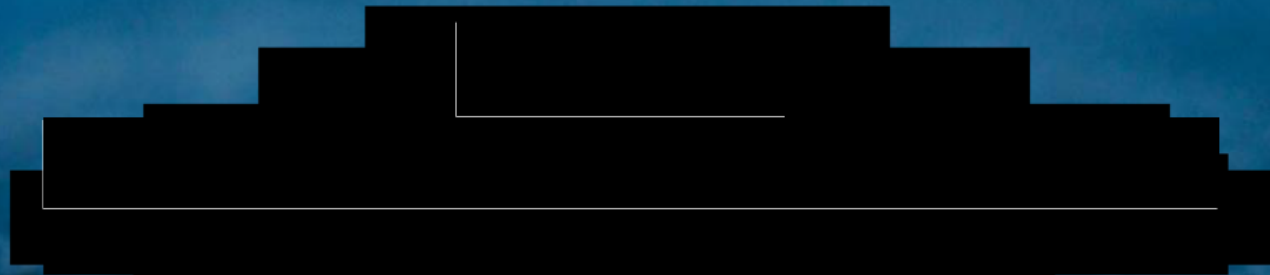


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17 October 2019

# Sewers For Adoption in England – SFA8



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- WaSCs are most suitable owners & operators of the sewerage network
- Legislation is in place that supports this.
- Every year sewer assets are transferred by Developers to the local Water & Sewage Companies.
- Sewers For Adoption (SFA) sets out construction standards for the assets that are to be adopted.
- SFA8 is now published and is due to be implemented April 2020.
- The new edition incorporates minor revisions and additions to all sections. However Part C – Adoptable Surface Water Sewers has been significantly revised to include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- The definition of a ‘Sewer’ has been redefined to ‘a channel that conveys water’
- WaSCs are currently preparing to accept adoption applications under the new standards.

- In recent years, both government and other interested parties have come to the view that traditional sewerage systems, relying on pipes and hard engineered structures, are not always the best way to deal with the drainage of surface water. It's better if SW is can infiltrate into the ground locally to mimic the natural process. This is described as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
- In 2010, the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) was passed, and would have provided a comprehensive approach to surface water drainage, adopted by SuDS Adoption Bodies (SABs). Unfortunately, to date, this legislation has not been implemented in England.
- Now, Water UK, working with a range of stakeholders has developed a new guide to adoptable surface water sewers. This is now Part C of the publication -Sewers for Adoption (SfA8).



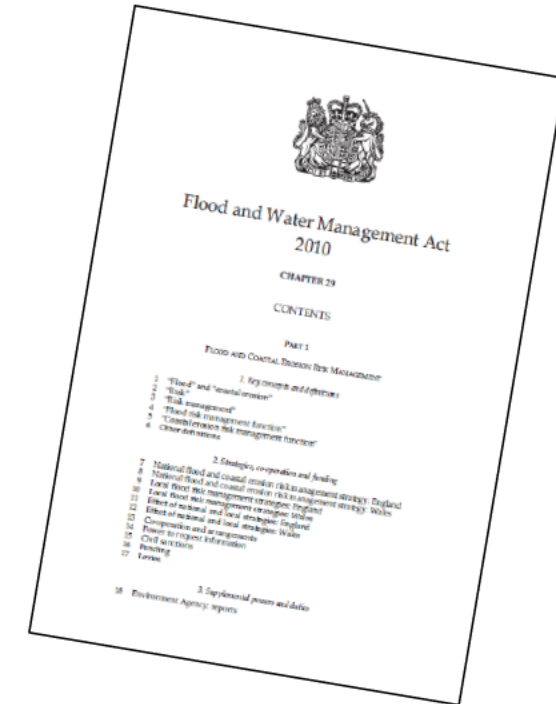
- Why are we doing it
- Our approach
- Our journey so far
- Translation into practice
- What does this mean for WaSCs



