

## **CHAPTER 12: POTABLE WATER**

### **Introduction and DSIS Report (2011)**

- 12.1 Affinity Water is the main supplier of potable water in Dacorum. Affinity Water has recently completed a strategic review of their supply system and in many areas have identified the need for strategic supply reinforcements to be provided in advance of any future development. This is generally as a result of limits to current capacity to meet future needs and the known development programme. The information given in this IDP update is similar to Affinity Water's own estimation for future growth and means that no strategic infrastructure is needed to meet the required service to their customers in Dacorum. Instead the required flow and pressure to new developments will be met by local reinforcements to their distribution system as developments are applied for. In the case of the large scale development, as envisaged in the Core Strategy and located to the east of Dacorum, Affinity Water have a strategic supply already in place that has the capacity to connect to this development albeit with the possibility for local pumping to meet flow and pressure needs. The information provided by Affinity Water is based on their knowledge of future development plans and verified from population surveys and local area plans. If these assumptions on future growth change significantly in size and location of development then Affinity Water would need to re-evaluate their plans for providing the necessary infrastructure.
- 12.2 Therefore, the 'Water' chapter in the DSIS Utilities and Physical Infrastructure Assessment report remains entirely valid.

### **Background and Policy Drivers**

- 12.3 As with other utilities infrastructure, the strategic planning undertaken by the providers is done for a much larger area than just Dacorum. This means that additional infrastructure requirements arising from the development planned in Dacorum are difficult to identify.

- 12.4 The DSIS report did not identify any specific requirements for potable water infrastructure that would be required as a result of planned development in Dacorum but did note that local network reinforcement would be likely to be required.
- 12.5 Affinity Water submitted a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) under the Water Act 2003 in 2014, which was approved by the Secretary of State, and which covers the period 2015-2040

### **Future Demand and Infrastructure Requirements**

- 12.6 The Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) sets out how Affinity Water will meet the needs for potable water from any future growth within the region (which extends beyond Dacorum's administrative boundaries). The Plan identifies that improvements to the existing infrastructure are likely to be required to ensure the supply of water to impacted communities.
- 12.7 Dacorum is located in Water Resources Zone 2 within the WRMP where the options for include:
- Implementation of universal metering to improve water efficiency by 2019;
  - Mains reinforcement in Bushey (re-commission reservoir) by 2027;
  - Additional water efficiency for households by 2033;
  - Leak reduction by active leakage control (ALC) between 2015-2040;
  - Use of dual flush WCs by 2034;
  - Source optimisation in St Albans by 2038; and
  - Introduction of a peak licence scheme in north Watford by 2038.
- 12.8 Affinity Water rely on developers and information contained within local plans to plan for and direct where infrastructure upgrades are required in order to ensure the continued supply of potable water. Therefore, the Council will continue to work with the infrastructure provider to ensure the delivery of planned development.

12.9 The Water Project for Hertfordshire outlined in Chapter 10 of this report is relevant to the future planning of water supply infrastructure (see paragraphs 10.11 – 10.13). The outcomes of the study, expected later in 2016, will inform the assessment of growth options for the Council's new Local Plan and will be fed into future IDPs and considerations for use of CIL funds.