

## Questions Submitted to Severn Trent Water

These questions were submitted in advance of the meeting and a response has been received.

### Overall Severn Trent Water - Position Statement

**As a water company we have an obligation to provide water supplies and sewage treatment capacity for future development. It is important for us to work collaboratively with Local Planning Authorities to provide relevant assessments of the impacts of future developments.**

**Where we consider there may be an issue we would discuss in further detail with the Local Planning Authority. We will complete any necessary improvements to provide additional capacity once we have sufficient confidence that a development will go ahead. We do this to avoid making investments on speculative developments to minimise customer bills.**

**A brief response to the questions / themes is provided below and we will discuss these in greater detail at the Scrutiny Commission meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June.**

### **Theme 1: Future Housing and Growth**

The Scrutiny Commission would like to understand Severn Trent Water's approach to future housing and economic growth in Leicestershire. This includes issues such as whether there is sufficient capacity, both in terms of water supply and water treatment, how differences between urban and rural areas are managed and what investments might be required to ensure a sustainable water supply for the future. In particular, the Commission would welcome a response to the following questions:-

1. How Severn Trent Water is planning for future housing and economic growth, including:-
  - a. How Severn Trent Water supports large scale developments within the County; and
  - b. How Severn Trent Water is engaging with the development of the Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire up to 2050 (see <http://www.lstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk/>)
  - c. What is Severn Trent Water's investment strategy and how does it prioritise areas for investment and/or capital works?
2. How can the County Council work with Severn Trent Water better to plan for growth and are there areas where the relationship could be improved?

1. We have engaged with Leicestershire County Council regarding their Local Development Plans and have had detailed discussions with developers through the Local Plan process which supports the Water Cycle Studies and will make sure that we can plan for any capacity upgrade that is required.

This approach ensures that we are able to accommodate new development in a timely manner, but also ensures investment is spent as efficiently as possible. In light of this we are confident that we can accommodate the planned growth across Leicestershire.

All of our strategic growth plans are covered in our business plan, and when consulted we provide comments on long term proposals to make sure the right infrastructure can be put in place so that delivery of the development can be phased accordingly.

As a regulated body we have specific requirements to keep records of properties that have been affected by sewer flooding and we use this information, together with outputs from our hydraulic sewer models to prioritise investment.

2. Severn Trent Water have regular discussions with the Local Planning Authorities. We will continue to encourage very early consultation at planning stage which will give us the opportunity to comment on the development proposals and highlight where potential planning conditions may be required to facilitate asset capacity improvements. The key is early understanding of scale, location and timing of development to allow sufficient planning of our and developers activities.

## **Theme 2: Flooding**

The Commission understands that Severn Trent Water's role in flooding is to reduce the flood risk associated with rainfall overloading of the public sewerage network.

The Commission would like to know:-

1. How can the County Council and other stakeholders support and engage with Severn Trent Water in this role?
2. How does the relationship between Severn Trent Water, the County Council and other stakeholders work in terms of responding to flooding issues. Are there any ways in which this relationship could be improved?

1. **Whilst Severn Trent is responsible for reducing flood risk associated with rainfall overloading of the public sewerage network we are not responsible for all flooding across the county. However we do**

recognise that in instances where there are multiple interactions at play (e.g. sewer flooding together with highway drainage/water course flooding) then we see the benefit of working with other flood risk stakeholders and the LLFA to work in partnership.

2. With this in mind we work closely with our partners to prioritise investment opportunities to mitigate the risk of flooding in general. It is vital that new development in the county is managed sustainably and so to mitigate the future impact of development, whether on sewerage or watercourse capacity, it is essential that we work closely with the LLFA ensure surface water run-off is managed sustainably.

As part of our sewer flooding programme we will continue to invest to upgrade the public sewerage networks to alleviate current flood risk and help accommodate future growth.

**Additional Information:**

Through our regulatory framework agreed with Ofwat we have funding allocated to accommodate planned growth to ensure that any capacity shortfalls can be addressed in line with development occupancy.

We would not anticipate capacity problems within the urban areas of our network, any issues can be addressed through reinforcing our network. Significant development in the rural areas is likely to have a greater impact and require greater reinforcement to accommodate greater demands. However, in line with our general duty to accommodate new development, Severn Trent will ensure capacity is available as and when required.

A full description and the process we follow to manage issues arising from environmental impacts such as falling river levels and how to tackle long term water supply can be found our Water Resource Management Plan on the Severn Trent Website.

This page is intentionally left blank