



## East London Joint Waste Plan

### Publication Stage Representation Form

East London Joint Waste Plan

**Please return to Havering Town Hall, RM1 3BD by 30 June 2025.**

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<https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/planning/east-london-joint-waste-plan-regulation-19>

#### **Part A – Contact Details**

	<b>Personal details*</b> <small>*If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation (if applicable) boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in the second column.</small>	<b>Agent details (if applicable)</b>
<b>Title</b>	Mr	
<b>First Name</b>	David	
<b>Last Name</b>	Wilson	
<b>Job Title</b> (where relevant)	Town Planner	
<b>Organisation</b> (where relevant)	Thames Water Utilities Limited	
<b>Address</b> Please include post code		
<b>Telephone Number</b>		
<b>Email address</b>		
<b>In which local authority do you live?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Barking and Dagenham <input type="checkbox"/> Havering <input type="checkbox"/> Newham <input type="checkbox"/> Redbridge <input type="checkbox"/> Other Local authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am responding on behalf of an organisation	

**Part B - Your representation (please use a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make)**

Name or Organisation: Thames Water Utilities Limited

1. Which part of the East London Joint Waste Plan does this representation relate to? (Please be as specific as possible)

Policy	JWP2B: Safeguarding and Provision of Wastewater Capacity	Implementation Text / Paragraph / Table / Figure / Policies Map	

2. Do you consider the East London Joint Waste Plan: (please tick as appropriate)

a. Legally compliant	Yes	No	
b. Sound	Yes	No	X
c. Complies with Duty to Cooperate	Yes	No	

3. Please give details of why you consider the Waste Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible. If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

Thames Water are the statutory sewerage undertaker for the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Newham, Redbridge and majority of Havering and as such are responsible for sewerage and wastewater treatment. As identified in paragraph 2.47 the key sewage treatment works (STW) serving East London is Beckton STW, but we also have Riverside STW in Havering and a number of strategic sewage pumping stations in these Boroughs. Beckton STW and Riverside STW will need to be periodically upgraded over the plan period to 2041 to accommodate population growth and environmental improvements.

### Purpose of Policy

#### **Purpose of Policy**

To ensure that:

- Existing consented wastewater treatment (including sludge management) facilities are safeguarded from loss to non-wastewater treatment uses;
- additional wastewater treatment capacity is consented to meet specific needs in certain circumstances such that unnecessary capacity is not developed;
- existing wastewater treatment facilities fulfil their potential to maximise the treatment of wastewater in accordance with relevant objectives; and,
- wastewater treatment facilities are developed in a manner which ensures the environment and communities will be protected and enhanced.

The 'Purpose of Policy' is considered to be unclear. For example, the second bullet point as drafted would risk curtailing or making difficult to consent development that might not support specific changes to wastewater treatment capacity but nonetheless forms part of critical infrastructure required within a STW. The third bullet point is considered difficult to monitor, out of step with the way in which capacity growth for wastewater treatment is developed and lacking clarity regarding 'relevant objectives', whilst the final bullet point unnecessarily references the role of other adopted policy provisions published within the Development Plan that themselves would be designed to manage development.

Overall, it is considered that the purpose of the policy should be simplified to support wastewater development. An alternative form of wording for this purpose could be:

*'Proposals for wastewater related development at wastewater treatment sites should be supported where demonstrated to be in accordance with the other policies in this plan and the relevant borough's development plan.'*

Other suggestions to amend the policy purpose include:

- Bullet point 1 – suggest the word 'consented' is removed as Thames Water have permitted development rights to deliver development at STWs subject to the EIA Regulations: 'existing wastewater treatment (including sludge management) facilities are safeguarded from loss to non-wastewater related treatment uses';
- Bullet point 2 - could be updated to 'additional wastewater treatment and recycling capacity, related infrastructure and upgrades are consented to meet identified needs';
- Bullet point 3 could then be deleted as this would be covered by the above; and
- Bullet point 4 is deleted, as this duplicates national and local policy which is already in place to protect the environment and communities.

### **Policy JWP2B**

Thames Water support the need for specific wastewater treatment policy as fundamentally, waste water treatment has different geographical and technical requirements from other forms of waste management or waste treatment that form the majority of waste proposals that the HMWP is intended to provide policy guidance for. For example, wastewater treatment plants are constrained by the location of the sewerage network and need to be located close to where the sewerage network terminates (which is generally low lying ground to enable flows to gravitate and avoid high

energy consumption associated with unnecessary pumping) and need to be located close to a suitable receiving water course into which the treated effluent can be discharged. In relation to existing wastewater treatment plants the existing discharge point can often be a critical issue as effluent discharges can form a significant proportion of river flows which are required to be maintained by the Environment Agency. Hence, these are reasons why a specific wastewater policy is required.

#### Safeguarding existing capacity- Parts A. & B

We do not consider it necessary to identify our operational wastewater/sewage treatment works (STWs) as “safeguarded” sites to safeguard existing capacity. It is considered that the safeguarding of such sites is not necessary as there is no certainty that the sites would be available for alternative waste facility redevelopment.

Part B seeks to retain safeguarded wastewater sites unless the justification criteria are met. Criterion

B.2 refers to demonstrating that the capacity of the facility to be lost is not required to meet ‘policy objectives and legal requirements’, but does not identify what these would be and therefore this part of the policy is ambiguous and is not deliverable.

The text in B2 could be amended to, for example, ‘it has been demonstrated that the capacity of the facility to be lost is no longer required’. Delete the remaining text as it duplicates other statutory and regulatory processes in place for the operation and provision of wastewater treatment facilities.

