

WATER SUPPLY PROJECT EASTERN AND MIDLANDS REGION

Briefing Note – Community Gain & Pipeline Corridor

NOTE: The details provided in this document are indicative figures and outcomes only and based on information available at this point in the assessment process. Further work will be undertaken in the coming months, including incorporating feedback from the consultation process, in order to determine the final position.

Irrespective of the eventual solution for the project, Community Gain is part of the planning process for Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). Since the Emerging Preferred Option (Parteen Basin) has the potential to give rise to the greatest breadth and variety of community gain it is being used for Community Gain illustrative and consultative purposes – this is in accordance with ‘best practice impact assessment’. The desalination option potentially benefits a much smaller area than Parteen.

Background

Over the past two years Irish Water has, through extensive research and two phases of public consultation, established that there is a need for a new source of water supply for the Eastern and Midlands Region of Ireland and identified four technically viable options for that new source.

A Preliminary Options Appraisal Report which details the extensive assessment process applied to those four potential options, three of which are located on the Shannon with the fourth being Desalination (Dublin), was published on 26 November 2015.

The report concludes that the assessment process has found two of the four options remain as potential solutions. They are abstraction of water from the lower Shannon at Parteen Basin in Tipperary or Desalination (Dublin). Of these two, the report identifies abstraction of water at Parteen Basin as Irish Water’s “emerging preferred option.”

The WSP project is currently undergoing rigorous environmental assessment (including comprehensive water quality modelling / monitoring of Lough Derg / Parteen Basin in order to simulate abstraction impacts under a wide range of representative climatic conditions). This continuing research and assessment needs to be done to ensure that all possible relevant factors are examined in reaching a final decision. As part of that process a 10 week period of public consultation on the ‘Preliminary Options Appraisal Report’ is now taking place and it concludes on 4 February 2016. Any considerations arising from that third consultation process will be evaluated as part of the determination of the final choice of scheme.

Emerging Preferred Option

The studies to date strongly suggest that the Parteen Basin option has the least environmental impact of all options under consideration for meeting future water supply needs in Irish Water’s Eastern and Midlands Region. It avails of existing state-owned hydro-power infrastructure which enables water abstraction within existing normal operating water levels and with no impact on

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statutory flow requirements in the Lower Shannon. Therefore this option would have very limited impact on the lake. Abstraction from hydro-power facilities is common practice worldwide for enabling sustainable availability of water for use by communities and industry. The scheme will use a small fraction (approximately 2%) of 'hydro-power' water to develop a new water source for 40 per cent of Ireland's population resident in the Eastern and Midlands Region. The abstracted water would otherwise have been used for power generation and then discharged to sea. The abstraction of water will result in a 2% reduction in hydro-power generation at Ardnacrusha.

Water Supplies (Mid-West & Midlands)

The proposed new scheme creates multiple opportunities to supply treated water to communities in the vicinity of Parteen Basin and along a route corridor from Parteen Basin to Dublin. Counties to be supplied include Clare, Tipperary, Offaly, Laois, Westmeath, Kildare, Meath and Dublin.

An Bord Pleanála

The planning application will involve a direct submission by Irish Water to An Bord Pleanála. The planning application will be supported by an Environment Impact Statement (EIS) and it will also include Water Abstraction Agreements and procedures for acquisition of land for pipeline wayleaves and sites. Planning consent will be subject to compliance with environmental law, compliance with all requirements of relevant statutory stakeholders and planning permission for the overall water supply scheme from An Bord Pleanála.

