**Sewerage Adoption Panel**

**Meeting on 12 January 2024 at 2.00pm via MS Teams**

**In attendance:**

**Victor Olowe – Chair**

**Kate Raybould – Secretary**

**Jenny Henman – Yorkshire Water**

**Nick Ayling – Thames Water**

**Gary Boddington – Anglian Water**

**Kenny Mawson – Avant Homes**

**Alison Tregale – South West Water**

**Sam Vernon – Vistry**

**Richard Starritt – Severn Trent Water**

**Karl Walker – Seddon Homes**

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|  | **Item** | **Action** |
| 1 | **Introduction and Apologies**  The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Gavin Thorne. It was noted that the meeting was quorate, with the required number of water company 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)**  The change proposal received from John Davidson Pipes Limited had previously been published in the required timescale and therefore the waiver of the notice and publication period was not required. |  |
| 4 | **Approval of minutes of Panel Meeting held on 10th November 2023**  The minutes of the Panel Meeting held on 10th November 2023 were approved for publication and there were no matters arising from the minutes.  It was noted that the Secretary had spoken to the Water Research Centre (‘WRc’) regarding the work to update the DCG to align with the updated version of CESWI. WRc have indicated that their fees for this work would be around £7,800, which would require approval from WUK. It was agreed that the Secretary would ask WRc to provide a formal proposal for the work so that the Panel could ask WUK to approve this. The Panel emphasised that this expenditure should be treated as an extraordinary item in relation to the annual budget as this would not be a recurring cost. In the meantime, it was agreed that a note would be added to the current version of the DCG to advise that it would shortly be updated to align with the current version of CESWI. | Liaise with WRc and WUK (KR)  Ask WUK to add note (KR) |
| 5 | **Open Change Proposals**   * **Uniformity between E2.21 and E2.22 – John Davidson Pipes Ltd**   The Panel discussed the change proposal form submitted by John Davidson Pipes Limited (JDP) regarding the issue of uniformity between E2.21 and E2.22 of the DCG.  The Panel reviewed the report prepared by WRc on the proposal, which was very helpful in setting out the issues raised by the proposal and suggesting a potential alternative approach for the Panel to consider. It was noted that the change proposal’s ground for the change related to the uniformity between the relevant sections. In its report, WRc reviewed the relevant standards and products currently available on the UK market. In section 5 of its report, WRc considered the incorporation of the requirements of E2.22 into E2.21. For each, it was of the view that this would either be problematic or of no effect.  After discussion, it was agreed that while uniformity across the DCG was important, the Panel was not persuaded that this alone was sufficient reason to make the change proposed or the alternative wording suggested by WRc, particularly taking into account WRc’s detailed comments on the requirements. Therefore it was unanimously agreed that the Panel would recommend that the change proposal should be rejected. The Secretary will draft a letter of recommendation to Ofwat and circulate it to the Panel for approval. It was noted that the deadline for the recommendation to be submitted was 22nd January 2024. | Draft letter to Ofwat and circulate (KR) |
| 6 | **Tidying amendments to Code – draft change to website and process**  The Secretary has been working with the Panel’s website provider in order to include a new form on the website for users to submit minor or tidying amendments to the Code documents. These can then be collated into one change proposal to update the Code. The Secretary demonstrated the suggested website form to the Panel and this was commended and approved. The changes to the website will be mirrored on the Water Panel website. The Secretary will liaise with the website provider and update the Panel when the form is live. The link can then be circulated to stakeholders to submit amendments. | Liaise with VU (KR) |
| **7** | **Adoption of sewage treatment works (NA)**  Following discussion of the query regarding the adoption of private sewage treatment works (STWs) at the last Panel meeting, it was noted that there was no unified standard for these within the Code, as the assets were very site-specific. It was agreed that this did not require a substantive change but a tidying amendment should be made to the DCG to explain this. | Include in tidying amends (KR/NA) |
| **8** | **Flexible couplings – query from Mission Rubber (UK) Ltd**  The Panel reviewed the queries received from Mission Rubber relating to the DCG. Mission had asked the Panel to clarify if the Code/DCG had superceded SFA in England, Wales and Scotland; whether the DCG would be updated to align with the updated version of CESWI; and the acceptability of different standards relating to couplings. It was noted that the Panel’s remit only applied to England and queries relating to the DCG, and the Secretary would respond to Mission Rubber’s queries accordingly. | Respond to Mission Rubber (KR) |
| **9** | **Geocellular crate systems – query from JD Pipes**  The Panel reviewed the query received from JD Pipes relating to the adoption of geocellular crate systems and noted that it was similar to the query from Polypipe regarding the inability of its attenuation crates and geocellular units to comply with the current design guidance issued by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), which was discussed at the last meeting.  After discussion, it was agreed that the Panel would raise both queries with CIRIA, as it appeared that there was a potential issue. The Secretary will update the previously drafted email to CIRIA to include the query from JD Pipes. | Draft email to CIRIA and circulate (KR) |
| **12** | **AOB**   * **Next meeting**   As the Panel did not have any new change proposals, the frequency of upcoming meetings would be reviewed and reduced if the Panel’s workload did not require a meeting.   * **Meeting with Ofwat**   The Chair and Secretary’s next regular meeting with Ofwat is on 1st February. The Secretary will email the Panel nearer the time to ask if they have any issues to raise. | Email Panel (KR) |

**Sewerage Adoption Panel**

**Meeting Action Log**

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| **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 | Superceded |
| 31/03/23 | CESWI – chase WRc/WUK | KR | 30/04/23 | Complete |
| 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 | Complete |
| Ofwat meeting – email KR with topics | All | 28/06/23 | Complete |
| 10/11/23 | JDP change proposal – draft email to WRc and circulate | KR | 17/11/23 | Complete |
| Homes England – draft response and circulate | KR | 17/11/23 | Complete |
| Adoption of STWs – collate details and circulate | GT | 30/11/23 |  |
| Adoption of STWs – review by Panel | All | 29/09/24 |  |
| Attenuation crates – draft email to CIRIA and circulate | KR | 17/11/23 | Complete |
| NAVs – provide details of scenario | GT/All | 30/11/23 |  |
| WUK PDaS query – circulate for comment | KR | 10/11/23 | Complete |
| Code updates – chase WUK | KR | 10/11/23 | Complete |
| New Connections Committee – attend meeting | KR | 28/11/23 | Complete |
| 12/01/24 | CESWI update – liaise with WRc and WUK re: WRc costs | KR | 19/01/24 |  |
| CESWI update – ask WUK to add note to DCG re: update | KR | 31/01/24 |  |
| JDP change proposal – draft letter to Ofwat and circulate | KR | 15/01/24 | Complete |
| Tidying amends – liaise with Vu Online | KR | 19/01/24 |  |
| Adoption of STWs – include note in tidying amends | NA/KR | 30/04/24 |  |
| Mission Rubber – respond to queries | KR | 15/01/24 | Complete |
| Geocellular crates – update email to CIRIA and circulate | KR | 19/01/24 |  |
| Meeting with Ofwat – email Panel for items | KR | 26/01/24 |  |