# Why are we doing it



- We are seeing Increased Flooding
- Resulting in greater Economic damage
- National review of strategic flood risk management
- Flood and Water Management Act - Schedule 3
- Abandonment of Schedule
- No systematic, consistent implementation of SuDS
- To date a lack of an adoptable body
- Government keen to see water and sewerage companies (WaSCs) adopt a more active approach



# Adoptable = All Positive Criteria

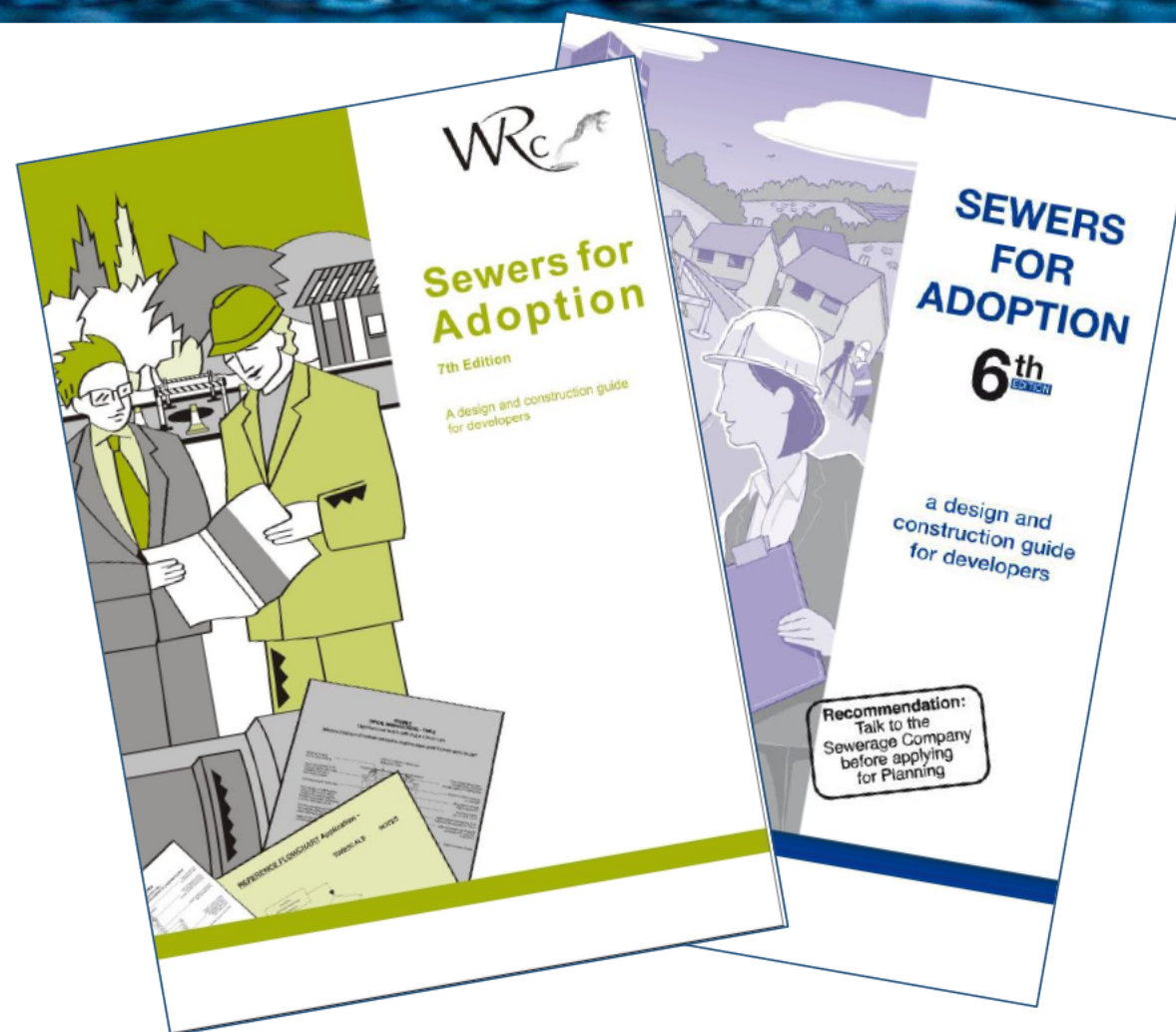
Included / Positive criteria	Excluded / negative criteria
Constructed for the drainage of buildings and yards appurtenant to buildings	Watercourses as defined in law
Has a channel	Built primarily for the drainage of surface water from streets or for the drainage of land
Conveys and returns flows to a sewer or to a surface water body or to groundwater	Built to manage groundwater
Has an effective point of discharge, which must have lawful authority to discharge into a watercourse or other water body or onto or into land	Part of the structure of a building or yard
May allow for some infiltration into the system - provided that is not the designed purpose of the system	An integral part of the structure of a street
	Forms part of a private curtilage

