

SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS ('SuDS') AND SURFACE WATER FLOODING

In Defra's first SuDS newsletter (July 2013) we set out the background for SuDS policy and regulatory development. This second Newsletter aims to update you with developments.

SuDS Implementation – Lead-In period for stakeholders

We continue to work towards implementing Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in April 2014. However, this remains subject to Whitehall and Parliamentary approvals, as set out in the July Newsletter.

Unfortunately we will not be in a position to give stakeholders a 6-month lead-in period, as we had hoped. We will share further information as it is available and will sign-post stakeholders to key developments in future newsletters.

Update on the Steering Group (SG) and Task-and-Finish Group (T/F) work

Some major items emerging from recent meetings of the T/F Groups and the Steering Group are:

- Defra confirmed that Schedule 3 could not be applied **where planning permission had already been granted**. Transitional arrangements will apply.
- **Draft guidance** to sit alongside the National Standards was presented to stakeholders at a workshop on the 27th September. The revised guidance will be discussed again at a meeting later in October (date to be advised) and at the upcoming Local Authority Capacity-Building workshops (details below)
- **SuDs Local Authority Capacity-Building workshops** have been scheduled for the following dates:
 - 21st /22nd October – London
 - 24th October – Peterborough
 - 28th October – York
 - 30th October – Birmingham
 - 31st October – Warrington
 - 5th November – Bristol

A package of material from the workshops will be widely available for those who are unable to attend after the last workshop.

Timeline to implementation of SuDS new-build regulations

We are aiming to submit the final SuDS Impact Assessment to the independent Regulatory Policy Committee this month. After we receive a positive opinion from the RPC we can then proceed to secure the relevant Cabinet Committee approvals with the intention of laying the statutory instruments before Parliament in December/January.

Development of the SuDS National standards

The SuDS National Standards will be published online and will be available to attendees at the Capacity-Building workshops. The National Standards are subject to a 3 month European Commission Notification stand-still period.

Consultation on SuDS charging

A consultation on long-term SuDS maintenance charging will be published shortly.

Implementation of Section 42 of FWMA

Regrettably, it is no longer possible to implement **the new-build sewers proposals** (Section 42, FWMA 2010) by April 2014. Defra does intend to implement this policy at the earliest opportunity, once additional evidence can be presented. The decision to delay does not represent a change in policy on new-build sewers. Defra will, of course, update the website as new evidence emerges and is submitted for scrutiny.

Stakeholders are welcome to contact Defra at SUDS@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Do cascade this document to colleagues and contacts with an interest. Please encourage them to contact us if they wish to be added to our mailing list, or to receive the July newsletter.