

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**TITLE: Draft Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) Supplementary Planning Document (“SPD”)**

## VERSION CONTROL

<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Description of Changes</b>
<b>24.05.2021</b>	<b>1</b>	Tom Evans	<b>Initial Draft</b>
<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Sarah Walker</b>	<b>EDI sign off</b>
<b>18.05.2023</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Tom Evans</b>	<b>Final Draft</b>

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Stage 1 Description:** Fact finding (about your policy / service / service users)

<b>Department</b>	Strategic Planning
<b>Service</b>	Environmental and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Date</b>	18/05/2023
<b>Type of document (mark as appropriate)</b>	Strategy
<b>Version</b>	1.0
<b>Lead officer responsible for assessment</b>	Tom Evans, Interim Environmental Planning Manager
<b>Other members of team undertaking assessment</b>	Tom Evans, Interim Environmental Planning Manager
<b>Is this a new/ existing/ revision of an existing document</b>	YES

<p><b>Title and subject of the impact assessment (include a brief description of the aims, outcomes , operational issues as appropriate and how it fits in with the wider aims of the organisation)</b></p> <p><b>Please attach a copy of the strategy/ plan/ function/ policy/ procedure/ service</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Sustainable Drainage Systems Supplementary Planning Document (“SPD”)</b></p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Supplementary Planning Documents (“SPDs”) provide further detail to the policies contained in the development plan. They can be used to provide guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. SPDs are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan. They must be consistent with national planning policy, must undergo consultation and must be in conformity with policies contained within the Local Plan.</p> <p>The council has prepared a draft Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) SPD for consultation. The draft SPD provides additional guidance on the implementation of policy SE13 (“Flood Risk and Water Management”), in the council’s Local Plan Strategy, adopted in July 2017, and policy ENV16 (“Surface Water Management and Flood Risk”) of the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (adopted December 2022). The SPD, once adopted, should assist applicants when making planning applications, and the council in determining them. The SPD provides further guidance on existing policies, rather than setting a new policy approach in relation to flood risk and water management.</p>
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	<p>The SPD has been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended by the Local Planning, Development Management Procedure, Listed Buildings etc (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020), the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>An Equalities Impact Assessment was prepared alongside the integrated Sustainability Appraisal work which supported the Local Plan Strategy. An Equalities Impact Assessment was also prepared to support the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document. The assessments found that the LPS and SADPD policies (including policies particularly relevant to the SPD) are unlikely to have negative effects on protected characteristics or persons identified under the Equality Act 2010.</p>
<p><b>Who are the main stakeholders and have they been engaged with? (e.g. general public, employees, Councillors, partners, specific audiences, residents)</b></p>	<p>Public consultation will take place on the final draft SPD for four weeks in accordance with the Town and Country Planning ((Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012) and the council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. This will include the development industry, general public, town and parish councils, statutory consultees, elected members, and consultees who have registered on the strategic planning database.</p>
<p><b>What consultation method(s) did you use?</b></p>	<p>The council prepares a Statement of Community Involvement which provides detail on how it will consult on Local Plan documents and SPDs. This includes the availability of documents, how residents and stakeholders will be notified etc. The council's Local Plan consultation database, which will be used to notify consultees of the consultation, also includes a number of organisations who work alongside groups with protected characteristics in the borough.</p> <p>Consultation has taken place on the draft SPD, and all comments received have been reviewed and considered whilst in making changes to the first draft document. A report of consultation has been prepared and will be published alongside the final version of the SPD, which will also be subject to further consultation.</p> <p>This EIA will be kept updated as the draft SPD progresses.</p>

### Stage 2 Initial Screening

<p><b>Who is affected and what evidence have you considered to arrive at this analysis?</b></p>	<p>Ward councillors. Those living and working in the borough, property owners, landowners and developers, clinical commissioning group, special interest groups.</p>
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<b>(This may or may not include the stakeholders listed above)</b>	
<b>Who is intended to benefit and how?</b>	Local communities including landowners and developers. The SPD will provide additional guidance on the implementation of existing planning policies related to the assessment of planning applications on matters relating to managing water and flood risk providing guidance on how developers should work with the landscape of a site to manage water (rather than introducing an engineering led approach). Building in landscape features that help to disperse and manage surface water is beneficial to all communities through increasing the provision of natural environmental services, reducing flood risk from surface water and improving design in new development. The means through which SuDS are achieved may also improve access to green space and recreation opportunities in new and existing development.
<b>Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups?</b>	No, the SPD builds upon existing planning policy guidance and provides further information about how the council will consider planning applications. The provision of guidance on how SuDS should be implemented will assist in clarifying what types of design are acceptable in Cheshire East. The SPD, in applying additional guidance to assist in the interpretation of planning policies should be beneficial to a wide variety of groups including communities, landowners and developers.
<b>Does it include making decisions based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances?</b>	No, the introduction of the SPD is not based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances. The SPD includes information on the management of water in new development. The content of the SPD does not relate directly to the characteristics of human populations.
<b>Are relations between different groups or communities likely to be affected? (eg will it favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others?)</b>	No, the SPD is not intended to affect different groups or communities in this way.
<b>Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality? Is there a history of unequal outcomes (do you have enough evidence to prove otherwise)?</b>	No, the SPD is not intended to target any group and will be consulted upon in line with the council's Statement of Community Involvement.

<b>Is there an actual or potential negative impact on these specific characteristics?</b>	<b>Yes/ No</b>
<b>Age</b>	Unknown
<b>Disability</b>	Unknown
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	Unknown

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<b>Marriage &amp; civil partnership</b>	Unknown
<b>Pregnancy &amp; maternity</b>	Unknown
<b>Race</b>	Unknown
<b>Religion &amp; belief</b>	Unknown
<b>Sex</b>	Unknown
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Unknown

The SPD may have an impact those living and working in the borough.

The draft SuDS SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of LPS policy SE13 “Flood Risk and Water Management” to support the delivery of SuDS solutions that improve design and work with the landscape of a site. The SPD also provides guidance on policy requirements and methods that applicants can use to demonstrate compliance with relevant policies in the Development Plan.

The guidance in the SPD may be beneficial as it will assist in supporting the long-term ability of development to mitigate the impacts of climate change, that can support the economy, recreation and leisure opportunities for human populations.

The SPD provides further guidance on the policy approach set out in the Local Plan Strategy.



No negative impacts are identified at this stage in relation to any of the specific characteristics. However, public consultation will be undertaken, and this may raise issues officers are not currently aware of.

The EIA will be reviewed (and updated) once the initial consultation has taken place.

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>What evidence do you have to support your findings? (quantitative and qualitative) Please provide additional information that you wish to include as appendices to this document, i.e., graphs, tables, charts</b>	<b>Yes/ No</b>
<b>Age</b>		To be carried out
<b>Disability</b>		To be carried out
<b>Gender reassignment</b>		To be carried out
<b>Marriage &amp; civil partnership</b>		To be carried out

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<b>Pregnancy &amp; maternity</b>		To be carried out
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<b>Sex</b>		To be carried out
<b>Sexual orientation</b>		To be carried out

<b>Lead officer sign off</b>	
<b>Date</b>	18/05/2023
<b>Head of service sign off</b>	
<b>Date</b>	18/07/23