
Sustainable Drainage Systems Supplementary Planning Document – Supporting Information

1. Introduction

What are Supplementary Planning Documents?

- 1.1. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are material considerations in the planning process. They provide further information and additional detail to policies within the Local Plan. The adopted Core Strategy, which forms part of the Local Plan, includes a policy (CS16: Flooding) which sets out the requirement for the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new developments.

What are Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)?

- 1.2. SuDS are drainage features designed to mimic the way rainwater drains in a natural landscape.
- 1.3. Traditionally, rain falling on roads, roofs and pavements has been collected in underground pipes and tanks, which emptied quickly into the nearest sewer or river. This has led to flooding as well as pollutants entering rivers before they can be broken down naturally. Piped drainage also prevents rainfall from draining naturally into groundwater reserves, which can result in low river flows in summer months.
- 1.4. In contrast, the aim of SuDS is to slow the flow of water by allowing rain which falls on roads, roofs and pavements to soak naturally into the ground as it would do in a field, or to be stored in a lake. This helps to manage flooding during storms and also naturally filters pollution (such as silt and petrol), preventing it from entering rivers.
- 1.5. The Government is encouraging developers to move away from using traditional underground drainage techniques and instead use SuDS.
- 1.6. SuDS can take many forms, from natural grassy channels, to paved surfaces which allow water to drain down or be stored. They fall into three categories:
- SuDS which capture and carry rainfall where it falls, eg. swales (grassy channels), rills (channels with hard edges), green roofs, and raingardens (store rainfall from roof downpipes).
 - SuDS which store water, eg. dry basins, ponds, wetlands and reedbeds.
 - SuDS which allow water to soak (or infiltrate) into the ground, eg. permeable paving (spaced paving blocks with gravel beneath), filter drain (gravel filled channels).
- 1.7. Aside from managing surface water run-off, SuDS also have the benefits of improving water quality, landscape amenity, and biodiversity.

The importance of SuDS in West Berkshire

1.8. The use of SuDS in West Berkshire has importance for three reasons:

- To manage flooding: West Berkshire has been affected by severe flooding in recent years. In the case of the 2007 floods in Newbury and Thatcham, the source was rainfall which overwhelmed drainage systems. SuDS act as sponges, storing rainfall and releasing it slowly, controlling the volume and speed of rainwater which runs off paved areas. This delays the amount of water reaching rivers, which helps to manage flooding to downstream properties.
- To help preserve the water supply: water supply in West Berkshire is classified as under 'serious' water stress, and it will come under further pressure from population growth and climate change. SuDS help to preserve water supplies by capturing rainfall and using it as a resource, to water gardens, and recharge groundwater. They also improve the quality of water, by filtering out pollutants carried in rainwater before they reach a river or drain into the ground.
- To provide green spaces and habitats in urban areas: SuDS can bring attractive green spaces to urban areas, and can create areas for sport and recreation. Ponds and grassy channels can also create habitats for local wildlife, and help restore the flows in protected chalk streams. By connecting people with nature, SuDS can help to improve health and well-being in communities.

2. Purpose of the SuDS SPD

- 2.1 The SuDS SPD seeks to ensure that SuDS are well designed and provide a range of benefits to communities. The document provides guidance to help developers, consultants and planning officers choose the right SuDS for sites in West Berkshire. It also explains the process of planning and designing SuDS and outlines standards for West Berkshire, as well as supporting and signposting Government and industry SuDS standards.
- 2.2 The Vision for the SPD is that *'all development will manage surface water runoff as close to the source as possible using Sustainable Drainage Systems'*.
- 2.3 The vision is supported by 8 principles which provide the overarching aims and technical requirements for delivering SuDS within West Berkshire:
- (a) Replicate natural drainage and manage water quantity;
 - (b) Improve water quality;
 - (c) Promote and encourage biodiversity;
 - (d) Improve the landscape;
 - (e) Involve and benefit the local community;
 - (f) Make sure that SuDS are adapted and maintained for life;

(g) Adapt good practice in building SuDS; and

(h) Promote SuDS retro-fitting (adding SuDS to older buildings).

2.4 By providing these standards, along with detailed guidance and checklists, the SPD aims to improve the quality of SuDS delivered in West Berkshire.

2.5 The SPD is structured as follows:

Section	Purpose
1. Our vision	Outlines the Council's vision for SuDS in West Berkshire
2. Overview and context	Provides background information on SuDS and how they fit into planning policy both within West Berkshire and nationally.
3. SuDS and West Berkshire	Identifies the characteristics of West Berkshire (e.g. topography, geology, flood risk)
4. Principles and standards for integrated SuDS Design	Presents the eight principles for delivering SuDS in West Berkshire. Includes the key policy, supporting details and references to further guidance.
5. Choosing the right SuDS	Identifies SuDS design considerations, highlighting the applicability of SuDS on all sites, regardless of the constraints.
6. Design and the planning process	Outlines the process of designing SuDS for a development site, and how this aligns with the planning process.
7. Evaluation and approval	Details of how SuDS designs will be evaluated in West Berkshire, and the process for approval.

