

## **Statement of Common Ground**

**Between:** Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Kent County Council Flood and Water Management team, in its capacity as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Kent.

**Relating to:** Local flood risk and surface water management matters to support the Sevenoaks District Local Plan.

### **1. Purpose of this Statement**

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground records the shared understanding between Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Kent County Council in its capacity as the Lead Local Flood Authority (the LLFA) regarding local flood risk and surface water drainage matters relevant to the level and distribution of growth proposed in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan. It provides evidence of constructive engagement between the parties by identifying areas of agreement relating to flood risk constraints, the implications of those constraints for site allocations and the extent to which such constraints may be addressed through site design, sustainable drainage measures and detailed assessment at the planning application stage, as well as any matters where further consideration may be required.

### **2. Roles and Responsibilities**

- 2.1 SDC is responsible for preparing the Local Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan, identifying infrastructure needs arising from growth, and securing delivery through planning policy and developer contributions.
- 2.2 Kent County Council's Flood and Water Management Team acts as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Kent in accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. In this capacity, the LLFA leads on the management of local flood risk arising from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses, working alongside other Risk Management Authorities. The LLFA is a statutory consultee on major planning applications in relation to surface water drainage and provides technical advice to local planning authorities on flood risk and sustainable drainage matters.

### **3. Evidence Considered**

- 3.1 Both parties have considered the following evidence in forming this Statement:
  - The scale and distribution of growth set out in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan;
  - The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1;
  - National planning policy and guidance relating to flood risk and sustainable drainage;

- Guidance, advice and information provided by Kent County Council in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority; and
- Surface water flood risk mapping and other relevant flood risk datasets.

#### **4. Areas of Agreement**

##### **4.1 SDC and the LLFA agree that:**

1. Proportionate engagement has taken place between SDC and the LLFA in the preparation of the Sevenoaks District Local Plan, including in relation to flood risk constraints and the implications of those constraints for site allocations.
2. The Council acknowledges that a number of proposed allocations are affected by areas of surface water flood risk.
3. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment provides an important part of the evidence base for identifying flood risk constraints and informing decisions on the location and distribution of development.
4. Areas of surface water flood risk and overland flow routes should be identified and considered through the plan-making process and in the design of future development proposals, including the potential implications for site layout and developable area.
5. Where flood risk constraints are identified, these may, in principle, be addressed through appropriate site design, including directing development to areas of lower flood risk where feasible, site layout, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and other mitigation measures, subject to detailed site-specific assessment at the planning application stage.
6. The LLFA does not identify any strategic local flood risk issue which would, in principle, preclude the allocation of sites within the Local Plan, subject to appropriate consideration of flood risk constraints through site-specific design and assessment.
7. The detailed design and implementation of site-specific flood risk mitigation and drainage measures are appropriately considered through the development management process and should accord with relevant national policy, guidance and applicable SuDS standards.

8. Developer contributions may be required, where necessary, to mitigate the impacts of development on flood risk and support associated infrastructure.
9. Both authorities are committed to ongoing engagement throughout the plan period. Should local flood risk management schemes or infrastructure requirements be identified, these will be considered through future reviews of the evidence base and Infrastructure Delivery Plan, as appropriate.

## **5. Areas of Ongoing Work / Matters Not Yet Agreed**

- 5.1 The following matters will be subject to further consideration through the implementation of the Local Plan and the planning application process:
  1. The identification and design of site-specific flood risk mitigation measures, including SuDS, as development proposals come forward through the planning application process.
  2. The refinement of site layouts and drainage strategies to respond to identified areas of surface water flood risk, overland flow routes and other local flood risk constraints.
  3. The ongoing consideration of any flood risk management schemes, drainage infrastructure requirements or other relevant evidence that may emerge during the plan period.
- 5.2 Both parties are committed to resolving these matters through continued engagement.

## **6. Delivery and Phasing**

- 6.1 SDC and the LLFA acknowledge that site-specific flood risk mitigation measures, drainage strategies and SuDS will be identified and developed as proposals come forward through the planning application process.
- 6.2 The timing and delivery of any required mitigation measures will be dependent upon the phasing of development, site-specific circumstances and the outcomes of detailed flood risk and drainage assessments.

## **7. Signatures**

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|-------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Signed on behalf of Sevenoaks District Council</b> |  |
| <b>Name:</b>                                          |  |
| <b>Role:</b>                                          |  |
| <b>Date:</b>                                          |  |

|                                                                                  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Signed on behalf of Kent County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority</b> |  |
| <b>Name:</b>                                                                     |  |
| <b>Role:</b>                                                                     |  |
| <b>Date:</b>                                                                     |  |