

## Halcrow Group Limited

Burderop Park Swindon Wiltshire SN4 0QD  
Tel +44 (0)1793 812479 Fax +44 (0)1793 812089  
www.halcrow.com



Rugby Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Evreux Way  
Rugby  
CV21 2RR

For the attention of Sarah Fisher

15 March 2010

Our ref WUWWCS - final report  
Your ref

Dear Sarah

### **Joint Warwickshire sub-regional outline water cycle study**

We are very pleased to provide a final copy of the Joint Warwickshire sub-regional water cycle outline study.

The study has been produced to support the evidence base for the sub-region with respect to water and environmental capacity and water services infrastructure capacity.

Since being commissioned to carry out the study, there have been two publications that may have an impact on the assumptions and outputs of this report, but which were not available in time to be considered as part of the technical analysis of the report. These are discussed below.

- **West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 revision Examination in Public Panel report, September 2009.** The Panel report was published after the study had agreed growth and development testing scenarios with the sub-region. The study has tested the original RSS housing allocation for each of the planning authorities as well as a higher testing scenario based on the NLP report. The final housing requirement will not be certain until the Secretary of State has published and consulted on the proposed changes to the strategy, and until the final plan is published (expected summer 2010).
- **Severn Trent Water Resources Management Plan.** Following commission of the water cycle study, Severn Trent have been directed to publish their final Water Resources Management Plan by the Secretary of State for the Environment. The water cycle study testing scenarios are based on the draft WRMP which will be superseded by the final plan. Severn Trent Water have made a number of changes in preparation of the final plan in response to representations received in the consultation process. A summary of these proposed changes has been indicated in Severn Trent Water's Statement of Response (May 2009), but the full implications will not be understood until the final plan is published. We have passed comment on the likely implications of the changes to the final plan based on the Statement of Response. However, it

must be understood that the demand management scenario testing could only be based on the detailed numbers based in the draft plan.

In determining environmental capacity with respect to water quality and Water Framework Directive compliance, we have followed a draft Environment Agency protocol as agreed with the Environment Agency. This protocol is subject to change and we recommend that the sub-region request that the Environment Agency notify yourselves if a change in the protocol is likely to significantly change the evidence base in the final report.

We have identified a number of recommendations for each planning authority and for the sub-region as a whole. We do not consider that a detailed water cycle is required for the sub-region, because of the different stages that each local planning authority is at in the Local Development Framework. Each authority will need to have due regard to the recommendations to ensure a sound evidence base for infrastructure delivery plans, particularly with respect to ensuring that infrastructure is planned and delivered in advance of housing completion. We have identified a number of recommendations, further work, and uncertainties which need to be resolved. In particular further assessment is required to provide a greater level of certainty for water services infrastructure, for detailed site allocations. These can be addressed through uncertainties can be resolved through discrete packages of work, we believe the most efficient way to resolve such uncertainties would be through a detailed water cycle study for each planning authority. These should only be carried out when each planning authority has an appropriate level of certainty about spatial distribution and proposed housing delivery programme.

We look forward to working with the sub-regional partnership in the future, and if you have any questions please contact Ali Cotton (01793 816721, [CottonA@halcrow.com](mailto:CottonA@halcrow.com))

Yours sincerely



Katherine Pygott

**Project Director**

**pygottk@halcrow.com**

**Phone No. 0113 220 8220**