

June 2018



Greater Dublin Drainage

Public and Stakeholder Participation Report



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GLOSSARY

The following is a glossary of terms used in this report with accompanying definitions.

Table 0-1 Glossary of Terms

Term	Explanation
Aarhus Convention	Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, signed in Aarhus, Denmark in June 1998 and came into force in October 2001.
Accessible Communications / Consultation	Accessible consultation aims to provide and make project information and key project messages available to the public concerned, landowners and other stakeholders. Accessible communications means that the language used is understandable and the tools/channels can be accessed by the wider public.
Accountable Communications / Consultation	Accountable project decision-making ensures that the project has taken on board relevant issues and the project only moves forward once each phase has been appropriately dealt with and reported on.
Alternative Sites Assessment (ASA)	An Alternative Sites Assessment (ASA) and Route Selection process was undertaken for the Greater Dublin Drainage project to determine the selection of the preferred treatment plant site, orbital sewer and outfall pipeline corridor, and the associated marine outfall location. The ASA methodology detailed the basis for identifying the potential environmental impacts of each shortlisted site, orbital sewer and outfall pipeline corridor, and the associated marine outfall location and for considering the relative level of impact of each.
Consultation / Public Consultation ¹	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based upon a genuine exchange of views, with the clear objective of informing and influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.
Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)	A CPO is a legal function that allows certain statutory bodies which need to take land or property to do so without the consent of the owner. The compulsory acquisition of land takes place in Ireland to allow a public infrastructure project to go ahead for the common good.
Community	A community is a specific group of people who all hold something in common. Community has tended to be associated with two key aspects: firstly people who share a defined locality or geographical place; secondly people who share a common interest.
Stakeholder Engagement and Community Engagement	The process of working collaboratively with groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting those people.
Environmental Impact Assessment	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process by which the anticipated effects on the environment of a proposed development or project are measured. If the likely effects are unacceptable, design measures or other relevant mitigation measures can be taken to reduce or avoid those effects. The document produced by the applicant for this process is called an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). ²

¹ Jones, Rhion and Gammell, Elizabeth (2009). The Art of Consultation – Public Dialogues in a Noisy World

² Formerly referred to as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Term	Explanation
Greater Dublin Area (GDA)	The Greater Dublin Area (GDA) includes the counties of Dublin (Fingal, Dublin City, South Dublin, and Dun Laoghaire–Rathdown), Meath, Kildare, and Wicklow.
Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD)	<p>The Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) is a project to develop a new regional wastewater treatment plant for the Greater Dublin Area. The GDD project was initiated by Fingal County Council in 2011 on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities and Meath, Kildare and Wicklow. Fingal County Council brought the GDD project through a rigorous alternative sites and routes assessment process and identified a preferred project solution.</p> <p>On 1st January 2014 Irish Water took over responsibility for managing Ireland’s water and wastewater investment and maintenance programmes. On that date, Irish Water also took over the management of the Greater Dublin Drainage Project (GDD) from Fingal County Council.</p>
Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDS)	<p>The Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDS) was commissioned in June 2001 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government which supported a proposal by the Dublin Region Local Authorities to carry out a strategic analysis of the existing foul and surface water systems in the local authority areas of Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown and the adjacent catchments in Counties Meath, Kildare and Wicklow.</p> <p>The objectives of the study were to identify policies, strategies and projects for the development of a sustainable drainage system for the Greater Dublin Region. The study was funded under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 and Dublin City Council was appointed as the contracting authority for the Study.</p>
Landowner	Owners of landholdings on, or over, which the proposal is located.
Meaningful Communications / Consultation	Meaningful consultation means providing clarity to members of the public on what aspects of the project are open for consultation, what is subject to change or can be influenced, and what decisions have already been taken. It means being clear with stakeholders so they understand the level and type of input they can have as part of the project development process.
Public Participation	Public participation in the context of project development is the proactive facilitation of an environment that is conducive to consultation and refers to the involvement of stakeholders within the consultation and / or engagement processes. Public participation for the project was formulated having regard to the Aarhus Convention, planning legislation and best practice consultation processes. ³
Public Concerned	The public concerned in the context of the project development process are those persons or organisations potentially affected by a project or interested in environmental decision making.
Project Team	The project team comprises Irish Water that were assigned to manage the GDD project development process and the technical, environmental and communications service providers that were appointed to develop the GDD project. Jacobs Engineering (Ireland) Ltd and TOBIN Consulting Engineers are the lead technical consultants. RPS Project Communications provide consultation, communications and engagement services to the GDD project.

³ Available at <http://www.unece.org>

Term	Explanation
Regional Biosolids Storage Project (RBSF)	Project to identify a suitable location for a new storage facility to store biosolids produced at the Ringsend and GDD wastewater treatment plants as recommended by Irish Water's National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan published in 2016.
Sensitive Receptors	Sensitive receptors include, but are not limited to residential dwellings, hospitals, schools, daycare facilities, elderly housing and convalescent facilities.
Stakeholder	An individual, group or party that either affects or is affected by an organisation, policy, programme or decision. In the case of this report, it refers to those individuals, groups or parties that are affected by the development of the Greater Dublin Drainage project.
Statutory Consultation	Statutory consultation is a regulatory process by which the public's input on matters affecting them is sought. Its main goals are in improving the efficiency, transparency and public involvement in large-scale projects or laws and policies.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes and prior to their final adoption. The objectives of the SEA process are to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to promote sustainable development by contributing to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of specified plans and programmes. The requirement for SEA derives from the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).
Submission	A submission is defined as a written or oral representation made to the GDD project team in relation to the development of the project.
Terms of Reference	This refers to the parameters within which the scope of consultation / engagement is defined. These are clearly set out at the start of any period of public consultation so that stakeholders clearly understand the scope of the consultation, how they can participate within the process of consultation / engagement and influence the development of the project.
WwTP	Acronym for wastewater water treatment plant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) project aims to provide the wastewater treatment infrastructure that the Greater Dublin Area needs for its continuing development. The project comprises a new regional wastewater treatment facility at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh), an underground orbital sewer and associated pumping station at Abbotstown, an outfall pipeline to the Irish Sea, and a regional biosolids storage facility at Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11.

The need for the project was first identified in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS, 2005) and was confirmed in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA, 2008) of the GDSDS.⁴ This report describes the public consultation and communications undertaken by the Greater Dublin Drainage project from the project announcement in April 2011 to submission of a planning application for the project in 2018.

The GDD project was initiated on 12th April 2011 and led by Fingal County Council on behalf of Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, Kildare County Council, Meath County Council and Wicklow County Council until 31st December 2013.

From the outset, the GDD project team committed to providing proactive and wide ranging communications and public consultation that was a central element of the project development process.

In line with best practice, an approach to public participation that was meaningful, accessible and accountable was implemented for this important project. An easily identifiable project name and brand was applied across a suite of information materials that were developed for the project. At all times and in all communications the project endeavoured to ensure that all information materials and responses were appropriate to the audience and that all queries were responded to in a timely manner. An accessible and reliable project information service was established for all stakeholders (via phone line, email, website and post). Meetings and open days were organised to engage directly with interested parties and individuals.

Irish Water was fully committed to the public participation approach previously delivered by Fingal County Council and so there was a seamless continuation of project communications activity once it assumed responsibility for the GDD project on 1st January 2014.

The primary objective of public consultation for the GDD project was to provide early opportunities for interested stakeholders to participate in the project development process through making submissions that provide information and insight for consideration by the technical team that is delivering the project. From the very earliest stages of project development, the GDD project team committed to providing opportunities for public participation in the project decision-making process and, in line with best practice, ensured that all communications were accessible, meaningful and accountable.

An extensive programme of proactive consultation and engagement was undertaken from 2011 to 2018 which formed part of the project development process. Four focussed periods of non-statutory consultation were held between 2011 and 2013 as part of the alternative sites assessment and

⁴ <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/project-reports/publications/>

routes selection process (i.e. the ASA process). There were a number of non-statutory and statutory consultations and ongoing stakeholder engagement throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) stage of the project between 2014 and 2018.

In total, since 2011, 34,379 submissions have been made to the GDD project, at open days, stakeholder meetings, on the project information line and email service and by making written submissions. Since 2011, the project team has organised and attended over 200 stakeholder meetings and events. Feedback provided by members of the public and stakeholder organisations was recorded, reviewed and considered by the project team.

Terms of reference, developed for each formal period of consultation, sought to provide clarity to stakeholders on the purpose and scope of the consultation. Following each stage a consultation report summarising the issues raised was published on the GDD project website. Issues raised were responded to by the technical team in consultation response reports published at the next phase of project development. These reports demonstrate how public and stakeholder feedback was reviewed, considered, and informed the decisions taken on the project.

During the environmental assessment period from 2014 – 2018, the GDD project team continued to adopt a proactive approach to ongoing public and stakeholder engagement by issuing regular project progress updates, holding public information events and study tours, and through briefing a wide range of stakeholders. Each and every submission received by the Greater Dublin Drainage team was logged, acknowledged and given full consideration by the project team.

Table 0-1 Summary of GDD Consultation and Engagement Activity 2011-2018

Year/ Consultation Phase		Project updates / factsheets	Press releases	Press Ads	Media articles	Stakeholder meetings / briefings	Open days/ Events	No. of attendees	Submissions received
2011	1 st Consultation	1	4	5	29	10	4	59	1,169
2011	2 nd Consultation	2	4	13	67	27	4	768	10,688
2012	3 rd Consultation	-	7	5	57	42	4	468	7,885
2013	4 th Consultation	2	3	6	99	37	4	270	13,491
2014	Ongoing Engagement	1	3	3	13	22	7	58	226
2015	Ongoing Engagement	3	1	-	22	25	3	83	337
2016	Ongoing Engagement	2	1	-	19	8	-	35	36
2017	Ongoing Engagement	4	4	5	29	10	4	119	58
2017	Regional Biosolids Storage Facility Consultations	3	3	3	13	5	4	186	463
2018	Ongoing Engagement	1	1	1	3	10	-	-	26
Total		19	31	41	351	196	34	2,046⁵	34,379

⁵ Note: Attendee numbers are based on the number of people that signed attendance sheets at the venues. As signing the attendance sheet was optional, the actual attendance figure is in excess of the listed figure.

Feedback provided to the project team during all consultations enhanced the knowledge of the project team and has informed its thinking and the decision-making process as summarised in **Table 0-2**.

Table 0-2 How Public Participation Has Informed the Project Development Process

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIA Reference
Agriculture and Horticulture	Feedback was provided to the project team on the importance of agriculture and horticulture within the study area.	<p>The project team employed a specialist agronomist at an early stage in the project development process to prepare a detailed assessment to inform the identification of the emerging preferred site options and to minimise potential impacts on agriculture/horticulture.</p> <p>The project team also provided a commitment to local growers that strict dust control and other mitigation measures will be put in place during construction and operation of the treatment plant, pipelines and pumping station so as to avoid any potential negative impact on local crop growing activities.</p> <p>Further details of mitigation measures and commitment to best practice are contained in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP).</p>	<p>EIAR Chapter 19 Agronomy</p> <p>and</p> <p>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) Section 7.3.3 - 7.2.19</p>
Air Quality, Odour and Climate	Consultation feedback provided on air quality related mainly to concerns about the potential for fugitive odours arising at the wastewater treatment plant or from the pumping station at Abbotstown and impacts on the environmental amenity of the surrounding areas.	<p>The project team considered the feedback provided and this informed the odour modelling undertaken by the qualified odour specialists.</p> <p>An odour control system will be put in place at the new GDD facility, at the pumping station at Abbotstown and at certain points along the route of the orbital sewer. Strict odour standards will be achieved and maintained throughout construction and operation. Ongoing odour monitoring will continue for the full lifecycle of the GDD facility.</p> <p>Following consultation with the Dublin Airport Authority, the project team</p>	<p>EIAR Chapter 14 Air Quality, Odour and Climate</p> <p>and</p> <p>WwTP Engineering Report/Design Report</p>

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIAR Reference
		proposed that all treatment tanks will be covered and that there will be no open water on site. This design feature minimises the potential for bird strikes and also has the added benefit of enhanced odour control.	
Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection Process	Specific sites, features, and constraints were identified in submissions during each consultation stage and during ongoing stakeholder engagement.	<p>All reported features and constraints were checked by the relevant technical specialists and included in their assessments.</p> <p>As part of the Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection (ASA) methodology and following consideration of feedback from the early consultations, the project team undertook to identify potential sites that would allow for a 300m buffer zone around the treatment plant site from sensitive receptors. This is significantly in excess of the 100m minimum distance set out in the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.⁶</p>	EIAR Chapter 5 Consideration of Alternatives
Community Benefits	During the pre-planning phases, suggestions were sought from members of the public on the types of local benefits that could be facilitated by the GDD development.	<p>Irish Water has developed a community benefits scheme for the GDD project which will deliver benefits under three main themes: employment, education and environment.</p> <p>The scheme aims to maximise the benefits which can accrue from the development of this vital strategic infrastructure project.</p> <p>Irish Water has engaged relevant stakeholders in the development of the community benefits scheme including the Local Authorities, education and training providers and the local employment services in the project area.</p>	GDD Planning Report (for full details of the GDD Community Benefits Scheme)

⁶ See Objective WT11 [Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023](#). Note: The 300m buffer zone is not a legal requirement and the buffer zone does not restrict the development of neighbouring land parcels.

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIA Reference
Construction	Feedback provided during the formal consultation periods raised concerns that construction-related impacts could negatively impact upon the local community or the local environment.	<p>All potential construction related impacts such as traffic, noise, dust and construction methods have been identified and assessed in the EIA with mitigations proposed in the OCEMP developed for the project.</p> <p>A Community Liaison Officer will be appointed for the construction period and Irish Water will put in place a complaints management process to ensure the efficient resolution of any construction related issues.</p> <p>The project team also engaged extensively with statutory bodies from 2011-2018 to inform the development of the proposed project solution. Where issues or concerns about potential construction impacts were raised by these stakeholders, the project team assessed the information provided and responded by adapting the proposed construction methodologies. An example of this is the use of micro-tunnelling under water courses which has been proposed to mitigate potential environmental impacts following consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p>	<p>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP)</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIA Chapter 4 Proposed Project Description</p>
Communications and Consultation	Suggestions from members of the public relating to the consultation process or to communications.	<p>A high level of public awareness of the GDD project was achieved through the communications and consultation processes undertaken for the project as evidenced by the number of submissions made to the project from 2011-2018. The project team was available to meet with all interested stakeholders throughout the pre-planning stages with 196 stakeholder meetings and 34 open days held.</p> <p>Where ideas and suggestions in relation to communications on the project were received from the public these were reviewed, considered and acted upon by the communications team where</p>	<p>See this report sections:</p> <p>2.6 Project Information Video, 2.9 Study Tours & 4.4 Public Information Events</p>

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIAR Reference
		<p>possible. This included holding additional information events in Howth, Northern Cross, Coolock, Portmarnock and Baldoyle and organising study tours to Bray-Shanganagh WwTP. Following a suggestion from a member of the public, a short project video was also produced and was made available on the project website.</p>	
<p>Environmental and Technical Studies</p>	<p>Stakeholder engagement and public consultation resulted in feedback on the scope and duration of the environmental and technical investigations undertaken for the project.</p>	<p>At the request of the local fishing community in north Dublin and statutory stakeholders, additional fish and marine mammal studies were undertaken. These studies were undertaken in order to achieve a full understanding of local fishing activities and marine life off the north Dublin coast.</p> <p>Additional issues raised during the consultations have also been considered as part of the archaeological and geophysical studies for the project.</p> <p>Following a suggestion from a public representative, Irish Water has undertaken to make all of the environmental data collected and compiled for the GDD project publically available online as an educational research resource.</p>	<p>EIAR Chapter 8 Marine Water Quality</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 9 Biodiversity (Marine)</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>During the early consultations, stakeholders expressed concerns in relation to perceived impacts of the GDD project on human health.</p>	<p>As part of the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report the impacts of the project on Population and Human Health have been assessed by qualified specialists.</p> <p>In addition, the project has been developed in accordance with all legislative and regulatory health requirements.</p>	<p>EIAR Chapter 6 Population</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 7 Human Health</p>

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIAR Reference
Landowner Engagement in Project Design	<p>Intensive engagement took place during the preplanning stages between the GDD project team and landowners impacted by the proposed development.</p> <p>Proactive engagement took place with all effected public and private landowners and private developers/holding companies with lands along the pipeline route and at the WwTP and pumping station sites.</p>	<p>The Ervia Wayleaves Team accommodated requests from landowners where possible in order to minimise the overall impact on their landholdings. This included altering the route of the orbital pipeline within the identified corridor, altering the wayleave width where no other option was available, and by adopting alternative pipeline construction methodologies where feasible (i.e. open cut or trenchless techniques/micro tunnelling) in order to avoid or minimise construction related impacts.</p> <p>As an example, following engagement with the Railway Procurement Agency (now TII) in 2012, the GDD project team made a significant alteration to the orbital pipeline route in order to avoid a potential routing conflict with the planned Metro North development.</p> <p>Further examples of the mitigation measures proposed by the project team are summarised in the CPO Routing Report and EIAR Chapter 23.</p>	<p>CPO Routing Report</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 23 Summary of Mitigation Measures</p>
Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pumping Station Design	<p>Feedback was provided by Fingal County Council and by members of the local community on the design of the wastewater treatment plant at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh) and on the pumping station at Abbotstown.</p>	<p>Having considered the feedback provided, the project team commissioned architectural advisors in 2013 to develop a campus-style design for the new wastewater treatment facility at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh).</p> <p>The low rise WwTP development will be appropriately landscaped with double-berm screening which will minimise visual impact.</p> <p>The proposed pumping station at Abbotstown has also been designed to have an architectural finish which will complement the surrounding built environment.</p>	<p>GDD Planning Report</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 12 Landscape and Visual</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 23 Summary of Mitigation Measures</p>

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIAR Reference
Regional Biosolids Storage Facility (RBSF)	Feedback was provided by local authorities, including Fingal County Council, and by members of the local communities and local organisations in proximity to the identified site for the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility. Feedback was provided on odour, noise, landscape and visual, water / hydrology, drainage, traffic and climate and energy.	<p>Following feedback received throughout the course of the three phases of consultation for the RBSF, a number of measures have been taken in the design and development of the facility.</p> <p>Odour control mitigation measures will be employed.</p> <p>Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) will be employed in the design and operation of the RBSF along with designs to contain planned and unplanned washout from the site and the management of vehicle cleaning to incorporate water saving measures.</p> <p>The proposed noise design of the facility incorporates features to avoid noise from vehicles and mechanical equipment.</p> <p>Architectural designs and landscaping plans have been integrated into the design of the facility.</p> <p>Solar panels will be incorporated into the design and operation of the RBSF.</p>	<p>Traffic and associated impacts are considered in Volume 4 Section 13 of the EIAR</p> <p>The design of the RBSF is described in the EIAR in Volume 2, Sections 3 & 4 and Volume 4, Section 10</p> <p>Issues relating to water and drainage are considered in Volume 2, Section 3 and Volume 4, Section 4 of the EIAR</p> <p>Noise is considered in Volume 2, Section 3 Volume 4, Sections 9 and 10 of the EIAR</p> <p>The site layout, architectural design and landscape design are described in Volume 2, Section 3. The landscape and visual impact assessment is provided in Volume 4, Section 14 of the EIAR</p>

1. APPROACH TO COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1.1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

From the very earliest stages of project development, the Greater Dublin Drainage project team set out to proactively inform and consult with the general public and all interested groups in order to inform the decision-making process. The GDD project team aimed to ensure that all engagement with stakeholders:

- Was open and transparent;
- Was accessible;
- Demonstrated what stage the project was at;
- Ensured that stakeholders were aware of the issues that were open for consultation during this phase (i.e. as per the published consultation terms of reference); and
- Detailed how public participation would be facilitated and stakeholder feedback would be considered and utilised.

Irish Water's underlying principles for consultation for the GDD project are compliant with the requirements of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and industry best practice to ensure an accessible, meaningful and accountable process.

1.1.1 Principles of Accessible Consultation

Accessibility in consultation is key to its success. In the context of the GDD project, accessible consultation aims to make project information available to the public, to landowners and to all other stakeholders. With the implementation of the methods devised for this project, the accessibility of the consultation process can be described and evaluated in terms of:

- Utilisation of multiple communications tools to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to access information, irrespective of where they live and what their level of literacy or online capabilities/access are;
- Ensuring that all project materials are accessible and that information is presented in plain language that is easily understandable for a non-technical audience; and
- Physical accessibility (i.e. appropriate accessibility to all venues used by Irish Water for consultation).

1.1.2 Principles of Meaningful Consultation

Meaningful consultation means providing clarity to members of the public on what aspects of the project are open for consultation and what may be subject to change. It means being clear with stakeholders so that they understand the level and type of input they can realistically have in the project as it develops.

Being clear with what can be influenced allows stakeholders to understand the opportunity for public participation in the project as the project develops and allows for expectations to be managed appropriately.

At each stage of the engagement and consultation process, the project team developed terms of reference to inform the public and landowners about what aspects of the project were open for consultation, what was subject to change, and what decisions had already been taken.

The terms of reference, along with a project roadmap (see **Figure 1-1**), were provided to help guide the process and to show how consultation feeds into the technical development of the project.

Meaningful consultation also requires that the submissions and views of stakeholders are taken into account and this report and the previously published consultation and technical reports detail how this was achieved for the GDD project.⁷

1.1.3 Principles of Accountable Consultation

Accountable project decision making ensures that the project has taken on board relevant issues and the project only moves forward once each phase has been appropriately dealt with.

Consultation for the Constraints Study and the Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection processes was defined within four distinct strands as set out in a published project roadmap (see **Figure 1-1**).

Feedback provided by stakeholders during each phase of public consultation was recorded by the project team using an online stakeholder database. All submissions received were reviewed and considered by the technical and environmental experts as a key part of the project development process.

The project team published consultation reports after each focused period of public consultation in order to demonstrate that it had properly recorded and reviewed the issues and concerns raised by stakeholders.

The technical reports published at the next stage of project development contained the responses of the project team to the issues and feedback raised that were relevant to the decision making process.

