SuDS in Nottingham
The evolutionary story of becoming a statutory consultee

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Presentation Overview

– The importance of flood risk input in planning

– Nottingham City’s timeline of involvement in planning and lessons learnt:
  • Pre April 2015
  • Post April 2015

– Ongoing work streams and future challenges
The Importance of Flood Risk Input in Planning
The Importance of Flood Risk Input in Planning

– Development provides opportunities.......  
  • To build ‘safe’ sites  
  • To manage flood risk in downstream areas  
  • To create betterment

– Intervention stages:  
  • Pre-Application  
  • Application(s)  
  • Construction  
  • Maintenance

SuDS in Nottingham

Pre-April 2015
Nottingham City’s involvement in planning
Pre-April 2015

– Departmental decision to comment on planning applications due to historic flooding
– Commenting on all flood sources where possible
– ‘Best endeavors’ approach
– Non-statutory consultee
– Built skills and knowledge in team
Nottingham City’s involvement in planning
Pre-April 2015

Toolbox for Planning Consultations
• Fluvial flood risk - *Flood Map for Planning*
• Surface water flood risk - *Flood Map for Surface Water*
• Proximity to open / culverted watercourses – sewer records, OS map, DRN, internal info
• Proximity to historic flooding location – internal dataset
• SuDS proposals - Greenfield / Brownfield / SFRA policies / infiltration tests / future adoption and maintenance / building regs
Nottingham City’s involvement in planning
Pre-April 2015

Issues Encountered & Lessons Learned

• Conflicting responses to planning applications from NCC Drainage and Environment Agency
• Adoption and maintenance responsibilities difficult to overcome
• Resources – especially when flooding happens!
• Construction – examples of HydroBrakes not installed

Post-April 2015

June, 2015
Nottingham City’s involvement in planning
Post-April 2015

Changes since legislation change

- Standard response template developed, including standard conditions
- Amendments to the planning application validation checklist requested
- SuDS Supplementary Planning Document drafted – out for internal consultation
- Working with the EA to address ongoing challenges regarding greenfield runoff rate requirement in the River Leen and Day Brook catchment – CDA / ACDP?
- Working with surrounding LPAs to discuss potential update to SFRAs
- Amended process to give Drainage Team full statutory consultation timescale

Nottingham City’s involvement in planning
Post-April 2015

Consultations:
(Environment Agency)
Severn Trent Water

Developer

Development Management

Drainage (LLFA)

Highways Development Control

Parks / Biodiversity

SuDS in Nottingham
Nottingham City’s involvement in planning Post-April 2015

What’s being checked

• Surface water flood risk to and from the site:
  • Sense check on drainage layout
  • Are SuDS proposed?! (heirarchy, triangle, train)
  • Runoff rates – pre-development V post-development & SFRA policies
  • Minimum attenuation of 5 l/s, infiltration tests, groundwater levels
  • Adoption and maintenance arrangements

• Also check flood records, spring emergence records, targeted gully cleansing areas, fluvial flood risk, sewer plans,

Ongoing challenges

• Smaller sites – cumulative effects
• Level of detail and checking models – skills, capacity and resource
• Adoption and maintenance seems easier to overcome at planning stage, but concerns about futureproofing agreements
• Construction checks – drainage is often the first stage of construction – is what was planned actually being built?
Thank You

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