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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Environmental &amp; Development Services Committee</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 7</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> October 2010</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Director of Community Services</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>Gill Hague X5742</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Consultation on Draft Proposals for Schemes for the Transfer of Private Sewers to Water and Sewerage Companies in England and Wales</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS17</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 Members agree the following be submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (defra) in response to consultation on Draft Proposals for Schemes for the Transfer of Private Sewers to Water and Sewerage Companies (WaSCs) in England and Wales:

The Council supports the transfer of private sewers to WaSCs but strongly urges defra to enter into meaningful discussions with LABC in regard to the detailed implementation of the scheme, particularly any new sewer construction standards, in order to avoid potential conflict between WsSCs standards and those of the Building Regulations which could result in additional unnecessary and unfunded work being undertaken by Local Authority Building Control staff.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To inform Members of a consultation document considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to seek approval of the response recommended by that Committee as the Council's formal response to defra.

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 Concerns had been raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meetings on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009 with regard to drainage controls. Problems had been encountered throughout the Country where drainage schemes were not constructed to the required adoptable standard. Concern had been raised regarding the potential liability of residents for sewers that were not adopted.
- 3.2 A letter had been sent to Defra and the reply had confirmed that from 2011, all existing private sewers and lateral drains should transfer into the ownership of the nine English water and sewerage companies. The Government had also decided that design and construction for all new sewers and drains that were proposed to be

connected to the public sewage network, should be made mandatory and should automatically be adopted as part of the public system.

- 3.3 Please see a copy of the report considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010 attached as Appendix 1 for further details of the consultation document that has been published as a step towards introduction of the above.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 See paragraph 4.1 of Appendix A.

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 Please see paragraph 5.1 of Appendix A.

#### **6.0 Community Implications**

- 6.1 Please see paragraphs 6.1 & 6.2 of Appendix A.

#### **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 Please see paragraphs 7.1 – 7.3 of Appendix A together with the recommendation in section 1.1 above which resulted from the consideration of the document by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **8.0 Background Papers**

- 8.1 Consultation on Draft Regulations and Proposals for Schemes for the Transfer of Private Sewers to Water and Sewerage Companies in England and Wales – published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2010.