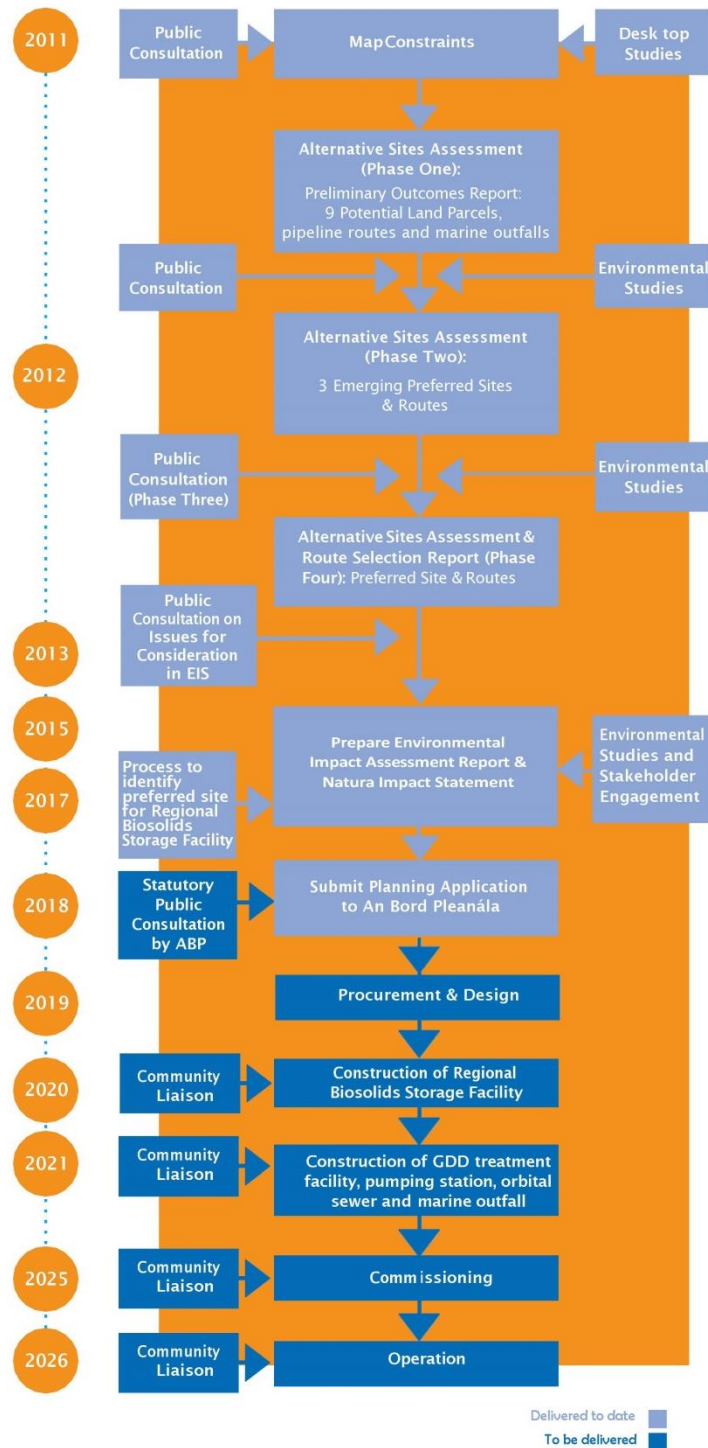
Through publishing the consultation reports and the technical reports, the project team, therefore, was able to account for the information received from the public and project stakeholders at each consultation phase and to demonstrate how it was reviewed and considered. This provided for accountable consultation throughout the project development process.

⁷ All of the public consultation and technical reports referenced in this document are available to view at: <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/project-reports/publications/>

1.2 PROJECT ROADMAP

The Greater Dublin Drainage project team developed and published a project roadmap at the outset of the project. The roadmap set out the stages of project development and the associated stages of public consultation. The purpose of the roadmap was to provide stakeholders with clarity on the project development process and the opportunities for public participation.

Figure 1-1 Greater Dublin Drainage Project Development Roadmap



1.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONTEXT

In developing an application for planning permission for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project, Irish Water, and previously Fingal County Council, consulted with members of the public and all interested stakeholders in accordance with the following legislative, planning, and best practice requirements:

- Aarhus Convention requirements;
- EIA Directive requirements;
- Irish legislation requirements; and
- Best practice.

From the earliest stage, the GDD project team was committed to providing accessible, meaningful and accountable consultation as part of the GDD project development process.

Compliance with the legislative requirements and best practice principles for public and stakeholder engagement for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project is discussed in the following sections.

1.3.1 Aarhus Convention

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, commonly referred to as the 'Aarhus Convention', was signed in Aarhus, Denmark in June 1998 and came into force in October 2001.⁸

The Aarhus Convention sets down basic rules to promote the participation of the public in environmental matters and to improve the enforcement of environmental law. The European Union has been a party to the Aarhus Convention since May 2005 and the Aarhus Convention is now an integral part of the EU legal order. Ireland ratified the Aarhus Convention in June 2012.

A guide to the requirements of the Convention was published by UNECE in 2000 entitled *The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide*. The second edition of the implementation guide was published in draft versions in 2010, 2011 and 2012 with the final version published in 2014.⁹

The UNECE documents, *The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide* (2011 and 2014 versions) represent best practice in respect of how to consult with members of the public on major projects.

Due regard was had to these guidelines when developing the communications and consultation strategy for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project.¹⁰

⁸ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/index.htm>

⁹ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/Publications/Aarhus_Implementation_Guide_interactive_eng.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/documents/cep43e.pdf>

The provisions of the Aarhus Convention are divided into three pillars as follows:

1.3.1.1 Access to Information:

The right of members of the public to request environmental information that is held by public bodies and these bodies are obliged to maintain this information. The Access to Information pillar has been implemented in EU Directive 2003/4/EC on Public Access to Environmental Information and in Ireland by the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007-2011.

1.3.1.2 Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making:

The right of the public to participate in decision-making in environmental matters and for public authorities to enable the public to comment on proposals which affect the environment. Article 6 of the Aarhus Convention establishes the right of “the public concerned” to participate in environmental decision-making procedures, and sets out detailed rules governing public participation in decision-making involving the activities listed in Annex I to the Convention and activities that are not listed in the Annex but may have a significant effect on the environment.

In the European Union, this part of the Aarhus Convention has been implemented by Directive 2003/35/EC on public participation (‘the Public Participation Directive’), which is now incorporated into inter alia the Consolidated EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. The requirements of the Public Participation Directive have been transposed into Irish law, including the integration of its requirements into the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. For example, in the planning system, members of the public may submit observations on planning applications and may appeal planning decisions to a higher planning authority.

1.3.1.3 Access to Justice:

The right of members of the public to review procedures to challenge decisions relating to the environment, made by public bodies or private persons that have been made without regard to the two aforementioned pillars of the Convention. In Ireland, the requirement to provide a mechanism to challenge the substantive and procedural legality of a decision of a public body is ultimately met by way of judicial review.

1.3.2 EIA Directive

A number of amendments have been introduced to the text of the Environment Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC) to reflect the Aarhus Convention public participation requirements. For example, the definitions of ‘the public’ and ‘the public concerned’ as set out in Articles 2(4) and 2(5) of the Aarhus Convention are incorporated into the Consolidated EIA Directive by Articles 1(2)(d) and (l), respectively. In addition, amendments made to Article 6 of the EIA Directive set out the minimum requirements for effective public participation. The aim of Articles 6(2) and 6(3) of the Consolidated EIA Directive is to ensure that the public shall be informed of matters early in the environmental decision-making procedure, and that the relevant information and documents are made available to the public concerned.

The substantive provisions ensure that the public concerned shall be given “early and effective opportunities to participate” in environmental decision-making procedures for consent to projects and, for that purpose, the public concerned is entitled to express comments and opinions when all options are open to the competent authority before the decision on the request for development consent is taken.

In Ireland, the planning regulations require that the planning authority holds a statutory public consultation in order to provide the opportunity for interested parties to make observations or submissions in relation to a planning application.

1.3.3 Irish Legislative Requirements

The pre-application consultation procedures for strategic infrastructure development with An Bord Pleanála are provided for in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Prior to the making of an application to the Board, a ‘prospective applicant’ must enter into consultations with the Board in relation to the proposed development.

In accordance with Part 2 37B.— (1) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, a series of pre-application discussions were held between Irish Water representatives and members of staff of An Bord Pleanála. The key issues arising from these meetings which are relevant to the EIAR are summarised in **Section 5**.

1.3.4 Best Practice Communications

Article 6, paragraph 5 of the Aarhus Convention states that:

“Each Party should, where appropriate, encourage prospective applicants to identify the public concerned, to enter into discussions, and to provide information regarding the objectives of their application before applying for a permit.”

The Aarhus Implementation Guide notes that the advisory nature of paragraph 5 is confirmed by the use of the wording “should, where appropriate, encourage”. The Convention does not require the Member State or the Planning Authority to oblige prospective applicants to take these steps. However, in line with the spirit of the Convention and the principles of best practice consultation, the Greater Dublin Drainage project team committed at the outset of the project to providing information on the project, to providing early opportunities for the public concerned to participate in the decision-making process, and to ensuring that all communication and consultation was accessible, meaningful and accountable.

2. INFORMATION PROVISION

From the outset, the GDD project team adopted a proactive and open approach to providing information to the public and other stakeholders. The project team utilised a range of communications methods and tools in order to ensure people were made aware of the project and the opportunities to participate in its development.

2.1 PROJECT NAME AND LOGO

In early 2011, a project name and visual identity was developed by Fingal County Council to make the Greater Dublin Drainage project easily identifiable, to ensure that one could instantly understand what the project was about, and to emphasise the regional nature of the project.

A project logo was developed and included on all project materials, whether they were technical reports or stakeholder and public focused materials (event displays/leaflets/website) to ensure they were instantly recognisable.

When Irish Water assumed responsibility for the GDD project in January 2014, the project logo was updated to incorporate the Irish Water logo and the tagline “Ag obair i gcomhpháirtíocht Working in partnership” was added to reflect the close collaboration between Irish Water and the local authorities within the GDA in working to deliver this vital regional project.

Figure 2-1 Greater Dublin Drainage Project Logo



2.2 INFORMATION SERVICE

At the outset of the project, a dedicated information service was established comprising a phone, email, postal service and a website.

- Lo-call phone line: 1890 44 55 67 (Monday to Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm)
- Email service: info@greaterdublindrainage.ie
- Postal service: Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, c/o RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland
- Website: www.greaterdublindrainage.ie

RPS Project Communications managed the GDD project information service from 2011-2018. The information service team were qualified communications professionals with significant previous experience of communicating infrastructural projects in a non-technical way.

All queries and personal data provided to the project team were securely managed using a cloud-based stakeholder database. The database enabled the recording, processing, storing and reporting on all consultation and communications during the pre-planning phase.¹¹

2.3 PROJECT WEBSITE

A dedicated project website was established by the project team in 2011 and was used to regularly publish news in relation to the project.¹² Reports and updates associated with the sites assessment and route selection process, the consultations held to date, and the ongoing studies towards the development of the planning application/EIAR are available to view on the project website.

To make this information accessible, a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section of the website was developed and updated regularly to answer common queries received from stakeholders. In addition to this, all relevant communications content including press releases, project updates, brochures, factsheets, posters, videos and open day displays were made available to download from the website.

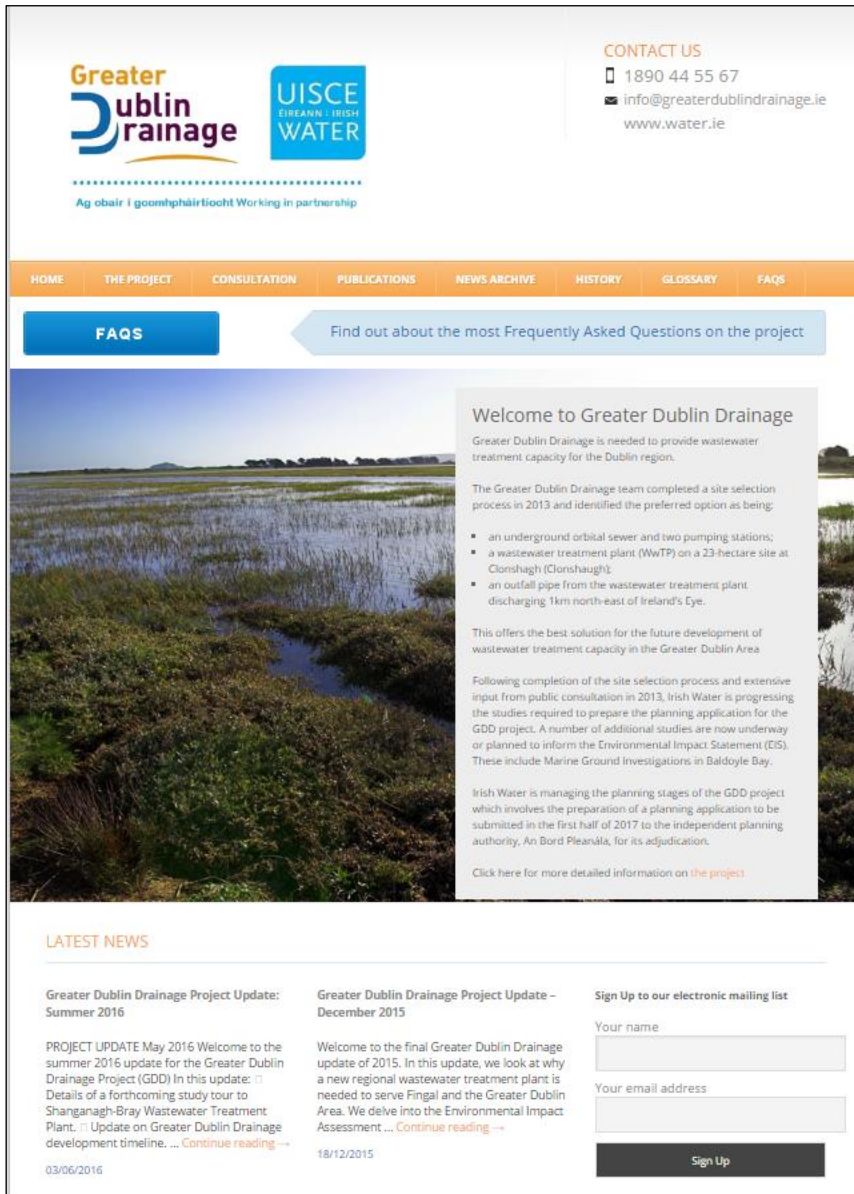
Contact details for the project team were also provided as well as the opportunity to sign up to the electronic mailing list to receive project news via email.

Between April 2011 and submission of the GDD planning application in 2018, more than 33,307 unique users had visited the GDD website. A significant majority of these users (73%) accessed the site from the Dublin area or elsewhere in Ireland. There were more than 139,673 page views during the preplanning phase of the project.

¹¹ All data was sought, processed and stored in compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 (as amended).

¹² www.greaterdublindrainage.ie

Figure 2-2 Greater Dublin Drainage Project Website – Homepage



2.4 SOCIAL MEDIA

The Irish Water and Fingal County Council social media channels (Twitter, Linked In and Facebook) were employed to promote project events and the focused periods of public consultation.

2.5 PROJECT UPDATES AND FACTSHEETS

The GDD project team proactively shared information on the project development process with all interested stakeholders. This involved producing and issuing regular email updates (e-zines), project brochures, posters and factsheets throughout the preplanning phase. Updates were issued in English and were made available in Irish and Braille upon request.

The communications materials produced for the GDD project were issued to news subscribers via email updates and postal mailouts. These materials were also made available at public information events and on the project website www.greaterdublindrainage.ie

Table 2-1 List of GDD Project Updates and Factsheets

Date	Type	Subject	Cover Image
April 2011	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Greater Dublin Drainage Launches – Fingal County Council to consult widely on new wastewater infrastructure.	<p>The cover image shows the 'Greater Dublin Drainage' logo at the top. Below it, the title 'Early Consultation Opportunity' is followed by a paragraph of text. It lists dates for public consultations: 28th June 2011 (Fingal County Council), 14th June 2011 (DUBLIN), and 14th June 2011 (Fingal County Council). It also provides contact information for the project team.</p>
October 2011	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Nine land parcels shortlisted for further study as potential location for wastewater treatment plant	<p>The cover image features the 'Greater Dublin Drainage update' logo with the date 'Issue 1 October 2011'. The main headline reads 'Nine land parcels shortlisted for further study as potential location for wastewater treatment plant'. The text below explains that Fingal County Council has shortlisted nine potential sites for a new wastewater treatment plant and is seeking public input on the preferred location.</p>
May 2012	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Three Emerging Preferred Site Options Shortlisted for Further Consideration for Wastewater Treatment Plant	<p>The cover image features the 'Greater Dublin Drainage update' logo with the date 'Issue 4 May 2012'. The main headline reads 'Three Emerging Preferred Site Options Shortlisted for Further Consideration for Wastewater Treatment Plant'. The text below states that Fingal County Council has shortlisted three preferred site options for further consideration and is seeking public input on the preferred location.</p>

Date	Type	Subject	Cover Image
June 2013	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Preferred Site and Route Identified for Greater Dublin Drainage - Have your say on informing the application for planning approval for the Greater Dublin Drainage project	
June 2013	Greater Dublin Drainage Factsheet	Why not build multiple smaller wastewater treatment plants?	
June 2013	Greater Dublin Drainage Factsheet	What about the environment?	
June 2013	Greater Dublin Drainage Factsheet	The Wastewater Treatment Process: How Does it Work?	

Date	Type	Subject	Cover Image
December 2014	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Public Consultation on Foreshore Licence Now Underway	
February 2015	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Environmental Surveys Underway	
July 2015	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Marine Investigations and Public Information Events	
December 2015	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Meeting our Future Wastewater Treatment Requirements	

Date	Type	Subject	Cover Image
May 2016	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	GDD Project Development Update - Wastewater Treatment in the Greater Dublin Area	
February 2017	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Irish Water begins site selection process for new Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin	
May 2017	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Short list of sites for Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin	

Date	Type	Subject	Cover Image
August 2017	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Greater Dublin Drainage Project Update – Summer 2017	
November 2017	GDD Public Information Campaign	GDD Project Update & Information Events – Autumn 2017 (Newsletter & Ezine)	
June 2018	Greater Dublin Drainage Update	Irish Water submits planning application for Greater Dublin Drainage	

2.6 PROJECT VIDEO

A short information video (4.32mins duration) was produced in 2014 and posted to the project website and social media channels. The video clearly and succinctly explained the need for the GDD project to Plain English standards. The video described the journey our wastewater takes from drain to sea including the wastewater treatment process. The video was posted to the homepage of the project website¹³ and was circulated to the stakeholders in the project ezines and in response to information requests. The video was also used at public information events held for the GDD project.

Figure 2-3 Greater Dublin Drainage Project Information Video Screenshots



¹³ The GDD information video is available at <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.ie/>

2.7 MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The national and local media was another important conduit to communicating with the project's stakeholders and the general public.


The formal consultations were advertised in advance in local and national media and on social media. Press releases were issued and media briefings and interviews with the project manager were arranged for national and local media. Responses to queries from members of the media were answered within their copy deadlines. Extensive media coverage was generated for the Greater Dublin Drainage project with over 250 media articles identified since 2011.




2.7.1 Advertisements



Each formal period of public consultation was advertised in advance by way of paid newspaper advertising.




Table 2-2 List of GDD & RBSF Newspaper Advertisements

Date(s)	Publication(s)	Description	Advertisement
02.06.11	Blanchardstown Gazette	Constraints Consultation Newspaper Advert	 <p>Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall Fingal County Council</p> <p>Greater Dublin Drainage</p> <p>Early Consultation Opportunity</p> <p>Fingal County Council would like to consult with all stakeholders at a very early stage of Greater Dublin Drainage. The Greater Dublin Drainage initiative aims to provide the drainage infrastructure that the Greater Dublin Area needs to continue to develop, both socially and economically. The initiative involves the provision of a new wastewater treatment works, a marine outfall and new drainage network in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Fingal County Council are asking for your views on what issues or concerns should be taken into account in determining the locations of the three elements of the Greater Dublin Drainage project.</p> <p>This phase of non-statutory consultation is four weeks long, ending on 24th June 2011, and is in addition to the future statutory consultation process. To have your say, please contact us in one of the following ways:</p> <p>In person: by coming to meet the team at one of four Open Days in Fingal: 7th June 2011, Fingal County Council, Swords, 2pm-7pm 8th June 2011, Fingal County Council, Blanchardstown, 2pm-7pm 14th June 2011, Balbriggan Town Hall, 2pm-7pm 16th June 2011, Fingal County Council, Swords 2pm-7pm</p> <p>In writing: please submit feedback to Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, c/o RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland</p> <p>Online: by emailing us at info@greaterdublindrainage.ie</p> <p>By phone: by calling the Project Team at the Lo-Call Information Line, 1890.44.55.67</p> <p>Further information on the project can be found on the project website www.GreaterDublinDrainage.ie</p>
02.06.11	Castleknock Gazette		
02.06.11	Malahide Gazette		
02.06.11	Swords Gazette		
07.06.11	Fingal Independent		

Date(s)	Publication(s)	Description	Advertisement
11.10.11	Irish Times Fingal Independent	ASA Phase 1 Consultation Newspaper Advert	 <p>PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE SITES ASSESSMENT, PHASE ONE, PRELIMINARY SCREENING OUTCOMES REPORT</p> <p>Fingal County Council has published a Report, identifying nine potential land parcels in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area, for further investigation as possible locations for a new regional wastewater treatment works, associated marine outfall locations and routes for the orbital drainage system.</p> <p>The Report and accompanying map is available to download from www.greaterdublindrainage.ie</p> <p>Fingal County Council is undertaking six weeks of non-statutory consultation with all interested parties from 10th October to 18th November 2011 on the potential land parcels and the issues that should be considered in determining the ultimate locations for this vital new infrastructure.</p> <p>You are welcome to attend any of four Open Days to be held in Fingal County Council, Main Street, Swords, where the Project Team will be available to discuss the Report and listen to your views.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Open Days:</u> Saturday 22nd October at 11am to 4pm Wednesday 26th October at 2pm to 8pm Thursday 3rd November at 2pm to 8pm Saturday 5th November at 11am to 4pm</p> <p>Written submissions on the potential land parcels may be sent, before 18th November 2011, to Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, C/O RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.</p> <p>Further information:- email info@greaterdublindrainage.ie, Lo-call 1890 44 55 67 or visit www.greaterdublindrainage.ie</p>
17.10.11	Irish Times		
18.10.11	North County Leader		
19.10.11	Northside People East Northside People West		
25.10.11	Evening Herald Malahide Gazette		
26.10.11	Blanchardstown Gazette Castleknock Gazette Swords Gazette		
01.11.11	Metro Herald		
02.11.11	Community Voice		
24.05.12	Blanchardstown Castleknock Swords Malahide Gazettes	ASA Phase 2 Consultation Newspaper Advert	 <p>Greater Dublin Drainage – Public Consultation and Open Days Emerging Preferred Sites and Routes. Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection Report (Phase 2):</p> <p>The Greater Dublin Drainage Project has published a report identifying three emerging preferred site options for further consideration as the location for the proposed GDD Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant. The three sites are Annsbrook, Newtowncorduff and Clonshaugh. The report also identifies pipeline route and marine outfall options.</p> <p>The full report and maps can be downloaded at www.greaterdublindrainage.ie</p> <p>The project team are now conducting a further round of non-statutory consultation on these three sites, the associated pipeline routes, and marine outfall options from 14th May 2012 to 6th July 2012.</p> <p>Open Days at Fingal County Hall Swords where interested parties can meet the project team are scheduled for: Wednesday 30th May from 2pm to 8pm; Saturday 2nd June from 11am to 4pm; Thursday 14th June from 2pm to 8pm; Saturday 16th June 2012 from 11am to 4pm.</p> <p>All interested parties are welcome to give their views.</p> <p>Further information is available from www.greaterdublindrainage.ie or lo-call 1890 44 55 67. To make a submission, email info@greaterdublindrainage.ie or post to Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, c/o RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.</p>
28.05.12	Irish Times		
29.05.12	Irish Independent		
29.05.12	Fingal Independent		
30.05.12	Northside People		

