

June 2018



Greater Dublin Drainage

Community Benefits Scheme



Greater Dublin Drainage - Community Benefits Scheme

Overview

Irish Water is the national utility responsible for the delivery of Ireland's water and wastewater infrastructure and services. Corporate responsibility is an important part of how we deliver our business. Our corporate responsibility initiatives underpin our commitment to enhancing the health and quality of life of the people of Ireland, protecting our environment and enabling economic and social development.

If planning permission is granted, the Greater Dublin Drainage project will be the largest wastewater treatment advancement in Ireland for many years. Once operational from 2026, the GDD project will have the capacity to provide long-term wastewater treatment for the equivalent of half a million people in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA).

The delivery of the GDD project is a key strategic investment priority under the National Planning Framework (Project Ireland 2040), the National Development Plan 2018-2027, Regional Planning Guidelines, and the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.

The GDD project will underpin the sustainable growth of the Dublin region to 2050 forming a vital part of the primary infrastructure network that is essential to enable residential, commercial and public development. The project will bring significant, lasting benefits for the environment, for public health and for the economic and social growth through providing the wastewater treatment capacity that the region needs to support its growth.

GDD will protect and enhance Dublin's water quality for all. The project is necessary to achieve compliance with the Water Framework Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and other relevant EU and national regulations related to water quality.

In addition to the many inherent benefits, Irish Water recognises that major infrastructural projects provide opportunities for associated benefits to accrue locally during construction and in operation.

We have researched and developed this community benefits scheme for the Greater Dublin Drainage project in order to leverage and maximise these benefits for the communities in proximity to the proposed project.¹ The scheme aims to build positive, lasting relationships and goodwill with neighbouring communities.

Background to the GDD Community Benefits Scheme

A research and engagement process was undertaken to inform the development of the community benefits scheme for the Greater Dublin Drainage project.

Public Consultation Feedback on Community Benefits

During the consultations and engagement undertaken from 2011-2018, the project team invited feedback and ideas from community stakeholders on the type of benefits that could be delivered as part of the GDD project.

Feedback, as provided by members of the public and organisations, suggested that appreciable community benefits should form part of the GDD project and that benefits should be targeted to areas in proximity to the proposed infrastructure.

Employment opportunities for the local community and the economic benefits that could accrue as a result of the GDD project were cited most often by stakeholders. Recreational facilities and activities for young people were also cited as a benefit that would be welcomed by the local community. Some feedback as provided suggested that community benefits should go beyond the construction phase of the project.

A number of submissions received during the public consultation also highlighted a perceived issue of “overburdening” and raised concerns about potential impacts for community and businesses as a result of locating the proposed GDD facility at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh). Some consultees cited a perceived “unfairness” associated with Clonshagh (Clonshaugh) hosting a large regional facility which treats wastewater from the wider Dublin region.

¹ Impacted landowners are engaged with separately through the CPO process.

The project team considered all of the feedback provided and, in 2015, decided to undertake a research project to inform the development of a community benefits scheme for the GDD project.

GDD Community Needs Analysis Study

Irish Water commissioned RPS to undertake a Community Needs Analysis Study for the Greater Dublin Drainage project area. Adopting a methodology similar to that of social impact assessment, the research team conducted a socio-economic and demographic baseline analysis for the GDD project area using all available demographic and economic data.² This was followed by a community infrastructure audit. Finally, opportunities for community benefits were identified and the process for developing the scheme was set out.

In summary, the socio-economic and demographic baseline analysis found that:

- Fingal has the youngest population and the fastest rate of population growth in the Dublin area. This trend looks set to continue for the foreseeable future. The population of the Balgriffin Electoral District (i.e. the proposed location for the new treatment plant) increased by 58.3% between 2011 and 2016 to 3,131 persons;
- Unemployment was found to be as a key issue in particular areas within the GDD project area – including in areas in proximity to the treatment plant site to the south of the R139 at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh), Darndale, Priorswood and Belcamp – with some areas experiencing levels of unemployment that are significantly higher than the national average;
- Educational disadvantage, in terms of access, progression and attainment, was identified as a key issue in particular areas within the GDD project area. School retention rates for primary, second and third level are significantly lower than the national averages in some areas in proximity to the treatment plant site; and
- All of the areas along the orbital pipeline route are above average in terms of the key socio-economic indicators.

A community infrastructure audit was then undertaken to identify, map and analyse existing community amenities and services within the GDD project area. The objective was to understand whether a deficit existed in any particular area and to identify any potential opportunities for new or enhanced amenities or services.

