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Our ref: EAN/2020/178104

Date: 7 August 2020

Dear Monica,

**QUESTIONS RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATION FOR NORTHSTOWE
PHASE 3A – 20/02171**

Thank you for your email of 16 July 2020 to Rob Bakewell about our response to the above planning application, and asking questions about the source from which Anglian Water Services Ltd intend to supply the proposed development.

We respond to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

I trust that our response to your complaint (our ref: AMC/2020/10817) has answered the question about our consultation response, and we would again like to thank you for bringing this to our attention.

For your related questions about water, it is easiest to add the team's response below each question as follows:

Anglian Water - potable water source and licence:

Anglian Water Services will need to supply the new development from within their existing licensed quantities, this catchment is closed to any new water being licensed for any consumptive purpose.

The Environment Agency determines that current levels of abstraction are causing environmental damage. Any increase in use within existing licenced volumes will increase the pressure on a system that is already failing environmental targets. We recommend any proposed development considers water resources as a key issue and the council recognises the damage of long term increases in abstraction due to growth. We recommend this development takes into account the combined effect of growth in the area and the overall increase in demand for water.

The Anglian River Basin Management Plan

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anglian-river-basin-district-river-basinmanagement-plan>) considered the status of all rivers and aquifers in the Region. This showed many waterbodies did not have the flow required to support the ecology and groundwater units not meeting good status. Given the pressure the Chalk aquifer faces, we cannot rule out future further reductions in the supplies available to water companies to prevent deterioration of the water related ecology. The council (planning authority) should seek the water company's assurance that it can meet the needs of growth without causing deterioration.

The water companies have recently produced water resources management plans (WRMP), which set out how the companies will maintain customer supplies over the period 2020-2045. The assessments will show which companies have sufficient supplies to meet growth but also any strategic schemes that are needed to achieve this, along with reducing demands and leakage. We recommend that councils consider the long term viability of supplying new developments and how the phasing of growth links to the timings of the planned new strategic schemes.

BREEAM Wat01 credits:

We endorse the use of water efficiency measures especially in new developments. Use of technology that ensures efficient use of natural resources could support the environmental benefits of future proposals and could help attract investment to the area. Therefore, water efficient technology, fixtures and fittings should be considered as part of new developments.

Please refer to the Open Government Licence available here:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/> which explains the permitted use of this information.

I hope this has helpfully answered your questions. Please get in touch if you have any further queries or contact us within two months if you would like us to review the information we have sent.

Kind regards,

Stephanie Fullwood
Customers & Engagement Officer, Customers & Engagement Team, East Anglia Area

enquiries_eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk

External: 0203 0255472