

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 13
DATE OF MEETING:	14th NOVEMBER 2019	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To request that the Committee authorises the proposed response to Severn Trent Water's (STW) Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan Stakeholder Consultation set out in this main body of this report and Appendix 2 of this consultation.
- 1.2 To make the Committee aware that a senior officer from STW has been invited to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 27 November to discuss the Plan and Severn Trent's wider approach to managing drainage and wastewater.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To outline proposals by STW to prepare a Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan and outline the Council's proposed response to STW on the preparation and scope of the Plan.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan framework was published by Water United Kingdom (UK) in September 2018. The need arose following concerns raised by Department for Agriculture and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Environment Agency (EA) and Office of Water Services (Ofwat) that there was no common framework for drainage planning. This led to the development of the 21st Century Drainage Programme.
- 3.2 One of the main objectives of the 21st Century Drainage Programme is to deliver a new UK wide framework that builds on existing good practice to provide a consistent approach for drainage and wastewater planning throughout the UK. This framework aims to:
 - Embed a consistent, standardised and more robust approach towards long-term planning that facilitates consideration of the wider drainage networks which interact with existing drainage and wastewater systems.

- Provide transparency and line of sight with regards STW's plans to customers and other stakeholders who need to engage with the sewerage company on strategic decisions and investments in drainage and wastewater
- Facilitate the alignment of management plans across all organisations who have responsibility for different aspects of drainage and flooding, supporting achievement of common goals and outcomes
- Produce a plan that complies with relevant statutory obligations, governments'/regulators' policy expectations and customers' priorities for drainage and wastewater services.

3.3 The proposed scope of a DWMP, includes wastewater networks (foul, combined and surface sewers), interconnecting drainage systems (such as highway drainage and culverted water courses), wastewater treatment works and the interrelated flood risk and environmental impact on receiving waters; including rivers, streams and other watercourses, estuarial and coastal waters. Whilst the responsibility for development and publication of DWMPs sits with the sewerage company, water companies will need to share information and work with other organisations including councils to understand risks, projects and strategies for the area, and enable collaboration to deliver holistic improvements to the drainage and wastewater system.

3.4 DWMPs will be used to inform STW's 2025-2030 business planning process (known as 'PR24') with submission of Business Plans expected around September 2023. To ensure sufficient time to consult on DWMPs and for investment needs to be incorporated into the PR24 Business Plan there is an expectation that draft DWMPs will be published by 30th June 2022 ahead of a six-month consultation period. Final DWMPs would then be published by 31st March 2023 to inform the PR24 business planning process.

The Role of District and Borough Councils

3.5 The consultation paper highlights Local Planning Authorities and Developers as key stakeholders noting that *"one of the key pressures of the sewerage network is from new development to meet Government house building targets to accommodate projected increases in population. Under current legislation house builders have an automatic right to connect surface water discharges from new development to the public sewerage system, with Lead Local Flood Authorities providing advice on sustainable drainage requirements. Where sewerage capacity upgrades are required these are funded by the sewerage company. To ensure effective planning of capacity we are wholly reliant on working with local planning authorities to ensure upgrades can be delivered in a timely and efficient manner to ensure development is not delayed"*.

3.6 However water companies also face the risk of abortive investment if planned development does not come to fruition and so it is essential that they work closely with planners to manage uncertainty. South Derbyshire is one of nearly 80 planning authorities within its wastewater boundaries and given the scale of growth in and around the District ongoing liaison with this and surrounding districts is essential to understand future growth rates and patterns. However, STW notes that local plan periods typically cover the next 10-15 years and so need to ensure assumptions made over the whole of the 25-year DWMP time horizon are realistic, whilst also recognising the uncertainty of local planning. To address this uncertainty STW proposes early and ongoing consultation with planning authorities. As part of any ongoing discussions STW has also indicated a need to provide information on where catchments are

currently under stress to help inform plan making, especially with regard to improving the management of surface water disposal.

Officer Comment

- 3.7 It is considered that the need for STW to prepare a DWMP will assist this Authority in preparing its Local Plan. During the preparation of the previous Part 1 and 2 South Derbyshire Local Plan this Authority worked jointly with other LPAs in the Derby Housing Market Area (HMA) and STW to understand how development would affect local sewerage and drainage capacity; the need to deliver investment in the water network; the environmental capacity of watercourses to accommodate further (treated) foul flows and the need to support the actions of the water companies in balancing demand and supply of water. These are all issues which will be addressed within the DWMP and this will reduce the burden on local authorities to commission further evidence to inform development decisions through the procurement of water cycle or other similar studies as previously had been the case. Moreover, this wider approach to planning will also provide longer-term certainty regarding the challenges of managing drainage and will in a single location provide detailed evidence which can underpin decision making. For such evidence to be useful the Council will look to proactively engage STW early in the plan-making process and decisions will need to be informed by the evidence gathered.

