

Note explaining the supporting documents for the planning and water toolkit



Key downloads for local planning authorities

The planning and water toolkit has been designed to support local planning authority planning specialists in considering water within their role. The toolkit aims to help local planning authorities achieve better outcomes for water through the planning system. It also seeks to streamline the planning process by providing clear guidance to prevent water-related issues from slowing down decisions. It will do this by providing prompts and direction so that water can be thought about early, discussed and planned for upfront.

The toolkit includes:

- practical advice
- links to resources



Planning and
Water Toolkit



You can access items from the Planning and Water Toolkit by clicking the link above. It is also available in the resources section of this website. We've made several items available for download. These are resources to help you use the toolkit effectively.

Below are more details about the key downloads

This note provides examples of what makes a good policy, such as

- A holistic approach to water management and wastewater: Cambridge City Local Plan – Policy 31: Integrated water management and the water cycle Local Plan 2018 – Cambridge City Council.
- Flood risk: West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 (2018) – Policy EH7: Flood risk
- Water resources: South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 – Policy CC/7: Water Quality
- Water environment and water quality: MK City Plan: 2016 to 2031 (2019) – Policy FR3: Protecting and Enhancing Watercourses



Policy case studies
technical note



West Oxfordshire Local
Plan 2031 (2018)



South Cambridgeshire
Local Plan 2018



MK City Plan: 2016 – 2031
(2019) – Policy FR3





Policy development checklist



You can use the checklists as an aide-mémoire to ensure that you have considered relevant water information at each key planning stage. You may



Development management checklist



consider sharing and/or publishing your responses to demonstrate how well you have considered the water system in support of the preparation of your local plan.



Conditions technical note



This note offers examples of drafting conditions which ensure development includes necessary improvements to protect and support the water environment.

For example, the condition below was included on a planning consent issued by West Oxfordshire Council in October 2023 regarding the provision of adequate water resource for the development.

It includes a signpost to Cambridgeshire County Council's surface water planning guidance for additional advice on condition wording.



Cambridgeshire County Council's surface water planning guidance



“No development shall be occupied until confirmation has been provided that either, all water network upgrades required to accommodate the additional demand to serve the development have been completed; or – a development and infrastructure phasing plan has been agreed with Thames Water to allow development to be occupied. Where a development and infrastructure phasing plan is agreed no occupation shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed development and infrastructure phasing plan.

Reason: The development may lead to no/low water pressure and network reinforcement works are anticipated to be necessary to ensure that sufficient capacity is made available to accommodate additional demand anticipated from the new development.”

This note has been produced to:

- Help applicants understand how their proposals may affect the water environment during the pre-application process.
- Help applicants avoid negative impacts, while identifying opportunities to enhance the water environment.
- We encourage local planning authorities to share this note with applicants to support effective pre-application discussions.



Water pre-application checklist



Document hierarchy – Project overview

Stage 1

Policy baseline review



Building on the baseline review
Analysis: Water in planning policies
and their application



Stage 2

Planning and water toolkit



Development
management checklist



Instructional video

Policy case studies
technical note

Pre-application guidance



Policy development checklist



Conditions technical note



Written user guide



Stage 3

Reporting – key
recommendations



Reporting – key opportunities



Engagement

Engagement



Engagement, survey approach and
detailed summary of responses