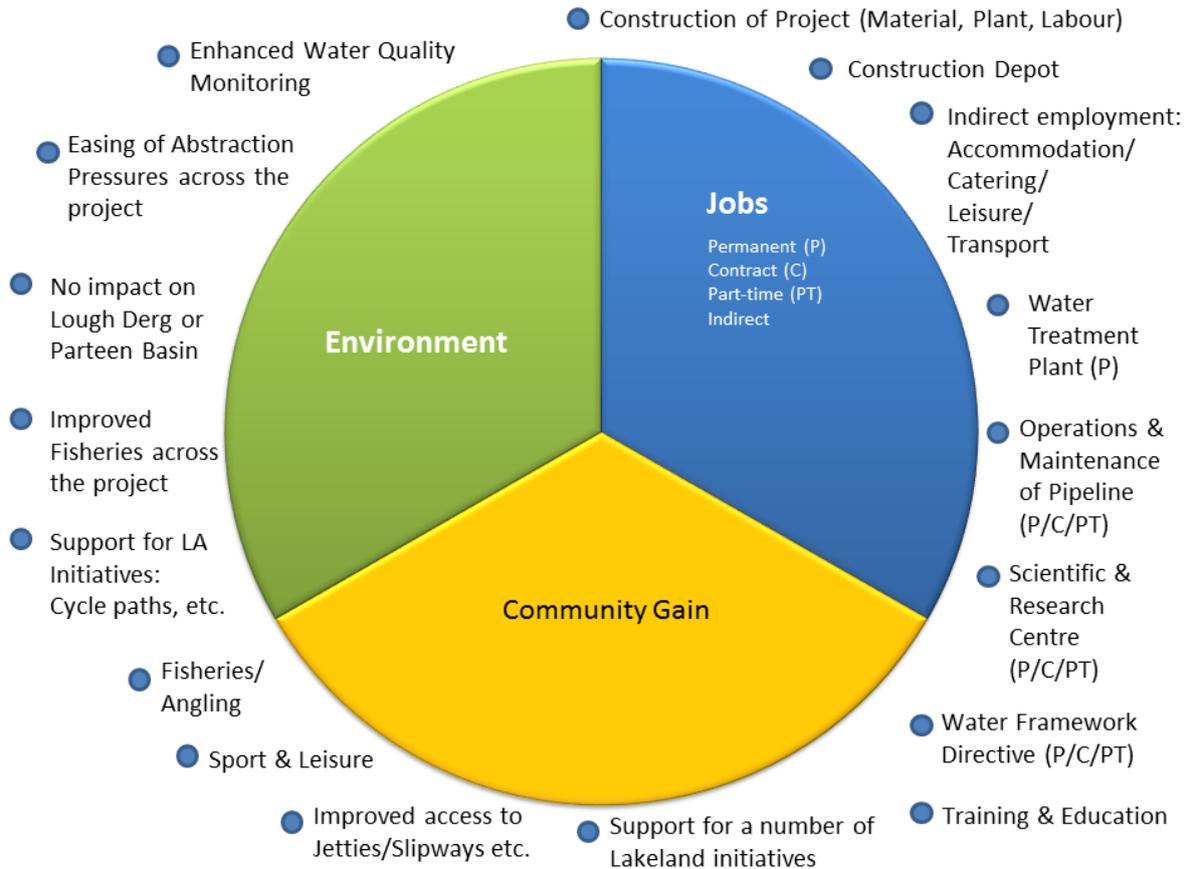
Community Benefit

In progressing a Planning Application under the Strategic Infrastructure Act, An Bord Pleanála, should they decide to grant permission, may specify conditions that provide for 'community gain'. This recognises the nature of this scheme as providing national benefit, with the potential for local impacts offset by 'community gain' measures. Meaningful 'community gain' is normally best developed in consultation with stakeholders, culminating in proposals developed in partnership with such stakeholders, and proactively submitted to An Bord Pleanála, and this is the approach which Irish Water propose to follow on WSP.

A water supply project from the Shannon to the Midlands and East would involve a transfer of water across catchment boundaries, and community benefit proposals being developed by Irish Water acknowledge this. The communities in the vicinity of the project share in the primary benefit of the proposed scheme which is the availability of secure and high quality water supplies to facilitate economic growth and employment creation. The primary benefits of WSP also extend to availability of secure and high quality water supplies in the Limerick / Ennis corridor, using opportunities to deploy excess capacity at the Clareville Water Treatment Plant together with the new proposed WSP Treatment Plant in Tipperary.

