

WSTG Conference 2023-12th October 2023



Welcome

- The Conference Will Begin at 9.30am
- Welcome from Wexford County Council.
- Ministerial Opening Address

Session 1- Future Landscapes

Chair Tommy Ryan, Chair WSTG and CE of Cavan County Council

1st Department Of Housing Local Government and Heritage Perspective

2nd European Perspective & Emerging Policy

3rd Vision 2050 / Water Services Strategic Plan / European perspective / Emerging policy

Q&A will be through Slido via QR Code on the back of your lanyard or go

to [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) and enter the number #2557172

Remember to enter the name of the person the question is addressed to





Welcome From Cathaoirleach Wexford County Council



Minister Darragh O'Brien



Niall Gleeson CEO, Uisce Éireann



Niall Gleeson CEO, Uisce Éireann



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Department Perspective on Water

Averil Gannon

12th October 2023

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage: Water

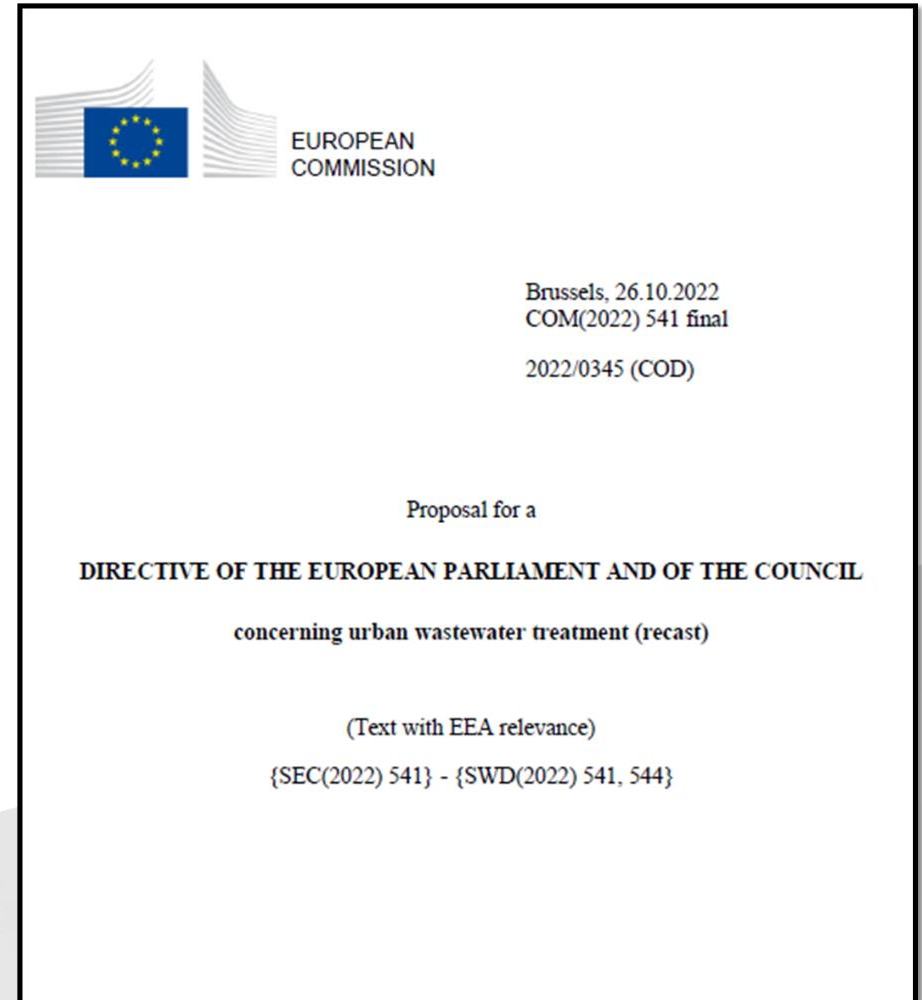


- Drinking Water Directive
- Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
- Nitrates Action Plan
- Barriers Programme
- Water and Planning Guidance
- Bathing Waters
- Nature-based Solutions
- Water of Life project

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive



- Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive proposal published by EU Commission October 2022.
- Existing Urban Wastewater Treatment legislation is over 30 years old.
- Member States and Commission: working party level meetings from January 2023.
- UWWTD was discussed at Environmental Council meeting on 16th March 2023.



Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive



- Further working party meetings between March and September
- Presidency circulated revised compromised texts for discussion
- UWWTD will be discussed at Environment Council on 16th October 2023 with the hope of getting a general approach



Image of Berlaymont Building by Wikipedia

European Parliament:



- Current MEPs are elected from July 2019-2024
- Rapporteur and shadow rapporteur were appointed on the file
- MEPs had to submit their comments on the proposed recast UWWTD by 5th of May
- Rapporteur published the first compromised text for discussion earlier this year.
- Environment Committee voted the final compromised text in September and last week a Plenary vote was held at the EU Parliament.



Image by European Parliament

3 agreed texts: - next steps



- When the Presidency and the Parliament have their final agreed compromised text – trilogue starts
- Trilogue: an informal inter-institutional negotiation bringing together representatives of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission.
- This trilogue will eventually produce a final compromised agreed text.
- This final agreed text is the final Directive.
- Each Member State will have 2 years to transpose the Directive

Irelands Actions:



- Urban Wastewater Expert Group was established Q1 2023

- Membership include representatives from:

Uisce Éireann	CRU	NSAI	Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications
CCMA	GSI	Dept. of Health	Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
EPA	HSE	SEAI	LAWPRO

- The relevant Government scrutiny committee has been briefed
- The Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has been briefed on the file and Water Finance Section, who will brief the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
- DHLGH met Representatives from the Pharma and cosmetics industry

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive – Overview



- High level of ambition in the proposal – scale of facilities covered and level of treatment applied
- Extremely tight timeframes for all measures
- Widening scope of Directive to include smaller agglomerations
- Includes a provision of extended producer responsibility for specific micro-pollutants
- Requirements for energy neutrality for urban wastewater treatment plants and collections systems
- Significant policy and budgetary implications arising from the proposed Directive.



Ringsend Wastewater Treatment plants: image by Uisce Éireann

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive – Main points in Commission text



1. Requirement to provide and connect to networks in small agglomerations

All agglomerations above 1,000 p.e. to be provided with a collection systems and all their sources of domestic wastewater are connected to this collection system.

2. Justification to be provided if, **septic tanks** are used for greater than 2% of the reported load treated in agglomerations of 2,000pe

3. Higher levels of treatment standards

Secondary treatment for agglomerations greater than 1,000pe
Stricter Nitrogen and Phosphorus limits – tertiary treatment
4th stage of treatment – quaternary treatment for larger plants

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive – Main points in Commission text



4. **Extended Polluter Responsibility** for specific micro pollutants (pharmaceuticals and cosmetics) – to pay for all aspects of quaternary treatment

Obligation for producers (including importers) to contribute to the costs of the quaternary treatment in cases where they place on the national market of the Member States products, which at the end of their life lead to the pollution of urban wastewater by micro-pollutants.

5. **Energy neutrality** – places an obligation to achieve energy neutrality at national level in all treatment facilities above 10,000p.e.

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive – Main points



6. **Integrated Urban Wastewater Management Plans** –

to include information on the network, urban wastewater and urban runoff.

There is also the inclusion of an indicative objective that storm water overflow, represents no more than 1 % of the annual collected urban wastewater load calculated in dry weather conditions.

7. **Urban wastewater surveillance** to monitor specific public health parameters

Establishes a national urban wastewater monitoring system to monitor relevant public health parameters in urban wastewater

8. Inclusion of **risk assessment and risk management**

There is the inclusion of an article on risk assessment and risk management in certain circumstances

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive



Summary

The current Commission text has high ambition levels and tight timelines with numerous new measures.

Requirement for collaboration required between all stakeholders to achieve targets and infrastructural planning of investments.

To note, the Commission text is not the final text of the Directive, so there will definitely be some changes to what I have presented today

Probably new Directive by December 2023

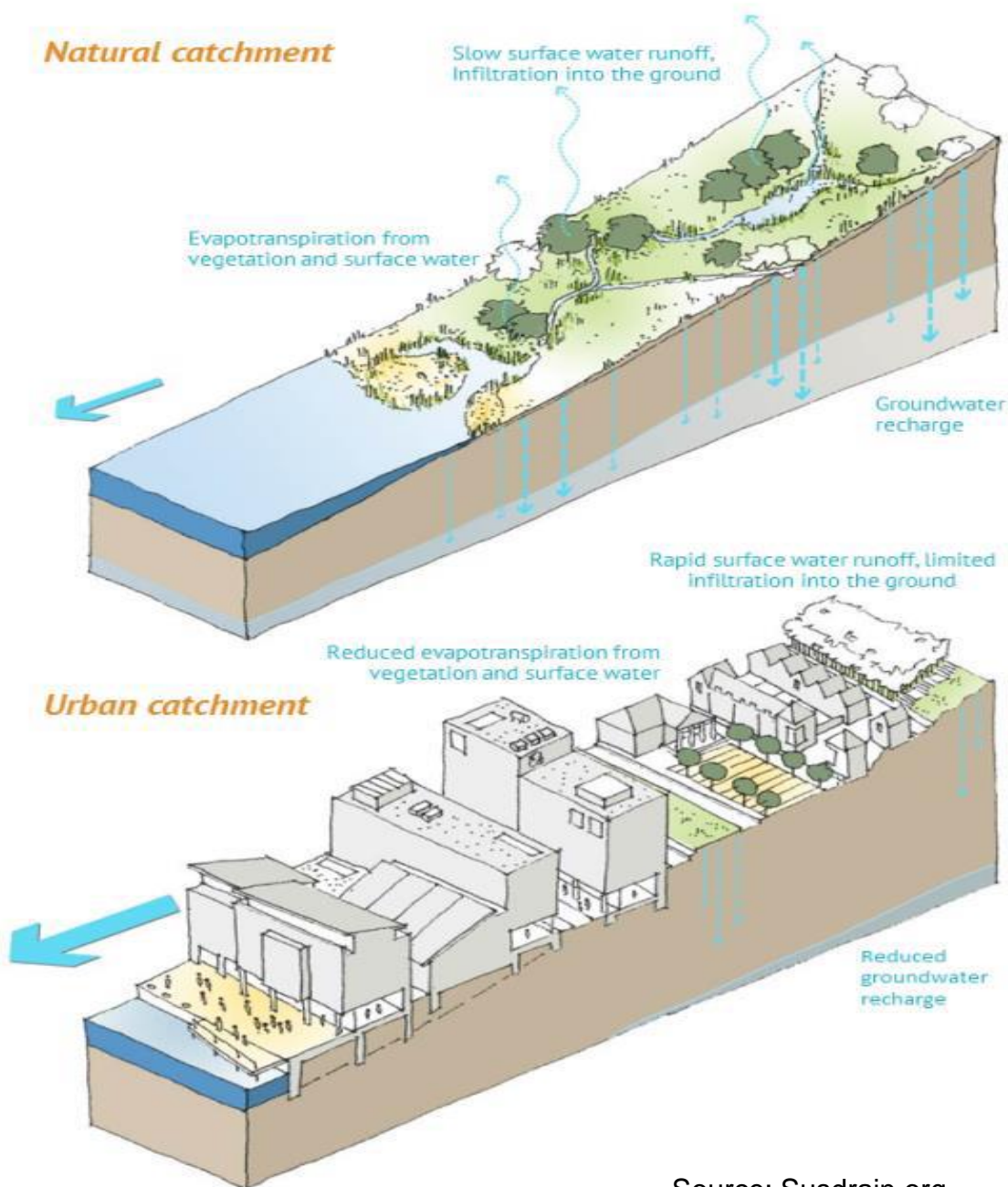
Nature-based Solutions Update



- Background/Context for Nature-based Solutions
- Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas - Interim Guidance Document
- DMURS Advice Note 5: Road and Street drainage using nature-based solutions
- National Implementation Plan
- Implementation Phase – ongoing Projects



