

Chichester District Council

Planning Committee

19 December 2018

Position Statement on Managing New Housing Development in the Apuldram (Chichester) Wastewater Treatment Works Catchment

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

2.1. That the Committee notes the attached Position Statement on managing new housing development in the Apuldram Wastewater Treatment Works Catchment.

3. Background

3.1. The Apuldram Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW) discharges to the head of Chichester Harbour, an area which is internationally designated for wildlife. The Environment Agency has set strict limits on the Environmental Permit to protect the harbour. Any additional increase in wastewater above current permit limits would cause environmental deterioration within the Harbour.

3.2. The catchment is also affected by a high level of groundwater infiltration into the sewer network which at times leads to the treatment works operating its storm overflow continuously for significant periods of time. The frequency and duration of these events can have a detrimental impact on the water quality of the harbour.

3.3. A Water Quality Group was set up in 2010 in order for partners to work together to better understand wastewater treatment constraints and identify solutions. Members of the Water Quality Group have worked together to produce a position statement (attached as an Appendix).

4. Outcomes to be achieved

4.1. The Position Statement supports the Council's priority to manage our built and natural environments to promote and maintain a positive sense of place by assisting in the protection of water quality of Chichester Harbour.

5. Proposal

5.1. The attached is a joint Environment Agency and Southern Water Services Position Statement. There has been wider involvement in preparation of the Position Statement through the Chichester Water Quality Group which includes officers from the Environment Agency, Southern Water, Natural England, Chichester

Harbour Conservancy, West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council.

5.2. The position statement supplements policies in the adopted Local Plan, the Surface Water and Foul Drainage Supplementary Planning Document and the Chichester District Council Water Quality Assessment 2018.

5.3. The Position Statement requires that major developments (10 or more dwellings) within the settlement boundaries of Chichester, Stockbridge and Fishbourne demonstrate no net increase in flows to the Apuldram Wastewater Treatment Works. Smaller developments are intentionally excluded to avoid the installation of multiple septic tanks within the catchment. New development outside of these settlement boundaries will not drain to the Apuldram WwTW. Proposed strategic development within the Local Plan Review will need to demonstrate no net increase in flow or be directed to alternative catchments or provide an onsite solution.

5.4. The information in the statement is intended to assist planning officers and developers in relation to managing smaller scale developments within the catchment and to protect the water quality of Chichester Harbour. It is hoped that limiting the increase in flows to the sewer network will reduce the number and duration of storm overflow releases into the harbour. Applicants can refer to the Surface Water and Foul Drainage Supplementary Planning Document for more information on how to achieve no net increase in flows.

5.5. It is intended that the Position Statement be reviewed on an annual basis.

6. Alternatives that have been considered

6.1. One alternative is to continue without a Position Statement, using existing policies, such as Policy 12 of the current Local Plan alongside the Supplementary Planning Document. Another is for the Position Statement to require that all development (including those below the threshold) demonstrates no net increase in flow.

7. Resource and legal implications

7.1. No additional resource requirements have been identified. An annual review will form part of the work programme of the existing Water Quality Group.

8. Consultation

8.1. The Position Statement has been discussed by the Water Quality Group which includes officers from the Environment Agency, Southern Water, Natural England, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council. Officers in the Development Management Service have also been consulted.

9. Community impact and corporate risks

9.1. The Position Statement should support planning officers determining planning applications within the catchment of the Apuldram Wastewater Treatment Works to protect water quality in Chichester Harbour.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder:		N
Climate Change and Biodiversity: The Position Statement is intended to prevent any net increase in nutrients entering the Harbour from Apuldram WwTW and as such will play its part in preventing any further increase in nutrient levels. The impact of the position statement is small but positive and is intended to maintain water quality.	Y	
Human Rights and Equality Impact:		N
Safeguarding and Early Help:		N
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR):		N

11. Appendix

11.1. Position Statement on Managing New Development in the Apuldram Wastewater Treatment Works Catchment

12. Background Papers

12.1. None