Context of the Area Action Plan

- 2003 Structure Plan and 2006 Cambridge Local Plan;
- 12,500 new homes in the period 1999-2016;
- Quality Charter for Growth - recognised the role of SuDS in the design of new communities;
- Face particular challenges related to surface water drainage.
The North West Cambridge Development

- Major mixed use development on land released from the Green Belt;
- Released to help meet the needs of the University of Cambridge;
- Large strategic site.

North West Cambridge Area Action Plan

- Enabled provision of more detailed site specific policy guidance;
- Identified vision and key objectives for development;
- Creation of an exemplar of sustainable living able to accommodate the impacts of our changing climate;
- SuDS a requirement of policy along with water efficiency.
Policy NW25: Surface Water Drainage

- Surface water drainage to be designed as a sustainable drainage system;
- Hold water on site ensuring it is released at equal or slower rate than prior to development;
- Designed and integrated into the development with multiple benefits; and
- Must make allowance for future climate change.

Challenges to the policy

- Sustainable drainage was challenged as a suitable solution;
- Some frustration over lack of detail;

BUT

- Full support of University of Cambridge as landowner.
Future policy direction

- Outline approval in 2013 with reserved matters for Phase 1 well underway;
- Detailed surface water modelling for Cambridge;
- Water sensitive urban design approach for all scales of development;
- Adoption in public open spaces.

Any questions?

emma.davies@cambridge.gov.uk