A Natural Catchment v's and Urban Catchment



Source: Susdrain.org

- Natural water cycle compared to Urban
- Urban Creep and Impermeable surfaces
- Environmental Impact of runoff:
 - Direct Impact on water bodies of urban runoff
 - Combined Sewer Areas and CSOs
 - Culverting and channelisation of water bodies
- Pluvial Flood Risk in a changing climate

Water Quality: our most significant pressures

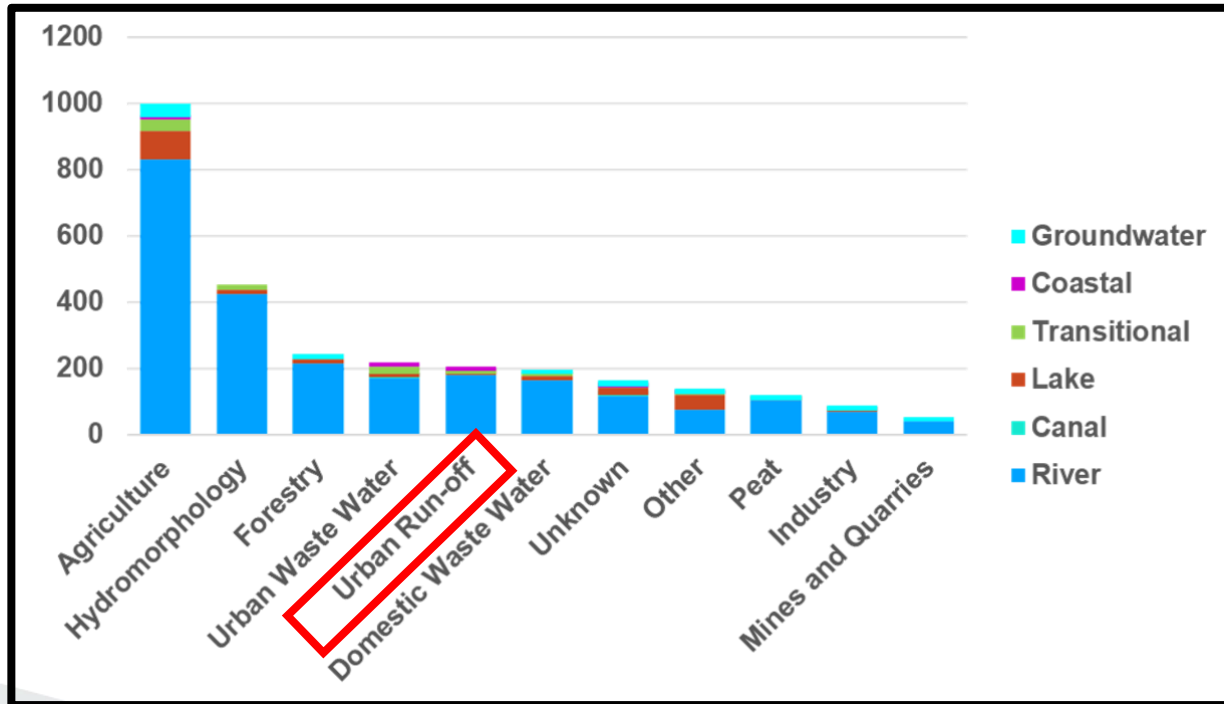


Table 6. Number of waterbodies in each waterbody type per significant pressure category.

Significant pressure category	Waterbody Type						Total
	River	Canal	Lake	Transitional	Coastal	Groundwater	
Agriculture	831		84	35	6	44	1,000
Hydromorphology	424		14	4			442
Forestry	215		14			4	233
Urban Waste Water	172	1	10	22	3		208
Urban Run-off	179		3	11	3		196
Domestic Waste Water	163		13	6		6	188
Unknown	118	1	22	2	3	18	164
Other*	75		45	2	1	16	139
Peat	103		2			1	106
Industry	70		1				89
Mines and Quarries	41					4	45
Total Significant Pressures	2,391	2	208	82	16	111	2,810

*Includes a range of other smaller pressures such as aquaculture, historically polluted sites and invasive species.

Need for NBS Guidance?



Nov 2020 LawPro Webinar – approx. 500 attendees

Feedback from the attendees - Nature based SuDS would significantly benefit water, climate adaptation, biodiversity, and human well-being objectives.

81% of respondents to poll believed that Nature based SuDS were not being adequately implemented in Ireland.

Scoping study to determine the components and parameters of a National SuDS Implementation strategy.

To publish a Nature-based Solutions Interim Guidance document



Image: South Dublin County Council, Chris Galvin

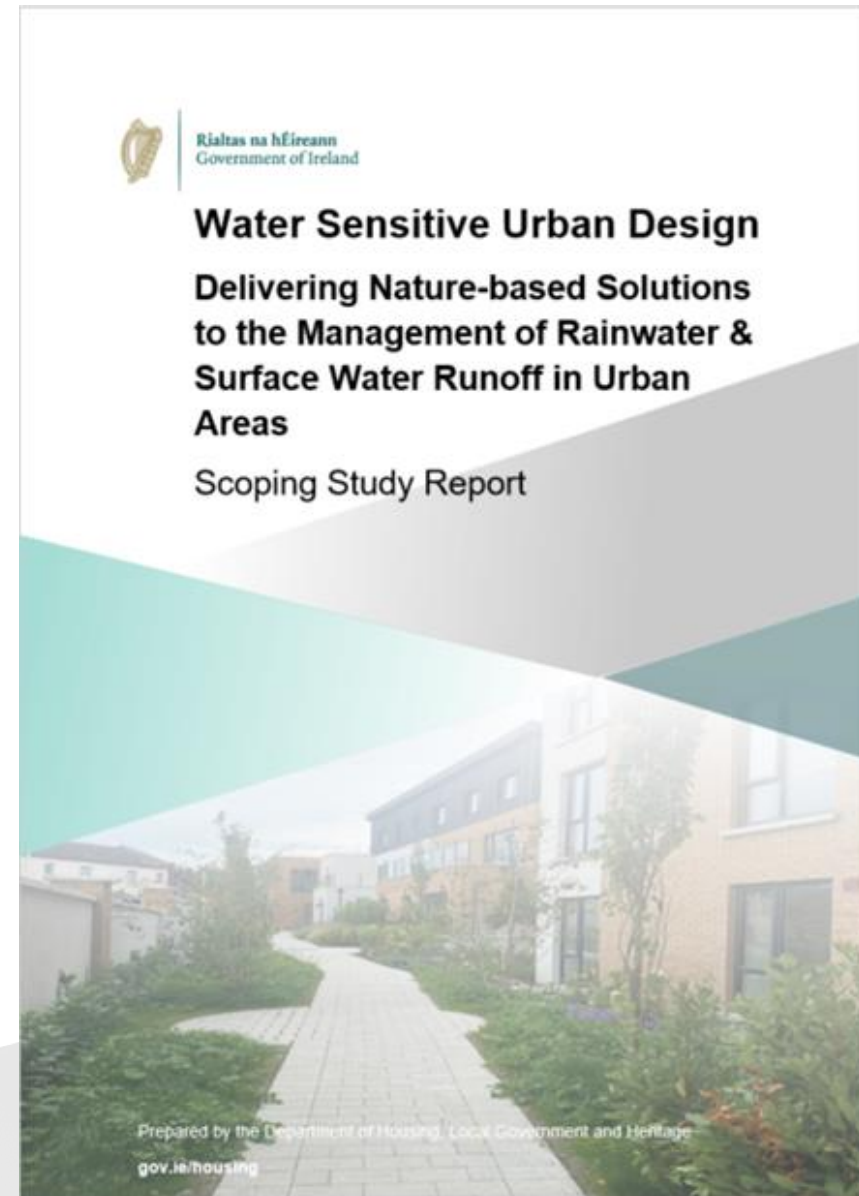
Scoping Study Report

6 month consultation process with all LAs and professional bodies

Local Authority led with support from DHLGH & LAWPRO

Steering group chaired by CCMA with LA membership, planning, architecture & engineering

“Water Sensitive Urban Development is not a set of solutions or measures but a process and philosophy”



Interim Guidance Document



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas

Water Sensitive Urban Design

Interim Guidance Document

- Definition and concepts
- Managing Rainfall through Three-Dimensional Planning & Design
- A Plan and Design-Led Multidisciplinary Approach
- Multiple Use of Urban Spaces, Public Realm, Open Spaces, Amenity Areas, Car Parks
- Climate Adaptive and Resilient Urban Design

Published Nov 2021

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

gov.ie/housing

Information Webinars



- Launch of **Interim Guidance Document** - Nov 2021 Approx. 500 attendees
- Project Managers in **URDF** and **RRDF** schemes – March 2022. Approx. 300 attendees
- **Active Travel** teams – May 2022. Approx. 230 attendees
- CPD presentation for **DHLGH Planners** – May 2022 –approx. 20 attendees
- **Engineers Ireland Webinar series** – May 2023 – 4 webinars with over 1200 registered for each webinar. 1st webinar attended by over 1500 people



NBS Information Presentations and Webinars



- **Dept. of Rural and Community Development Webinar** – (LA and Rural Development Company; operational lead who implement projects on ORIS (Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme), Town and Villages, CLÁR, RRS – approx. 200 attendees
- **WFD operational and Managements Committees** – approx. 230 and 40 attendees respectively
- **Regional Assembly SEA forum for Planners** – approx. 100 attendees
- **CARO Training for planner** – 260 Attendees
- **NPWS**, Ecologist Network – approx. 15 attendees
- **IFI** Environmental Officers Network – approx. 20 attendees
- **Heritage Officers Programme and Heritage Council** – approx. 20 attendees



DMURS Advice Note 5 – Road and Street Drainage using nature-based solutions



Published August 2023

Section 1 – Background

Section 2 – Introduction

Section 3 – Integration with DMURS

**Section 4 – Design Issues in Context of
DMURS and DMURS Advice Notes**

**Section 5 – Implementing Nature-
based Solutions as part of an Urban
Project through Integrated Planning &
Design**

Section 6 – Care and Maintenance

**Appendix 1 –
Water Sensitive Urban Design**



Image: South Dublin County Council, Chris Galvin

Section 1: Background



Image from www.bdsdrainage.co.uk

Road drainage: removes surface water from roads



Nature-based sustainable urban drainage measures are incorporated into the designs for urban roads and streets alongside the traditional drainage designs

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)

- Manage runoff rates
- Protect or enhance water quality
- Sympathetic to the environment
- Provide a habitat for wildlife in urban areas
- Encourage natural groundwater recharge

