

Hi Andrew,

Please see our supporting statement below:

The Policy N5PU-Protection of Water Resources mentioned that 'Wherever possible development should include water efficiency and saving measures.' While Policy N5PU is not included within the Local Plan Main Modification, we support the inclusion of setting out the tighter Building Regulations optional 110 litres/person/day standard in policy within the development plan as previously suggested by the Council during the Examination. We consider this is fully in compliance with para 158 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which requires plans to take a proactive approach to take into account the long-term implications of climate change. National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) then sets out how local authorities should establish a need for this tighter standard, taking into account existing sources of evidence, and in consultation with the local water company and the Environment Agency.

We recognise that the area covered by Copeland Borough Council is not within an Environment Agency-identified 'water stressed area', however this is not the only source of evidence that can be used to support the requirement for the tighter water efficiency standard. The introduction of the optional standard into local plan policies is supported in the North West River Basin Management Plan; in the National Framework for Water Resources; and in the Draft Revised Water Resource Management Plan 2024 for United Utilities. The Copeland Borough area falls within the Water Resources West regional group, which has been identified as having the second highest pressure on water resources in the country, due to population growth, future demand for housing, climate change and environmental protection measures. Copeland Borough falls within the Strategic Resource Zone for United Utilities. The baseline supply-demand balance shown in the draft Revised Water Resource Management Plan 2024 for United Utilities states that without any intervention, the Strategic Resource Zone would face a deficit such that available supplies would be insufficient to meet demand plus target headroom across the Water Resource Management Plan period (2025-2050).

The Environment Agency considers that the tighter water efficiency standard will help ensure future sustainable water availability across the region and should therefore be adopted.

Best regards,

Hui

Hui Zhang

Pronouns: she, her, hers

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