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Sent by email to: Berks.Consult@hants.gov.uk

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Dear Sir/Madam

Central and Eastern Berkshire – Joint Minerals & Waste Plan Issues and Options Consultation – Comments on behalf of THAMES WATER

Thames Water Utilities Ltd (Thames Water) Property Services function is being delivered by Savills (UK) Limited as Thames Water's appointed supplier.

Thames Water are the statutory sewerage undertaker for West Berkshire and are hence a 'specific consultation body' in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012. We have the following comments on behalf of Thames Water:

Question 92 – Specific Policy Covering Wastewater/Sewage

Yes, Thames Water agree that the Waste Local Plan should cover specialist waste streams and in particular wastewater/sewage sludge.

A key sustainability objective for the preparation of Local Plans should be for new development to be co-ordinated with the infrastructure it demands and to take into account the capacity of existing infrastructure. New development should be co-ordinated with the infrastructure it demands and to take into account the capacity of existing infrastructure. Paragraph 156 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), March 2012, states: ***“Local planning authorities should set out strategic policies for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:.....the provision of infrastructure for water supply and wastewater....”***

Paragraph 162 of the NPPF relates to infrastructure and states: ***“Local planning authorities should work with other authorities to: assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for water supply and wastewater and its treatment.....take account of the need for strategic infrastructure including nationally significant infrastructure within their areas.”***

The web based National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) published in March 2014, includes a section on 'water supply, wastewater and water quality' and sets out that Local Plans should be the focus for ensuring that investment plans of water and sewerage/wastewater companies align with development needs. The introduction to this section also sets out that ***“Adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is needed to support sustainable development” (Paragraph: 001, Reference ID: 34-001-20140306).***



Thames Water therefore consider that the Minerals and Waste Plan should specifically refer to wastewater/sewage sludge treatment, as was done in the last adopted Waste Local Plan for Berkshire 1998 (Policy WLP18) and other Waste Local Plans. For example, the Adopted Surrey Waste Plan 2008 has Policy WD6 on Waste Water and Sewage Treatment Plants which states:

“Planning permissions will be granted for new waste water and sewage treatment plant, extensions to existing works, or facilities for the co-disposal of sewage with other wastes, where development is either needed to treat Surrey’s arisings or in the case of arisings from elsewhere the need cannot practicably and reasonably be met at another site. Wherever practical and economical, biogas should be recovered for use as an energy source.”

A similar policy is to be included in the new Surrey Waste Local Plan.

The adopted Wiltshire Council Waste Core Strategy, July 2009 also identifies the central importance of the provision of waste water and sewage waste infrastructure as part of the management of growth. Policy WCS3 states:

“WCS3: Preferred Locations of Waste Management Facilities by Type and the Provision of Flexibility

Over the period to 2026, the Councils will seek to allocate the following types of waste management facilities in the following locations within Wiltshire and Swindon in line with Policies WCS1 and WCS2 to provide for:

Waste Water Treatment Existing waste water treatment facilities or waste management facilities: New sites on brownfield or greenfield land where the proposal demonstrates that the development cannot feasibly be carried out within the capacity of existing waste water treatment sites and cannot feasibly be carried out at other waste management sites”

The Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan should include a similar policy specifically covering wastewater and sewage sludge.

I trust the above is satisfactory, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

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Associate Director Planning