

Water Services Training Group - 21st Annual Conference

Progressing a Single Water Utility Approach

Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government

COMIUNUIGL AIND GOCAL GOBAINNENI

Session 1 :

Facilitating Economic and Social Development Needs

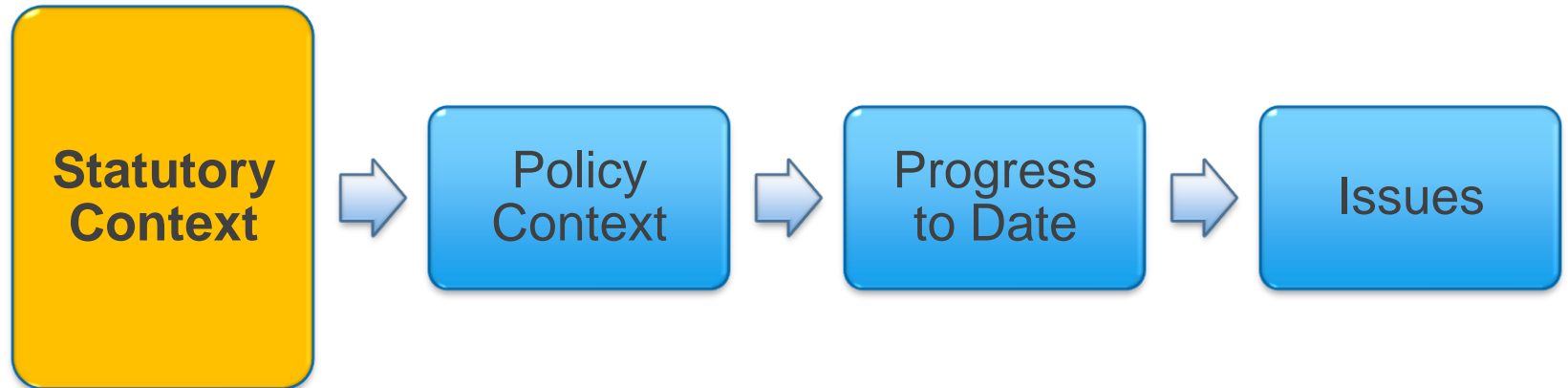
Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

*Joe MacGrath
Chief Executive
Tipperary County Council/
Chairman CCMA*



**An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil**
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs



Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Statutory Context

Water Services (No. 2) Act, 2013.

Irish Water to prepare a **Water Services Strategic Plan** (Section 33).

Irish Waters **Strategic Plan** linked with Spatial Planning by requiring Irish Water “to have regard to” :

- (i) proper planning and sustainable development
- (ii) housing strategies
- (iii) special amenity area orders
- (iv) strategic development zones
- (v) water quality management plans
- (vi) waste management plans

Section 33(5)

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Statutory Context

- Irish Water to make an ***Investment Plan*** which should “*take account of*” :
 - (a) Water Services Strategic Plan
 - (b) River Basin Management Plans
 - (c) Local Area Plans
 - (d) Regional Planning Guidelines
 - (e) Strategic Development Zones.

(Section 34)
- Before preparing an ***Investment Plan***, Irish Water is required to consult with:
 - (a) Environmental Protection Agency
 - (b) Regional Bodies
 - (c) Planning Authorities

