



To: Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport: Councillor Kevin Blencowe  
Report by: Head of Planning Services  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Development Plan 16 June 2015  
Scrutiny Sub Committee  
Wards affected: All Wards

## **Draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document**

### **Not a Key Decision**

#### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 This report concerns the draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water (SPD), which will sit alongside the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 once adopted.
- 1.2 The SPD has been produced in order to support the implementation of flooding and water related policies across all of the Cambridgeshire local planning authorities. For Cambridge, the SPD supports policies 31 (integrated water management and the water cycle) and 32 (flood risk) of the submission version Cambridge Local Plan 2014. It provides detailed guidance on the steps that developers should undertake to ensure that developments are not at risk of flooding or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 This report is being submitted to the Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee for prior consideration and comment before decision by the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport.
- 2.2 The Executive Councillor is recommended:
  - To agree the content of the draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD (Appendix A);

- To agree that if any amendments are necessary, these should be agreed by the Executive Councillor in consultation with Chair and Spokes of Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee;
- To agree for the draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD to be subject to public consultation for 6 weeks in September – October 2015.

### **3. Background**

#### **Introduction**

3.1 The draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD has been developed by Cambridgeshire County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority) in conjunction with each of the Cambridgeshire local planning authorities. The purpose of the SPD is to provide detailed guidance on the implementation of flood and water related policies in each authority's respective local plans, supplementing policies in the following documents:

- The submission version of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014;
- The South Cambridgeshire Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) (2007) and the submission version of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2014;
- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan;
- The adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (April 2015);
- The adopted Fenland Local Plan (May 2014); and
- The adopted Huntingdonshire Core Strategy (2009) and emerging Local Plan.

3.2 For Cambridge, the SPD supports the following policies from the submission version of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014:

- Policy 31: Integrated water management and the water cycle; and
- Policy 32: Flood risk

The full wording of these policies is provided in Appendix B.

3.3 A significant amount of new development will occur in Cambridgeshire over the next 20 years and beyond. In order to reduce impact on the water environment, development must be appropriately located, well designed, managed and take account of climate change. The aim of the SPD is to provide guidance on the approach that should be taken

to manage flood risk and the water environment as part of new development proposals. The SPD highlights the documents that will be required to accompany planning applications including:

- Sequential Test and, where appropriate, Exception Test Reports;
- Site Specific Flood Risk Assessments and Drainage Strategies (incorporating the approach to surface water drainage).

3.4 The decision to produce a county wide approach has been taken on the basis that it would ensure a consistent, locally appropriate approach to flood risk and water management across Cambridgeshire. On adoption, the SPD will be used by:

- Applicants when considering new sites for development;
- Applicants when preparing the brief for their design teams to ensure drainage and water management schemes are sustainably designed;
- Consultants when carrying out site specific flood risk assessments;
- Design teams when developing masterplans, landscape and surface water drainage schemes;
- Development management officers when determining planning applications; and
- Other interested parties who wish to better understand flood and water management across Cambridgeshire.

## **Status**

3.5 On its adoption, the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD will have the status of a material consideration when determining planning applications. As the draft SPD has been written to support the Cambridge Local Plan 2014, which is still currently being examined by the Secretary of State, the SPD will be adopted at the same time as, or shortly after, the local plan is adopted. It will not be adopted for use in Cambridge before the local plan is adopted.

3.6 For those Cambridgeshire authorities with adopted plans in place, namely the Fenland and East Cambridgeshire Local Plans, the South Cambridgeshire Development Control Policies DPD and the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan, the SPD will be able to be adopted sooner, following consultation on the SPD and subject to any changes to the document that are deemed necessary following consultation.

## Sections of the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD

3.7 The draft SPD is split into seven chapters as follows:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction;
- Chapter 2 – Setting the scene, which provides an overview of the European and national context on flood risk and water management, as well as providing further details on the local plans and policies associated with Cambridgeshire;
- Chapter 3 – Working with Water Management Authorities, which provides details on the key water management authorities across the county that may need to be consulted as part of the development management process;
- Chapter 4 – Guidance on managing flood risk to development and site selection, which provides specific advice on how to address flood risk issues as part of the development management process, including the application of the sequential approach to flood risk and producing site specific flood risk assessments. The aim of this chapter is to ensure that developments are located in areas at lowest risk of flooding;
- Chapter 5 – Managing and Mitigating Risk. An integral part of managing and mitigating flood risk is good site design. This chapter covers ways in which those risks can be appropriately addressed. All major developments are now required by national planning policy to implement Sustainable Drainage Systems in order to attenuate surface water runoff, while policy 31 of the submission version of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 looks to extend this requirement to all development given the capacity issues in receiving watercourses in Cambridge;
- Chapter 6 – Surface water and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). This chapter specifically looks at a number of different design methods and how they can be incorporated into SuDS that form part of a proposed development. Guidance is also provided on the adoption and maintenance of SuDS.
- Chapter 7 – Water Environment. This chapter gives consideration to the role that new developments have to play in ensuring that water environments are protected and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. This includes enhancements to water quality and measures to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

