Fiona Ajram

From: Planning Policy

Sent: 04 February 2021 10:56 **To:** Joanne Langrish-Merritt

Subject: FW: Wareham Neighbourhood Plan (c)

From: Harkins, Simon

Sent: 04 February 2021 09:23

To: Planning Policy

Subject: RE: Wareham Neighbourhood Plan (c)

Good Morning,

I hope you don't mind me putting my comments in an email instead of filling out the questionnaire for the consultation. I felt that my response would be easier to get across through this method.

From reviewing the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan, my only comments at this time are in relation to the number of dwellings over the 15-year plan period and their impact to the gas infrastructure. Below is a summary of my findings and a bit more information you may find of use.

NETWORK OVERVIEW

All sites should be in a location where the gas network is relatively close by, so the initial physical connection to the system should not be a problem.

The gas demand was estimated based on the number of total dwellings. This was then added and analysed on our Network Analysis Model. From the review I found that the Intermediate Pressure (IP) and Medium Pressure (MP) tiers of the network are relatively robust in this area and at this time the addition of the extra demand to our network did not pose a risk to the operation of the system or the capacity. Therefore no reinforcement would be required to these gas tiers.

Please note:

- Reinforcement of the existing localised Low Pressure (LP) network may be necessary to support development on this scale, dependent on the site demand and the final point of connection to SGN's network. This will usually only be known when a connections enquiry/request is made.
- SGN are unable to book capacity and the above assessment does not guarantee the availability of future capacity which is offered on a 'first come, first served basis'.

STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

Where required, SGN will look to manage the provision of any off-site infrastructure improvements, in line with the overall development growth and / or timescales provided. The full extent of these works will be dependent on the nature and location of the requested load(s), potentially requiring LP reinforcement in addition to that required for the IPMP networks and will only become clear once a developer's request has been received. Reinforcement solutions are likely to involve the provision of a new pipeline in parallel to SGN's existing mains system but may also include the installation of above ground apparatus involving land purchase.

As this is a high-level assessment and response, the information provided is indicative only and should be use as a guide to assist you on your assessment. While information obtained through consultation and / or engagement on Local Development Plans is important to our analysis, it only acts to identify potential development areas. Our principle statutory obligations relevant to the development of our gas network arise from the Gas Act 1986 (as amended), an extract of which is given below:-

Section 9 (1) and (2) which provides that:

- 9. General powers and duties
- (1) It shall be the duty of a gas transporter as respects each authorised area of his:-
- (a) to develop and maintain an efficient and economical pipe-line system for the conveyance of gas; and
- (b) subject to paragraph (a) above, to comply, so far as it is economical to do so, with any reasonable request for him -
- (i.) to connect to that system, and convey gas by means of that system to, any premises; or
- (ii.) to connect to that system a pipe-line system operated by an authorised transporter.
- (1A) It shall also be the duty of a gas transporter to facilitate competition in the supply of gas.
- (2) It shall also be the duty of a gas transporter to avoid any undue preference or undue discrimination (a) in the connection of premises or a pipe-line system operated by an authorised transporter to any pipe-line system operated by him; and in the terms of which he undertakes the conveyance of gas by means of such a system.

SGN would not, therefore, develop firm extension or reinforcement proposals until we are in receipt of confirmed developer requests.

As SGN is the owner and operator of significant gas infrastructure within the area and due to the nature of our licence holder obligations;

- Should alterations to existing assets be required to allow development to proceed, such alterations will require to be funded by a developer.
- Should major alterations or diversions to such infrastructure be required to allow development to proceed, this could have a significant time constraint on development and, as such, any diversion requirements should be established early in the detailed planning process.

SGN would therefore request that, where the Council are in discussions with developers via the Local Plan, early notification requirements are highlighted.

Additionally, SGN are aware of the advances being made in renewable technologies, especially those related to the production of biomethane. Should any developer be proposing to include such technology within their development, then we would highlight the benefits of locating these facilities near existing gas infrastructure. Again, where the Council are in discussions with developers via the Local Plan, we would hope that these early notifications requirements are highlighted.

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