

Anglian Water's responses to the Matters and Issues raised by the Inspector on the Fenland Core Strategy - Waste Water Issues

Matter 2 - Overarching Strategy & Targets

Q11. Policy CS3 contains a note that relates to development at Wimblington and Doddington.9a) In light of possible constraints in relation to capacity of the sewage network referred to, is the inclusion of these villages as 'Growth Villages' justified having regard to all reasonable alternatives? (b) By what means will the Council be satisfied that capacity is available to accommodate a development in Wimblington or Doddington?

Doddington WwTW is currently operating at full capacity. Any additional growth will require permit negotiations with the Environment Agency.

Anglian Water will assess the capacity of the sewerage network when we are approached by developers via our pre planning service and provide a solution. The developer may requisition the identified upgrades, if any, via the relevant sections of the Water Industry Act 1991. We would recommend to Fenland D.C. the inclusion of a drainage condition to ensure an approved strategy is agreed and implemented if the Council are minded to approve a planning application for development in Wimblington or Doddington.

Matter 9 – March (Policy CS9)

Q2. In order to accommodate the proposed growth, improvements are required to several Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) to ensure that the increased wastewater flow discharged does not impact on the current quality of the receiving water courses, their associated ecological sites and also to ensure the watercourses can still meet the legislative requirements. The stage 2a assessments have shown improvements beyond conventional applied technology are required in March WwTW (due to water quality).What implications , if any, is this likely to have on the deliverability and phasing of planned growth in March?

The statement made within the WCS Stage 2a report was based upon the data and information at the time. Continued monitoring together with further investigations have taken place and this position has now been revised. There is currently existing capacity within the flow permit to accommodate the proposed growth served by March WwTW.

Matter 11 – Whittlesey (Policy CS11)

Q1. In order to accommodate the proposed growth, improvements are required to several Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) to ensure that the increased wastewater flow discharged does not impact on the current quality of the receiving water courses, their associated ecological sites and also to ensure the watercourses can still meet the legislative requirements. The stage 2a assessments have shown improvements beyond conventional

applied technology are required in Whittlesey WwTW (due to physical constraints in the Middle Level drainage area).What implications , if any, is this likely to have on the deliverability and phasing of planned growth in Whittlesey ?

The statement made within the WCS Stage 2a report was based upon the premise that with an AMP5 flow permit no growth was accounted for and as such capacity would not be available. This however is not the case now that further investigations have taken place and additional monitoring of data is observed. There is currently existing capacity within the flow permit to accommodate the proposed growth served by Whittlesey WwTW.

Under section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991, Anglian Water have a statutory duty to provide, improve and extend the public sewerage system and to ensure that our public sewerage system continues to "effectually" drain the area for which we are responsible.

We are committed to complying fully with that duty. Unfortunately, there is at present some uncertainty with regard to a sewerage undertaker's rights to discharge the waste water and surface water which is collected through the public sewerage system. The Middle Level Commissioners dispute that we have any rights at all to discharge any waste water or surface water into the drainage system for which they are responsible. Naturally, we find their position unhelpful. However, we are hopeful that the legal position will be resolved by a case which is due to go the Supreme Court next May. The case in question involves United Utilities and the Manchester Ship Canal Co Ltd. However, both the Middle Level Commissioners and Anglian Water are applying to intervene in that case, so that our dispute can also be resolved through those proceedings.