

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

6 April 2011

AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager – Planning and New Communities

CAMBOURNE - DRAINAGE

Purpose and Background

1. This matter is being reported to the Planning Committee at the request of the Planning Portfolio Holder, following assurances given to Full Council on 22 April 2010 that it would be kept under regular review by Members.
2. Repair works have been progressing and Anglian Water (AW) have reported that they are satisfied that works have progressed sufficiently that they have been able to agree in principle to adopt the drainage system on a catchment by catchment basis. They have also highlighted however that critical to their analysis will be testing the system's reaction to rainfall over the coming months. AW have said the commissioning of a rain gauge at the Cambourne Terminal Pumping Station means they are better able to monitor the reaction of Cambourne's foul sewerage system to different levels of rainfall. AW have been asked to comment in relation to an event in February bearing in mind tankering was required and it is hoped comments in such regard will form part of their presentation to the Committee. Although it does not affect the importance of AW and the developers demonstrating a proper resolution of the infiltration issue AW have been able to advise that the new rising main from Cambourne is operational. Apparently the bore of this main is larger and it is reported by AW that this increases the pumping capacity by making the operation of existing pumps more efficient. AW have raised this point in the context that it will reduce the risk of the terminal pumping station reaching high levels and requiring the tankering action plan to be deployed. Nevertheless there is a recognition by AW that they are not in a position at this stage to recommend that the Planning application for an extra 950 dwellings at Cambourne move from a "resolution to grant" to the issue of the Permission itself at this stage and that they will need to come back to the Committee with full details when they are in the position to make the relevant recommendation. Unless there are any major/significant incidents before the final recommendation report from AW, it is not intended (subject to anything the Committee may wish to say) that representative(s) from AW will be asked to attend further meetings of the Planning Committee in the interim but they will be asked to submit to the Council on an ongoing basis copies of analysis reports and a note of anything materially adverse in terms of flows.
3. A representative from Bovis Homes will attend on 6 April to give a summary of the action taken and costs spent over recent months to investigate and deal with infiltration repairs etc but it is thought that as with the case of AW it will be acknowledged on behalf of the housebuilders that there remains the need for further testing of the system's reaction to rainfall over the coming months.

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