

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 25th June 2018

Wards: All

Subject: Consultation on sustainable drainage supplementary planning document

Lead officer: Director for Environment and Regeneration Chris Lee

Lead member: Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing, Councillor Martin Whelton.

Contact officer: Future Merton Planning Officer, Ann Maria Clarke

Recommendations:

- A. That Cabinet resolves to approve a six week consultation on the *Sustainable Drainage Design and Evaluation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)*.
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1. Purpose of report and executive summary

- 1.1 Merton Council and 15 other local authorities across England have worked with Robert Bray Associates and McCloy Consulting to produce a Sustainable Drainage Guide. The guide provides a new approach to the design and evaluation of SuDS with easy to understand and practical information for all those involved with the development process.
- 1.2 This report seeks Cabinet's approval for six weeks public consultation for the Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) *Design and Evaluation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)*. The draft SPD is attached as Appendix 1.

2. Details

- 2.1 In 2010 the Flood and Water Management Act proposed that sustainable drainage measures (knowns as SuDS) should be used on developments to control at manage flooding. This was confirmed by Defra in March 2015 through implementation of the 'non statutory technical standards' for SuDS and this made Lead Local Flood Authorities statutory consultees in the planning process.
- 2.2 Local Planning Authorities such as Merton Council have responsibility for ensuring that SuDS are designed and implemented to a satisfactory standard. Therefore SuDS designers and engineers will need to meet these required standards when submitting a planning application to Merton.

Role of the Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) SPD

- 2.3 The SPD is not introducing new planning policy, but provides guidance on the implementation of Merton's adopted Local Plan policies Sites and Policies Plan policy: *DM F2 Sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) and; wastewater and water infrastructure*. Merton's Local Plan: https://www2.merton.gov.uk/merton_sites_and_policies__part_1_policies_jul14.pdf
- 2.4 The SPD follows the sustainable drainage design process from concept, through outline, to detailed design and provides an easy to follow, step by step, process; including chapters on the following:
- The role of SuDS
 - The SuDS design and evaluation process (cover for example the role of planning, objectives of the evaluation process)
 - Local SuDS requirements – covers planning policy requirements
 - Concept Design
 - Outline Design
 - Detailed Design – covering topics such as water quality, amenity. Biodiversity, Planting for SuDS and Managing SuDS.
- 2.5 The SPD is in conformity with statutory requirements such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Merton's Local Plan; as well as CIRIA's 2015 SuDS Manual and other recognised guidance.
- 2.6 The guidance also provides case studies and example of SuDS and demonstrates that SuDS are affordable and can be incorporated with in design.

3. Alternative options

- 3.1 The alternative option would be to not to consult on or progress with a SuDS SPD. This alternative option is not recommended as it would not help to reduce flood risk in Merton.

4. Consultation undertaken or proposed

- 4.1 Should Cabinet approve this report, a six week public consultation later in 2018 and exact dates to be agreed.

5. Timetable

- 5.1 Following consideration of the consultation results the Sustainable Drainage SPD would be recommended to Cabinet for adoption later in 2018.

6. Financial, resource and property implications

- 6.1 It is envisaged that the commitment to the completion of the SuDS SPD can be achieved through existing financial and staffing resources.

7. Legal and statutory implications

- 7.1 This SPD has been produced under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

8. Human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications

- 8.1 No implications. The SPD has also been subject to a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) screening. The council is statutory required to consult with three government advisor bodies namely the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, none of whom have objected to the SEA screening

9. Risk management and health and safety implications

- 9.1 Should it be adopted following consultation, the sustainable drainage SPD will help to manage flood risk, particularly from surface water, in Merton

10. Appendices – the following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- 10.1 Appendix A: *Sustainable Drainage Design and Evaluation Supplementary Planning Document* <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/streets-and-pavements/surface-water-drainage-and-suds>

11. Background Papers – the following documents have been relied on in drawing up this report but do not form part of the report

- NPPF 2012 (Draft NPPF 2018)
- Mayor's London Plan
- Merton's Sites and Policies Plan 2014
- Merton's Core Planning Strategy 2011

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