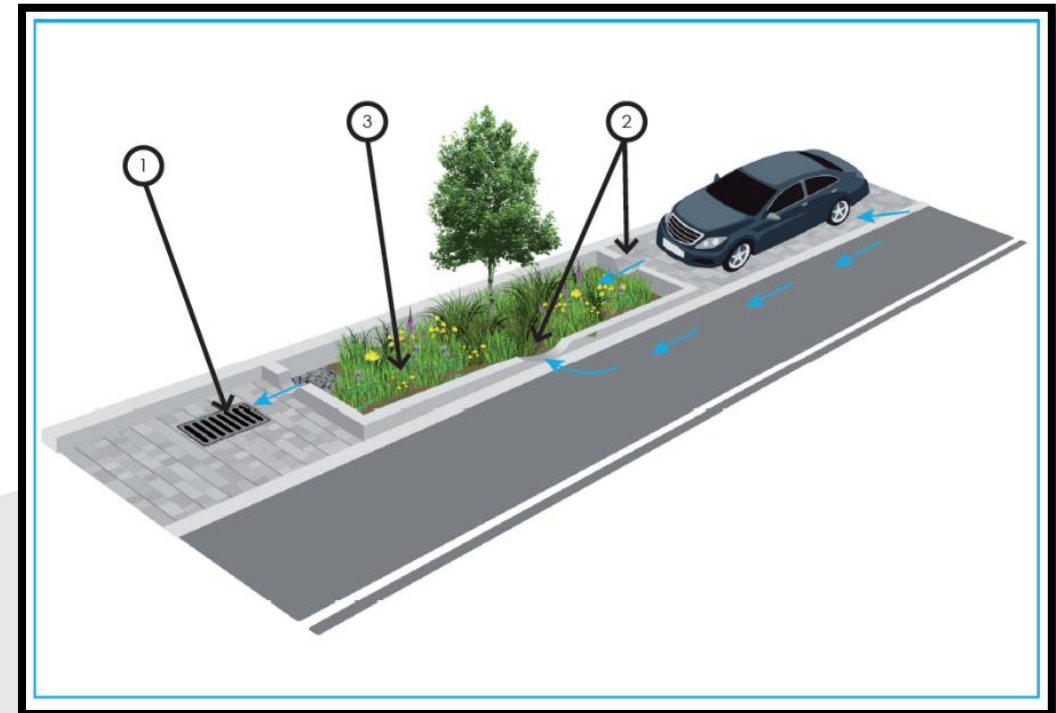
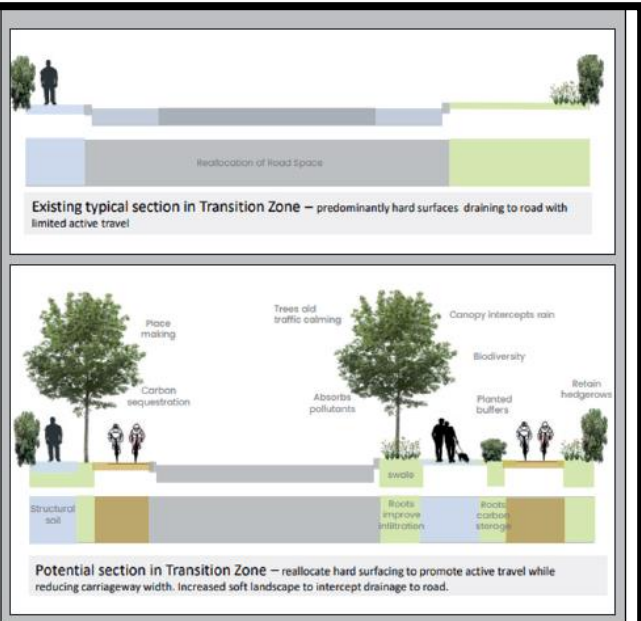


Image from DMURS Advice Note, Water Sensitive Streets

Section 3: Integration with DMURS



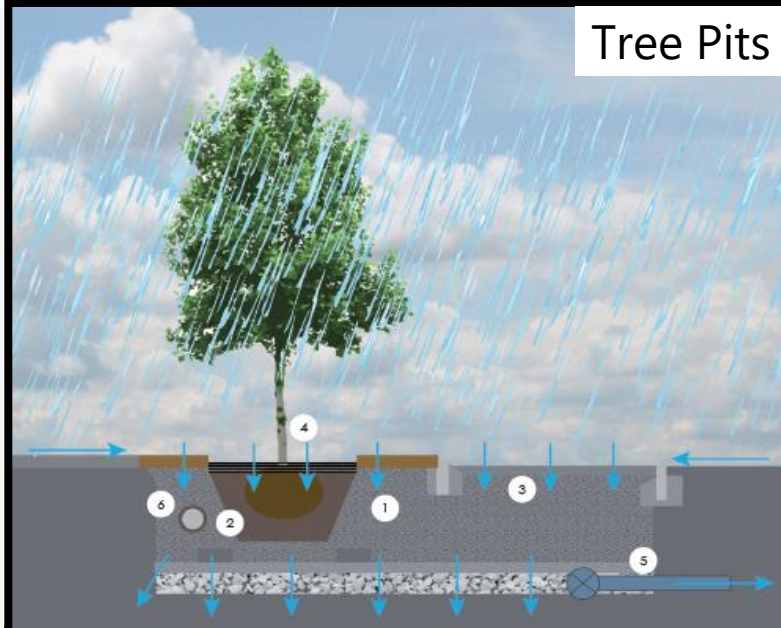
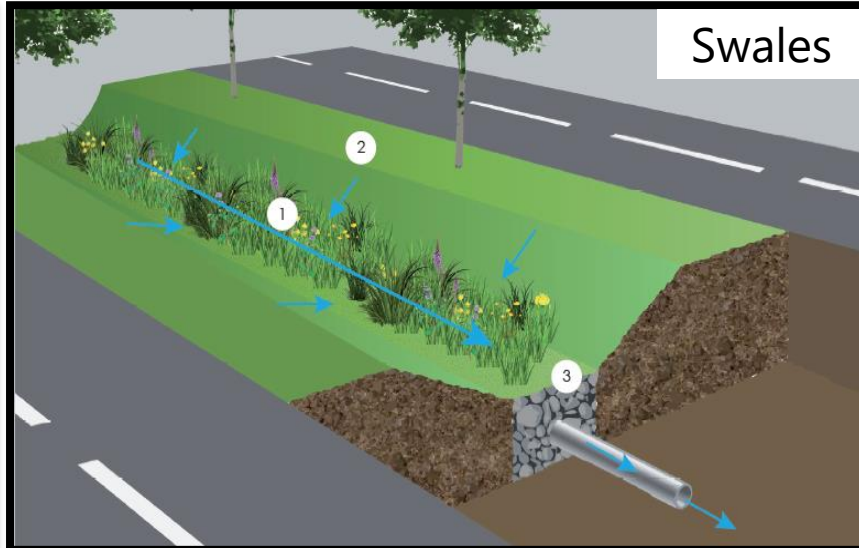
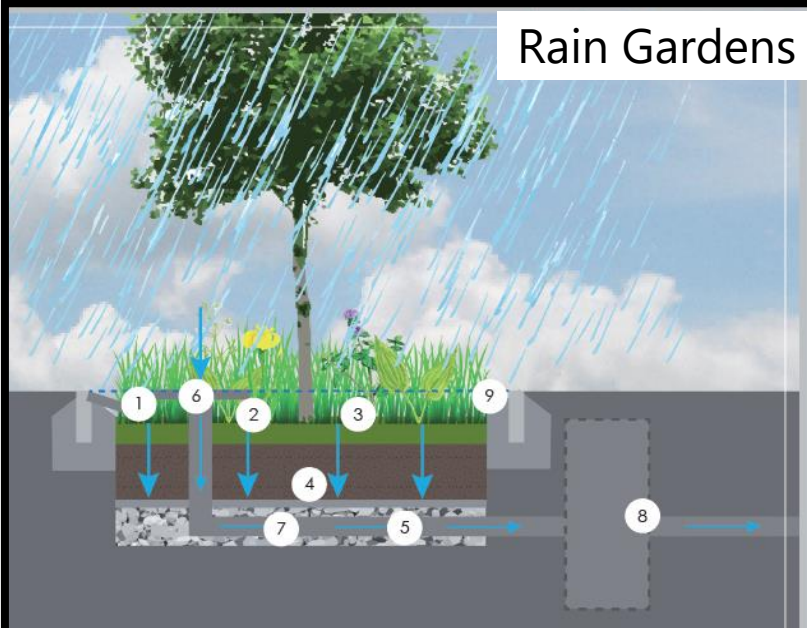
Urban planting and landscaping as part of an overall street design provides an ideal method of re-imagining our urban areas to prioritise pedestrians, cyclists and sustainable transport while also providing sustainable and climate adaptive solutions to rainwater management.



This design approach supplements rather than replaces the existing surface water drainage network

Figure 3.5: Transition zone incorporating landscape/SUDs features which reinforce a gateway to reduce vehicle speeds upon entry to an urban area. (Image source: TII)

Section 4 – Design Issues in Context of DMURS / DMURS Advice Notes



Section 5 – Implementing Nature-based Solutions as part of an Urban Project through Integrated Planning and Design



Plan-led and Multi-disciplinary approach

Looking at **opportunities for rain water retention** and **treatment** as well as possible impacts on runoff receptors that may be located close to the proposed development but **outside of the “red line” area**.

Designers should ensure the maximum level of connectivity between nature-based rainwater management features in a **“SUDS Train”** approach.



Photo: Graney River, Waters of LIFE project

Larger urban regeneration projects and private urban developments will provide greater opportunities to incorporate a water sensitive urban design approach throughout the planning and design process.

Section 6 – Care & Maintenance

Design team should include expertise in the area of urban landscaping & Nature-based rainwater management functions.

Consideration be given to incorporating a design and build care and maintenance contract to cover these features for a **minimum period of 5-yrs** following their completion.



Appendix 1 – Water Sensitive Urban Design



Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) is an approach to design that delivers greater harmony between the water cycle, the environment, and communities.



Image: Flowstobay.org

WSUD & Nature-Based Rainwater Management – Design Features:

Rain Gardens and **Trees and Tree Pits**

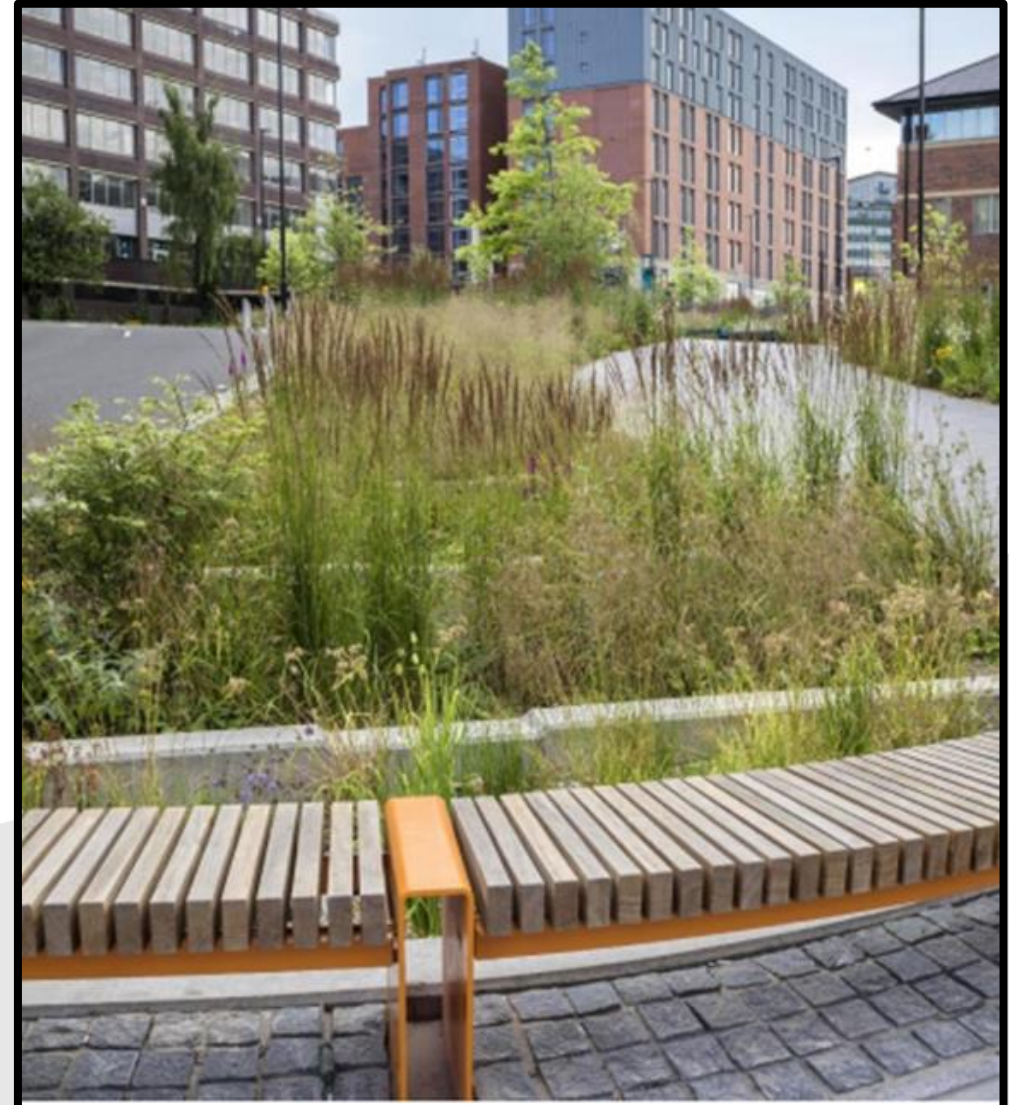


Image: researchgate.net

National Implementation Strategy for Urban Nature-based Solutions



- 3rd River Basin Management Plan – Action to set out the National Implementation Strategy for Nature-based Solutions.
- Roadmap of how to get from today to regulation in relation to Nature-based Solutions for all projects
- This project is commencing in Q4 2023



