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# **Executive Decision**

## **Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Technical Guide : Adoption as Informal Guidance Report**

Decision to be taken by: Deputy City Mayor Environment  
and Transportation

Decision to be taken on: 7 September 2021

Lead director/officer: Andrew L Smith

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### **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: All Wards
- Report author: Annie Provan
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- Report version number: 1

## **1. Summary**

1.1 Leicester City Council is at the forefront of delivering innovative SuDS features and this document provides informal guidance for developers on how to achieve the adoption of sustainable drainage in development. It explains how to achieve planning and other approvals for development in respect of sustainable drainage.

1.2 This document follows on from and builds on the existing LCC Sustainable Drainage Guide, published in April 2015, which sets out why Leicester needs to improve surface water management across the city. The guide details the types of techniques that can be used and, wherever possible, uses local examples to illustrate what can be achieved.

## **2. Recommended Decision**

To adopt of the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Technical Guide as Informal Guidance for developers on how to achieve the adoption of sustainable drainage in development.

To share and promote the guidance document as a good practice guide on the council's website.

To provide information and training for Members and Officers on the process and implementation of SuDS in development.

To develop a summary document for Members and developers as a gateway to the technical aspects of SuDS.

## **3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement**

3.1 These documents have been subject to extensive internal and external consultation and are now in ready for adoption as informal guidance by the council.

3.2 This guide was developed by the conservation team in planning, in conjunction with the key organisations with responsibility for SuDS :

Leicester City Council: (LCC), which includes the following,

- Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)
- Planning Department
- Highways Authority

- Parks and Green Spaces
- Building Regulations
- Property Department

Partners :

- Environment Agency (EA)
- Severn Trent Water (STW)
- Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT)
- Inland Waterways Association (IWA)

3.3 The document will be published on the council's website, possibly with a small number of printed copies, to promote the SuDS Technical Guide to the public.

3.4 A brief summary document will sit alongside the SuDS Technical Guide to introduce and explain it to developers and the public.

#### **4. Background and options with supporting evidence**

4.1 The City Council is at the forefront of delivering innovative SuDS features in the UK and has achieved success in the delivery of SuDS over many years. In April 2015, the council published a Sustainable Drainage Guide, which set out why Leicester needed to improve surface water management across the city and how that could be achieved. The guide detailed the principles and techniques and, wherever possible, uses local examples to illustrate what could be achieved.

4.2 Over time, it became clear that there was a need to provide further guidance and to address the issue of local authority adoption of SuDS features agreed as part of development. Following extensive discussion, this guidance document was developed to provide guidance for developers on how to achieve the adoption of sustainable drainage in developments.

4.3 This document represents a unified response to the issues and has been developed by all services with a responsibility for sustainable drainage, including Severn Trent Water, and provides clarification on what the council will or not adopt.

#### **5. Detailed report**

5.1 This document provides informal guidance for developers on how to achieve the adoption of sustainable drainage in developments. It explains how to achieve planning and other approvals for development in respect of sustainable drainage.

5.2 The over all aim of SuDS is to reduce surface water discharge and for each site and plot to manage its own surface water run off using natural drainage processes and to keep water on the surface as much as possible.

5.3 SuDS seeks to address four areas of concern to the environment :

- improve water quality

- provide amenity value
- improve biodiversity value
- manage flood risk

5.4 At the same time, it will encourage safe multifunctional use of green space and the efficient use of land, reduce maintenance costs by combining open space with surface water management and reduce the carbon footprint of new development.

5.5 In addition this guide seeks to secure the long term management and maintenance of SuDS features, support innovation and shared learning and reduce the overall cost of providing drainage solutions.

5.6 The overall aim of the guide is to help applicants deliver high quality, easily maintained SuDS that are safe and contribute to the public realm. Information is provided as a series of simple steps and it is envisaged that working through these steps should ensure a greater likelihood of an easier and faster route through the planning approvals process for sustainable drainage.

## **6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

### **6.1 Financial implications**

There are no direction financial implications arising from this report.

Amy Oliver, Interim Head of Finance

### **6.2 Legal implications**

The Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) Technical Guidance is informal guidance. It is intended to assist developers to achieve adoption of SuDs schemes within developments. SuDs schemes may be adopted by the following organisations:-

- Severn Trent Water Ltd under s104 of the Water Industry Act 1991
- Leicester City Council as highway authority under s38 or s278 of the Highways Act 1980
- A management company under an agreement whereby each property owner benefiting from the scheme pays an annual fee.

Any SuDs scheme adopted by Leicester City Council will be subject to payment of a commuted sum to cover maintenance costs for a 20 year period.

The commuted sum payable for maintenance would be secured either under a highways agreement (along with additional costs such as a bond and survey fees) or under a section 106 agreement.

### **6.3 Equalities implications**

There are no direct equality implications arising from the report.

Equalities Officer Surinder Singh

## 6.4 Climate Emergency implications

Encouraging and enabling the creation of SuDS will have a positive impact, as they play an important role in contributing to climate change adaptation in the city through reducing flood risk. Alongside this they deliver further environmental benefits in terms of supporting biodiversity, providing green space and reducing the carbon footprint of developments.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

## 6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

Policy  
Environment and Sustainability  
Health and Well Being

## **7. Background information and other papers:**

7.1 A number of Leicester's strategies and plans cross-reference the need for sustainable drainage in their agendas and programmes of work. The most relevant are referenced in Section 4 above and listed below :

- Leicester's Sustainability Action Plan (LSAP) 2011-2019
- Leicester's Climate Change Strategy
- Green Infrastructure Strategy 2015-2025
- Tree Strategy 2018-2023
- Surface Water Management Plan
- Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026

## **8. Summary of appendices:**

8.1 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Technical Guide April 2021

8.2 Sustainable Drainage Guide April 2015

## **9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

9.1 No

## **10. Is this a "key decision"? If so, why?**

10.1 No