² Data sources included: Census 2016 & 2011 (CSO); Pobal Maps 2016; OSi and online mapping resources; Fingal Demographic & Socio-Economic Profile; Dublin City Socio-Economic Profile Indicator Catalogue; Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023; Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017 and Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022; GDD EIAR Vol 3 of 6: Main Report: Population and Human Health Chapter.

The research team audited:

- Parks, Playgrounds, Sports and Recreation Amenities;
- Social and Community Services;
- Workplace Training and Employment Support Services;
- Education; and
- Healthcare Facilities.

In summary, the community infrastructure audit found that:

- A comprehensive range of public and private sports and recreation facilities were identified within the project area and the research team considered that these provide the opportunity for people to participate in their sport(s) of choice;
- Velvet Strand, Portmarnock and the coastal area from Howth – Malahide was noted as a major amenity in the vicinity of the proposed GDD marine outfall and is frequented all year round by the local population and by visitors during the tourist seasons;
- At the time of the study, no municipal parks, community gardens, or community centres were identified within the Balgriffin local electoral area despite its rapidly increasing population. The study team considered that this could be a temporary deficit given a number of extant planning applications and there are a number of large parks adjoining this electoral area (e.g. Darndale Park, Belcamp Park and Father Collins Park);
- A range of social, community and environmental organisations are located in the project area and serve areas in proximity to the proposed GDD wastewater treatment plant which are designated as disadvantaged. These organisations are working to enhance quality of life and to improve the local environment;
- State and voluntary organisations within the project area are working to address employment, education and social inclusion issues. These include a number of partnership organisations in Fingal and Dublin City which are working at the local level to support long-term unemployed people returning to work. There are also a number of youth-focused services which provide skills training and other supports for early school leavers; and
- A higher than average proportion (66%) of the primary and second level schools in the GDD project area are part of the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme.

As part of the study, engagement was undertaken with Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council and other relevant stakeholders in order to inform the development of this community benefits scheme.

The GDD Community Needs Analysis Study is available on the GDD project website at <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/project-reports/>

GDD Community Benefits Scheme

Irish Water has reviewed and considered the feedback provided by members of the public and other interested stakeholders relating to community benefit. The findings of the community needs analysis study have also been assessed. The feedback received and the study findings have assisted the project team in setting out three categories under which community benefits will be provided (as identified in Table 3.1) as part of the delivery of the GDD project:

Table 3.1 Categories for GDD Community Benefits Scheme

Category	Commitment Description
Employment	Providing local employment opportunities to support long-term unemployed persons returning to work, youth unemployed, or persons entering the workforce for the first time. Providing opportunities for SMEs and social enterprises to benefit from the delivery of the GDD project.
Education	Initiatives that encourage progression in education at all levels or which seek to reduce early school leaving in the project area.
Environment	The GDD project will safeguard public health and will protect and improve the environment through providing effective wastewater treatment to enhance water quality in compliance with EU and national regulations. In addition, Irish Water will provide supports for local projects that seek to enhance or protect the local built or natural environment.

Employment Benefits

GDD Social Procurement Initiative

The concept of socially responsible procurement acknowledges that public procurement can play a role in realising public policy goals including improvements in the economic, social and environmental well-being of communities.

In delivering our national water and wastewater infrastructure, Irish Water recognises that social procurement can play a role in furthering strategic social and economic development objectives and deliver tangible benefits for communities where major developments are planned.

Article 26 of the Public Sector Directive allows for contracting authorities to set "special conditions relating to the performance of a contract" which "may, in particular, concern social and environmental considerations." The EU Public Procurement Directive and the EU Utilities Directive (transposed in May 2016) provides the statutory basis to advance social policy objectives and the use of social clauses in public procurement.³

Irish Water is proposing a social procurement initiative for the Greater Dublin Drainage project as it meets the criteria of delivering employment opportunities and thereby helping to reduce unemployment in communities in proximity to the proposed project.

Social Clauses

Social clauses are requirements that a contracting entity can place in a procurement contract in order to achieve both value for money and social outcomes. Social clauses are becoming more commonplace in Ireland (particularly as contract performance conditions) as they align with the principles of balanced and fair economic recovery, sustainable development and social inclusion.

Subject to planning consent, the GDD project will provide employment of more than 200 full-time equivalent positions over the construction of the wastewater treatment plant, the orbital sewers and pumping stations. In addition, the GDD project will result in the creation of approximately 40 full-time equivalent positions during operation from 2026 to the design horizon of 2050.

It is intended that the wastewater treatment plant at Clonshagh (Clonsbaugh) and the pumping station at Abbotstown will be procured utilising a Design, Build and Operate (DBO) contract and that the orbital sewer and marine outfall will be procured using a Design and Build (DB) contract.