Date(s)	Publication(s)	Description	Advertisement
19.06.13	Northside People	ASA Phase 4 Consultation Newspaper Advert	 <p>Public Consultation and Open Days for Greater Dublin Drainage on the Environmental Impact Statement for the Preferred Site, Orbital Sewer and Marine Outfall Option</p> <p>Fingal County Council has announced the preferred solution for the Greater Dublin Drainage project, consisting of 26km of pipeline, a wastewater treatment plant at Clonshagh, and an outfall pipe located 6km out to sea from Baldoyle.</p> <p>Public consultation on items to be considered for the Environmental Impact Statement for this option is now underway.</p> <p>Members of the public are invited to come along to the scheduled Open Days at Fingal County Hall, Main Street, Swords Co. Dublin on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 26th June from 2pm - 8pm • Saturday 29th June from 11am - 4pm • Wednesday 3rd July from 2pm - 8pm <p>The report 'Alternative Sites Assessment and Routes Selection Report (Phase 4) : Preferred Sites and Routes Report' is available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free download from www.greaterdublindrainage.ie/project-reports/ • View printed copies at Fingal County Council offices at Swords and Blanchardstown, Fingal Public Libraries, or Dublin City Council North Central Head Office in Coolock • Purchase the report (with appendices on CD) for €150 <p>Submissions on items to be considered in the EIS must be made by 5pm on Friday 2nd August 2013 to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email: info@greaterdublindrainage.ie • In writing to: Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, c/o RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. • Telephone: lo-call 1890 44 55 67 <p>See www.greaterdublindrainage.com for further information.</p>
20.06.13	Blanchardstown Castleknock Swords Malahide Gazettes		
24.06.13	The Irish Times		
25.06.13	Fingal Independent		
25.06.13	Irish Independent		
26.06.13	The Herald		
11.12.14	Irish Times	Foreshore Licence Statutory Public Consultation	  <p>Public notice Application for a foreshore licence</p> <p>> Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 that Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1 has applied to the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government for a licence under Section 3 of the said Act to undertake Site Investigation works for the Greater Dublin Drainage scheme.</p> <p>> A copy of the application, and the relevant maps, plans, and drawings, are available for inspection for the next 21 working days, free of charge, at Swords Garda Station, Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin.</p> <p>> The documentation is available on the Department's website at: http://www.environ.ie/en/Foreshore/ApplicationsandDeterminations/IrishWater/</p> <p>> Any person who wishes to make an objection to, or a representation in respect of the grant of the licence sought should do so in writing, giving reasons, within 21 working days of publication of this Notice (quoting ref: F5006292), to the Foreshore Unit, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or foreshore@environ.ie. The closing date for submissions is close of business on 20th January 2015.</p> <p>> All objections and representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment prior to any decision being made in the matter. Material upon which the Minister shall determine this application may be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at: http://www.environ.ie/en/Foreshore/#Defamation_Notice/</p> <p>Dated this 11th day of December 2014</p> <p>Name and address: Greater Dublin Drainage, Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1</p> <p>For more information call 1890 44 55 67 or email info@greaterdublindrainage.ie</p>
16.12.14	Fingal Independent		
17.12.14	Northside People		
18.12.14	Dublin Gazette Newspapers		

Date(s)	Publication(s)	Description	Advertisement
<p>Week beginning 30.01.17</p>	Irish Farmers Journal	<p>RBSF Ste 1 Consultation</p>	<div data-bbox="756 241 1385 1093"> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for Greater Dublin</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Public consultation</h3> <p>Irish Water has announced a new project to develop a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin (including Dublin city and county and parts of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow).</p> <p>The new storage facility for biosolids will form part of the upgraded wastewater treatment network and will facilitate the continued growth of greater Dublin.</p> <p>Biosolids are a by-product of the wastewater treatment process and are primarily used as fertiliser in agriculture. Biosolids are treated as part of the wastewater process at the wastewater treatment plants and then stored before being used on agricultural land. Biosolids must be stored as they can only be landspread at certain times of the year from February to September.</p> <p>Irish Water is now consulting on its proposed approach to identify and assess potential sites for the new storage facility. We would like to hear your views and a four week period of non-statutory public consultation process will run until 2 March 2017.</p> <p>Submissions can be sent by 2 March:</p> <p>By email: biosolids@water.ie</p> <p>By post: Biosolids Consultation, Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.</p> <p>By telephone: 1890 44 55 67</p> <hr style="border: 2px solid black;"/> <p>Safeguarding our water for our future</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p>To view the stage 1 report or for further information, visit www.water.ie</p> </div>
	Irish Independent		
	Dublin People (Northside & Southside)		
	Echo Newspapers		
	Fingal Independent		
	Kildare Nationalist		
	Leinster Leader		
	Liffey Champion		
	Meath Chronicle		
	North County Leader		
	The Gazette		
	Wicklow / Bray People		
Wicklow Times			
<p>Week beginning 15.05.17</p>	Irish Farmers Journal	<p>RBSF Stage 2 Consultation</p>	<div data-bbox="756 1122 1385 1973"> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for Greater Dublin</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Information days</h3> <p>Irish Water has published details of five potential sites for a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin. Two are outside Dunboyne, County Meath; two are at Kilshane, North County Dublin; and the fifth one is at Greenogue, South County Dublin.</p> <p>Biosolids are the end product after our wastewater has been safely treated. Biosolids may be applied as organic fertilisers in agriculture each Spring and Autumn. For the rest of the year they need to be stored. The new storage facility will help support the continued social and economic development of greater Dublin.</p> <p>As part of a five week public consultation on the five potential sites, we are holding information days in Dublin and Meath.</p> <p>Following this round of consultation, one preferred site will be identified and we will hold a further round of public consultation later this year.</p> <p>If you would like to know more or have questions, please come along:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 22 May, The Oak Centre, Dunboyne, Co. Meath, from 1pm-7pm • Wednesday 24 May, Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin, from 1pm-7pm • Thursday 25 May, The White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin, from 1pm-7pm <p>The consultation period closes on Thursday, 15 June, 2017.</p> <p>To find out more visit www.water.ie</p> <p>Or contact the project team by:</p> <p>Email: biosolids@water.ie</p> <p>Phone: 1890 44 55 67</p> <hr style="border: 2px solid black;"/> <p>Safeguarding our water for our future</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> </div>
	Irish Independent		
	Dublin People (Northside & Southside)		
	Echo Newspapers		
	Fingal Independent		
	Kildare Nationalist		
	Leinster Leader		
	Liffey Champion		
	Meath Chronicle		
	North County Leader		
	The Gazette		
	Wicklow / Bray People		
Wicklow Times			

Date(s)	Publication(s)	Description	Advertisement
<p>Week beginning 27.08.17</p>	<p>Irish Farmers Journal Irish Independent Dublin People (Northside & Southside) Echo Newspapers Fingal Independent Kildare Nationalist Leinster Leader Liffey Champion Meath Chronicle Newsgroup North County Leader The Gazette Wicklow / Bray People Wicklow Times</p>	<p>RBSF Stage 3 Consultation</p>	<div data-bbox="742 241 1388 1131"> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for Greater Dublin</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Public Consultation & Information day</h3> <p>Irish Water has identified a preferred site for a biosolids storage facility to serve the greater Dublin region at Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11.</p> <p>Biosolids are the end product after our wastewater has been safely treated. Biosolids may be applied as organic fertilisers in agriculture each Spring and Autumn. For the rest of the year they need to be stored. The new storage facility will help support the continued social and economic development of greater Dublin.</p> <p>As part of a six week public consultation on the identified preferred site and associated environmental report, we are holding an information day in Fingal, County Dublin.</p> <p>Following this round of consultation and the necessary environmental studies, a statutory consultation will be held by An Bord Pleanála as part of the projects planning application process.</p> <p>If you would like to know more or have questions, please come along:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 12 September, The White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin, from 1pm-8pm <p>The consultation period closes on Tuesday, 10 October, 2017.</p> <p>To find out more visit www.water.ie/biosolids</p> <p>Or contact the project team by: Email: biosolids@water.ie or Phone: 1890 44 55 67</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Safeguarding our water for our future</p>  </div>
<p>08.11.17</p>	<p>The Irish Independent</p>		
<p>08.11.17</p>	<p>The Evening Herald</p>		<div data-bbox="742 1176 1388 1321">   <p style="text-align: center;">Obair i gcompháirtíocht Working in partnership</p> </div>
<p>14.11.17</p>	<p>Fingal Independent</p>		<div data-bbox="742 1344 1388 1500"> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Greater Dublin Drainage Public Information Events</h2> <p>The Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) project will have the capacity to serve the equivalent of half a million people into the future and will meet demand for wastewater treatment, protect public health and safeguard our environment.</p> <p>The preferred project solution for Greater Dublin Drainage is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new regional wastewater treatment facility and sludge hub centre on a 30 hectare site at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh); • An underground orbital sewer from Blanchardstown to Clonshagh (Clonshaugh), including a new pumping station at Abbotstown; • A sewer to divert part of the North Fringe Sewer to the new treatment facility; • An outfall pipe from the wastewater treatment facility discharging the treated water to the Irish Sea; and • A regional biosolids storage facility located at Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11. <p>Irish Water intends to submit a planning application for GDD to An Bord Pleanála in 2018. In advance, we are holding three public information events as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 21 November 2017, Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links, from 2pm-8pm • Monday, 27 November 2017, National Sports Campus Conference Centre, Abbotstown, from 2pm-8pm • Wednesday, 29 November 2017, Hilton Hotel, Northern Cross, from 2pm-8pm <p>You are welcome to come along to meet the team and find out more about the Greater Dublin Drainage project.</p> <p>To find out more visit www.greaterdublindrainage.ie Email: info@greaterdublindrainage.ie Telephone: 1890 44 55 67</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Safeguarding our water for our future</p> </div>
<p>15.11.17</p>	<p>Dublin People (Northside east) Dublin People (Northside west)</p>	<p>GDD Public Information Campaign Newspaper Advert</p>	
<p>16.11.17</p>	<p>Fingal Gazette (Dublin Gazette - City edition) Fingal Gazette (Dublin Gazette - Northside edition)</p>		

2.7.3 Press Releases

The project team issued press releases to promote the public consultations and to update the public, via the media, on project news and developments.

On foot of the press releases, extensive national TV, radio and newspaper coverage was generated as well as online and local press and radio coverage. More than 250 articles were identified in the national (Irish Times, Irish Independent, Evening Echo etc.) and local media (Fingal Independent, Gazette Group Newspapers, North County Leader, the People Group Newspapers) The extensive coverage generated included television news reports on RTE and TV3 featuring interviews with the GDD Project Manager.

Several national and local radio interviews were undertaken by the GDD Project Manager and other members of the project team throughout the focused periods of public consultation, including on RTE Radio 1, Newstalk, Today FM and Dublin stations FM104, 98FM, Q102 and Near FM.

Table 2-4 List of Press Releases Issued 2011-2018

Date	Title
12.04.11	"Greater Dublin Drainage" launches – Fingal County Council to consult widely on new wastewater infrastructure
25.05.11	Fingal County Council offers people the earliest opportunity to feed into the first step to determine the best locations for vital new drainage and wastewater infrastructure
13.06.11	Update on open days for Greater Dublin Drainage
25.08.11	Fingal County Council first consultation report on Greater Dublin Drainage published on greaterdublindrainage.ie
10.10.11	Fingal Co Council identifies nine potential land parcels for new wastewater infrastructure and announces further public consultation
11.11.11	Fingal County Council extends date for receiving submissions on Greater Dublin Drainage project until 2nd December to facilitate local communities making submissions
18.11.11	Myths and Facts about the Greater Dublin Drainage Project
12.12.11	All issues raised in over 10,000 submissions to the Greater Dublin Drainage project will be examined by experts and considered by the project team, before site shortlist is announced next year
20.02.12	Issues people raised about the Greater Dublin Drainage project will be considered by technical and environmental specialists before any site is shortlisted
10.04.12	One regional wastewater treatment plant will have a lesser impact on the environment than a number of smaller plants, Project Engineer for Greater Dublin Drainage project tells Elected Members
16.04.12	Greater Dublin Drainage consultation report published. Shortlisting of sites due in May. Further non-statutory public consultation planned for May and June.
14.05.12	Three sites named as emerging preferred site options for proposed regional wastewater plant in north Dublin. Marine outfalls to north and south still being considered
11.06.12	Public attending Greater Dublin Drainage open days question project team

Date	Title
25.07.12	Greater Dublin Drainage project is carrying out dye trace and drogue tracking surveys in Irish Sea off North Dublin. Fluorescent dye and cone shaped drogues may be visible
16.11.12	Public Consultation Report on 'Alternative Site Assessment Phase Two: Emerging Preferred Sites and Routes, May 2012' is published. Decision in 2013 on locations of new infrastructure
04.06.13	Preferred site and pipeline route to be announced for proposed Greater Dublin Drainage Project
10.06.13	Preferred option for Greater Dublin Drainage project is most environmentally beneficial and technically advantageous solution
18.07.13	Submissions on issues to be considered in the EIS
09.01.14	Greater Dublin Drainage Project - Public Information Sessions
17.06.14	Additional environmental studies underway; planning application to be lodged in 2016; information events in Portmarnock and Baldoyle
16.07.14	Upcoming pop-up information stands – Baldoyle & Coolock
01.07.15	Greater Dublin Drainage Marine Investigations off North Dublin Coast
11.03.16	Irish Water says Greater Dublin Drainage needed to protect the environment and to enable development
01.02.17	Irish Water begins site selection process for new Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin
11.05.17	Irish Water seeks views on shortlisted sites for Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin
29.08.17	Preferred site identified for Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin
28.11.17	Irish Water to meet 50% projected increase in Dublin's wastewater with once-in-a-generation Greater Dublin Drainage project
20.06.18	Irish Water submits planning application for Greater Dublin Drainage project

All of the press releases published for the Greater Dublin Drainage project are available to read on the GDD project website.¹⁴ A Sample of the media coverage generated for the GDD project is listed in **Appendix C**.

¹⁴ <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/category/news/>

2.8 POSTERS

Public consultation was also promoted through posters in the community, including in local authority offices, post offices and church/parish notices.

Figure 2-4 GDD Poster Campaign – Grocery Store, Clonshaugh Shopping Centre – July 2013



2.9 STUDY TOURS

In response to concerns about how wastewater treatment plants operate near residential areas, the project team organised study tours to the Shanganagh-Bray wastewater treatment plant in Shankill, Co. Dublin. The study tours were provided free-of-charge for members of the local community living near the proposed GDD facility and other interested stakeholders.

Several tours were organised in 2013 and 2014 for community, landowners and public representatives. The tours included free transportation from Clonshaugh (Clonshaugh) to Shankill, where participants were met by staff from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the plant operator. Participants were brought on a 1.5-2 hours walking tour of the plant including visits to all of the enclosed buildings. The project team accompanied each group, including on the bus transportation, to provide information and answer queries what was being proposed for GDD.

A number of GDD landowners attended study tours to the Shanganagh-Bray wastewater treatment plant. Participants included the owners of the treatment plant site at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh) who attended a study tour in March 2013 and members of the management of Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown who attended a tour in September 2014.

All public representatives of Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council were invited and several attended a tour held in June 2013. A number of local community, sporting organisations and local residents from Clonshagh (Clonshaugh), Portmarnock, Howth and Sutton also attended a study tour held in July 2014.

Participants on each tour experienced the operation of a modern plant in close proximity to residential property and learnt about the wastewater treatment process and odour control.

Figure 2-5 Shanganagh-Bray Wastewater Treatment Plant, Shankill



3. PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION 2011-2013

3.1 OVERVIEW

In compliance with the principles of the Aarhus Convention, public and stakeholder participation has been an integral part of the Greater Dublin Drainage project since its commencement in 2011.

An extensive programme of proactive consultation and engagement was undertaken between 2011 and 2018. This programme was designed to provide early participation opportunities for the public and other stakeholders to inform the project development and decision-making process.

Since 2011, the project team has organised more than 200 meetings and events with external stakeholders including landowners, community groups, public representatives and statutory stakeholders.

The programme of consultation and communications included non-statutory consultation, statutory consultation and ongoing engagement and communications in the pre-planning phase of the GDD project.

These phases of consultation are described in detail in the following sections.

Figure 3-1 GDD Public Information Event - Swords County Hall – June 2011



3.2 ALTERNATIVE SITES ASSESMENT AND ROUTE SELECTION CONSULTATIONS 2011-2013

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) completed in 2008 for the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study recommended that the site of a new regional wastewater treatment plant, orbital sewers, and marine outfall should be identified following an Alternative Sites Assessment (ASA) process.¹⁵

A four-stage consultation process formed part of the ASA process (see project roadmap **Figure 1-1**). This consultation programme provided the opportunity for early public participation to inform the site and route identification stages of project development.

Four phases of focused non-statutory public consultation were carried out from 2011 – 2013 as detailed below:

- 1st Consultation: May – June 2011 – Study Area Constraints;
- 2nd Consultation: October – December 2011 – Shortlist of Nine Land Parcels, Pipeline Corridors & Marine Outfall;
- 3rd Consultation: May – July 2012 – Three Emerging Preferred Site Options; and
- 4th Consultation: June – August 2013 – Preferred Option Announced and Feedback Sought on Issues to be Considered in the EIS.

Table 3-1 Consultation and Engagement Activity 2011-2013

Year/ Consultation Phase	No of project updates	Press releases issued	No. of Press Ads	No. of media articles	No. of stakeholder briefings	No. of open days	No. of attendees at events	No. of submissions
2011 1 st Consultation	1	4	5	29	10	4	59	1,169
2011 2 nd Consultation	2	4	13	67	27	4	768	10,688
2012 3 rd Consultation	2	7	5	57	42	4	468	7,885
2013 4 th Consultation	2	3	6	99	37	4	270	13,491
Total	7	18	29	252	116	16	1,565¹⁶	33,233

¹⁵ This assessment process is set out in detail in the Alternative Sites Assessment (ASA) Methodology Report available at http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Appendix-1_ASA-Methodology-Report.pdf

¹⁶ The number of attendees is based on the number of persons that registered attendance using the sign in sheets provided at the venues. The actual attendance was in excess of this figure.

Table 3-1 provides a summary of the quantitative results of the ASA process consultations. **33,233 submissions** were received and processed by the GDD project team during the ASA phases of consultation.

After each period of focused public consultation, the feedback received was published in a dedicated consultation report. Responses to issues raised in the first, second and third public consultations were addressed in the technical reports published at the next stage of project development. All of the published consultation and technical reports are available to view and download at www.greaterdublindrainage.ie

Issues raised in the fourth consultation are addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report that forms part of this planning application.

By adopting the above system, the GDD project team ensured that all consultation during the ASA process was accessible, meaningful and accountable.

The ASA consultations are described in the following sections.

Figure 3-2 GDD Public Information Event – June 2012



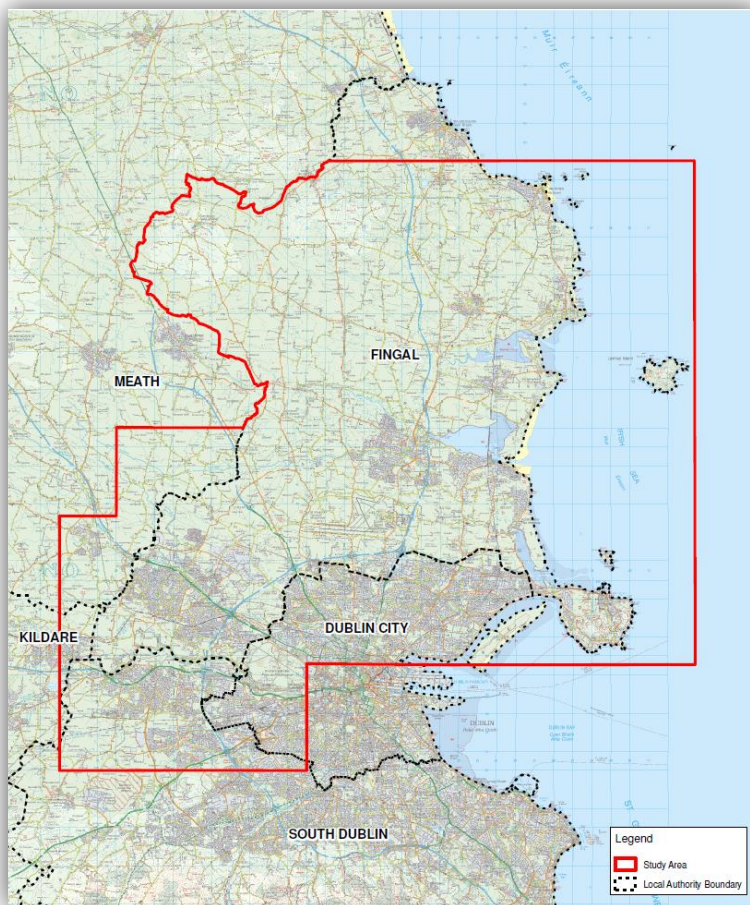
3.3 1ST CONSULTATION: STUDY AREA CONSTRAINTS: MAY – JUNE 2011

The first stage of public consultation on the Greater Dublin Drainage project took place over four weeks from 30th May 2011 to 24th June 2011.

The purpose of this early-stage consultation, led by Fingal County Council, was to consult with the general public and all interested groups and organisations in relation to the proposed study area for the GDD project.

A study area map was published as part of the consultation as shown in **Figure 3-3**.

Figure 3-3 GDD Study Area Map



Members of the public and interested stakeholders were invited to participate by identifying any constraints¹⁷ which they were aware of within the broad study area. The identified constraints were considered in addition to previously identified features in the landscape that might make an area unsuitable as a location for the project.

The consultation included four open days held in Balbriggan, Blanchardstown and Swords (x2). The consultation and open days were advertised through five advertisements placed in local newspapers and publicised through press releases which generated extensive media coverage in order to build awareness of the consultation. A media briefing was held on 25th May 2011 at the Fingal County Council Offices in Swords.

Information about the consultation was also placed on the project website and promoted through the Fingal County Council twitter account.

The Local Authorities in the GDA updated their websites with information on the project and on the constraints consultation. Posters promoting the consultation and announcement letters were issued to the GDA Local Authorities, county libraries, citizen information centres (CICs) and community centres in Fingal.

¹⁷ Constraints are those features or designations (such as protected areas/sites) in the landscape that might make an area unsuitable as a location for the project.

National and local public representatives in the GDA were written to by post and email to inform them of the constraints consultation.

Table 3-2 Open Days held for 1st Consultation – Constraints Consultation

1 st Consultation – Constraints Consultation	
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Tuesday 7 th June 2011 from 2pm to 7pm
Fingal County Council, Blanchardstown	Wednesday 8 th June 2011 from 2pm to 7pm
Balbriggan Town Hall & Library, Balbriggan	Tuesday 14 th June 2011 from 2pm to 7pm
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Thursday 16 th June 2011 from 2pm to 7pm
Total Attendees	59* (Total Attendees refers only to the number of people that signed in.)

A set of large displays were available at each open day for the public to view, including a map of the study area as shown in **Figure 3-3**. The displays were erected in advance and left in-situ at each event venue for the duration of the consultation period.

