

Issue Number	Policy/ Paragraph Number	Issue	Officer Response	Proposed Amendment
Introduction				
23.1	23.1.1	Support	Support noted and welcomed	No amendment in response to this issue
23.2	23.1.1	HERT4: Water supply to this area is already at maximum capacity which at times can affect the water pressure. Adding another 150 properties will stretch it to breaking point.	The Council will continue to engage with the relevant water providers in order to ensure that the proposed level and location of growth can be provided for.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.3	23.1.2	The Council must work with other bodies in order to implement policies.	Agreed. It will be necessary for the Council to work closely with infrastructure providers and other bodies, both during the preparation of the District Plan, and post adoption.	No amendment in response to this issue
Flood Risk				
23.4	23.2	Development along rivers should be refused on flooding grounds	Policy WAT1 states that the functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b) will be protected from inappropriate development. The Sequential Test will be utilised for development proposals within Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b in order to steer development away from areas most at risk from flooding in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).	No amendment in response to this issue
23.5	23.2.1	Support from HCC Ecology for the recognition of damage to wildlife habitats when considering developments which also affect flooding and channel stability.	Support noted and welcomed.	No amendment in response to this issue

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23.6	23.2.2	Environment Agency supports this paragraph although there is a need to ensure that the SFRA is up to date.	Support noted and welcomed. The SFRA will be revised and updated before Publication stage.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.7	23.2.3	The weblink needs to be updated to take account of Environment Agency website move.	Noted.	Amendment to text For more information on the Environment Agency's Standing Advice go to: www.environment-agency.gov.uk https://www.gov.uk/flood-risk-standing-advice-frsa-for-local-planning-authorities
23.8	WAT1	Policy must apply equally to infilling, not just new development so that flood risk in Stanstead Abbots is not increased.	The policy applies to all forms of development including infilling.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.9	WAT1	Support including from HCC Ecology and Lee Valley Regional Park Authority for protecting the floodplain and returning it to Greenfield status where possible.	Support noted and welcomed	No amendment in response to this issue
23.10	WAT1	Environment Agency states that policy and background text should be strengthened by making reference to the Sequential Test and the area of search. Reference could also be made to not allowing development under a certain number of dwellings to be located within Flood Zones 2 or 3. Also noted that not all vulnerable developments in Flood Zones 2 and 3 are required to pass the Exception Test, such as change of use to residential, although points a) to d) would still need to be met.	Noted. It is agreed that the policy and supporting text should refer to the Sequential Test. It is recognised that not all development is required to pass the Exception Test and it is considered that the existing policy wording reflects this.	Amendment to text (para 23.2.3) <u>In order to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding, the Sequential Test, and where necessary the Exception Test will be used.</u> For development proposals of 1 hectare or greater..... Amendment to Policy WAT1 WAT1 Flood Risk Management I. The functional floodplain will be

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				<p>protected from <u>inappropriate</u> development.....</p> <p>III. <u>In order to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding, the Sequential Test will be used.</u> In exceptional circumstances, if developments.....</p>
23.11	WAT1 Part I	The criteria for determining feasibility of returning flood plain to Greenfield land should be explained.	The feasibility of returning functional floodplain to Greenfield land should be considered on a site by site basis through the planning application process. It is therefore not considered necessary to include specific criteria within the policy.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.12	WAT1 Part II	<p>Add 'both on the site and to neighbouring land' to end of sentence.</p> <p>Thames Water suggested amendment: 'Development proposals should neither increase the likelihood of, intensity of, nor increase the risk to people, property, crops or livestock from all forms of flooding'. Reference to sewer flooding should also be made in supporting text.</p>	Agreed with slight changes for clarity and readability.	<p>Amendment to Policy WAT1</p> <p>II. <u>Development proposals should neither increase the likelihood or intensity of any form of flooding, nor increase the risk to people, property, crops or livestock from such events, both on site and to neighbouring land.</u></p> <p>Amendment to text (para 23.2.1)</p> <p>The Council will resist any development which has the potential to contribute to <u>any form of flooding, including sewer flooding,</u> risk and has adverse impacts on river channel stability or damage to wildlife habitats.</p>

