

Delivering Sustainable Drainage

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- Background
 - Water companies role
 - Legislation
 - Highway drainage
- Sustainable drainage mechanisms and SUDS
- Working together – sharing data and practice

- Water supply companies have a statutory duty to provide wholesome drinking water at all times
- Sewerage undertakers have a general duty to provide, maintain and operate systems of public sewers and works for the purpose of effectually draining their areas
- Owners and occupiers of buildings have a right to connect to the sewer network for both foul and surface water.

- Water Industry Act 1991
 - S104 – adopting sewers
 - S106 – right of connection
 - S115 – highway drainage

- Water Act 2003
 - S105 – transfer of private sewers

- Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Why is highway drainage an issue?

- S115 Water Industry Act 1991
- Climate change and urban creep - increasing demands on all drainage systems.
 - 30%-70% of storm flows in combined sewers from roads and footpaths
- Excess surface water flows can lead to flooding, increased pumping, premature spills at CSOs, increased volumes at treatment works and backflow of foul waste into properties
- Incentives for Highway Authorities to seek alternative receptors?

- Sustainability
- Legal and moral duty to drive sustainability
- Is drainage now sustainable?
- Pressures on sustainability – population growth, demographic shift, urban creep, climate change
- New developments should have no additional burden

- Making Space for Water – Defra strategy
- Urban Flood Risk and Integrated Drainage
- Surface Water Management Plans
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- SUDs

- New statutory responsibilities for managing flood risk
- Protection of assets which help manage flood risk
- Powers to carry out environmental works
- Sustainable urban drainage systems
- New sewer standards

- Clause 32 – sustainable drainage – regulations, orders, and standards due in April or October 2011 – consultation early Autumn 2010
- Clause 42 – new drainage systems – regulations to come in before transfer of private sewers – consultation late summer / early autumn
- Clause 43 – concessions for community groups – consultation due on guidance as soon as new Minister agrees – June?

- Does not bring an end to the automatic right of connection to public sewerage system
- Misses the opportunity to provide a single unified piece of legislation
- Doesn't cover funding for SUDS
- Guidance and regulation will tidy up?
- Additional legislation will be required in new Parliament.

- Cornerstone of sustainable drainage
- Multiple benefits – flow attenuation, water quality / treatment, amenity values
- Standards being developed – hierarchy approach
- Role and influence in the SAB process
 - how to get our opinion across?
 - statutory consultees but no right of refusal

- Flood risk assessment will identify where investment could benefit mutual customers.
- Funding asset schemes that are not directly ours but benefit our customers?
 - Regulatarily difficult
- Transfer of private sewers will release cash – Defra will ensure it is shared – but how much?
 - The big unknown risk

- Local authorities, HAs and water companies to work jointly to deliver sustainable drainage
- Sharing data – now a duty but needs to be proportionate and appropriate
- Learning lessons from SWMPs – some good, some bad
- Early engagement and influencing – HAs well positioned to drive sustainability

- Sustainable drainage is what we want and what we need
- Legislation, standards, strategies etc exist to help deliver sustainable drainage
- Success requires co-operation, partnerships and joint working