

TITLE	SuDS Strategy
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 26 January 2017
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Josie Wragg, Interim Director for Environment
LEAD MEMBER	Angus Ross, Executive Member for Environment

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The SuDS Strategy guidance document sets out the long term vision for the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within the Borough with a focus on managing flood risk and improving the water environment. The use of properly designed and constructed SuDS will promote strong, resilient, sustainable communities and reduce flood risk across the Borough. The strategy and detailed Technical Guidance will enable developers and WBC Planning Officers to design effective SuDS early in the Planning process.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive:

- 1) note the SuDS Strategy Public Consultation Summary and agree to the approach and amendments detailed in Appendix 1;
- 2) approve the amended SuDS Strategy provided in Appendix 2.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

[Due to the size of the SuDS Strategy (Appendix 2) it is not included in the agenda. A copy can be found on the Council's website using the following link <http://wokingham.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=1955> or is available on request from Democratic Services.]

The SuDS Strategy sets out the long term vision for the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in the Borough with a focus on managing flood risk and improving the water environment. Following Executive Approval dated June 2016 the draft strategy was issued for consultation from 22nd July 2016 to 16th September 2016.

The majority of respondents were supportive of a SuDS Strategy for Wokingham and confirmed that the SuDS Strategy met with stakeholder expectations of what such a strategy might contain. There were various recommendations made regarding additional beneficial information that should be included within the document and these recommendations have been noted and incorporated where appropriate.

Background

1. WBC has had a long standing commitment to consider adopting SuDS within the Borough and for this reason has drafted a Wokingham specific SuDS Strategy with attached SuDS Technical Guidance to ensure that the SuDS are designed appropriately to the local conditions found within the borough.
2. The guidance document aims to set out WBC's local requirements for sustainable drainage in the Borough and provide guidance on the suitability of the various SuDS options in different areas of the Borough. The document supplements national guidance on SuDS and is intended for use by developers and their consultants seeking guidance on the Borough Council's requirements for the design of sustainable drainage systems in Wokingham.
3. Once the SuDS Strategy is adopted, planning applications will need to show that their proposed developments meet the requirements laid out in the document.
4. Agreement was obtained from the Executive Committee in June 2016 for officers to consult on the draft SuDS Strategy. The draft strategy was issued for consultation from 22nd July 2016 to 16th September 2016.

Consultation

5. The consultation was advertised on the Council website, through Wokingham Borough Council Social Media channels Facebook and Twitter, in the local newspaper, and through the town and parish councils. Officers also attended town and parish council meetings when requested by town and parish councils to discuss the benefits and implications of the strategy in more detail.
6. Respondents had the opportunity to answer an online questionnaire or email their comments to sudsstrategy@wokingham.gov.uk. Thirteen comments were received in total – 10 of which were through the online questionnaire and 3 were received via email. All who made comments on the strategy during the consultation were responded to individually.
7. Most respondents welcomed a SuDS Strategy for the borough in order to ensure a more integrated and standardised approach to the SuDS process. There were a number of suggestions including the need for more details regarding maintenance and the need to consider natural flood risk management techniques in addition to the more conventional SuDS features. Various comments were also made about the local standards of the technical guide.
8. A number of respondents have suggested that the SuDS Strategy should be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). However, it is considered that it is more appropriate that this is adopted as a Council Strategy.
9. An SPD is a document that provides additional guidance to the policies contained in a Local Plan. The Council's current Local Plan is being reviewed and SPDs adopted under this will become out of date once the plan is superseded. Adopting the document at present as an SPD will mean that this is only relevant for a relatively short period of time.
10. In addition, SPDs are onerous to amend and adopt. As national guidance and best practice is developing, a strategy document is more easily adapted to reflect this

relative to an SPD. A strategy would carry weight as it has been out to public consultation and been adopted by the Council.

11. The comments received have been collated into the *Wokingham Borough Council SuDS Strategy Public Consultation Summary Document* which has been included in Appendix 1 of this report. Amendments to the draft strategy have been made where appropriate and the amended SuDS Strategy has been included in Appendix 2.

Conclusion

12. The Strategy will ensure development is delivered in accordance with best practice relating to SuDS, and that the systems will be designed and constructed to the specific needs of the borough, leading to a reduction in flood risk.
13. The Executive is asked to review and note the amendments made to the strategy in accordance with the consultation responses and to approve the final version to enable its adoption by Wokingham Borough Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	Yes	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

Cross-Council Implications

N/A

List of Background Papers

Flood and Water Management Act 2010
 June 2016 Executive Report
 Wokingham SuDS Strategy July 2016 - draft for consultation
 SuDS Strategy Public Consultation Summary Appendix 1
 SuDS Strategy (for Adoption) Appendix 2

Contact Francesca Hobson	Service Highways and Transport
Telephone No 01189746569	Email Francesca.hobson@wokingham.gov.uk
Date 16 January 2017	Version No. 3

This page is intentionally left blank