# In simple terms

- Constructed for purpose of draining buildings and land appurtenant  
*(i.e. surrounding the building)*
- Has a channel
- Conveys and returns flow to a sewer or the environment
- Has an effective outfall



These criteria formed the basis for Sewers for Adoption to be amended to set out standards that all sewers including sustainable drainage elements must meet to be capable of adoption under WaSCs' statutory powers



# Our journey, so far



- Lengthy process with expert QC advice
- Case law complex, the basic idea is simple
  - i.e. if it performs a sewerage function, it is a sewer even if it's not in a pipe
- Through Water UK, WaSCs have worked with a range of interested parties inc. LPAs, LLFAs, Developers, Defra, CCW, CIRIA
- We have completed SfA8
- SfA8 will be incorporated into the new sector guidance
- Planning legislation to assist to help deliver high quality SuDS.

# Translation into practice

- Launch a series of 7 seminars nationwide to introduce SfA8
- Suds Training provided by CIRIA/CIWEM, content funded by 8 WaSCs
- On-going capacity building materials
- Brochure for cross industry use
- Use a multi-agency approach to increase awareness



# What does this mean for WaSCs

- Industry needs to be prepared for implementation of SfA 8
- All associated systems and procedures will need to be in place
- Need to identify liabilities and future investment requirements
- Legacy SuDS (WW example)
  - *Over 500 recent developments*
  - *Circa 150 Outfalls, that discharge to green open space*
  - *Circa 50 basins*
  - *1,800m of swales*
  - *Possible 100,000m<sup>3</sup> -Geo-cell or bespoke tank systems*

# To conclude SfA8

- Wessex Water has opted to play an active and major role in the provision of SfA8
- It has a pragmatic, forward-thinking approach
- Provides leadership and vision
- Positive reputational effect on the sector
- Aligns with key governmental objectives

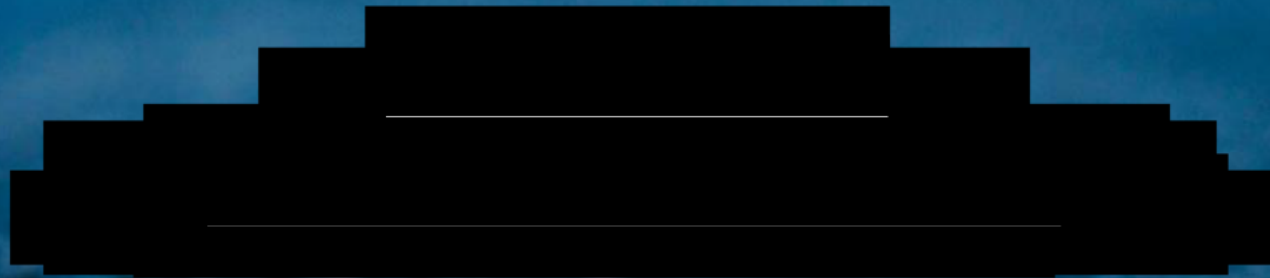
# Thank You

Questions?