The following 'Pie-Chart' provides a high level overview of areas which would normally be targeted for Community Benefit and which Irish Water propose to pursue in their planning application with An Bord Pleanála.

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Preliminary Assessment of Community Benefit for WSP

This section looks at both the potential direct benefits of the project to the local economy but also examines potential complementary activities which could be incorporated into the project in order to enhance local social, economic and environmental benefit for the Lower Shannon Region at Parteen & Lough Derg. Such benefits would largely be realised by creation of a 'Community Benefit Fund' associated with the project.

On the assumption that Irish Water's current 'emerging preferred option' is also the 'final preferred option' to be brought successfully into and through the planning process, then Capital Spending on Labour (Job Creation), Plant and Materials would typically be anticipated as outlined in Table 1 below.

WSP Construction Phase

Based on an estimated Capital Spend of €700m - €800m over a 4 year period and making due allowances for potential Plant, Labour and Material sourced 'Outside Ireland', typical high level

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estimates of 'spend per county' or 'spend per region' associated with the 'Construction Phase' of the WSP Project, based on similar engineering projects, would be as outlined below in Table 1.

Table 1

County / Region	Capital Spend per 'County'	Construction Jobs Labour (Peak)	Construction Plant*	Construction Material	Indirect Jobs
Limerick & Clare	€57m	112 (€23m)	€17m	€17m	Accommodation Catering Leisure Transport etc.
Tipperary	€124m	247 (€38m)	€28m	€58m	
Midlands	€117m	233 (€53m)	€22m	€42m	
Kildare & Dublin	€133m	264 (€38m)	€45m	€50m	
Rest of Ireland	€73m	170 (€30m)	€24m	€19m	
Total (rounded)	€504m	1026 (€182m)	€136m	€186m	

*Excavators, bulldozers, cranes, trucks, compressors, welding equipment etc

WSP Operational Phase

Additional jobs associated with Pipeline Operation & Maintenance Activities and a 'Data & Scientific Centre' co-located near the proposed abstraction facility in Co Tipperary are as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2

Activity	Permanent	Contract / Part-Time
Water Treatment Plant	15	5
Pipeline Operations & Maintenance Centre	3	50
Data, Research & Scientific Centre / WFD	3	25
Total	21	80

Community Benefit Fund

A typical Community Benefit Fund would involve:

- A 'Once-Off' Lump-Sum payment (normally based on a percentage of the Capital Expenditure)
In this regard every percentage point would be the equivalent of €7m-€8m of funding.
- A 'Variable' Annual Payment based on some measureable variable component of the scheme
e.g. a payment could be linked to water throughput. In this regard, every cent per cubic metre would be approximately equivalent to €1m per annum at full water throughput.

The disbursement of the initial once-off lump sum (and disbursement in future years) would normally be targeted at relevant 'community related' areas of which the following appear worth considering in the context of the WSP project:

Tourism

- Support for '**Lakelands**' Projects on Lower Shannon e.g.
 - Support for Branding / Awareness Creation
 - Hiking-trail & cycle path furnishings / enhancements, Jetties
- Support for '**Lakelands**' Interpretive Centre (Lough Derg)
 - Raising Awareness / Promotion (Location / Attraction)
 - Educational (Interpretive)

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- Protection (Environmentally fragile Locations)
- Angling is worth €0.75bn annually to the Irish economy, and sustains 10,000 rural jobs. Potential enhancement of fisheries amenities on the Shannon, in partnership with other relevant statutory authorities and fisheries bodies (ESB / Inland Fisheries Ireland / Local Clubs) Fishery improvement works along pipeline route (river & stream crossings)
- Navigation – transparent availability of water level data in real-time
- Water Safety Measures