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Water Quality and the Water Environment				
23.13	23.3	The River Mimram has been subject to conservation work which should not be impacted upon by new development.	Policy WAT2 states that development proposals will be required to preserve and enhance the water environment including all watercourses.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.14	23.3.1	HCC Ecology suggest that reference should be made to the importance of river corridors as ecological and landscape corridors in both urban and rural areas and to the fact that the rivers are chalk stream habitats and are of particular ecological value. Last sentence should read 'biodiversity and ecological processes affecting wildlife'.	Paragraph 23.3.5 acknowledges the importance of waterways with regards to acting as wildlife habitats. Proposed amendment to last sentence of paragraph 23.3.1 is agreed.	Amendment to text (para 23.3.1) ...which in turn can impact biodiversity and the ecological habitats of <u>processes affecting</u> wildlife
23.15	23.3.2	Support from HCC Ecology	Support noted and welcomed	No amendment in response to this issue
23.16	23.3.2	The Environment Agency states that only the River Ash (from its source to the River Hadham) is at good status while all other waterbodies are failing. Development proposals should take account of this to comply with the Water Framework Directive.	Noted. The paragraph states that the Council will need to work with the Environment Agency and other partners to address the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. <u>Instead of just referring to the one river that has good status, the Council should endeavour for all waterways to reach 'good' status.</u>	Amendment to text (para 23.3.2) Few of the rivers w <u>Within East Herts, only the River Ash is</u> are currently at 'Good' ecological status/potential as set out in the Thames River Basin Management Plan....East Herts Council will <u>continue to</u> work with the Environment Agency and other partners to address the objectives of the Water Framework Directive through the relevant actions identified in the <u>Thames</u> River Basin Management Plan and River Catchment Management Plans for individual watercourses <u>across the</u>

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				<u>District in order to continuously improve their water quality.</u>
23.17	23.3.4	Environment Agency supports this paragraph but suggest the wording could be included within policy.	Agreed	<p>Amendment to text (para 23.3.4) and new Policy</p> <p><u>Source Protection Zones (SPZs) exist around abstraction points for potable (drinking) water. In source protection zones (SPZs), development proposals for any of the uses identified in Policy WAT2 will be required to submit an assessment of potential impacts and any mitigation measures required.</u></p> <p><u>WAT2: Source Protection Zones</u></p> <p><u>In Source Protection Zones (SPZs), development proposals for any of the following uses will be required to submit an assessment of potential impacts and any mitigation measures required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Incinerators</u> • <u>Waste transfer stations</u> • <u>Vehicle dismantlers</u> • <u>Metal recycling</u> • <u>Waste treatment facilities and all other non landfill waste management activities</u> • <u>Cemeteries</u>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Discharge of foul sewerage to ground</u> • <u>Cess pools</u> • <u>Waste sites and underground storage of hazardous substances (i.e petrol stations)</u> • <u>New trade effluent discharges or stores</u> • <u>Storage of manure, slurry, sewage sludge and other farm waste</u>
23.18	WAT2	Support for policy including from HCC Ecology. Degraded rivers should be restored through softening of river margins and reinstatement of green buffer strips, reflecting the objectives of the relevant Catchment Management Plan.	Support noted and welcomed.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.19	WAT2 Part I	Environment Agency state that specific reference should be made to groundwater.	Agreed	Amendment to Policy WAT2 I. ...and the ecological value of watercourses and their margins <u>and the protection of groundwater.</u>
23.20	WAT2 Part II	<p>The Canal and River Trust object to the suggestion that a buffer zone should be provided where possible adjacent to waterways. Each application should be considered on its merits. Integration of rivers with developments is sometimes more desirable than screening.</p> <p>The width of an appropriate buffer strip for ordinary</p>	It is considered that the creation of suitable buffers between watercourses and new development is the most effective way of ensuring the protection of the water environment. This approach has the support of the Environment Agency. The width of an appropriate buffer strip for ordinary watercourses will vary depending on the nature	Amendment to Policy WAT2 II. <u>Unless there is clear justification for not doing so,</u> an undeveloped buffer strip at least 8 metres wide should be maintained alongside all main rivers, and an appropriate buffer strip should be maintained at ordinary watercourses. <u>Any</u>

