

21st June 2007



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Dear Ms Carey.

Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development

Scottish Water welcomes the opportunity to comment on the aforementioned consultation.

While in general we endorse this guidance and believe this will contribute to sustainable development we have some specific comments detailed below.

Climate change is seen as a principal challenge in sustainable development within the guidance. Current infrastructure is not proofed against an uncertain and changing climate, and as such new developments and modernisation of existing developments to meet new purposes must clearly articulate the expected impact on existing infrastructure, particularly with respect to water demand and drainage. As such we believe the implementation of SUDS should be encouraged in this guidance, for instance in Living Within Environmental Limits: Paragraph 26, and Location of New Development: Paragraph 35.

SUDS can help mitigate the impact of climate change by:

- treating surface water at source without the need for energy demanding treatments;
- keeping surface water separate from waste water therefore reducing the volume of waste water needing energy demanding treatment;
- attenuating flows within combined sewers systems to reduce the impact of higher intensity rainfall events;
- reducing the risk of flooding; and
- contributing to biodiversity

SUDS can also contribute to the alleviation of development constraints by reducing the amount of surface water entering the sewerage system therefore increasing capacity. In general we would hope that sites which are being regenerated are strongly encouraged to reduce the loading on the sewerage networks using modern engineering methods, including SUDS.

Further suggestions we would make are:

Paragraph 30: Using Sound Science

We welcome this, however there is a risk that in many cases the latest science may not be absolutely clear, and the expert advice may be ambiguous. There needs to be a presumption in favour of development on economic and social grounds unless there is a clear case to suggest that it will present unacceptable risks to the environment.

Paragraph 33 & 34: Location of New Development

We agree with this approach, but there is a need to recognise that approving housing near a WWTW elevates the odour risk and has a social and economic cost where retrofit of odour treatment may be the ultimate consequence.

The geographical footprint of the most sustainable (smallest carbon footprint) wastewater treatment plants is significantly larger than high energy unsustainable treatments. Planning guidance should have regard to the need to allocate greater areas of land to facilitate sustainable improvements to the wastewater services, particularly in rural communities where high energy capital intensive solutions are the least sustainable for the population numbers served.

Paragraph 36: Design and layout of buildings

We welcome the reference to water efficiency, however we consider that there is much to be done with respect to the managing of urban creep e.g. building conservatories and hard standing driveways over gardens with the resulting drainage flowing directly into the existing system.

Paragraph 37: Water Efficiency.

The use of rainwater and reuse of groundwater should be encouraged in the same way as energy efficient buildings are encouraged.

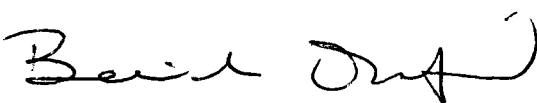
Paragraph 40 - 44: Development Plans. Integrated Surface Water Management Plans considering drainage and flooding and water quality issues should be included as part of the development plan.

We also would propose that the current Planning Guidance is updated to reflect the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS). In particular:

- PAN 61: Planning and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems does not take account of the regulatory changes resulting from the WEWS Act 2003 and the new responsibilities of Scottish Water.
- Pan79: Water and Drainage does not place any emphasis on the use source control techniques.

I hope that you find these comments useful and would be pleased to discuss any of the points raised.

Yours sincerely



Belinda Oldfield
General Manager Regulation

Respondee Information Form

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name: Scottish Water

Postal Address: 6 Castle Drive, Carnegie Campus, Dunfermline, Fife, KY11 8GG

Consultation Title: Statutory Guidance on Planning & Sustainable Development

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

(a) an individual (go to 2a/b)

(b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation (go to 2c)

2. (a) **INDIVIDUALS:**

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

Yes (go to 2b below)

No, not at all

(b) **Where confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) **ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OF ORGANISATIONS:**

Your name and address as respondees will be made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

Yes

No

SHARED RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS

3. We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issue you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

No