

CORE STRATEGY FOR CHILTERN DISTRICT - EXAMINATION

INSPECTOR'S FOLLOW-UP QUESTION ON SEWAGE TREATMENT

During the discussion on Infrastructure on Friday 15th April, I indicated that I wished the Council to explore one further question with Thames Water. This concerns the effect of new development within the catchment area of the Chesham Sewage Treatment Plant on the potential for the discharge of untreated effluent into the River Chess during storm events. Such discharges are a particular concern of the River Chess Association, and others, and have been highlighted in their representations.

The Council will need to advise Thames Water of the broad scale of development likely to arise within the catchment of the Chesham Sewage Treatment Plant if 2,900 dwellings overall were to be delivered in the District by 2026.

Question for Thames Water

Is the scale of new development within the catchment of the Chesham Sewage Treatment Plant likely to increase the number of occasions, the duration of the events or volume, when untreated effluent is discharged into the River Chess?

If the answer is "no" please briefly explain the reasons for that conclusion.

If the answer is yes:

Is any mitigation of that impact technically feasible or otherwise practical?

Would such mitigation involve increased storm storage capacity close to the treatment works or on the site of particular new developments?

What does the Core Strategy need to say about any such mitigation?

It would be helpful if an initial response (with any comments from the Council) could be provided by **4 May** so that I can take it into account in finalising my note for the Council. If longer is required for a considered reply, please let me know the timescale.

Thank you

Simon Emerson
INSPECTOR
18 April 2011