

CABINET

4 February 2009

HOUSING SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS IMPROVEMENTS

REPORT OF HEAD OF ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Contact Officer: Patrick Aust Tel No : 01962 848254

Email:paust@winchester.gov.uk

RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB1620 – Housing Sewage Treatment Works Improvements – 26 March 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Council has a long-term responsibility to maintain private (that is non-mains drainage connected) sewage treatment works held within the Housing Revenue Account.

This report details the position on current projects within the capital programme for Housing Sewage Treatment Works, expenditure for 2008/09 and a programme for 2009/10.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Head of Access and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Head of Landlord Services, be authorised to progress the programme for 2009/10 as outlined in the report, subject to funding being included in the Capital Programme.
2. That in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 6.4 (iv), authority be given for release of expenditure for the Schemes set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Report.
3. That the Head of Access and Infrastructure be given delegated authority to make minor adjustments to the programme (including the bringing forward of identified reserve schemes) to meet the maintenance and operational needs of the City Council Sewage Treatment Works as required in consultation with the Head of Finance and Head of Landlord Services.

CABINET

4 February 2009

HOUSING SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS IMPROVEMENTS

REPORT OF HEAD OF ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

DETAIL:

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council has a long-term responsibility to maintain the private sewage treatment works (STWs) held within the Housing Revenue Account. The primary purpose of this maintenance programme is to ensure that the operation of the STWs meet the Council's legal responsibility to comply with Environment Agency determined discharge standards. A secondary aim is to reach standards which make the STWs adoptable by the statutory undertaker, Southern Water. It is important to recognise that adoption involves far more complex issues than just those relating to the functioning of the STW plant, and this makes adoption a slow and unpredictable process.
- 1.2. This report updates Cabinet on progress in the last year and details the position on current projects within capital programme for Housing Sewage Treatment Works with expenditure for 2008/09 and set out a programme for 2009/10.

2. Update on Current Projects

The Goodens, Cheriton

- 2.1. A parcel of land has been purchased so that the vehicular access to the plant can be achieved for maintenance purposes. A fenceline on the new boundary has been erected to the specification agreed in the conditions of sale. Work on the access is scheduled for 2010/11 as agreement with the Parish Council over a right to cross land under their control has not been finalised

Couch Green, Martyr Worthy

- 2.2. This plant was initially installed during the 1950's and as it is reaching the end of its useful life, it requires replacement. Agreement in principle on the acquisition costs has been agreed, but work on checking title is still ongoing. It had been intended to carry out construction of a new STW during 2008/09 but this will have to be deferred to 2009/10 provided the land becomes available.

St Marys Close, Droxford

- 2.3. The existing septic tank serving these properties is starting to fail and it is proposed to install a pump station to transfer effluent to the treatment plant at The Park. The line of the pumping main runs through third party land and

negotiations by land agents employed by the Head of Estates have yet to agree the necessary easements. Discussions on acquisition cost continue with one landowner, and another has yet to be approached. This work had been scheduled for 2008/09 but will have to be deferred to 2009/10 provided that the easements are negotiated.

Basingstoke Road, Old Alresford

- 2.4. The existing septic tank has been adapted into a pumping chamber and effluent from these dwellings is now transferred to The Brook STW for treatment

North Drive, Littleton

- 2.5. Due to the inability to commence work at Couch Green or St Marys Close, North Drive has been brought forward as an identified reserve site and work will commence before the end of the current financial year and should be completed during 2009/10.

Itchen View, Itchen Stoke (reserve site)

- 2.6. The septic tank at Itchen View, Itchen Stoke is reaching the end of its useful life and will be replaced by a package treatment plant. It is intended that this work will be in the 2010/11 programme but should there be a project in the 2009/10 programme that can not be started then this one could be brought forward.

Telemetry

- 2.7. The telemetry system helps in identifying malfunctions and providing management information on the Councils STWs. It is a requirement of all works being adopted by Southern Water and increasingly a requirement of the Environment Agency discharge consents. There are now 23 sites connected to the master station in City Offices, as follows:
- Long Priors STW, West Meon
 - Widley Walk STW, Widley
 - The Park STW, Droxford
 - Wine Cross STW, North Boarhunt
 - Birch Hill STW, North Boarhunt
 - Kiln Lane STW, Old Alresford
 - Big Tree Cottages STW, Soberton
 - Woodlane Close STW, Bramdean
 - Woodlane Close PS, Bramdean
 - Woodman Close STW, Sparsholt
 - Beech Grove STW Owslebury
 - The Pastures PS, Cheriton
 - The Pastures STW, Cheriton
 - The Brook STW, Old Alresford
 - The Brook PS, Old Alresford
 - Southbrook Place, Micheldever

- Cricket Close STW, Crawley
- Hobbs Close STW, Bishops Sutton
- Hobbs Close PS, Bishops Sutton
- Granville Place, Winchester
- Oak Close, Upham
- Elm Crescent, Upham
- Woodlark Cottages, Brighton
- Hazeldene Gardens PS, Itchen Abbas
- Northington Road, Itchen Abbas

When improvements are carried out on any site, telemetry will be installed as part of the works.

