

Date: 19 May 2026

Dear Local Planning Authority,

Thank you for consulting the Lead Local Flood Authority on the planning application detailed below, received on 30th April 2026. This follows our previous response dated 26th March 2026.

STATUTORY PLANNING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application Number:	3/2026/0214
Proposal:	Proposed erection of 26 affordable dwellings with associated access, gardens, parking and landscaping.
Location:	Land at Albany Drive Copster Green BB1 9EH

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.

These comments are based on the extent of the knowledge of the Lead Local Flood Authority and the information provided with the application at the time of this response. Comments provided in this representation are advisory. It is ultimately the decision of the Local Planning Authority whether any such recommendations are acted upon.

Lead Local Flood Authority Position

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

Objection 01 – Inadequate Surface Water Sustainable Drainage Strategy

In the absence of an acceptable surface water sustainable drainage strategy, we object to this application and recommend refusal of planning permission until sufficient 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 that applications which could affect drainage on or around the site incorporate sustainable drainage systems to control flow rates and reduce volumes of runoff, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate. These systems should provide multifunctional benefits wherever possible and should:

- 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.

The Flood Risk and Coastal Change section of the Planning Practice Guidance reinforces the requirement for sustainable drainage systems to be considered at the start of the design process (Paragraph 055), and makes clear that planning applications need to be supported by a sustainable drainage strategy containing proportionate information on how surface water will be managed to ensure there is no increase in flood risk to others off-site (Paragraph 059). It reinforces the expectation that sustainable drainage systems meet appropriate minimum standards of operation, with clear maintenance and adoption arrangements proposed for the lifetime of the development (Paragraph 058).

The guidance also refers to the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems to inform decisions about the design, maintenance and operation of sustainable drainage systems (Paragraph 057). These Standards provide the most comprehensive and current guidance on minimum operational standards and are a material planning consideration.

The submission of a robust surface water drainage strategy is therefore essential to enable the Local Planning Authority to make informed planning decisions. Without it, the Lead Local Flood Authority is unable to confirm whether the proposed development satisfies the requirements of the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems, and therefore whether it complies with Paragraphs 181 and 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework or the Planning Practice Guidance. This constitutes a clear and sufficient reason for the refusal of planning permission.

In this case, although a drainage strategy has been submitted, it is considered inadequate. It does not satisfy the requirements of the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems for the following reasons:

1. **Inconsistent contributing area to size the SuDS** – The proposed drainage strategy fails to demonstrate compliance with Standard 3 of the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems.

The submitted drainage strategy sizes the SuDS based only on the impermeable area of the site (approximately 0.562 ha), excluding the remaining permeable areas of the site, but calculates the discharge rate (9l/s) based on the approximate full 1.120 ha site area. Standard 3 requires that the entire development area that could potentially drain to the proposed surface water drainage system in an extreme



event shall be used for estimating greenfield runoff rates and volumes (including both permeable and impermeable surfaces). For the avoidance of doubt, the runoff area used in any of the runoff estimation methods should be consistent.

The applicant must design their SuDS with an appropriate estimation of the area contributing to the drainage system, both permeable and impermeable, with evidence of this area provided through an appropriate contributing area plan, or otherwise demonstrate how surface water runoff from non-drained areas will be managed without contributing to the drainage system and without increasing flood risk onsite or elsewhere.

- 2. Failure to Demonstrate Appropriate Peak Discharge Rate** – The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the proposed development provides appropriate minimum operational standards for peak discharge rate, as required by Standard 3 (Management of Extreme Rainfall and Flooding) of the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems. This Standard requires that:

For greenfield sites, the peak discharge rate from the development to surface waters or sewers for the 50% (1 in 2-year) annual exceedance probability rainfall event shall be limited to the equivalent 50% annual exceedance probability greenfield runoff rate, or 3 litres per second per hectare, whichever is greater.

The submitted evidence fails to demonstrate that the peak discharge rate from the development to the field drain will be limited in accordance with these parameters, the requirements of Standard 3 have not been met. Further evidence is therefore required to demonstrate compliance with Standard 3 of the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems.

