Irish Water launches the second public consultation phase for the Proposed Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region (WSP). Four water supply options are now being considered and feedback is being sought in relation to the proposed Constraints and Assessment Criteria which are being used to select an ‘Emerging Preferred Option’.

In January 2014, Irish Water assumed responsibility for the provision of public water services from 34 local authorities. This included the transfer of responsibility for the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region (WSP) from Dublin City Council who managed the project on behalf of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government since 2004.

When responsibility for the project was with Dublin City Council, the project was known as the Water Supply Project – Dublin Region. However, the transfer of water services functions to Irish Water has opened a unique opportunity to take a strategic view of providing water services at a national level and as a result the project has now been referenced to the three regions within which Irish Water operates. Therefore the project is now known as the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region (WSP). The project is currently in the planning phase.

Irish Water has a National remit and therefore wants to find the best option for the delivery of resilient, sustainable water supplies for communities throughout the Eastern and Midlands Region and not just in the Eastern Region which had been the principal focus of previous studies.

What is happening now?
The 8 week consultation process on the Need is now complete, and feedback from this consultation is reported on within the Options Working Paper. The Options Working Paper (published June 2015) confirms four technically viable options as appropriate for further consideration in the formal planning process (see page 3 for more information). These options are:

- Desalination (Irish Sea)
- Lough Derg (Direct)
- Lough Derg (With storage)
- Parteen Basin (Direct)

All of these options are being considered on an equal footing and no decision has been made to date. Irish Water are now consulting on how they propose to identify an ‘Emerging Preferred Option’ from the four confirmed options above.

In order to begin the process of identifying an ‘Emerging Preferred Option’, Irish Water has identified a range of ‘Constraints’ that need to be considered and also ‘Assessment Criteria’ which will enable decisions to be made for narrowing down options in the next phase of the project.

How can I get involved?
Public participation and consultation forms a key part of the decision making process being undertaken by Irish Water. Consequently, Irish Water would like your feedback on the Constraints and Assessment Criteria that will be used to Identify an emerging preferred option from the four technically viable options being considered. The consultation is focussed on the selection process in order that the feedback can be considered in the next phase of the project. The public consultation process begins on 9th June 2015 and will conclude on 4th August 2015.

Everyone is welcome to give their views and all submissions and feedback from the public will be reviewed and fully considered by the Project Team in the next stage of the process.
**PROJECT ROAD MAP WSP* CONSULTATION**

1. **NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION**
   - **PROJECT NEED REPORT**
     - Including presentation of roadmap
     - March 2015
   - **SUPPORTING STUDIES**
     - DEMOGRAPHICS, WATER DEMAND & ECONOMICS

2. **OPTIONS WORKING PAPER**
   - June 2015
   - **DESKTOP STUDIES**
     - ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL

3. **PRELIMINARY OPTIONS APPRAISAL REPORT**
   - **ENVIROMENTAL & ENGINEERING STUDIES**
     - LANDOWNER LIAISON

4. **FINAL OPTIONS APPRAISAL REPORT**
   - **ENVIROMENTAL & ENGINEERING STUDIES**
     - LANDOWNER LIAISON

5. **EIS / NIS SCOPING**
   - **ENVIROMENTAL STUDIES**
     - LANDOWNER LIAISON

6. **SUBMIT TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA**
   - **EIS / NIS**

7. **STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN BY AN BORD PLEANÁLA**
   - **PLANNING APPLICATION**
   - **WATER ABSTRACTION ORDER**
   - **WAYLEAVES & SITES**

---

**KEY**
- Reports & Publications
- Public Participation
- Studies & Research
- Where we are now

*Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region. This roadmap will be updated on regular basis.*
Constraints

What are the constraints being examined?

A Constraint is a limiting factor on site selection for locating (water supply) infrastructure. Typical constraints would include human settlements, environmental (Designated Areas etc.) or technical / physical factors (mountains / rivers / lakes etc.). The location of infrastructure sites and pipeline routes is determined primarily though the avoidance of impacts on these constraints. This method plays a key role in minimising potential environmental impacts arising from development. This approach involves the preparation of a constraints map which identifies the areas to be avoided where possible. Where this is not possible, minimisation of impact through design will be employed. Further information on the constraints can be found at: www.watersupplyproject.ie

