

**Norfolk Wildlife Trust - Further Statements on Inspectors' Matters, January 2022**

Matter 5, Issue 1, Q6 : Strategic Infrastructure

*Q6 – Will there be adequate wastewater capacity to accommodate the proposed level of growth? Could this consideration either delay or restrict the delivery of allocated sites?*

We note in the Water Cycle Study, that treatment upgrades required to deliver no adverse change in water quality or connected water dependent ecologically protected sites as a result of growth will be significant for several of the WRCs. The study predicts that these will require substantial investment from AWS, which may affect the phasing of development, as in such locations it will be a requirement in these locations for development that there is sufficient capacity at the WRCs before that development can proceed. As the treatment capacity is necessary, in part, to ensure that wastewater can be treated to avoid adverse effects on downstream wetland protected wildlife sites, we consider phasing of development in line with treatment capacity to be an acceptable and proportionate approach.

A similar precautionary approach is noted in the WCS' advice on capacity for additional surface water connections, with a need for SuDS to ensure no increase in sewer flood risk across the study area. The WCS notes that the potential for this to be achieved has been considered for all major allocations within the GNLP.

For both the wastewater treatment and surface water capacities, we note that the WCS refers to the allocations in the draft plan. We seek clarification from the GNLP team that the policy wording in the Plan is robust enough to ensure that any windfall or speculative development proposals that occur will be subject to the same safeguards. If not, then we request additional minor modifications to the appropriate policy text to make such obligations clear.

M Jones

Norfolk Wildlife Trust

17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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