The Issues considered by DWMPs

- 3.8 Demands on drainage and wastewater networks are constantly changing and the challenge to water companies and other stakeholders is to work together to meet customers' needs whilst also managing uncertainties that are inherent with long term catchment management. The key challenges that DWMPs need to consider are:

Environmental	Customer expectations	Resilient systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • New development (including population growth) • Compliance with environmental quality standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer behaviours • Service level expectations • Changes in water consumption • Paving over impermeable areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to manage trends, uncertainty and variability • Ensuring plans are in place to mitigate, manage and recover from extreme events.

- 3.9 In particular STW identifies that population growth will continue to put pressures on the wastewater network with new development being connected to the sewerage system. In addition, increased paved areas from existing housing estates, as permeable green areas and gardens are replaced with hard surfaces, will increase surface water run-off into the surface water network and receiving watercourses as well as foul and combined sewers. This will increase pressure on sewerage system. In addition, it is recognised that climate change represents a major challenge although there is uncertainty regarding the scale and rate of its impact. To address this risk it is considered that the DWMP needs to focus on sustainable surface water management. The consultation document then goes on to state that *“as part of its general approach to addressing climate change STW intends to give greater focus on working with partners and customers to build sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) which deliver multiple benefits in line with the CIRIA SuDS Manual. In particular we believe surface water management should not just be about attenuating rainwater as great SuDS design can enhance*

the local environment by making communities a better place to live by planting trees and building biodiversity habitats”.

Officer Comment

- 3.10 This Council is already supportive of this approach, but has ongoing concerns regarding the reluctance of LLFAs and water companies to adopting and maintaining SuDS features. By definition these features often require more management than grey infrastructure but water companies, and other stakeholders supporting the use of SuDS need to take a more open approach to adopting and maintaining these features if they are to become a useful and effective mechanism to controlling flood risk
- 3.11 The consultation also specifically asks whether there are other drivers that need to be considered in the development of 25-year DWMP catchment plans. Whilst SuDS is a useful mechanism for dealing with surface water on new development sites far greater emphasis could also be placed on supporting grey water use or rainwater harvesting, particularly in respect of large commercial or public building projects. This would not only intercept rainwater ensuring water is held on site but would also have wider benefits of reducing demand for potable water (which is likely to be more constrained in the future) but could also reduce outflows to the combined sewer network in some locations.