Constraints which have been identified to date include, but are not limited to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ecology</th>
<th>European designated sites which include SPAs, SACs, Annex 1 Habitats (i.e. habitats that fall outside the SAC designations) and RAMSAR sites; National designated sites which include NHAs and pNHAs; Local Authority designations which include Tree Preservation Orders.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>National Monuments, archaeological sites as identified in the Record of Monuments and places (RMP); structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures in each county development plan; Architectural Conservation Areas and candidate Architectural Conservation Areas as identified under each county development plan; National inventory of Architectural Heritage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>Geological Heritage Sites and Regionally Important Aquifers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Protected water bodies which include Salmonid Waters; designated shellfish-waters; water dependant habitats which include SACs, SPAs and NHAs; recreational waters which include designated bathing waters; designated nutrient sensitive waters, public water sources and flood risk zones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape</td>
<td>Highly Sensitive Landscapes and Certain Landscape Types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitive Receptors</td>
<td>Sensitive receptors which include resident hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, education facilities, childcare facilities, historical sites / buildings, museums and gardens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Environmental & Socio-economic Criteria
- Biodiversity,
- Flora and Fauna;
- Fisheries; Water;
- Air / Climactic Factors;
- Material Assets (Energy);
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape and Visual;
- Material Assets (Land use);
- Tourism;
- Population;
- Human Health;
- Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology.

Technical and Risk Criteria
- Safety
- Planning policy
- Engineering and design
- Capital and operational costs
- Sustainability
- Risk

What is Irish Water asking for feedback on?

We would like to hear your opinion on the following:

1. What other national, regional or locally important Constraints should Irish Water take into account when locating the infrastructure associated with each water supply option?
2. Have you any comments on the proposed Constraints and the approach to their use?
3. Are there any Assessment Criteria other than those proposed which should be used in the next phase of options appraisal?
4. How would you like to be communicated with, as the project progresses?

Where do I send my Submission?

Submissions on the Water Supply Option Working Paper can be sent either by email to watersupply@water.ie or by post to Water Supply Project, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4.

Closing dates for receipt of submissions is 4th August 2015.
What Does the Options Working Paper Say?

The Options Working Paper contains an independent review of all previous studies undertaken on providing a new source of water supply for Dublin and other parts of the Eastern and Midlands Region.

Between 2007 and 2011, ten new water supply options for meeting projected growth in water demand in the East and Midlands of Ireland were evaluated at a ‘high’ level as part of a legal process called Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Out of the ten Water Supply Options evaluated at this ‘high level,’ four were identified as technically viable options.

These four Options have now been independently validated by Irish Water and have been found to remain appropriate to be brought forward for further consideration in the planning process. All four technically viable options are being considered on an equal footing and no decision on a preferred option has been made to date.

Further relevant public input, via this consultation process, in combination with ‘on the ground’ investigations, will form a key part of the ‘Emerging Preferred Option’ selection process. Irish Water is now looking in detail at the four options in terms of Constraints or limiting factors which apply to defining each option (e.g. location of treatment plants and pipelines) and are setting out the Assessment Criteria which will be used in further options appraisals and in evaluating options relative to each other.

How can you take part?

Following publication of the Water Supply Options Working Paper on 9th June, Irish Water is now undertaking an 8 week public consultation process where you can have your say. This consultation will conclude on 4th August 2015.

Feedback from this consultation process will be obtained through a combination of stakeholder meetings and invitation to all interested parties to contribute, either by email to: watersupply@water.ie or by post to Water Supply Project, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4.

The Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region, Water Supply Options Working Paper is available to view in County Libraries and at Local Authority Planning Counters within the project study area* and can be downloaded at www.watersupplyproject.ie

* the project study area includes Counties; Clare, Dublin (including Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin) Kildare, Galway, Laois, Limerick, Meath, Offaly, Tipperary, Westmeath and Wicklow.

Contact Us

Should you have any questions or queries about this project, wish to request hard copies of any of the publications mentioned in this newsletter or wish to be included on a mailing list for project updates, please do contact us using the details below.

Water Supply Project
Merrion House
Merrion Road
Dublin 4

Telephone: 1890 252 848
Email: watersupply@water.ie

An Irish version of this newsletter is available to you if you prefer. Please contact us and we can send one to you, or alternatively you can download it from the website at www.watersupplyproject.ie

Más mian leat cóip den leabhrán seo a fháil as Gaeilge, déan teagmháil leis an linn ar uimhir thuaslaithe.