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

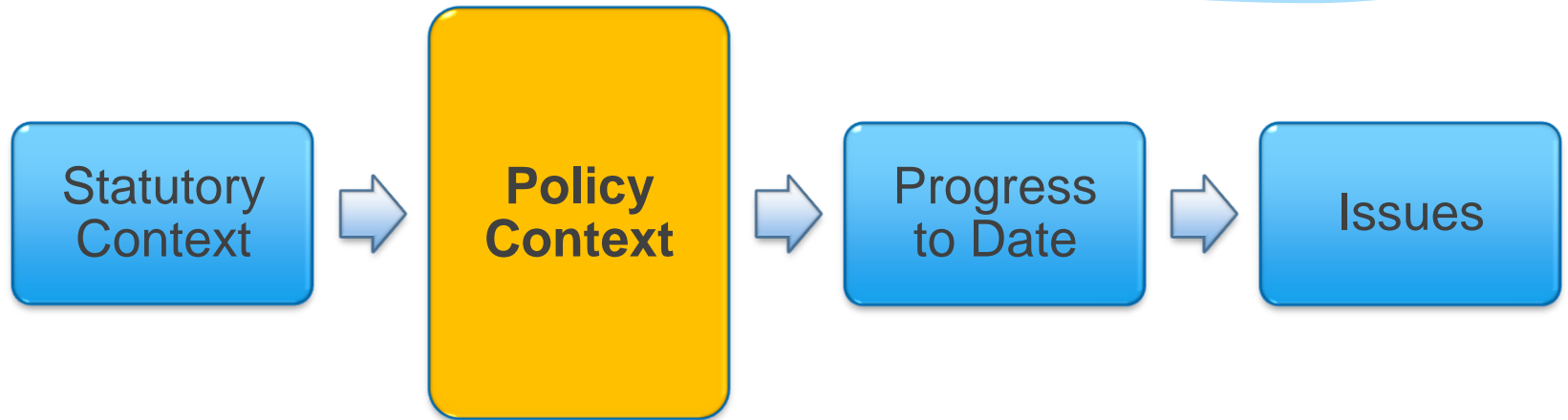
Statutory Context

Proposed Legislative Changes:

Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2016

- Section 7 establishes the National Planning Framework as the new name for the National Spatial Strategy.
- Section 11 amends Sections 48 and 49 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 to change the definition of “public infrastructure as it applies to development levies schemes removing water and waste water and replacing it with “Surface water sewers and flood relief and ancillary infrastructure”
- Section 15 contains a proposed amendment to Section 33 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 to provide that Irish Water, in preparing a Water Services Strategic Plan, shall have regard to proper planning and sustainable development in line with any Development Plans and, in particular, the core strategy of the Development Plan.

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs



Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Policy Context

National Planning Policy: National Spatial Strategy/National Planning Framework

Regional Planning Policy: Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies

Local Planning Policy: County/City Development Plans

but also.....

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Policy Context

..... driven by economic and environment policies at national and local level including:

Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness :

- annual level of residential construction to 25,000 units and delivery of 47,000 units of social housing in the period to 2021.

Programme for a Partnership Government, Enterprise 2025, Innovation 2020, Action Plan for Jobs 2017:

- Additional 200,000 jobs by 2020 with 45,000 additional jobs in 2017.

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Policy Context

- Our Sustainable Future, a Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland, 2012.
- National Climate Change Strategy.
- National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development 2014.
- National Mitigation Plan, 2017

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Policy Context

- Water Framework Directives/River Basin Management Plans
- Local Economic and Community Plans
- County/City Development Plans and Local Area Plans.

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Policy Context

Mid-term Review of the Capital Plan 'Building on Recovery':
Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016-2021`:

- Focus available capital resources on investment that can best underpin sustainable economic growth.
- Delivering quality infrastructure.

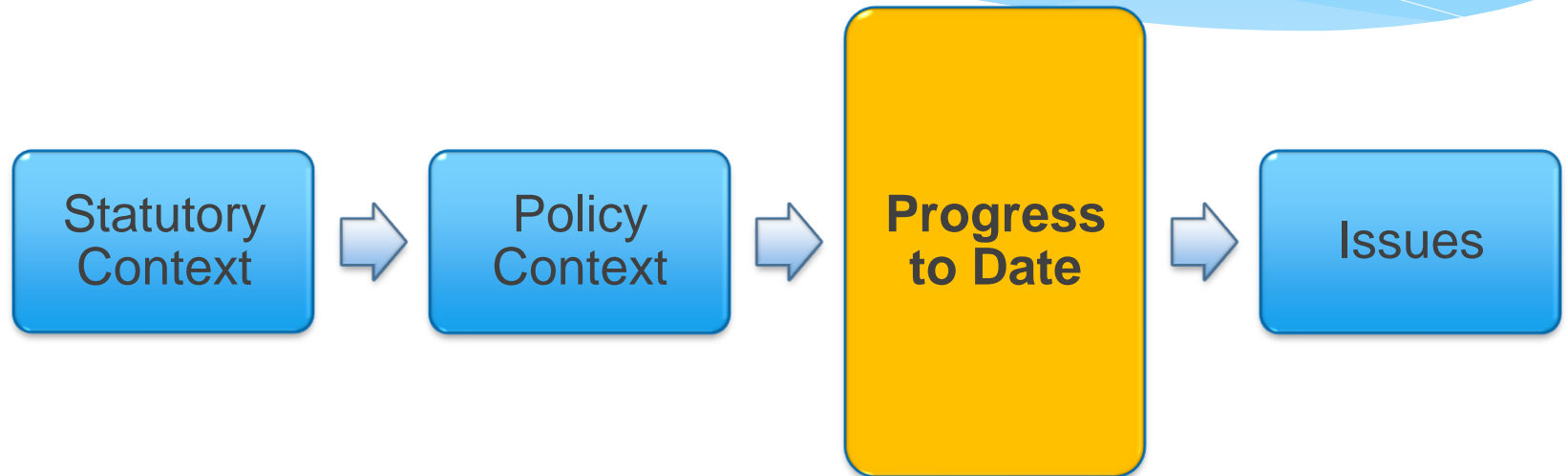
Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Policy Context

