

Contact: Please contact the Local Planning Authority

Date: 17 November 2025

Dear Local Planning Authority,

Thank you for inviting the Lead Local Flood Authority to comment on the below application.

PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application Number:	3/2025/0588
Proposal:	Proposed erection of 77 no. affordable dwellings with associated access, gardens, parking and landscaping areas.
Location:	Land east of Clitheroe Road Whalley

The Lead Local Flood Authority is a statutory consultee for major developments with surface water drainage, under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. It is in this capacity this response is compiled.

Comments provided in this representation are advisory and it is the decision of the Local Planning Authority whether any such recommendations are acted upon. The comments given have been composed based on the extent of the knowledge of the Lead Local Flood Authority and information provided with the application at the time of this response.

Lead Local Flood Authority Position

The Lead Local Flood Authority **maintains its objection** to the above application on the basis of:

Objection 1 – Inadequate Surface Water Sustainable Drainage Strategy

In the absence of an acceptable surface water sustainable drainage strategy to assess the principle of surface water sustainable drainage associated with the proposed development, we object to this application and recommend refusal of planning permission until further information has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

Lancashire County Council

PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD



Reason

Paragraphs 181 and 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework require major developments to incorporate sustainable drainage systems that:

- take account of advice from the Lead Local Flood Authority;
- have appropriate proposed minimum operational standards;
- have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development; and
- where possible, provide multifunctional benefits.

The submission of basic information on how surface water is intended to be managed is vital if the Local Planning Authority is to make informed planning decisions. In the absence of acceptable information regarding surface water sustainable drainage, the Lead Local Flood Authority cannot assess whether the development proposed meets the requirements of Paragraph 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework or the Planning Practice Guidance in principle. This is sufficient reason in itself for a refusal of planning permission.

In particular, the submitted surface water sustainable drainage strategy fails to:

1. **Demonstrate the principle of development.** The proposed drainage strategy involves an off-site connection to the open watercourse/ ditch to the west in third party land and via a possible culverted watercourse within the existing highway, however, no evidence of an agreement in principle with the landowner or the asset owner has been provided to the Local Planning Authority. Should no agreement be reached, it may not be possible to drain the site, hence the Lead Local Flood Authority are currently unable to agree to the principle of development and recommend the refusal of planning permission, until evidence of an agreement in principle with the appropriate parties, or robust evidence of a 'plan b' outfall location, should a connection to the open watercourse not be possible, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Overcoming our Objection

You can overcome our objection by submitting information that covers the deficiencies highlighted above and demonstrates how surface water will be managed on-site, to satisfy Paragraphs 181 and 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Planning Practice Guidance, and the Defra Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems. If this cannot be achieved we are likely to maintain our objection to the application. Production of this information will not in itself result in the removal of an objection.

The Lead Local Flood Authority asks to be re-consulted with the results of the amended site-specific flood risk assessment and/or amended sustainable drainage strategy and/or SuDS Pro-forma. We will provide you with further comments within 21 days of receiving formal re-consultation. Re-consultations should be sent to our identified mailbox.

Our objection will be maintained until the amended documents, as outlined above, have been received. Production of the amended documents will not in itself result in the removal of an objection.



If the applicant wishes to discuss our objection with the Lead Local Flood Authority, they can do so through our [planning advice service](#).

Lead Local Flood Authority - Site-Specific Advice

The following advice is provided to inform the applicant and the Local Planning Authority of any additional concerns with the application:

For the avoidance of doubt the applicant has failed to provide any clear evidence and verification of the proposed culverted watercourse within Clitheroe Road and where this connects to. Furthermore, the proposed alternative discharge option, is to connect the potential culverted watercourse under Clitheroe Road to the existing open watercourse to the north, which would also require third party access, therefore a viable plan b drainage option has not been provided at this stage.

In addition to this, should the connection point to the north be found to be a viable option as outlined above, then the applicant will be expected to address the proposed overall discharge rate and volume, given that evidence would suggest that the site does not naturally discharge to this location and therefore could be increasing the flood risk offsite.

The applicant is advised to provide management and maintenance evidence given the current proposals for an offsite connection through third party land, as this could have implications on the future operation, management and maintenance implications of the surface water sustainable drainage system.

Lead Local Flood Authority – General Advice

The Lead Local Flood Authority's general advice is provided through the [Lancashire SuDS Pro-forma and accompanying guidance](#). All applications for major development are expected to follow this guidance and submit a completed SuDS pro-forma.

Material Changes to this Planning Application

If there are any material changes to the submitted information which impact on surface water, the Local Planning Authority is advised to consider re-consulting the Lead Local Flood Authority via our identified mailbox.

If you decide to approve contrary to our advice

If the Local Planning Authority grants planning permission for this development contrary to our advice, then we will be unable to support this application in an appeal or to assist with the discharge of any planning conditions, including surface water or flood risk conditions that we have not recommended.

The Local Planning Authority should be aware that any development built after 1 January 2012 is not eligible for Grant-in-Aid funding from central government to study or alleviate flood issues. This is set out in section 9.3 of the [Memorandum relating to capital grants for local authorities and internal drainage boards in England](#).

Please send a copy of the decision notice to our identified mailbox.

Yours faithfully,



Harry McGaghey

Lead Local Flood Authority

