



<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	12 September 2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning	
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Stephen Kelly, Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development	

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## **Response to Anglian Water Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan Consultation**

### **Executive Summary**

1. This report seeks to agree the Council's response to Anglian Water's Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan (DWMP) consultation which is currently taking place. The DWMP is a 25 year strategic plan that sets out how wastewater systems are to be maintained, extended and improved to make sure they're robust and resilient to future pressures. The proposed response highlights a range of issues, including the importance of investment in drainage infrastructure to address water quality issues, given the poor quality of many of the area's water bodies.

### **Key Decision**

2. No.

The decision was first published in the August 2022 Forward Plan.

### **Recommendations**

3. It is recommended that Cabinet:
  - a. Agrees the response to the Anglian Water Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan 2022 consultation included in Appendix A of this report.
  - b. Agrees to grant delegated authority to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the South Cambridgeshire District Council Lead Cabinet member for Planning and the Cambridge City Council Executive Councillor for Planning and Infrastructure (in consultation with chair and spokes), to make any minor editing changes and corrections identified to the response included at Appendix A prior to submission.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

4. The proposed response addresses issues of importance to the Council in terms of effective and timely delivery of infrastructure and protection of the environment.

## **Details**

### **Anglian Water Drainage and Waste Water Management Plan (DWMP)**

5. The DWMP is a 25 year strategic plan covering the period 2025 to 2050, that sets out how wastewater systems, and the drainage networks that impact them, are to be maintained, extended and improved to make sure they're robust and resilient to future pressures. The plan covers the whole eastern part of England, which is the area covered by Anglian Water (AW).
6. Public consultation runs between 30 June and 16 September. Following consultation, the final DWMP will be published in spring 2023, and will inform AW's long term delivery strategy in 2024. This is the first DWMP, and it will become a statutory document under the Environment Act.
7. The plan captures a process of optioneering, identifying risks and problems (such as climate change), to identify a range of solutions based around different catchments. The plan has also been subject to an environment assessment. It sets out that options were considered against a range of criteria, including optimisation and best value planning, and captures the benefits of the choices available.
8. The plan also forecasts growth, to assist planning to meet the needs of future customers. Whilst it focuses on committed growth it also acknowledges that planning for other development is taking place, and, 'While many of these schemes are at an early stage and, therefore, not included in adopted Local Plans, it's important to consider their impact on the long-term strategy, should they come forward' (Section 8.1).
9. The plan then shows for the targeted catchments what measures are proposed in the medium and long term to respond to current issues or anticipated growth. This includes plans at Over (the Uttons Drove site) to deliver a range of solutions to accommodate growth and to address concerns of stakeholders regarding flooding. It also reflects their plans for a new treatment works at Cambridge.

### **Response to the consultation**

10. Anglian Water are seeking responses to twelve consultation questions. It is proposed that the response is joint with Cambridge City Council, which will separately be considering the response.
11. A draft response to the questions can be found in Appendix A of this report.
12. The proposed consultation response highlights:
  - The importance of investment in drainage infrastructure to address water quality issues, given the poor quality of many of the area's water bodies.
  - Taking a robust approach to climate change so that risks are properly mitigated.

- The need for ongoing engagement with the Councils to ensure planned and future developments are served by effective infrastructure.
- Support for the use of green solutions such as SuDS and wetlands, and the separation of surface water from the sewerage system, but also for seeking opportunities to recycle water to help address water supply issues.
- In relation to proposed solution such as at Uttons Drove, effective engagement is needed with local communities and stakeholders.

## **Options**

47. The options available to members are:

- Agree to submit the response in Appendix A,
- Agree an alternative response.
- Submit no response, although that is not recommended given the importance of issues raised.

## **Implications**

48. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

### **Financial**

49. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

### **Legal**

50. There are no legal implications arising from the report.

### **Staffing**

51. There are no staffing implications arising from the report.

### **Risks/Opportunities**

52. Whilst there are no risks and opportunities directly associated with the report, the availability of infrastructure is a key issue for accommodating development needs sustainably in Greater Cambridge.

### **Equality and Diversity**

53. There are no equality issues associated with this report.

## **Climate Change**

54. A clear theme of the DWMP is how it responds to climate change. Whilst not addressed by this consultation Anglian Water have published commitments to be a new zero carbon business by 2030. The current consultation primarily focuses on climate change adaptation, including responding to changes in flood risk. It includes questions about the level of risk that should be planned for, and responses are proposed to these points.

## **Health & Wellbeing**

55. A healthy environment contributes to wellbeing. The proposed consultation response highlights the importance of improving water quality and protecting the environment.

## **Consultation responses**

56. None.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

### **Growing local businesses and economies**

57. The availability of infrastructure is an important element in meeting development needs, including the needs generated by employment development. The proposed response highlights the need for effective engagement with the Council so that development needs can be properly planned for.

### **Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in**

58. The availability of infrastructure is an important element in meeting development needs, including the delivery of homes. The proposed response highlights the need for effective engagement with the Council so that development needs can be properly planned for.

### **Being green to our core**

59. The DWMP addresses issues of climate change adaptation and achievement of water quality compliance. The proposed response seeks to emphasise how important these issues are to the Council.

## **Background Papers**

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

The Draft DWMP can be viewed on Anglian Water's website: [Drainage and wastewater management plan \(anglianwater.co.uk\)](https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/wastewater-management-plan)

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Draft Response to the Anglian Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan Consultation 2022

### **Report Author:**

Nancy Kimberley – Principal Policy Planner  
Telephone: 07563 421057  
[nancy.kimberley@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:nancy.kimberley@greatercambridgeplanning.org)