Supplementary Information

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2023

Please note that the attached supplementary information was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item	
4	**Update from Southern Water Authority - Discharges into Langstone Harbour** Further to minute 28/2/2023, to consider what recommendations (if any) to make to Cabinet. **Please note that representatives of Southern Water will not be attending this meeting.**	**1 - 4**

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Councillor	Question
Turner	1. Why is there a discrepancy between the initial plans that were discussed with the Havant Thicket Reservoir Stakeholders Group at their meetings in 2019-2020 and the current proposed plans? Specifically. a. The possible recycling of water was never mentioned. When the planning consent was put in, why was this never mentioned as a possible condition? *Both Southern Water and Portsmouth Water have been open throughout the planning application process about potential future uses of Havant Thicket Reservoir – involving supplementing the spring water in the reservoir with recycled water.* *At the time of the planning applications for Havant Thicket Reservoir in 2021, information was shared in the public domain about the many options Southern Water was exploring through the 'Water for Life – Hampshire' programme.* *During the planning application stage, Southern Water was still pursuing the development of a desalination plant to make up the shortfall in Hampshire, and the various water recycling and water transfer proposals were a back-up to this. The potential enhanced uses of the reservoir were options under consideration at that time and no firm decisions had been made. Southern Water confirmed the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project as its selected water resource option to its regulators in December 2021.* *In addition, the reservoir project was further ahead in development terms than any of Southern Water's options and for this reason the planning process for the reservoir was progressed on the basis of what was known. Through extensive public consultation, there was strong public support for the new reservoir at Havant Thicket.* *During the planning application process for the reservoir, both companies were questioned about these options for potential future uses by the two Planning Committees and other members of the public. Both companies were open in explaining the status of both projects and were always clear that any proposal that went beyond the reservoir planning application would need be the subject of a further planning approval – and that is still the case.* *Any changes to the current plans for Havant Thicket Reservoir are subject to further consultation and planning approval. A further public consultation on the plans is expected to be held later in 2023 or in early 2024.* b. Previously the residents were promised that non-motorised watercraft and other leisure activities were going to be allowed, but why are they now told instead that they were not allowed these leisure activities in the future?

	*pending some additional information from Portsmouth Water
Kennett	2. Please could Southern Water (and Portsmouth Water) explain why the promised water-based amenities are no longer part of the Havant Thicket proposal? We were originally assured the reservoir would provide a variety of water sports and other activities. Why is this no longer the case? *pending some additional information from Portsmouth Water
Munday	3. Currently 16% of treated water is lost. By 2050 that figure will still be 8%. Surely that target is not ambitious enough! *Our network is big and complex (13,870km of water mains), which makes finding and fixing leaks challenging.* *We fixed 22,000 leaks across our region last year. We're committed to reducing leakage by 15% by 2025, 40% by 2040 and 50% by 2050. This is an ambitious but realistic reduction – given the challenge of finding leaks on such a vast network of underground pipes.* *We recently invested an additional £1.2 million to speed up the roll out of a new Advanced Pressure Management system to reduce fatigue of the pipes which can cause bursts.* *We have fitted 7,000 acoustic loggers to detect and pinpoint leaks – even on deeply buried pipes.* 4. Southern Water as part of its own Options Appraisal identified many aquifers across the region which could be used for storage, filling them in times of heavy rainfall and storing the water underground. This is a more environmentally friendly, lower energy alternative. However, you don't plan to even investigate them before 2029, by which time the water recycling scheme will have been implemented! Why not? *Aquifer storage and recovery is where treated water is pumped into an aquifer when surplus water is available to be subsequently abstracted during a drought. It needs the aquifer to be "confined" – where it's one separate underground body of water where the water would remain.*

	Southern Water has investigated this option in Hampshire and do have plans for one such scheme in the Lower Test (where the chalk is confined by London Clay) but it can only provide about 5.5 million litres a day, so much less than the water transfer and water recycling option. This project is currently forecast for 2040/41. *The issue elsewhere in Hampshire is that the aquifer is unconfined – e.g. the water would simply flow away and could not be guaranteed to remain where it's put.* 5. This scheme is expensive, has significant effect on the environment and uses a lot of energy. Should we not be putting more emphasis on Climate Impact and Energy Conservation? *The Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project, a major component of our Water for Life – Hampshire programme, is Southern Water's commitment to help keep rivers and taps flowing, following Environment Agency reductions in the amount of water that can be taken from the Test and Itchen rivers. These are two of the finest chalk streams in the world, which are the source of the majority of Hampshire's fresh water.* *The need to make up the shortfall with new sources of water is amplified by climate change and the pressures of a growing population.* *Southern Water has assessed the feasibility of a range of strategic resource options for new sustainable water sources. Options considered as part of the options appraisal process have included a desalination plant on the Solent. Following the options appraisal process for water resource options, involving an evaluation of a wide range of factors, including planning and consenting; economic and social; environmental, and legal and strategic factors, it was concluded that the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project provided the best water resource option.* *Regarding energy consumption of this project, it is significantly less compared to desalination.* 6. I filled out all three of the water consultation documents though I found them quite opaque and was concerned that your (SW) document did not even mention the effluent recycling plan specifically. However, the results of a recent WSRE (Water Resources of the South East) consultation indicate that the public prefer: Reduced Leakage, Demand Control, Reservoirs and protecting the environment to

	either desalination or effluent recycling so the question is do you take any notice of them? *Southern Water takes on board all feedback from stakeholders and communities' consultation responses – to help shape its plans. Following its recent public consultations, including the Project consultation last summer, and the draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 consultation during winter 2022 –23, the company is now considering the feedback received, alongside further technical and environmental work, as it works to develop a more detailed design for the Project. Southern Water will present this more detailed design, alongside information from its preliminary environmental work, at another* consultation in late 2023 or early 2024, during which people will have a further opportunity to provide feedback. *A number of projects are needed due to the size of the shortfall and the need to deploy a range of measures to resolve it.* *Southern Water is funding the construction of the Havant Thicket Reservoir and working hard to reduce leakage and improve water efficiency, but new sources of water must also be found to replace that previously taken from the county's rivers.*