Ireland 2040 - Our Plan National Planning Framework

- New strategic planning and development framework for Ireland up to 2040.
- Plan for a further 1 million people, a doubling of the population over 65, and 550,000 additional households.
- Development of City Regions with some 2.5 million living in 6 cities and large towns, growing the regions but with specific targets for population and housing growth in smaller towns and villages.

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs



Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Progress To Date

Irish Water - Water Services Strategic Plan 2015:

.... delivery of appropriate infrastructure to meet required demand where and when its is needed is fundamental to supporting social and economic growth”.....

“ must assess where demands for water services are most likely to arise based on national and regional planning policies and plans together with population and economic growth predictions”.

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Progress To Date

Irish Water Investment Plan 2017-2021:

- Capacity upgrades at all wastewater treatment plants greater than 2,000PE capacity which are currently overloaded.....and substantially reduce the number of overloaded plants less than 2,000PE.
- Network extensions will be required to open up larger regionally significant strategic development areas in settlements.

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Progress To Date

Irish Water Business Plan : Transforming Water Services in Ireland to 2021.

Nine key deliverables including :

- Key deliverable 2: Implement a €5.5 billion capital investment programme.
- Key deliverable 9: Support economic growth in line with economic and spatial policy

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Progress To Date

Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (RBMP) (2018 -2021).

“..recognised the need for alignment and integration with the planning system in order to ensure effective water management and compatibility between planned growth and environmental stability.”

“... Following the adoption of the RBMP and completion of the NPF, DHPCLG will prepare high level guidance for planning authorities on the relationship between physical planning and river basin management planning. The guidance will provide a methodology for planning authorities to ensure that relevant plans and planning decisions are consistent with River Basin Management Plans and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Progress To Date

Forward Planning Approach to Network Extensions by Irish Water in conjunction with Local Authorities for Residential Development (2017).

- Sets out methodology and criteria to provide a decision-making process for Irish Water to prioritise investment decisions.
- Support the opening up of strategic development areas in settlements with a primary focus on housing including the potential to be used in conjunction with other funding mechanisms – Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

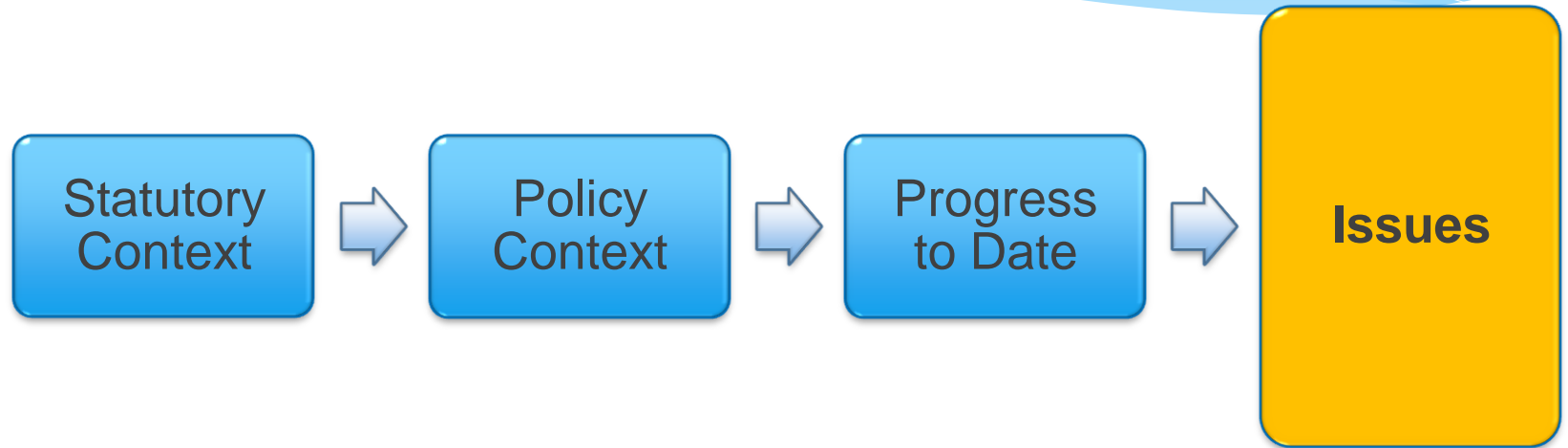
Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Progress To Date

