

App PoE, Water Resources, Appendix B – Consultation with Cambridge Water

Alison Caldwell CEng MICE, MEng (Hons)

APPEAL REF: APP/W0530/W/23/3315611

18th April 2023

Dear Alison,

Our draft WRMP24 has been produced in accordance with the relevant EA guidance and legislation, and demonstrates how we intend to manage water supply and demands whilst providing the required protection for the environment over the planning period. The new development growth expected that underpins the demand forecast assumptions, has been based on the 2019 adopted local plan plus an allowance for increased trend expected from higher growth expectations.

Cambridge Water can confirm that any development that was included in the 2019 adopted local plan, and the growth in demand associated with this development, was included in our published and approved WRMP19 planning assumptions for water provision to 2040. This has also therefore been included in our draft WRMP24. As the Cambridge North development was in the 2019 adopted local plan, this is therefore included in our WRMP24 demand planning.

For residential dwellings, we assume that houses are built to 125 litres/person/day standard. Non-household consumption is based on the type of non-household sector the development belongs to, and is calculated using an industry wide best practice approach.

Our draft WRMP24 has now been published for public consultation until 18 May after which we will consider all the representations made, including those of our regulators such as the Environment Agency. We will incorporate any changes required due to the consultation comments, and then submit a revised draft WRMP to Defra in August 2023 for final approval.

We support high levels of water efficiency within new development and planning conditions, and we are keen to work with developers and other stakeholders, including the planning authority, to ensure the delivery of water efficient development. We have had several meetings with the Cambridge North development team prior to the planning application being submitted, as we look to understand the scale and impact of the development, and will continue to engage with the team as they progress through the process. We are open to exploring any joint opportunities for further mitigation measures such as variable tariff trials etc.

Yours sincerely,



Natalie Akroyd

Head of Water Strategy and Environment
Cambridge Water

21st April 2023

Dear Alison,

Both Cambridge Water and Anglian Water have submitted their draft Water Resource Management Plans (WRMP24) focusing on our plans to supply the predicted water demand in our respective operating areas between 2025 and 2050.

Cambridge Water currently abstracts all of its water from chalk aquifers, and over the lifetime of the plan must make some significant reductions to this abstraction in order to restore and protect the unique chalk streams. Whilst the Cambridge Water WRMP has ambitious demand management proposals for leakage reduction, household and non-household consumption, new alternative supply options are also required. Cambridge Water have included more detail on the assumptions used in the development of their draft WRMP, particularly relating to your development, in an additional letter dated 18th April 2023.

The Cambridge Water and Anglian Water preferred plans select two options that involve joint solutions. The first of these is a 15 MI/d transfer from Grafham reservoir to Cambridge Water operating area, and this is scheduled in the plans for circa 2030. The second option is the joint development of the Fens Reservoir which will provide a supply to both companies, which is scheduled in the plans for circa 2036. These options feature in both company draft WRMPs as detailed here.

As previously stated, the WRMPs are at draft stage and will be reviewed and updated following feedback from the consultation process. As a result, elements within these plans are subject to change between the draft and final plans; however any substantial changes will require plans to go through a further period of consultation.

Yours sincerely,



Natalie Akroyd

Head of Water Strategy and Environment
Cambridge Water



Hannah Stanley-Jones

Head of Sustainable Growth
Anglian Water