Environmental

- The good ecological status of Lough Derg is a top priority, and independence of monitoring helps to build trust. A Scientific & Research Centre on L Derg with transparent availability of water quality and abstraction data, brings water supply from Parteen under public scrutiny of schools, anglers, navigation, tourism and graduate researchers, and protects the resource that underpins the tourism economy on Lough Derg
- Measures to limit construction impacts by keeping plant off roads as far as possible and improving rural roads (following their use as 'haulage routes')
- Support for local authority environmental initiatives / projects such as refurbishment or expansion of facilities such as greenways, walkways, cycle paths

Sport and Leisure

- Support for improved water access with jetties /slipways
- Support for improvement of existing and development of new water sports facilities
- Support for schools, playgrounds, sporting complexes, and community halls/centres

Training and Education

- Support for sponsorship and organising relevant courses to up-skill welders, skilled workers and other occupations needed for construction of pipeline and other on-going work.
- Support to 3rd level water research programmes on Lough Derg allied to the WFD Centre
- Liaison with University of Limerick and Institute of Technology bodies to ensure appropriate up-skilling support
- Work with local businesses to help them identify their training needs and provision of support with access to suitable training.
- Work with Local Authorities to provide support for other relevant training and educational support schemes.

Disbursement of Community Benefit Funds among the targeted areas could typically expect to be apportioned as per Table 3.

Table 3

Benefiting Sector	Anticipated % Allocation
Tourism	20%
Sport & Leisure	15%
Training & Education	15%
Environmental	30%
Other 'Initiatives'	20%

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Additional benefits

In addition to examples outlined above, the proposed Water Supply Scheme has the potential for generating further economic benefits resulting from:

- New Industry potentially locating in the Region resulting from availability of new Water Infrastructure e.g.
 - **Agri-Food**

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is currently preparing a national strategy for the Agri-Food Sector up to 2025 which will outline the key actions required to ensure that the agri-food sector (primary agriculture, the food and beverage industry, forestry and forestry processing) maximises its contribution to overall economic growth, job creation and environmental sustainability over the coming decade and builds upon the progress achieved under Food Harvest 2020 – availability of secure, resilient water supplies are essential for achieving these goals
 - **Information Communications Technology (ICT)**

Ireland's ICT sector is world-renowned and continues to grow. Nine of the world's top 10 ICT companies are located here and the IDA supports over 200 firms. The industry employs over 37,000 people and generates €35 billion in exports annually. The ICT Sector comprises 'water-intensive' industries which are reliant on secure, resilient water supplies into the foreseeable future
 - **Pharma**

Ireland is home to a highly successful pharmaceutical industry, attracting businesses from overseas as well as supporting local enterprises. The industry has performed impressively over the last few years (despite economic slow-down);

 - ✓ 9 out of 10 of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies have a presence in Ireland with 120 overseas companies having plants here
 - ✓ The sector employs over 25 000 people directly with a further 25 000 people employed in providing services to it
 - ✓ 50% of all Ireland's exports are now pharmaceutical and within the EU, Ireland is the largest net exporter of pharmaceuticals.
 - ✓ The pharma sector is reliant on continuous secure & resilient water supplies.

PIPELINE CORRIDORS – LANDOWNER CONSIDERATIONS

Who do I contact if my land is under the 'red line' shown on the maps of the pipeline route options?

The current red line, outlined on relevant pipeline route maps, identifies a 2km wide least constrained route corridor. Feedback from the Preliminary Options Appraisal Report and further detailed assessment will be required to define a 200m wide envelope which will be included in the Final Options Appraisal Report, anticipated to be published for public consultation in mid 2016. Should you wish to make any observations on the Preliminary Options Appraisal Report please email: watersupply@water.ie or telephone 1890 252 848.

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What happens next?

