

## **Langham WRC Background Briefing & Supplementary Finance Questions**

### **Communications Timeline from Anglian Water to Langham Parish Council**

In November 2021 AW provided a “Committed Investment Plan” to Colchester Borough Council, referencing a 500m<sup>3</sup>/day DWF permit pre-application, with a stated expectation of upgrade completion by 22/12/2024, and a worst case scenario of completion by end of 2025. It was confirmed that investment funding had been allocated within Anglian Water’s AMP7 plan period (up to 2025).

At our Jan 2022 meeting, AW confirmed the above timescale commitment and re-confirmed the 500m<sup>3</sup>/day upgrade (despite LPC questioning whether this upgrade would provide sufficient capacity, based on the 2021 DWF outturn of >480m<sup>3</sup>/day).

At our Nov 2022 meeting, AW provided an overview of their flow monitoring investigation program to identify the source of suspected infiltration. They committed to update LPC on the confirmed WRC upgrade delivery option and plan in Spring 2023.

On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023, AW advised LPC that the permit pre-application had been revised upwards to 540m<sup>3</sup>/day. Fresh “optioneering” and design work would therefore now be required, running through to November 2023, but a delivery date by end of 2025 was still expected.

On 11<sup>th</sup> Sep 2023, AW advised LPC that Langham WRC actually needs a bigger than expected major re-build at an estimated capex cost of around £6m. AW had therefore delayed the investment program pending a further, new, much more detailed flow monitoring investigation aimed at identifying the still-suspected major infiltration problem. This program will take several months to complete, meaning that the upgrade project will slip back into the AMP8 investment period of 2025-2030. No specific new target date for completion of the project has yet been advised to us.

### **When, realistically, is the Langham WRC upgrade project likely to be delivered?**

AW’s Annual Performance Reports for 2022 and 2023 report total company expenditure on WRC capacity upgrades as £0.671m<sup>1</sup> and £6.57m<sup>2</sup> respectively, suggesting that AW fund on average less than one major WRC upgrade per annum across their entire network of several hundred WRCs. Langham WRC upgrade will therefore need very high investment priority if it is to proceed rapidly!

However, if one looks again at AW’s Annual Performance Reports, for 2022 and 2023, they provide a detailed list of the worst performing WRCs for each of these years. 15 WRCs are listed in the 2022 report<sup>3</sup>, and 12 WRCs are listed in the 2023 report<sup>4</sup>. Langham WRC does not feature in either list!

### **Pre-Meeting Questions for Anglian Water**

Q1. Why does Langham WRC not feature in the list of non-compliant WRCs in Anglian Water’s public Annual Performance Reports for 2022 and 2023?

Q2. Will Langham WRC feature in the list of non-compliant WRCs in AW’s 2024 Annual Performance Report?

Q3. Realistically, is there any chance of the upgrade being delivered even within the AMP8 2025-2030 investment window?

Q4. Has the scale of the WRC upgrade project really come as that much of an unplanned financial surprise? Back in 2018, the forecast Langham WRC upgrade already was identified as £3.42m<sup>5</sup>, equating to £4.6m now (adjusted for RPI index changes since 2018). And if the proposed new flow monitoring program succeeds in allowing any descoping of the upgrade requirements, this could easily bring it back into 100% alignment with the early 2018 forecast, meaning no financial surprise at all and simply a very lengthy delay!

Q5. AW's Annual Performance Reports for 2022 and 2023 identify £6.59m<sup>6</sup> and £4.86m<sup>7</sup> capex respectively being spent to "reduce foul flooding risk for properties". Could any of the corresponding 2024 budget be allocated to addressing the repeated property flooding issues in the vicinity of the Chapel Road Pumping Station?

Langham Parish Council – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024

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Reference 1: Anglian Water Annual Performance Report 2022, page 186

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/annual-performance-report-2022-2.pdf>

Reference 2: Anglian Water Annual Performance Report 2023, page 202

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/anglian-water-annual-performance-report-2023.pdf>

Reference 3: Anglian Water Annual Performance Report 2022, page 109

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/annual-performance-report-2022-2.pdf>

Reference 4: Anglian Water Annual Performance Report 2023, page 104

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/anglian-water-annual-performance-report-2023.pdf>

Reference 5: Anglian Water Long-Term Water Recycling Plan 2018, page 72

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/in-the-community/water-recycling-long-term-plan.pdf>

Reference 6: Anglian Water Annual Performance Report 2022, page 186

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/annual-performance-report-2022-2.pdf>

Reference 7: Anglian Water Annual Performance Report 2023, page 202

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/anglian-water-annual-performance-report-2023.pdf>