Policy CC/WE: Water Efficiency in New Developments

The University of Cambridge is supportive of the principle of the policy, given that Cambridgeshire is a highly water stressed area. However, to ensure that it is effective in line with **National Policy PM15**, it is requested that the wording of the policy is modified in the following way (our changes in red):

1a. For residential development of 100 or more dwellings, water usage of no more than 80 litres/person/day, unless demonstrated not practicable. To achieve this level, some form of water reuse or recycling will be necessary. Proposals that seek to deliver levels of water usage below this level are encouraged; and

1e. Proposals for data centres *should avoid water-based cooling, unless demonstrated not practical, use closed-loop cooling systems and use additional water resources such as rainwater and grey water.*

The 80 litres/person/day standard is based on the *Shared Standards in Water Efficiency for Local Plans Guidance (April 2025)*, which identifies a range of variables that may influence the ability of development to achieve this target. In recognition of these circumstances, the policy should include flexibility to allow alternative approaches where robust evidence demonstrates that the standard is not practicable to achieve. Subject to appropriate justification, this will ensure the policy remains both effective and deliverable while supporting the efficient use of water resources.

Accordingly, modifications to the policy are necessary to ensure that it is justified, effective and capable of being found sound through examination.