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# Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems



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# SuDS Guiding Principles



## SUDS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

These GUIDING PRINCIPLES underpin the design of sustainable drainage schemes to meet the Wessex Water Adoption Standards. Applicants seeking WW approval and adoption must demonstrate how they have complied with these principles or provide justification for any departure.





## ADOPTABLE

A component is **potentially** adoptable as a sewer (or lateral drain) if **all** the following apply:

1. It is **predominantly** constructed for the drainage of buildings and yards appurtenant to buildings;
2. It services more than one building and associated yards;
3. It has a channel (a depression between banks or ridges with a definite boundary);
4. It conveys and returns flows to a sewer or to a surface water body or to groundwater;
5. It has an effective point of discharge which must have lawful authority to discharge into a watercourse or other water body or onto or into land.

N.B: The system may allow for some infiltration and still be a sewer

As with conventional piped systems, the right to discharge must be secured by the developer and transferred to the water company on adoption.

The term '**predominantly**' refers to the percentage of areas draining to the system (i.e. if 51% of the areas draining to the system are from buildings and yards appurtenant to buildings then item 1 is satisfied).

## UNADOPTABLE

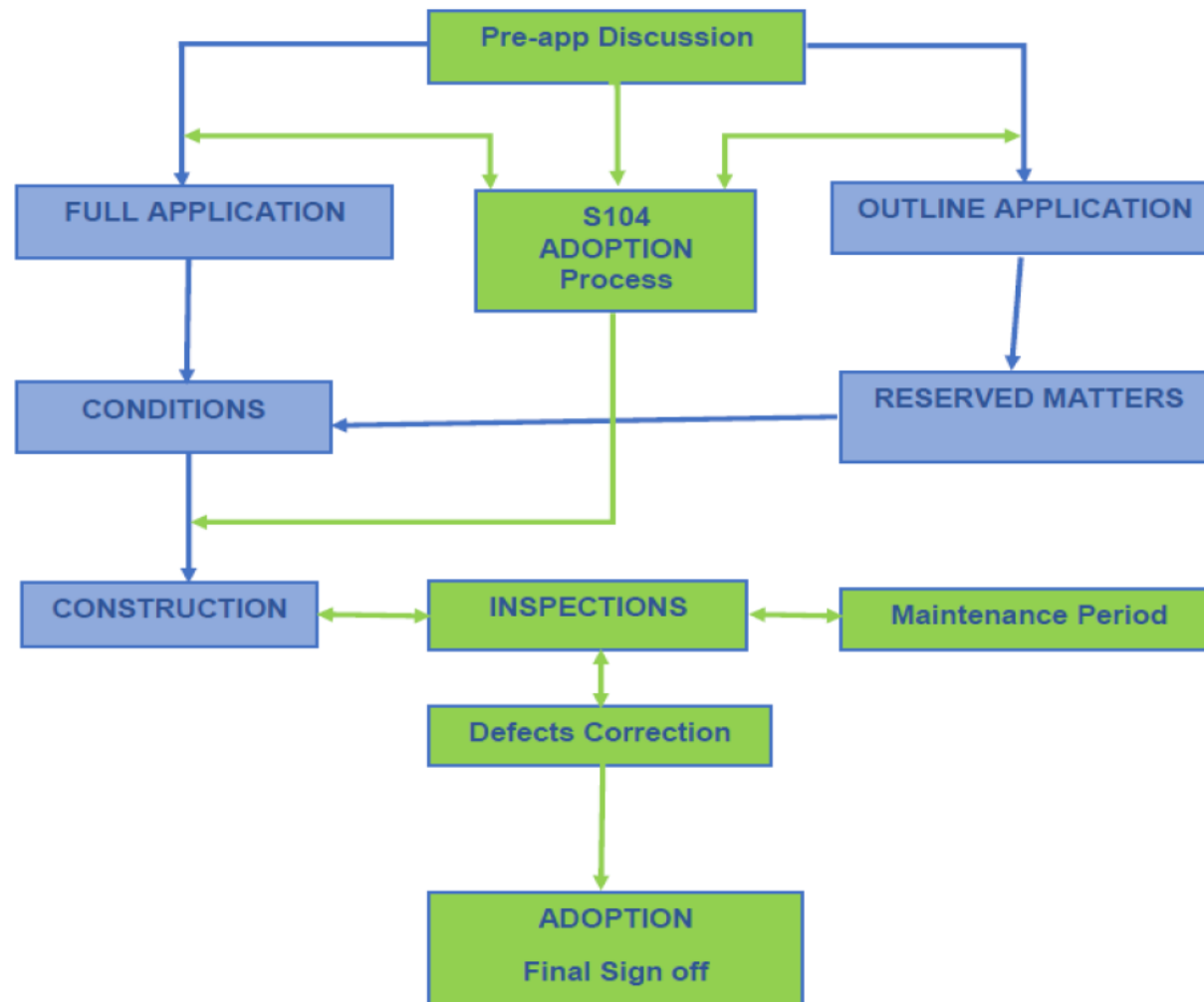
The following components are excluded:

