



# Thames Water – Greater Harlow Position Statement

## Introduction

This is a draft statement from Thames Water on our position regarding development proposed in and around Harlow by all the appropriate Local Planning Departments (Harlow, Uttlesford, Epping Forest & East Hertfordshire) for the current asset management plan period.

It is our position as of June 2017 and subject to revision.

## Sewer Network

We are unable to accurately assess current sewer capacity in the area. The hydraulic model is undergoing significant enhancement to allow it to be accurately used to assess the impact of growth. Until this work is complete our view on capacity of the current system is limited and fragmented.

Once the sewer model has been updated, we can then more accurately predict current sewer capacity. We will use the model to assess the impact that the development will have and identify appropriate intervention solutions.

We anticipated that the survey work would be complete in April 2017 but as it relies on rainfall and the first quarter of 2017 was exceptionally dry we have been required to extend the survey period. We therefore propose to start assessing the impact of the new development in September 2017.

## Sewage Treatment Works

Rye Meads Sewage Treatment Works is currently being upgraded; the project is due to complete in 2018. The main scope of the project is to extend the treatment capacity and improve discharge quality standards of the existing sewage treatment works to enable it to treat an increased volume of incoming flow.

The upgrade will provide Rye Meads STW with a treatment capacity of 447,134 PE (Population Equivalent). A number of local authorities within the Rye Meads catchment are proposing significant housing growth. Based on our current growth forecasts, our recent high level assessment indicates that from a final effluent stream point of view we currently expect the site to have capacity up to 2036. However, we might need to deliver upgrades in sludge and storm streams during AMP7, but the site is



expected to have sufficient capacity in all streams by 2026 and maybe beyond. We are currently producing our business plan for the period 2020-2025 and any planning for additional capacity will follow our normal growth process, which means growth review and modelled view of risk to prioritise which sites will need a project and when.

Given the scale of development coming forward in the region we are keeping a regular review of our sewage treatment works capacity. We are also working closely with local councils on understanding their future growth projections and likely changes in Environment Agency discharge consents. As part of this engagement we are part of the Hertfordshire Water Cycle Study group which is assessing long term water and wastewater infrastructure and environmental capacity.

Our position statement is subject to change if growth forecasts change.

## Revision of Statement

We propose to revise this statement as new information is made available. We do not expect any variation in the planned housing from the Planning Authorities. We expect to revise our outputs in September 2017 based on the current capacity of the sewer system being confirmed by the sewer model.

## Assistance that we can provide if the LA were to commission a Water Cycle Study

If any of the Local Planning Authorities propose to procure a Water Cycle Study we will contribute to that as best we can. We anticipate being able to supply data on the current sewer capacity in September 2017 and being able to provide commentary on required sewerage infrastructure reinforcement required to accommodate new development in Summer 2017.