

## Introduction

Since April 2015 proposals to manage flood risk from new development are led through planning policy.

Local lead flood authorities (LLFA) provide advice on surface water management and maintenance. National design standards support planning practice guidance.

We support the use of sustainable drainage systems to manage flood risk, sewer flooding and improve water quality.

The information below aims to assist designers, developers and local authorities with regard to adoption proposals where discharges and connections to the public sewer are needed.

## Existing arrangements for the adoption of sewers

S104 Water Industry Act 1991 makes provision for sewerage undertakers to adopt sewers through a vesting declaration. The vesting of a sewer is normally carried out on completion of works in accordance with the terms of an adoption agreement.

Design guidance is available in Sewers for Adoption 7th edition published by the Water Research Council. This guidance is updated periodically to reflect technical and legislative changes.

Powers to retrofit sustainable drainage systems to existing public sewer systems are now available under S114A Water Industry Act. These measures will allow the undertaker to promote schemes to improve existing public sewers.

## Planning policy - sustainable drainage systems

Planning policy promotes the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to manage flood risk.

Planning applications determined after April 2015 consider the use of planning conditions to secure appropriate arrangements for sustainable drainage systems serving new development.

Local planning policy should reflect the duty of the LLFA to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. This includes surface water, groundwater and local watercourses.

SuDS scheme design will generally comprise a range of features that promote infiltration, reduce peak flows and introduce treatment measures to reduce contaminants.

## Flood and Water Management Act 2010

The drafting of this policy makes reference to the following sections of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which will be confirmed by statute when implemented:

- Section 32 Sustainable Drainage and Schedule 3 Sustainable Drainage
- Section 42 Agreements on new drainage connections.

## New connections and adoption of surface water sewers

We will approve new connections and adopt sewers downstream of sustainable drainage systems subject to the following points:

- 1 A sustainable drainage scheme has been approved by the local planning authority in consultation with the LLFA.
- 2 Satisfactory arrangements for the maintenance of the SuDS scheme are agreed.
- 3 The upstream surface water drainage scheme complies with all flood risk measures required by the local lead flood authority or the Environment Agency
- 4 Accepting and draining highway run-off and risk of groundwater inundation remain areas of concern and approvals will remain discretionary under these circumstances.
- 5 No connections will be permitted to the foul sewer.

We will be adopting:

- downstream connecting sewers from SuDS system
- attenuation tanks
- flow control chambers
- bypass sewers and outfalls associated with balancing ponds.

Specific exclusions are:

- source control features within private property such as rain gardens, water butts, soakaways, etc
- above ground features and structures linked by overland flow or connecting pipes from filter strips, permeable paving, swales, detention basins, etc
- shared soakaways or infiltration trenches.

## Scheme approval

We will normally seek assurances from the LLFA that the scheme has been designed in compliance and conformity with one or more of the following:

- national standards for SuDS
- Ciria C697 SuDS manual
- local ground conditions
- groundwater levels.

We reserve the right to carry out further investigation where there is a risk of sewer flooding from extreme groundwater levels or other issues that will affect service levels.

This may require desktop appraisal and/or network modelling to confirm the impact of a new development on critical sewers and overflows. To complete this assessment a contribution towards reasonable costs of this appraisal may be required from the developer.

We recommend you talk to us before submitting any applications. We will also require consultation before any variations or alterations are made to any terms or conditions of approval that affect the rate of flow or discharges to the public sewer.

Above ground features will form part of the SuDS system and suitable measures should be incorporated to ensure that debris is prevented from entering the downstream public sewer.

This policy will be reviewed and updated to reflect any changes made in design guidance or adoption procedures.

## Further information

### Planning liaison team

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