



SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF AN ECO-TOWN

MEETING WITH MATTHEW FOSTER AND ANDREW MARSH OF SEVERN TRENT WATER ON 17 OCTOBER 2008

The Panel met with Matthew Foster (Commercial Development Manager) and Andrew Marsh (Public Affairs Manager) of Severn Trent Water in order to ascertain the likely effects the proposed development would have on water supplies and sewerage treatment.

The Panel NOTED the following points that arose from that meeting:

- Severn Trent had had a high level discussion with the Co-op's consultants about water resources and treatment. Severn Trent was preparing a Water Resources Management Plan for the region but this was based on the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy proposals and took no account of a possible eco-town;
- The impact that the proposed development would have on water supplies in the area was likely to be minimal. There would likely be no requirement for new water treatment facilities, but there would need to be an extension to the capacity within the current infrastructure to deliver the necessary supply;
- There would be a priority placed on ensuring the current level of water supplied to other areas was not compromised by the proposed development;
- The Eco-Town's proposals for harvesting rainwater would keep other water costs to a minimum. This system would not be maintained by Severn Trent, but if there were any issues in respect of this supply, Severn Trent would be responsible for ensuring that a suitable fallback system was in place. Management arrangements including the possibility of a 'Pennbury Water Company' would require detailed discussion;
- The Co-op would possibly be able to abstract their own water if they obtained a license and wished to be responsible for their supplies. It was added that there was currently a drive from the Environment Agency to limit the number of abstraction licenses issued;
- There was no sewerage provision at the proposed development site and there was little spare capacity in the surrounding areas;

- It was likely that the preferred option for additional sewerage capacity would be to build a new treatment plant specifically for Pennbury (there was already a small works at Little Stretton) or to build a major new works to the south of Leicester, which would serve the Eco-Town and replace existing facilities for Oadby, Wigston, Countesthorpe, Wistow, Great Glen and Little Stretton. Capital costs had not yet been assessed but would likely fall to the Co-op;
- Sewerage provision for the site would not be problematic assuming that the timescales were suitably managed, with provision for the first units on the development site being a priority;
- The lead time for building a new treatment plant would be roughly three to four years and this was viewed as an immediate issue that required imminent discussion with the Co-op.