

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

**Examination in Public**

**Written Statement of United Utilities Water Limited relating to  
Matter 7e**

**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 7e – Site Allocation Winwick

In the context of proximity to the service reservoir, which is operated by UUW, and includes a Groundwater Source Protection Zone, we note that the Inspectors have raised the following questions in respect of the site allocation at Winwick:

*5. What is the basis for the scale of development proposed and is this justified? Could this be readily accommodated, given the sensitive location adjacent to both a registered battlefield, and a service reservoir?*

*9. 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***

*14. 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. For ease of reference, we included the following additional text for Policy OS6 Winwick under the heading 'Utilities and Environmental Protection'. The additional text is shown in blue.

*'18. The site is adjacent to an existing reservoir and within groundwater source protection zones 1 and 2. Development proposals will be required to assess the impact on the groundwater environment, public water supply and the operational assets in close proximity to the site and incorporate appropriate mitigation measures in accordance with Policies INF3 (Parts 5 to 7) and ENV8 (Parts 10 to 13). Any approach to development will need to be agreed with the planning authority in liaison with United Utilities. The applicant should liaise with United Utilities regarding the proximity of development to the existing reservoir and associated infrastructure (such as wash out pipes from the reservoir), existing water supply pipes and given the location of the site within a groundwater source protection zone. The applicant will need to take full account of such existing infrastructure in the design of their site to ensure existing operations of utility infrastructure can continue. Careful masterplanning is required to mitigate the risk to water supply assets; the groundwater environment; any amenity issues (such as noise); and to ensure an easement width of 10m (5m either side) of existing utility infrastructure. No development, including any proposed drainage infrastructure, will be allowed to be located within the easement width. The applicant will be required to prepare and agree a management plan and incorporate mitigating measures to ensure the impacts on the water supply infrastructure and the groundwater environment are managed and mitigated during the construction process and during the operational life of the development. This will include an agreed management plan for any open space.*

Noting the above reference to Policy ENV 8 (parts 10 to 13), we also recommended changes to these parts and the associated justification text of Policy ENV 8. This is set out below.

*10. Any proposals for new development within Groundwater Source Protection Zones must accord with central government guidance set out in its Groundwater Protection guides, or any subsequent iteration of the guidance. New development within Groundwater Source Protection Zones will require the following ~~be required to:~~*

*~~a. be planned so as to mitigate the risk of pollution to the public water supply and the water environment;~~*

*~~b. undertake a. a risk assessment and mitigation strategy with respect to groundwater protection to manage the risk of pollution to public water supply and the water environment;~~*

*b. careful masterplanning to mitigate the risk of pollution to the public water supply and the water environment; and*

*c. produce a Construction Management Plan to identify the potential impacts from all construction activities on both groundwater, public water supply and surface water and identify appropriate mitigation measures necessary to protect and prevent pollution of these waters.*

With respect to the associated justification text, we recommended the following amendment to paragraph 9.8.10:

*9.8.10 The risk assessment should be based on the source-pathway-receptor methodology and should identify all possible contaminant sources and pathways for the life of the development and provide details of measures required to mitigate any risks to groundwater and public water supply during all phases of the development. On land ~~within~~ and adjacent to Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1, the mitigation measures should include the highest specification design for the*

*new foul and surface water sewerage systems (pipework, trenches, manholes, pumping stations and attenuation features) to ensure that leakage from sewerage systems is avoided. Any development should be carefully planned in terms of site design and layout to mitigate the risk of pollution to public water supply and the water environment. For example, open space should be designed so it is closest to any boreholes so as to minimise the potential impact on groundwater. In addition, an appropriate management regime will be required for open space features in the groundwater [source](#) protection zone. Construction Management Plans will be required to identify the potential impacts from all construction activities on both groundwater, public water supply and surface water and identify appropriate mitigation measures necessary to protect and prevent pollution of these waters.*

Consistent with the above, UUW also 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 infrastructure associated with the service reservoir and the location of the site within groundwater source protection zones 1 and 2. We suggest the following amendment:

- *United Utilities underground reservoir immediately to south of site. [The applicant will need to take account of associated infrastructure and operations \(such as water mains and wash out pipes from the reservoir, and any noise generating activities that may exist\).](#)*
- *[Located within groundwater source protection zones 1 and 2.](#)*

We also suggest that the 'Summary of infrastructure requirements' includes the following additional criterion:

- *[As a result of the location of the site in a Groundwater Source Protection area, mitigation measures should include the highest specification design for the new foul and surface water sewerage systems \(pipework, trenches, manholes, pumping stations and attenuation features\) to ensure that leakage from sewerage systems is avoided.](#)*