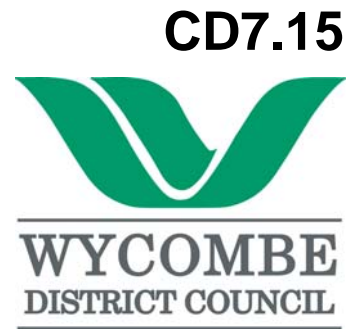


**Delivery and Site Allocations Plan
Examination
Supporting Document**



CD7.15
**Further statement relating to the
changes to Policy DM17 Carbon
Reduction**

Further statement relating to the changes to Policy DM17 Carbon Reduction

Water Efficiency

The West Thames' 'Thame and South Chilterns' Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy¹ underlies nearly all of the Wycombe District Council area. The majority of the units of the Thame and South Chilterns catchment have 'no water available' but across High Wycombe there is also a unit of 'over licensed'. This generally means that no water is available for further licensing at low flows, although water may be available at higher flows with appropriate restrictions. In the Thame and South Chilterns catchment, there may also be the possibility of unacceptable environmental damage if all abstraction licences were used to their maximum quantities. The result of this is that the District is an area of serious water stress due to limited water resources in the local area and high and growing demand for water. In the light of this the Environment Agency strongly recommends the following:

Residential development

The use of water efficiency measures and aims to achieve 105 litres/head/day (l/h/d), equivalent to level 3/4 for water within the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Achieving a water efficiency standard of 105l/h/d within new homes can be accomplished at very little extra cost (under £125 extra per home) and typically only involves low/dual flush toilets, low flow/aerated taps and showerheads and efficient appliances (dishwasher and washing machines) and does not require more expensive rain or greywater technologies. The Government's 'Water Calculator' provides information on how to achieve and assess water efficiency within new homes:

http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/br/water_efficiency_calculator.pdf

More information about water efficiency can be found on our website

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/savewater

¹ (the link to this document is <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/water/132669.aspx>)

For non-residential development

The use of water efficiency measures and aims to achieve BREEAM 'excellent' standard for non-household developments.

BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) is the leading and most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings. BREEAM credits are awarded for water where water efficient appliances (e.g. low flush toilets), water metering, leak detection systems and water butts are in place. To find out more see BREEAMs homepage <http://www.breeam.org/index.jsp>

Implementation

Both of these regimes – ie the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM are programmes that are supported by the use of assessors and provision of certification. The requirement to meet these standards would be specified by a planning condition on a planning permission.