

The Panel notes that the Joint Water Cycle Scoping Study (EN-NLP5) recommends production of a Stage 2 Water Cycle Study. Is this available to the Panel, and if not what progress has been made on it?

The Council confirms that a separate Stage 2 Water Cycle Study, as originally envisaged by the Joint Water Cycle Scoping Study [[EN-NLP 5](#)], has not been completed and is therefore not available to the Panel.

Since publication of the Joint Water Cycle Scoping Study, the Council has continued to develop the infrastructure evidence base through the preparation and updating of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, published in February 2025 [[INF-NLP 1](#)] and updated in March 2026 [[INF-NLP 2](#)]. Engagement with infrastructure providers has formed part of that process, enabling water supply, wastewater collection and treatment, and water quality to be considered in the context of the emerging site allocations and the latest Water Resource Management Plan position for both water companies.

The Council considers that those Stage 1 recommendations requiring consideration through the plan-making process have been addressed through the submitted plan and infrastructure evidence, while more detailed site-specific matters are appropriately addressed through masterplanning and planning application processes. To assist the Panel, the tracker table below sets out how each Stage 1 recommendation has been addressed, where the relevant evidence is contained, and whether any further work or minor modifications are proposed during the examination.

Stage 1 Recommendation	Existing Council evidence/progress	Examination response/action
Water resources		
Provide yearly profiles of projected housing growth to water companies to inform the WRMP update.	Data shared on an ongoing basis.	The Council will continue to provide the latest projected housing information to both water companies through monitoring and IDP updates.
The council should consider a domestic water efficiency target of 100l/p/d for all new homes, and work with water suppliers to incentivize even lower consumption. This should	For residential development, Policy DM09 requires minimum water efficiency equivalent to 110l/p/d.	The WCS used the wording “should consider” rather than requiring a fixed 100l/p/d standard. Policy DM09 requires a water efficiency statement and a measurable residential standard of

be achieved using a fittings-based approach target.		110l/p/d, which reflects the recommendation of the Climate Change and Renewable Energy Study Review [EN-NLP 3], with scope for measures to reduce consumption further through re-use, offsetting and efficient fittings.
Use planning policy to require new build non-residential development to achieve at least 3 credits in the Wat01 Measure for water in the BREEAM New Construction standard.	Policy DM09 directly requires non-residential development to achieve at least 3 credits in the Wat01 Measure for water in the BREEAM New Construction Standard.	Recommendation has been fully addressed.
The concept of water neutrality or water positive development has the potential to provide a benefit in improving resilience to climate change and enabling all waterbodies to be brought up to "Good" status. Explore further with the water companies and the Environment Agency how the Council's planning and climate change policies can encourage this approach. This approach could have application in strategic sites and new settlements.	Policy DM09 requires water efficiency statements and water efficiency measures. Policy DS03 supports climate change mitigation and enhancement of the natural environment. Appendix 6 requires larger sites to address climate change, green/blue infrastructure, utilities, phasing and implementation.	Recommendation addressed in principle through Policies DM09 and DS03, and Appendix 6 for strategic sites, but water neutrality or water positive development has not been taken forward as a formal policy requirement. Should the Inspectors consider further clarity necessary, the Council would be prepared to consider, through the examination process, minor modifications encouraging larger and strategic sites to explore water neutrality, water reuse, rainwater harvesting, demand management and offsetting where feasible.

