

## **Committee: Borough Plan Advisory Committee**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Wards: All

**Subject:** Adoption of Merton's Sustainable Drainage (SUDS) Design and Evaluation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Lead officer: Director of Environment and Regeneration, Chris Lee

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

Contact officer: Future Merton strategic planner: Ann Maria Clarke

Flood Risk Management Engineer: Tom Sly

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Borough Plan Advisory Committee recommends that Cabinet adopts Sustainable Drainage (SUDS) Design and Evaluation Supplementary Planning Document.
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- 1.1. This report recommends the adoption of planning guidance on sustainable drainage and the public realm.
- 1.2. 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 sustainable drainage systems with easy to understand and practical information for all those involved with the development process.
- 1.3. During July – August 2018 a six week public consultation was held on the draft supplementary planning document
- 1.4. Following feedback from the consultation some amendments were made to the SPD. These are:
  - To provide clarity and to highlight the importance of heritage assets in the contexts of SUDS following comments received from Historic England
  - Additional text to express the importance of SUDS from a water and Sewerage Company's perspective following comment received from Thames Water.
- 1.5. The final documents and consultation statements are available online at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/streets-and-pavements/surface-water-drainage-and-suds>

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. Merton Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), is a statutory consultee for surface water drainage matters relating to decisions on planning applications for major development.
- 2.2. SuDS provide a way of managing rainwater by mimicking natural drainage and are a requirement for all new major developments. To ensure successful and affordable Sustainable Drainage Systems, they should be fully integrated from the start of the design process along with other aspects of development design.
- 2.3. The guide is for developers, architects, landscape architects or anyone who plans to build or redevelop (both residential and commercial) in Merton. It creates a shared vision of SuDS for all involved in the development process, enabling design and evaluation to meet agreed standards and ensuring that SuDS are maintainable now and in the future.
- 2.4. The SUDS SPD provides further detail and clarity to Local Plan policies in regard to flood risk management. In addition it also covers and/or explains:

### **Consultation**

- 2.5. During the consultation, the council used different methods of public engagement to maximise public involvement and raise public awareness of the consultation.
  - A survey was conducted using Survey Monkey, the reason being it is a user friendly, recognisable and trusted. As well as Survey Monkey other consultation methods used for the consultation were:
    - Paper copies of the planning guidance and its supporting documents were made available at Merton's reference libraries
    - Dedicated webpage with copies of the guidance and supporting documents
    - Consultation details tweeted on Merton's Twitter account and information on the council's Facebook page by Merton's Communication team
    - Consultation information was placed on the council's website home page
    - Formal written consultation letters and emails sent to local residents, businesses, residential groups/organisations, environmental stakeholders e.g. Environment Agency, Thames Water and other interested parties
- 2.6. At the close of the consultation 4 responses were received:
  - Historic England
  - Thames Water
  - Natural England
  - Wimbledon Society

## **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. The alternative option would be to not adopt the SPD, this alternative option is not recommended. The SPD provides further clarity on Merton's existing adopted planning policies for SUDS in the borough to minimise effects on flood risk and drainage, taking into account the climate change.

#### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. A summary of the comments received and the actions undertaken are contained within Appendix A consultation statements for SUDS SPD final documents are available online via [www.merton.gov.uk/spg](http://www.merton.gov.uk/spg)

#### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. N/A

#### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. The SPD interprets existing planning policies and apply to relevant planning applications in Merton and has been produced using existing resources.

#### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. The SPD has been produced under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and taking into account the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

#### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. No implication. The SPD has been subject to a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) screening. The council is statutorily required to consult with three government environmental advisor bodies namely the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The council received comments from Natural England and the Environment Agency whom supported the findings of the SEA screening.

#### **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None, the council invited the Metropolitan Police Service to take part in the consultation; we received no comments.

#### **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. None

#### **11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- Available online at:

- <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/streets-and-pavements/surface-water-drainage-and-suds#design>
- Available on request by contacting 020 8545 3837 or [future.merton@merton.gov.uk](mailto:future.merton@merton.gov.uk)

## **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019
- London Plan 2016 and Intend to Publish London Plan 2019
- Merton's Sites and Policies Plan 2014
- Merton's Core Planning Strategy 2011
- Draft Local Plan 2019
- Consultation statement – Sustainable Drainage (SUDS) Design and Evaluation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- The SPD has been informed by technical guidance produced by Environment Agency, the government's SUDS Non- standard Technical Standards, Association of SUDS Authorities and Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) 2015 SUDS Manual.