

Anglian Water Services Position Statement on Growth in the Greater Norwich Development Partnership

October 2010

This statement sets out the view of Anglian Water Services on issues of sewerage and sewage treatment capacity and their impact on proposals for growth in the Greater Norwich area set out in the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) Joint Core Strategy (JCS). This guidance is based on current policies and information and may be subject to change in the future.

Water Resources and Supply

A separate position statement is being prepared jointly by the Environment Agency, Natural England and Anglian Water Services.

Wastewater Treatment

The Stage 2b Water Cycle Study (WCS) Report demonstrates that in most cases the flows from planned development can be accommodated within existing consents and that necessary improvements are thus deliverable.

The WCS identified a few sites at or close to the limit of their consented discharge where accommodating development while protecting water quality and conservation sites would present challenges. These sites are Long Stratton, Reepham, Acle and Aylsham.

At these sites, further work has been undertaken since completion of the Water Cycle Study, in liaison with the Environment Agency to resolve these issues. This work is continuing but it is now considered that there are realistic options available that can be taken forward to enable the proposed allocations to be accommodated within the planning period. The sites are discussed in more detail below.

Long Stratton

The treatment works can accommodate much of the planned development but will require an increased discharge consent to accommodate the full allocation proposed. A detailed assessment of future consent requirements is underway but initial conclusions are impact on the conservation site downstream can be mitigated through improvements elsewhere in the catchment and that impact on the river quality can be mitigated through improvements at the treatment works.

Reepham

No feasible solution has been identified which would permit an increase in discharge from the treatment works and planned development can only be accommodated through a programme of demand management to reduce existing flows. The allocation is relatively small in comparison with the size of the catchment and this approach is considered feasible. This will be best achieved by phasing this allocation at the latter stages of the planning period.

Acle

The treatment works will require an increased discharge consent to accommodate planned development. It is considered that impact on both the downstream conservation site and river quality can be mitigated through improvements at the treatment works.

Aylsham

No single solution has been identified to provide for the proposed allocation however a number of potential solutions to mitigate impact on river and downstream conservation sites are under investigation. These include:

- demand management
- discharge to ground instead of to river
- diversion of part of catchment to another treatment works
- mitigation of impact of increased discharge through reduction in discharge elsewhere in the catchment.

Work is in progress to evaluate the potential of these solutions but it is considered that the combined impact will be adequate to accommodate the (modest) allocation.

Sewerage Network

The burden on all our affected sewerage networks will be increased and extensive improvement works will be required to facilitate the accommodation of the allocations. The catchment which will be impacted most by the proposed allocations is the Whitlingham WwTW catchment where a majority of the allocation is proposed. The impact of this together with the geographical size of the area means that significant infrastructure upgrades will be required as there is limited or no available spare capacity within this network system. Existing commitments take up most of the available capacity and any new allocations will have to be accommodated by new infrastructure.

The areas most affected within the Whitlingham WwTW catchment are NPA2, NPA3a, NPA3b and NPA8. The existing infrastructure serving these areas is at full capacity and new infrastructure will be required. Because of the distances between areas NPA2 and NPA8 and the WwTW, the infrastructure requirements will be significant. NPA3a and NPA3b are well located for treatment but the scale of development will require substantial infrastructure. The scale of investment will require co-operation between developers to ensure optimum solutions are implemented. Investigations are currently underway to determine the extent of the infrastructure upgrades that would be required, focussing particularly on areas NPA2, NPA3a, NPA3b and NPA8 but these cannot be completed until specific sites are allocated.