



0800 316 9800

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm,
Sat 8am-1pm

Cllr Bethia Thomas
Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council

SENT VIA EMAIL

10 August 2026

Dear Bethia,

White Horse Reservoir – targeted consultation

Thank you for your letter of 10 July 2026. I've been asked to respond on Chris Weston's behalf, as Delivery Director for White Horse Reservoir.

You have requested that we undertake targeted consultation on several topics relating to White Horse Reservoir. As required by the Planning Act 2008, we held a statutory public consultation from 28 October 2025 until 23 January 2026.

As you will be aware, the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 creates the framework for a suite of reforms to the Planning Act 2008. On 3 July 2026, the Government issued their guidance to the reforms. In summary, the statutory requirement to consult during pre-application has been removed for all projects, coming into force from 24 July 2026.

Whilst the guidance changes aspects of the formal process, our commitment to constructive engagement and joint working with local authorities remains unchanged. We continue to value the time and expertise that your officers have contributed to the development of the project and want to ensure that engagement remains focused on the matters that will help deliver a robust application and examination process.

We are currently assessing the impacts of the new planning reforms guidance on our project. Should we undertake further consultation activities we will of course be in touch. We remain on track to submit our application for development consent in November 2026.

I trust the above update is helpful and don't hesitate to reach out if you would like a detailed briefing on the project's next steps.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Dubois".

Leonie Dubois

Delivery Director – Consents and Place