

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		
DATE:	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	INTRODUCTION OF SUSTIANABLE DRAINAGE ADOPTION BOARDS (SAB'S) - SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT:		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	Cllr PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATIGIC ENVIRONMENT PLANNING & TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORT	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report is to provide an update to members of the committee with regards the latest DEFRA information on the implementation of the Sustainable Drainage Adoption Boards which has been provided since the original report was released.

**2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

- 2.1 This report details the proposed process required to commence the statutory requirement of the SAB and recommends that prior to a formal implementation date being confirmed by Government, that the authority commences an approval process on a voluntary basis.
- 2.2 That members note this report and agree to the acceptance of the grant and give spend approval in accordance with DEFRA's terms and conditions

**3.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 3.1 As stated within paragraph 5.2 of the main report DEFRA have been providing seminars around the country to provide information on the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Officers from Reading Borough Council attended the first of these seminars on March 10<sup>th</sup> and further information was received from DEFRA by email on Monday 17<sup>th</sup>

March, both of which were after the submission dates for reports to this committee. This supplementary report details this additional information.

- 3.2 The implementation of the Sustainable Drainage Adoption Boards (SAB) will be on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and all the relevant secondary legislation including the final national Suds standards will be laid in Parliament during April 2014.
- 3.3 The legislation will cover the requirement for all major developments, as determined by the Town and Country Planning Act, submitted after October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 to obtain drainage approval before any construction work can commence on site. From October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 the requirement will be for all developments over 100m<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.4 To enable Local Authorities to start there SAB, DEFRA by letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 have confirmed that they will provide a grant for financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15. The grant awarded to Reading Borough Council is £24,350 for 2013/14 and £37,150 for 2014/15 a combined total of £61,500. However DEFRA require all paperwork for the grant to be accepted by the authority to be in place by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014, with the criteria being the monies are ring fenced on the implementation of the SAB.
- 3.5 Also on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014, DEFRA confirmed the application fees for SuDs applications which are as follows

Size of Development	Calculation
< or = 0.5 hectares	£350 + 70 for each 0.1 hectare
> 0.5 and < or = 1 hectares	£700 + £50 for each 0.1 hectare
>1 and < or = 5 hectares	£950 + £20 for each 0.1 hectare
> 5 hectares	£1750 + £10 for each 0.1 hectare up to Maximum of £7,500

These changes in fees will ensure that the fees for larger applications are greater than those originally proposed. These fees will be fixed for 3 years when they will be reviewed.

- 3.6 The requirement for the SAB to adopt a drainage system, serving more than 1 building remains, however the issue of ongoing maintenance and how this is funded still has not been resolved. A further statutory Instrument will be required to cover this and DEFRA confirmed they will be consulting on proposals for charging/maintenance costs during the summer of 2014. It was also confirmed that the proposals for a precept on the council tax has now been ruled out.
- 3.7 It is hoped that this issue will be resolved before Implementation. However as adoption can not occur until 1 year after the drainage system has been constructed and completed, the first adoptions are unlikely to occur until Spring 2016 at the earliest. Given this there is a longer time period for this issue to be resolved. But DEFRA are aware that this is an extremely important issue for Local Authorities.

3.8 DEFRA have been working with the Planning Portal to enable Drainage Applications to be submitted electronically in a similar approach to that for Planning Application. A draft application form was provided at the seminar, however there were concerns from delegates over the information required, which DEFRA / Planning Portal have taken on board. Until the issues are resolved, it is proposed that the application form attached in Appendix 1 of the main report is used for applications submitted after the voluntary SAB approval process commences on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.