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Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council

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By email only

10 July 2026

Dear Mr Weston,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council in relation to the SESRO / White Horse Reservoir and Thames Water's potential application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Following Thames Water's indication that they will apply for a DCO regarding the proposed reservoir in November 2026, the Vale want to emphasise the importance of effective and meaningful engagement within this process. Consequently, as there remains many contentious and outstanding issues in relation to this project, the council are requesting that a targeted consultation is held that will cover the following areas of immediate concern:

- Flood risks – fluvial and groundwater.
- Dam breach analysis and emergency planning.
- The viability and effects of emergency drawdown.
- Water quality in the reservoir and water environment.
- Biodiversity analysis and net gain proposals.
- Construction and logistics strategy and related community impacts, including traffic effects and access and management of construction.
- Security implications of this unparalleled fully-bunded reservoir and major strategic asset.

A targeted consultation addressing these issues in relation to the SESRO / White Horse Reservoir will help to assist the council in contributing towards a DCO Adequacy of Consultation milestone report.

We would also like to reiterate the council's continued opposition to this project. The Vale believes that the proposed reservoir is not the right solution to addressing the

future water needs of southern England and, therefore, stresses the need for Thames Water to consider other options.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours Sincerely,



Councillor Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Council