Anglian Water – Position Statement November 2026

Our previous representations raised concerns regarding several proposed allocations within Water Recycling Centre (WRC) catchments where there were potential capacity constraints, including within the associated sewerage network.

We use Dry Weather Flow (DWF) data to inform our assessment of available capacity and headroom against committed and proposed growth. This information is updated annually and is subject to verification by the Environment Agency. Since our previous response, the 2025 DWF data has become available.

We recognise that significant year-on-year variations in weather can influence reported DWF. We have therefore revised our approach to use several years to calculate an average, together with committed and proposed growth in Local Plans. This helps to smooth the effects of unusually wet or dry years and provides a more representative longer-term assessment of available capacity. Updated information is also then shared with local planning authorities so that they are aware of the latest position informing our planning responses.

In relation to draft allocation HB1 at Husbands Bosworth, which is referred to in HDC's Written Statement, the latest available data indicates that Husbands Bosworth WRC is within the relevant acceptance parameters and can accommodate flows associated with the proposed growth. We have also provided a 'no objection' response to the associated planning application.

Having discussed the position with colleagues, including the team responsible for responding to planning applications, we are comfortable with the policy mechanism provided by draft Local Plan Policy DS05 criterion (c):
"All development proposals should demonstrate adequate mains foul water treatment and disposal already exists or can be provided in time to serve development ahead of occupation. Phasing and implementation should be agreed with the Environment Agency/Severn Trent/Anglian Water Services."

This provides an appropriate policy hook to ensure that developers liaise with the relevant water company and that necessary infrastructure is available in time to serve development ahead of occupation. This is particularly relevant to the sites previously identified in Market Harborough, Great Bowden and Lubenham (draft allocations MH1, MH2, MH3, GB1 and GB2), as well as Hallaton, Foxton and Great Easton.

As HDC has highlighted, water companies identify potential investment requirements through their Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs) and business planning processes, including the most recent AMP8 covering 2025 to 2030. Our investment within each five-year period must remain within the funding framework established through Ofwat's Final Determination. We also operate an adaptive investment planning approach to respond to changes in development and growth. Consequently, not all investment locations are fixed at the start of an AMP period. We annually review the position across our approximately 1,100 WRC catchments, taking account of forecast growth and the risk of compliance with Environment Agency permit requirements. Identified risks are then prioritised against available funding, with investment promoted where required.

On the basis of the updated evidence, together with the safeguards provided through Policy DS05, we are satisfied with the approach taken in the draft Local Plan and no longer consider it necessary for Anglian Water to attend the Hearing Session.