Nature-based Solutions Pilot Projects



- 3rd River Basin Management Plan – measure includes two pilot projects in Dublin City and Cobh, Co. Cork to look at Nature-based Solutions in Ireland
- Research including monitoring into NBS infrastructure in Ireland
- These projects commenced in 2023



Nature-based Solutions Pilot Projects



- Monitoring different soil types and different plant types to determine best combination in Irish context
- Using this information to design rain gardens and tree pits in larger public realm scheme

Nature-based Solutions Pilot Projects



Images: Ribh Road, Rainscapes Project, Dublin City Council



Inclusion of rain gardens, permeable paving and tree pits after consultation and monitoring

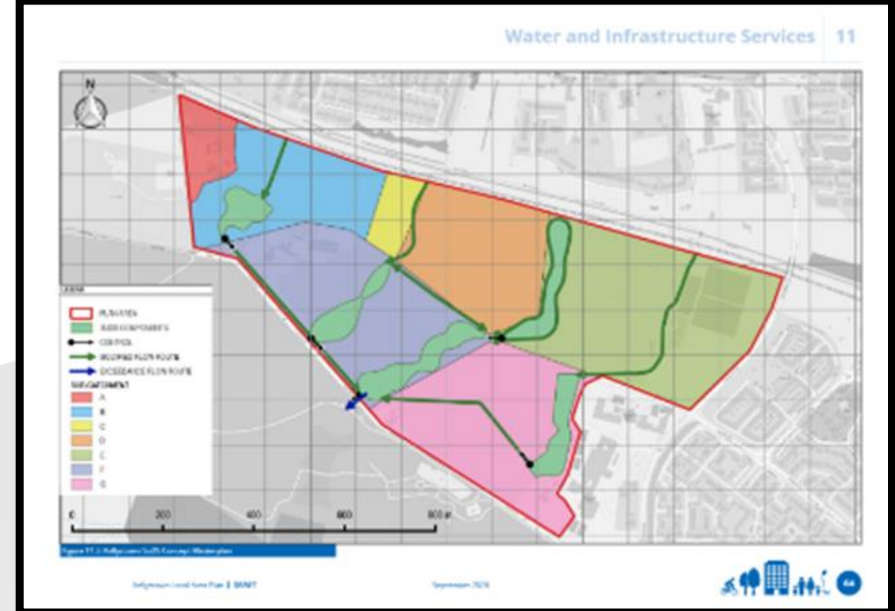
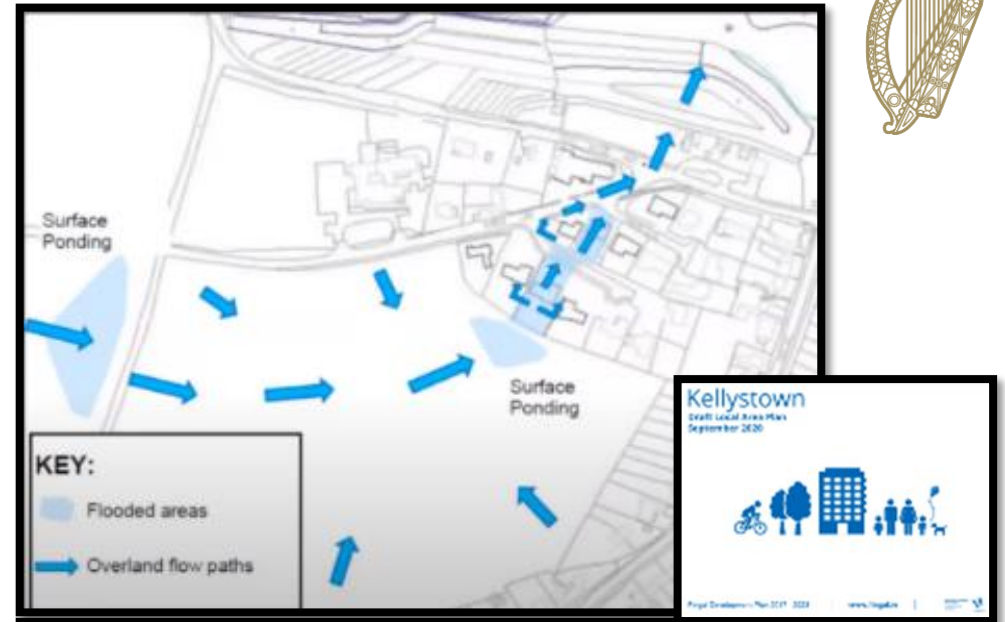
Images from Rainscape project: Ribh Road and McAuley Park, Santry, Dublin



Rainwater Management Plan - National Template



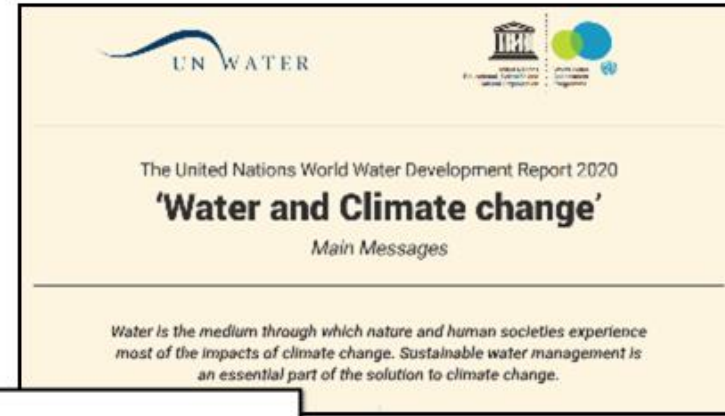
- Follow water across the development landscape.
- Will become more important from Climate Change perspective (pluvial flooding, cloud bursts etc).
- Integration of water sensitive urban design concepts including development of Rainwater Management Plans as part of settlement plans / Local Area Plans)
- Guide location, type, scale and integration of nature-based solutions
- *Working with Cork*, Wexford, Offaly, Kildare, Fingal CoCos on development of template*





Working with LAs, EPA and CAROs

- **Climate Action Regional Offices** (planning) training
- **Local Authority Climate Action Plans**
 - EU Water Framework Directive objectives and plan for climate change risk)
 - Pollution control (aligning environmental inspections, environmental planning policy)
 - Planning (integration of water sensitive urban design concepts including development of Rainwater Management Plans as part of settlement plans / Local Area Plans)
 - Built infrastructure (integrate nature-based solutions into all projects to provide greater water quality protection and reduce flood risk)
 - Biodiversity (understand local biodiversity requirements and plan for climate change)
 - Education (local education and awareness raising of the general public, staff and elected representatives)



The approach is to suggest actions that Local Authorities, with support from other stakeholders, can deliver within a wider framework that integrates water and climate issues. **Therefore, where possible water focused actions should be given due prominence on account of water's importance in a climate change context.**



Looking for opportunities to build in Nature-based SuDs at scale in (public realm) URDF, Active travel and other Rural Schemes (ORIS, CLÁR, LIS, TVRS etc)

- Best practice to manage rainwater in project areas and to minimise impact on sensitive areas
- Protecting water quality and flood risk
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- Building in Climate change resilience and benefits
- Potential to increase amenity value of project (additionality)
- Looking for multiple benefits
- Local Authority project teams and colleagues need to design them in at the earliest stage! Link in with Uisce Eireann and seek opportunities to reduce surface water flow to combined sewer networks!





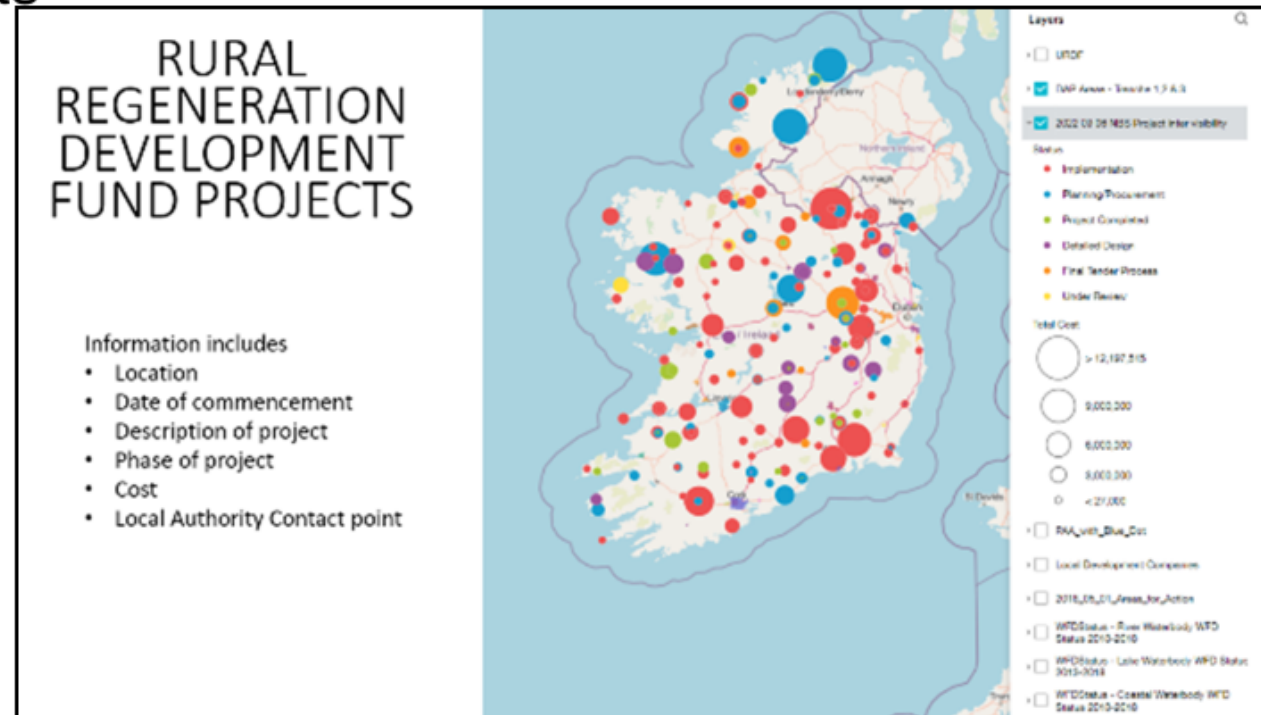
Nature Based Solutions (NBS) Project, inter-visibility Group

Objective:

map out large scale public projects
to identify opportunities to
incorporate NBS to address
rain/surface water runoff.

