

surface water should be discharged into a watercourse (in agreement with the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)) at pre-development greenfield run off rates or into a surface water sewer if there is no nearby surface water body.

In exceptional circumstances, where a sustainable drainage system cannot be provided, it must be demonstrated that:

- An acceptable means of surface water disposal is provided which does not increase the risk of flooding or give rise to environmental problems and improves on the current situation; and
- Contributions will be made to off-site SuDS schemes if located in an area known to suffer surface water flooding the development should seek to offer a strategic solution.

10.41. SuDS are an approach to managing surface water run-off which seeks to mimic natural drainage systems and retain water on or near the site, compared with traditional drainage approaches which can cause problems of flooding, pollution or damage to the environment, and may be not sustainable in the long term. SuDS involve a range of techniques including soakaways, infiltration trenches, permeable pavements, grassed swales, ponds and wetlands. SuDS offer significant advantages over conventional piped drainage systems in reducing flood risk by attenuating the rate and quantity of surface water run-off from a site, promoting groundwater recharge, and improving water quality and amenity. Proposals should include details of future maintenance of SuDS. Warwickshire County Council is the 'Lead Local Flood Authority' with responsibility for developing, maintaining and monitoring a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in partnership with other relevant bodies in the area.

10.42. Warwickshire County Council may also introduce its own local standards in addition to national standards. The County Council also has a duty as the lead flood authority to prepare preliminary flood risk assessment maps in accordance with the EU Flood Directive.

10.43. Discharge into the Grand Union Canal or the Oxford Canal will require a separate agreement and licence from the Canal & River Trust and be subject to assessment. Discharging or building structures such as outfalls into an ordinary watercourse requires consent from Warwickshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

Policy SDC7: Protection of the Water Environment and Water Supply

Developers will be expected to ensure that there is adequate water supply to serve existing and proposed developments by:

- Minimising the need for new infrastructure by directing development to areas where there is a guaranteed and adequate supply of water having due regard to Severn Trent's Water Resource Management Plan and Strategic Business Plan as well as the findings of the Water Cycle Study; and

- Ensuring development is in accordance with the Water Framework Directive Objectives and does not adversely affect the waterbodies' ability to reach good status or potential as set out in the River Severn 'River Basin Management Plan' (RBMP).

Development will not be permitted where proposals have a negative impact on water quality, either directly through pollution of surface or ground water, or indirectly through the overloading of Wastewater Treatment Works. Prior to any potential development, consultation must be held with Severn Trent Water to ensure that the required wastewater infrastructure is in place in sufficient time.

Development will not be permitted where the sensitivity of the groundwater environment, or the risk posed by the type of development is deemed to pose an unacceptable risk of pollution of the underlying aquifer.

10.44. Severn Trent Water is the appointed water company for the Borough with the responsibility of providing sufficient quantity and quality of water to meet demand whilst minimising the impact on the environment.

10.45. Severn Trent's Water Resources Management Plan outlines the ways in which continuous supplies can be maintained and expanded to meet the additional demands made by new developments in the area.

10.46. The Environment Agency has recently reformed its water abstraction management in England to take account of growing demand and the subsequent threat to the natural environment.

10.47. The Water Framework Directive provides the opportunity to plan and deliver a better water environment and states that all water bodies must achieve a good ecological status by 2027 at the latest. It is important that housing growth does not cause detrimental environmental impacts that will hinder the ability of a water body to meet this target.

10.48. River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) are plans for protecting and improving the water environment and have been developed in consultation with organisations and individuals. They contain the main issues for the water environment and the actions needed to deal with them.

Policy SDC8: Supporting the Provision of Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technology

Proposals for new low carbon and renewable energy technologies (including associated infrastructure) will be supported in principle subject to all of the following criteria being demonstrated:

- The proposal has been designed, in terms of its location and scale, to minimise any adverse impacts on adjacent land uses and local residential amenity;