Irish Water will include social clauses as a performance condition of the DBO contract for the wastewater treatment plant and pumping stations and the DB

³ Directive 2004/18/EC - the Public Sector Directive; Directive 2004/17/EC – the Utilities Directive; Directive 89/665/EEC – the Public Sector Remedies Directive; Directive 2014/24/EU - Public Procurement; Directive 2014/25/EU – Utilities; Directive 2014/23/EU – Concessions http://procurement.ie/sites/default/files/news/new_public_procurement_regulations.pdf

contract for the orbital sewer infrastructure in order to leverage employment opportunities for local communities in proximity to the proposed development.⁴

Irish Water will require, through the use of social clauses in the aforementioned contracts that a minimum of 10% of the person weeks worked on the GDD project during construction are delivered by new entrant employees/job seekers.

Employment opportunities will be targeted to new entrant employees/job seekers which are defined as:

- a person that is preferably leaving or has within the last 36 months left an educational establishment or a training provider (including paid student work placements); or
- a person that has not worked in the construction sector [for more than 52 weeks] and is seeking employment that includes on-site training and assessment, or offsite training (or a mix of these); or
- a person that has been registered as a job seeker for more than 52 weeks and is seeking employment that includes on-site training and support to become fully productive or an existing 'new entrant trainee' known to the Contractor that is seeking a new position to complete their 'new entrant' period (with verifiable documentary evidence to be provided) or another person accepted as a new entrant trainee; or
- an apprentice who is registered with a recognised apprenticeship provider or a graduate or professional trainee (including current student) that is registered with an appropriate education or professional body or a graduate programme.

The appointed contractors will be required to submit a Community Benefits Plan which sets out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure the achievement of the minimum social employment clauses of the contracts. This action plan will form part of the contract award process and the achievement of the community benefits requirements will be a condition relating to the delivery of the contract.

As a contract condition, the contractor(s) will be required to notify Irish Water and the local employment services (INTREO offices at Blanchardstown and Coolock) and training service organisations (CDET) of all upcoming relevant vacancies a minimum of six weeks in advance on a rolling basis over the construction period. The contractors will be required work closely with the local employment services and Irish Water in order to fill the available positions.

⁴ Construction of the marine outfall pipeline is a project that requires specialist technical engineering and marine construction services. Consequently, it is not envisaged that the social procurement initiative will apply to this element of the GDD project.

Opportunities for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Social Enterprises

Irish Water will work with its appointed contractors and other stakeholders to identify suitable opportunities for social enterprises and SMEs to benefit from the delivery of the GDD project.

‘Meet the Buyer’ events will be organised locally so that potential sub-contractors and suppliers can meet with the appointed contractors.

Additionally, a minimum of 5% of the overall project team personnel including contractor staff, consultants and sub-consultants are to be employees of small enterprises - being companies that employ fewer than 50 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding €25,000,000 and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €25,000,000.

Education Benefits

Education Benefits to support Social Procurement Initiative

Ensuring the availability of skills locally will be a key requisite of meeting the targets set out in the social procurement initiative. Irish Water will appoint a Community Liaison Officer who will coordinate with local employment and training organisations and the appointed Contractor(s) to ensure that all employment opportunities are identified at the earliest possible stage.

Where workplace training is necessary to equip recruited personnel with the skills necessary to succeed in their role, Irish Water will fund appropriate training and will work closely with local workplace training organisations to ensure that the necessary training is provided.⁵

Wastewater Education Zone at GDD Facility

The development of second regional wastewater treatment facility for the Greater Dublin Area is a key opportunity to build awareness of the work of Irish Water and understanding of the need for adequate wastewater treatment.

The GDD project team has used every available opportunity to communicate the need for and benefits of the new regional facility during the pre-planning

⁵ These organisations are identified in GDD Community Needs Analysis Study - Section 7.4.2.

stage. Irish Water intends to continue to deliver this message once the new wastewater treatment plant is operational.

The design for the new regional wastewater treatment plant at Clonshagh (Clonsbaugh) will include a wastewater education zone. The wastewater education zone will comprise a permanent multimedia exhibition and meeting space. It will include interactive displays showing the journey our water and wastewater takes from drain to sea. The displays will also highlight the important role which wastewater treatment plays in protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

The education zone will be open to schools, colleges, universities and all other interested organisations both in the local community and across the Greater Dublin Area.

A Community Liaison Officer will be appointed to coordinate with educational institutions at all levels and will offer guided tours to the wastewater education zone and the GDD facility during its operation.

