



## **Southern Water's Guiding Principles**

### **1. Introduction**

Southern Water has developed a set of guiding principles which the company applies when responding to Local Plan consultations. These guiding principles reflect the following aims:

1. Meeting the increased demand for services arising from new development.
2. Protecting groundwater and surface water sources from pollution.
3. Providing high levels of service to new and existing customers, whilst meeting strict environmental standards in the treatment of wastewater.
4. Promoting efficient and sustainable use of water resources and wastewater assets.
5. Protecting sensitive development from exposure to odour.

### **2. The Guiding Principles**

To achieve these aims, Southern Water looks to Development Plan Documents to meet the guiding principles below, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework.

#### **Aim: Meet the increased demand for services arising from new development.**

*Guiding principles:* Ensure that policies are in place to:

- a) support the provision of new, or upgrades to existing, strategic water and/or wastewater infrastructure. This will help to ensure timely provision of additional capacity to meet the demand arising from new development.
- b) support, for each allocated housing site where Southern Water has identified a need, the timely provision of local wastewater network reinforcement specifically required to accommodate new development. This is consistent with the expectation of the water industry's economic regulator, Ofwat, for water companies to work proactively with planning authorities to limit the risk of sewer flooding.

#### **Aim: Protect groundwater and surface water sources from pollution.**

*Guiding principle:* Ensure that policies are in place to:

- c) prevent development that would lead to unacceptable deterioration in the quality and potential yield of groundwater and surface water sources.

- d) support provision of new infrastructure to enable treatment of wastewater to high environmental standards, as set by the Environment Agency.

**Aim: Provide high levels of service to new and existing customers, and continue to meet strict environmental standards in the treatment of wastewater.**

*Guiding principles:* Ensure that policies:

- e) require phasing of developments when existing infrastructure and treatment capacity is insufficient to meet the increased demand. This is particularly important when necessary investment has long lead-in times, and implementation is subject to delays beyond Southern Water's control.
- f) do not adversely impact the continued efficient operation of existing water and wastewater facilities.

*Guiding principle:* Ensure that the planning system supports at the appropriate stage:

- g) protection of underground water and wastewater infrastructure in close proximity of, or crossing, proposed development sites.

**Aim: Promote efficient and sustainable use of water resources and wastewater assets.**

*Guiding principles:* Ensure that policies:

- h) encourage water efficiency in new developments.

**Aim: Protect sensitive development from odour pollution.**

*Guiding principle:* Secure policies which:

- i) ensure that sensitive developments are sufficiently separated from wastewater treatment works to allow adequate odour dispersion.