

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

BETWEEN

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (NHDC)

AND

ANGLIAN WATER SERVICES 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 Anglian Water Services Ltd.
- 1.2 The Statement sets out the confirmed points of agreement between NHDC and Anglian 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 Anglian 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 Anglian Water over the duration of the plan's production.
- 3.2 Anglian 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 Anglian 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 Anglian 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 Anglian Water representation to the Proposed Submission plan identified additional wording for inclusion within Policy NE10 as well as specific changes to site specific mitigation criteria. All were considered reasonable, except in relation to existing employment allocations, where no site specific criteria are identified. The accepted changes are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 Subject to minor changes to detailed policy wording, the strategy, sites and policies within the NHDC Local Plan provide a sound basis for the delivery of wastewater infrastructure in the area of the district served by Anglian Water up to 2031.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 It is agreed that there are no outstanding issues in relation to wastewater infrastructure in the area of North Hertfordshire served by Anglian Water Services Ltd (in addition to the changes set out in the schedule of minor modifications). It can therefore be agreed that the plan constitutes sustainable development in accordance with paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012.

Stewart Patience

Stewart Patience
Strategic and Spatial Planning Manager

Signed on behalf of
Anglian Water Services Ltd
31 March 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Levett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cllr David Levett
Executive Member for Planning and
Enterprise

Signed on behalf of
North Hertfordshire District Council
13 March 2017

Appendix 1: Proposed Modifications to the Plan

Para / page	Change	Reason
Policy SP15, p.63 [new criteria g]	Undertake a detailed odour assessment to demonstrate no adverse impact on future residents and occupants of non residential buildings.	In response to Anglian Water comments [0861]
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 [14150] comment
After para 4.194 [new paragraph]	An odour assessment is required to provide evidence to demonstrate that a suitable distance is provided from Letchworth Garden City Water Recycling Centre and sensitive development (buildings which are regularly occupied) as part of the detailed Master-planning of the site.	In response to Anglian Water comments [0861]
Allocation RY4, 7 th Bullet	'Undertake a detailed assessment of the impact of the Royston Water Recycling Centre in relation to odours, lighting, noise and traffic impacts to demonstrate no adverse impact on future residents. To provide evidence to demonstrate that a suitable distance is provided from Royston City Water Recycling Centre and sensitive development (buildings that are regularly occupied) as part of the detailed masterplanning of the site.'	In response to Anglian Water comments [0861]
Allocation RY8, 5 th Bullet	Delete Phasing of development to link to Sewage Treatment Works	In response to Anglian Water comments [0861]