#### New capacity – Part C.

We support part C of Policy JWP2B as these are generally in line with our previous representations.

A key sustainability objective for the preparation of Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans should be for new development to be co-ordinated with the infrastructure it demands and to take into account the capacity of existing infrastructure. Paragraph 20 of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2023, states: “Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for... infrastructure for waste management, water supply, wastewater...”

Paragraph 11 states: “Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For plan-making this means that:

a) All plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects”

Paragraph 28 relates to non-strategic policies and states: “Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development. This can include allocating sites, the provision of infrastructure...”

Paragraph 26 of the revised NPPF goes on to state: “Effective and on-going joint working between strategic policy-making authorities and relevant bodies is integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy. In particular, joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary....”

The web based National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) includes a section on ‘water supply, wastewater and water quality’ and sets out that development plans should be the focus for ensuring that investment plans of water and sewerage/wastewater companies align with development needs. In relation to plan making the NPPG sets out:

“Plan-making may need to consider:

- the sufficiency and capacity of wastewater infrastructure
- the circumstances where wastewater from new development would not be expected to drain to a public sewer
- the capacity of the environment to receive effluent from development in different parts of a strategic policy-making authority's area without preventing relevant statutory objectives being met" (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 34-007-20140306)

Policy SI5 of the London Plan 2021 relates to water and wastewater infrastructure and supports the provision of such infrastructure to service development.

Local Authorities should consider both the requirements of the utilities for land to enable them to meet the demands that will be placed upon them. This is necessary because it will not be possible to identify all the water and wastewater/sewerage infrastructure required over the plan period due to the way water companies are regulated and plan in 5 year periods (AMPs). Thames Water are currently in AMP7 which covers the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2025. AMP8 will cover the period from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2030. The Price Review, whereby the water companies' AMP8 Business Plan will be agreed with Ofwat during 2024.

The NPPG also sets out that plan-making should consider:

- identifying suitable sites for new or enhanced waste water and water supply infrastructure. When identifying sites it is important to recognise that water and wastewater infrastructure can have specific locational needs (and often consists of engineering works rather than new buildings). This means exceptionally otherwise protected areas may have to be considered, where this is consistent with their designation.
- existing and proposed development in the vicinity of a location under consideration for water and wastewater infrastructure. In two-tier areas there will need to be close working between the district and county councils.
- whether new development is appropriate near to sites used (or proposed) for water and wastewater infrastructure (for example, odour may be a concern).
- phasing new development so that water and wastewater infrastructure will be in place when and where needed. The impact on designated sites of importance for biodiversity should be considered to ensure the required infrastructure is in place before any environmental effects occur. "Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 34-005-20140306"

Thames Water agree that there is a need for a specific wastewater treatment/sewage sludge policy as fundamentally, waste water treatment has different geographical and technical requirements from other forms of waste management or waste treatment that form the majority of waste proposals that the East London Joint Waste Local Plan is intended to provide policy guidance for. For example, wastewater treatment plants are constrained by the location of the sewerage network and need to be located close to where the sewerage network terminates (which is generally low lying ground to enable flows to gravitate and avoid high energy consumption associated with unnecessary pumping) and need to be located close to a suitable receiving water course into which the treated effluent can be discharged. In relation to existing wastewater treatment plants the existing discharge point can often be a critical issue as effluent discharges can form a significant proportion of river flows which are required to be maintained by the Environment Agency. Hence, these are reasons why a specific wastewater policy is required.

#### Part D.

It is suggested that Part D of the draft policy is deleted, as this duplicates national and local policy which is already in place to protect the environment and communities or should at least refer to the Development Plan as a whole.

#### **4. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the East London Joint Waste Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified at 5 above. (Please note**

that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why each modification will make the Waste Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Overall, it is considered that the purpose of the policy should be simplified to support wastewater development. An alternative form of wording for this purpose could be: 'Proposals for wastewater related development at wastewater treatment sites should be supported where demonstrated to be in accordance with the other policies in this plan and the relevant borough's development plan.'

Other suggestions to amend the policy purpose include:

- Bullet point 1 – suggest the word 'consented' is removed as Thames Water have permitted development rights to deliver development at STWs subject to the EIA Regulations: 'existing wastewater treatment (including sludge management) facilities are safeguarded from loss to non-wastewater related treatment uses';
- Bullet point 2 - could be updated to 'additional wastewater treatment and recycling capacity, related infrastructure and upgrades are consented to meet identified needs';
- Bullet point 3 could then be deleted as this would be covered by the above; and
- Bullet point 4 is deleted, as this duplicates national and local policy which is already in place to protect the environment and communities.

No need to safeguard STW sites and Parts A&B.

It is suggested that Part D of the draft policy is deleted, as this duplicates national and local policy which is already in place to protect the environment and communities or should at least refer to the Development Plan as a whole.

***Please note*** In your representation you should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification(s). You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions. ***After this stage, further submissions may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies for examination.***

**5. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)? (please tick as appropriate)**

**No**, I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s)

**Yes**, I wish to participate in hearing session(s)

*Please note that while this will provide an indication of your wish to participate in hearing session(s), you may be asked at a later point to confirm your request to participate.*

**6. If you wish to participate in the hearing session(s), please outline why you consider this to be necessary:**

*Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in hearing session(s). You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.*

**7. Do you wish to be notified about:**

a. the submission of the Joint Waste Plan for independent examination

Yes  No

b. the publication of the Inspector's report

Yes  No

c. the adoption of the Joint Waste Plan

Yes  No

*If you have further questions about the consultation, please get in touch with the team at [eljointwasteplan@havering.gov.uk](mailto:eljointwasteplan@havering.gov.uk)*