SuDS through Planning

Laura Kitson – Central Bedfordshire Council

Introducing Central Bedfordshire
Our vision for SuDS

Shifting the thinking

Infrastructure → Asset
Drainage → Multifunctional
Homogeneous → Complements local character

Why develop guidance?

- Using our existing statutory role – proactive local leadership
- Joined up guidance
- Early consideration of SuDS
- Holistic approach to SuDS design
Susdrain – SuDS not duds – interactions with spatial planning

1. Background
   - SuDS not duds
   - Interactions with spatial planning

2. Design Considerations and Local Requirements
   - SuDS Local Requirements
   - Challenges for Designing SuDS

3. Considering Local Nuance: Development of Local SuDS Zones
   - Southern Chalk Lands
   - Cromwell Ridge and Valley
   - Clay Hills and Valleys
   - Clay River Floodplain

4. The Approval and Adoption Process
   - The Approval Process
   - SuDS Local Requirements

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RELEVANT SUDS PLANNING POLICIES

1. Plan in SuDS from the start
2. Replicate natural drainage
3. Water re-use first
4. Enhance biodiversity
5. Focus on multi-functional uses
6. Minimise carbon and waste in SuDS
7. Design for easy access and maintenance
8. Linked design through every scale
9. Place making through SuDS design
10. Reduce reliance on pipes and pumps

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Incorporating SuDS on a flat site

Challenge - Conveying water using gravity ideally requires a gradient. Flat sites can, therefore, be a challenge. If a piped system is being used to convey surface water on a flat site, downstream SuDS can become deep and unattractive due to the drop required for pipe cover and gradient.

Approach - Manage surface water runoff at the surface and as close to its source as possible. If conveyance is required, surface approaches could include roughside berms with shallow rills and swales. Pumping should only be used as a last resort.

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What does the guidance provide?

• Design principles – not prescriptions
• Requirements to suit our local area
• A statutory basis for seeking multi-functional SuDS

How does this sit with the recent Government proposals?

Considerations for us as a Unitary authority

• SuDS as part of the planning process
• Evaluation of design
• Identifying assets
• Funding
Wider issues from Government proposals

- Statutory weight; material consideration vs right to connect
- Adoption mechanism(s)

How to maximise the opportunities

- Dialogue with planning colleagues – policy makers and development management
- Dialogue with developers
- Dialogue with stakeholders
To find out more…


or email laura.kitson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk with any questions.