1. Watercourses as defined in law (these include rivers, streams and can include some ditches);
2. Components built **predominantly** for the drainage of surface water from highways or for the drainage of land;
3. Components built to manage groundwater;
4. Components which are part of the structure of a building or yard (e.g. green roof, permeable driveway or guttering and rainwater pipes attached to the building);
5. Components which form part of a private curtilage (i.e. individual soakaways);
6. Components which are an integral part of the structure of a highway (e.g. a permeable street or the channel formed by the kerb of a conventional road or a channel formed by a depression in the centre of a street).

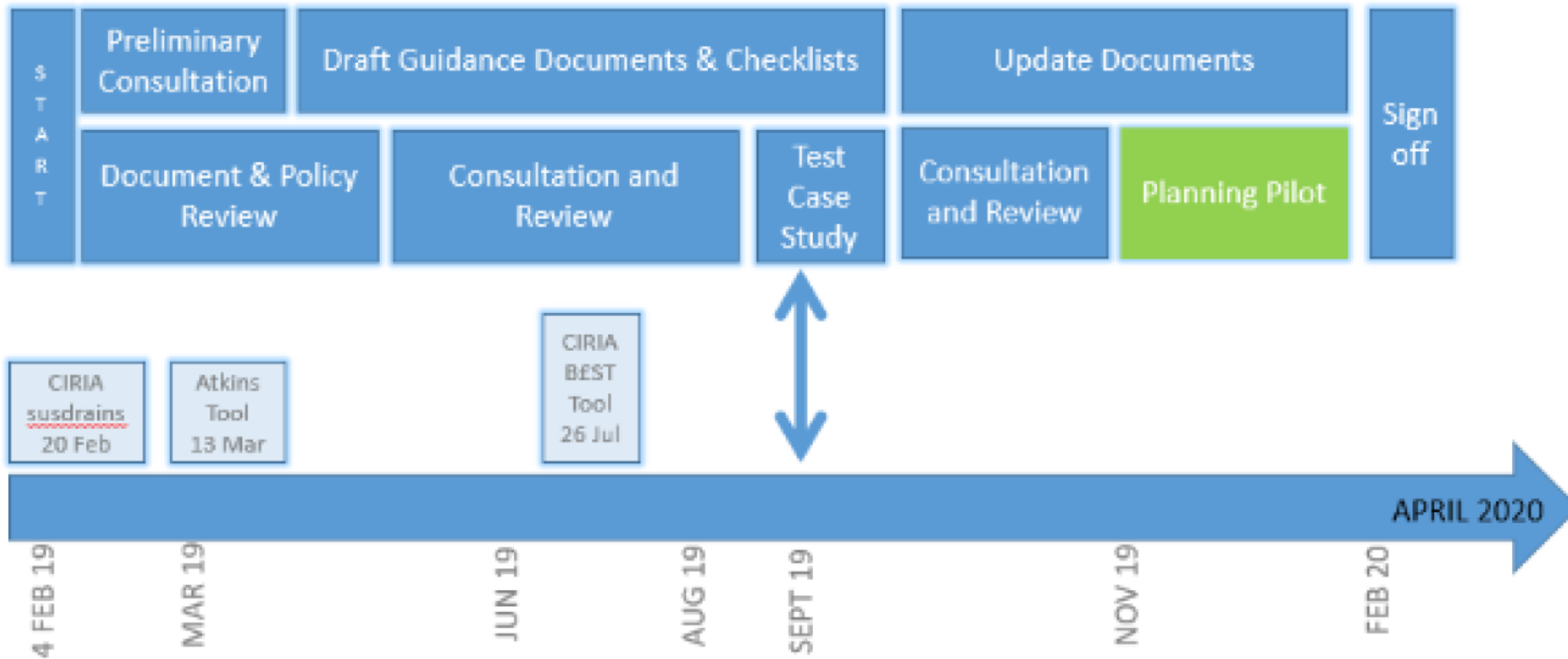
The term '**predominantly**' refers to the percentage of areas draining to the system (i.e. if 51% of the areas draining to the system are from highways or land, watercourses and groundwater then this is unadoptable).



