

Swindon Borough Council Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) Swindon – Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) for the New Eastern Villages Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

1 What's it about?

Refer to equality duties

What is the proposal? What outcomes/benefits are you hoping to achieve?

The Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Vision for the New Eastern Villages (NEV) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) ('SPD') supports Policies NC3, EN6 and RA3 of the adopted Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 which sets the framework for the delivery of a mixed use development at the New Eastern Villages (NEV), to reflect high standards of urban design and sustainability.

SuDS employ drainage techniques which mimic natural drainage to manage water at or near the surface. These techniques are used in series to manage water flow and help treat pollution in a process known as the management train. Each part of the management train contributes to controlling the quantity and quality of water entering the wider environment.

The effective design of drainage for the NEV development will enhance the development, helping to create sustainable, well-designed places where people want to live, work and spend time. In particular the effective design of the drainage within the NEV can help the development to:

- sensitively and positively respond to the existing landscape context, natural and historic assets and the character and identity of the surrounding villages as well as enhancing biodiversity and green infrastructure;
- create vibrant, attractive places that are functional, durable and capable of adapting to accommodate changing lifestyles in line with sustainable communities;
- conserve and enhance natural systems, watercourses, biodiversity and landscape settings, including integration with green infrastructure to help mitigate and facilitate adaptation to climate change.

To ensure a cohesive approach to SuDS across the NEV development, this SPD has been produced to inform pre-application discussions and assist with the formulation of masterplans. It also provides guidance on effective design solutions for SuDS schemes to encourage current planning applications to create high-quality sustainable communities.

Who's it for?

External - developers, planning agents, architects, landscape architects, drainage engineers, highway engineers, the general public, parish councils, delivery partners, statutory consultees.

Internal - development management officers, other officers from Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), highways, master planning and design, planning policy officers, members of the planning committee and other stakeholders.

The above reflects all parties that may be involved or have an interest in promoting and securing a sustainable drainage network at the NEV.

How will this proposal meet the equality duties?

The SPD details the principles established by the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026, in particular Policies NC3, EN6 and RA3, to ensure the risk of flooding from the development is minimised, both within the development and at existing neighbouring communities. The inclusion of SuDS, incorporated within open space can enhance water quality, biodiversity and create a healthy and sustainable place where people want to live.

What are the barriers to meeting this potential?

Developers will be required to deliver development in broad accordance with the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026, Adopted SPD and Illustrative Masterplan.

2 Who's using it?

Refer to equality groups

What data/evidence do you have about who is or could be affected (e.g. equality monitoring, customer feedback, current service use, national/regional/local trends)?

All those who have an interest in new development, specifically at the New Eastern Villages should find the information in the SPD easy to understand. The NEV will provide a mix of homes and job opportunities, along with retail, education, healthcare and leisure facilities, in accordance with the Council's objectives and the Adopted Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026. The Council is working with a range of delivery partners to ensure the development is sustainable in the broadest sense of the word. Partners include NHS England, Highways England, the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, local flood groups, Parish Councils and other local stakeholders.

How can you involve your customers in developing the proposal?

All those should find the information in the SPD easy to understand. There are some principles and concepts which may seem more remote to members of the public when understanding what the SPD is trying to achieve. All technical words are explained in full and there is also a narrative to provide context and understanding as far as possible.

Who is missing? Do you need to fill any gaps in your data? (pause DIA if necessary)

The approach detailed seeks to achieve the effective delivery of sustainable drainage options at the NEV to ensure the new and existing communities are not adversely impacted by flooding. This will promote inclusiveness across all equality groups and promote the dimensions of equality.

3 Impact

Refer to dimensions of equality and equality groups

Show consideration of: age, disability, sex, transgender, marriage/civil partnership, maternity/pregnancy, race, religion/belief, sexual orientation and if appropriate: financial economic status, homelessness, political view

Using the information in parts 1 & 2:

a) Does the proposal create an adverse impact which may affect some groups or individuals? Is it clear what this is? How can this be mitigated or justified?

The SPD does not in itself promote anything 'new' or 'in addition to' the adopted Local Plan (notably Policies NC3, EN6 and RA3); it outlines how the risks of flooding will be mitigated within the new development and neighbouring communities, in accordance with adopted policy. As nothing 'new' is proposed, it is likely to have a negligible effect on people with protected characteristics, taking into account the principles of inclusive design and sustainable development required by the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026.

The SPD will provide a mechanism to support an integrated and well-connected place where communities can be created and where people want to live. It will support the delivery of a built environment that is safe and secure so reducing fear of crime, which in turn will reduce social exclusion. Good urban design also has significant health benefits.

On balance, the SPD should not have an adverse impact on equality groups.

What can be done to change this impact?

b) Does the proposal create benefit for a particular group? Is it clear what this is? Can you maximise the benefits for other groups?

Does further consultation need to be done? How will assumptions made in this analysis be

tested?

Public consultation on the SPD took place in accord with the Swindon Borough Statement of Community Involvement in Planning (SCI). The SCI sets out the requirements for consultation on planning documents to ensure the continuous community involvement with statutory and other stakeholders in the preparation of planning documents. The SPD went out for public consultation for 8 weeks from 21st July 2016 to 1st September 2016. The Swindon Equalities and Access Group (SEAG), Swindon Guide Dogs and Swindon Seniors Forum were all consulted.

4 So what?

[Link to business planning process](#)

What changes have you made in the course of this DIA?

None

What will you do now and what will be included in future planning?

Through the public consultation exercises all comments were considered in terms of positively shaping the SPD.

When will this be reviewed?

n/a

How will success be measured?

Success will be measured through the coordinated and timely delivery of the New Eastern Villages coming forward over the next few years.

For the record

Name of person leading this DIA: Richard Bennett	Date completed: 8 th Dec 2016
Names of people involved in consideration of impact	
Approved: Nick Stephenson	Date Approved: 7 th Feb 2017
Name of director signing DIA	Date signed:

Diversity Impact Analysis – an inclusive business planning tool

1. What's it about? refer to equality duties

- What is the proposal? What outcomes/benefits are you hoping to achieve
- Who's it for?
- How will this proposal meet the equality duties?
- What are the barriers to meeting this potential?

2. Who's using it? consider all equality groups

- What data/evidence do you have about who is or could be affected? (e.g. equality monitoring, customer feedback, current service use, national/regional/local trends)?
- How can you involve your customers in developing the proposal?
- Who is missing? Do you need to fill any gaps in your data?

3. Impact consider dimensions and equality groups

Using information in parts 1 & 2:

- a) Does the proposal create an adverse impact which may affect some groups or individuals? How can this be mitigated or justified?
> What can be done to change this impact?
 - b) Does the proposal create benefit for particular groups or individuals. Is it clear what this is? Can you maximise the benefits for other groups?
- Does further consultation need to be done? How will assumptions made in this analysis be tested?

4. So what?

- What changes have made in the course of this DIA?
- What will you do now and what will be included in future planning?
- When will this be reviewed?
- How will success be measured?

Considerations

Our equality duties

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
2. Advance equality of opportunity
3. Foster good relations

Equality groups

For the following equality groups: age, disability, sex, transgender, marriage/civil partnership, maternity/pregnancy, race, religion/belief and sexual orientation.

Extended by SBC policy to include: financial economic status, homelessness, political view.

Dimensions of equality

How will the proposal affect Human Rights and life chances of different groups? Consider how the proposal affects

1. Longevity.
2. Physical security.
3. Health.
4. Education.
5. Standard of living.
6. Productive and valued activities.
7. Individual, family and social life.
8. Participation, influence and voice.
9. Identity, expression and self-respect.
10. Legal security.