The project team met with attendees and facilitated discussions using a facilitation sheet. The facilitation sheet asked attendees to consider the questions that were raised in the consultation terms of reference (**Table 3-3**). Four focused questions were set out in the consultation terms of reference as follows:

Table 3-3 1st Consultation – Questions/Terms of Reference

1 st Consultation – Terms of Reference
1. What regional or locally important constraints should Fingal County Council consider in the identification of sites for the drainage system, treatment plant, and marine outfall?
2. What concerns or potential issues do you consider important that Fingal County Council should address during this alternative site identification phase?
3. How would you like to be involved and communicated with as the project progresses?
4. Are there any other points that are relevant that you would like Fingal County Council to consider?

Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback and mark prominent locations, suggested sites or features on the study area map. The project team sought feedback on all issues or any relevant concerns that stakeholders saw fit to raise in relation to the project.

At the end of the four-week consultation period, **1,169 submissions** were received from members of the public and other interested stakeholders.

All submissions were recorded to the GDD stakeholder database and reviewed in their entirety by the project team in order to identify the relevant issues. Public and stakeholder feedback was recorded and considered during this early consultation on a wide range of issues as categorised in **Table 3-4**.

Table 3-4 Issues raised during the 1st Consultation

Feedback Categories – 1 st Consultation		
Construction impacts	Location of the outfall pipe and orbital drain	Sludge management
Consultation process	Other general issues	Social and economic factors
Energy requirements	Planning issues	Strategic considerations
Health risk and nuisances	Site selection process and suggested locations	Treatment technology
Leisure and local amenity	Size and catchment of the plant	Visual impact

The GDD project team published a Constraints Consultation Report on 25th August 2011 on the Greater Dublin Drainage website.¹⁸

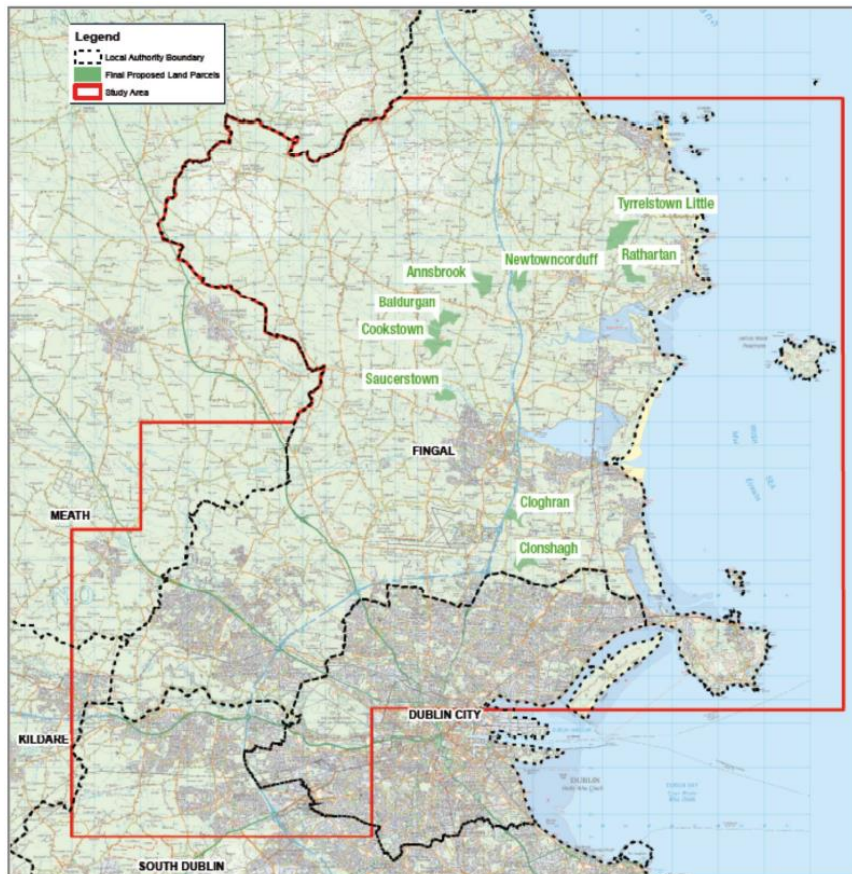
This report summarised the consultation process undertaken and the issues raised by stakeholders. Where specific sites, features, or constraints, locally known or otherwise, were identified in stakeholder submissions, these were checked by the relevant technical specialists to ensure they were included in their assessments for identifying potential locations (land parcels) for the wastewater treatment plant as part of the sites and routes assessment process.

¹⁸ The Constraint Consultation Report is available at <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/projectreports/>

3.4 2ND CONSULTATION: ALTERNATIVE SITES ASSESSMENT (PHASE 1) - PRELIMINARY SCREENING: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2011

The project team published the *Alternative Site Assessment Phase One – Preliminary Screening Outcomes Report* in October 2011. This report identified nine potential locations for the new treatment plant, with associated pipeline corridors and two potential marine outfall locations.

Figure 3-4 Potential land parcels with pipeline and outfall corridors



The second stage of public consultation took place over eight weeks from 10th October 2011 to 2nd December 2011.¹⁹

This second consultation provided the opportunity for members of the public and interested stakeholders to participate in the decision-making process in assessing the nine specific land parcels (i.e. potential locations) and associated corridors.

Information about the consultation including the ASA Phase 1 report, associated mapping and frequently asked questions were published on the project website

and promoted through the Fingal County Council twitter account and website.

An update brochure was prepared for this phase of consultation.²⁰ Provided in Irish and English, it gave a brief history of the project, the current stage of development, and how stakeholders could participate in the consultation. A map of all nine proposed land parcels was also included (as shown in **Figure 3-4**). The brochure was distributed by Fingal County Council to all owners of lands included in the nine potential land parcels and to residences located in close proximity to the land parcels. Posters promoting the consultation were also issued to key public locations in Fingal and the wider GDA.

A feedback form was provided as an insert to the brochure, where stakeholders could write in their views on the project and post it to the project team.

¹⁹ The consultation was originally due to close on 18th November 2011, but the date for receipt of submissions was extended in order to provide additional time to stakeholders who were compiling detailed submissions.

²⁰ Greater Dublin Drainage Update: Issue 1, October 2011 <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/project-reports/project-brochures/>

As part of the eight week public consultation, views were sought on the following questions:

Table 3-5 2nd Consultation – Questions/Terms of Reference

2nd Consultation – Terms of Reference	
1.	What are the features of each identified land parcel that make it suitable or unsuitable as a potential location for the regional wastewater treatment plant?
2.	What issues should be considered in deciding the location for the marine outfall?
3.	What issues should be considered in deciding the routes for the pipeline?
4.	How should these features be considered in the next phase of the project?
5.	What other issues do you think need to be taken into account at this stage of the project?
6.	How would you like to be involved or communicated with as the project progresses?

The 2nd consultation included four open days held in Fingal County Hall in Swords. The consultation and open days were publicised in advance through 13 press adverts published in national and local newspapers. Press releases which generated extensive media coverage were also issued in order to build awareness of the consultation. A media briefing was held on 11th October 2011 at the Fingal County Council Offices in Swords.

Table 3-6 Open Days held for 2nd Consultation – Potential Land Parcels

2nd Consultation – Open Days	
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Saturday 22 nd October 2011 from 11am to 4pm
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Wednesday 26 th October 2011 from 2pm to 8pm
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Thursday 3 rd November 2011 from 2pm to 8pm
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Saturday 5 th November 2011 from 11am to 4pm
Total Attendees	768* (Total Attendees refers only to the number of people that signed attendance sheets.)

Information on the consultation was issued to all public representatives in the GDA and a briefing on the GDD project was provided to the Fingal Council Meeting on 10th October 2011.

Notification of the consultation was also issued by email to 954 stakeholders who had subscribed through the project website to receive updates on the GDD project.

This was a very important stage of the project development process. It helped the project team to further refine a number of emerging preferred sites for the wastewater treatment plant and the associated infrastructure. At the end of the eight-week consultation period, **10,688 submissions** were received from members of the public and other interested stakeholders.

All submissions were reviewed in their entirety by the project team in order to identify the key issues.

The main issues that were identified by stakeholders were then considered by the project team as the project moved towards the identification of emerging shortlisted sites. The issues raised are categorised in **Table 3-7**.

Table 3-7 Issues raised during the 2nd Consultation

Feedback Categories – 2 nd Consultation		
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Health	Planning and Zoning
Climate Change	Landscape and Amenity	Proximity to Sensitive Receptors
Community Impact	Livelihood	Public Consultation
Construction Impacts	Fishing and Navigation	Risk Assessment
Existing Infrastructure in the Area	Need for the Project	Road Infrastructure and Traffic
Ecology and Protected Habitats	Proximity Principle	Technologies and Treatment Levels
Land Parcel Specific Issues	Odour	Water Quality
Flooding	Overburdening	
Geology and Soils	Other Issues	

The public consultation report on *'Alternative Site Assessment Phase One: Preliminary Screening Outcomes Report October 2011'* was published on 16th April 2012 on the Greater Dublin Drainage website.²¹

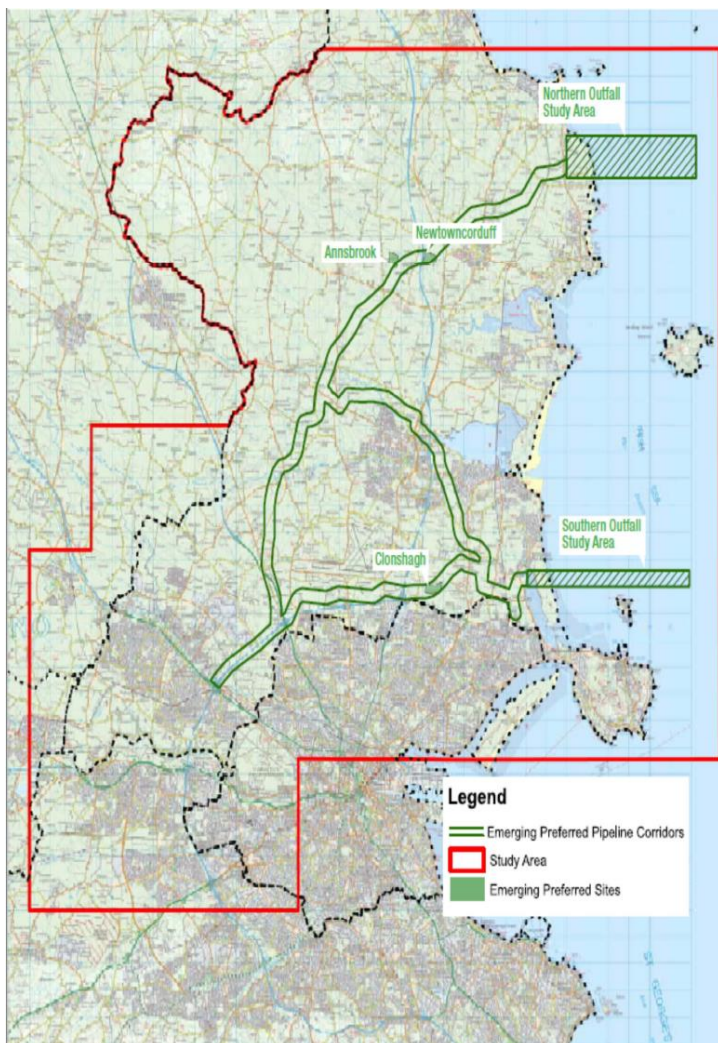
Appendix 2 of the *'Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection Report (Phase 2): Emerging Preferred Sites and Routes Report'* was published on the project website in May 2012 and provided the response from the project team to each issue category and how the issues raised were addressed and considered in the ASA Phase 2 process – the identification of three shortlisted sites and route options.

²¹ All of the consultation and technical reports referenced in this report are available to view at <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/project-reports/>

3.5 3RD CONSULTATION: ALTERNATIVE SITES ASSESSMENT (PHASE 2) – EMERGING PREFERRED SITES AND ROUTES: MAY – JULY 2012

The third stage of consultation took place over eight weeks from 14th May 2012 until 6th July 2012 following the publication of the *Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection (Phase Two) – Emerging Preferred Sites and Routes Report*. This report identified Annsbrook, Clonshagh (Clonshaugh)²² and Newtowncorduff as the three emerging preferred site options along with a number of corridor options for the associated pipeline network and two potential outfall areas.

Figure 3-5 Three emerging preferred site options



The consultation included four open days held in Fingal County Hall in Swords which were advertised in national and local newspapers (8 no.) and publicised through press releases which generated extensive media coverage and awareness of the consultation.

A briefing on this stage of the GDD project was given to Fingal County Council at its monthly meeting on 14th May 2012. A briefing was also made to Dublin City Council's North Central Area Committee on the 21st May 2012.

A brochure was prepared for this phase of consultation and published on the project website.²³ Provided in Irish and English, it gave a history of the project, information on the previous and current stages, and information on how stakeholders can participate in the consultation. A map of the three emerging site options was also included. The brochure was distributed by Fingal County Council to all community groups that had

engaged with the project team during public consultation and requested to receive brochures. It was also sent to 938 stakeholders that had subscribed to receive project news via email.

²² This report refers to the area as 'Clonshagh' which reflects how the Ordnance Survey of Ireland and Google Maps refer to the area. This is in reference to the original townland of Clonshagh. However, the area is often locally referred to as 'Clonshaugh'.

²³ Greater Dublin Drainage Update: Issue 2, May 2012 <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/project-reports/project-brochures/>

Posters promoting the consultation were issued to key public display locations in Fingal and the wider GDA including all of the main libraries in Fingal. Information about the consultation was also placed on the project website and promoted through social media.

Table 3-8 Open Days held for 3rd Consultation – Emerging Preferred Sites and Routes

3 rd Consultation – Open Days	
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Wednesday, 30 th May 2012, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Saturday, 2 nd June 2012, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Thursday, 14 th June 2012, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Saturday, 16 th June 2012, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Total Attendees:	468* (Total Attendees refers only to the number of people that signed attendance sheets.)

As part of the eight week public consultation, views were sought on the following questions:

Table 3-9 3rd Consultation – Questions/Terms of Reference

3 rd Consultation – Terms of Reference
1. What are your comments on the emerging preferred site options?
2. Has all relevant criteria been considered when determining the three emerging preferred site options?
3. Is there anything else you think should be reviewed and considered?
4. What do you think should be considered as part of the selection for the final preferred site routes and outfall?
5. Any other comments?
6. How would you like to be communicated with as the project progresses?
7. If you have any other information you believe is relevant to the development of the project please let us know.

At the end of the eight-week consultation period, **7,885 submissions** were received from members of the public and other interested stakeholders.

The Public Consultation Report on '*Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection (Phase 2): Emerging Preferred Sites and Routes Report*' as published on 16th November 2012 was made available on the Greater Dublin Drainage website.²⁴ This report detailed the consultation process undertaken and the issues raised by stakeholders.

The main issues as identified during this third phase of public consultation are categorised in **Table 3-10**.

²⁴ All of the consultation and technical reports referenced in this report are available to view at <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/project-reports/>

Table 3-10 Issues raised during the 3rd Consultation

Feedback Categories – 3 rd Consultation		
Agriculture and Horticulture	Health	Proximity to Load Centres
Climate Change	Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Proximity to Sensitive Receptors
Community Impact, Community Burden / Overburden	Need	Risk and Health and Safety
Consultation	Odour	Tourism, Recreation and Amenity
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	Outfall	Traffic and Road Infrastructure
Ecology and Environment	Planning and Development	Treatment
Fishing	Population Density	Other Issues

The feedback was reviewed and considered by the technical team as it moved toward the selection of a preferred site, orbital pipeline route, and marine outfall location for the Greater Dublin Drainage project.

Appendix 4 of the *'Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection Report (Phase 4): Final Preferred Site and Routes'* as published on 10th June 2013 provided the response from the project team to each issue category and how the issues raised were addressed and considered in the ASA Phase 4 process – the identification of the final preferred site and route for the GDD project.²⁵

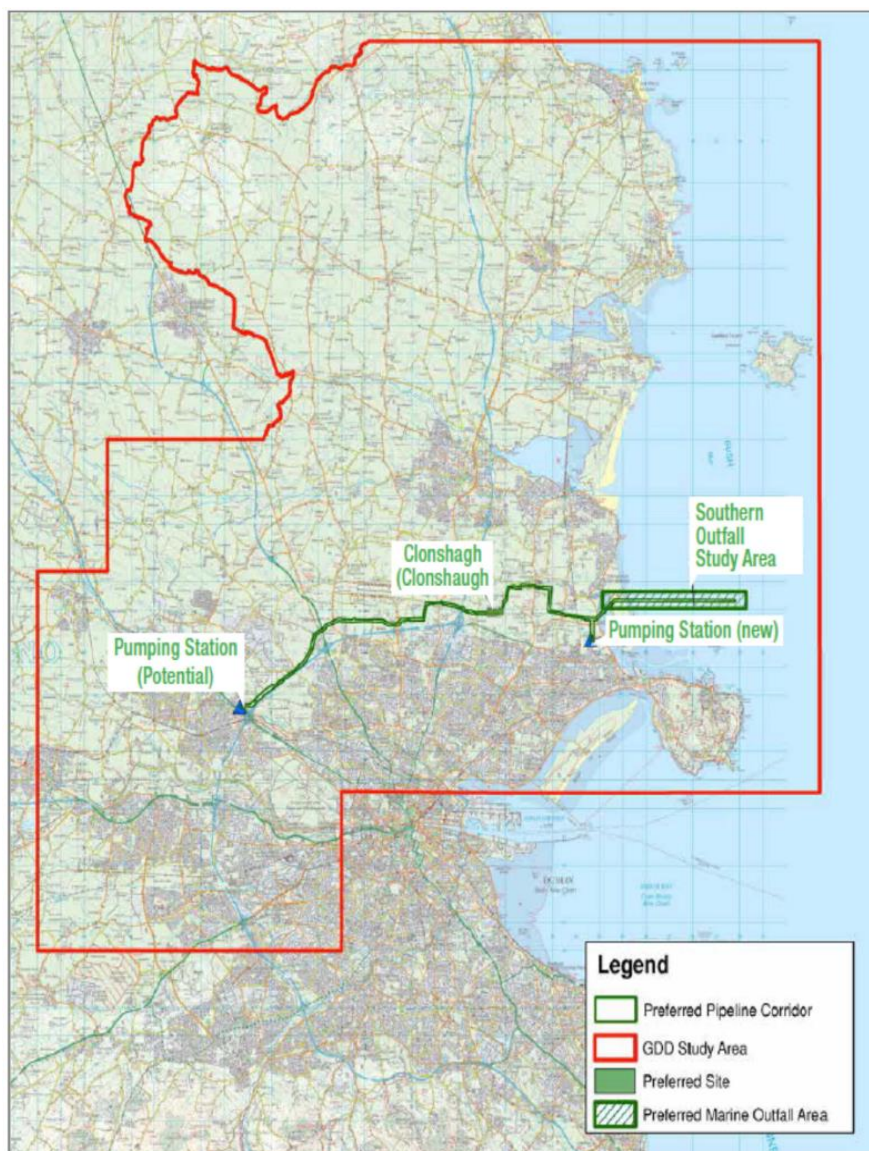
²⁵ All of the consultation reports referenced in this report are available to view at <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/project-reports/>

3.6 4TH CONSULTATION: PREFERRED OPTION ANNOUNCED AND FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE EIS: JUNE – AUG 2013

The fourth consultation as part of the Alternative Sites Assessment process took place over eight weeks from 10th June 2013 to 2nd August 2013.

The consultation began with the publication of the '*Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection (Phase 4): Preferred Sites and Routes Report*', June 2013. This report identified the preferred solution for providing additional wastewater treatment capacity in the Greater Dublin Area as a new regional wastewater treatment plant to be located at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh), a 26km orbital pipeline and associated pumping stations, and an outfall pipe discharging treated output 6km out to the Irish Sea.

Figure 3-6 Preferred Sites and Routes



This fourth phase of non-statutory public consultation focused on the issues to be considered in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the GDD project.²⁶ This consultation provided the opportunity for members of the public and interested stakeholders to participate in the environmental assessment process and to inform the preparation of the planning application for the GDD project.

Four open days were held as part of the 4th consultation as detailed in **Table 3-11**.

A community update brochure was prepared in both English and Irish and was made available in Fingal County Council

Offices in Swords and Blanchardstown, at each open day and online. Copies were also distributed to the North City Area Office, as well as Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council libraries.

²⁶ Now referred to as an Environmental Impact Assessment Report following Directive 2014/52/EU.

Factsheets on the wastewater treatment process were developed by the project team and published as part of this consultation. Posters promoting the consultation were issued to key public display locations in Fingal and Dublin City including local shopping centres, public libraries and local authority offices and were sent by post to community organisations in these areas. All of the above materials were also made available to download from the project website.

The consultation and open days were advertised through nine press advertisements in national and local newspapers. Press releases were also issued to media organisations and these generated significant levels of media coverage within the project area. A number of interviews with members of the project team took place on national television and radio, including RTÉ TV News, RTÉ Radio, Today FM and Newstalk. Interviews were also organised for local and community radio stations including 98FM, FM104, Near FM and Dublin City FM.

Table 3-11 Open Days held for 4th Consultation – Final Preferred Sites and Routes

4 th Consultation – Open Days	
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Wednesday, 26 th June 2013, 2.00pm to 8.00pm
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Saturday, 29 th June 2013, 11.00am to 4.00pm
Fingal County Hall, Swords	Wednesday, 3 rd July 2013, 2.00pm to 8.00pm
Hilton Dublin Airport Hotel, Northern Cross, Malahide Road, Dublin 17	Tuesday, 16 th July 2013, 3.00pm to 8.00pm
Total Attendees:	270* (Total Attendees refers only to the number of people that signed in.)

A set of displays were produced for the open days which provided details of the preferred site option; project need; project timeline; protection of the environment and human health; economic growth, investment and social development; cost and visual impact; as well as aerial photographs and maps of the preferred site option as shown in **Figure 3-6**.

At each of the open days, members of the project team were available to engage with members of the public, listen to stakeholders' views and answer questions that arose. The project reports were made available at each open day, such as the *'Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection (Phase Four) – Preferred Sites and Routes Report'* along with previous reports, project brochures, factsheets, and maps showing the preferred site and route option.

For the announcement of the preferred site and route option consultation, the project team issued emails to approximately 1,200 members of the public including all public representatives in the GDA. Six update emails were sent throughout the consultation period. In addition, 66 community groups from across the project area were contacted in writing and offered meetings with the project team at a date and time of their convenience. Follow up emails and phone calls were also made by the project team offering meetings. Representatives of several community organisations attended the project open days as part of this phase of public consultation.

Table 3-12 4th Consultation – Questions/Terms of Reference

4th Consultation – Terms of Reference	
1.	<p>Under the key elements listed below are there any issues that should be taken into consideration in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the preferred site option?</p> <p>The key elements to be considered in the EIS are:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Human Beings and Material Assets Flora and Fauna Soils Water Air, Odour, Climate Landscape and Visual Impact Noise and Vibration Traffic management and Access Routes Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Construction Methodologies Planning Policy</p>
2.	How should these issues be addressed in the EIS?
3.	How would you like to be communicated with as the project progresses towards planning approval?
4.	Is there any other information you believe is relevant to the development of the preferred site option?

A total of **13,491 submissions** were received by the GDD project team during this fourth phase of public consultation. The main issues as raised during this fourth public consultation are categorised in **Table 3-13**.

