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18 January 2021

## **DIRECTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 35(1) OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED) RELATING TO THE CAMBRIDGE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT RELOCATION PROJECT**

By email to the Secretary of State received on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 Anglian Water Services Limited ("the **applicant**") formally requested that the Secretary of State exercise the power vested in the Secretary of State under section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) ("the **Planning Act**") to direct that the proposed Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project as set out in the applicant's email ("the **proposed project**") be treated as development of national significance for which development consent is required.

By email to the applicant sent on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 the Secretary of State formally sought additional information on the request under section 35A(3) of the Planning Act. By email to the Secretary of State received on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 the applicant responded with that additional information.

The Secretary of State has made a decision and wishes to convey that decision.

Having considered the applicant's request and the details of the proposed project, the Secretary of State is satisfied that:

- the part of the proposed project that is requested to be treated as development for which development consent is required either is or forms part of a project in the field of waste water;
- the proposed project is within England; and
- the applicant's request therefore constitutes a "qualifying request" in accordance with section 35ZA(1).

In coming to this conclusion, the Secretary of State notes that the proposed project relates to the construction of a new waste water treatment plant and thus sits within one of qualifying infrastructure fields listed in section 35(2)(a)(i) – waste water - of the Planning Act.

The Secretary of State notes that the applicant describes the proposed project as encompassing the following:

- a waste water treatment plant and sludge treatment centre, described as 'integrated';

- connecting tunnels to convey the waste water and the materials it contains from the existing Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant inlet works to the proposed project, including complex construction of new deep and large scale tunnels to be constructed under the A14 and other intervening infrastructure and the interception of existing sewerage systems to divert flows to the new works;
- connecting tunnels or pipes intercepting waste water from Waterbeach New Town to convey it to the proposed project;
- tunnels or pipes taking treated effluent from the proposed project to a discharge point on the River Cam;
- the production of bio-gas through anaerobic digestion for conversion into renewable energies for use on site and/or storage and export,

as set out under the “The Project” in the email. This includes the delivery of any “associated development” (within the meaning of section 115(1)(b) of the Planning Act) and ancillary matters. The proposed project does not include the construction of any dwellings as part of the proposed development.

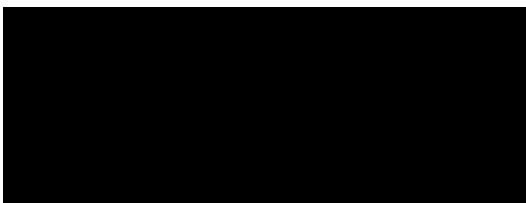
The Secretary of State is of the view that the proposed Development by itself is nationally significant, for the reasons set out in the Annex below.

**THE SECRETARY OF STATE HEREBY DIRECTS** that the proposed development, namely, the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project, is to be treated as development for which development consent is required. Any development consent order application for the proposed development may also include any matters that may properly be included in a development consent order (within the meaning of section 120 of the Planning Act) including ancillary matters (section 120(3)) and associated development (within the meaning of section 115(2) of the Planning Act).

**THE SECRETARY OF STATE FURTHER DIRECTS** in accordance with section 35ZA(3)(b) and (5)(b) of the Planning Act that any proposed application for a consent or authorisation mentioned in section 33(1) or (2) of the Planning Act in relation to the NSIP development is to be treated as a proposed application for which development consent is required.

This direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State’s consideration of any application for a development consent order which is made in relation to all or part of the proposed project.

Signed by



The Rt Hon George Eustice MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

18 January 2021

## ANNEX

### REASONS FOR THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE DIRECTION

The Secretary of State is of the opinion that the proposed development, known as the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Project, is of national significance having in particular taken into account that the project will:

- be for a complex and substantial relocation scheme, involving extensive infrastructure works and requiring multiple consents involving various statutory undertakers;
- provide a key contribution to the development of Cambridge, particularly to the North East of the city, and to the investment in waste water infrastructure;
- enable the relocation of the existing Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant, the development of that brownfield site, and the development of provision of waste water services to a proposed development at Waterbeach New Town;
- benefit from the application being determined in a timely and consistent manner by the Secretary of State and through removing the uncertainty of applying for numerous separate approvals across multiple local authority areas.

Furthermore, the Secretary of State notes that the proposed project:

- is likely to support growth in the economy through its contribution to the development of North East Cambridge;
- will have an impact across several local authority areas;
- has been granted Housing Infrastructure Funding to ensure its delivery by 31 March 2028;
- will be important to meet government housing objectives; and
- will be of a substantial physical size.