



Water Infrastructure Planning
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Via email only to:
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This matter is being dealt with by

Holly Durrant

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My reference: EXT/00006/22
Your Ref: DCO/CWWTPR24
PINS reference: WW010003
Date: 30 January 2025

If you require this letter in large
format, please email
ContactUs@eastcambs.gov.uk.

To whom it may concern,

**PLANNING ACT 2008 AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION
PROCEDURE) RULES 2010**

**APPLICATION BY ANGLIAN WATER (“THE APPLICANT”) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE PROPOSED CAMBRIDGE WASTE WATER
TREATMENT PLANT RELOCATION PROJECT (“THE APPLICATION”).**

INVITATION FOR FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS FROM ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

I write on behalf of East Cambridgeshire District Council as an adjoining authority in response to the Secretary of State’s request for further information on the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation, as set out in the letter dated 20th January 2025. This relates specifically to the recently adopted amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024, especially regarding house building and green belt.

The revised NPPF places a much greater emphasis on delivering homes and the infrastructure needed to support these homes. Paragraph 101 is clear that *“Significant weight should be placed on the importance of new, expanded or upgraded public service infrastructure when considering proposals for development.”* Equally, there is renewed recognition that *“Effective strategic planning across local planning authority boundaries will play a vital and increasing role in how sustainable growth is delivered, by addressing key spatial issues including meeting housing*

needs, delivering strategic infrastructure and building economic and climate resilience”
(Paragraph 24).

There is also recognition that the Green Belt will have a greater role in facilitating some of this growth, with a ‘sequential approach’ to the release of Green Belt land encompassed within the NPPF in various forms. Paragraph 155 also sets out types of development that would not be considered inappropriate within the Green Belt in an attempt to broaden the scope of development that may come forwards within, particularly steered towards ‘grey belt’ land. Combined, there are significant changes to green belt policy, and how this constraint should be viewed within both plan-making and decision-taking.

The Application seeks to deliver a wastewater treatment facility in the Green Belt that the Applicant predicts should accommodate projected growth within the Greater Cambridge region well into the 2080s. The long-term public benefits of the relocated facility in terms of delivery of housing and wider socio-economic infrastructure within the area are therefore recognised, particularly noting the Government’s commitments to the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor and national focus for Cambridge’s growth in general¹.

It is considered that the revised NPPF, insofar as it relates to house building (and supporting infrastructure) and green belt, are therefore relevant and important matters to be taken into account by the Secretary of State as decision maker under sections 104 and 105 of the Planning Act 2008.

Yours sincerely,

Holly Durrant MRTPI

Major Projects Planning Officer
Planning Department
East Cambridgeshire District Council

cc: David Morren, Strategic Planning & Development Management Manager (ECDC)

¹ [Chancellor vows to go further and faster to kickstart economic growth - GOV.UK](#)