Focus currently on

1. RRDF (DRCD),
2. URDF (DHLGH),
3. Active Travel (NTA)
4. Drainage Area Plans (Uisce Eireann)



Nature-based solutions – example of multiple benefits





1



Collapsed underground attenuation chamber

2



Example of project delivery by a Local Authority using the supports / training



Bioretention Areas (Rain Gardens) – Pollerton Road/Green Lane Junction

Courtesy P. Gorman, Carlow CoCo



Before and after picture



Courtesy P. Gorman, Carlow CoCo



Thank you



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Remember to enter the name of the person the question is addressed to



Email: Averil.Gannon@housing.gov.ie



Uisce Éireann Transformation Programme - Opportunities Ahead

Presenters Name: Jonathan Deane
Organisation: Uisce Éireann

WSTG 2023 Conference
12th October 2023
Clayton White's Hotel Wexford



Agenda



Agenda

Where It All Began

Governance - The Framework, The Programme, SSA and MCA

Significant Progress – Update on The Transfer of Responsibility to Uisce Éireann

Culture & Opportunities in Uisce Éireann

Looking to the Future - Focus on our People



Where It All Began

Where It All Began

Purpose and Approach



1

Local Authority Water Services

- Long and proud tradition of water services
- Water sector staff made substantial contribution to Ireland since the foundation of the state
- Local community development and knowledge of water services

2

Irish Water Established

- Ireland's first national public water utility
- Established in 2014
- Use of Service Level Agreement with Local Authorities to maintain water services in Ireland

3

Move to an Integrated Single Public Utility

- White Paper on Water Sector Transformation followed by Framework Agreement
- Provide Irish Water with necessary control and responsibility for water services
- Ensure water sector staff continue their valuable contribution to water services

- **The Framework**
- **The Programme**
- **SSA and MCA**

The Framework For Delivery of Water Services

- Enables Government's ambition for a world class public water system
- Ensures stable operational environment maintained during transition
- Provides for
 - Uisce Éireann to assume responsibility for the management and direction of water services operation and activities
 - Voluntary transfer of existing local authority water services staff to Uisce Éireann between now and end of 2026
 - Commencement of water services staff recruitment directly by Uisce Éireann
 - New Uisce Éireann-Local Authority agreement to replace Service Level Agreement

UÉT Programme Purpose

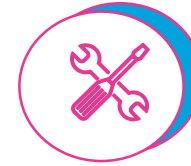
A fully integrated national water utility



The delivery of a fully integrated national water utility is the most significant transformation for Uisce Éireann since establishment



Throughout UÉT delivery, UÉ's primary focus remains on operational stability, service continuity and safety of public health & staff throughout each phase



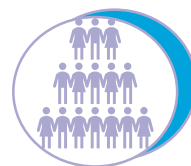
Fully integrate all public water services to deliver ambition of delivering consistent standards of high quality drinking water across all parts of Ireland, while driving efficiencies



Consolidate water services from 32 organisations (UÉ + 31 LAs) into a fully integrated single public utility



Retain existing skills and expertise to ensure continuity of service delivery



Provide for a more specialised water services workforce, supported career structures to deliver water services

Master Co-Operation Agreement and Support Services Agreement



Master Co-Operation Agreement (MCA)

Support Services Agreement (SSA)

The MCA

- operationalises the Framework
- allows Uisce Éireann management and direction of all water services staff
- developed by Uisce Éireann Local Authority Working Group in Q2 2022
- All 31 LAs have signed the MCA


The SSA covers


- core services (*HR, ICT, continued use of offices*),
- ancillary services specific to each Local Authority (*Stores and Inventory, Fleet, Depots, services that are not provided by water services staff*)
- Exit SSA with LA agreement post transfer to Uisce Éireann


Significant Progress with Transfers


Significant Progress Made So Far

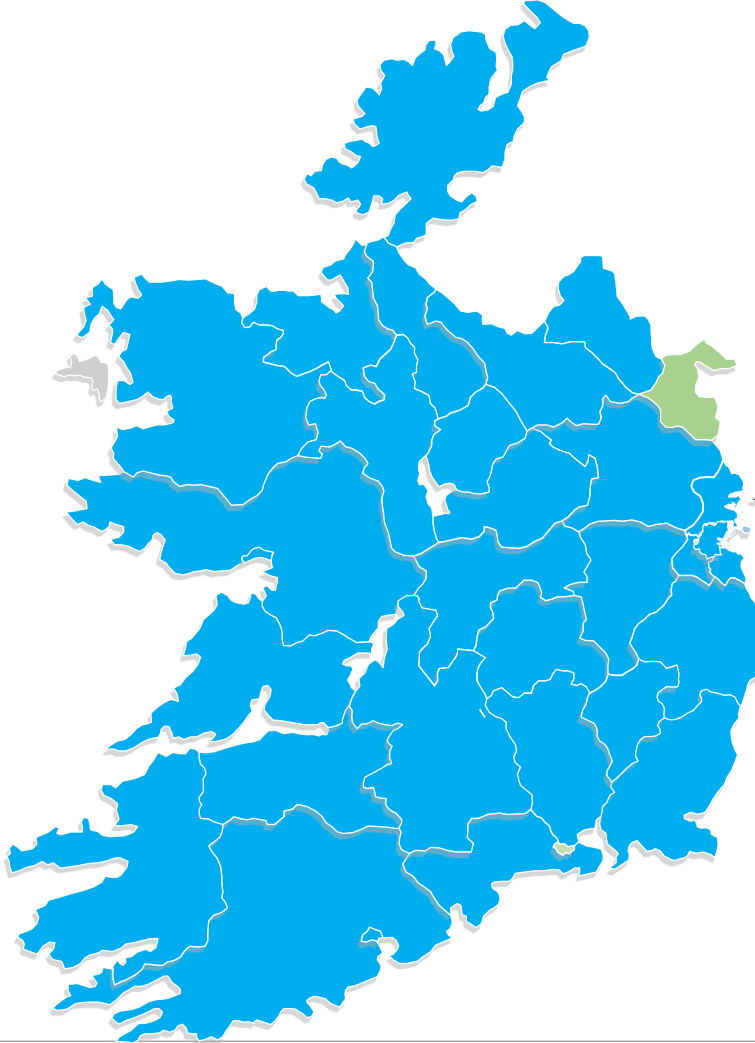


 Significant progress made in the transformation of the water sector in Ireland

 Uisce Éireann responsible for Water Services across **30** Local Authorities who have transferred since July 2023

 Readiness to progress the transfer of the final local authority area of Louth continues

 **3,420.3** headcount associated with the first 30 Local Authorities who transferred, now under direction of UÉ



UÉ now responsible for Water Services in 30 local authority areas

Transfer readiness continues for Louth



Sir John Gray (1815 to 1875):

Chairman of the Dublin Corporation Water Works Committee between 1863 and 1875

Ongoing Post Transfer Support to ensure continuity of service and stability



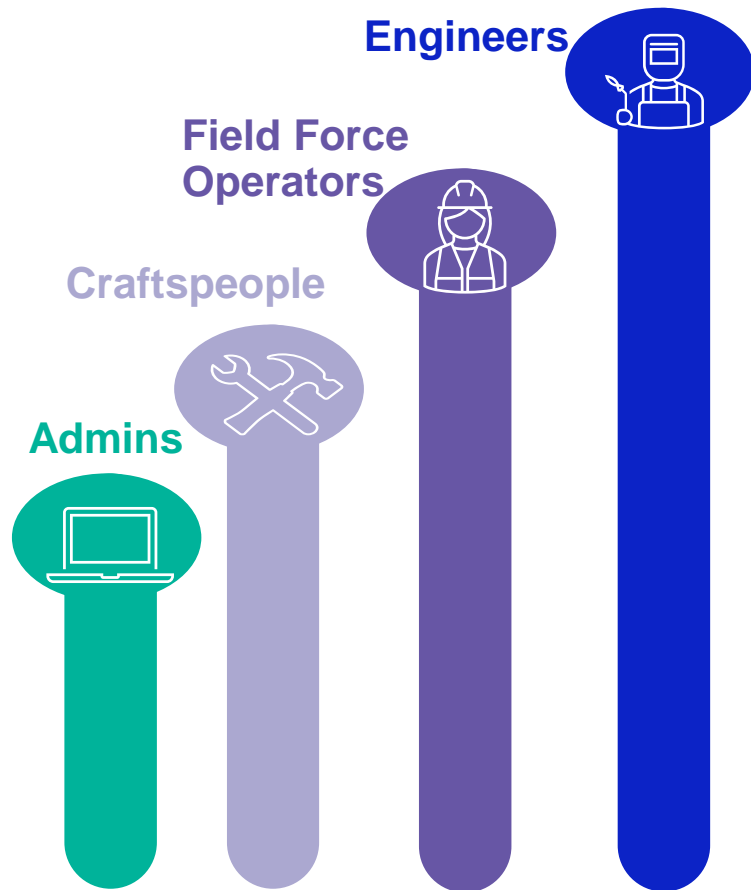
- The Framework provided for the establishment of a joint Integration and Management Team (I&MT).
- Made up of operational frontline management, integration management and Capital Project Office management teams.
- This combined management team, consisting of both Local Authority and Uisce Éireann staff is now in place managing the day-to-day operational services and staff and capital delivery of vital water and wastewater infrastructure.



Building a shared culture and Opportunities in Uisce Éireann

Focus on our People

Significant recruitment underway across the water sector with priority on addressing critical vacancies



- c.400 roles at offer accepted stages
 - c.350 on panels
 - 7,500+ applications
-
- **Engineers** – Technical Operations Support Specialist & Technical Operations Support Analysts
 - **Field Force Operators** – Treatment Operators, Network/M&R Operators and Senior Network/M&R Operators.
 - **Craftspeople**; and
 - **Administrative Staff**

Uisce Éireann Open Ended Panels



Role	Grade
Water/Wastewater Technical Operations Support Specialist (Engineer)	Grade D
Water/Wastewater Technical Operations Support Analyst (Assistant Engineer)	Grade E
Operator/Operative (Treatment, Network, Network M&R)	Grade G
Senior Operator/Operative (Network, Network M&R)	Grade F
Craftworker	Grade G
Senior Craftworker	Grade F
Water/Wastewater Team Lead	Grade E
Leakage Detection Senior Operative	Grade F
Leakage Detection Team Lead	Grade E

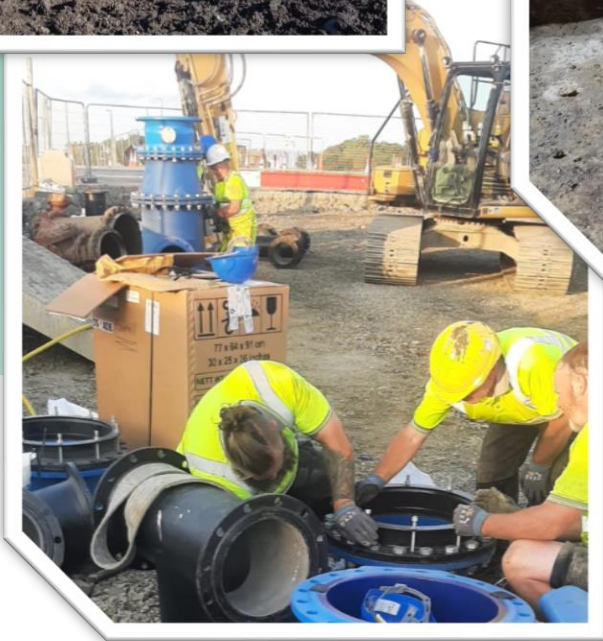
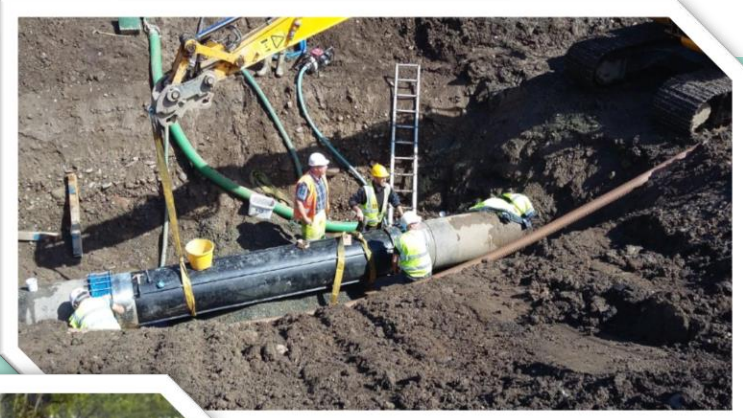
Developing a shared culture



Uisce Éireann is not just a new name but a coming together of two organisations

We are developing a shared culture collectively that will reflect the best of both organisations local service delivered in our communities with national utility expertise and approach.