In spring 2016 Irish Water's Landowner Liaison Officers will begin to make contact with Landowners within the 2km least constrained route corridor to verify land ownership details or arrange walkover surveys required to identify the 200m wide preferred pipeline corridor envelope.

Will my land be surveyed?

If your land is within the 2km corridor, there is a possibility that 'environmental walk-over surveys' or 'ground investigations' may be required on your property. Irish Water's Landowner Liaison Officers will explain the arrangements which will apply and seek your consent for them.

What issues are taken into account in determining the pipeline route?

The 2km wide least constrained pipeline route corridor has been positioned to avoid as far as possible, the major constraints such as population settlements, designated environmental areas, cultural heritage areas etc. In positioning a pipeline route within this corridor, factors such as the hydraulic profile of the pipeline, avoidance of impact on non-designated but important habitat, and available space near existing residential and other development are also taken into account. The position of the pipeline and chambers within land holdings is also considered for least impact on land use and potential.

Will my issues be taken in to account?

In routing a pipeline within a 200m envelope, before finally fixing on a construction wayleave of approx. 50m in width, issues raised by landowners will be taken into account, as far as practicable and in a collective way, in final positioning of the pipeline. [Note – issues may also be raised through the public consultation process].

If my land is along the final route what happens next?

The Final Options Appraisal Report is anticipated for publication in mid-2016. This will identify a 200m wide preferred route envelope. Any Landowner affected by the route will have the opportunity to participate fully in the public consultation process at that time.

What is the permanent wayleave and temporary working width?

The permanent wayleave, within which the pipeline will be laid, will be registered as a permanent 'burden on title' on the land. The temporary working width is required to facilitate the laying of the pipeline during the construction period only. Both the permanent wayleave and the temporary working width will be fully reinstated post construction.

Will I be able to develop the land?

Development of buildings or structures within the permanent wayleave will be restricted for the protection of the pipeline and to facilitate access for future maintenance purposes. Landowners will be required to ensure that nothing is deposited over the pipeline that could interfere with access and to ensure that the depth of soil cover afforded to the pipeline is not materially altered.

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Will I be able to use the land for farming?

Normal agricultural operations can resume once reinstatement has been completed including fencing, hedging and ditching not causing interference or obstruction to the pipeline or material reduction of the depth of soil.

Are there any restrictions?

In addition to the restrictions on development outlined above there will be restrictions on the planting of some trees and height of shrubs within the permanent wayleave.

Will I be compensated?

Landowners will be compensated for the permanent wayleave and for any crop losses and/or disturbance incurred during construction.

How is the compensation determined?

It is anticipated that a wayleave package including a Code of Practice and financial compensation measures (including 'burden on title', crop loss and disturbance payments) will be agreed with landowner representatives, which will then be offered to landowners for their acceptance on a voluntary basis.

Has this methodology been used on another project before?

Ervia (formerly Bord Gáis Éireann) has been using this approach for wayleave acquisition on its natural gas transmission pipeline projects for the past 35 years and the approach is, at this stage, very well understood by the farming community.

Current options subject to public consultation until 4th February 2016

The Water Supply Project is now undergoing rigorous environmental assessments to ensure that all possible relevant factors are examined in reaching a final decision on the best option. A 10 week period of public consultation on the 'Preliminary Options Appraisal Report' has started and concludes on 4 February 2016. Feedback from this third round of public consultation, in combination with 'on the ground' environmental assessments, will be considered as part of the determination of the Final Option for a new water supply for the Eastern and Midlands Region. Copies of the Preliminary Options Appraisal Report for the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region can be downloaded from the project website www.watersupplyproject.ie. The site also provides FAQ's, covering a wide range of project related topics (including community gain, landowner engagement proposals and codes of practice for operations on land), as well as details on the previous phases of this project.

For media queries please contact the Irish Water press office on 087 145 8896 or email press@water.ie

ENDS

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