

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FLOOD AND WATER SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Committee: Full Council

Date: 16 November 2016

Author: Richard Kay, Strategic Planning Manager

[R117]

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 For Council to determine whether to adopt the Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document can be found as Appendix 2.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Council adopts the Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document, and brings it into immediate effect.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1 Flood risk management is a significant issue throughout Cambridgeshire, with the East Cambridgeshire area one of the most seriously affected districts in the County. Ensuring that the drainage network and watercourses are managed appropriately, 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 East Cambridgeshire.

3.2 Following the enactment of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (which made Cambridgeshire County Council a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)) and the progressing of comprehensive Local Plan preparation across the County, the Cambridgeshire Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), including East Cambridgeshire, agreed to the joint preparation of a countywide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to ensure that a consistent, locally appropriate approach to flood risk and water management is applied.

3.2 The Flood and Water SPD has been prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council (as the LLFA) in partnership with:

- District/City Councils of South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Huntingdonshire;
- the Environment Agency;
- Anglian Water; and
- the Internal Drainage Boards.

The process was managed by a county-wide Officer Steering Group.

- 3.3 Cambridgeshire County Council Economy and Environment Committee endorsed the SPD at its meeting on 14 July 2016, and recommended it be adopted by each district/city council.
- 3.4 Prior to that endorsement, the draft SPD was published for consultation in September and October 2015. Following consultation, a number of amendments were made to reflect the following:
- A better understanding of the Fen areas and IDBs requirements;
 - Managing conflicts between what works in City and what works in the Fens;
 - Ensuring the document is as user friendly as possible;
 - A better quality document in terms of design and clarity of images and graphs.
- 3.5 The SPD, as now finalised, provides guidance for developers and applicants on managing flood risk and the water environment in and around new developments. The contents of the SPD expand upon the flood risk and water management policies contained within the adopted and emerging Local Plans.
- 3.6 The main purposes of the SPD are:
- To provide guidance to developers and decision makers on the approach that should be taken to manage flood risk and the water environment as part of new development proposals;
 - To provide a step by step guide to address flood risk matters as part of a development proposal, including clear guidance on the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS);
 - To support existing and emerging flood risk and water management related planning policies contained within the relevant Local Planning Authorities adopted or draft Local Plans; and
- 3.7 The document is a technical one. However, officers would like to make it clear that its production has been to assist (not burden) development to come forward, by making it clear and transparent what information will need to be provided by applicants in order for decision makers (eg planning officers, planning committee, appeal inspectors) to properly assess flood and water matters. This will, hopefully, enable applicants to provide the information correctly 'first time', saving the applicant from producing any unnecessary information and more generally speeding up the decision making process.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The Council is recommended to adopt the Flood and Water SPD, as attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.2 An alternative option is to not adopt the SPD. There is no legal requirement to adopt the SPD. Therefore, if the SPD is not adopted, high level policy and guidance, as provided by Government and the East Cambridgeshire Local

Plan, will continue to apply and form the basis for decision makers. However, officers (and the County Council and the other partners who assisted in the production of the SPD) do not recommend this option, because the detailed technical guidance as found in the SPD will assist developers in preparing proposals, will speed up decision making and will ensure a greater level of consistency in decision making.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report

5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) completed

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1: Completed INRA

Appendix 2: Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (circulated separately)

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
None	Council Chamber, East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Ely	Richard Kay Strategic Planning Manager (01353) 616245 E-mail: Richard.kay@ eastcambs.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – INITIAL SCREENING TEMPLATE (IST)

Initial screening needs to take place for all new/ revised Council policies. The word ‘policy’, in this context, includes the different things that the Council does. It includes any policy, procedure or practice - both in employment and service delivery. It also includes proposals for restructuring, redundancies and changes to service provision. This stage must be completed at the earliest opportunity to determine whether it is necessary to undertake an EIA for this activity.

Name of Policy:	Flood and Water SPD (for adoption at Full Council, 16/11/16)
Lead Officer (responsible for assessment):	Richard Kay
Department:	Strategic Planning
Others Involved in the Assessment (i.e. peer review, external challenge):	Nil
Date Initial Screening Completed:	25.10.16

(a) **What is the policy trying to achieve?** i.e. What is the aim/purpose of the policy? Is it affected by external drivers for change? What outcomes do we want to achieve from the policy? How will the policy be put into practice?

The SPD is a technical document, in support of policy contained in the Local Plan and in support of national policy. It does not set new policy, but rather gives clarity on how to interpret existing policy, and sets out what information is needed by applicants in order for flood and water matters to be considered properly.

The aim is to assist developers in preparing proposals, will speed up decision making and ensure a greater level of consistency in decision making.

(b) **Who are its main beneficiaries?** i.e. who will be affected by the policy?

It is primarily aimed at developers, to ensure proposals are submitted correctly.

However, all residents and business of (and visitors to) the district will, indirectly, benefit from the proposals, to a lesser or greater degree, because the SPD will help ensure the district is as safe as possible in terms of flood risk.

(c) **Is this assessment informed by any information or background data?** i.e. consultations, complaints, applications received, allocations/take-up, satisfaction rates, performance indicators, access audits, census data, benchmarking, workforce profile etc.

The draft SPD was subject to public consultation in 2015. It has been amended, following representations received.

(d) Does this policy have the potential to cause a positive or negative impact on different groups in the community, on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics (please tick all that apply):

Ethnicity	No	Age	No
Gender	No	Religion or Belief	No
Disability	No	Sexual Orientation	No
Gender Reassignment	No	Marriage & Civil Partnership	No
Pregnancy & Maternity	No	Caring Responsibilities	No

Please explain any impact identified: i.e. What do you already know about equality impact or need? Is there any evidence that there is a higher or lower take-up by particular groups? Have there been any demographic changes or trends locally? Are there any barriers to accessing the policy or service?

There is no apparent reason why any of the different groups as listed above will be particularly affected, negatively or positively, as a result of the SPD

(e) Does the policy affect service users or the wider community?	/NO/
(f) Does the policy have a significant effect on how services are delivered?	/NO/
(g) Will it have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?	/NO/
(h) Does it involve a significant commitment of resources?	/NO/
(i) Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities, e.g. disabled people's access to public transport etc?	/NO/

If you have answered **YES** to any of the questions above, then it is necessary to proceed with a full equality impact assessment (EIA). If the answer is **NO**, then this judgement and your response to the above questions will need to be countersigned by your Head of Service and then referred to the Council's Equal Opportunities Working Group (EOWG) for scrutiny and verification. Please forward completed and signed forms to the Principal HR Officer.

Note by completer (Richard Kay) of this note: At this emerging stage of preparing the Local Plan, a full EIA has not been complete. This is because the plan is provisional at this stage, and is subject to consultation and, subsequently, amendment. A full EIA will be prepared, if necessary, for the next consultation stage.

Signatures:

Completing Officer:	<u>Richard Kay</u>	Date:	<u>25/10/16</u>
Head of Service:	<u>Emma Grima</u>	Date:	<u>25/10/16</u>