additional capacity will follow our normal growth process, which means growth review and modelled view of risk to prioritise which sites will need a project and when.

Given the scale of development coming forward in the region we are keeping a regular review of our sewage treatment works capacity. We are also working closely with local councils on understanding their future growth projections and likely changes in Environment Agency discharge consents. As part of this engagement we are part of the Hertfordshire Water Cycle Study group which is assessing long term water and wastewater infrastructure and environmental capacity.

Our position statement is subject to change if growth forecasts change.