



Local Plan Committee

Item

9

13 April 2015

Report of	Head of Commercial Services	Author	Beverley McClean 01206 282480
Title	Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide		
Wards affected	All wards		

The Local Plan Committee is asked to agree the adoption of the Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide as a Supplementary Planning Document

1. Decision(s) Required

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to agree to adopt the Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide (SDSDG) as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

2. Reasons for Decision

- 2.1 The committee is being asked to agree to adopt the Design Guide to ensure that developers have access to consistent advice about the design and delivery of sustainable drainage schemes which will soon have to be constructed as part of new major developments. Adoption of the guide will also help ensure that sustainable drainage schemes coming forward in the Borough are fit for purpose in terms of helping reduce and manage the risk from surface water flooding as well as delivering wider amenity, ecological and landscape benefits.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 The alternative option is to not adopt the Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide and rely on national DEFRA standards, the National Planning Policy Framework and the online Planning Practice Guidance. These documents provide much more general information than the Sustainable Drainage Design Systems Design Guide and an over reliance on these could result in the implementation of sub-standard sustainable drainage schemes that are not fit for purpose and which fail to manage surface water flooding properly in the Borough.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 Following extensive summer flooding across parts of England in 2007, the need to improve governance arrangements and flood risk management systems became an important priority for national government. Following the flooding, the need to review and overhaul flood risk management, particularly for surface water flooding was identified. Following a review, changes to be implemented were published in the Pitt Review in 2008. The Pitt Review proposed a total of 92 recommendations. The Flood and Water Management Act, which was enacted in 2010, emerged from this process and under this Act, Essex County Council became the Lead Local Flood Authority, with new

responsibilities for overseeing flood risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary water courses.

- 4.2 In relation to managing surface water flooding there has been a shift away from hard engineering solutions towards the use of more natural sustainable drainage solutions. As part of their new responsibilities, Essex County Council's Flood team has prepared a number of flood risk management documents to help reduce and manage flood risk across Essex. One of these documents is the Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide which was completed in December 2014. Paragraph 103 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the supporting Technical Guidance on Flood Risk in the NPPF and the online Planning Practice Guidance already promote the use of sustainable drainage. Paragraph 103 however is to be changed imminently to require all new major developments to include provision for sustainable drainage systems as a mechanism for managing surface water flooding. This change is due to become effective on 6 April 2015. The Planning Practice Guidance has also recently been amended to reflect that Essex County Council in their role as Lead Local Flood Authority will become a statutory consultee for sustainable drainage from 16 April 2015. As of this date, the Environment Agency will no longer be the statutory consultee for surface water management issues, but they will retain their strategic overview role for all flood (main rivers and sea) and coastal erosion management issues.
- 4.3 Colchester Borough Council already promotes the use of sustainable drainage in new developments through Core Strategy policy ENV1 (Environment) and Development Policy DP20 (Flood Risk and Management of Surface Water). The adoption of the Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide will help CBC meet its Local Plan policy objectives and assist development management negotiate good quality sustainable drainage schemes as part of new major developments.

5. Proposals

- 5.1 The Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide was completed by Essex County Council's Flood Management Team in 2014. The document has been subject to public consultation and will be adopted by Essex County Council's Cabinet as SPD before the policy and changes to consultee roles become effective in April 2015.
- 5.2 The Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide is divided into 8 sections, each of which is summarised below;
- Section 1 includes background information about the shift towards the increased use of sustainable drainage to manage surface water including the multiple benefits that they can deliver as part of sustainable development. In addition to surface water management, well designed sustainable drainage can deliver useful landscape, ecological and amenity benefits.
 - Section 2 provides an overview of the design considerations specific to Essex that need to be considered when sustainable drainage systems are being designed such as topography, geology, soils and hydrology.
 - Chapter 3 explains the 12 principles and 2 local standards for water quantity and quality that should be followed when planning and designing SUDS not just in terms of flood prevention but also in terms of amenity, ecology and water management. The principles cover issues such as managing rainfall at the surface and at source, mimicking natural drainage, designing SUDS that are maintainable, and enhancing biodiversity. The local principles and standards are intended to supplement national standards when sustainable drainage systems are being designed.

- Chapter 4 also provides an introduction to the main types of sustainable drainage systems that can be built and the circumstances where they are most appropriate. Sustainable drainage systems are varied and can include green roofs, swales, ponds, pervious paving, rainwater gardens or even large wetlands. Section 4 illustrates this through a series of worked examples of major types of development to show how sustainable drainage schemes can potentially be fitted into real life situations. It also includes case studies, showing how sustainable drainage systems have been successfully used.
- Sections 5 – 8 include appendices, a glossary of terms, references and a figures table respectively.

5.3 Essex County Council's Flood Team will use the guide in their new role to assess planning applications requiring sustainable drainage schemes. The committee is therefore being asked to approve the adoption of the guide as a Supplementary Planning Document to ensure that developers receive consistent advice about the provision of sustainable drainage systems as part of new major development schemes.

6. Strategic Plan References

6.1 The Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide provides evidence to help the Council deliver its strategic priorities to generate opportunities for growth and supporting infrastructure, improve sustainability, cleanliness and health of the place by supporting events that promote fun and wellbeing, make Colchester confident about its own abilities, to compete with the best of the towns in the region to generate a sense of pride.

7. Consultation

7.1 The Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide was produced by Essex County Council's Flood Management Team in conjunction with a range of stakeholders. The document was completed in 2014 and has been subject to 2 x 6 week periods of public consultation. The first consultation was held between December 2011 and January 2012 and this was followed by another round of consultation between August and September 2012. The document will be adopted by Essex County Council's Cabinet as Supplementary Planning Document before the policy and statutory consultee role becomes effective in April 2015 as highlighted in paragraph 4.2. No further consultation is considered necessary.

8.0 Publicity Considerations

8.1 None

9. Financial Implications

9.1 None

10. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared by Essex County Council - [SUDS Guide - ECC EQIA.doc](#). An Equality Impact Assessment has also been prepared for the Local Development Framework and is available to view by clicking on this link:- <http://www.colchester.gov.uk/article/4962/Strategic-Policy-and-Regeneration>
Or go to the Colchester Borough Council website www.colchester.gov.uk and follow the pathway from the homepage: Council and Democracy > Policies, Strategies and Performance > Equality and Diversity > Equality Impact Assessments > Strategic Policy

and Regeneration and select Local Development Framework from the Strategic Planning and Research section.

10.2 There are no particular Human Rights implications.

11. Community Safety Implications

11.1 None.

12. Health and Safety Implications

12.1 None

13. Risk Management Implications

13.1 Adopting the Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide will ensure that the Local Plan policy objectives to prevent and manage flooding will be met. It will also ensure that developers receive consistent advice about the provision of sustainable drainage schemes when planning applications are being planned and negotiated. Overall this will ensure that flood risk particularly from surface water flooding is properly considered as part of the planning decision making process which ultimately will reduce the risk from flooding arising from new development across the Borough.