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		<p>watercourses should be defined.</p> <p>Environment Agency strongly supports this part of the policy but indicate that a new second sentence could be inserted to say 'Any barriers to this should be clearly justified'. Lee Valley Regional Park Authority state that the policy should state that the buffer strips are to be maintained for the purposes of maximising ecological benefits and that development proposals will need to include an appropriate management scheme for the buffer areas.</p>	<p>of the watercourse and the surrounding environment. This issue should therefore be dealt with on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Proposed amendments from the Environment Agency and the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority are accepted with slight text amendments.</p>	<p><u>development proposals should include an appropriate management scheme for buffer strips.</u></p>
Efficient Use of Water Resources				
23.21	23.4	<p>The chapter should seek to ensure that water supply is adequate to meet additional pressure from new developments without damaging aquifers and streams.</p>	<p>This issue is addressed by Water Resources Management Plans (WRMP) prepared by the water companies. WRMPs are approved by the Secretary of State. This section of the chapter seeks to ensure efficient use of water resources. The Council will continue to engage with the relevant water providers in order to reduce the risk of damage to the environment from growth and development.</p>	<p>No amendment in response to this issue</p>
23.22	23.4	<p>There is not enough water in the area. Water meters will not solve the problem. Additional development will be an additional drain and could result in the destruction of the chalk river bed environment.</p>	<p>This issue is addressed by Water Resources Management Plans (WRMP) prepared by the water companies. WRMPs are approved by the Secretary of State. This section of the chapter seeks to ensure efficient use of water resources. The Council will continue to engage with the relevant water providers in order to reduce the risk of damage to the environment from growth and development.</p>	<p>No amendment in response to this issue</p>

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23.23	WAT3	Policy must apply equally to infilling, not just new development so that flood risk in Stanstead Abbotts is not increased.	The policy applies to all forms of development including infilling.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.24	WAT3	Approval of development proposals should be linked to availability of water taking account of measures to reduce consumption. This contrasts to WAT5 where adequate capacity must be provided.	This issue is addressed by Water Resources Management Plans (WRMP) prepared by the water companies. WRMPs are approved by the Secretary of State. This section of the chapter seeks to ensure efficient use of water resources. The Council will continue to engage with the relevant water providers in order to reduce the risk of damage to the environment from growth and development.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.25	WAT3	Does this policy apply to all residential development?	The policy applies to all forms of development.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.26	WAT3	Bishop's Stortford North Consortium considers that this policy should be reviewed following Ministerial Statement on 6 th March concerning including sustainability standards within Building Regulations. Change 'Would meet' to 'Will meet'	A Ministerial Statement on 13 th March 2014 indicated that the Government will be seeking to incorporate sustainability standards within Building Regulations. However, the current situation is uncertain. The Council will therefore monitor the situation on an ongoing basis and react to any changes when they occur. Agree on second amendment.	Amendment to Policy WAT3 c) Designing residential development so that mains water consumption will meet a target of 105 litres or less per head per day.
23.27	WAT3	The Environment Agency strongly supports this policy. Water consumption could be reduced through retrofitting and an awareness campaign. Support also from Thames Water.	Support noted and welcomed.	No amendment in response to this issue
Sustainable Drainage				

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23.28	23.5.1	The list should be amended to reflect all SuDS benefits including reducing flood risk, providing additional biodiversity and reducing pollution of watercourses. The heat island effect may also be reduced by greater use of green roofs.	It is considered that paragraph 23.5.2 and Table 23.1 adequately identify these benefits.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.29	Table 23.1	Support including from Environment Agency and HCC Ecology.	Support noted and welcomed	No amendment in response to this issue
23.30	23.5.3	Support	Support noted and welcomed	No amendment in response to this issue
23.31	WAT4	Support including from Environment Agency and Thames Water.	Support noted and welcomed.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.32	WAT4	Policy must apply equally to infilling, not just new development so that flood risk in Stanstead Abbotts is not increased.	The policy applies to all forms of development including infilling.	No amendment in response to this issue
Wastewater Infrastructure				
23.33	23.6	Support	Support noted and welcomed	No amendment in response to this issue
23.34	23.6	Additional provision needs to be made for wastewater treatment given the scale of growth in the region. Wastewater, much of which was abstracted from the chalk aquifer locally, gets treated and ends up flowing into the Thames. Hertfordshire suffers from over-abstraction.	This issue is addressed by Water Resources Management Plans (WRMP) prepared by the water companies. WRMPs are approved by the Secretary of State. The Council will continue to engage with the relevant water providers in order to reduce the risk of damage to the environment from growth and development.	No amendment in response to this issue