Table 3-13 Issues raised during the 4th Consultation

Feedback Categories – 4th Consultation		
Agriculture, Agronomy and Horticulture	Energy	Proximity to Sensitive Receptors
Air, Odour, Climate	Flooding and Storm Events	Planning and Development
Airport	Geology, Hydrogeology and Hydrology	Recreation and Amenity
Alternatives	Health & Safety	Regulation, Monitoring and Liability
Aquatic Ecology and the Environment	Human Health	Risk
Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage	Leaks, Malfunction and Breakdown	Site Selection
Catchment and Load Areas	Landscape and Visual Impact	Sludge Management
Community and Socio Economic Impacts	Material Assets	Standards

Feedback Categories – 4 th Consultation		
Construction	Need for a Single Large facility	Sustainability
Consultation	Noise and Vibration	Tourism and Local Business
Contract	Nuisance	Traffic and Transport
Cost and Financial Gain	Outfall	Water
Ecology and the Environment	Proposed Development	

At the end of the consultation period, the project team confirmed that it was beginning the environmental studies necessary to prepare an EIS to accompany the planning application for the project and that all relevant issues relating to potential effects on the environment raised during the consultation would be considered by the technical team in its review of each submission made.

The Public Consultation Report on the *'Issues to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement'* was published on 18th December 2013 and was made available on the Greater Dublin Drainage website.²⁷ This report summarised the consultation process undertaken and the issues raised by stakeholders during the fourth consultation. In this report, it was confirmed that the EIS would contain the project team's responses to all relevant issues raised during public consultation.

²⁷ All of the consultation and technical reports referenced in this report are available to view at <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/project-reports/>

4. PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION 2014-2018

On 1st January 2014, Irish Water assumed responsibility for managing Ireland's water and wastewater investment and maintenance programmes. This included assuming responsibility for developing the Greater Dublin Drainage project from Fingal County Council.

With the identification of the preferred site and routes for the GDD project, the ASA periods of public consultation were completed. The next stage of the project development process was to conduct all of the necessary technical and environmental assessments required to order prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a planning application for submission to An Bord Pleanála.

Irish Water was fully committed to the public participation approach as previously delivered by Fingal County Council and there was a seamless continuation of public and stakeholder engagement activity once the national water utility assumed responsibility for the GDD project on 1st January 2014.

4.1 MAINTAINING AWARENESS

From a communications perspective, the project team sought to maintain awareness of the project during this phase of project development by implementing a proactive programme of communications and engagement with the public concerned and other stakeholders.

This included:

- issuing regular project updates/factsheets;
- continuing the project information service (phone/email/post/website);
- holding information events in the project area (study tours, information stands and public events);
- production of a GDD project video;
- engagement with landowners;
- briefings for community groups, public representatives, media, and other stakeholders; and
- engagement with statutory stakeholders/prescribed bodies.

During this period, the project team continued to encourage and welcome feedback and submissions from the public and all interested stakeholders. All inputs received were assessed by the technical consultants in the same manner as during the focused consultations.

The project team recorded 1,146 submissions made by stakeholders during the 2014-2018 period of ongoing engagement. All submissions and queries received were responded to by the project team.

Table 4-1 provides a summary of the ongoing levels of public and stakeholder participation in the period from 2014 to submission of the planning application.

Table 4-1 Consultation and engagement activity 2014 – 2018

Year/ Consultation Phase		Project updates	Press releases	Press Ads	Media Articles	Stakeholder meetings / briefings	Open days/ info events	Attendees at events	No. of submissions
2014	Ongoing Engagement	1	3	3	13	22	7	58	226
2015	Ongoing Engagement	3	1	-	22	25	3	83	337
2016	Ongoing Engagement	2	1	-	19	8	-	35	36
2017	Ongoing Engagement	4	4	5	29	10	4	119	58
2017	Regional Biosolids Storage Facility Consultations	3	3	3	13	5	4	186	463
2018	Ongoing Engagement	1	1	1	3	10	-	-	26
Total		14	13	12	99	80	18	481	1,146

The above consultation and engagement is considered further in detail in the following sections.

4.2 INFORMATION SERVICE

The project phone line, website and email/postal service were maintained to:

- provide information and to respond to stakeholder queries;
- set up meetings requested; and
- importantly, to receive any information that might influence the technical studies being undertaken or any other project decisions being made.

4.3 INFORMATION LEAFLETS AND E-ZINES

The project team published six project updates between 2014 and 2018, and there were three project updates issued in 2017 for the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility. The updates were intended to maintain awareness of the project and to update project stakeholders on progress with the studies being conducted as part of the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. These regular updates also included feature articles in order to build understanding of wastewater treatment in the Greater Dublin Area and the need for additional treatment capacity.

An information brochure was developed and issued in early 2017 which described the need for the GDD project, the process followed to develop the project and the project delivery timeline. The

purpose of this brochure was to ensure that project information was being provided to the public and stakeholders concerned in a proactive manner during the environmental studies stage of the project. The list of brochures and e-zines published for the GDD project is provided in **Table 2-1**.

4.4 PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS 2014-2018

Public information events were held to maintain awareness of the project during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and to maximise the opportunity for public participation in the decision-making process.

This included the project team reaching out to stakeholders in the local area, through public information events at local venues and at pop-up information stands in local community centres and libraries.

During this phase, the project team also continued to organise study tours of the Shanganagh-Bray wastewater treatment plant for members of the public and local community organisations.

The project team was available to meet with members of the public, community organisations, landowners and their appointed representatives to provide information on the project and to answer any questions they may have in relation to the project.

Table 4-2 lists the public information events held for the GDD project during the period from 2014 – 2018.

Table 4-2 List of GDD Information Events 2014-2018

Date	Location	Time
Tues, 21st Jan 2014	Dublin City Council, Coolock North Central Area Office, Northside Civic Centre, Bunratty Road, Coolock, Dublin 17	10am – 4pm
Wed, 22nd Jan 2014	Baldoyle Library, The Mall (Off Strand Road), Baldoyle, Dublin 13	10am – 4pm
Wed, 25th June 2014	Portmarnock Parish Centre	10.30am – 12.30pm
Weds, 2nd July 2014	Baldoyle Library, The Mall (Off Strand Road), Baldoyle, Dublin 13	2pm - 4.30pm
Tues, 19th August 2014	Northside Civic Centre Bunratty Road. Coolock Co. Dublin	2pm - 5pm
Thurs, 3 rd July 2014	Community Study Tour to Bray Shanganagh WwTP	4pm – 7pm
Wed, 15th July 2015	Howth Yacht Club, Howth, Co. Dublin	10am – 2pm
Wed, 15th July 2015	Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links, Strand Road, Portmarnock	4pm-8pm
Thurs, 16 th July 2015	Baldoyle Library, The Mall (Off Strand Road), Baldoyle, Dublin 13	4.30pm - 7.30pm
Tues, 28 th March 2017	GDD Business Breakfast Briefing with Fingal Dublin Chamber	7.30am – 9.30am
Tues, 21 st November 2017	Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links, Strand Road, Portmarnock	2pm-8pm
Mon, 27 th November 2017	National Sports Campus Conference Centre, Abbotstown	2pm-8pm
Wed, 29 th November 2017	Hilton Dublin Airport Hotel, Northern Cross (Clonsbaugh event)	2pm-8pm

4.5 PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE BRIEFINGS

The project team held many drop-in information sessions and individual briefings for national elected representatives since 2011. The project team has also regularly briefed the relevant Regional Authority, Local Authorities, area committees, strategic policy committees and individual Councillors since 2011.

In addition, all relevant public representatives in the GDA were issued with the project updates published between 2011 and 2018. Each time a project update was issued to a public representative an individual briefing with the project team was offered.

Table 4-3 lists the events and briefings held for public representatives. Public representatives also attended the public information events held for the project.

Table 4-3 List of briefings to Public Representatives 2011-2018

Date	Location
12.04.2011	Briefing for national elected representatives at Buswell's Hotel
10.10.2011	Fingal County Council briefing
14.05.2012	Fingal County Council briefing
17.09.2012	Dublin City Council - North Area Committee briefing
27.05.2013	Councillor Study Tour to Shanganagh WWTP
18.06.2013	Dublin Regional Authority briefing
20.06.2013	Briefing for national elected representatives at Buswell's Hotel
16.07.2014	Fingal County Council - Howth-Malahide Area Committee briefing
15.09.2014	Dublin City Council - North Area Committee briefing
15.04.2015	Briefing with Sean Kenny TD
22.04.2015	Briefing with Senator Darragh O'Brien
28.04.2015	Briefing with Senator Averil Power
06.05.2015	Briefing with Alan Farrell TD
06.05.2015	Briefing with Tommy Broughan TD
07.09.2015	Briefing for Fingal County Council Water and Environment Strategic Policy Committee
02.03.2016	Fingal County Council - Howth - Malahide Area Committee briefing
21.03.2016	Dublin City Council - North Area Committee briefing
29.03.2017	Fingal County Council – Dublin City Council Inter-Authority Information Forum
15.11.2017	Briefing for Minister Richard Bruton (with Parliamentary Assistant)
15.11.2017	Briefing with Darragh O'Brien TD
15.11.2017	Briefing with Alan Farrell TD
15.11.2017	Briefing with Sean Haughey TD

In addition to briefings provided to public representatives, the project team also provided responses to parliamentary questions and questions put to Irish Water by public representatives. In all cases, information was provided in a timely fashion.

4.6 FORESHORE LICENCE STATUTORY CONSULTATION: DECEMBER 2014 – JANUARY 2015

In December 2014, an application for a Foreshore Licence was made by Irish Water to the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) for permission to undertake investigative surveys in the foreshore between Baldoyle and north of Ireland’s Eye.

The purpose of the investigations was to assess the condition of the sea bed, to survey marine life and to establish tide and current patterns in the foreshore between the Baldoyle Bay and north of Ireland’s Eye. This environmental information was necessary to inform the decision-making process relating to the marine outfall pipeline and the discharge of treated water to the marine environment.

The Foreshore Licence application was accompanied by a statutory public consultation, as directed by DECLG that took place between 11th December 2014 and 20th January 2015 inclusive. A public notice was placed in national and local newspapers and members of the public and statutory stakeholders were provided with the opportunity of making observations and submissions to DECLG. The project team provided written responses to all submissions made during the statutory consultation.

The GDD project team promoted the statutory consultation by issuing notifications to in excess of 1,300 GDD news subscribers including all public representatives and by placing notifications on the GDD website.

The application and all supporting documentation are available to view on the department website.²⁸ The Foreshore Licence was granted by DECLG on 8th May 2015 and the marine investigations began in late summer 2015.

4.7 MARINE INVESTIGATIONS 2015

The licenced marine investigations in Baldoyle Bay and the Irish Sea took place between August and October 2015. A landside borehole survey was also completed on Velvet Strand, Portmarnock in early September 2015.

As part of the ongoing engagement and consultation process, the project team identified approximately 150 stakeholders in the Howth, Sutton, Baldoyle, and Portmarnock areas including local businesses, community associations, sailing and diving clubs, the local fishing community and others.

These stakeholders were issued with project updates in advance of the marine surveys in

Figure 4-1 GDD Marine Investigation Platform near Ireland's Eye – July-August 2015



²⁸ <http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/irish-water-4>

February 2015 and again in July 2015 to inform them of the studies and the survey process, to provide an update on the GDD project and to explain where to obtain further information. In addition, over 1,200 subscribed stakeholders were also sent email updates.

As noted in **Section 4.4**, prior to the deployment of the marine survey platform (pictured), the project team held information events in Howth, Portmarnock and Baldoyle on 15th and 16th July 2015 which were attended by a wide range of stakeholders including local residents, community associations, local businesses, representatives of the fishing community, sailing clubs, environmental NGOs, and public representatives.

These events provided the opportunity for members of the local community to learn about the GDD project and the forthcoming marine investigations. Members of the project team were in attendance to answer queries about the survey process.

Figure 4-2 Ground Investigation Portmarnock Beach – September 2015



Figure 4-3 Marine Investigations - GDD Public Information Events - July 2015



4.8 REGIONAL BIOSOLIDS STORAGE FACILITY CONSULTATIONS 2017

The National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (NWSMP), published by Irish Water in 2016, sets out Irish Water's strategy for managing wastewater sludge over the next 25 years.²⁹ The plan identified the need to develop a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility (RBSF) to serve greater Dublin to support the upgrade of Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant and the development of the Greater Dublin Drainage project.

Biosolids are a by-product of the wastewater (sludge) treatment process. Biosolids contain high levels of nutrients and are sustainably reused as a soil nutrient and fertiliser in agriculture, in compliance with EU and national regulations. Approximately 98% of biosolids produced in Ireland are reused on agricultural land. Biosolids can only be applied to lands during the planting seasons each Spring and Autumn. For the rest of the year biosolids must be stored.

The new biosolids storage facility will form part of the upgraded wastewater treatment network for greater Dublin and will facilitate its continued social and economic growth while protecting the environment.

Irish Water commenced a site selection process in February 2017 that included three stages of public consultation to identify a preferred site for a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility.

Figure 4-4 describes the development process for the RBSF project and illustrates the interlinked stages of consultation to identify a preferred location for the new facility.

The process to environmentally assess the proposed RBSF is detailed in Volume 4 of the EIAR.

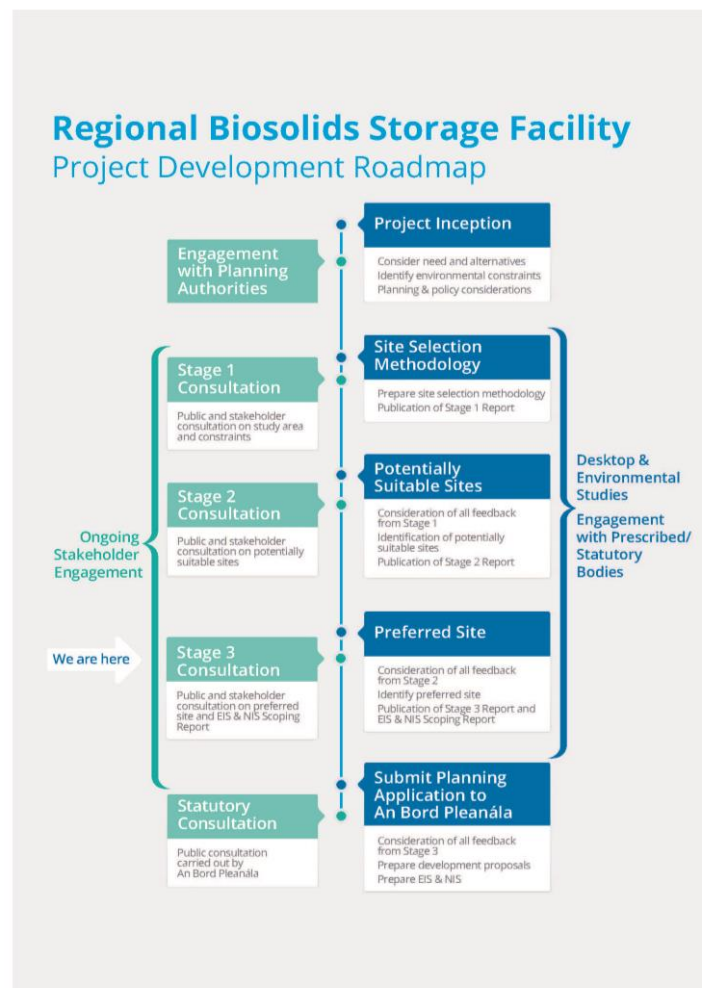


Figure 4-4 Regional Biosolids Project Roadmap

²⁹ <https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/our-plans/wastewater-sludge-management/>

4.8.1 RBSF Stage 1 Consultation Summary

On 2nd February 2017, Irish Water published the *Stage 1 Report – Site Selection Methodology* for consultation. The purpose of the Stage 1 Report for the RBSF project was to:

- Explain the need for the proposed RBSF;
- Outline the study area for the proposed project;
- Outline what such a facility would look like and how it would operate;
- Outline the planning and other legislation that would apply to the proposed development; and
- Outline the project development roadmap and the process by which Irish Water proposed to identify and develop a site for the facility.

Following publication of the Stage 1 Report Irish Water commenced a focused period of non-statutory public consultation that ran for four weeks until 2nd March 2017. Throughout the consultation, Irish Water sought feedback from the public, local authorities, public representatives and all interested individuals and organisations on the contents of the Stage 1 Report.

Table 4-4 Issues raised during RBSF Stage 1 Consultation

Feedback Categories – RBSF Stage 1 Consultation	
Agronomy	Health
Air Quality	Project Need
Alternatives	Site Selection Methodology
Biosolids	Suggested Sites
Communication & Consultation	Soils, Geology & Hydrogeology
Cumulative Impact	Storage
Environment	

All consultation activities undertaken and the feedback received are detailed in the *Stage 1 Consultation Report* as published on the Irish Water RBSF project website.³⁰

4.8.2 RBSF Stage 2 Consultation Summary

On 11th May 2017, Irish Water published the *Stage 2 Report – Identification of Potential Sites* for consultation. The purpose of the Stage 2 Report for the RBSF project was to:

- Demonstrate the process undertaken to identify a shortlist of potential sites for the project;
- Identify five shortlisted potential sites;
- Provide a report on the consultation activity carried out at Stage 1 and how the feedback provided was considered by the project team; and
- Outline the next steps of the project and how the team would identify a preferred site.

³⁰ <https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/national-projects/biosolids/>

Following publication of the Stage 2 Report, a focused period of non-statutory public consultation ran for five weeks until 15th June 2017. Throughout the consultation, Irish Water sought feedback from the public, local authorities, public representatives and all interested individuals and organisations on the contents of the Stage 2 Report.

Table 4-5 Open Days held for RBSF Stage 2 Consultation

RBSF Stage 2 Consultation – Open Days	
The Oak Centre, Maynooth Road, Dunboyne, Co. Meath	Tuesday, 23 rd May 2017, 1pm-7pm
Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin	Wednesday, 24 th May 2017, 1pm-7pm
White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin	Thursday, 25 th May 2017, 1pm-7pm
Total Attendees:	128* (Total Attendees is an approximate number as not all attendees opted to sign in.)

All consultation activities undertaken and feedback received are detailed in the *Stage 2 Consultation Report* as published on the Irish Water RBSF project website.³¹ **Table 4-6** lists the categories under which feedback was provided during the Stage 2 consultation.

Table 4-6 Issues raised during RBSF Stage 2 Consultation

Feedback Categories – RBSF Stage 2 Consultation	
Agronomy	Noise
Air Quality	Operation
Alternatives	Project Need
Alternatives	Site Selection Methodology
Archaeology	Suggested Sites
Biosolids & Storage	Soils, Geology & Hydrogeology
Communication & Consultation	Storage
Cumulative Impact	Traffic
Environment	Visual Impact
Health	Water

4.8.3 RBSF Stage 3 Consultation Summary

On 29th August 2017, Irish Water published the *Stage 3 Report – Identification of Preferred Site* for consultation along with the Scoping Report for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The purpose of the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report was to:

³¹ <https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/national-projects/biosolids/>

- Demonstrate the process undertaken to identify the preferred site from the shortlist of potential sites;
- Identify the preferred site for the RBSF;
- Outline the methodology for the assessment of environmental impacts;
- Provide a report on the consultation activity carried out at Stage 2 and how the feedback provided was considered by the project team; and
- Outline the next steps of the project.

The Stage 3 Report identified a site at Newtown/Kilshane in Dublin 11 as the preferred location for the new Regional Biosolids Storage Facility. The Newtown/Kilshane site was found to be more favourable for a majority of the criteria assessed including zoning (heavy industry), planning policy, landscape and visual impact, noise, ecology, hydrology, distance from biosolids source, and capital and operating costs.

Following publication of the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report, a focused period of non-statutory public consultation ran for six weeks until 10th October 2017. Throughout the consultation, Irish Water sought feedback from the public, local authorities, elected representatives and all interested individuals and organisations on the contents of both reports.

An open day was held close to the preferred site to provide information to the local community and interested stakeholders and gather feedback on the proposals.

Table 4-7 Open Day held for RBSF Stage 3 Consultation

RBSF Stage 3 Consultation – Open Day	
White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin	Tuesday 12th September, 1pm-8pm
Total Attendees:	58* (Total Attendees is an approximate number as not all attendees opted to sign in.)

Open day displays were prepared to outline the key information contained in the Stage 3 Report and the Scoping Report. Dedicated briefings for public representatives in the area were offered in advance of the open day commencing.

The categories under which feedback was provided are set out below. All consultation activities undertaken and feedback received are detailed in the *Stage 3 Consultation Report* as published on the Irish Water RBSF project website.³²

Table 4-8 Issues raised during RBSF Stage 3 Consultation

Feedback Categories – RBSF Stage 3 Consultation	
Agronomy	Ecology & Biodiversity
Air Quality & Odour	Health
Alternatives	Noise & Vibration
Alternatives	Operation of the Facility

³² <https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/national-projects/biosolids/>

Feedback Categories – RBSF Stage 3 Consultation	
Archaeology & Cultural Heritage	Project Need
Biosolids: Storage & Land Spreading	Social & Community
Communication & Consultation	Soils, Geology & Hydrogeology
Cumulative Impact	Traffic & Road Safety
Distance from Biosolids Source & Spread Lands	Landscape & Visual
Environment	Water / Hydrology

4.8.4 RBSF Pre-Application Consultation

An Bord Pleanála

The Regional Biosolids Storage Facility project was the subject of pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála.

Nine pre-application meetings were held between the Ringsend project team and An Bord Pleanála and six pre-application consultation meetings were held between the GDD project team and An Bord Pleanála (refer to [Section 5](#) for further details).

As part of the pre-application consultations held with ABP, it was agreed that the RBSF project would be included within the overall scope of the Ringsend and GDD projects and that the applications and associated environmental reports should be included in the applications for both projects.

Fingal County Council

Engagement with Fingal County Council regarding the RBSF included a formal presentation of the project on 17th November 2017. This meeting and further meetings held with Fingal County Council are listed below.

Table 4-9 RBSF Meetings with Fingal County Council

Name of Consultee	Meeting Date
Fingal County Council – Planning Department	17 th October 2017
Fingal County Council – Planning, Parks and Landscape, Traffic, Environmental Health	17 th November 2017
Fingal County Council – Planning, Water Services, Environment	8 th December 2017
Fingal County Council – Planning Department	2 nd February 2018

4.9 GDD PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN 2017

Maintaining awareness of the GDD project during the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report was a key objective of the project team.

The project team undertook a public information campaign for the GDD project in November 2017. The campaign included disseminating approximately 11,000 project newsletters via a postal mailout to homes and businesses across north county Dublin on 8th November 2017. The newsletter provided information on the need for the GDD project, the proposed development, forthcoming information events, and the environmental assessment and planning process. This communication confirmed that Irish Water would be making a planning application for the GDD project to An Bord Pleanála in 2018.

Three public information events were held in Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links (21st Nov), National Sports Campus Conference Centre, Abbotstown (27th Nov) and Hilton Hotel, Northern Cross (29th Nov). The public information events were advertised in advance in the national and local newspapers (as listed in **Table 2-2**). The information events were attended by more than 100 local residents, community organisations, landowners, local authority personnel and public representatives from across the project area.

Information was also issued via email to national and local public representatives on 8th November and briefings were provided in Leinster House on 15th November.