Larger residential developments (including new settlements), and commercial developments should consider incorporating greywater recycling and/or rainwater harvesting into development at the masterplanning stage to reduce water demand.	Policy DM09 requires all development to be supported by a water efficiency statement setting out measures to reduce water consumption, reuse water or offset use. Paragraph 8.30 confirms the water efficiency statement “can include measures like grey water systems”. Appendix 6 requires masterplans for larger developments to be prepared with relevant stakeholders and to address climate change adaptation and mitigation, multifunctional green and blue infrastructure, flood risk, utility infrastructure, phasing and implementation. Together, these provide a policy mechanism for considering greywater recycling and rainwater harvesting at both masterplanning and planning application stages.	Recommendation is addressed through the combined effect of Policy DM09 and Appendix 6. Should the Inspectors consider further clarity necessary, the Council would be prepared to consider, through the examination process, minor modifications to Appendix 6 or supporting text to make explicit that, where proportionate, masterplans for larger residential, new settlement and commercial developments should consider greywater recycling, rainwater harvesting and other water reuse measures at the earliest design stage.
Water companies should advise the Councils of any strategic water resource infrastructure developments within the study, where these may require safeguarding of land to prevent other types of development occurring.	Water companies engaged as part of the plan making and infrastructure planning process. The IDP identifies no specific strategic water resource infrastructure safeguarding requirement.	Recommendation addressed through the IDP and associated water company engagement.

Review this section of the WCS following publication of Severn Trent and Anglian Waters final Water Resource Management Plan 2024.	Water resources considered through the IDP process, including engagement with Anglian Water and Severn Trent Water and consideration of the latest WRMP position.	Review of water resources addressed through the IDP and associated water company engagement, which considered water resources in the context of the latest Water Resource Management Plan position and the emerging site allocations.
Water supply		
The Councils and Developers should engage early with water companies to ensure supply infrastructure is in place prior to occupation.	Addressed through ongoing engagement recorded in the IDP and the Duty to Cooperate (Effective Cooperation) Statement of Compliance [S-NLP 9] . The IDP confirms engagement with Anglian Water and Severn Trent Water and records that water supply infrastructure has been considered in relation to growth proposed through the Local Plan.	Recommendation has been addressed through early and ongoing engagement with water companies. Policy DS05 ensures that any site-specific infrastructure requirements will be managed through provider engagement and as part of masterplanning and planning application processes.
Wastewater collection		
Early engagement between the involved councils, Severn Trent Water, and Anglian Water is required to ensure that where strategic infrastructure is required, it can be planned in by Severn Trent Water and Anglian Water and will not lead to any increase in discharges from sewer overflows.	Addressed through the IDP and the Duty to Cooperate (Effective Cooperation) Statement of Compliance [S-NLP 9] . The IDP records that Severn Trent Water assessed the potential impacts of emerging Local Plan growth options on sewerage infrastructure and that Anglian Water identified planned investment schemes, including investment to	Strategic wastewater matters have been considered through IDP engagement and ongoing cooperation with water companies, including around £26 million investment in wastewater treatment, and are underpinned by the general requirement at Policy DS05 that foul water capacity be confirmed and phasing agreed with the relevant

	reduce storm overflows. Policy DS05 additionally requires that adequate mains foul water treatment and disposal be demonstrated ahead of occupation, with phasing agreed with the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, and Anglian Water.	water company ahead of occupation. Further detailed modelling and infrastructure delivery will be secured through continued engagement and the development management process where necessary.
Consider wastewater infrastructure constraints in phasing development in partnership with the sewerage undertaker.	The IDP records engagement with Anglian Water and Severn Trent Water on sewage infrastructure. It notes Anglian Water's planned investment and Severn Trent's conclusion that wastewater treatment growth can be accommodated alongside planned improvement schemes, while recognizing that sewerage network capacity improvements may be required for the majority of strategic sites and that the detail is not yet established. Appendix 6 requires strategic masterplans to address infrastructure, phasing and implementation.	The updated IDP has considered wastewater infrastructure and will inform delivery and phasing through masterplanning, infrastructure provider engagement, planning conditions/obligations and occupation triggers where necessary. The Council will continue to engage with Severn Trent Water and Anglian Water through the examination. Should the Inspectors consider further clarity necessary, the Council would be prepared to consider, through the examination process, minor modifications to Appendix 6 and/or relevant site allocation wording to clarify how the phasing of development will have regard to confirmed wastewater network and treatment capacity.