Southern Water Adoptions

- 2.8. Cabinet on 26th March 2008 resolved that the Head of Legal Services would serve notice on Southern Water to commence a formal process to require them to adopt properly constructed sewage disposal facilities invoking the statutory provisions in Sections 102 and 105 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (which provides a notice and appeal procedure involving OFWAT). This process was commenced using The Pastures, Cheriton as the initial works to be adopted and the process is ongoing at present.
- 2.9. If the use of this procedure is successful, it is intended to serve further notices where other STWs are in adoptable condition.

Sampling of STW

- 2.10. Sampling is now carried out on a monthly basis at 21 of the Council's 37 sewage treatment works, of which 16 are subject to Environment Agency Quality Consent Orders. This is a key performance indicator of how well a STW is performing. Samples are taken from works that offer secondary and tertiary treatment. Septic tanks will not reach a meaningful level of purity and are not tested: a programme of works is in hand to replace these with more environmentally friendly treatment works, which will be tested.
3. Budget Expenditure 2008/09 - Approved Allocation £200,000
- 3.1. The budget for 2008/09 will be underspent by around £126,000 for the reasons already stated.

<u>STW</u>	<u>Spend (Allocated) to date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Couch Green	(£160,000)	Land not forthcoming so construction deferred to 2009/10
St Marys Close	(£20,000)	Easements not completed so construction deferred to 2009/10

<u>STW</u>	<u>Spend (Allocated) to date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
The Goodens, Cheriton	£4,000	Erection of fence and new gate to Cheriton Rectory on boundary of recently purchased land.
Basingstoke Road, Old Alresford	£20,000	Adaption of existing works as a pump chamber with new pumps, controls and telemetry
North Drive, Littleton	£50,000	Provision of package treatment works to replace septic tank and trickle filter. NB: It will be necessary to carry some of this allocation into 09/10, the amount will depend on progress with implementation.
	<u>£74,000</u>	

4. Budget Programme 2009/10- Proposed Allocation £200,000

4.1. The proposed Budget Programme for 2009/10 is as follows:-

STW	Budget	Comment
Couch Green, Martyr Worthy	£180,000	Construction of new STW upon completion of anticipated land purchase.
St Mary's Close, Droxford	£20,000	Pump station and pump main to connect to The Park STW once easement has been agreed.
Total to be allocated	<u>£200,000</u>	
Itchen View, Itchen Stoke (reserve site)	(£50,000)	Construction of package treatment plant to replace septic tank

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. The programme of works for 2008/09 saw work commence at Basingstoke Road, Old Alresford, North Drive, Littleton and The Goodens, Cheriton.
- 5.2. The allocation of £200,000 for 2008/09 was not fully spent as land for a new works at Couch Green and an easement for a pumping main at St Marys Close was not forthcoming. A new works at North Drive, Littleton was brought forward, having been identified as a reserve site in the 2008/09

Housing Sewage Treatment Works Improvements Cabinet Report (CAB 1620 refers).

- 5.3. Appendix A attached to this report provides a summary of the current situation with regards to all of the Council's 37 STWs.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

6. CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 6.1. To maintain the Council's assets and to promote, maintain a clean, safe and healthy environment.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1. As detailed in the report. The Council's Capital Programme includes a provision of £200,000 per annum for Sewage Treatment Works. The forecast underspend of £126,000 will be taken into account when the final figures are known at the year end and incorporated into the next review of the capital programme in July.

8. TACT Comment

- 8.1. TACT considered a draft of this report at its meeting on 20 February 2008 and would like to thank Richard Botham, Head of Landlord Services for presenting the paper.

TACT note the work completed to date and support the proposals in the report for 2008/09.

TACT also note that the funding for this work is met from capital receipts and not from the Housing Revenue Account or Major Repairs Allowance.

It is important that private households connected to Housing treatment works continue to pay a fair share of the costs. Although improvements cannot usually be recharged, TACT would want to see costs recharged wherever possible.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Documents are kept on Engineering Services file ref. 140000

APPENDICES:

Appendix A –Current review of all Sewage Treatment Works.