The project team recorded feedback provided by stakeholders during the public information campaign and responded to all queries raised at the information events, at briefings and thereafter in writing.

Figure 4-5 GDD Public Information Events - November 2017



5. CONSULTATION WITH STATUTORY AND REGULATORY STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 MEETINGS WITH STATUTORY AND REGULATORY STAKEHOLDERS

A list of meetings with statutory and regulatory stakeholders is included at **Appendix A**.³³

Throughout the preplanning phases of the project, the GDD team took a proactive approach to engagement with all stakeholders including with statutory and regulatory stakeholders. The project team organised and attended in excess of 230 meetings with external stakeholders from 2011–2018.

The feedback and inputs recorded by the project team during meetings with external stakeholders supplemented the knowledge of the project team and influenced its decision-making process. Feedback from statutory stakeholders and prescribed bodies is detailed and responded to in Chapter 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The impact of public and stakeholder participation in the decision-making process is described in further detail in each of the consultation response reports as published on the project website and is summarised in **Section 6**.

5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING CONSULTATION 2013

As part of the EIS scoping phase, a consultation brief and associated letter was issued to all relevant statutory stakeholders and prescribed bodies on 29th October 2013. Stakeholders were asked to provide comment on potential environmental consequences that they perceived may result from the construction and/or operation of the proposed development so that these, where possible, could be considered in the development of the EIS.

Table 5-1 lists the stakeholder organisations that were issued with the Consultation Brief and letter on 29th October 2013.

³³ See GDD Planning Report for further details.

Table 5-1 List of Statutory Stakeholders, Prescribed Bodies and Interested Bodies issued with a Consultation Brief and Letter in October 2013

Body	Body	Body
An Bord Pleanála	Dublin Airport Authority	Hyder Consulting
Arts Council	Dublin City Council Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Iarnród Éireann
An Taisce	Eircom	Industrial Development Agency (IDA)
Badgerwatch Ireland	EirGrid	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Ballymore Ireland	Electricity Supply Board (ESB)	Irish Aviation Authority
Bat Conservation Ireland	ENFO	Irish Business and employers Confederation
Bord Iaiscaigh Mhara	Environmental Protection Agency	Irish Farmers Association
Birdwatch Ireland	Fáilte Ireland	Irish Hotels Federation
Bord Bia	Fingal County Council	Irish Road Haulage
Bord Gáis Éireann	Fingal County Enterprise & Development Boards	Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Fisheries Ireland	Irish Wildlife Trust
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	Food Safety Authority	Kildare County Council
Department of Education and Skills	Forfás	Marine Institute
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	Geological Survey of Ireland	Meath County Council
Department of Environment, Community and Local Government	Health and Safety Authority	National Development Funding Authority
Department of Justice and Equality	Health Service Executive (HSE)	National Roads Authority
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	Heritage Council	Office of Public Works

Responses were requested to be forwarded to the project team (Jacobs Tobin) for consideration. A total of 16 responses were received.

5.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2017

On 16th November 2017, an EIAR scoping letter and project description document was issued to all relevant statutory stakeholders and prescribed bodies.

The stakeholder organisations were asked to provide comment on the GDD project description and to provide any information as relevant for consideration in the development of the EIAR.

Stakeholders were asked:

- Do you have comments that you would like Irish Water to consider in the preparation of the EIAR prior to submission with the planning application to An Bord Pleanála?
- Do you have any comments on the environmental issues in the study area that require consideration within the EIAR?

Table 5-2 lists the stakeholder organisations that were issued with the EIAR letter on 16th November 2017.

Table 5-2 List of Statutory Stakeholders, Prescribed Bodies and Interested Bodies issued with an EIAR Update Letter in November 2017

Body	Body	Body
An Taisce	Eir	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Arts Council	EirGrid	Irish Hotel Federation
Badgerwatch	Environmental Protection Authority	Irish Rail
Bat Conservation	ESB	Irish Road Haulage Association
Bord Iascaigh Mhara	Failte Ireland	Irish Wildlife Trust
Birdwatch Ireland	Fingal County Council	Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
Dublin Airport Authority	Fingal Enterprise	Kildare County Council
Dublin City Council	Food Safety Authority	Marine Institute
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Geological Survey of Ireland	Meath County Council
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation	Heritage Council	National Development Finance Agency
Department of Education and Skills	Health and Safety Authority	Office of Public Works
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	Health Service Executive	South Dublin County Council
Department of Justice and Equality	Irish Aviation Authority	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	Irish Business and Employer's Confederation	Teagasc
The Discovery Programme	Industrial Development Agency	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Irish Farmers' Association	Tourism Ireland

Responses were requested to be forwarded to the project team (Jacobs Tobin) for consideration. Two responses, from Birdwatch Ireland and TII, were received and were considered in the development of the relevant EIAR chapters on ecology and traffic and transport.

5.4 PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION PROCEDURE WITH AN BORD PLEANÁLA

In accordance with section 182(E) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a series of pre-application discussions were held between Irish Water representatives and An Bord Pleanála.

The key issues arising from these meetings which are relevant to the EIAR are summarised below:

Table 5-3 - Details of the Pre-application Consultation Procedure

Date of Meeting	Key Issues Raised by ABP	Resulting GDD Project Team Actions
24.01.2013	All environmental assessments/modelling to consider the 'worst case' scenario	Recommendations of ABP adopted by project team
	Proposed Sludge Hub to be given suitable attention in the EIS	
12.02.2014	Compulsory acquisition powers of Irish Water	Legal clarification subsequently provided by Irish Water on powers of CPO
	Phased construction	Single phase construction proposed
	Potential DAA concerns	Consultation ongoing with DAA; submissions received raised no objection to GDD project
	Odour modelling must consider the 'worst case' scenario	Odour modelling to consider worst case and site boundary odour limits to be set
	Requirement for NIS	NIS under development
	Underwater noise specialist	Underwater noise modelling undertaken
09.07.2015	Status of IW sludge management strategy	National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan published by IW – GDD sludge hub strategy defined
	Need for project to be demonstrated	Projected treatment capacity requirements reviewed and updated
	In-combination effects to be considered in the EIS	In-combination impacts assessed in the EIAR
26.06.2017	2014 EIA Directive	EIAR has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the 2014 EIA Directive
	RBSF – requirement for nutrient management plans for land spreading to be suitably assessed	Approach to assessing requirements for land spreading subsequently clarified to ABP

Date of Meeting	Key Issues Raised by ABP	Resulting GDD Project Team Actions
	NIS – potential issues in the marine environment to be discussed with NPWS	Project team consulted with NPWS
20.11.2017	Confirmation of 500,000PE design capacity	500,000PE design capacity confirmed by project team
	Construction timelines and methodologies	Project team confirmed single stage project build out
	Indicative WwTP layout & access Abbotstown pumping station	Application to include three indicative WwTP layouts Access from R139 – egress onto Clonshaugh Road.
	Treatment technology & Sludge treatment	Secondary treatment to be proposed Regional Biosolids Storage Facility to serve both GDD & Ringsend and will form part of the GDD SID application EIAR to be structured in four main volumes EIAR to robustly address all environmental impacts in relation to SPAs and SACs and qualifying interests
	Project need and growth projections	Projected treatment capacity requirements have been reviewed and updated
	Other consents: CPO, Wastewater Discharge Authorisation, Foreshore Licence	Project team has consulted with Landowners, EPA, NPWS, DAFM
	Consultation	Extensive consultation and engagement since 2011. GDD Public and Stakeholder Participation Report to be submitted as part of application
14.02.2018	Outfall pipeline routing query (north of Clonshaugh)	Project team confirmed routing due to archaeological and existing development constraints at the Malahide Road
	Marine outfall and ASG technology	Project team to consider treatment technology and outfall options
	CPO	Compulsory acquisition of wayleaves required for the entire length of the pipeline
	WwTP layout	Indicative WwTP layout supplied
	Noise & Odour Modelling	Scenarios with potential for maximum impact to be considered
	Sludge Treatment & RBSF - Energy Efficiency	EIAR to adequately deal with energy recovery and reuse on site EIAR format proposed
	SID designation. Application submission procedures and oral hearing	Other required consents to be stated in the SID application documents

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT 2018

The project team continued its stakeholder engagement in preparation for the submission of the GDD planning application to An Bord Pleanála in the first half of 2018. Ongoing engagement continued with landowners impacted by the project in 2018 via the Ervia Wayleaves Team.³⁴

5.4.1 Pre-planning Stakeholder Briefings

A number of briefings were held with stakeholders in 2018 prior to making the GDD planning application. These included a breakfast briefing with Fingal Dublin Chamber to highlight the importance of the GDD project for local businesses. Individual briefings were also held with stakeholders with an interest in the marine environment.

Table 6-8 Pre-Planning Application Briefings

Date of Meeting	Name of Consultee
12 th March 2018	HSE Connolly Hospital
19 th March 2018	Fingal Dublin Chamber
24 th April 2018	NE Razor Clam Fishermen's Association & Seafood Processor
	Howth Yacht Club
	Lobster and Whelk Fishermen (Howth)
	DAFM (Howth Harbourmaster)
16 th May 2018	Fingal Dublin Chamber (Council Meeting)

5.4.2 Planning Application Communications

An update was issued to the project stakeholder list to coincide with the submission of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála on 20th June 2018. This communication informed GDD stakeholders that the planning application was being lodged and provided details of the next phase of the project and the statutory consultation process. The ezine also contained details of how members of the public could access the planning application and how to make an observation or submission on the GDD project directly to An Bord Pleanála.

A press release was issued to national and local media outlets to announce the GDD planning application and to provide details of the statutory consultation and where the planning documents can be viewed.

A newspaper public notification, placed in the Irish Independent and Evening Herald newspapers, advised the public of the planning application and the statutory consultation as directed by An Bord Pleanála.

³⁴ For further details of landowner engagement please see the GDD CPO Routing Report.

The GDD planning application documentation was placed on public display at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01V902
- The Offices of Fingal County Council, County Hall; Main Street Swords, Co Dublin, K67 X8Y2
- The Offices of Fingal County Council, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 W638
- The Offices of Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, D08 RF3F

In accordance with the requirement to make information available electronically, as outlined in circular PL8/2017 issued by Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the EIAR and other planning documents associated with the proposed project are provided online at a standalone planning application website www.gddplanning.ie.

The project website (www.greaterdublindrainage.ie) was also updated to include the project update and to provide information relating to the statutory phase of consultation and to advise stakeholders where the planning documents can be viewed.

7. HOW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HAS INFORMED AND INFLUENCED THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Feedback provided to the project team during all consultations held for the GDD project has added to the knowledge of the project team and has informed the decision-making and design processes for the final proposed project solution.

Where specific sites, features, or constraints, locally known or otherwise, were identified in stakeholder submissions, these have been checked by the relevant technical specialists to ensure they have been included in their assessments.

Table 7-1 summarises of how public participation has informed and influenced the GDD project development process.

Table 7-1 How Public Participation Has Informed the Project Development Process

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIA Reference
Agriculture and Horticulture	Feedback was provided to the project team on the importance of agriculture and horticulture within the study area.	<p>The project team employed a specialist agronomist at an early stage in the project development process to prepare a detailed assessment to inform the identification of the emerging preferred site options and to minimise potential impacts on agriculture/horticulture.</p> <p>The project team also provided a commitment to local growers that strict dust control and other mitigation measures will be put in place during construction and operation of the treatment plant, pipelines and pumping station so as to avoid any potential negative impact on local crop growing activities.</p> <p>Further details of mitigation measures and commitment to best practice are contained in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP).</p>	<p>EIAR Chapter 19 Agronomy</p> <p>and</p> <p>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) Section 7.3.3 - 7.2.19</p>

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIA Reference
Air Quality, Odour and Climate	<p>Consultation feedback provided on air quality related mainly to concerns about the potential for fugitive odours arising at the wastewater treatment plant or from the pumping station at Abbotstown and impacts on the environmental amenity of the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>The project team considered the feedback provided and this informed the odour modelling undertaken by the qualified odour specialists.</p> <p>An odour control system will be put in place at the new GDD facility, at the pumping station at Abbotstown and at certain points along the route of the orbital sewer. Strict odour standards will be achieved and maintained throughout construction and operation. Ongoing odour monitoring will continue for the full lifecycle of the GDD facility.</p> <p>Following consultation with the Dublin Airport Authority, the project team proposed that all treatment tanks will be covered and that there will be no open water on site. This design feature minimises the potential for bird strikes and also has the added benefit of enhanced odour control.</p>	<p>EIA Chapter 14 Air Quality, Odour and Climate</p> <p>and</p> <p>WwTP Engineering Report/Design Report</p>
Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection Process	<p>Specific sites, features, and constraints were identified in submissions during each consultation stage and during ongoing stakeholder engagement.</p>	<p>All reported features and constraints were checked by the relevant technical specialists and included in their assessments.</p> <p>As part of the Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection (ASA) methodology and following consideration of feedback from the early consultations, the project team undertook to identify potential sites that would allow for a 300m buffer zone around the treatment plant site from sensitive receptors. This is significantly in excess of the 100m minimum distance set out in the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023.³⁵</p>	<p>EIA Chapter 5 Consideration of Alternatives</p>

³⁵ See Objective WT11 [Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023](#). Note: The 300m buffer zone is not a legal requirement and the buffer zone does not restrict the development of neighbouring land parcels.

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIAR Reference
Community Benefits	<p>During the pre-planning phases, suggestions were sought from members of the public on the types of local benefits that could be facilitated by the GDD development.</p>	<p>Irish Water has developed a community benefits scheme for the GDD project which will deliver benefits under three main themes: employment, education and environment.</p> <p>The scheme aims to maximise the benefits which can accrue from the development of this vital strategic infrastructure project.</p> <p>Irish Water has engaged relevant stakeholders in the development of the community benefits scheme including the Local Authorities, education and training providers and the local employment services in the project area.</p>	<p>GDD Planning Report (for full details of the GDD Community Benefits Scheme)</p>
Construction	<p>Feedback provided during the various consultation periods raised concerns that construction-related impacts could negatively impact upon the local community or the local environment.</p>	<p>All potential construction related impacts such as traffic, noise, dust and construction methods have been identified and assessed in the EIAR with mitigations proposed in the OCEMP developed for the project.</p> <p>A Community Liaison Officer will be appointed for the construction period and Irish Water will put in place a complaints management process to ensure the efficient resolution of any construction related issues.</p> <p>The project team also engaged extensively with statutory bodies from 2011-2018 to inform the development. Where issues or concerns about potential construction impacts were raised by these stakeholders, the project team assessed the information provided and responded by adapting the proposed construction methodologies. An example of this is the use of micro-tunnelling under water courses which has been proposed to mitigate potential environmental impacts following consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p>	<p>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP)</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 4 Proposed Project Description</p>

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIA Reference
Communications and Consultation	Suggestions from members of the public relating to the consultation process or to communications.	<p>A high level of public awareness of the GDD project was achieved through the communications and consultation processes undertaken for the project as evidenced by the number of submissions made to the project from 2011-2018. The project team was available to meet with all interested stakeholders throughout the pre-planning stages with 196 stakeholder meetings and 34 open days held.</p> <p>Where ideas and suggestions in relation to communications on the project were received from the public these were reviewed, considered and acted upon by the communications team where possible. This included holding additional information events in Howth, Northern Cross, Coolock, Portmarnock and Baldoyle and organising study tours to Bray-Shanganagh WwTP. Following a suggestion from a member of the public, a short project video was also produced and was made available on the project website.</p>	See this report sections: 2.6 Project Information Video, 2.9 Study Tours & 4.4 Public Information Events
Environmental and Technical Studies	Stakeholder engagement and public consultation resulted in feedback on the scope and duration of the environmental and technical investigations undertaken for the project.	<p>At the request of the local fishing community in north Dublin and statutory stakeholders, additional fish and marine mammal studies were undertaken. These studies were undertaken in order to achieve a full understanding of local fishing activities and marine life off the north Dublin coast.</p> <p>Additional issues raised during the consultations have also been considered as part of the archaeological and geophysical studies for the project.</p> <p>Following a suggestion from a public representative, Irish Water has undertaken to make all of the environmental data collected and compiled for the GDD project publically available online as an educational research resource.</p>	EIA Chapter 8 Marine Water Quality and EIA Chapter 9 Biodiversity (Marine)

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIA Reference
Health	During the early consultations, stakeholders expressed concerns in relation to perceived impacts of the GDD project on human health.	<p>As part of the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report the impacts of the project on Population and Human Health have been assessed by qualified specialists.</p> <p>In addition, the project has been developed in accordance with all legislative and regulatory health requirements.</p>	<p>EIAR Chapter 6 Population</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 7 Human Health</p>
Landowner Engagement in Project Design	<p>Intensive engagement took place during the preplanning stages between the GDD project team and landowners impacted by the proposed development.</p> <p>Proactive engagement took place with all effected public and private landowners and private developers/holding companies with lands along the pipeline route and at the WwTP and pumping station sites.</p>	<p>The Ervia Wayleaves Team accommodated requests from landowners where possible in order to minimise the overall impact on their landholdings. This included altering the route of the orbital pipeline within the identified corridor, altering the wayleave width where no other option was available, and by adopting alternative pipeline construction methodologies where feasible (i.e. open cut or trenchless techniques/micro tunnelling) in order to avoid or minimise construction related impacts.</p> <p>As an example, following engagement with the Railway Procurement Agency (now TII) in 2012, the GDD project team made a significant alteration to the orbital pipeline route in order to avoid a potential routing conflict with the planned Metro North development.</p> <p>Further examples of the mitigation measures proposed by the project team are summarised in the CPO Routing Report and EIAR Chapter 23.</p>	<p>CPO Routing Report</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 23 Summary of Mitigation Measures</p>

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIA Reference
Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pumping Station Design	Feedback was provided by Fingal County Council and by members of the local community on the design of the wastewater treatment plant at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh) and on the pumping station at Abbotstown.	<p>Having considered the feedback provided, the project team commissioned architectural advisors in 2013 to develop a campus-style design for the new wastewater treatment facility at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh).</p> <p>The low rise WwTP development will be appropriately landscaped with double-berm screening which will minimise visual impact.</p> <p>The proposed pumping station at Abbotstown has also been designed to have an architectural finish which will complement the surrounding built environment.</p>	<p>GDD Planning Report</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 12 Landscape and Visual</p> <p>and</p> <p>EIAR Chapter 23 Summary of Mitigation Measures</p>
Regional Biosolids Storage Facility (RBSF)	<p>Feedback was provided by local authorities and by members of the local communities and local organisations in proximity to the identified site for the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility.</p> <p>Feedback was provided on odour, noise, landscape and visual, water / hydrology, drainage, traffic and climate and energy.</p>	<p>Following feedback received throughout the course of the three phases of consultation for the RBSF, a number of measures have been taken in the design and development of the facility.</p> <p>Odour control mitigation measures will be employed.</p> <p>Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) will be employed in the design and operation of the RBSF along with designs to contain planned and unplanned washout from the site and the management of vehicle cleaning to incorporate water saving measures.</p> <p>The proposed noise design of the facility incorporates features to avoid noise from vehicles and mechanical equipment.</p> <p>Architectural designs and landscaping plans have been integrated into the design of the facility.</p>	<p>Traffic and associated impacts are considered in Volume 4 Section 13 of the EIAR</p> <p>The design of the RBSF is described in the EIAR in Volume 2, Sections 3 & 4 and Volume 4, Section 10</p> <p>Issues relating to water and drainage are considered in Volume 2, Section 3 and Volume 4, Section 4 of the EIAR</p> <p>Noise is</p>

Feedback Category	Description of Feedback	Response to Feedback	Planning Application / EIAR Reference
		Solar panels will be incorporated into the design and operation of the RBSF.	considered in Volume 2, Section 3 Volume 4, Sections 9 and 10 of the EIAR The site layout, architectural design and landscape design are described in Volume 2, Section 3. The landscape and visual impact assessment is provided in Volume 4, Section 14 of the EIAR

8. CONCLUSION

The Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) project aims to provide the wastewater treatment infrastructure that the Greater Dublin Area needs for its sustainable growth and development.

The new regional wastewater treatment facility is being proposed in order to protect public health, to safeguard the environment and to facilitate the social and economic growth of the region.

Irish Water recently submitted a separate strategic infrastructure application to An Bord Pleanála to upgrade the Ringsend wastewater treatment plant. Both projects are needed to provide adequate wastewater treatment to support the sustainable growth of the GDA up to 2050.

GDD will provide the additional treatment capacity required once the Ringsend facility reaches its maximum capacity in the mid-2020s. Once operational from 2026, the GDD project will have the capacity to provide wastewater treatment for the equivalent of half a million people in north county Dublin and parts of Kildare and Meath.

GDD is a key part of Irish Water's investment in new wastewater infrastructure in greater Dublin. The project will ensure that the wastewater generated every day in our homes, schools and workplaces will continue to be collected and treated before being safely returned to our environment.

A proactive approach has been taken to public participation for this important project. As this report demonstrates, there has been extensive, ongoing communication and consultation with the public and all interested stakeholders throughout the preplanning phase of the GDD project. High levels of public awareness were achieved and maintained to submission of the planning application.

Public and stakeholder participation was accessible, meaningful, and is fully accountable in compliance with best practice principles of public participation and the Aarhus Convention.

The extensive programme of proactive, early consultation and engagement undertaken between 2011 and 2018 formed a key part of the project development process. It provided early opportunities for the public and all interested organisations to participate in the development of the GDD project. All feedback provided was considered by the project team and has informed the project development process as demonstrated.

