



Neville Benn,  
Environment Agency,  
Bromholme Lane,  
Brampton,  
Huntingdon,  
Cambs.  
PE28 4NE

Your Ref: ENVPAC/1/EAN/00168

Our Ref: 70057521

26 May 2021

Dear Neville,

## **MILTON KEYNES EAST SUE DEVELOPMENT**

Following your letter to the MKC as the LPA dated 11 May 2021, in which you outlined the Environment Agency's are objecting to the Milton Keynes East SUE Scheme, this letter is intended to provide the additional evidence base which you require to remove the objection, with each point addressed in turn.

### **Flood Risk Assessment**

Many thanks for a rapid review of the Flood Risk Assessment dated March 2021, we note that your only comments relate to the flood model reviews for both the River Ouzel and the Moulsoe Stream. We have now been able to address the points in which you had asked for clarification, these are outlined below and fully responded to in the attached documents.

#### **RIVER OUZEL MODEL**

Since submission of the hydraulic model for the River Ouzel for your review, the design of the river crossing has been modified to include the adjacent cycle path. This scenario has been incorporated within the hydraulic model, this demonstrates that there are no changes to the flood flows or levels for any return period, as detailed within the Flood Risk Assessment.

To aid your review we have submitted an updated version of the hydraulic model on your FTP site, along with CAD and PDF versions of the bridge design, to enable final approval of the model.

#### **MOULSOE STREAM MODEL**

We note that the majority of the comments on this model are that we are being overly conservative on the parameters and approach within the hydraulic model. We consider that this is a great starting position for the construction of a hydraulic model, given that the flood extents do not impact the Scheme, especially given the 9m buffer strip required by the IDB, this does not pose a constraint to the development and is not required to be addressed specifically. We have, however, responded to each point in turn in your review document, for ease of approval and this has been provided on your FTP site due to the file size.

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## **Contamination and Groundwater Protection**

We agree with your summary that the site is not considered to present a high polluting potential and we commit to notifying the Environment Agency should further investigations establish a source of significant contamination that could present a risk to controlled waters.

We have completed a PRA and submitted this as part of the planning application, note that this forms Appendix I.1 of the Ground Conditions and Soils ES Chapter.

We acknowledge the other points in your letter and will address these as part of the discharge of the appropriate conditions.

## **Biodiversity**

We would be willing to discuss suitable conditions with you for the implementation of the WFDa and ecology reports.

## **Water Resources**

We are liaising with Anglia Water to seek confirmation that they have sufficient capacity to meet the development without causing deterioration.

We acknowledge that the Environment Agency have recommended the optional standard of 110 litres per person per day is adopted for potable water use in this development. However, the applicant St James, has a more onerous target, which they would be willing to commit to via a planning condition, this is that as a minimum all homes would be designed to achieve a water use of less than 105 litres per person per day (internal water use).

Furthermore, St James will implement rainwater harvesting across the residential aspects of the Scheme, as a minimum, all houses would include rainwater butts and apartment schemes would incorporate an appropriately designed and sized system for collecting rainwater for use in the homes, commercial spaces or landscaped areas, including water features.

Yours sincerely

Andy Smith  
Technical Director

XX/xx  
cc: Simon Purcell, Allan Norcutt, Ashley Spearing