



Infrastructure and Planning

Annex 3 Drainage and Flood Risk Management

September 2017

This document sets out Lancashire County Council's approach to considering the potential impact of proposed developments upon the drainage infrastructure within the local area of the development.

- 1.1 Management of 'local' flood risk¹ and land drainage is a function of Lancashire County Council in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and the Lancashire and Blackpool Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014-2017 sets out the overarching strategic approach to the management of local flood risk during this period. The Lead Local Flood Authority investigates and publishes the results of incidents of significant flooding; it designates assets which have a significant effect on flood risk; it maintains a register of flood risk assets; it provides consent for works on ordinary watercourses, and is a statutory consultee in the planning application process.
- 1.2 Drainage systems in many parts of Lancashire are under pressure. This is the result of an intense level of development, limited capacity within existing aging systems, and changes to our climate resulting in runoff reaching drainage systems quicker. Further development could make these problems worse if measures are not taken to alleviate pressure on the existing network and introduce extra capacity, and ensure new drainage is sustainable.
- 1.3 Central government funding comes from various sources, including Defra Support Grant, FCRM GiA MTP and Local Levy, in addition to conventional capital settlements and the emerging Local Growth Fund. These funding streams could address the resulting funding gap. Typically however, none of these address the specific impacts of new development, except perhaps in the small number of designated growth areas. Instead, funds are directed at inherited drainage problems resulting from economic progress and previous development activity, or at large scale projects designed to deliver growth.
- 1.4 When consulted on planning applications, or Local Plans, Lancashire County Council will provide an assessment of the proposed developments potential impacts on the drainage network, with regards to surface water discharge rates and volume, design standards and the continued safe operation and maintenance of the surface water drainage network to ensure that the flood risk is appropriately managed. Conditions or developer contributions may be agreed to offset any unacceptable flood risks or impacts identified through the assessment process.
- 1.5 Responses will be informed by the Lancashire and Blackpool Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014-2017, Surface Water Management Plans, District Local Plans, the Local Transport Plan 2011-2021 and the areas Highways' and Transport Masterplan, where available.
- 1.6 Lancashire County Council will work with the District council, through the plan making and planning application process, to ensure proposed developments are designed sustainably to minimise the impact of new development on existing drainage systems and maximise the opportunity to use multi-functional sustainable drainage components, wherever possible, to deliver multiple benefits, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. Lancashire County

¹ Local flood risk refers to the risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and flooding from ordinary watercourses

Council will comment on the design of proposed developments with a view to making a potentially unsustainable development sustainable and making a potential flood risk manageable.

1.7 In seeking to make an unacceptable development acceptable conditions or developer contributions will be used, where appropriate, to deliver the following types of drainage investment, including but not limited to:

- promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems to retain or free up capacity within the drainage network, for example through the preparation and implementation of a drainage masterplan;
- ensuring safe access and sustainable maintenance arrangements are facilitated;
- minimising development-related impacts such as overloading existing highway drainage systems;
- providing or contributing towards capacity enhancement measures;
- providing for connections or works to Council owned sustainable drainage infrastructure as part of the drainage scheme for the proposed development; and
- providing and/or enhancing ecology, biodiversity and water quality.

1.8 It is likely that s106² or s278³ will be used to facilitate site-specific remedies through the measures described above⁴. CIL⁵, where collected, will be expected to be the primary source of developer contributions towards area-wide capacity enhancement measures.

² Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

³ Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980

⁴ For clarity, we intend to apply S278 agreements to all identifiable works to the highway drainage network, and S106 agreements to any contributions to projects.

⁵ Community Infrastructure Levy