

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
8 NOVEMBER 2012	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

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FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – DRAFT ADOPTION VERSION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Officers have prepared and publically consulted upon a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that will provide guidance to developers on flood and water management in Peterborough. It expands on overarching headline policy contained in the Council's adopted Core Strategy and Planning Policies Development Plan Documents. Officers propose that Cabinet adopts the SPD in December 2012. We are seeking comments from the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee to this SPD before it is presented to Cabinet for adoption.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to offer any comments on the Flood and Water Management Supplementary Planning Document before it is presented to Cabinet for adoption.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The SPD provides detailed guidance to help applicants and decision makers to deliver schemes that take into account flood and water management issues. This matter is directly linked to the Priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), especially Growth and Environment Capital.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The SPD forms part of a package of work arising following the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010, which made Peterborough City Council a 'Lead Local Flood Authority'. The Council is now responsible for co-ordinating surface water management.
- 4.2 Flood risk management is high on the agenda in Peterborough. Ensuring that the drainage network and watercourses are managed appropriately, that sites are designed and constructed to drain well and that development is located in a safe environment are all key to reducing the likelihood and consequences of flooding in Peterborough.
- 4.3 It is predicted that the future will bring more frequent short duration, high intensity rainfall and more frequent periods of long-duration rainfall, meaning both river and surface water flooding are likely to be an increasing problem. Around two-thirds of the flooding across the country in summer 2007 was due to surface water (Environment Agency, 2007).
- 4.4 The council and all water management partners also have a responsibility under European legislation (the Water Framework Directive) to ensure there is no deterioration in the quality of any water environments.
- 4.5 The Council's adopted Core Strategy proposes a high level of growth in Peterborough up to 2026. The aims of the Flood and Water Management SPD are: to make sure that new development does not increase the risk of flooding from main rivers and surface water but also

actively reduces it; and to support and elaborate on adopted higher level policy relating to flood risk management and water quality.

- 4.5 The objectives of the SPD are to provide guidance to applicants and decision makers on:
- 4.6
- a. how to assess whether or not a site is suitable for development based on flood risk grounds.
 - b. the use of different sustainable drainage measures within Peterborough.
 - c. how development should contribute to protecting aquatic environments.

Once adopted, this SPD will form part of Peterborough City Council's Local Development Framework (LDF).

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The broad thrust of the SPD is not to place additional burdens on developers, but rather to assist them in meeting existing adopted planning policy and wider statutory flood and water matters, such as those arising from the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Water Framework Directive.
- 5.2 There is no statutory duty to prepare this SPD. However, without it, developers could be confused or misinformed as to how they can deliver fit-for-purpose development schemes that meet flood and water management requirements. This could have an impact on development coming forward as additional time would need to be spent on applications where flood or water management issues occur.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Flood and Water Management SPD is relevant to the whole unitary authority area and is aimed predominantly at developers and their agents.
- 6.2 This matter is directly linked to the Priorities of the SCS, especially Growth and Environment Capital.
- 6.3 If adopted this Supplementary Planning Document will be used as a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications.
- 6.4 The SPD is not intended to introduce additional financial or legal implications for the Council or developers, but instead to provide guidance to assist with the new obligations both parties have under national and European legislation such as the Flood and Water and Management Act 2010 and the Water Framework Directive.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The draft SPD was written in consultation with Peterborough's Internal Drainage Boards, the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and officers in the council.
- 7.2 Following Cabinet approval on 12th December 2011, formal public consultation was undertaken during February and March 2012 for a period of 6 weeks. All comments received have been reviewed and the draft document amended as appropriate. The SPD has been generally well received by key water management partners.
- 7.3

- 7.4 Further updates have also been made to take into account the latest national policy and guidance such as the National Planning Policy framework.

Prior to Scrutiny Committee the SPD will be presented to the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee on 6th November 2012. Scrutiny Committee will be updated on the outputs of this meeting on 8th November 2012.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Following consideration by the committee, the Flood and Water Management SPD will be presented to Cabinet on 10th December 2012.
- 8.2 If adopted, the document will be used as a material consideration in planning decisions. The document will be presented to partners in early 2013 and will become available online.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1
- The Peterborough Core Strategy Development Plan Document, adopted February 2011.
 - The Peterborough Planning Policies Development Plan Document Submission Version (April 2012)
 - Flood and Water Management Act 2010
 - Water Framework Directive
 - National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012
 - Technical Guide to the National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012
 - The Environment Agency's River Basin Management Guide to Hydromorphology no.6

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix A – a draft copy of the Flood and Water Management Supplementary Planning Document (October 2012)

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