

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 4
8 NOVEMBER 2011	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

Contact Officer(s) - Emma Latimer Julia Chatterton
Contact Details - 01733 863 801 01733 452 620

DRAFT FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

1. PURPOSE

1.1 Officers are preparing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that will provide guidance to developers on flood and water management in Peterborough. It will expand on overarching headline policy contained in the Council's adopted Core Strategy. Officers propose to consult with the public and stakeholders on a draft of the SPD in January 2012. We are seeking comments from the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee to this SPD before it is presented to Cabinet for approval for the purposes of public consultation. The draft of the SPD is attached at Appendix A.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is requested to offer any comments on the draft Flood and Water Management Supplementary Planning Document before it is presented to Cabinet for approval for the purposes of public consultation.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

3.1 The draft 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 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 well, 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 climate change 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'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 expand on adopted policy in the Core Strategy relating to flood risk

management and water quality.

4.5 The objective of the SPD is to provide guidance to applicants and decision makers on:

- 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.

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

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Subject to Cabinet's approval on 12th December 2011, we propose to consult on the supplementary planning document alongside the pre-submission version of the Planning Policies DPD early in 2012.

5.2 The broad thrust of the SPD is not to place additional burdens on developers, but rather to assist them in meeting existing Core Strategy 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.

5.3 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 The Council must follow statutory regulations in preparing and consulting on the Flood and Water Management SPD. After the statutory process concludes the final SPD document will be adopted, as such the document will be used as a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications.

6.4 The SPD is not intended to introduce 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 has been written in consultation with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Officers in the council. Comments received in respect of the Planning Policies Development Plan Document Consultation Draft have informed the draft SPD.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Following consideration by the committee, The Flood and Water Management SPD will be presented to:

- Planning & Environmental Protection Committee on 8th November 2011 (prior to

this meeting)

- Cabinet on 12th December 2011

8.2 The first round of public consultation is expected to take place alongside the Planning Policies Development Plan Document in January/February 2012.

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 23 February 2011.
 - The Peterborough Planning Policies Development Plan Document Proposed Submission Version (Draft -October 2011)
 - Flood and Water Management Act 2010
 - Draft National Planning Policy Framework (October 2011)
 - The Environment Agency's River Basin Management Guide to Hydromorphology no.6

10. **APPENDICES**

10.1 Appendix A – a copy of the Flood and Water Management Supplementary Planning Document Draft for consultation (October 2011).

This page is intentionally left blank