



Test Valley Borough Council

By Email Only [neighbourhoodplanning@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@testvalley.gov.uk)

Date  
15 May 2026

Contact  
[planning.policy@southernwater.co.uk](mailto:planning.policy@southernwater.co.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Awbridge Submission Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you for consulting Southern Water on the Submission version of the Awbridge Neighbourhood Plan.

Southern Water is a Statutory Water Supplier for the Parish of Awbridge.

Please find further below our comments in respect of specific policies in the Plan.

We hope that you find our response useful and look forward to being kept informed of progress.

Yours sincerely,

*Ryan Lownds*

Ryan Lownds  
Strategic Planning Lead  
Hampshire, West Sussex, Isle of Wight



## Policy A10 – Flooding and Drainage

As the Water Supplier for Awbridge parish Southern Water supports the last criterion of this policy which encourages water efficiency in new development, however we would welcome the criterion going further in regards to what level of efficiency is required.

Water is a finite resource and one of the key issues facing our environment is fresh water scarcity. The South East of England is classified as a seriously water stressed area by the Environment Agency as it has the lowest levels of rainfall and high population density. Southern Water are currently investigating ways to tackle leakage, targeting households to save water and investigating new areas of investment to safeguard future water supplies.

This all comes at a time when climate projections point to drier and warmer summers with more extreme weather events and more frequent/severe droughts. These events are expected to result in a higher demand for water whilst adversely impacting supply.

The more water that is abstracted from the ground to meet this growing demand the less water there is for rivers, streams and wildlife. This means that there are a number of competing demands on the use of water. This balancing act is anticipated to become even more challenging in the future, when taking into account an increased population (through additional development) and the likely effects of a changing climate on the availability of water resources. This means that Local and Neighbourhood Plans have a key role in ensuring that new development is designed to be water efficient.

Water efficiency is regulated by Part G of the Building Regulations which require (section G2) that reasonable provision must be made by the installation of fittings and fixed appliances that use water efficiently for the prevention of undue consumption of water. For new dwellings, daily water use per person must not exceed 125 litres per person per day, with an optional tighter target of 110 litres per person per day where there is a clear local need.

Given that the South East of England is located in a water stressed area, we would welcome an ambitious target for water efficiency standards, that reflects the challenges posed to water demand by climate change and housing growth.

Therefore, we recommend the following additional wording for **Policy A10** (new wording underlined).

*viii. Within all areas, highlight how water efficiency, the use of green roofs, porous paving, rainwater harvesting methods and greywater recycling has been considered and incorporated as appropriate. New homes will be required to meet either a water efficiency standard of 100 litres maximum daily allowable usage per person, or any future national standards, whichever is lower*

To support the above, we have also provided some examples below of where Local Authorities have set more ambitious targets for water efficiency in their Local Plans -

### **Winchester Local Plan Policy CN4 Water Efficiency Standards in New Developments**

*Residential developments should be designed to achieve a maximum water capacity use of 100 litres/ person/day from mains/private water supply in order to help manage the demand for water unless it can be demonstrated that this is not feasible.*

## South Downs STRATEGIC POLICY SD48: CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES

*All development proposals will be required to meet the following internal maximum water consumptions standards:*

*a) Residential and visitor accommodation: predicted mains water consumption  $\leq$  90 litres/person/day*

### Horsham Local Plan Policy 39 - Sustainable Design and Construction

*All new residential development must limit water use to 100 litres/person/day;*

### Wiltshire Local Plan Policy 96 Water resources

*new residential development should have a predicted mains water consumption of no more than 85 litres per person per day;*

## Policy A12 Community Facilities

Southern Water is the Statutory Water Supplier for Awbridge and as such has a statutory duty to serve new development within the Parish.

Although there are no current plans, over the life of the Neighbourhood Plan, it may be that we will need to provide new or improved infrastructure either to serve new development and/or to meet stricter environmental standards. It is therefore important to have policy provision in the Neighbourhood Plan which seeks to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to meet these requirements.

Whilst this policy supports development which seeks provision or funding for infrastructure, we would also look for policy to support the general provision of new or improved utilities infrastructure, by infrastructure providers. The National Planning Practice Guidance states that '*Adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is needed to support sustainable development*'.

Although the Parish Council is not the planning authority in relation to water supply development proposals, support for essential infrastructure is required at all levels of the planning system.

To facilitate sustainable development, we propose the following additional policy criterion for **Policy A12**.

*New and improved utility infrastructure will be encouraged and supported in order to meet the identified needs of the community subject to other policies in the plan*