The appointed plant operator will also work with community stakeholders which support the development of people e.g. through local school visits, vocational talks, supports for school curricula and visits to the new wastewater treatment plant.

Environmental Benefits

The GDD project will deliver significant long-term environmental benefits for the Greater Dublin Area. Through providing safe and efficient wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure, the GDD project will safeguard public health and protect and improve the environment. This necessary infrastructure will provide the wastewater treatment capacity needed to support the growth of communities and the economy in the expanding GDA.

The GDD project will protect terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna across the north Dublin area and will maintain and enhance water quality in compliance with Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.⁶

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/index_en.html

Environmental Protections in developing the GDD Project

The GDD project will be developed in an environmentally sensitive manner. Every measure will be taken to ensure that there are no significant negative impacts on the environment in developing the project.

Construction works will be sequenced and phased in order to minimise impacts for the local community and on the local environment including on flora and fauna. Innovative construction methodologies (e.g. micro-tunnelling) will be implemented in order to minimise potential impacts on watercourses and ecological habitats. Reinstatement works will be undertaken to return the impacted pipeline lands to as close to pre-works condition as possible before the next pipeline section is undertaken. The wastewater treatment plant at Clonshagh (Clonshagh) and the pumping station at Abbotstown have been architecturally designed and screened to complement the surrounding built and natural environment.

Further details of the proposed environmental mitigation measures are contained within GDD EIAR Chapter 23 - Summary of Mitigation Measures and in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) submitted as part of this planning application.

Support for Environmental Initiatives

Irish Water actively supports a number of nationwide environmental awareness programmes and campaigns including An Taisce's Green Schools Programme, the Think Before You Flush campaign and the Clean Coasts Initiative.

In addition to the aforementioned initiatives, and in line with our values, Irish Water and the appointed contractor(s) will provide in-kind supports for local projects which seek to improve the local built or natural environment in areas in proximity to the GDD development. This may include staff volunteering, in-kind donations of goods and services or other supports for environmental projects as appropriate.

Irish Water will consider requests for support from organisations that are working to enhance the local environment.

Environmental Data Resource

A significant amount of environmental data has been researched and compiled during the preplanning phases of the GDD project. All of the environmental data collected for the preparation of the Environment Impact Assessment Report for the GDD project will be published on Ireland's open data portal DATA.GOV.IE and made publically available as a resource to all interested researchers free of charge.

Summary of GDD Community Benefits Scheme Commitments

Table 4.1 summarises Irish Water’s commitments and actions under each scheme category.

Table 4.1 Summary of Community Benefit Scheme Commitments

Category	Commitments	Actions
Employment	Providing local employment opportunities to support long-term unemployed persons returning to work, youth unemployed, or persons entering the workforce.	10% of the person weeks worked on the GDD project during construction to be delivered by new entrant employees/job seekers through the use of social clauses. Workplace training will be provided for recruited personnel.
	Providing opportunities for SMEs and social enterprises to benefit from the delivery of the GDD project.	‘Meet the Buyer’ events to be organised locally to identify potential sub-contractors and local suppliers.
		A minimum of 5% of project team personnel including contractor(s) staff, consultants and sub-consultants are to be employees of SMEs.

Category	Commitments	Actions
<p>Education</p>	<p>Initiatives that encourage progression in education at all levels and which seek to reduce early school leaving in the project area.</p>	<p>Permanent Wastewater Education Zone to be located at GDD facility.</p>
		<p>Community Liaison Officer to be appointed. Guided tours of the GDD in operation to be facilitated.</p>
		<p>Outreach by CLO and contractor(s) to schools, colleges, universities within the Greater Dublin Area.</p>
<p>Environment</p>	<p>The GDD project will be developed in an environmentally sensitive manner.</p>	<p>Construction works to be sequenced and phased in order to minimise impacts for the local community and on the local environment. New treatment plant and pumping station appropriately landscaped and screened.</p>
	<p>Irish Water will support local projects which seek to protect and enhance the local environment.</p>	<p>In-kind supports for local projects that seek to enhance or protect the local built or natural environment.</p>

Conclusion

Irish Water considers that this proposed community benefits scheme provides a fair and proportionate benefit for the effects associated with developing this vitally important piece of regional wastewater infrastructure.

Through the development of the proposed scheme and the proactive engagement undertaken to date with the local community, local authorities, and the local employment and training organisations, we have demonstrated our commitment to maximising the benefits that can accrue from the delivery of the GDD project.

We look forward with enthusiasm to collaborating with all stakeholders to fully implement the GDD community benefits scheme.

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