

Bury Council  
By email

**Your ref:** 68691  
**Our ref:** DC/22/3006  
**Date:** 03-OCT-22

Dear Planning Team

**Location : Land off Victoria Avenue, Whitefield, Manchester, M45 6DP**

**Proposal : Redevelopment & change of use of the site to provide 30 new residential dwellings along with associated works**

United Utilities wish to make the following comments regarding the proposal detailed above.

### **DRAINAGE**

Following our review of the submitted drainage documents; Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Ref: LRD31990, Dated July 2022, the plans are not acceptable to United Utilities. This is because although the proposed drainage methodology is acceptable to United Utilities, we have concerns with regards to proposed finished floor levels and proposed sewers, specifically proposed foul water sewer connection to the existing combined sewer running through the site from the most southern 4 plots.

These plots due to finished floor levels and drainage cover levels being lower than the receiving sewer cover level and modelled surcharge top water levels, therefore there is risk of flooding to the existing properties due to low spots being created. It is requested that these 4 No. plots are raised, where lower to a least a FFL of 94.900m and no foul plot drainage is lower than 150m below this level. This would be a minimum requirement, but it is recommended that levels are raised further for all plots if possible.

Also it is understood that the 600mm existing public combined sewer running northeast through the centre of the site has been plotted on the plan using the manholes as reference points to establish the line of the sewer, whereas it is not clear if the same has been done for the upstream end of this sewer run at UUMH 1601 or for the incoming lateral 600mm combined sewer which runs along the western boundary of the site. This is requested as there are a number of plots being built close to this sewer and the accurate location of the sewer should be established.

Should planning permission be granted we request the following condition is attached to any subsequent Decision Notice:

**CONDITION:**

***Prior to the commencement of development, details of a sustainable surface water drainage scheme and a foul water drainage scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The drainage schemes must include:***

- (i) An investigation of the hierarchy of drainage options in the National Planning Practice Guidance (or any subsequent amendment thereof). This investigation shall include evidence of an assessment of ground conditions and the potential for infiltration of surface water in accordance with BRE365;***
- (ii) A restricted rate of discharge of surface water agreed with the local planning authority (if it is agreed that infiltration is discounted by the investigations). In the event of surface water discharging to the public surface water sewer, the rate of discharge shall be restricted to 6.4 l/s;***
- (iii) Levels of the proposed drainage systems including proposed ground and finished floor levels in AOD;***
- (iv) Incorporate mitigation measures to manage the risk of sewer surcharge where applicable; and***
- (v) Foul and surface water shall drain on separate systems.***

***The approved schemes shall also be in accordance with the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage.***

***Prior to occupation of the proposed development, the drainage schemes shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and retained thereafter for the lifetime of the development.***

***Reason: To promote sustainable development, secure proper drainage and to manage the risk of flooding and pollution.***

The applicant can discuss any of the above with Developer Engineer, **Shoaib Tauqeer**, by email at [wastewaterdeveloperservices@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:wastewaterdeveloperservices@uuplc.co.uk).

Please note, United Utilities is not responsible for advising on rates of discharge to the local watercourse system. This is a matter for discussion with the Lead Local Flood Authority and / or the Environment Agency (if the watercourse is classified as main river).

If the applicant intends to offer wastewater assets forward for adoption by United Utilities, their proposed detailed design will be subject to a technical appraisal by our Developer Services team and must meet the requirements outlined in 'Sewers for Adoption and United Utilities' Asset Standards'. This is important as drainage design can be a key determining factor of site levels and layout.

Acceptance of a drainage strategy does not infer that a detailed drainage design will meet the requirements for a successful adoption application. We strongly recommend that no

construction commences until the detailed drainage design, has been assessed and accepted in writing by United Utilities. Any work carried out prior to the technical assessment being approved is done entirely at the developer's own risk and could be subject to change.

### **Management and Maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems**

Without effective management and maintenance, sustainable drainage systems can fail or become ineffective. As a provider of wastewater services, we believe we have a duty to advise the Local Planning Authority of this potential risk to ensure the longevity of the surface water drainage system and the service it provides to people. We also wish to minimise the risk of a sustainable drainage system having a detrimental impact on the public sewer network should the two systems interact. We therefore recommend the Local Planning Authority include a condition in their Decision Notice regarding a management and maintenance regime for any sustainable drainage system that is included as part of the proposed development. You may find the condition below a useful example.

*Prior to occupation of the development a sustainable drainage management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development shall be submitted to the local planning authority and agreed in writing. The sustainable drainage management and maintenance plan shall include as a minimum:*

- a. Arrangements for adoption by an appropriate public body or statutory undertaker, or, management and maintenance by a resident's management company; and*
- b. Arrangements for inspection and ongoing maintenance of all elements of the sustainable drainage system to secure the operation of the surface water drainage scheme throughout its lifetime.*

*The development shall subsequently be completed, maintained and managed in accordance with the approved plan.*

*Reason: To ensure that management arrangements are in place for the sustainable drainage system in order to manage the risk of flooding and pollution during the lifetime of the development.*

Please note United Utilities cannot provide comment on the management and maintenance of an asset that is owned by a third party management and maintenance company. We would not be involved in the discharge of the management and maintenance condition in these circumstances.

