

From Dr Roger F Smith DPhil BA (Hons) FRGS, Trustee CPRE Sussex

For the attention of Planning Inspector J Bore MRTPI

c/o The Programme Officer

Horsham District Local Plan Examination

Horsham District Council

10 October 2026

Dear Sir,

Examination of the Horsham District Local Plan (2023–2040): Request for Attendance and Participation of Southern Water Representatives Regarding Havant Thicket Reservoir Delays

Thank you for your reply, conveyed through Ms Trueman, Programme Officer, to my letter of 5 October 2026.

I am aware that it is not normally necessary to require attendance by representatives of statutory undertakers, but in this instance the circumstances are not normal.

Despite Southern Water's legal duty to supply new development, delays to the regional strategic water resource will constrain its ability to meet the HDPF's substantial housing requirement, potentially affecting housing delivery and the soundness of the plan.

Southern Water could have been asked (by HDC) to update its consultation response, 'Horsham District Council Local Plan 2023–2024 – Main Modifications', dated 12 August 2026 (260814), to reflect the reservoir's delayed completion.

You advise that you have asked the Council to produce a topic paper on water and sewerage with input from the statutory bodies, and that you will ask them to address in their paper the issues that I have raised (for which thank you).

Will the topic paper be available for public scrutiny before Tuesday 13 October? If not, when will it be available?

Respectfully yours,

Roger Smith

Copies to

John Milne MP (Horsham)

Andrew Griffith MP (Arundel and South Downs)