

# Breckland Local Plan Examination

## **Matter 18:**

## **Infrastructure**

## **Breckland District Council**

## **Inspector's Questions on the Additional Work and related Proposed Modifications**

August 2018

## Waste water treatment

### **1.57 Is the Council's revised approach, as set out in the additional work, to waste water treatment and pre-application enquiries with Anglian Water Services, justified?**

1. As set out in the Examination note (EX.30), the Council have considered the evidence to support the policy clause regarding pre-application enquiries with Anglian Water and presented an alternative approach. The revised approach is still justified by evidence, as capacity constraints identified in the Councils Water Cycle Study (LP/E/5) require addressing through policy clauses for the relevant site allocations in the Local Plan.
2. Since submitting the Examination note – Anglian Water (EX.80) as part of the additional work, the Council have consulted Anglian Water Services on the proposed modifications set out in the note. Through discussion with Anglian Water, further revisions have been proposed to provide clarity that the capacity constraints also relate to the foul sewerage network and that sufficient capacity should be available in time to serve the development site. The final wording has been agreed by the Council and Anglian Water, and is presented in a revised Statement of Common Ground – Breckland District Council and Anglian Water dated August 2018. This should be taken as the most up to date proposed modifications to the plan in relation to water infrastructure and supersedes the previous agreement dated March 2018.
3. For those areas with capacity restrictions in both the Waste Water Treatment Works and the wastewater network, the requirement for developers to produce a Utilities Statement is considered an effective method to address this issue. This requirement ensures that applicants demonstrate that the development can link to the existing network and that the existing services and infrastructure have sufficient capacity to accommodate the supply/service demands which would arise from the completed development.
4. The revised approach would still prompt early engagement between the developer and Anglian Water Services as the statutory provider where there are identified issues, but it would further set out the proposed solution in a document which would aid the officer in assessing the application. The revised approach also sets out that for the sites where there are identified issues with the wastewater network, regard should also be had to the findings of the Water Cycle Study.
5. The revised approach is considered justified in the context of evidence from the Water Cycle Study and is effective as it will aid the determination

of planning applications. Utilities Statements inform both the statutory provider Anglian Water and the local planning authority of the applicants proposed solution with regard to improving capacity in the network. For the smaller sites, where there is only an issue with capacity in the wastewater network, it is not considered necessary to require a full Utilities Statement. However, the proposal should still be informed by the findings of the Water Cycle Study and an appropriate solution should be identified.

### **1.58 Are the proposed modifications in this regard appropriate?**

6. As stated above, the Council has reached an agreement with Anglian Water on the most appropriate wording which is documented in the Statement of Common Ground dated August 2018. The wording varies slightly from the modifications proposed in the additional work following consideration of concerns raised by Anglian Water.
7. The Council considers that the proposed modifications will help to achieve sustainable development by drawing attention to known capacity constraints in the Wastewater Treatment Works, and/or the wastewater network serving the development site, which will inform development proposals for the site.
8. Revisions to the wording has addressed any ambiguity on the nature of the issues identified in the Water Cycle Study, and places the onus on the developer to demonstrate appropriate solutions.