

Water

Policy INF4: Water Resources

1. **All development proposals must demonstrate that there is or will be adequate water supply, surface water, foul drainage and sewerage treatment capacity to serve the whole development. Applicants will be required to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity both on and off site to serve the development and that it would not lead to problems for existing users. When there is a capacity constraint and improvements to off-site infrastructure are not programmed, the developer should set out how the infrastructure improvements will be completed prior to occupation of the development. For phased development proposals, each phase must demonstrate sufficient water supply and water treatment capacity.**
2. **New developments are required to be designed to a water efficiency standard of 110 litres/head/day (l/h/d) for new homes.**
3. **Proposals that increase the requirement for water will only be permitted where adequate water resources either already exist or can be provided without detriment to existing abstraction, river flows, groundwater flow to and from springs, water quality, biodiversity or other land uses.**

This policy contributes towards achieving objectives 4, 6, 7 & 8.

- 6.33 Demand for water in the district continues to increase and it is appropriate, therefore, that new development minimises the pressure on existing resources. Measures to reduce the demand for water should be incorporated into new development. Where there is an adverse impact on water resources, including groundwater, planning conditions and planning obligations may be imposed to mitigate the adverse effects of the development and to secure water conservation measures. The Water Cycle Study identifies areas of South Oxfordshire where water supply and/or wastewater infrastructure or treatment upgrades are required to serve proposed growth. These constraints, and the timing of measures to address them, should be taken into account when phasing new development. This is particularly important for development within Chalgrove, Didcot, Thame, Wheatley and around Oxford which have been identified as having significant constraints.

- 6.34 Thames Water is the water and wastewater service provider for South Oxfordshire. Thames Water is responsible for the planning and implementation required to provide a secure supply of water to their customers which supports future growth. Thames Water will therefore advise on the capacity of their network to supply water to a new development. The Environment Agency has a wider role to regulate the use of water and licenses water for use by private abstractors and water companies. The Council will continue to work with both organisations to ensure water matters are appropriately evidenced and taken account of in growth plans.