**Sewerage Adoption Panel**

**Meeting on 9th June 2023 at 11.30am via MS Teams**

**In attendance:**

**Victor Olowe – Chair**

**Kate Raybould – Secretary**

**Jenny Henman – Yorkshire Water**

**Nick Ayling – Thames Water**

**Karl Walker – Seddon Homes**

**Alison Tregale – South West Water**

**Richard Starritt – Severn Trent Water**

**Gary Boddington – Anglian Water**

**Kenny Mawson – Avant Homes**

**Sam Vernon – Vistry**

**Gavin Thorne - Barratt**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Item** | **Action** |
| 1 | **Introduction and Apologies** The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. It was noted that the meeting was quorate, with the required number of representatives from both Sewerage Companies (SC) and developer members in attendance.  |  |
| 2 | **Declaration of Interests**There were no interests to declare from any of the Panel members. |  |
| 3 | **Waiver of notice and publication period (standing item)**No new change proposals had been received or published prior to the meeting. However, as a matter of good order the Panel agreed to waive the notice and publication period. |  |
| 4 | **Approval of minutes of Panel Meeting held on 31st March 2023**The minutes of the Panel Meeting held on 31st March 2023 were approved for publication and there were no matters arising from the minutes. It was noted that there was an outstanding action for an update from WUK/WRc on the CESWI review project. |  |
| 5 | **Open Change Proposals*** **Specifications for perforated pipes for infiltration trenches and filter drains – British Plastics Federation (BPF)**

The Panel discussed the change proposal form submitted by the BPF regarding the inconsistencies in references for specifications for perforated pipes for infiltration trenches and filter drains and considered the comments received in response to the Panel’s consultation with its Technical Sub-Group.It was noted that the responses considered that the universal application of the Highways Authority specification for perforated pipes could result in confusion for developers and end customers; and that any specification included in the DCG would need to specify in detail when a perforated pipe could be used. This would require a wide consultation with water companies and developers to agree a standard for the application and specification for use of perforated pipes, which would also need to include SUDS. Harmonising a detailed specification may be difficult to agree across the industry, as undertakers have different policies on specifications and the adoption of SUDS. This may also create practical difficulties for companies in applying such a specification. The Panel concluded that such a consultation approach might be disproportionate and inconclusive.After discussion, it was agreed that the Panel supported the principle of the change to clarify that perforated pipes could be used in circumstances where infiltration was desirable. This supported the Code principles around consistency and innovation. However, rather than recommend the proposed change to include the Highways Authority specification in the DCG, the Panel would recommend that para C.7.1.2 should be amended to include a new sub-paragraph to confirm that the specification for these should be agreed with water companies in individual cases. NA will suggest some proposed wording for the new sub-paragraph and the Secretary will then draft the letter of recommendation for the Panel’s approval. It was noted that the recommendation was due by 14th June and the Panel may need a few additional days to finalise the recommendation. The Secretary will speak to Ofwat regarding this.* **Flow controls – Chris Faulkner**

The Panel discussed the change proposal form submitted by Chris Faulkner regarding the compliance of flow controls with the Confined Spaces Regulations (CSR) and reviewed the additional submission from Chris Faulkner in response to the Panel’s request for him to clarify the detail and scope of the issue.Flow control chambers are outside the scope of the DCG and water companies can set their own specification for them in any case. In terms of any health and safety risk, the chambers are designed to be operated from above ground, with safe means of access if required. A safe standard of work would be covered by water companies’ procedures for carrying out jobs requiring access. Furthermore, C7.12.3(f) already states that access should be provided to the upstream and downstream sections of a flow control device to allow maintenance. While it may be the case that the proposer had experienced issues with the interpretation or application of the Code in this area, the Panel was not persuaded that it indicated a wider issue that needed to be rectified in the Code itself.After discussion, it was agreed that the change proposal would be rejected on the basis that the DCG already covers the issue of access to flow control chambers and companies are able to agree matters outside the DCG where appropriate in any case. Amending the DCG as proposed would be disproportionate to the issue.The Secretary will draft a letter of recommendation and circulate it to the Panel for approval. | Suggest wording (NA)Draft letter and speak to Ofwat (KR)Draft letter to Ofwat (KR) |
| 6 | **Re-appointment of Panel members**Following the expiry of all Panel members’ initial terms, the Secretary had written to each Panel member asking if they agreed to be re-appointed for a further two year term. It was noted that all members had agreed and the Chair thanked members for their continuing involvement with the Panel. The ending of future terms will be staggered so that there is no risk of losing all members at once. |  |
| 7 | **AOB*** **Meeting with Ofwat**

The Chair and Secretary are meeting with Ofwat on 29th June for a periodic catch up meeting. The Panel were asked if they had any issues or topics they wanted the Chair to raise with Ofwat at the meeting. Members suggested the following:* NAVs and their role on the Panel
* Implementation of Schedule 3 FWMA 2010

Members will email the Secretary with further details of issues to be raised with Ofwat. | Email KR with topics (All) |

**Sewerage Adoption Panel**

**Meeting Action Log**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date of Meeting** | **Action** | **Action Owner** | **Due Date** | **Status** |
| 06/10/22 | CESWI – submit change proposal | WRc/CESWI Group | 30/11/22 | On hold |
| Vistry change proposal – write to Vistry re: division/group query | KR | 11/10/22 | Complete |
| Vistry change proposal – draft email for consultation | KR/All | 14/10/22 | Complete |
| ToR – comment on draft change proposal | All | 11/10/22 | Complete  |
| ToR – submit change proposal to Ofwat | VO/KR | 14/10/22 | Complete |
| NAV rep on Panel – discuss with Ofwat | KR | 10/10/22 | Complete |
| BPF query on website – respond | KR | 21/10/22 | Complete |
| 19/12/22 | BPF change proposal – write to BPF to clarify | KR | 15/01/22 | Complete |
| Vistry change proposal – provide comments on diagram | RS | 11/01/22 | Complete |
| Vistry change proposal – request extension from Ofwat | KR | 23/12/22 | Complete |
| WIS IGN – update Panel website | KR | 11/01/22 | Complete |
| CESWI project – speak to WUK | KR | 11/01/22 | Complete |
| Website – speak to Vu  | KR | 11/02/22 | Complete |
| Tidying amendments – collate list | All | 28/02/22 |  |
| 31/03/23 | CESWI – chase WRc/WUK | KR | 30/04/23 |  |
| BPF change proposal – draft email to Sub-Group | KR | 12/04/23 | Complete |
| BPF change proposal – request extension | KR | 12/04/23 | Complete |
| Chris Faulkner change proposal – write to CF to clarify | KR | 12/04/23 | Complete |
| Arrange next meeting | KR | 30/04/23 | Complete |
| 09/06/23 | BPF change proposal – suggest wording for C7.1.2 | NA | 12/06/23 | Complete |
|  | BPF change proposal – draft letter to Ofwat and circulate | KR | 12/06/23 | Complete |
|  | Chris Faulkner change proposal – draft letter to Ofwat | KR | 31/07/23 |  |
|  | Ofwat meeting – email KR with topics | All | 28/06/23 |  |