

## Diversity Impact Assessment

<b>Technical Guidance On Suds Applications And Discharging Drainage Conditions</b>			
<b>18 NOVEMBER 2025</b>			
<b>Dave Harris, Chief Planning Officer</b>			
<b>1 Summary description of the proposed change</b>  <p>This technical guidance outlines the requirements and best practices for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in planning applications and condition discharge submissions within Medway, ensuring alignment with national policy and local flood risk strategies. It provides detailed expectations for SuDS design, implementation, verification, and maintenance across various development types, supporting improved surface water management and flood resilience.</p> <p>This Framework will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which is a non-statutory document and forms a part of the Council's wider Development Framework.</p>			
<b>2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment</b>  <p>The Technical Guidance is informed by a comprehensive evidence base, and engagement with stakeholders, statutory bodies, and the local community.</p>			
<b>3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change?</b>  <p>Is it likely to:</p> <p>Adversely impact on one or more of the protected characteristic groups</p> <p>Advance equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected characteristic groups</p> <p>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't</p> <p><b>(insert Yes when there is an impact or No when there isn't)</b></p>			
<b>Protected characteristic groups (Equality Act 2010)</b>	<b>Adverse impact</b>	<b>Advance equality</b>	<b>Foster good relations</b>
<b>Age</b>	No	-	Yes
<b>Disability</b>	No	-	Yes

Protected characteristic groups (Equality Act 2010)	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Gender reassignment	No	-	Yes
Marriage/civil partnership	No	-	Yes
Pregnancy/maternity	No	-	Yes
Race	No	-	Yes
Religion/belief	No	-	Yes
Sex	No	-	Yes
Sexual orientation	No	-	Yes
Other (e.g. low income groups)	No	-	Yes

#### 4 Summary of the likely impacts

The Technical Guidance promotes sustainable development in relation to SuDs across Medway.

It seeks to regularise applications and ensure that climate change measures are implemented on sites where there are either existing flood risk issues or the development may increase flood risk elsewhere if no measures are implemented.

The information and guidance within the document will support existing and emerging planning policies within the Council's Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), including those relating to sustainability, sustainable development, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The SPD framework sets out opportunities to increase biodiversity, Sustainable Urban Drainage and the environmental quality of new development.

#### 5 What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations?

The Council is consulting on the Technical guidance and welcomes alternative approaches to SuDs.

## **6 Action plan**

Actions to mitigate adverse impact, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations and/or obtain new evidence

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Deadline or review date</b>
Review of DIA in line with preparation of Supplementary Planning Document.	Planning Service	November 2026

## **7 Recommendation**

It is recommended to proceed with the publication of the Technical Guidance on SuDs Applications and Discharging Drainage Conditions.

## **8 Authorisation**

The authorising officer is consenting that the recommendation can be implemented, sufficient evidence has been obtained, and appropriate mitigation is planned, the Action Plan will be incorporated into the relevant Service Plan and monitored

### **Assistant Director**

Mark Breathwick, Assistant Director Culture and Community • Regeneration, Culture and Environment.

### **Date of authorisation**