Reporting

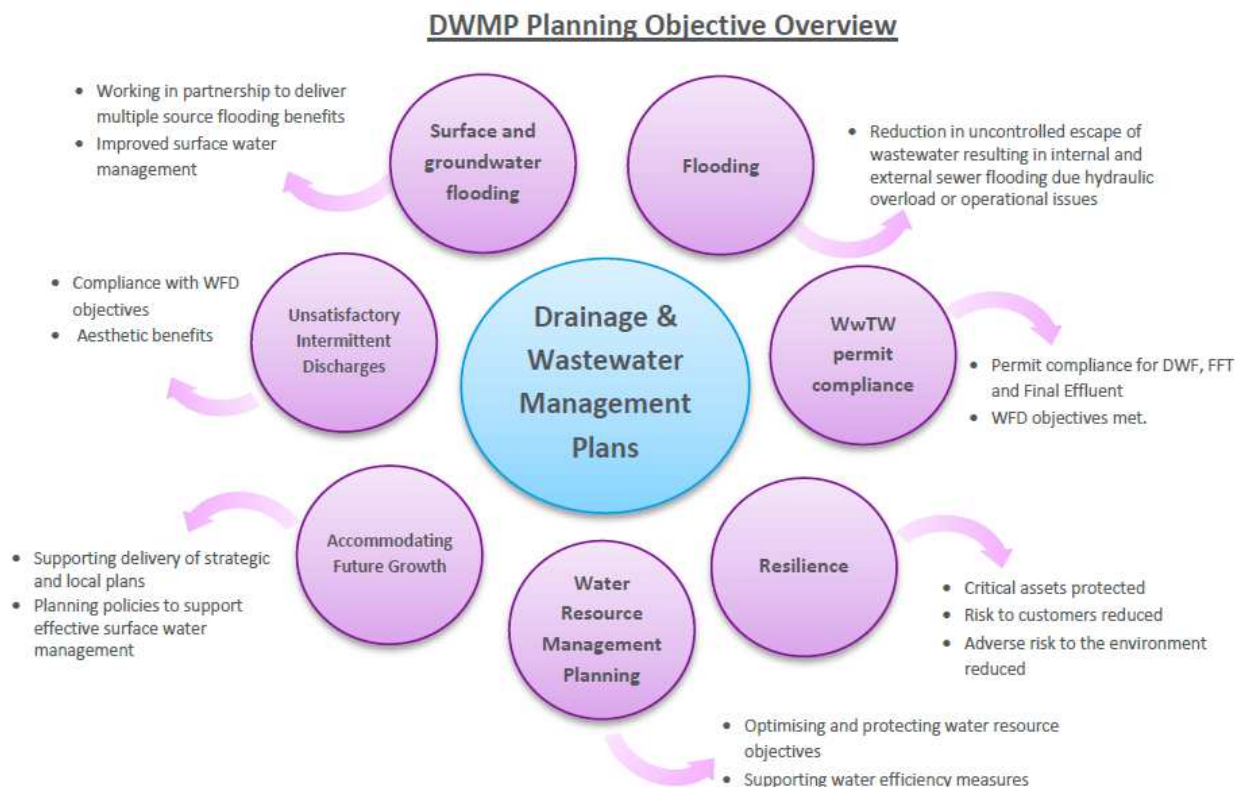
- 3.12 STW has indicated that it will be publishing a DWMP for the whole of the Severn Trent Area. This is comprised of 14 strategic planning units which include those for the Derwent, Lower Trent, the Dove and the Trent Confluence (which Cover the River Mease). The eventual Plan will comprise of:
- A non-technical summary which outlines the plan. This is to be written in an easily accessible and readable format.
 - A technical summary which follows a similar structure to the non-technical summary, but goes into more detail around the approaches taken in developing and producing the plan.
 - The plan which provides the detail of the approach, outputs and interpretation of the assessment, derivation of the draft preferred plan and, subsequent to consultation, the final plan. The plan will provide a step by step description of the development of the DWMP.
 - Technical appendices to provide supporting detail on the assessments and outputs undertaken at a more granular level i.e. at Level 3 and Level 2.
 - A customer facing summary document. This will be supported by an interactive web-based portal to make it easier for customers to interact with the DWMP content.

Officer Comments

- 3.13 It is noted that STW is exploring how best to publish and share results from the DWMP. In the view of officers it would be best to use a web based interactive portal (an option suggested by STW), however it would also be useful to engage directly with authorities through face-to-face meetings or workshops. Whilst it is accepted this could be an onerous task if it was necessary to visit authorities individually, workshops could be established to meet authorities at a HMA or sub regional level. This would allow officers involved in plan-making to understand fully the issues affecting their area and enable more effective decision-making.

Planning objectives of the DWMP

- 3.14 STW has identified seven planning objectives to be considered within the DWMP. These are summarised in the following diagram taken from the Stakeholder consultation document.



Officer Comment

- 3.15 Whilst the scope of the planning objectives is broadly supported it is considered that STW has a greater role in delivering SuDS. Supporting the drafting and implementation of SuDS policies through local plans is important, however presently the effectiveness of these can be undermined by the lack of a coordinated approach to long-term management. Greater emphasis should be placed on the need to adopt and manage SuDS and water companies could play a leading role in improving the quality of SuDS by taking a positive role, both in informing their design through the development management process and in their management post development.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Employment Implications: None identified.

- 5.2 Legal Implications: None Identified.

- 5.3 Corporate Plan Implications: The DWMP would contribute toward the delivery of actions in the Corporate Plan to facilitate and deliver a range of integrated and sustainable housing and community infrastructure and enhance the understanding of planning process.

- 5.4 Risk Impact: Failure to engage with Severn Trent could increase flood risk and lead to reputational damage to the Council.

6.0 Community Impact

- 6.1 Consultation: STW will further consult the District Council and other delivery partners and stakeholders prior to finalisation of the Plan in summer 2022. The Council may have an informal role in raising awareness of the Plan as it moves towards completion.
- 6.2 Equality and Diversity Impact: None Identified.
- 6.3 Social Value Impact: Beneficial. The Plan will contribute towards reducing flood risk to local communities by seeking to work in partnership with other agencies to deliver improved surface and waste water flood risk management.
- 6.4 Environmental Sustainability Beneficial. The Plan could support delivery through partnership working and the provision of environmental information to support flood management infrastructure which would address water quality, efficient resource use and biodiversity gain.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The preparation of the proposed DWMP will improve partnership working in the field drainage and wastewater management and will provide valuable environmental information which can inform future growth within the District.

8.0 Background Papers

Appendix 1: Severn Trent Water, Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan Stakeholder Consultation.

Appendix 2: Proposed Questionnaire Response to Issue to STW.