

Simon Moody  
Area Director, Solent and South Downs  
Environment Agency  
Solent and South Downs Area Office  
Guildbourne House  
Chatsworth Road  
Worthing, Sussex  
BN11 1LD

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Mr Moody

I am the Leader of the Opposition on Chichester District Council and have been on calls with your predecessor. I trust you are now up to date with the challenges and issues facing Chichester District Council with current new planning applications and the production of our Local Plan.

You may well have watched Chichester District Council's "All Member Session" on Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup>. If not it can be watched here: <https://chichester.nucast.live/frontend/meeting/4105153>

We enclose for your interest amendments placed before Councillors by the Liberal Democrat Group at the meeting.

These amendments was supported by all Opposition Party members and one Independent Group member. They only failed to be passed by Council on the casting vote of the Chair of the Council.

We believe these amendments were positive, pragmatic and non partisan.

We particularly draw your attention to:

- 2.7 That a Statement of Common Ground between Chichester District Council, the Environment Agency (EA) and Southern Water (SW) is urgently published that clearly and unambiguously states the challenges and issues surrounding the limitations and restrictions affecting Waste water Treatment Works ( WwTWs) operated by Southern Water in the District.
- 2.8 That the EA be urgently requested to formally recognise the need for development to be phased so that it aligns with infrastructure provision. Consequently the Council will liaise with the EA, Natural England and SW to agree a phased programme of WwTW capacity enhancements. This programme will assist in determining the location and phasing of future housing provision in the Local Plan Review. Furthermore, the Council, SW and EA will jointly prepare Position Statements for all WWTWs with insufficient headroom capacity at 2025, to ensure that decisions made prior to the adoption of the LPR will reflect the predicted cumulative effect of future development proposals.

It is imperative for the Environment Agency, Southern Water, and Chichester District Council to work together to urgently agree a District wide Statement of Common Ground that is transparent in the challenges facing the District. The Statement of Common ground needs to embrace the EA defined goals of "We work to create better places for people and wildlife, and support sustainable development".

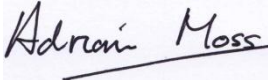
The Position Statement for Apuldram (Chichester) Waste water Treatment Works clearly defines that there is very limited capacity and that new larger scale development cannot be connected. Position Statements prepared in a similar vein are required by the end of August for all WwTWs with insufficient headroom capacity at 2025 (based on predicted developments).

With robust Position Statements it will be possible for Chichester District Council to refuse speculative planning applications that risk the environment and harbour.

Our call to the Environment Agency, Southern Water, and Natural England is to provide Chichester District Council with the robust evidence that enables us to stop damaging, speculative planning applications and to deliver an evidence based new Local Plan by summer 2022.

**With your support we can pause these speculative planning applications that will so damage the harbour, the coastal strip and the environment.**

Yours Sincerely



Adrian Moss  
**Leader of the Opposition**  
**Group Leader Liberal Democrats**

CC: Press, OFWAT, Chichester Harbour Trust, Chichester Conservancy