



2019 KCC Policy comparison with new national standards

<b>Previous LLFA Policy within KCC Drainage and Planning Policy Statement December 2019</b>	<b>Relevant Principles and Standards in the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems June 2025</b>	<b>Key notes and requirements:</b>
SuDS Policy 1: Follow the drainage hierarchy	Standard 1: runoff destinations	New priority for collection of water for non-potable use, before discharge to ground, watercourse or sewer. Requirement to maximise the use of higher priority discharges on parts of sites. Robust evidence required to justify decisions. Discharge of surface water to foul sewers expressly prohibited.
SuDS Policy 2: Delivery effective drainage design	Standard 3: management of extreme rainfall and flooding	Stronger focus on the 'SuDS approach' to discourage 'pipe to pond' or pipe to attenuation'. Stronger guidance on calculation of pre-development rates, post-development run-off, infiltration design and exceedance routes.
SuDS Policy 3: Maintain Existing Drainage Flow Paths & Watercourses	Early and integrated design: Principles 4 to 6	Stronger focus on the 'SuDS approach' and ensuring surface water management is considered at the very earliest stages and follows natural drainage routes.
SuDS Policy 4: Seek to Reduce and Avoid Existing Flood Risk	Early and integrated design: Principle 7	Development design should take account of existing flood risk policies in local plans, alongside local flood risk management strategies (LFRMS), the relevant local authority adopted SuDS guidance, any flood risk assessments, surface water management plans, the flood risk management plan and the river basin management plan (RBMP).

SuDS Policy 5: Drainage Sustainability and Resilience	Standard 3: management of extreme rainfall and flooding	Parameters should follow industry best practice and include uplift for urban creep at 10%, with the only exception being where there are no external private permeable spaces. The most up to date climate change allowances shall be used.
SuDS Policy 6: Sustainable Maintenance	Standard 7: design of drainage for construction, operation, maintenance, decommissioning and structural integrity	Interlinks planning requirements with CDM Regulations 2015 duties and consideration of the full lifecycle of the system. Focus on designing for easy maintenance and structural integrity. Stronger guidance on Maintenance and management plan contents. Designs shall examine the likelihood and consequences of potential failure and safely manage the risks.
SuDS Policy 7: Safeguard Water Quality	Standard 2: management of everyday rainfall (interception) Standard 4: water quality	Focus on the 'SuDS approach', ensuring management train is clearly assessed and evidenced in accordance with recognised industry guidance. Interception of the first 5mm rainfall is now a mandatory standard.
SuDS Policy 8: Design for Amenity and Multi-Functionality	Standard 5: amenity	Focus on the 'SuDS approach' to ensure proposed drainage systems act as multi-functional places and landscapes. Recommends a series of interventions across a development rather than 'pipe to pond' for example. Surface SuDS should have high quality visual impact should be of equal importance as functionality.
SuDS Policy 9: Enhance Biodiversity	Standard 6: biodiversity	A 'SuDS approach' shall be adopted to ensure the surface water drainage system maximises biodiversity benefits throughout the development lifecycle. Evidence of consideration and inclusion of biodiversity, proportionate to both the scale and ecological sensitivity of the site, shall be provided to the approving body.