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23.35	23.6.1	Support	Support noted and welcomed	No amendment in response to this issue
23.36	23.6.3	Support from HCC Ecology for the recognition that Rye Meads STW lies partly within a highly sensitive environment of international ecological importance.	Support noted and welcomed	No amendment in response to this issue
23.37	WAT5	<p>Support from Thames Water although they have suggested an additional paragraph within the supporting text to Policy WAT5:</p> <p>‘The local planning authority will seek to ensure that there is adequate wastewater infrastructure to serve all new developments. Developers will be required to demonstrate that there is adequate infrastructure capacity both on and off the site to serve the development and that it would not lead to adverse amenity impacts for existing or future users. In some circumstances this may make it necessary for developers to carry out appropriate appraisals and reports to ascertain whether the proposed development will lead to overloading of existing water and wastewater infrastructure. Where there is a capacity constraint and no improvements are programmed by Thames Water, the Local Planning Authority will require the developer to provide appropriate improvements that must be completed prior to occupation of the development’.</p>	Agreed	<p>Replacement text for Paragraph 23.6.4</p> <p><u>East Herts Council will seek to ensure that there is adequate wastewater infrastructure to serve all new developments. Developers will be required to demonstrate that there is adequate infrastructure capacity both on and off the site to serve the development and that it would not lead to adverse amenity impacts for existing or future users. In some circumstances this may make it necessary for developers to carry out appropriate appraisals and reports to ascertain whether the proposed development will lead to overloading of existing water and wastewater infrastructure. Where there is a capacity constraint and no improvements are programmed by the waste water treatment company, East Herts will require the developer to provide appropriate improvements that must be completed prior to occupation of the development. Unless special circumstances apply, this requirement is unlikely to apply to minor and</u></p>

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				<u>householder development.</u>
23.38	WAT5	Stevenage Borough Council supports the pro-active approach to identification of infrastructure. The Rye Meads Water Cycle Strategy (2009) was based on the East of England Plan housing figures. The Council would welcome the opportunity to update it.	Support noted and welcomed. It is agreed that discussions should be had with neighbouring authorities regarding the possibility of updating the Rye Meads Water Cycle Strategy.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.39	WAT5	The Environment Agency supports this policy.	Support noted and welcomed	No amendment in response to this issue
23.40	WAT5	<p>Lee Valley Regional Park Authority seek the following changes to Policy WAT5:</p> <p>Part I replace 'in tandem with' with 'in advance of'.</p> <p>Part II. Upgrade and expansion of existing, or provision of new, waste water treatment infrastructure will be supported provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) It utilises best available techniques b) It does not have an adverse effect on the integrity of Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites and Special Areas of Conservation either alone or in combination with other projects and plans, and c) A strategy to meet relevant national and European environmental standards can be demonstrated. 	<p>For cashflow reasons infrastructure is rarely delivered in advance of development. The current wording provides a suitable balance between conveying the requirement for infrastructure to be phased appropriately without introducing unrealistic expectations about advance provision.</p> <p>Agree with changes to Part II</p>	<p>No amendment to Part I in response to this issue.</p> <p>Proposed amendment to Part II:</p> <p><u>II. Upgrade and expansion of existing, or provision of new, waste water treatment infrastructure will be supported provided that:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>a) It utilises best available techniques</u> <u>b) It does not have an adverse effect on the integrity of Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites and Special Areas of Conservation either alone or in combination with other projects and plans, and</u> <u>a)c) A strategy to meet relevant national and European environmental standards can be demonstrated.</u>

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General Issues				
23.41		Achievement of the aspirations in this chapter may prove difficult as it relies on organisations which have no local accountability and changing individual behaviour.	It will be necessary for the Council to work closely with infrastructure providers and other bodies, both during the preparation of the District Plan, and post adoption.	No amendment in response to this issue
23.42		Thought is needed with regards to how to retrofit these ideas to existing buildings and structures.	Noted	No amendment in response to this issue