# SUDS Flowchart



# Wessex Water SuDs Implementation Project



# Thank You

Questions?



# Break

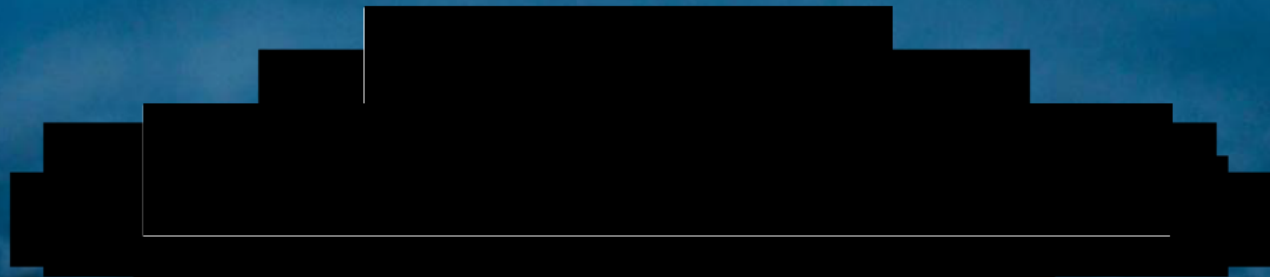


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# Developer Charging 2020-21



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# What's new?

## The rules have changed

- Income offsets move to infrastructure charges
- Asset payments will be a thing of the past

## Design fees and other minor tweaks

- Aid clarity around design fee and design checking
- Minor changes to better reflect reality of connections

## Transition arrangements

- Pre-April 2020, 2019-20 charging arrangements
- Post-April 2020, 2020-21 charging arrangements
- Transitions apply depending on commencement

## Upcoming consultation

- Will start in November and cover these points
- Please give us feedback!



# Income offsets move to infrastructure charges, asset payments are no more



## 2019-20

- Used to maintain the balance of charges
- Developers have income offset applied to the requisition charge
- SLPs get an equivalent asset payment
- NAVs get an equivalent reduction on bulk service



## 2020-21

- Used to maintain the balance of charges
- Developers have income offset applied to the infrastructure charge
- SLPs are treated equally, asset payments no longer needed
- NAVs are treated equally, bulk supply reductions no longer needed

Values still to be calculated but will maintain the c.10% that end customers currently pay of all costs

## To aid clarity around design fees

- Our design fee will reduce by cost of approval fee
- Approval fee will always be charged as always required – irrespective of who does the design work

Aim to avoid any confusion

## Other possible tweaks