Embracing the 'Can-Do' Attitude



Looking to the Future

Challenges and Opportunities

Looking to the Future



Moving to a Fully Integrated Future Organisation Structure

Unlock benefits of a fully integrated national specialised workforce

Changes to Ways of Working & Optimising Work Practices

Enhanced end experience for our customers

National Health & Safety Systems

Leadership role across sector and champion for wellbeing in our people

Employer of Choice

Opportunities for growth, varied work & progressive career structures

National organisation with local community reach

Local service delivery with regional teams and specialised support

Centres of Excellence- Field force roles clearly defined, with new specialisms stood up

Uisce Éireann as a single public utility

31 Local Authorities + UÉ

+15 org. layers

Multiple ways of working

Cost recovery SLA

No direct line of sight to customers,
staff, assets, service delivery

Varying customer experiences
nationally

From



To

1 Uisce Éireann utility

7 org. layers

Single way of working

Business Plan delivery

Full control of customers, staff,
assets & service delivery in time

Standardised, consistent national
approach to customer service

Select a Water Treatment Plant (WTP):

Wicklow (LA) + Knockananna WTP (WTP_Name) ▼

WTP Name:

Knockananna WTP

UE Region:

East

County:

Wicklow



Water Treatment Plant Details

Description	WTP Schematic (INTS)	WTP Schematic (Process Opt.)	WTP Schematic (Other)	Aerial (WTP & Sources)	Map (WTP & Sources)	Photograph
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WTP LOCATION:		Address: Ballinasilloge, Mullins, Co. Wicklow	
GIS Facility ID:	Maximo Ref:	EIRCODE:	
WTP0001149	L122766	(Blank)	
Co-Ordinates:	Google Aerial:	Google Streetview:	
52.872832, -6.495047	https://www.google.com/maps/@52.872832,-6.495047	https://www.google.com/maps/@52.872832,-6.495047	
Other Names / AKA: (Blank)			
TREATMENT:	Operator: EPS		24Hr Capacity: 144
Barrier (SDB Def.): 5	Plant Class: A	Plant Treatment Description: Filtration	20Hr Design Cap.: 120.00
SOURCE(S):	No. of Sources: 2	Ground Sources No.: 2	Surface Sources No.: 0
	Abstract. Vol. (m ³ /d): No Licence		
▲ Abstraction ID	Local Name	Waterbody Type	Sustainable Ab. (m ³ /d)
WAB0001904	Knockananna Borehole No. 1	GR	20.00
WAB0001905	Knockananna Borehole No. 2	GR	20.00
Total			40.00

RESTRICTIONS ON SUPPLY:

BWN	DNC	RAL	Water Scarcity	THM Issues	DW Incidents	Parametric Failures
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Current:

ESB MPRN

MPRN	Maximo Site Name	Asset Name	MPRN Address
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Thank you.

For further information or to get in contact
please email jonathandeane@water.ie

**Q&A will be through Slido via QR Code on the back of your
lanyard or go to [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) and enter the number #2557172**





European Affairs, Vision 2050 and the Water Services Strategic Plan 2050

Brian Murphy - European Affairs Manager

Mark Conaty - Strategic Project Lead

WSTG 2023 Conference

12th October 2023

Clayton White's Hotel Wexford



What we will cover this morning

1 Introduction

2 European Perspective

3 Vision 2050

4 WSSP

5 Q&A

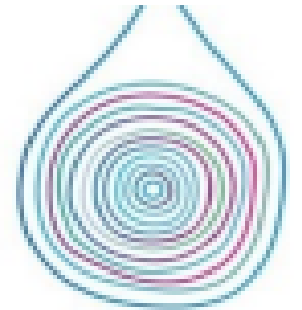
Uisce Éireann EU Water Association Engagement

EurEau: European federation of water services - 37 National Associations from 32 countries (water and wastewater, public and private operators)

- EU1 –Drinking Water matters
- EU2 –Wastewater matters
- EU3 –Economic and Legal matters
- Joint Working Groups on Pollutants; Energy & Climate; Water Framework Directive

Aqua Publica: European Association of Public Water Operators

- Unites publicly owned water and sanitation services and other stakeholders
- Aims to promote public water management at European level
- Address common challenges and bring the voice of public water operators into EU



EurEau



EU Institutions



European Commission

- President Ursula von der Leyen
- 26 EU Commissioners + UVDL



- Commissioner V Sinkevicius: Environment, Oceans and Fisheries



- DG Environment (Director V Madfredi; DHoF M Sponnar)



- M McGuinness Financial services



European Parliament

- 705 Members elected in the 27 Member States (2019 – 2024)
- Ireland 13 MEPS (5 EPP; 2 Renew; 2 Greens; 4 The Left;
- 31 EP Committees
- Envi Committee – 176 MEPS (3 Irish)



European Council



Éire/Ireland
Leo Varadkar
 The Taoiseach
 f @leovaradkar/
 t @LeoVaradkar

- Heads of State
- Decide on political direction of the EU



European Council
 Council of the European Union

- Government Ministers
- Presidency rotated every 6 months
- DHLGH responsible for UÉ
- Perm Rep for Environment in Brussels

- The ENVI Committee Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs have been selected
- Positive that an Irish MEP is one of the ‘shadows’
- The Rapporteur will oversee the development of an ENVI Committee report on the proposed legislation
- The shadow rapporteur is responsible for coordinating the views of its political grouping for submission to the rapporteur
- Eureau and UÉ will seek to positively influence policy positions



Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

Rapporteurs – ENVI Committee

				
Nils Torvalds (Renew, Finland)	Marek Balt (S&D, Poland)	Deirdre Clune (EPP, Ireland)	Margrete Auken (Greens, Denmark)	TBA (ECR)
RAPPORTEUR	SHADOW	SHADOW	SHADOW	SHADOW

27 April 2023: Consideration of draft report
5 May 2023: Deadline for amendments
24 October 2023: Vote in Committee
20 November 2023: Vote in Plenary

@BSC_EU



Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive Revision:

- **UWWTD (1991)**; EC commenced a **review in 2019**, three main sets of challenges:
 - Remaining Pollution from **Micro-pollutants**, micro-plastics etc - Alignment with the **Green Deal: Enhanced Governance (Polluter Pays Principle)** application)
- **October 2022** the European Commission published a **proposed revision** of the UWWTD & EurEau Position Paper developed to highlight initial reaction and concerns
 - EurEau proposed amendments sent to Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs
 - Detailed, line by line analysis of the text, including Definitions, Articles, and Annex's
- In parallel, **DHLGH** has been attending **EU Council/Presidency meetings** with other EU member states to highlight Irish position/concerns
- Series of EU Parliament Envi Committee meetings and EU Council working group meetings are ongoing to reach final positions => **“Triologue Negotiations”**

Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive Revision Impact:

- Storm Water Overflows – **shall not exceed 1% of annual collected urban wastewater load for all agglomerations of 100,000p.e.** and above by 2035
- **Energy Neutrality (2040)** - broadly positive, but need for more flexibility – required renewable generation occurs on site – too restrictive and inefficient
- Enhanced **Tertiary Treatment (3rd stage)** - New obligation for tertiary treatment for all agglomerations over 100,000 - Tightening parameters for N & P removal
- **Quaternary Treatment (4th stage) & Enhanced Producer Responsibility (EPR)**
 - treatment which removes a broad spectrum of micro-pollutants from the urban wastewaters
 - producers of micro-pollutants required to pay for costs of monitoring and quaternary treatment

Other Policy Developments - Status

... put into legislation

- Energy Efficiency Directive
- Renewable Energy Directive
- ETS Regulation
- Water Reuse Reg
- Nitrates Directive
- Soil health directive
- Sust. Use of Pesticides Reg.
- Sewage Sludge Dir



- Mercury Regulation
- PFAS Restrictions
- CLP Regulation

-  EurEau
- REACH Regulation
- RoHS Directive
- Environmental Liability Directive
- Taxonomy
- Microplastics rules
- Rules on tyres and textiles
- NIS2 Directive
- Critical Entities Resilience Directive
- Bathing Water Directive

- Important that Ireland and UÉ monitors water and environmental policy and legislative developments in Brussels
- Great advantages through our membership and participation within Eureau and Aqua Publica
- Having a presence in Brussels demonstrates UÉ is active and engaged in policy formulation
- Key objective is to ensure we can maximise the efficiency of our investment and to try to avoid costs that will not deliver sufficient returns
- More to consider than legislation....



Vision 2050 and the Water Services Strategic Plan 2050

Mark Conaty



Vision 2050 Introduction



- Insights from a cross sectoral perspective on the factors that will have the greatest impact on our future operating environment, as well as the shared desired outcomes which will deliver on our vision for the wider water sector.

“A sustainable Ireland where water is respected and protected, for the planet and all the lives it supports”

- For a copy of the reports please email vision2050@water.ie



Vision 2050

Visualizing our future



4 Key Questions:

- What might a good sectoral outcome look like?
- What could our operating ecosystem look like 2050 look like?
- What might influence this?
- What can we do about it?

3 Key Steps:

- Developed high-level desired outcomes for the water sector in 2050.
- Collaboratively developed 3 scenarios based on plausible futures.
- Identified shortlist of no-regret actions based on opportunities and challenges.

Using foresight to rethink our future



What is foresight?

Strategic foresight uses scenarios that visualise what different futures might look like allowing us to look at what may be possible in the longer term rather than constraining ourselves to current solutions and ensure better holistic longer-term outcomes.

Structured conversations about change



Our approach



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications



Óifig an Rialaitheora Pleanála
Office of the
Planning Regulator



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Aitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Collaborative approach to explore future uncertainty and how we might leverage the outputs of the exercise to improve our readiness for future challenges.

