

The Development Sites and Policies Plan

Fareham Borough Council

Response to Inspector's Question (Post Hearing)

March 2015

DCD-32

1 Introduction

1.1 On 5th March 2015, the Inspector asked the following further question to the Council:

1.2 *“From 6th April 2015 local planning policies should ensure that SuDS are in place, unless demonstrated to be inappropriate (see Written Ministerial Statement made on 18th December 2014).*

Are there any implications of the Statement for the Development Sites and Policies Plan (LP2) that I should be aware of?”

1.3 A response was requested by 20th March 2015, and is set out below. The Inspector’s Question has been added to the Examination Documents (DID-16). The Ministerial Statement has also been added to the library of submission documents (DOE8).

2 Purpose of the Statement

2.1 As part of the Government’s continuing commitment to protect people and property from flood risk they consulted on proposals to secure sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in new development. The Statement was published alongside the consultation response and makes it clear that the Government expects that SuDS will be provided in new development wherever this is appropriate.

2.2 The Statement applies for major developments and sets out how this should be applied to the consideration of planning applications. It confirms that the proposed changes will take effect from 6 April 2015 and that the “current requirement in national policy that all new developments in areas at risk of flooding should give priority to the use of sustainable drainage systems will continue to apply.” The Statement also acknowledges the Environment Agency’s role as a statutory consultee in this process.

3 Implications for the Development Sites & Policies Plan

3.1 The Council considers that the current Policy framework as set out in the Core Strategy and LP2 provides a suitable framework for the delivery of SuDS. Core Strategy Policy CS15: Sustainable Development and Climate Change states that the Council will promote *“secure sustainable development”*, which will be achieved by *“avoiding unacceptable levels of flood risk and proactively managing water through the promotion of sustainable drainage techniques.”*

3.2 This should also be read alongside LP2 Policy DSP3: Environmental Impact which states; *“Development should provide for the satisfactory disposal of surface and waste water, and should not be detrimental to the management and protection of water resources.”*

- 3.3 The Council believes that these policies provide a clear focus on the need to consider water run-off and flood risk in new development. This, alongside the Ministerial Statement, provides the emphasis on using SuDS as a method of achieving this. Whilst LP2 could replicate the wording of the Ministerial Statement this is considered to be unnecessary duplication given the framework for delivering SuDS that already exists within the CS and LP2.
- 3.4 To that end, the Council considers that that there are no implications of this Ministerial Statement on LP2 that the Inspector needs to be aware of, and no amendments to LP2 are required.