Irish Water wishes to thank the public and the organisations that participated in the development of the Greater Dublin Drainage project to date.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2011 -2018

Meeting No.	Date	Organisation
1	12/04/2011	Briefing event for national elected representatives at Buswells Hotel
2	20/04/2011	Dublin City Council
3	27/04/2011	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
4	04/05/2011	South Dublin County Council
5	04/05/2011	Marine Institute
6	05/05/2011	Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government
7	09/05/2011	Kildare County Council
8	10/05/2011	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
9	11/05/2011	Meath County Council
10	16/05/2011	Inland Fisheries Ireland
11	18/05/2011	Eastern River Basin District (ERBD)
12	27/05/2011	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government - Planning Section
13	31/05/2011	Kildare County Council
14	07/06/2011	1st Consultation: Constraints Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
15	08/06/2011	1st Consultation: Constraints Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
16	08/06/2011	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Water Quality & Marine Strategy Directive)
17	14/06/2011	1st Consultation: Constraints Consultation Open Day - Balbriggan Town Hall & Library
18	16/06/2011	1st Consultation: Constraints Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
19	20/07/2011	Fingal County Council Biodiversity Officer
20	30/07/2011	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
21	19/08/2011	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) & Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Sea Fisheries Board)
22	31/08/2011	CDM Smith (consulting engineering)
23	15/09/2011	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
24	07/10/2011	Kildare County Council
25	10/10/2011	Fingal County Council briefing
26	12/10/2011	Office of Public Works (OPW)
27	22/10/2011	2nd Consultation: ASA Phase 1 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
28	26/10/2011	2nd Consultation: ASA Phase 1 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
29	26/10/2011	Grower's Association
30	26/10/2011	Howth Yacht Club
31	03/11/2011	2nd Consultation: ASA Phase 1 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
32	03/11/2011	Howth-Sutton Community Council
33	03/11/2011	Skerries Community Association
34	05/11/2011	2nd Consultation: ASA Phase 1 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
35	05/11/2011	Lusk Waste Watch
36	05/11/2011	Rogerstown Residents Group
37	05/11/2011	Loughshinny Community Association
38	05/11/2011	Donabate Solidarity Group
39	05/11/2011	Reclaim Fingal Alliance
40	05/11/2011	Sutton Tidy Towns
41	23/11/2011	Fingal County Council (Traffic and Transport)
42	24/11/2011	Dublin Airport Authority (DAA)

Meeting No.	Date	Organisation
43	24/11/2011	Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)
44	09/12/2011	Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSA)
45	19/12/2011	Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
46	30/01/2012	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
47	06/02/2012	Teagasc- vegetable crops advisor
48	02/03/2012	Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) + Local Fishing Reps
49	09/03/2012	Bord Bia
50	27/04/2012	National Development Funding Authority (NDFA)
51	30/04/2012	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
52	14/05/2012	Fingal County Council briefing
53	30/05/2012	3rd Consultation: ASA Phase 2 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
54	30/05/2012	Skerries Community Association
55	30/05/2012	Lusk Community Council
56	31/05/2012	Newtown Court Housing Manager
57	02/06/2012	3rd Consultation: ASA Phase 2 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
58	14/06/2012	3rd Consultation: ASA Phase 2 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
59	16/06/2012	Saucerstown Residents Group
60	16/06/2012	3rd Consultation: ASA Phase 2 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
61	16/06/2012	Lusk Waste Watch
62	16/06/2012	Reclaim Fingal Alliance
63	06/06/2012	NABCO Newcourt
64	06/06/2012	St. Michael's House
65	06/06/2012	Newtown Court Housing Manager
66	06/06/2012	Darndale Belcamp Village Centre
67	06/06/2012	Travact Outreach
68	06/06/2012	Darndale Tenants & Residents Association
69	07/06/2012	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
70	19/06/2012	Ballymore Homes, Ballymore Properties
71	03/07/2012	The Discovery Programme
72	05/07/2012	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
73	30/07/2012	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
74	05/09/2012	Birdwatch Ireland
75	14/09/2012	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG)
76	14/09/2012	Kildare County Council
77	17/09/2012	DCC North City Area Committee
78	16/10/2012	Hyder Consulting
79	16/10/2012	Fingal County Council (FCC)
80	16/10/2012	Kildare County Council
81	24/10/2012	An Taisce
82	05/11/2012	Fisheries Ireland
83	05/11/2012	Inland Fisheries Ireland
84	13/11/2012	Lusk Waste Watchers
85	19/11/2012	BordGais Energy

Meeting No.	Date	Organisation
86	23/11/2012	Eirgrid
87	14/12/2012	Irish Rail
88	24/01/2013	An Bord Pleanála
89	03/02/2013	Portmarnock Golf Club
90	11/02/2013	National Roads Authority (NRA)
91	06/03/2013	Landowner study tour to Bray Shanganagh WwTP
92	12/04/2013	Railway Procurement Agency (RPA)
93	27/05/2013	Councillor Study Tour to Bray Shanganagh WwTP
94	06/06/2013	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
95	19/06/2013	Dublin Regional Authority (DRA)
96	20/06/2013	Briefing event for national elected representatives at Buswells Hotel
97	26/06/2013	Trinity Gaels GAA club
98	26/06/2013	4th Consultation: ASA Phase 4 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
99	27/06/2013	Landowner
100	29/06/2013	4th Consultation: ASA Phase 4 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
101	29/06/2013	Riverside Residents Association
102	29/06/2013	Portmarnock Residents Association
103	29/06/2013	Community Working Together Group
104	03/07/2013	4th Consultation: ASA Phase 4 Consultation Open Day - Fingal County Hall, Swords
105	03/07/2013	Receiver for Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Club
106	04/07/2013	Club Secretary at Trinity Gaels GAA Club
107	10/07/2013	Landowner
108	11/07/2013	IDA (Landowner)
109	12/07/2013	Landowner
110	16/07/2013	Riverside Residents Association
111	17/07/2013	4th Consultation: ASA Phase 4 Consultation Open Day - Hilton Dublin Airport Hotel, Malahide Road
112	18/07/2013	Landowner
113	19/07/2013	Ballymore Homes, Ballymore Properties
114	30/07/2013	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Archaeologist)
115	01/08/2013	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
116	03/09/2013	National Sports Campus Development Authority
117	05/09/2013	Blanchardstown Hospital (Hospital Manager)
118	05/09/2013	Landowner
119	10/09/2013	Roadstone
120	11/09/2013	Teagasc- vegetable crops advisor
121	25/09/2013	Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum (DASF)
122	02/10/2013	Landowner
123	03/10/2013	Green Energy Recycling
124	04/11/2013	Land Use and Transport Planning Consultancy (ILTP)
125	06/11/2013	Shannon Homes
126	07/11/2013	Dublin Airport Authority (daa)
127	08/11/2013	National Sports Campus Development Authority

Meeting No.	Date	Organisation
128	14/11/2013	Glasnevin Trust, Dublin Cemeteries Committee
129	27/11/2013	Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum (DASF)
130	06/12/2013	Gannon Homes Ltd.
131	13/01/2014	Fingal County Council
132	21/01/2014	Public Information Event Northside Civic Centre, Coolock
133	22/01/2014	Public Information Event Baldoyle Library
134	22/01/2014	Abbey Park & District Residents Association
135	12/02/2014	An Bord Pleanála
136	13/03/2014	Fingal County Council Biodiversity Officer
137	14/03/2014	Irish Rail
138	20/03/2014	Dublin City Council (Water Operations)
139	25/06/2014	Public Information Event Portmarnock Parish Centre
140	25/06/2014	Howth Sutton Community Council
141	02/07/2014	Public Information Event Baldoyle Library
142	03/07/2014	Public Information Event Community Study Tour to Bray Shanganagh WwTP
143	03/07/2014	Portmarnock Community Association
144	03/07/2014	Riverside Residents Association
145	03/07/2014	Howth Sutton Community Council
146	03/07/2014	Craobh Chiaran GAA Club
147	15/07/2014	Fingal County Council - Howth Malahide Area Committee
148	19/07/2014	Public Information Event Northside Civic Centre, Coolock
149	19/08/2014	Community Working Together Group
150	19/08/2014	Clonshaugh/Newbury/Swifts Grove Residents Association
151	26/08/2014	Coastwatch Ireland
152	15/09/2014	Dublin City Council - North Area Committee briefing
153	17/09/2014	IDA
154	25/09/2014	Connolly Hospital Study Tour to Shanganagh Bray WwTP
155	30/09/2014	Connolly Hospital
156	10/10/2014	National Sports Campus Development Authority
157	16/10/2014	Fingal County Council (FCC)
158	04/11/2014	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
159	09/12/2014	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
160	27/01/2015	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)
161	28/01/2015	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
162	18/03/2015	Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
163	27/03/2015	Inland Fisheries Ireland
164	15/04/2015	Briefing with Sean Kenny TD
165	22/04/2015	Briefing with Senator Darragh O'Brien
166	28/04/2015	Briefing with Senator Averil Power
167	06/05/2015	Howth Fishery Harbour Centre
168	06/05/2015	Briefing with Alan Farrell TD
169	06/05/2015	Briefing with Tommy Broughan TD
170	25/05/2015	Portmarnock Golf Club

Meeting No.	Date	Organisation
171	05/06/2015	Marine Institute
172	10/06/2015	Fingal County Council Planning Department
173	02/07/2015	Howth-Sutton-Baldoyle Chamber Of Commerce
174	09/07/2015	An Bord Pleanála
175	09/07/2015	Howth Fishery Harbour Centre
176	15/07/2015	Public Information Event Howth Yacht Club
177	15/07/2015	Public Information Event Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links
178	18/08/2015	HSE Estates
179	26/08/2015	HSE Estates
180	07/09/2015	Howth-Sutton Community Council, Sutton Shore R.A.
181	07/09/2015	Fingal County Council Water & Environment SPC
182	16/07/2015	Public Information Event Baldoyle Library
183	16/07/2015	Portmarnock Community Association
184	15/07/2015	Malahide Community Association
185	15/07/2015	Howth Yacht Club
186	15/07/2015	Coastwatch Ireland
187	15/07/2015	Irish Seal Sanctuary
188	01/12/2015	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
189	02/03/2016	Fingal County Council - Howth Malahide Area Committee
190	21/03/2016	Dublin City Council - North Central Area Committee
191	10/05/2016	Fingal County Council Planning Department
192	25/05/2016	Dublin City Council Planning Department
193	29/06/2016	Portmarnock Golf Club
194	03/10/2016	Fingal Dublin Chamber
195	02/11/2016	Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links
196	30/11/2016	Fingal County Council Planning Department
197	15/03/2017	Portmarnock Community Association
198	28/03/2017	GDD Business Breakfast Briefing with Fingal Dublin Chamber
199	29/03/2017	FCC / DCC Inter-Authority Information Forum
200	22/05/2017	RBSF Public Information Event The Oak Centre Dunboyne
201	24/05/2017	RBSF Public Information Event Citywest Hotel
202	25/05/2017	RBSF Public Information Event White House Hotel
203	26/06/2017	An Bord Pleanála
204	12/09/2017	RBSF Public Information Event White House Hotel
205	20/09/2017	Dublin Airport Authority
206	20/11/2017	An Bord Pleanála
207	17/10/2017	RBSF Fingal County Council Planning Department
208	17/11/2017	RBSF Fingal County Council Planning, Parks and Landscape, Traffic & Environmental Health
209	21/11/2017	Irish Business Employers Confederation
210	21/11/2017	Public Information Event, Portmarnock
211	24/11/2017	An Taisce
212	27/11/2017	Public Information Event, Abbotstown
213	29/11/2017	Public Information Event, Northern Cross (Clonsbaugh event)

Meeting No.	Date	Organisation
214	02/12/2017	An Bord Pleanála
215	08/12/2017	RBSF Fingal County Council Planning, Water Services & Environment
216	31/01/2018	RBSF Meakstown Community Council
217	02/02/2018	RBSF Fingal County Council Planning Department
218	14/02/2018	An Bord Pleanála
219	12/03/2018	HSE Connolly Hospital
220	19/03/2018	Fingal Dublin Chamber (CEO)
221	24/04/2018	NE Razor Clam Fishermen's Association
222	24/04/2018	Howth Yacht Club
223	24/04/2018	Howth based fishermen
224	24/04/2018	DAFM (Howth Harbourmaster)
225	19/05/2018	Fingal Dublin Chamber (Council Meeting)

APPENDIX B
NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS
2011- 2018

Newspaper Adverts

June 2011



Early Consultation Opportunity

Fingal County Council would like to consult with all stakeholders at a very early stage of Greater Dublin Drainage. The Greater Dublin Drainage initiative aims to provide the drainage infrastructure that the Greater Dublin Area needs to continue to develop, both socially and economically. The initiative involves the provision of a new wastewater treatment works, a marine outfall and new drainage network in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area.

Fingal County Council are **asking for your views** on what issues or concerns should be taken into account in determining the locations of the three elements of the Greater Dublin Drainage project.

This phase of non-statutory consultation is four weeks long, **ending on 24th June 2011**, and is in addition to the future statutory consultation process. To have your say, please contact us in one of the following ways:

In person: by coming to meet the team at one of four Open Days in Fingal:

7th June 2011, Fingal County Council, Swords, 2pm-7pm

8th June 2011, Fingal County Council, Blanchardstown, 2pm-7pm

14th June 2011, Balbriggan Town Hall, 2pm-7pm

16th June 2011, Fingal County Council, Swords 2pm-7pm

In writing: please submit feedback to Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, c/o RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Online: by emailing us at info@greaterdublindrainage.ie

By phone: by calling the Project Team at the Lo-Call Information Line, 1890.44.55.67

Further information on the project can be found on the project website

www.GreaterDublinDrainage.ie

October 2011



PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON

**ALTERNATIVE SITES ASSESSMENT, PHASE ONE, PRELIMINARY SCREENING
OUTCOMES REPORT**

Fingal County Council has published a Report, identifying nine potential land parcels in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area, for further investigation as possible locations for a new regional wastewater treatment works, associated marine outfall locations and routes for the orbital drainage system.

The Report and accompanying map is available to download from www.greaterdublindrainage.ie

Fingal County Council is undertaking six weeks of non-statutory consultation with all interested parties from 10th October to 18th November 2011 on the potential land parcels and the issues that should be considered in determining the ultimate locations for this vital new infrastructure.

You are welcome to attend any of four Open Days to be held in Fingal County Council, Main Street, Swords, where the Project Team will be available to discuss the Report and listen to your views.

Open Days:

Saturday 22nd October at 11am to 4pm

Wednesday 26th October at 2pm to 8pm

Thursday 3rd November at 2pm to 8pm

Saturday 5th November at 11am to 4 pm

Written submissions on the potential land parcels may be sent, before 18th November 2011, to Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, C/O RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

Further information:- email info@greaterdublindrainage.ie, Lo-call 1890 44 55 67 or visit www.greaterdublindrainage.ie

May 2012



**Greater Dublin Drainage – Public Consultation and Open Days
Emerging Preferred Sites and Routes.
Alternative Sites Assessment
and Route Selection Report (Phase 2):**

The Greater Dublin Drainage Project has published a report identifying three emerging preferred site options for further consideration as the location for the proposed GDD Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant. The three sites are **Annsbrook, Newtowncorduff** and **Clonshaugh**. The report also identifies pipeline route and marine outfall options.

The full report and maps can be downloaded at www.greaterdublindrainage.ie

The project team are now conducting a further round of non-statutory consultation on these three sites, the associated pipeline routes, and marine outfall options from **14th May 2012 to 6th July 2012**.

Open Days at Fingal County Hall Swords where interested parties can meet the project team are scheduled for:

Wednesday 30th May from 2pm to 8pm;
Saturday 2nd June from 11am to 4pm;
Thursday 14th June from 2pm to 8pm;
Saturday 16th June 2012 from 11am to 4pm.

All interested parties are welcome to give their views.

Further information is available from www.greaterdublindrainage.ie or lo-call 1890 44 55 67. To make a submission, email info@greaterdublindrainage.ie or post to Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, c/o RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

June 2013

Public Consultation and Open Days for Greater Dublin Drainage on the Environmental Impact Statement for the Preferred Site, Orbital Sewer and Marine Outfall Option



Fingal County Council has announced the preferred solution for the Greater Dublin Drainage project, consisting of 26km of pipeline, a wastewater treatment plant at Clonshagh, and an outfall pipe located 6km out to sea from Baldoyle.

Public consultation on items to be considered for the Environmental Impact Statement for this option is now underway.

Members of the public are invited to come along to the scheduled Open Days at Fingal County Hall, Main Street, Swords Co. Dublin on:

- Wednesday 26th June from 2pm - 8pm
- Saturday 29th June from 11am - 4pm
- Wednesday 3rd July from 2pm - 8pm

The report 'Alternative Sites Assessment and Routes Selection Report (Phase 4) : Preferred Sites and Routes Report' is available:

- Free download from www.greaterdublindrainage.ie/project-reports/
- View printed copies at Fingal County Council offices at Swords and Blanchardstown, Fingal Public Libraries, or Dublin City Council North Central Head Office in Coolock
- Purchase the report (with appendices on CD) for €150

Submissions on items to be considered in the EIS must be made by **5pm on Friday 2nd August 2013** to

- Email: info@greaterdublindrainage.ie
- In writing to: Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager, c/o RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.
- Telephone: lo-call 1890 44 55 67

See www.greaterdublindrainage.com for further information.

December 2014



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Obair i gcomhpháirtíocht Working in partnership

Public notice

Application for a foreshore licence

- > Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 that Irish Water, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1 has applied to the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government for a licence under Section 3 of the said Act to undertake Site Investigation works for the Greater Dublin Drainage scheme.
- > A copy of the application, and the relevant maps, plans, and drawings, are available for inspection for the next 21 working days, free of charge, at Swords Garda Station, Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin.
- > The documentation is available on the Department's website at:
<http://www.environ.ie/en/Foreshore/ApplicationsandDeterminations/IrishWater/>
- > Any person who wishes to make an objection to, or a representation in respect of the grant of the licence sought should do so in writing, giving reasons, within 21 working days of publication of this Notice (quoting ref: FS006292), to the Foreshore Unit, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or foreshore@environ.ie
The closing date for submissions is close of business on 20th January 2015.
- > All objections and representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment prior to any decision being made in the matter. Material upon which the Minister shall determine this application may be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at:
http://www.environ.ie/en/Foreshore/#Defamation_Notice/

Dated this 11th day of December 2014

Name and address:
Greater Dublin Drainage, Irish Water,
Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1

For more information call 1890 44 55 67
or email info@greaterdublindrainage.ie

January 2017

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for Greater Dublin

Public consultation

Irish Water has announced a new project to develop a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin (including Dublin city and county and parts of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow).

The new storage facility for biosolids will form part of the upgraded wastewater treatment network and will facilitate the continued growth of greater Dublin.

Biosolids are a by-product of the wastewater treatment process and are primarily used as fertiliser in agriculture. Biosolids are treated as part of the wastewater process at the wastewater treatment plants and then stored before being used on agricultural land. Biosolids must be stored as they can only be landspread at certain times of the year from February to September.

Irish Water is now consulting on its proposed approach to identify and assess potential sites for the new storage facility. We would like to hear your views and a four week period of non-statutory public consultation process will run until 2 March 2017.

Submissions can be sent by 2 March:

By email: biosolids@water.ie

By post: Biosolids Consultation, Irish Water, Colvill House,
24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.

By telephone: 1890 44 55 67

Safeguarding our water for our future

To view the stage 1 report or for further information,
visit www.water.ie



May 2017

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for Greater Dublin

Information days

Irish Water has published details of five potential sites for a Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for greater Dublin. Two are outside Dunboyne, County Meath; two are at Kilshane, North County Dublin; and the fifth one is at Greenogue, South County Dublin.

Biosolids are the end product after our wastewater has been safely treated. Biosolids may be applied as organic fertilisers in agriculture each Spring and Autumn. For the rest of the year they need to be stored. The new storage facility will help support the continued social and economic development of greater Dublin.

As part of a five week public consultation on the five potential sites, we are holding **information days in Dublin and Meath.**

Following this round of consultation, one preferred site will be identified and we will hold a further round of public consultation later this year.

If you would like to know more or have questions, please come along:

- **Monday 22 May, The Oak Centre, Dunboyne, Co. Meath, from 1pm-7pm**
- **Wednesday 24 May, Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin, from 1pm-7pm**
- **Thursday 25 May, The White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin, from 1pm-7pm**

The consultation period closes on Thursday, 15 June, 2017.

To find out more visit www.water.ie

Or contact the project team by:

Email: biosolids@water.ie

Phone: 1890 44 55 67

Safeguarding our water for our future



August 2017

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility for Greater Dublin

Public Consultation & Information day

Irish Water has identified a preferred site for a biosolids storage facility to serve the greater Dublin region at Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11.

Biosolids are the end product after our wastewater has been safely treated. Biosolids may be applied as organic fertilisers in agriculture each Spring and Autumn. For the rest of the year they need to be stored. The new storage facility will help support the continued social and economic development of greater Dublin.

As part of a six week public consultation on the identified preferred site and associated environmental report, we are holding an **information day in Fingal, County Dublin.**

Following this round of consultation and the necessary environmental studies, a statutory consultation will be held by An Bord Pleanála as part of the projects planning application process.

If you would like to know more or have questions, please come along:

- **Tuesday 12 September, The White House Hotel, Newpark, Co. Dublin, from 1pm-8pm**

The consultation period closes on Tuesday, 10 October, 2017.

To find out more visit www.water.ie/biosolids

Or contact the project team by:

Email: biosolids@water.ie or Phone: 1890 44 55 67

Safeguarding our water for our future



November 2017



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Obair i gcomhpháirtíocht Working in partnership

Greater Dublin Drainage Public Information Events

The Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) project will have the capacity to serve the equivalent of half a million people into the future and will meet demand for wastewater treatment, protect public health and safeguard our environment.

The preferred project solution for Greater Dublin Drainage is:

- A new regional wastewater treatment facility and sludge hub centre on a 30 hectare site at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh);
- An underground orbital sewer from Blanchardstown to Clonshagh (Clonshaugh), including a new pumping station at Abbotstown;
- A sewer to divert part of the North Fringe Sewer to the new treatment facility;
- An outfall pipe from the wastewater treatment facility discharging the treated water to the Irish Sea; and
- A regional biosolids storage facility located at Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11.

Irish Water intends to submit a planning application for GDD to An Bord Pleanála in 2018. In advance, we are holding three public information events as follows:

- **Tuesday, 21 November 2017**, Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links, from **2pm-8pm**
- **Monday, 27 November 2017**, National Sports Campus Conference Centre, Abbotstown, from **2pm-8pm**
- **Wednesday, 29 November 2017**, Hilton Hotel, Northern Cross, from **2pm-8pm**

You are welcome to come along to meet the team and find out more about the Greater Dublin Drainage project.

To find out more visit www.greaterdublindrainage.ie

Email: info@greaterdublindrainage.ie Telephone: **1890 44 55 67**

Safeguarding our water for our future

APPENDIX C

SAMPLE MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE 2011-2018



Development will grind to halt without plant

John Manning

DEVELOPMENT in this region will come to a complete halt in less than 10 years unless a new giant wastewater treatment plant is provided for the greater Dublin area by 2020, a senior council official has warned.

A previous attempt to locate such a plant at Portrane fell foul of huge local opposition and Fingal County Council is adamant that no specific location for the plant has been chosen at this point.

Attempting to allay fears that a location on the Fingal coastline has already been chosen for the controversial project, Peter O'Reilly from the council's water services department said: 'There is no pre-determined site for this and I want to make that very, very clear.'

He said that site selection will be a rigorous process that will consider all the alternatives before presenting six options for consideration for a plant that will cost 'in the hundreds of millions'.

All we know at this stage is that the recommendation is that the plant be located in the 'northern part of the greater Dublin area with an outfall point on the Dublin coastline discharging into the Irish Sea'.

A public consultation process on this and other aspects of the 'Greater Dublin Drainage' project has begun after an update on the project was given to councillors at County Hall last week.

Some 70% of Fingal's water treatment is currently carried out at Ringsend which does not have the capacity to cater

for growing demands and an expanding population.

Some expansion of that plant should be on stream by 2015 but the room for expansion at Ringsend is limited and the plant will need to be 'augmented' with another large regional plant for the greater Dublin area by 2020.

Mr O'Reilly, who is a senior engineer on the Greater Dublin Drainage project said that the plant must be delivered by that date 'otherwise development in the region will come to a stop'.

Consultants have been engaged to scope possible sites for the project and an Environmental Impact Statement for the project is being prepared.

The council has promised 'rigorous alternative sites examination' before choosing a short list of locations but the hope is that construction on the giant plant will begin as early as 2017.

It is estimated that it will take two years to prepare the EIS and lodge a planning application for the project with An Bord Pleanála and 'extensive public consultation' has been promised for the project.

Greater Dublin Drainage aims to provide 'safe, reliable drainage and waste water treatment for the greater Dublin area to meet current and future economic, industrial and residential demands, to protect the environment and to meet the EU Water Framework Directive standards'.



Some 70% of Fingal's water treatment is currently carried out at a plant in Ringsend.