Desired outcomes (what good might look like)



With insight from stakeholders, we developed a set of desired outcomes for the water sector in Ireland in 2050



All citizens have access to trusted, safe and equitable water and wastewater services



The water sector enhances the environment and biodiversity



The water sector is a leader in climate adaptation and mitigation in Ireland



Society places a high value on water as a resource and service



Stakeholders work in partnership to maximise common benefits for Ireland



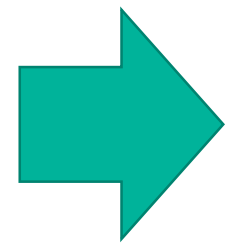
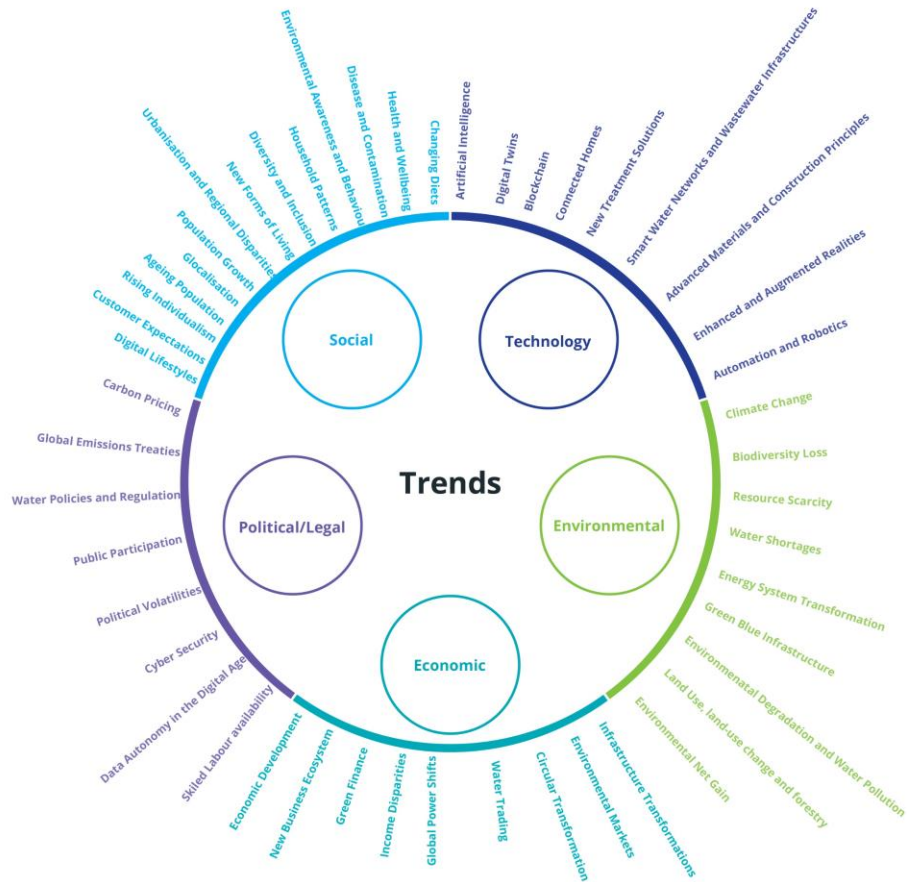
Water services enable and support economic prosperity in Ireland



Water network infrastructure and operations are efficient, secure, resilient, and adaptable

Trends

What are the key factors that will influence our future



- ### Critical Certainties
- Water policies and regulation
 - (Energy) system transformation
 - Skilled labour availability
 - Household patterns
 - Ageing infrastructure
 - Environmental degradation and pollution

- ### Critical Uncertainties
- Climate change
 - Funding availability and governance
 - Location of supply and demand
 - Circular economy
 - Sector/industry ecosystem
 - Digital and technology transformation

Scenarios, opportunities and challenges



Scenarios (what possible futures might look like)



Sunny Outlook



Storms Forecast



Cloudy with a chance of rain

Looking ahead to potential futures will enable identification of future opportunities and challenges and ensure our water services are delivered in a safe, resilient, efficient and sustainable manner into the long term.

Opportunities and Challenges (What we might do to influence future)



Collaboration and Influence



Resilience



Compliance with regulation and fitness for purpose



Net Zero carbon



Innovation and integrating new technologies



Data and Digital Technology



Blue-green infrastructure, nature-based solutions and catchment initiatives

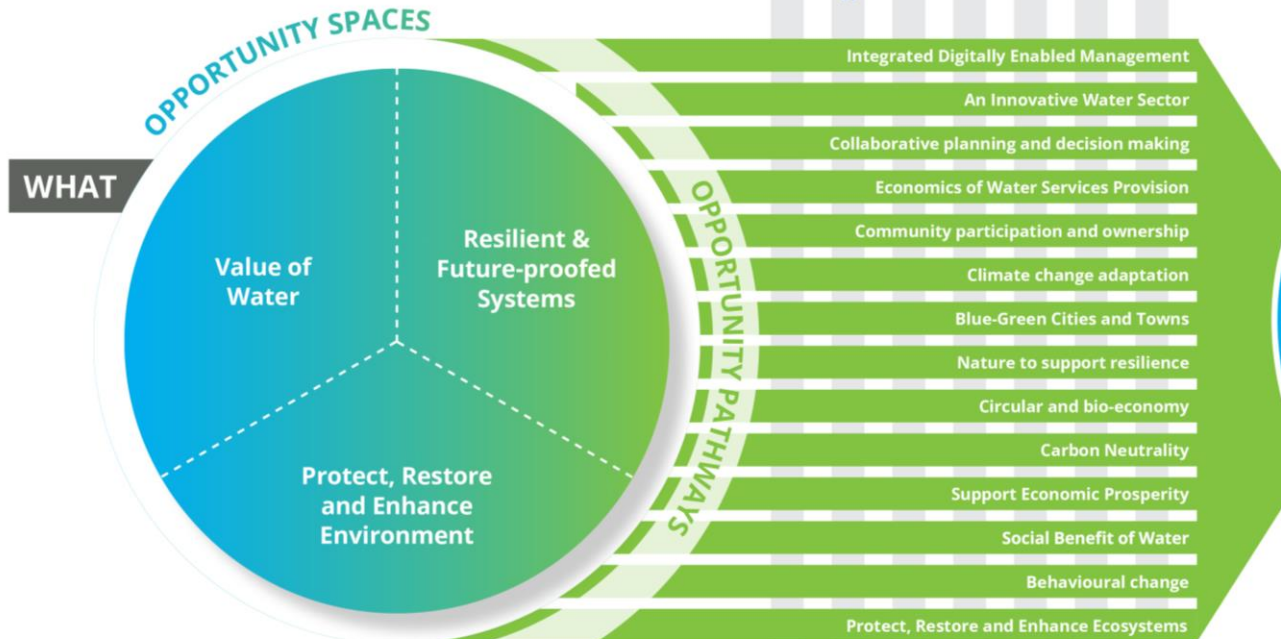
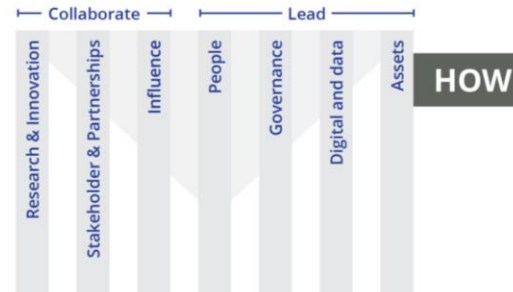


Demand on Water Resources and Services

Opportunity pathways and enablers



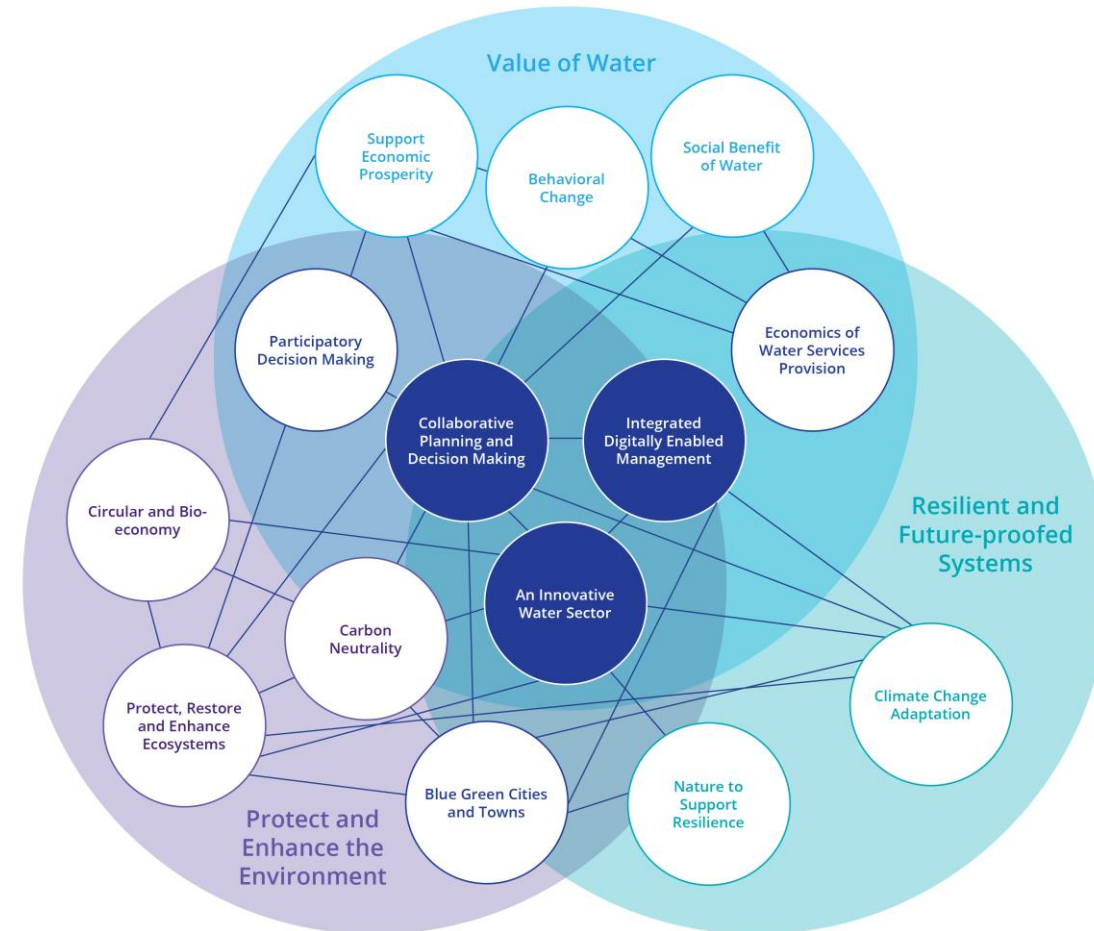
STRATEGIC ENABLERS



Key points



- Provision of water services cannot be considered in isolation from the wider operating environment.
- We operate in a highly interlinked and complex ecosystem that involves multiple stakeholders, policies, objectives and organisations.
- Opportunities and challenges can impact on multiple outcomes and stakeholders in different ways that we don't always fully understand.
- Plans need to deliver best holistic outcomes to maximise value delivered to society.
- Solutions and systems for delivering them need to be adaptable to future requirements and not anchored in the now.
- There are some clear no regret opportunities and enablers that we can commence to deliver now.





The Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 (WSSP 2050)

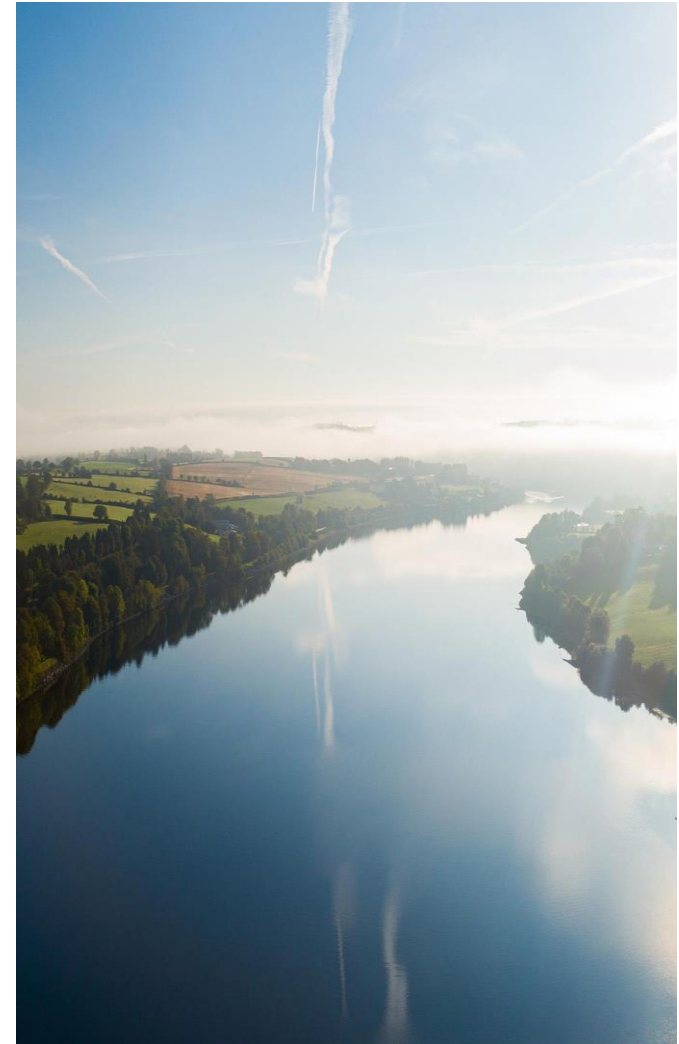


Purpose and intent for WSSP 2050



Intent:

