

Horning Knackers Wood Updated Joint Position Statement	
Executive Summary	The report updates Members on the revised. Joint Position Statement with regard to the Horning Knackers Wood Water Recycling Centre catchment.
Options considered	None
Consultation(s)	The updated Joint Position statement has been undertaken collaboratively with the Broads Authority, Environment Agency, Anglian Water and NNDC
Recommendations	It is recommended that Members of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party note the contents of the updated Joint Position Statement and recommend to Cabinet that it authorises the Assistant Director of Planning in conjunction with the Planning Policy Team Leader as signatory to the updated JPS and incorporation of any minor changes as a result of EA or other LPA sign off process.
Reasons for recommendations	To provide updated planning guidance for the District.
Background papers	2017 Joint position Statement re Horning Knackers Wood Wastewater recycling centre and the updated Anglian Water position through the Anglian water Statement of Fact

Wards affected	Horning
Cabinet member(s)	Andrew Brown Portfolio holder for Planning
Contact Officer	Iain Withington Planning Policy Team Leader iain.withington@North-Norfolk.gov.uk

Links to key documents:	
Corporate Plan:	Local homes for local need theme of the Council's Corporate Plan 2019- 2023 and the cross-cutting delivery mechanism through the emerging Local Plan
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	N/A
Council Policies & Strategies	The Councils Development Plan: including the Core Strategy and emerging Local Plan

Corporate Governance:	
Is this a key decision	No

Has the public interest test been applied	No
Details of any previous decision(s) on this matter	Previous Joint Position Statement was agreed between the Broads authority, Environment Agency, Anglian Water and NNDC in 2017.

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members with regard the Joint Position Statement in the Horning Knackers Wood Water Recycling Centre Catchment.

2. Introduction & Background

- 2.1 As detailed in the Councils Infrastructure Delivery Plan [Examination Library Document Reference C4], Horning Knackers Wood Water Recycling Centre discharges to the river Bure. In doing so, this Water Recycling Centre (WRC) contributes nutrient loads to the downstream watercourses as well as to the Bure Broads and Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a component of the Broads Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Broadland Special Protection Area (SPA). The river Bure is currently of high-status water quality, and it is important that this is not jeopardised by development. The Horning WRC does not currently have capacity to accommodate further foul flows and flows remain above the permitted Environment Agencies, (EA) license.

- 2.2 There have been a number of recorded incidents of flooding with the Horning sewerage catchment from surface water, groundwater and fluvial sources which are the responsibility of multiple agencies. This reduces the available capacity of the foul sewerage network for additional foul flows from additional development within the catchment. Both Anglian Water and the Environment Agency agree that the Horning Knackers Wood Water Recycling Centre (WRC) does not currently have capacity to accommodate further foul flows. This means that measures need to be taken to reduce the flows the Centre receives from across the catchment. If the flows continue to rise, there is a risk of increased nutrient loading to the river and therefore deterioration in water quality. There is also increased risk of sewer flooding. No strategy is put forward in the Anglian Water's draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan, DWMP however Investment is confirmed in the Water Recycling Long-term Plan.

- 2.3 A Joint Position Statement (JPS) was first issued by the North Norfolk District Council, Environment Agency, EA, Broad's Authority, and Anglian Water in 2017 (Appendix A) which put in place a presumption against development in Horning that increase the flows and standalone foul water treatment solutions, as they also have the potential to adversely affect water quality.

3. Proposals and Options

- 3.1 Since the JPS Anglian Water have been undertaking investigations to understand why the WRC is receiving excessive flows and they concluded that the unstable ground conditions in this area are the cause of continued

structural failures of both the public sewerage network managed by Anglian Water and privately-owned drainage network. When combined with the high-water table and frequent over topping there are high levels of groundwater infiltration and inundations to both private and public foul water systems through multiple points, most is outside their remit to control.

- 3.2 Anglian Water have concluded that there is no single engineering solution which can be provided by Anglian Water and as such have published the Statement of Fact April 2022 (Appendix B) and have formally withdrawn from the Previous Joint Position Statement. They are however continuing a number of network improvements mainly along Ferry Road and Ferry View Road where there remain a number of unauthorised connections to AW infrastructure, pipe collapses and infrastructure vulnerable to over topping. Such investment includes a proposal on third party land to install pumping unit which will reduce the flows from over topping and flooding.
- 3.3 Despite the Statement of Fact and Anglian Water's revised position the Environment Agency still consider that development is not feasible at Horning and the EA maintain their objection due to the flow being significantly greater than the EA permit and no reasonable prospect of situation changing in the short to medium time frame.
- 3.4 A revised Joint position statement between the LPAs (Broad's Authority, and NNDC and the Environment Agency, EA) has been subsequently drafted and agreed with the main parties. The aim is that the revised JPS updates the position to present day and reference the AW position and that of the EA and can be used to inform planning matters.
- 3.5 The updated position Statement is attached as Appendix C with a tracked change version from the original in Appendix D

4. Corporate Priorities

The report is relevant to the local homes for local need theme of the Council's Corporate Plan 2019- 2023 and the cross-cutting delivery mechanism through the emerging Local Plan

5. Financial and Resource Implications

The report has no immediate or direct impact on council resource or financial strategy.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications to note in relation to the content of the report.

7. Risks

- 7.1 There are no direct risks associated with this report.

8. Net Zero Target

8.1 No assessment has been made against the council's [Net Zero Strategy & Action plan](#)

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

9.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

9.2 There are no direct implications on equality within this report.

10. Community Safety issues

N/A.

11. Conclusion and Recommendations

It is recommended that Members of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party note the contents of the updated Joint Position Statement and recommend to Cabinet that it authorises the Assistant Director of Planning in conjunction with the Planning Policy Team Leader as signatory to the updated JPS and incorporation of any minor changes as a result of EA or other LPA sign off process.

Appendix A:2017 Joint Position Statement

Appendix B:2022 Statement of Fact April 2022

Appendix C:2023 Joint Position Statement (updated)

Appendix D:2023/ 2017 Tracked Change Version