Current Review of all Sewage Treatment Works

STW	SWS Adoption	No. Prop	E.Agency Discharge*	Budget £'000	Poss Adoption Year	Comments
Station Hill Itchen Abbas	Possible	27	9	250	2010	Now redundant and replaced by works at Northington Road
Oak Close Upham	No	6	2.34	49.9	N/A	New works commissioned 2006
Elm Crescent Upham	No	6	3.5	54	N/A	As Above
Basingstoke Rd Old Alresford	No	6	3.5		N/A	Pumping main installed in 2004. Works to follow to alter existing works into a pumping station to pump to The Brook STW.
Pound lane Meonstoke	No	25	20		N/A	. Refurbishment carried out and life expectancy extended by approx 9 years
St Andrew's Green Meonstoke	No	12	5.85	50	N/A	Existing works to be replaced in next few years
Baring Close Itchen Stoke	No	12	2.34	TBA	N/A	Works to be investigated and scheme prepared in negotiation with land owner Land negotiations continuing.
Cricket Close Crawley	No	9	6		N/A	New works completed & commissioned 04/05
Woodlark Cottages Bishop's Sutton	No	4	2.34	32	N/A	Replacement STW commissioned in 2006
Hobbs Close Bishop's Sutton	Possible	28	13		2007	New Works completed & commissioned 04/05
Couch Green Martyr Worthy	Possible	22	16.5	120	2007	Land negotiations at advanced stage, planning application submitted and design commenced. In programme for 2009/10
Railway Cottages West Meon	No	6	?		N/A	Septic tank failing. Possibility of connection to new development being investigated.
North Drive Littleton	No	10	10	10	N/A	Renovation of filter bed required. Under consideration as reserve site 08/09. Now brought forward to 08/09
Westwood View Kilmerston	No	10	5.85		N/A	Underground suction pipe laid in Feb 2004. No further work envisaged.
Itchen View Itchen Stoke	No	6	4.5		N/A	No works planned.
Lambourne Close	No	4	2.34		N/A	No works planned

Sparsholt						
The Hallways Littleton	No	14	8.8		N/A	Replacement works required in next two years
Crawley Cottages STW Crawley	No	8	3.5	0	N/A	Septic Tank - No works planned at present.
The Goodens STW Cheriton	No	8	6	25	N/A	Land purchase for access road completed and boundary fenced in.
Stratton Close STW East Stratton	No	6	3.5		N/A	New soakaway completed 2002.
Warren Cottages STW Micheldever Station	No	4	2.34	32	N/A	Septic tank & soakaway system requires replacement with next one or two years.
St Mary's Close STW Droxford	No	6	3.5	20	N/A	Septic tank at end of useful life. Proposal to pump effluent to The Park STW dependant on land acquisition that is progressing. In 09/10 programme
Gorse Down STW Owslebury	No	6	3.5		N/A	No works planned.
Old Stoke Road STW Stoke Charity	No	6	3.5		N/A	Underground sludge suction pipe required – consent being sought from the land owner.
Big Tree Cottages STW Soberton	No	14	8.2	0	N/A	Works to reduce ingress of water into plant completed May 04.
Kiln Lane STW Old Alresford	yes	14	14, 40/60		N/K	Inconsistent test results. May need reed bed to polish final effluent.
Wine Cross STW Boarhunt	No	8	8, 20/30		N/A	Improved 1996, not adoptable. Land is lease hold
Long Priors STW West Meon	yes	40	40, 40/60		2007	Reed bed installed during March 2004 – monitoring of plant carried out to establish success.
The Park STW Droxford	yes	34	19.9, 40/60		N/K	New compressor installed at works has improved quality of effluent so that it is within EA quality standard.
Birch Hill STW Boarhunt	No	14	11, 40/60		N/A	Improved 1997, not adoptable no freehold access New sample chamber installed
Widley Walk STW Widley	No	8	6, 20/30		N/A	Improved 1999, not adoptable no freehold Problems with meeting EA consent standards required alterations to aeration system that appears to be effective.
Woodlane Close STW Bramdean	yes	26	20, 40/60		2007	Initially completed in 2000, SW required additional works. Which were completed in 2004/05.
Beech Grove STW Owslebury	No	71	49.5, 20/30/2.5		N/A	Completed 1999, not suitable for adoption for legal reasons. Additional work to reed beds required to meet EA standard completed in

						October 2004.
The Pastures STW Cheriton	Probable	19	12		2005/06	Improved 2001, offered to SWS for adoption
The Brook Old STW Alresford	yes	15	15, 20/30		2007	Completed & awaiting adoption
Woodman Close Sparsholt	Probable	86	48		2007	Improved 2002, offered to SWS for adoption
Southbrook Place STW Micheldever	Probable	56	46, 40/60		2007	Completed 2002 offered to SWS for adoption

*Environment Agency Consent is given as a volume that can be discharged from the works and on 11 treatment works they also require the effluent be below a minimum level set by themselves for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Suspended Solids (SS). Hence figures in this column are VOL,BOD/SS, Beech Grove has a further requirement for the amount of ammonia discharged.