

## Anglian Water Consultation Response

### Greater Cambridge Draft Planning Obligations SPD Consultation

#### 1. Anglian Water

- 1.1. Anglian Water is the water and water recycling provider for over 6 million customers in the east of England. Our operational area spans between the Humber and Thames estuaries and includes around a fifth of the English coastline. The region is the driest in the UK and the lowest lying, with a quarter of our area below sea level. This makes it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including heightened risks of both drought and flooding, including inundation by the sea.
- 1.2. Anglian Water has amended its Articles of Association to legally enshrine public interest within the constitutional make up of our business – this is our pledge to deliver wider benefits to society, above and beyond the provision of clean, fresh drinking water and effective treatment of used water. Our Purpose is to bring environmental and social prosperity to the region we serve through our commitment to Love Every Drop.

#### 2. Anglian Water and Plan-Making

- 2.1. Anglian Water is the statutory sewerage undertaker for Greater Cambridge (Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire Council) and a statutory consultee under The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Anglian Water wants to proactively engage with the plan-making process to ensure it delivers the necessary infrastructure benefits for the area, and in doing so protect the environment and water resources. As a purpose-led company, we are committed to seeking positive environmental and social outcomes for our region.

#### 3. Commentary on the Draft SPD

- 3.1. Anglian Water will be delivering our biggest ever program of work in AMP8 (2025-2030) as set out in our PR24 Business Plan, which will include capital programmes of infrastructure works for both water supply and sewerage infrastructure to address the challenges of population growth, resilience to drought and flood risk, becoming a net zero business, and improving the ecological quality of our catchments. Many of these investments will require planning permission from local planning authorities to deliver on time to help facilitate housing and economic growth, and meet our delivery targets set by Ofwat.

#### Chapter 10: Transport and Highways:

- 3.2. Anglian Water acknowledges that development specific transport works are normally required to be implemented as part of the development scheme, and both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans seek sustainable modes of travel and minimise the distance people need to travel.
- 3.3. It is noted that there are no exemptions for specific development types and no development threshold below which a transport obligation may not be required. In terms of delivering essential water and sewerage infrastructure, most of our travel movements will be associated

with the construction phase of the development. Whilst we note that this can have short term implications to transport and highways, we would seek to ensure that transport and highway obligations are reasonably and proportionately applied in the context of our investment projects, without leading to lengthy delays due to the complexity of negotiations and legal processes on the delivery of our essential infrastructure to serve existing and future communities across Greater Cambridge.

- 3.4. It is unclear from the Cambridgeshire County Council Transport Assessment Requirements, when such assessments would be required in terms of our own investment plans for infrastructure, albeit traffic and transport analysis may be undertaken where required, through EIAs and any propose mitigation measures to address any negative impacts.

## Chapter 12: Public Art

- 3.5. It is important to clarify that the requirement for public art generally applies to residential and employment developments that meet the definition of 'major development.' Public art contributions are often linked to place-making objectives, particularly in new settlements, urban extensions, and regeneration areas. Therefore, the focus is typically on developments that involve significant changes to the built environment and are expected to have a notable impact on the character of the area.
- 3.6. **Essential Infrastructure:** We would seek to understand whether major infrastructure projects, such as those related to essential utility provision, should be subject to public art requirements. Statutory utility companies are only mentioned within the South Cambridgeshire District Design Guide in the context of technical consultations related to the installation of public artwork. These types of essential infrastructure projects are generally not considered to fall within the scope of public art obligations. Given this, we would appreciate clarity on whether essential infrastructure, specifically water supply and sewerage systems, would be exempt from public art requirements and therefore, these obligations would apply only to major residential and commercial developments.
- 3.7. **Exemption Decisions:** It is acknowledged that decisions on the exemption of public art requirements for specific developments will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. We would welcome additional clarification to confirm public art obligations would be limited to major residential and commercial developments.

## 4. Conclusion

- 4.1. Anglian Water welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Planning Obligations SPD and hope our comments will help inform the final version of the document.