

Cambridge City Council

Written summary of oral submissions made at Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH 4) and responses to the Action Points raised.

Application by Anglian Water Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation project (CWWTPR) (ref: WW010003)

Deadline 6

2 April 2024



This document sets out Cambridge City Council’s (CCC) written summary of oral submissions made at Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4) on the 13th and 14th March 2024 and responses to the Action Points raised at these hearings.

This table refers to the agenda published on 5th March 2024 [EV-008a] and the Action Points (AP) published 18th March 2024 [EV-008b].

AGENDA REF	ACTION POINT REF	TOPIC AND QUESTIONS	CCC RESPONSE
	37	<p>Water Resources</p> <p>Provide a policy position on how water efficiency relating to housing might be controlled in future scenarios.</p>	<p>Cambridge City Council is giving a high priority to ensuring that meeting the development needs of Greater Cambridge is done in a way that protects the environment. The emerging joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan includes proposals for ambitious water efficiency measures in new development, with residential development being designed to achieve a standard of 80 litres/person/day unless demonstrated impracticable and non-residential development will be required to achieve full credits for category Wat 01 of BREEAM unless demonstrated impracticable (GCLP First Proposals: Policy CC/WE).</p> <p>There are acknowledged current challenges in available water supply until the new water supply sources planned to be delivered via a bulk water transfer planned for 2032 and a new reservoir around 2036, as set out in the Water Resources East Regional Water Plan and the emerging</p>

			<p>Cambridge Water Company Water Resources Management Plan.</p> <p>As such, the current informative we are issuing in tandem with our water efficiency condition for residential development states... ' In response to the water scarcity issues that the Cambridge Water revised draft Water Resources Management Plan, September 2023, is seeking to respond to, the Council seeks to encourage all applicants to achieve a design standard of water use of no more than 100 litres/person/day.'</p> <p>The significance of the water supply issue has been recognised by Government and following the Ministerial Statement in July 2023 it set up a Water Scarcity Group that includes all relevant parties including the councils, DEFRA, the EA and the water companies.</p> <p>The Written Ministerial Statement: Next Stage in Our Long Term Plan for Housing Update by Michael Gove made on 19 December 2023 [Appendix 1] included a section on Cambridge which set out the intention to review building regulations to allow local authorities to set tighter water efficiency standards and, where water scarcity is inhibiting the grant of planning permission for homes, to agree tighter water efficiency standards than set out in current guidance.</p> <p>The Government has committed around £9 million to address the water issues and support the work of the Water Scarcity Group.</p>
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			<p>The Government published a number of papers accompanying the UK Budget on 6 March 2024 which set out the progress made to address the issues. The paper titled 'Addressing water scarcity in Greater Cambridge: update on government measures' [Appendix 2] provides an update on measures announced at Autumn Statement 2023 to increase water supply in the region over the longer-term in the Greater Cambridge area, and on plans to address water scarcity issues in the short-term. In the short term, measures include developing guidance for water-positive development, establishing a water credits system to offset the impact of development, and funding for retrofitting existing buildings.</p> <p>The paper 'Joint statement on addressing water scarcity in Greater Cambridge' [Appendix 3] set out the shared position of DLUHC, Defra, the Environment Agency and Greater Cambridge councils (Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District) on the Government's measures to address concerns raised about water scarcity issues in the Greater Cambridge area,</p> <p>The paper 'The Case for Cambridge' [Appendix 4] highlights that long-term growth will be supported by new infrastructure including a new reservoir in the Fens and a new pipeline to transfer water from nearby Grafham Water, and that the government are making interventions to support growth in the shorter term.</p> <p>Paragraphs 6.44 to 6.71 of the Cambridge City Council's LIR set out the position as at November 2023. Paragraph 6.68 of the LIR anticipated at the time it was written that there should be a conclusion to the WRMP around the end</p>
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			<p>of 2023 and that if there was a further delay, a resolution was likely to be achieved by the end of the DCO examination process. The current position is that Cambridge Water has published a further update of its Water Resource Management Plan in February 2024 in response to issues raised by the EA, with a view to it being approved by DEFRA. It may still be the case that it is approved before the close of the DCO examination, but even if not, there has been considerable progress since the LIR was submitted, as set out above.</p> <p>Cambridge City Council together with the District Council has a robust policy position to address the issue of water efficiency going forward albeit one that is still to be finalised. The City Council also remains confident that the water supply situation would not delay taking forward the Proposed Submission NECAAP following the conclusion of the DCO process, as set out in paragraph 6.71 of the LIR. In addition, the timing of housing delivery at NEC as planned in the in the housing trajectory in the emerging AAP to 2041 and beyond, is able broadly to fit with the increase in water supply and the removal of the odour constraint, as set out in paragraph 6.84 of the LIR.</p>
	40	<p>Carbon Confirm whether you consider the Proposed Development would secure full credits for category Wat 01 of BREEAM in accordance with the requirements of Cambridge Local Plan Policy 28.</p>	<p>Cambridge City Council are confident that the proposed development will be able to secure 5 Wat01 credits, which will relate to domestic type water use associated with the development (e.g. WC flushing, kitchen taps etc).</p>

Appendices

- Appendix 1.** [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-12-19/hcws161)
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-12-19/hcws161>
- Appendix 2.** [Addressing water scarcity in Greater Cambridge: update on government measures - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures#:~:text=In%20December%202023%2C%20through%20a,the%20Environment%20Agency%20and%20delivery)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures#:~:text=In%20December%202023%2C%20through%20a,the%20Environment%20Agency%20and%20delivery>
- Appendix 3.** [Joint statement on addressing water scarcity in Greater Cambridge - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-statement-on-addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge/joint-statement-on-addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-statement-on-addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge/joint-statement-on-addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge>
- Appendix 4.** [The Case for Cambridge \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1d8edff11704896615973/The_Case_for_Cambridge_March_2024.pdf)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1d8edff11704896615973/The_Case_for_Cambridge_March_2024.pdf