- 3. Failure to Demonstrate Appropriate Runoff Volume Control** – The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the proposed development provides appropriate minimum operational standards for runoff volume and peak discharge rate, as required by Standard 3 (Management of Extreme Rainfall and Flooding) of the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems. This Standard requires that:

If the post-development runoff volume discharged from the development to surface waters or sewers for the 1% (1 in 100-year) annual exceedance probability, 6-hour rainfall event is greater than the volume of greenfield runoff for the same rainfall event, the peak allowable discharge rate from the development for the 1% (1 in 100-year) annual exceedance probability shall be limited to the 50% (1 in 2-year) annual exceedance probability greenfield runoff rate, or 3 litres per second per hectare, whichever is greater.

As the submitted evidence fails to demonstrate that the post-development runoff volume and peak discharge rate from the development to the field drain will be limited in accordance with these parameters, the requirements of Standard 3 have



not been met. Further evidence is therefore required to demonstrate compliance with Standard 3 of the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems.

Overcoming Our Objection

You can overcome this objection by submitting a surface water sustainable drainage strategy that addresses the deficiencies identified above and demonstrates how surface water will be managed within the development in accordance with:

- Paragraphs 181 and 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework,
- The Flood Risk and Coastal Change section of the Planning Practice Guidance, and
- The National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems.

Please note that submission of additional information will not automatically result in the removal of this objection. The submitted evidence must be technically robust, policy-compliant, and proportionate to the nature and scale of the development.

Please note that our objection(s) will be maintained until the required information, as outlined above, has been received and reviewed. The submission of amended information alone will not in itself result in the removal of the objection.

Lead Local Flood Authority Site-Specific Advice

The following comments are provided to assist the Local Planning Authority in its consideration of this application. While they do not constitute a formal objection, they highlight areas that may benefit from further attention, either at this stage or in future submissions. These comments are intended to support informed decision-making and encourage the adoption of relevant guidance, standards, and best practice.

- The applicant is expected to ensure that their drainage proposals have been designed to account for the updated Standards for sustainable drainage systems (June 2025), as well as provide evidence of the greenfield discharge rate and volumes, and the post development discharge rates and volumes and the methodologies for calculating these are consistent.
- For the avoidance of doubt, should the applicant propose to only positively drain the impermeable areas of the development then this same area should be used to calculate the appropriate greenfield discharge rate and volumes in order to inform the requirements for the required post development storage calculations. There may be some areas like the proposed swale which will contribute to the drainage system, in which case these areas should be included in the contributing area.

Accessing Additional Advice

If the applicant wishes to discuss any aspect of this response with the Lead Local Flood Authority, they can choose to do so through our charged for [Lead Local Flood Authority Advice Service](#).



Applicants can also access separate advice from the county council's Highway Authority on how individual developments will impact the highway network via the [Pre-Planning Application Highway Advice Service](#).

What This Response Does Not cover

This response does not assess matters relating to:

- **Other sources of flooding**, including the risk of flooding from rivers (fluvial), the sea (coastal), groundwater, sewers (surface water or foul), highways, canals, and reservoirs.
- **Application of the Sequential and Exception Tests**, which is a matter for the Local Planning Authority.
- **Highways**, including highway drainage, flood water exceedance on the highway, highway adoption (Section 38) and off highway works (Section 278) under the Highways Act 1980.
- **Amenity** as set out in Standard 5 from the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems.
- **Biodiversity** as set out in Standard 6 from the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems.

Material Changes or Additional Information

If any material changes are made to the submitted information, or if additional information is provided after this response that affects surface water management, the Local Planning Authority is advised to re-consult the Lead Local Flood Authority. **Please note this will be treated as a formal re-consultation, subject to a full 21-day response period.** Re-consultations should be sent to our identified mailbox.

If the Local Planning Authority choose to determine the application contrary to the advice provided by the Lead Local Flood Authority, we will be unable to support the application at appeal or at any future discharge of conditions stage relating to conditions we have not recommended.

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

Yours faithfully,

Harry McGaghey

Lead Local Flood Authority