3.8 The draft SPD also includes checklists to be completed and submitted by developers at different stages in the development management process, for example, at the pre-application stage, outline application stage and full or reserved matters stage. It is recommended that the submission of these checklists be included on the Council's local list, which sets out information that needs to be submitted to the council to support planning applications, to ensure that applications are only validated if this checklist has been completed.

## **Consultation**

3.9 Public consultation for the draft Cambridgeshire Water and Flood SPD is recommended to take place between September and October 2015, for a 6 week period.

3.10 A Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report has been carried out and consulted upon for the emerging Cambridge Local Plan 2014. This consultation took place between 19 July and 30 September 2013. These documents, along with other supporting documents will also be made available to view during this consultation. As the draft SPD supports the Cambridge Local Plan, there is no further need to undertake a separate Sustainability Appraisal or Habitats Regulations Assessment for this document, although screening reports have been completed and will be made available during the consultation.

3.11 Cambridgeshire County Council have also completed an Equalities Impact Assessment of the draft SPD, which will be made available as a background document as part of the consultation.

## **Next Steps**

3.12 The final version of this document will be amended prior to adoption to reflect some or all of the following:

- Comments we receive on this draft document;
- Any amendments to relevant policies in the final local plan;
- Any governmental policy changes.

3.13 This document will be subject to final consideration and approval by the council's Environment Scrutiny Committee before its adoption.

## **Implications**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Policies related to flooding and water have been included in the review of the Local Plan, which has already been included within existing budget plans.

### **(b) Staffing Implications (if not covered in Consultations Section)**

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report. The review of the Local Plan has already been included in existing work plans.

### **(c) Equality and Poverty Implications**

There are no direct equal opportunity implications arising from this report. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council and will be made available as a background document as part of the consultation on the draft SPD.

### **(d) Environmental Implications**

The Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD will help to ensure that development is directed away from areas at highest risk of flooding, as well as ensuring that developments do not increase flood risk elsewhere, through the use of SuDS and other flood mitigation techniques. In producing site specific flood risk assessments and drainage strategies, account must be given to the impacts of climate change, as set out in the SPD. This will ensure that developments are safe for their lifetime. The use of SuDS across sites will also have wider climate change adaptation benefits, not only reducing the risk of surface water flood risk, but helping to reduce the effects of the heat island effects, offering benefits related to water recycling, which will help with the issue of water stress, and helping to enhance biodiversity. Overall there should be a positive climate change impact.

(e) **Procurement**

There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

The consultation and communications arrangements for the draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD are consistent with the council's Statement of Community Involvement 2013, and Code for Best Practice on Consultation and Community Engagement.

(g) **Community Safety**

The Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD will help benefit community safety by steering development away from areas at high risk of flooding. The guidance contained within the SPD will also help to ensure that not only are developments themselves not at risk from flooding, but that they do not increase the risk of flooding downstream of developments, and in many cases the drainage measures proposed for new developments are capable of providing betterment to communities downstream from developments.

**5. Background papers**

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Cambridge Local Plan 2014: Proposed Submission:  
[https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/draft\\_submission/Full%20Plan/Full%20Draft%20Plan%20with%20title%20pages%20reduced%20size.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/draft_submission/Full%20Plan/Full%20Draft%20Plan%20with%20title%20pages%20reduced%20size.pdf)
- Addendum to the Cambridge Local Plan 2014: Proposed Submission – Schedule of Proposed Changes
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014;  
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/www.cambridge.gov.uk/files/documents/Final%20SA%20Report%20for%20Printing.pdf>
- Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014;  
Part 1 –

[https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/www.cambridge.gov.uk/files/documents/Appropriate%20Assessment%20Part%201%20-%20FINAL\\_0.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/www.cambridge.gov.uk/files/documents/Appropriate%20Assessment%20Part%201%20-%20FINAL_0.pdf)

Part 2 –

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/www.cambridge.gov.uk/files/documents/Appropriate%20Assessment%20Part%202%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

## 6. Appendices

- Appendix A – Draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD
- Appendix B – Extract of relevant policies from the Submission Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014

## 7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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