

## **Southern Water's Guiding Principles**

### **1. Introduction**

Southern Water has developed a set of guiding principles which the company applies when responding to planning policy consultations. These guiding principles reflect the following aims:

1. Meeting the increased demand for services arising from new development.
2. Protecting groundwater and surface water sources from pollution.
3. Providing high levels of service to new and existing customers, and meeting strict environmental standards in the treatment of wastewater.
4. Promoting efficient and sustainable use of water resources and wastewater assets.
5. Protecting sensitive development from exposure to odour pollution.

### **2. The Guiding Principles**

To achieve these aims, Southern Water looks to Development Plan Documents to meet the guiding principles below, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework.

**Aim: Meet the increased demand for services arising from new development.**

*Guiding principles:* Ensure that policies are in place to:

- a) support provision of new utility infrastructure, including water and wastewater infrastructure. This will help to ensure timely provision of additional capacity to meet the demand arising from new and existing development.
- b) support, for each allocated site on a site by site basis, the timely provision of sewerage infrastructure to service the site. This is consistent with the water industry's economic regulator, Ofwat, who expects Southern Water to work proactively with planning authorities to limit the risk from sewer flooding.

**Aim: Protect groundwater and surface water sources from pollution.**

*Guiding principle:* Ensure that policies are in place to:

- c) prevent development that would lead to unacceptable deterioration in the quality and potential yield of groundwater and surface water sources.
- d) support provision of new infrastructure to enable treatment of wastewater to high environmental standards, as set by the Environment Agency.

**Aim: Provide high levels of service to new and existing customers, and continue to meet strict environmental standards in the treatment of wastewater.**

*Guiding principles:* Ensure that policies:

- e) require phasing of developments when existing infrastructure and treatment capacity is insufficient to meet the increased demand. This is particularly important when necessary investment has long lead-in times, and implementation is subject to delays beyond Southern Water's control.
- f) seek to avoid encroachment on wastewater treatment works as expansion may be necessary when demand arises. New treatment works may be needed on rare occasions.
- g) allow the continued operation of existing water and wastewater facilities.

*Guiding principle:* Ensure that the planning system supports at the appropriate stage:

- h) protection of underground water and wastewater infrastructure in close proximity of, or crossing, proposed development sites.

**Aim: Promote efficient and sustainable use of water resources and wastewater assets.**

*Guiding principles:* Ensure that policies:

- i) encourage water efficiency in new developments.

**Aim: Protect sensitive development from odour pollution.**

*Guiding principle:* Secure policies which:

- j) ensure that sensitive developments are sufficiently separated from wastewater treatment works to allow adequate odour dispersion.