3. Consultation

3.1 Consultation is an important part of the preparation of a SPD, and the public were invited to make representations on the draft SPD between 11 July 2018 and 23 July 2018. 21 comments were received from 18 organisations/individuals, and all were broadly supportive of the SPD.

3.2 Several respondents made suggestions to enhance the clarity of the SPD, and these include:

(a) the inclusion of discharge rates on previously developed sites;

(b) the inclusion of reference to the management of exceedance flows through private non-public areas;

(c) clarification of urban creep allowances;

- (d) clarification of the durations of 'lifetime' and maintenance;
- (e) Inclusion of references to nature conservation legislation;
- (f) Identification that the Canal and River Trust can provide advice to developers early in the process if there is the potential that development may impact on an inland waterway;
- (g) Identification that the Canal and River Trust may be able to accept drainage into a canal.
- (h) Strengthening of the design parameters to reflect the worst case recorded storm characteristics in the local area of development.

3.3 In consideration of these representations, officers propose to make modifications to take the above into account. These modifications will be included in the SuDS SPD.

4. Conclusion

4.1 For the reasons set out above, it is recommended that Council resolves that:

(a) No new information or evidence has arisen through the consultation to warrant major changes being made to the SuDS SPD.

(b) The Council's responses to the representations received as set out in Appendix C are agreed.

(c) The SuDS SPD (as attached at Appendix D) with the modifications identified in paragraph 3.2 above is adopted in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

(d) Delegated authority is given to the Head of Development and Planning to agree any minor typographical and formatting refinements to the SuDS SPD before publication.

4.2 Once adopted, the SuDS SPD will be used in conjunction with the Development Plan, holding significant weight as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and / or appeals.

5. Consultation and Engagement

5.1 Stuart Clark (Principal Engineer, Transport and Countryside), Jon Bowden Senior Engineer, Transport and Countryside), JBA Consulting, and Planning Advisory Group (PAG).

Background Papers:

SuDS SPD (included in Appendix D).

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval



Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council



Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position



Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months ☐

Item is Urgent Key Decision ☐

Report is to note only ☐

Wards affected:

All

Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Council Strategy aim:

☒ **HQL – Maintain a high quality of life within our communities**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy priority:

☒ **SLE2 – Deliver or enable key infrastructure improvements in relation to roads, rail, flood prevention, regeneration and the digital economy**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Strategy aim and priority by reducing flood risk caused by development, and improving water quality, landscape amenity and biodiversity.

Officer details:

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Appendix B

Equality Impact Assessment - Stage One

We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act), which states:

- “(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:**
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;**
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; this includes the need to:**
 - (i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;**
 - (ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;**
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.**
- (2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.**
- (3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.”**

The following list of questions may help to establish whether the decision is relevant to equality:

- Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community?
- (The relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected but on the significance of the impact on them)
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Is it a major policy, or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?
- Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?
- Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the council?

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:	<p>That Council resolves that:</p> <p>(a) No new information or evidence has arisen through the consultation to warrant major changes being made to the SuDS SPD.</p> <p>(b) The Council's responses to the representations received as set out in Appendix C are agreed.</p> <p>(c) The SuDS SPD as attached at Appendix D is adopted in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).</p> <p>(d) Delegated authority is given to the Head of Development and Planning to agree any minor typographical and formatting refinements to the SuDS SPD before publication.</p>
Summary of relevant legislation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing flood risk: Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. Improving water quality: EU Water Framework Directive 2000. Enhancing biodiversity and improving green infrastructure: Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Requirements for producing SPDs: Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council's key strategy priorities?	<p>No</p>
Name of assessor:	<p>Laila Bassett</p>
Date of assessment:	<p>10 October 2018</p>

Is this a:		Is this:	
Policy	Yes	New or proposed	Yes
Strategy	No	Already exists and is being	No

		reviewed	
Function	No	Is changing	No
Service	No		

1. What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	To set out how the Council expects Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) to contribute to sustainable development and outlines the design principles and standards required to deliver good quality SuDS in West Berkshire.
Objectives:	To manage flooding, to help preserve water supply in the district, and to create green spaces and habitats in urban areas.
Outcomes:	Adoption of the SuDS Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
Benefits:	SuDS mimic natural drainage to manage surface water run-off from a development. SuDS allow for the collection, storage and treatment of surface water in order to reduce flood risk caused by development. They also help to improve water quality. In addition SuDS can improve landscape amenity and biodiversity.

2. Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this. (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)		
Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this

All	The provision of SuDS will have a positive impact upon all members of communities as they can reduce flooding, improve water quality, preserve the water supply, improve landscape amenity, and improve biodiversity.	Neighbourhood Planning legislation, National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), National Planning Guidance (NPG)
Further Comments relating to the item:		

3. Result	
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	No
Please provide an explanation for your answer: SuDS help to reduce flood risk, and improve water quality, landscape amenity and biodiversity. These benefits apply to all members of society.	
Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	No
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The provision of SuDS will have a positive impact upon local communities as they can reduce flooding, improve water quality, preserve the water supply, improve landscape amenity, and improve biodiversity.	

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the [Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template](#).

4. Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	No
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	n/a
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	n/a

Name: Laila Bassett

Date: 10 October 2018

Please now forward this completed form to Rachel Craggs, Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) (rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk), for publication on the WBC website.