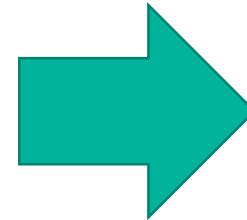
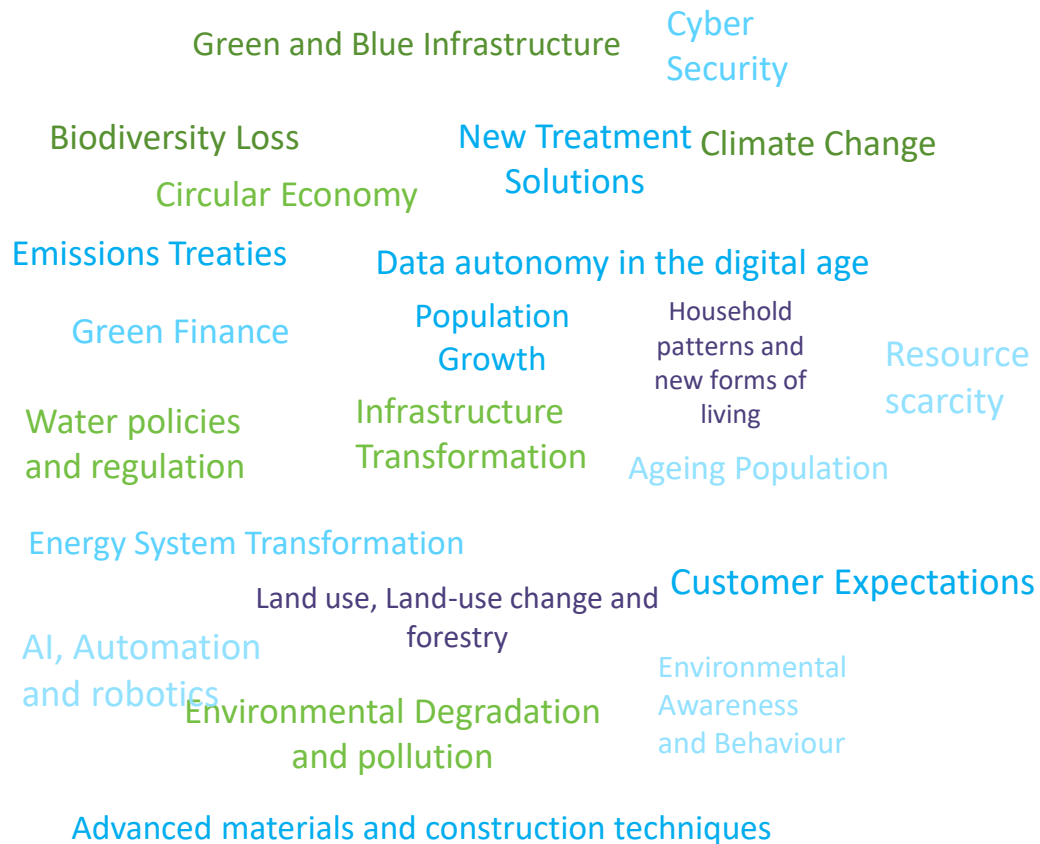
- Set out a direction of travel for the delivery of water and wastewater services in the longer term to 2050.
- State our objectives in relation to the provision of water services over the 25 year period.
- Provide a high-level strategic vision which connects with key stakeholders and the public.
- Support the current strategy direction in the short term to 2029 and provide necessary direction medium term to 2039 and longer term to 2050.



Using Vision 2050 to inform WSSP 2050



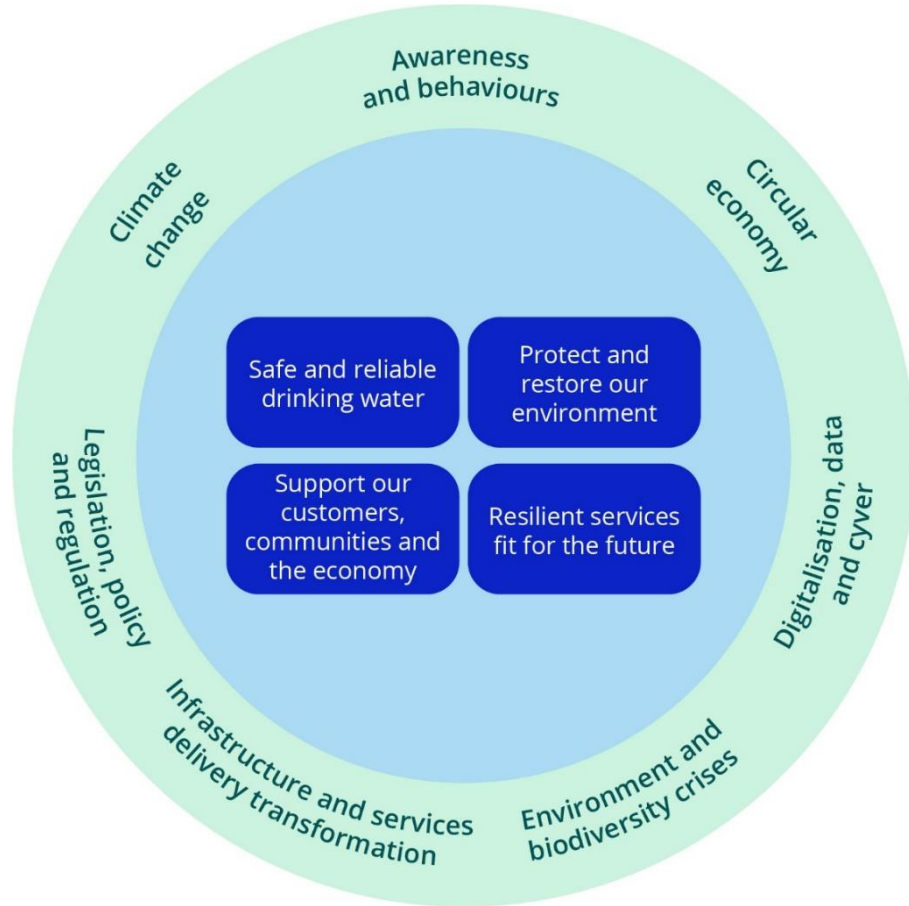
Vision 2050



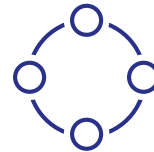
Defining Key Issues for WSSP 2050

1. Climate change
2. Awareness and behaviors
3. Circular economy
4. Digitalisation, data and cyber
5. Environment and biodiversity crises
6. Legislation, policy and regulation
7. Existing assets and new approaches to service delivery

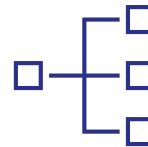
Potential Themes, Key Issues and Long-term Planning Approaches



Collaboration



Systems thinking

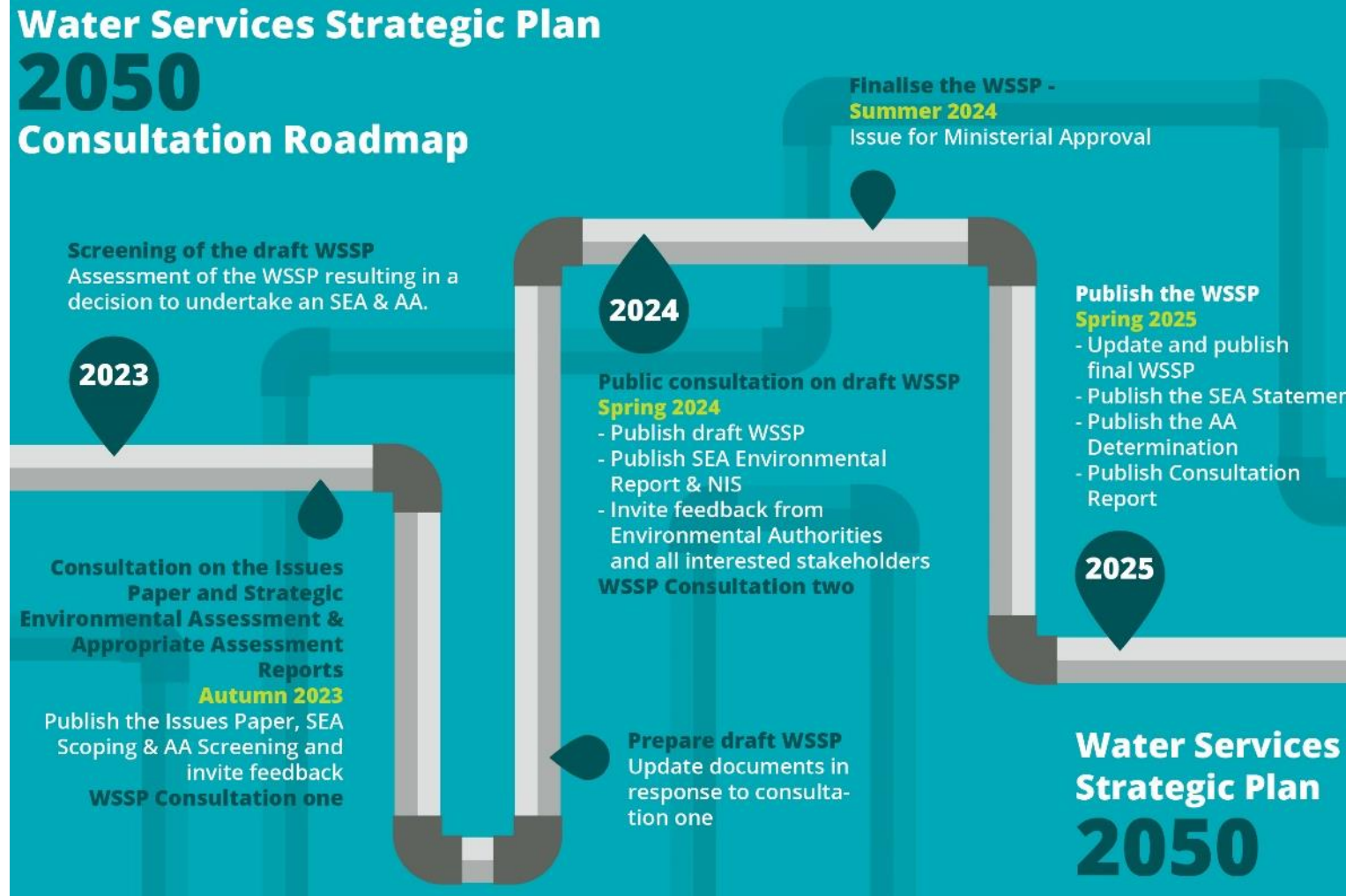


Adaptive planning

Potential themes

Key issues

Water Service Strategic Plan 2050 Roadmap





Thank you.

For further information or to get in contact
please email vision2050@water.ie or wssp@water.ie



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lanyard or go to [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) and enter the number #2557172**

Remember to enter the name of the person the question is addressed to



Networking\Exhibition & Coffee Break

We will resume at 11.45 am

Session 2- Developing Our Capability & Capacity

Chair Margaret Attridge, Head of Water Operations, Uisce Eireann

1st Asset Lifecycle Management

2nd Delivering the Capital Investment Programme

3rd Developing Our People & Capacity (Panel Discussion)

Q&A will be through Slido via QR Code on the back of your lanyard or go to [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) and enter the number #2557172

[Remember to enter the name of the person the question is addressed to](#)

