We would like to expand on a specific concern (highlighted paragraph on pg 3) raised in our statement submitted to the Inspector on the 1st September, which we believe is highly pertinent to the "soundness" test of the MSDC draft plan.

The area covered under this plan is suffering from a severe water shortage. Last winter, Sout East Water maintained a hosepipe ban throughout the wettest months of the year, only being lifted after a petition by Alison Bennet MP gained hundreds of signatures from her constituents in early spring. However, that ban was reinstated only a few weeks later and shortly after the South East region was officially declared a "drought" status. Throughout the summer period, water shortages have been experienced across the geographical area, with many household suffering regular water outages with water bottle replacement services, as a result of leaking pipes and diminishing reservoir storage levels. The local water infrastructure is struggling to cope and recently this crisis has resulted in the current status for the South East being escalated to one of "Severe Drought".

Currently water companies have no legal obligation to confirm they have the capacity to provide a reliable water supply to meet the needs any new proposed housing development. In the absence of this confirmation, we believe the volume of houses and consequent expansion of business being proposed in the MSDC plan is completely unsustainable and consequently doesn't meet the "soundness" test. We would request that the Inspector specifically review the viability of this plan, considering the critical water supply crisis faced by this region.

Kind regards,

Martin & Jo Kyndt