Unfinished Estates/Taking in Charge

- Irish Water/Local Authority Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (2015) – relates to services that connect directly to public water/wastewater infrastructure but excludes stand alone developer provided water services infrastructure.
- Significant progress made with some 3,000 unfinished estates in 2010 reducing to approx 400 in 2017.

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs



Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Issues

As we progress towards a Single Water Utility:

- Addressing the challenge of the dichotomy between the planning role of the local authority and functions of Irish water.
- Strengthening the alignment between Planning and Environmental Policy and Irish Water Investment.
- Capacity for local authorities to address local need supported by local planning policy.

.....*supported by legislation, policy, guidance and finance*

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Issues

- Achieving the targets in the forthcoming National Planning Framework:
 - *Transition from legacy investment to long-term investment informed by planning policy.*
 - *Closer scrutiny of population projections used to inform future investment.*
- Compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive from approx 40% at present to 90% by end 2021 and 100% by 2040.
- Responsibility for stand alone developer provided infrastructure.

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Issues

- Addressing the needs of small rural towns and villages:
 - Future responsibility
 - Water/Waste Water Needs
 - Water Quality/Compliance with Water Framework Directive
 - Need for innovative solutions

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Issues

Funding:

- Water charges
- No provision in local authority budgets
- No capacity to raise funding through development levies or supplementary levy contribution schemes.
- CER assessment of new capital investment and cost impacts on customers.
- Capacity of Developers to fund new infrastructure.
- Major Projects e.g. proposed Eastern and Midlands Region Water Investment. Wastewater treatment capacity in Greater Dublin Area (GDA)

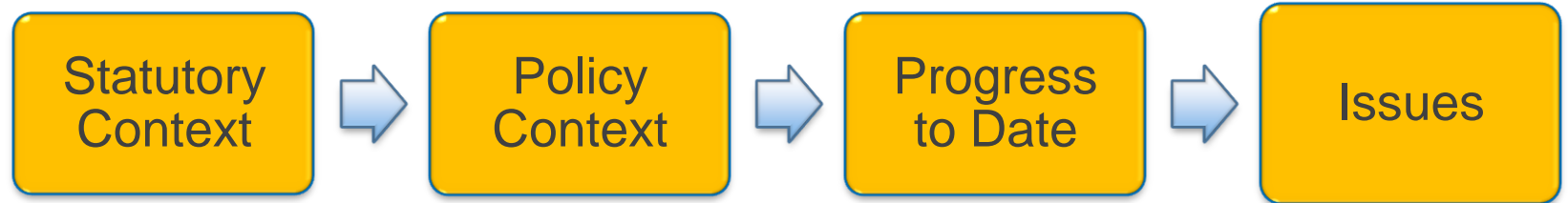
Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs

Issues

The Scottish Water Model:

- Strong customer focus based on:
 - Local authority action plans to support strategies in development plans in consultation with Scottish Water
 - Network Impact Assessments – impact on existing infrastructure of proposed new development.
 - Regional organisation.

Water Services Meeting Local Planning Needs



Water Services Training Group - 21st Annual Conference

Progressing a Single Water Utility Approach

Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government