Developers will be expected to work with the sewerage undertaker closely and early in the planning promotion process to develop an Outline Drainage Strategy for sites. The Outline Drainage strategy should demonstrate the wastewater assets required, their locations including points of connection to the public foul sewerage, whether the site drainage will be adopted by the water company and if any sewer requisitions will be required.	Policy DM07 requires site-specific flood risk assessment for major development and for sites affected by non-fluvial flood sources, critical drainage problems, future flood risk or sewer flooding. Policy DM08 requires major development to incorporate SuDS, follow the drainage hierarchy, secure a 20% reduction in run-off rates compared with pre-development conditions, manage exceedance events and agree long-term SuDS maintenance before commencement. Policy DS05 requires foul water capacity to be demonstrated ahead of occupation, with phasing agreed with the relevant water company. Detailed requirements will be assessed as site-specific proposals are brought forward.	Recommendation is addressed in substance through the Local Plan's flood risk, drainage, SuDS, masterplanning and infrastructure delivery framework, supported by ongoing engagement with the sewerage undertakers. The Council will continue to engage with Severn Trent Water, Anglian Water, the Lead Local Flood Authority and, where relevant, the Environment Agency through the examination process. Should the Inspectors consider further clarity necessary, the Council would be prepared to consider, through the examination process, minor modifications to Appendix 6, relevant site allocation wording, or supporting text to Policies DM07 and DM08 to clarify how major and strategic site proposals should address integrated foul and surface water drainage matters, including wastewater connection points, wastewater assets, adoption and requisition requirements, SuDS design, long-term maintenance, exceedance routes, access/egress implications and phasing.
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Wastewater treatment		
Provide Annual Monitoring Reports to STW & AW detailing projected housing growth.	Data shared on an ongoing basis and Authority Monitoring Reports published annually.	The Council will continue to provide the latest projected housing information to both water companies through monitoring and IDP updates.
Early engagement with STW and AW (ideally within a stage 2 WCS) is required to ensure that provision of WwTW capacity is aligned with delivery of development.	Addressed in substance through the IDP and S-NLP 9. The IDP records Anglian Water's proposed investment at 11 sites during 2025–2030 and states that Severn Trent Water has concluded that the level of growth proposed can be accommodated alongside planned improvement schemes. Policy DS05 requires that adequate foul water treatment and disposal capacity be demonstrated ahead of occupation, with phasing agreed with the relevant water company.	Recommendation addressed through ongoing engagement with Anglian Water and Severn Trent Water, underpinned by Policy DS05. No fundamental wastewater treatment constraint has been identified to the delivery of the Local Plan, subject to phasing of delivery, and remaining site-specific matters will be managed as part of masterplanning and planning application processes.
Water quality		
Provide annual monitoring reports to STW and AW detailing projected housing growth in the Local Authority	Data shared on an ongoing basis and Authority Monitoring Reports published annually.	The Council will continue to provide the latest projected housing information to both water companies through monitoring and IDP updates.
When preferred options for growth are identified, undertake water quality impact modelling as part of a Stage 2 WCS.	The Stage 1 WCS contains sensitivity analysis. The Environment Agency's Regulation 19 representation was broadly supportive and did	The Council acknowledges that the specific water quality impact modelling recommended in the Stage 1 WCS has not

	not raise any fundamental objection. Policy DM07, DM08 and DM10 provide mechanisms to manage flood risk, drainage, water quality and environmental protection through development management. Policy DM11 additionally requires that development does not adversely affect watercourse quality and, wherever possible, contributes to an enhanced water environment.	been undertaken through a separate Stage 2 WCS. However, the Council considers that the submitted Plan remains sound having regard to the Stage 1 WCS sensitivity analysis, the absence of any fundamental objection from the Environment Agency, the infrastructure engagement undertaken through the IDP, and the policy framework provided by Policies DM07, DM08, DM10 and DM11. The Council will continue to engage with the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Anglian Water through the examination process. Should the Inspectors consider further clarification necessary, the Council would be prepared to consider, through the examination process, whether targeted supplementary evidence, a technical note, or minor modifications to relevant supporting text are required to clarify how water quality impacts will be assessed, managed and mitigated through infrastructure planning and development management processes.
Environmental impact		

