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09/08/2024

Laura Underhill  
Anglian Water

Sent by email to: [info@lincsreservoir.co.uk](mailto:info@lincsreservoir.co.uk)

cc: [kstaples@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:kstaples@anglianwater.co.uk)

Dear Ms. Staples

## **Lincolnshire Reservoir and Associated Water Infrastructure Proposals - Phase Two Consultation**

I am writing on behalf of Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) in relation to the above non-statutory consultation on the Lincolnshire Reservoir and associated water infrastructure proposals project.

Thank you for confirming in the email dated 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 to Mrs. Burton that HDC's comments would be acceptable in letter and table form.

The Council's response is attached as appendix 1 to this letter. The Council recognises that the project is still in development and a further consultation will be undertaken in the summer months of 2025. For that reason, and through a continued collaborative approach, further detailed responses will be shared as the scheme progresses and the Development Consent Order process is taken forward.

While this consultation primarily focusses on the technical aspects of the proposal the Council would welcome continued close collaboration with Anglian Water to ensure opportunities to enhance wider infrastructure to support residents, businesses, and the visitor economy of Huntingdonshire, supporting the ambitions of Huntingdonshire District Council, as set out in our Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy ([Huntingdonshire Futures | Let's Talk Huntingdonshire \(letstalkhuntingdonshire.net\)](http://HuntingdonshireFutures.com)). We wish to maximise every opportunity to ensure our ambitions are met, delivered and will establish an enduring legacy ensuring Huntingdonshire remains one of the best places in the country to live, work and invest. It is recognised that this scheme offers opportunities to enhance the health and wellbeing of our residents through active travel, we would wish to see environmental net gain maximised to create a visitor destination within the wider unique fens landscape and we also wish to work with you to ensure that as the scheme develops

employment and skills development opportunities are made available to local residents working alongside local businesses.

If you have any further queries on any of the comments raised within this response please email [implementation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:implementation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Kerr'.

**Clara Kerr**

**Chief Planning Officer**

## Appendix 1

- 1.1 Huntingdonshire District Council Cabinet met on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and approved the preparation and submission of formal comments on the current Phase 2 non statutory consultation on the Lincolnshire Reservoir and associated water infrastructure proposals project.
- 1.2 Comments are only provided in the main on the associated infrastructure elements that fall within Huntingdonshire District Council rather than on the overall scheme.
- 1.3 It is considered that the Lincolnshire Reservoir and associated water infrastructure proposals project is seen as a key opportunity to support the water needs of our communities and meet the growth agenda set out in our Local Plan 2036.
- 1.4 The Council has liaised with its specialist officers and the responses are set out in the table below.

Specialism	Proposal aspect referred to	Comments
Planning Policy	General Comment	<b>Whole scheme options, options A to D all include the same downstream transfer route and reservoir location options, therefore all comments relate to all options.</b>
		<b>General comments all, related to chapter 4 (starting page 74) and paragraphs 6.2.12 (page 111), 6.2.13 (page 112), 6.3.6 (page 113), 6.4.11 (page 115), 6.5.5 (page 116)</b>
		Downstream transfer pipelines and service reservoir locations run through Huntingdonshire Local Plan's Green Infrastructure Priority Area of the Great Ouse Valley, and some County Wildlife sites. In addition, the pipeline will pass through Wansford and Stibbington conservation area. These sites can be found on our interactive policies map: <a href="https://3csharedservices.org">HDC Local Planning Policies (3csharedservices.org)</a> and can be provided as shape files on request. The relevant Local Plan policies are LP 3 Green Infrastructure, LP 11 Design Context. Local Plan policy LP 3 notes that "A proposal within the Ouse Valley Landscape Character Area, defined in the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment Supplementary Planning Document will be supported where it contributes to the landscape, wildlife, cultural and historical value of the area." The policy also includes improvements to accessibility, naturalness and connectivity of green spaces,, assisting in achieving Natural England's ANGsT standard, maintaining and enhancing rights of way network amongst its criteria. As a strategic policy for the district, it is requested that any pipeline and service reservoir development aim to meet the aims of this policy and contribute to these objectives in a positive manner. Policy LP 11 looks towards the <a href="#">Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPD 2022</a> and our <a href="#">conservation areas</a> asking that regard is had to these and their valued characteristics. Likewise, it is requested that any

