



**Scottish
Water**
Always serving Scotland

7th March 2018

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Dear Charles,

Scottish Borders Council - Main Issues Report LDP2

Thank you for allowing Scottish Water to comment on the Scottish Borders Council – Main Issues Report LDP2. Scottish Water remains firmly committed to providing investment in our infrastructure, within the Scottish Borders region to support sustainable economic growth.

Main Issues Report

We broadly support the Main Issues Report and our views on each of the questions within our remit, is given below. Scottish Water acknowledges that some of our treatment works have limited capacity. We would encourage developers to engage with us early to ensure we can target specific strategic investment where it is needed at the right time. Where there are existing Scottish Water assets, within a proposed site, again, we would encourage early engagement to ensure these assets are protected to ensure we maintain services to our customers.

Q1 – Scottish Water supports the Council’s vision, aims and spatial strategy. We will continue to work closely with the Council to ensure we continue to maintain a high level of service to our existing and future customers whilst protecting our assets. We will ensure that we align our investment where it is required as we progress through to LDP2 and beyond.

Scottish Water is fully committed to working with communities whilst we deliver the investment required to reduce any potential impact. We will provide the necessary capacity at our works to support economic growth and deliver this in the most sustainable way possible.

Q2 to 6 – No further comment.

Q7 – Scottish Water will support any of the preferred or additional Housing Land Supply sites emerging from the report. We accept that there are pressures to identify land for development near or next to our treatment works. Scottish Water strives to ensure the impact of our activities is kept to a minimum. Under the Sewerage Nuisance (Code of Practice) (Scotland) Order 2006, Scottish Water must have access, Control and minimise odour nuisance from existing wastewater treatment works. Any development in close

proximity to our works increases the risk of odour and/or noise complaints from residents in these new developments. Scottish Water would expect a reasonable stand-off distance to be applied in this instance where no units (including garden areas) are permitted. In addition, an odour impact assessment must be carried out by the developer to understand what additional measures are required to mitigate potential odour nuisance. Scottish Water would also note that access is required to the treatment works 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by maintenance vehicles, articulated vehicles and tankers. The impact of these vehicles on residents should also be noted. Early engagement with Scottish Water is essential. Scottish Water would like to point out that we are currently planning to deliver water growth investment in and around Peebles to ensure our existing and future customers continue to receive the high quality service which they have come to expect. We recognise that there is a degree of uncertainty around the final housing numbers and locations at this time. It is vital that Scottish Water deliver the most sustainable solution for future growth in this catchment and therefore we will continue to work closely with the Council to support sustainable economic growth as we progress with the Council's preferred spatial strategy emerging from the LDP.

Q8 – No further comment.

Q9 – Scottish Water will work with the Council to ensure our investment plans are altered to take into account sites that are deallocated from the LDP. Scottish Water would welcome any measures to ensure a greater level of certainty where we are required to invest in our assets.

Q10 to 12 – No further comment.

Q13 – Scottish Water broadly welcomes the Council's continued support for sustainability and climate change adaption. We firmly support the preferred option to continue with the policies and proposals outlined in the LDP.

Q14 to 19 – No further comment.

Scottish Water would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council for allowing us to comment on this report. Our customers are at the very heart of everything that we do and we will continue to work closely with the Council and others to ensure we support growth and maintain our services in the most sustainable way.

Yours sincerely

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Development Planner – Development Engagement Team (South/East)