Consider the environmental impact of development on protected sites downstream of receiving wastewater treatment works in the Habitats Regulations Assessment.	Habitats Regulations Assessment [S-NLP 4]	Recommendation addressed through the Habitats Regulations Assessment.
The Local Plan should include policies that require all development proposals with the potential to impact on areas with environmental designations to be considered in line with the relevant legislation and where stated, in consultation with Natural England (for national and international designations and priority habitats).	Policy DM10 explicitly requires all development proposals with the potential to affect areas with environmental designations in accordance with relevant legislation. Procedures for consulting Natural England are established in the Statement of Community Involvement [S-NLP 5]	Recommendation is fully addressed through Policy DM10 and the Council's broader statutory consultation duties.
In partnership, identify opportunities for incorporating SuDS into open spaces and green infrastructure, to deliver strategic flood risk management and meet WFD water quality targets.	Policy DM08 specifically requires SuDS to be designed as multifunctional green and blue infrastructure where possible, with benefits for biodiversity, amenity, cooling and water quality. Policy DM05 separately requires development to manage surface water run-of as part of green/blue infrastructure provision. Policy DS03 and Appendix 6 strengthen this by requiring green/blue infrastructure connectivity, climate adaptation and	Recommendation addressed in principle through Policies DM08 and DM05, and Appendix 6 for some strategic sites. The Council recognizes that the Plan provides a policy framework for delivering SuDS and multifunctional green/blue infrastructure through individual proposals rather than identifying strategic opportunities at plan level. Should the Inspectors consider further clarity necessary, the Council would be prepared to consider minor

	site-specific masterplanning.	modifications to supporting text to make explicit reference to WFD water quality objectives and to ongoing partnership working with the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority on strategic SuDS/green infrastructure opportunities.
Opportunities for Natural Flood Management that include schemes aimed at reducing / managing runoff should be considered to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution within the South Leicestershire Partner Authorities area.	Policies DM07, DM08 and DS03, together with the masterplanning requirements in Appendix 6 provide a policy basis for identifying and delivering Natural Flood Management and run-off reduction measures through site design, masterplanning and development management.	Recommendation is addressed in substance. Should the Inspectors consider further clarification necessary, the Council would be prepared to consider, through the examination process, a minor modification to the supporting text of Policy DM08, Policy DS03 or Appendix 6 to refer expressly to Natural Flood Management and the role of nature-based drainage in reducing run-off, sediment transport and diffuse pollution where appropriate.

Neither the Environment Agency nor the water companies raised a fundamental objection to the soundness of the Plan. While Anglian Water sought confirmation on whether a Stage 2 WCS would be produced, they recognized that certain evidential gaps can only be fully resolved in a future plan review.

The Council recognises that a small number of site-specific matters remain to be evidenced at masterplanning or planning application stage, particularly the wastewater treatment capacity and phasing for the Great Easton and Hallaton catchments, which Anglian Water has identified as red-rated pending AMP9 investment (2030-2035), and the position in relation to Magna Park private package treatment works. One outstanding point of clarification relates to whether updated Anglian Water advice for

Husbands Bosworth WRC, provided in response to outline planning application 26/00470/OUT, supersedes the Regulation 19 red-rated catchment position for Local Plan purposes. The Council is seeking urgent clarification on this matter and will update the Panel as necessary. The Council considers these matters are capable of being managed through Policy DS05, which requires foul water capacity to be demonstrated, and phasing agreed with the relevant water company ahead of occupation.

The Council will continue to work with the Environment Agency and relevant infrastructure providers through the examination and, where necessary, through development management and infrastructure monitoring to ensure that growth is aligned with required investment.

The Council remains open to the Inspectors' views on whether targeted additional evidence or clarification would assist their consideration of water and wastewater matters. Without prejudice to its position that the submitted Local Plan is sound, the Council would be prepared to consider minor modifications, where these would provide greater clarity on how water and wastewater matters have been, and will continue to be, addressed.