### **WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES**

If the applicant intends to receive water and/or wastewater services from United Utilities, they should visit our website or contact the Developer Services team for advice. This includes seeking confirmation of the required metering arrangements for the proposed development.

If the proposed development site benefits from existing water and wastewater connections, the applicant should not assume that the arrangements will be suitable for the new proposal.

In some circumstances we may require a compulsory meter is fitted. For detailed guidance on whether the development will require a compulsory meter please visit <https://www.unitedutilities.com/my-account/your-bill/our-household-charges-20212022/> and go to section 7.7 for compulsory metering.

If reinforcement of the water network is required to meet potential demand, this could be a significant project and the design and construction period should be accounted for.

To avoid any unnecessary costs and delays being incurred by the applicant or any subsequent developer, we strongly recommend the applicant seeks advice regarding water and wastewater services, and metering arrangements, at the earliest opportunity. Please see 'Contacts' section below.

## **UNITED UTILITIES PROPERTY, ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Water pipelines**

United Utilities will not allow building over or in close proximity to a water main.

### **Wastewater pipelines**

United Utilities will not allow a new building to be erected over or in close proximity to a public sewer or any other wastewater pipeline. This will only be reviewed in exceptional circumstances.

*Nb. Proposals to extend domestic properties either above, or in close proximity to a public sewer will be reviewed on a case by case basis by either by a building control professional or following a direct application to United Utilities (see our website for further details).*

A public sewer crosses the site and we will not permit building over it. We require an access strip for maintenance or replacement. The minimum distances that might be acceptable to United Utilities are detailed within Part H of the Building Regulations however, we recommend the applicant determines the precise location, size, depth and condition of the pipeline as this is likely to influence the required stand-off distance from any structure.

### **Advice relating to both water and wastewater infrastructure**

It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate the exact relationship between United Utilities' assets and the proposed development. Developer's should investigate the existence and the precise location of water and wastewater pipelines as soon as possible as this could significantly impact the preferred site layout and/or diversion of the asset(s) may be required. Where United Utilities' assets cross the proposed red line boundary, developers must contact our Developer Services team prior to commencing any works on site, including trial holes, groundworks or demolition.

Unless there is specific provision within the title of the property or an associated easement, any necessary disconnection or diversion of assets to accommodate development, will be at the applicant/developer's expense. In some circumstances, usually related to the size and nature of

the assets impacted by proposals, developers may discover the cost of diversion is prohibitive in the context of their development scheme.

Any agreement to divert our underground assets will be subject to a diversion application, made directly to United Utilities. This is a separate matter to the determination of a planning application. We will not guarantee, or infer acceptance of a proposed diversion through the planning process (where diversion is indicated on submitted plans). In the event that a diversion application is submitted to United Utilities and subsequently rejected (either before or after the determination of a planning application), applicants should be aware that they may need to amend their proposed layout to accommodate United Utilities' assets.

Where United Utilities' assets exist, the level of cover to United Utilities pipelines and apparatus must not be compromised either during or after construction and there should be no additional load bearing capacity on pipelines without prior agreement from United Utilities. This would include earth movement and the transport and position of construction equipment and vehicles.

Any construction activities in the vicinity of United Utilities' assets must comply with national building and construction standards and where applicable, our 'Standard Conditions for Works Adjacent to Pipelines'. This includes United Utilities' assets which may be located outside the applicant's red line boundary.

The applicant or developer should contact our Developer Services team for advice if their proposal is in the vicinity of water or wastewater pipelines and apparatus. It is their responsibility to ensure that United Utilities' required access is provided within their layout and that our infrastructure is appropriately protected. The developer would be liable for the cost of any damage to United Utilities' assets resulting from their activity. Please see 'Contacts' section below.

## **CONTACTS**

### **Website**

For detailed guidance on water and wastewater services, including application forms and the opportunity to talk to the Developer Services team using the '**Live Chat**' function, please visit:

<http://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers.aspx>

### **Email**

For advice on water and wastewater services or to discuss proposals near to pipelines, email the Developer Services team as follows:

**Water mains and water supply, including metering** - [DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:DeveloperServicesWater@uuplc.co.uk)

**Public sewers and drainage** - [WastewaterDeveloperServices@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:WastewaterDeveloperServices@uuplc.co.uk)

**Telephone** - 0345 072 6067

**Property Searches (for asset maps):**

A number of providers offer a paid for mapping service including United Utilities. For more information, or to purchase a sewer and water plan from United Utilities, please visit <https://www.unitedutilities.com/property-searches/>

Water and sewer records can be viewed for free at our Warrington Head Office by calling 0370 751 0101. Appointments must be made in advance. Public sewer records can be viewed at local authority offices. Arrangements should be made directly with the local authority.

The position of the underground apparatus shown on asset maps is approximate only and is given in accordance with the best information currently available. United Utilities Water will not accept liability for any loss or damage caused by the actual position being different from those shown on the map.

We request that a copy of this letter is made available to the applicant.

Yours faithfully

The Planning, Landscape and Ecology Team