Specialism	Proposal aspect referred to	Comments
		pipeline and service reservoir development aim to meet the aims of this policy and contribute to these objectives in a positive manner.
		Flood zone 3 and 3 b are located in areas associated with the River Nene and also run immediately west of the sites identified as potential service reservoir locations near Chesterton. Consideration of water quality treatment to mitigate against invasive species would require serious consideration. Regard should be had to acceptable water levels to ensure habitat status is not adversely impacted. Scheme should look to reduce flooding. Schemes should work towards achieving betterment in relation to risk of flooding from all sources.
		Downstream pipeline transfer is proposed through Wansford and near to Stibbington and Chesterton. Changes in transport movement and the short-term increase in construction traffic and large vehicles have the ability to significantly impact these rural settlements. A transport assessment and impact on traffic and transport movements, including pedestrian accessibility would be welcomed to ensure minimal impact to residents. In addition, these settlements benefit from access to the A1 and A47 allowing economic and social opportunity further afield, the impact of restricted access to these networks has the ability to impact these settlements and those further afield, something which should be considered, assessed and mitigated where possible.
Environmental Protection	General Comment	A reservoir and associated water supply pipeline infrastructure is proposed in the north of our district of Huntingdonshire in the fields to the west of the A1 between Chesterton and Peterborough Services. There are two different proposed locations of the reservoir, and we have no preference for either although recognise that the southern option is further away from Mound Lodge but is still close to Hill Farm.
	General Comment	The impact of construction and operational noise on nearby residents would need to be considered.
	General Comment	A Construction Environmental Management Plan would need to be agreed prior to the start of any work.
	General Comment	Land contamination would need to be assessed throughout the whole scheme in order to protect construction workers, end users and uncontaminated land and water.
	General Comment	The noise, land contamination and air quality assessments proposed by the specialist consultants during the Local Authority Associated Infrastructure Forum – round 1 meeting were acceptable and will be required.
Heritage (excl archaeology)	Introduction	The proposals are at an early stage for above ground heritage, the proposed 500m route has been identified and a methodology established for the assessment of

Specialism	Proposal aspect referred to	Comments
		heritage assets, ( Built Heritage Methodology doc no SROP-MML-XXX-XX-RPT-TA 000193) the methodology however has yet to be applied and it is not possible to identify which heritage assets are likely to be affected by the works and what the impact is likely to be. The Council therefore is unable to provide a full and detailed response at this time.
	Para 3.2.3	States that the building heritage methodology has been designed to consider impacts arising from the reservoir and associated built infrastructure only. The Council would encourage the scope of the assessment to be extended to extend the methodology to address transfer works which may be limited in time but which may have impacts on the built heritage.
	Table 3.1 p15	Heritage Value Criteria. There is some confusion regarding the High and Medium heritage values, particularly as both categories refer to grade II listed buildings and conservation areas. Listed buildings by definition are of national importance it therefore seems unreasonable to group their significance with non designated sites of regional importance. It is unclear what criteria are used to determine what is substantial significance and good significance
	General	The Options Appraisal Report identifies a small area of impact in Northern Huntingdonshire relating to the transfer of treated water to the supply at Chesterton. It is noted that a number of options and routes have been considered and a preferred option identified however at this stage there is insufficient detail to comment on the impact of above ground heritage assets within this district.
Landscape	General	This was a high-level overview of the emerging design of the proposed Lincolnshire Reservoir. This includes the proposed main reservoir site and associated water infrastructure, of which a small section of pipeline corridor enters Huntingdonshire district southwest of Peterborough, east of Wansford and west of Chesterton, terminating at the junction of A605 and A1(M).
	General	The associated water infrastructure is currently shown as a 500m wide corridor. This is due to be narrowed down to a 50m wide corridor as the project further develops.
	General	Care must be taken as the project evolves, to ensure that the emerging landscapes are not fragmented withing the wider landscape and to not feel alien within the receiving landscape character. Connectivity is key to deliver lasting benefits to biodiversity.