

**Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026
Examination**

Statement of Common Ground

between

**Swindon Borough Council and Thames Water
Utilities Ltd**

April 2014

Introduction

1. This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared jointly between Swindon Borough Council ('the Council') and Thames Water Utilities Ltd ('TWUL')
2. The Statement sets out the confirmed points of agreement between Swindon Borough Council (the Council) and Thames Water with regard to the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 and supporting evidence base, in which will assist the Inspector during the Examination of the Local Plan.

Background

3. This Statement of Common Ground relates to the following representations made by TWUL to the Borough Council's Pre-Submission Local Plan (December 2012):
 - IN2
 - NC1 to NC5 (inclusive)
4. As outlined in the Duty to Cooperate Statement Update [CD21.8] and Addendum [CD25.5], the Borough Council have continuously engaged with TWUL throughout the evolution of the Local Plan. This includes joint working regarding The Swindon Water Cycle Study Phases 1 and 2 [CD8.17] and [CD8.36].

Agreed Matters

5. Thames Water fully support the majority of Policy IN2 as it is in line with their previous representations to the draft Core Strategy and is essential given the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). Furthermore it is in line with paragraphs 94 and 156 of the Framework.
6. In response to the Inspector's Letter to Swindon Borough Council of 16th July 2013 [CD 25.1], TWUL wrote to the Council outlining their response to the issues raised by the Inspector in relation to water infrastructure. This letter was attached to the Council's response to the Inspector of 30th August 2013 [CD25.4]. Here TWUL note that the existing water infrastructure is sufficient to support the majority of the proposed developments within the Swindon area. However, there will be a requirement for localised trunk mains infrastructure upgrades to support the Eastern Villages development.
7. In terms of Water Supply, Thames Water has sufficient water resources within the affected Swindon & Oxford Water Resource Zone (SWOX WRZ) to accommodate current forecasted growth in demand, including the Eastern Villages development, until 2028. This is confirmed within Thames Water's Water Resources Management Plan [CD 8.42]. [Note – please also see <http://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/5392.htm>]
8. Thames Water is supportive of the conclusions of the Swindon Water Cycle Study phase 2.
9. All known wastewater treatment works issues relating to capacity and known consent changes have been, or are being planned for up to and including 2026, through improvements proposed in AMP6 (to be delivered by 2020). TWUL submitted their

draft Business Plan for AMP6 to Ofwat in December 2013 and Ofwat are due to make a Final Determination by December 2014.

10. Wastewater network capacity improvements are being put into place as agreed in TWUL Asset Management Plan 5 (AMP5) for the period 2010 to 2015 [CD8.23]. TWUL has submitted its AMP6 for the period 2015-20 to be approved by Ofwat in December 2014. Network improvements to serve the Eastern Villages (NEV) will be delivered during the development phases by either the TWUL or by the developer(s). The funding of these upgrades will be provided through a variety of different funding routes including TWUL's business plan and developer requisitions. (Water Industry Act S106).
11. TWUL support of the government's twin track approach to water supply which requires sustainable new water resources to complement demand management and leakage reduction and part a, of policy IN2 should be amended to reflect this and to accord with para 4.236 of the local plan. This was agreed as a minor modification to the Plan as follows:

Policy IN2: amend part a

Future water supply will be addressed through the implementation of demand management measures, particularly in new development to reduce the use of water, and the prevention of leakages, to increase supply complimented by sustainable new water resources.

12. TWUL in their response to the Pre-submission Consultation Draft of the Local Plan commented that TWUL will not be able to finalise the necessary sewerage requirements until details of the proposals and applications come forward. The Council responded by proposing the following minor modification:

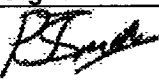
Insert text to end of para 4.235:

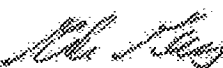
However, sewerage plans will not be finalised until the details of the proposal are submitted for approval.

13. In relation to the strategic allocations as detailed in Policies NC1 to NC5 TWUL raised the point through consultation that developers will be required to demonstrate that there is adequate waste water capacity both on and off the site to serve the development and that it would not lead to problems for existing or new users. In some circumstances it may be necessary for developers to fund studies to ascertain whether the proposed development will lead to overloading of existing waste water infrastructure. Equally developers are required to undertake a drainage and water infrastructure study to demonstrate that there is adequate sewerage and water supply capacity both on and off the site to serve the development and that it would not lead to problems for existing or new users as set out in relation to Policy IN2. This point was reiterated in their letter of 5th August to the Council.

14. TWUL requested amendment of the respective strategic allocations policies to include suitable text as above. The Council response was that the Plan should be read as whole and therefore the strategic allocations should also be in accord with Policy IN2.

Agreement

Signed on behalf of Swindon Borough Council		
Name & position	Signature	Date
Philip Smith Planning Policy Manager		1/4/14

Signed on behalf of Thames Water		
Name & position	Signature	Date
Mark Mathews Town Planning Manager		01.04.14