

**Warrington Borough Council  
Warrington Local Plan 2021-2038**

**Examination in Public**

**Written Statement of United Utilities Water Limited relating to  
Matter 6d**

**July 2022**

**Reference Number: 0403**

## Introduction

Warrington Borough Council (WBC) has submitted the Warrington Local Plan 2021 to 2038 for examination. In accordance with national planning policy (specifically paragraph 16c of the National Planning Policy Framework), as well as, the status of United Utilities Water Limited (UUW) as a statutory consultee in the preparation of development plans, UUW has worked closely with the local planning authority on the preparation of a new local plan. This statement is provided in response to the Matters, Issues and Questions identified by the Inspectors. WBC and UUW have engaged in meaningful discussion regarding the practical issues associated with most appropriately managing the impact of the development proposed during the plan period on water and wastewater infrastructure. Whilst noting that it is not necessary to repeat our previous consultation responses, we considered it appropriate to provide a written statement to highlight certain matters for the consideration of the Inspectors given the questions which have been posed.

## United Utilities Water Limited

UUW is the statutory water and wastewater undertaker for the North West of England and its area of operation includes Warrington. As the statutory water and wastewater undertaker, UUW has a duty to ensure that an area is "effectually drained" and that there is "an efficient and economical system of water supply". This includes working with planning authorities on planning policies and developers on detailed proposals to most appropriately manage the impact on infrastructure, our customers and the environment.

## Matter 6d – Main Development Area: Peel Hall

We note that the Inspectors have raised the following questions in respect of Peel Hall:

*5. Does Policy MD4 identify all appropriate and necessary infrastructure requirements? How will these be provided and funded? Is this sufficiently clear?*

*6. Are there potential adverse effects not covered above, if so, what are they and how would they be addressed and mitigated? **N.B. The Council's response should address key issues raised in representations***

*9. Are any main modifications necessary for soundness?*

In response to these questions, we wish to highlight that our latest response to the Proposed Submission Version of the Local Plan addressed these questions. Amongst other things, our response noted that the proposed development site is situated within Groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 3, close to UUW water abstraction boreholes and within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone for Groundwater. Drinking Water Safeguard Zones, designated by the Environment Agency under the Water Framework Directive, are used for areas around abstractions where water quality is poor and where additional measures are needed to improve water quality.

UW therefore requests that the following wording is added to the policy. Similar wording is currently included in a number of other proposed allocations.

*Development proposals will be required to assess the impact on the groundwater environment, the Drinking Water Safeguarding Zone and incorporate appropriate mitigating measures.*

This requirement was reflected in the recent Peel Hall decision. The Inspector has attached condition no. 33 which states:

*'No development shall be carried out until a quantitative and qualitative risk assessment and mitigation strategy with respect to ground water protection, including details of any extra protection measures necessary to manage the risk of pollution to public water supply and the water environment during and after construction, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The risk assessment shall be based on the source-pathway-receptor methodology. It shall identify all possible contaminant sources and pathways for the lifetime of the development and provide details of measures required to mitigate any risks to groundwater and public water supply from the development. The development shall thereafter be completed, maintained and managed in accordance with the approved details.'*

Reflecting this position, UW recommends that the 'Summary of key constraints and relevant designations' within the 'Site Profiles for Local Plan Site Allocations' (June 2022) also refers to the location of the site in a Groundwater Source Protection Zone and a Drinking Water Safeguarding Zone. The following additional wording is recommended:

- *Located in a Groundwater Source Protection Zone and a Drinking Water Safeguarding Zone.*

Similarly, the 'Infrastructure Requirements' should include the following additional criterion:

- *Mitigation measures associated with the location of the site in a Groundwater Source Protection Zone and a Drinking Water Safeguarding Zone.*