



2nd February 2021

Forward Planning,
Council Headquarters,
Newtown St Boswells,
Scottish Borders,
TD6 0SA

SCOTTISH WATER

55, Buckstone Terrace
Fairmilehead
Edinburgh
EH10 6XH

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Scottish Borders Council – Proposed Local Development Plan 2 (Vol 1&2) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment

Thank you for allowing Scottish Water the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Local Development Plan 2 and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Scottish Water welcomes the opportunity to comment on the emerging policies and strategies within the plan.

We will continue to work closely with the council to support and deliver sustainable economic growth throughout the Scottish Borders region.

Scottish Water works to protect and deliver the vital services and we will continue to invest to ensure we maintain the high standards of service that our customers expect of us.

The Proposed Plan builds on the current Local Development Plan and we will continue to support the delivery of housing and employment land identified within the plans.

We have the following comments to make:

Infrastructure, Transport and Sustainability (Page 14)

Section 2.17 – We would like to highlight the use of ‘constraint’ in the context of providing water and wastewater provision. In accordance with the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Scottish Water is funded to meet the costs of providing strategic treatment work capacity to support sustainable growth. Where we have limited capacity, this should not be seen as a constraint. If the network needs further reinforcement to support development, we will provide a reasonable cost contribution towards this.

If the constraint is highlighted in the context of development occurring where there is no public sewerage or water within a reasonable distance, then we have no further comment to make. If not, would you consider removing any reference of 'constraint'?

Policy IS2 (Page 151)

- a) Treatment of surface or foul wastewater....

It would be helpful to get clarification on section (a) of the plan policy.

As it currently stands, the developer is required to fund any upgrades required to the foul network. Scottish Water will then provide a cost contribution to the developer for any upgrades to the local infrastructure or Part 2&3 of the network.

Financial contributions are defined within legislation, in accordance with the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002. **Scottish Water** is required to meet the costs of providing strategic capacity required for new developments (Part 4 infrastructure). Customers are required to meet the costs of providing additional local capacity (Part 2 and 3 infrastructure), subject to a reasonable cost contribution from Scottish Water.

Scottish Water will not seek developer contributions towards the treatment of foul wastewater from residential developments.

Scottish Water has a Surface Water Policy which states that we will not normally accept any surface water into our combined sewer system.

Can you clarify how the council intends on this policy being used?

Policy IS9 (Page 164)

We would welcome a change to the wording of the following section.

- b) Negotiating developer contributions with Scottish Water to upgrade the existing sewerage network and/or increasing capacity at the waste water treatment works, or failing that:

As mentioned previously, Scottish Water is funded to provide capacity at our treatment works where required, therefore, we would not expect any negotiations of developer contributions towards increasing capacity for residential developments and the domestic element of Non-Residential developments such as toilets and kitchen facilities.

Where there has been an assessment on the impact of any future development on our network, the developer is expected to contribute towards reinforcing the Parts 2&3 of the network with a Cost Contribution from Scottish Water.

Therefore, we would ask the council to remove wording associated with negotiating contributions towards increasing the capacity at our treatment works.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (page 33)

Table 8

Drinking Water Asset Status – update to the table is at Peebles. Scottish Water has instigated a growth project at our water works and has planned for future growth.

Volume 2

Scottish Water broadly welcomes reference to key infrastructure considerations and will support each of the proposed development sites contained within the Settlement Profiles. We would like to state that whilst every effort has been made in Scottish Water to plan for future growth throughout the Scottish Borders, it can be inherently challenging to plan for high water and wastewater business needs.

We would advise any prospective business to contact Scottish Water early in the planning stages of any site to discuss their plans especially if the intent is to use large volumes of water and or wastewater services.

Scottish Water wishes to convey our thanks to everyone associated in the production of this plan. Our aim as always is to continue to work closely with the council in delivering the existing adopted Local Development Plan and support and deliver this Proposed Local Development Plan through to adoption.

Yours sincerely,



Development Planner
Development Engagement Team (South/East)