Plans for sewage plant reinstated

OLIVIA KELLY

PLANS FOR a new Dublin regional sewage treatment plant, second only in size to the Ringsend sewerage works, are to be reinstated six years after they were rejected by county councillors.

The plant, which will serve Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow, will be located in the northern part of the greater Dublin region, but its exact location will not be determined until later this year.

In March 2005, Portrane in north Dublin was identified in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study as the preferred site for the new municipal sewage plant to satisfy the region's growing needs.

In November that year, Fingal councillors voted to reject the plan and ordered that the drainage study, which had cost €10 million and involved intensive analysis over five years, be reviewed.

The review was completed in 2007. It found existing sewerage systems were not adequate to cope with demand and that a single regional sewage treatment plant was best. It recommended the plant still be located in the "northern greater Dublin area", but not necessarily Portrane. However, it did not rule out Portrane.

Little progress was subsequently made. However, engineering firms Jacobs and Tobin Consulting have been appointed to assess potential sites and the process will be open to public consultation in coming months. RPS, which were consultants for the Ringsend sewage plant and the **Poolbeg incinerator**, will be overseeing the public consultation process.

Beaches in north Dublin have repeatedly failed EU water tests since the rejection by councillors of the Portrane plant. In 2009, nine of the State's 131 bathing sites failed to meet minimum clean-water standards. Of these, one third were in Fingal.

Balbriggan front strand, Skerries south beach and Burrow beach in Sutton were all found to have excessive levels of faecal coliforms in their waters.

Fingal county manager David O'Connor said the new plant was

essential to future employment, social progress and economic growth in the region. There would be extensive public consultation on the plans, he added.

An application for the plant is expected to be made to An Bord Pleanála by 2013. The choice of any site in Fingal is likely to be met with strenuous opposition.



Nine sites identified for treatment plant

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL: PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND OPEN DAYS

■ LAURA WEBB

FINGAL County Council has identified nine potential sites for a major new wastewater treatment plant that will cater for an estimated 700,000 people when completed.

Details of the nine sites will be available for members of the public to view at a series of public consultation meetings in FCC's head office in Swords and set to take place over the next six weeks.

This week, the local authority revealed the nine potential land parcels in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) suitable for the proposed regional wastewater treatment plant, along with a marine outfall and orbital drainage system.

According to the council, the new infrastructure is needed to "provide sustainable and reliable drainage and wastewater treatment for the GDA to meet current and future economic, industrial and residential demands, to protect the environment and to meet the EU Water Framework Directive standards".

The nine locations identified are: Annsbrook, approximately 2.5km north east of Ballyboghil; Baldurghan, approximately 1.6km south east of Ballyboghil; Cloghran, approximately 2.2km east of Dublin Airport and 3.3km south of Swords; Clonshagh (Clonshaugh), approximately 2.5km east of Dublin Airport and 1.3km north of Belcamp and Darndale; Cookstown, approximately 2.5km south-east of Ballyboghil; Newtowncorduff, approximately 2.2km west of Lusk; Rathartan, approximately 2 km west of Rush and 3km to the east of Lusk; Saucerstown, approximately 3.3km north-west of Swords; Tyrrelstown Little, approximately 2.8km north-east of Lusk and 3.6km north-west of Rush.

Maps and details of the land parcels are available to download at: www.greaterdublin-drainage.ie. The report, with the maps, is also available on display at County libraries in Balbriggan, Baldoyle, Blanchardstown, Garristown, Howth, Malahide, Rush, Skerries,

and Swords, the four mobile libraries and the two planning counters: Fingal County Hall, Swords and Blanchardstown Civic Offices. CDs of the report can be purchased for €5 and hard copies for €30 from the two planning counters.

Each of the land parcels is larger than the approximately 20 hectares required for the proposed new regional wastewater treatment plant, which will cater for wastewater for an estimated 700,000 population equivalent, with the majority of the load coming from the **Fingal County Council** area.

"We invite local people and all interested stakeholders to attend at any of four open days to be held by the Project Team at Fingal County Hall, Swords during October and November," says Peter O'Reilly, project engineer, **Fingal Co Council**.

The dates and times for the Open Days in **Fingal County Council's** Swords headquarters are: Saturday, October 22 from 11am to 4pm, Wednesday, October 26 from 2pm to 8pm, Thursday, November 3 from 2pm to 8pm and

Saturday, November 5 from 11am to 4pm.

Comments and queries can be sent to info@greaterdublin-drainage.ie, the Project Team can be contacted at 1890 44 55 67 or people can write to **Greater Dublin Drainage** Project Manager, C/O RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.



Possible sewage plant sites being evaluated

ASSESSMENT OF NINE SITES SHOULD PRODUCE SHORTLIST

FERGAL MADDOCK

THE GREATER Dublin Drainage Project Team is currently assessing the nine land parcels identified last October as possible sites for the new waste water treatment plant against a range of environmental and technical criteria.

They hope to identify a smaller number of preferred sites for the new regional wastewater treatment works in the coming months and an announcement is expected in early summer.

A further round of non-statutory consultation will be held once the reduced shortlist has been drawn up to allow people another opportunity to make their views known and make further submissions to the project team.

Project engineer Peter O'Reilly said: 'The project team and the consultants will then conduct a final round of studies, to identify the most suitable locations for the new wastewater treatment works, the orbital sewer and the marine outfall, with an announcement expected possibly towards the end of the year.'

'A full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will assess in full, all potential impacts of the preferred location for each of the three elements; the wastewater treatment works, the marine outfall and the orbital sewer.'

He said phase two involves an assessment of all nine land parcels against a range of environmental and technical criteria to identify a shortlist of sites.

'The nine land parcels do not stand in isolation. They are being viewed in conjunction with the marine outfall locations and their relative merits and the environmental impacts of pipeline routes, to and from these parcels,' he said.

'Phase 3 will involve another opportunity for the public to be consulted on the emerging preferred sites(s), marine outfall location(s) and transfer pipeline corridor(s). Phase 4 later this year will involve the

selection of the preferred site, marine outfall location and transfer pipeline corridors, based on the findings of all the studies and on consideration of the submissions received during all the public consultation.'

The new regional wastewater treatment works is needed to augment the Ringsend regional wastewater treatment works after 2020 and will be developed in phases. When it opens, it will be no bigger than a sixth of the size of the Ringsend plant.

Even when fully extended, by 2040, the plant in north Co Dublin will not be more than one third of the size of the fully extended Ringsend plant.



■ Jillian Bolton, Principal Engineer, Jacobs's Engineering; Peter O'Reilly, Project Engineer; Aedin Lawlor, Senior Executive Engineer, Fingal County Council; and Claran O'Keefe, Tobin Engineering and Project Manager, Greater Dublin Drainage, with the 10,000 submissions from members of the public regarding the Greater Dublin Drainage project.

Publication: Irish Independent
Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2012
Page: 6
Extract: 1 of 1
Circulation: 131,161
Author: Paul Mella
Headline: Shortlisted sewage plant sites revealed



Shortlisted sewage plant sites revealed

Paul Mella

THREE sites have been short-listed for a massive sewage treatment plant designed to serve Dublin and neighbouring counties.

Fingal County Council yesterday named three possible sites to build a regional wastewater plant in north Dublin, which will be assessed in detail before a final location is chosen early next year.

All three of the sites are in Health Minister James Reilly's constituency of Dublin North – two near Lusk, and the third near Dublin Airport.

A treatment plant will be built on one of the three 20-hectare sites, with an outfall pipe also constructed to transport the treated waste out to sea. It will serve Dublin and parts of Meath and Kildare.

The three sites are:

- Annsbrook, some 10km north of Dublin Airport and 2.7km west of Lusk. An outfall pipe is proposed near Loughshinny.
- Newtowncorduff is 10km north of Dublin Airport and 1km west of Lusk, and the outfall pipe will be near Loughshinny.
- The third site is at Clonsaugh, 2kms east of Dublin Airport. The outfall pipe would be north-east of Ireland's Eye.

The treatment plant is part of the **Greater Dublin Drainage** project and was first proposed in 2005.

The total cost is €2.3bn, and includes an upgrade of the Ringsend treatment, construction of the new facility and a series of sewers across the city.

The regional plant will initially be one-sixth the size of the Ringsend plant, and will treat waste from 350,000 people when it opens.

It will be designed to treat waste from a total of 700,000 people at full capacity from 2040, including waste from industry, hospitals, schools, businesses and homes.

Fingal County Council, which is leading the project on behalf of the four Dublin **local authorities**, will now begin a public consultation phase and a final site will be chosen at the end of the year.

Publication: Fingal Independent

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Page: 4

Extract: 1 of 1

Circulation: 3677

Author:

Headline: Public consultation



Public consultation

ANOTHER round of public consultation will now begin on the controversial plans to bring a giant regional sewage plant to Fingal now that the three preferred sites for the project have been identified.

All three project options will now be considered further in detail before one emerging preferred project option is decided on and a planning application is made to An Bord Pleanála.

Starting today **Fingal County Council** will hold their third round of non-statutory public consultation for eight weeks, until July 6th, to give stakeholders and the general public another opportunity to meet with the project team and give their views. The public consultation opportunities include four open days, to be held in **Fingal County Council** headquarters in Swords on Wednesday May 30th from 2pm to 8pm, Saturday, June 2nd from 11am to 4pm, Thursday, June 14th from 2pm to 8pm and finally on Saturday, June 16th, from 11am to 4pm.

Fingal County Council has now published the latest report presenting the case for the three selected preferred sites, complete with maps of the lands involved. The Report and maps can be downloaded free of charge from www.greaterdublindrainage.ie/project-reports/. Digital copies of the report can be obtained at a cost of €5.

Printed copies will be available to view at **Fingal County Council** headquarters and at local libraries. Printed copies will cost €150 to buy.

The project team will be available at the open days to discuss the report, answer questions and listen to views. People can also email info@greaterdublindrainage.ie or Lo Call 1890 44 55 67 or view www.greaterdublindrainage.ie



Strong objections to proposed sewage plant

BATTLE lines were drawn in the fight to stop a giant regional sewage plant being sited in Fingal after three sites were named as the preferred locations for the project.

Communities in Lusk, Loughshinny and Ballyboughal were outraged after the three sites were shortlisted for the project at a Fingal County Council meeting but the south of the county did not escape threat.

Affected communities were preparing for a fight against locating the huge plant in any of the three preferred sites in Annsbrook, close to Ballyboughal and Lusk, Newtown corduff, just 1km away from Lusk and Clonshaugh. According to Peter O'Reilly, Project Engineer, Fingal County Council: 'We're looking for the option that is best for the project, the one that will have the least impact on people and the environment.'

'These three preferred sites all have merits. Therefore, in order to decide on the site that is most suitable for all three elements of the project, a lot more detailed technical studies will have to be carried out.'

He added: 'Since last December, after the eight weeks of the last nonstatutory public consultation on the nine large land parcels identified by the project team, our technical experts have been engaged in a step-by-step qualitative process to identify the three emerging preferred site options.'

Mr O'Reilly explained: 'Using technical and environmental criteria, detailed surveys, consultations and workshops, they believe they have now identified the three sites on which the project will have the least impact and we will now consult with everybody on these sites.'

The report set out the process used to identify and appraise the site options relating to the three elements of the Greater Dublin Drainage project; the site for the regional wastewater treatment plant, the pipeline routes for the new orbital sewer and outfall locations to the Irish Sea.'

Inviting the participation of the public, the project engineer said: 'We want to hear what people think should be considered as part of the selection for the final preferred site route and marine outfall and to hear any information relevant to the development of this much needed project.'



Some of those who took part in a sewage plant protest at County Hall.

Publication: Fingal Independent

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Page: 12

Extract: 1 of 1

Circulation: 3677

Author:

Headline: Chosen site for sewage plant to be named soon



Chosen site for sewage plant to be named soon

It will be late spring or early summer before the **Greater Dublin Drainage** Project Team are ready to announce its preferred site for the giant regional sewage plant for Fingal.

Cllr Tom O'Leary (FG) asked when the project team would be ready to announce the chosen site and asked what implications for the project there was from a judicial review of the proposed extension of the plant in Ringsend which was supposed to meet the Greater Dublin area's sewage treatment needs until the **Fingal** regional plant came online.

The **council's** environment department responded, saying: 'It is expected that the report recommending the preferred site location for the **Greater Dublin Drainage** regional wastewater treatment plant and marine outfall together with the associated pipeline routes will be available in late spring/early summer, 2013.

'The GDD project team will study carefully the outcome of Dublin City's response to the Judgement obtained on March 25 with a view to assessing its implications, if any, for the **Greater Dublin Drainage** project.'



Clonshaugh chosen for sewage facility

'THE BETTER OPTION' SAYS PROJECT TEAM

JOHN MANNING

THE PROJECT team tasked with finding the most suitable site for a monster sewage plant in Fingal has chosen Clonshaugh, saying the site offered the lowest cost option and the cleanest environmental option.

The site in Clonshaugh was chosen by the **Greater Dublin Drainage** Project Team after comparing the three shortlisted sites on environmental, technical and cost criteria.

The project team decided the site offered the cheapest option by some €80 million and was also the option with the least environmental impact.

In a statement explaining the choice, the project team said: 'The Clonshaugh option is better ecologically and environmentally. Tunnelling of the southern outfall is technically easier and the outfall location has a greater depth of water to facilitate greater initial dilution of treated wastewater discharges in the sea than the northern outfall; it has the shortest pipeline and therefore a shorter construction time; and it is closest to the existing areas where wastewater is drawn from and so will be more flexible in serving schools, hospitals, houses and industry immediately as well as enabling additional capacity.

'In addition to the many technical and environmental benefits, the estimated overall cost during

the lifetime of the project for this preferred site option is over €80 million less than other options studied.'

Project Engineer from **Fingal County Council**, Peter O'Reilly, repeated his assertion that the development was necessary to 'facilitate employment, social progress and economic growth in the wider Dublin Region, hand-in-hand with the improvement and protection of our environment'.

Mr. O'Reilly said: 'Wastewater treatment capacity is one of the key elements of infrastructure needed to facilitate jobs and other developments like schools, hospitals and housing in the wider Dublin region and our current capacity will run out in 2020.'

He concluded: 'Over 13 different experts across different disciplines studied the three shortlisted sites, Clonshaugh, Annsbrook and Newtowncorduff, and we reached the conclusion that Clonshaugh is the most environmentally beneficial and technically advantageous solution and it is the best value for money too.'



■ Peter O'Reilly, Project Engineer from **Fingal County Council**.

Publication: Swords Fingal Independent
Date: Tuesday, December 31, 2013
Page: 19
Extract: 1 of 1
Circulation: 4343
Author:
Headline: Next steps detailed



Next steps detailed

THE LATEST report on the project to bring a regional sewage plant to Fingal concludes with details of what the next steps are in bringing the controversial project to fruition.

According to the report from the **Greater Dublin Drainage** project team: 'All relevant issues raised during the public consultation process and outlined in this report will be considered by the Project Team in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

'A response report will be contained within the appendices of the EIS. Further consultation will be undertaken by An Bord Pleanála as part of the assessment process following lodgement of the planning application in 2014.

'This will provide an additional opportunity for interested stakeholders and members of the public to provide input to the project.' Construction of the plant will not begin construction until at least 2018, according to the project team.

Publication: Swords Fingal Independent

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Page: 28

Extract: 1 of 1

Circulation: 4343

Author:

Headline: Public information on regional sewage plant



Public information on regional sewage plant

THE project team driving the controversial project to bring a giant regional sewage plant to **Fingal** is to hold a series of public information days over the next few weeks.

Over the coming weeks the **Greater Dublin Drainage** project team is going out to meet members of the public in the study area through informal information stands in public libraries, **local authority** offices and shopping centres and busy public spaces frequented by local people.

'We want to provide opportunities for the public to discuss the **Greater Dublin Drainage** project and the recently published consultation report, in places that are convenient to the public - a member of the project team will be in Dublin City Council's North Central Area Office on January 21 and Baldoyle Library on the January 22,' said Peter O'Reilly, Project Manager.

He added: 'We are researching additional venues for more information stands on other days and evenings over the coming weeks and will publicise these as soon as arranged.'

A report on the fourth phase of public consultation for the **Greater Dublin Drainage** project was published in December, entitled '**Greater Dublin Drainage** Public Consultation Report on the Issues to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement'.

It details feedback received from local people and other stakeholders on issues to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be prepared for the Project.

It is available to view and download free of charge at www.greater-dublindrainage.com as well as at the planning counters of **Fingal County Council** at Swords and Blanchardstown; at **Fingal** Libraries in Blanchardstown, Malahide and Baldoyle; and at Dublin City Council Area Office in Coolock and libraries at Coolock and Donaghmede.



COUNCIL REPORT

John Manning at Malahide area committee meeting

Sewage plant marine study

SUBJECT to licence, marine ground investigations are to take place in Baldoyle Bay to assess the environmental impact of taking the outfall from a planned giant regional sewage plant in Clonshaugh, off the shore at Portmarnock.

Fingal County Council has revealed that the **Greater Dublin Drainage** Project Team, who are driving plans for the regional plant forward, will be engaging with local stakeholders over the coming months 'in advance of marine ground investigations taking place in Baldoyle, subject to licence'.

The council stated: 'A recent statutory consultation was held under the guidance of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government for a Foreshore Licence to undertake Marine Ground Investigation studies for the GDD project in Baldoyle Bay.

'These surveys are necessary to inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and proposed construction methodology for the outfall, i.e. the pipe that will discharge the treated wastewater to sea.

'The GDD project team will be communicating in advance of the marine surveys with local stakeholders including marine-based businesses, leisure and community organisations in Baldoyle, Howth and Portmarnock through information leaflets, events, email updates, local signage, the project website, and via local media.'

The council was responding to a question from Cllr David Healy (GP), tabled at a meeting of the Malahide/Howth Area Committee.

Cllr Healy asked: 'What consultations have been carried out with the users of and others with an interest in the waters off Howth, Ireland's Eye and Portmarnock (including fishermen, nature conservation organisations, swimmers, sailors, kayakers, scuba divers, birdwatchers) which will or may be affected by the outflow from the pro-

posed sewage treatment plant at Clonshaugh?'

The council responded, saying: 'Since 2011, four non-statutory consultations have been held on the **Greater Dublin Drainage** project. During these consultation periods, the GDD project team has pro-actively engaged with a wide range of stakeholders including those with an interest in the marine environment.

The project team has engaged with local fishermen, Howth Yacht Club, Howth- Sutton Community Council, Portmarnock Sports and Leisure Club, Portmarnock Beach Committee and many local residents associations in the Howth, Baldoyle and Portmarnock areas.'

Publication: North County Leader

Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Page: 9

Extract: 1 of 1

Circulation: 40.000

Author:

Headline: Drainage Information Event In Portmarnock



Drainage Information Event In Portmarnock

Following a statutory public consultation which concluded earlier this year, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) has granted a foreshore licence to the **Greater Dublin Drainage** project to undertake investigative marine surveys in the Irish Sea between Baldoyle and north of Ireland's Eye. **Greater Dublin Drainage** (GDD) is the development of a new regional wastewater treatment facility for the greater Dublin region. The project involves a new wastewater treatment plant located at Clonshaugh; an underground orbital **sewer** and two pumping stations; and an outfall pipeline discharging treated wastewater 1km north-east of Ireland's Eye. A marine ground investigation is being undertaken in order to inform the preparation of the construction method for the marine outfall pipeline. This survey, which will assess the composition of the sea bed, involves using a jack-up platform in order to make a number of boreholes along the proposed marine outfall pipeline route.

The platform will be visible from the North County coastline over a four week period from mid-July into August. A notice to mariners will be issued to ensure that other water users are aware of the survey. One borehole is required to be undertaken on Velvet Strand, **Portmarnock**. This part of the survey is scheduled to take place in September (weather permitting) in order to minimise any potential impact for beach users. The survey is envisaged to take 2-3 days and Velvet Strand will continue to remain open during the survey.

The GDD project team is inviting members of the public to visit any of the following information events as follows: the first event is on Wednesday, 15th July in Howth Yacht Club from 10am – 2pm, and then in **Portmarnock** Hotel & Golf Links from 4pm – 8pm on the same day.

Marine surveys begin off coast

Continued from page 1

The surveys, between Baldoyle and north of Ireland's Eye, are being undertaken as part of the preparation of a planning application for the GDD project.

Deputy Flanagan said: "I am happy that the Department (of the Environment) has granted a licence to **Greater Dublin Drainage** so that important investigative surveys can be carried out off the coast of Baldoyle.

"These surveys will enable **Greater Dublin Drainage** to develop a plan that does not have an adverse effect on the marine environment and our beautiful beaches," he said.

A marine ground investigation is being undertaken in order to inform the preparation of the construction method for the marine outfall pipeline.

This survey, which will assess the composition of the seabed, involves using a jack-up platform in order to make a number of boreholes along the proposed marine outfall pipeline route.

The platform, which will be in place for a four-week period has been visible from the north Dublin coastline since mid-July.

A notice to mariners was issued to ensure that other water users were aware of the survey.

A number of other surveys are scheduled to take place over the next six months including an underwater noise survey, reef habitat mapping, and an archaeological survey.

The results of the surveys will feed into the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which is being produced as part of the planning application for the GDD project.

GDD recently hosted a series of information events in the Howth, Baldoyle and **Portmarnock** areas where members of the public were encouraged to attend and ask questions about the project.

Greater Dublin Drainage is the

development of a new regional wastewater treatment facility for the greater Dublin region.

The project will involve a new wastewater treatment plant being constructed at Clonshaugh; an underground orbital **sewer** and two pumping stations; and an outfall pipeline discharging treated wastewater 1km north east of Ireland's Eye.

However, the project has encountered huge controversy since it was first mooted, not least among residents in Clonshaugh and surrounding areas.

The site for the plant, which will have a total area of 56 acres, is just 800 metres from the residential areas of Belcamp and Darndale.

Peter O'Reilly, a spokesperson for the GDD, said: "The project is a vital part of Irish Water's investment programme to provide the appropriate wastewater treatment infrastructure needed to meet the future demand required in the capital region.

"Conducting these necessary environmental surveys will help to ensure that the GDD project is developed in a way that safeguards the quality of the marine environment, our beaches and our bathing waters."

For further information on the surveys that are taking place, visit www.greaterdublindrainage.ie



■ The jack-up platform being used in the surveys.



Sewage plant tests on Velvet Strand

BOREHOLE DRILLED ON THE VELVET STRAND AT PORTMARNOCK BY GDD

John MANNING

MARINE ground investigations began at the Velvet Strand in Portmarnock last week as the **Greater Dublin Drainage** Team continued its tests in preparation for a sewage outfall pipeline to run off the Portmarnock coast from the planned giant regional sewage plant at Clonshaugh.

Marine ground investigation which involved an assessment of a borehole at the Velvet Strand was due to begin on Velvet Strand last Tuesday and was estimated to last up to three days, depending on the weather conditions.

This is the latest in a summer of investigations following the granting of a Foreshore Licence by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) which permitted **Greater Dublin Drainage** to undertake investigative marine surveys in the Irish Sea in the vicinity of Portmarnock, Baldoyle and north of Ireland's Eye. According to the project team: 'Conducting these necessary environmental surveys will help to ensure that the GDD project is developed in a way that safeguards the quality of the marine environment, our beaches and our bathing waters.'

The **Greater Dublin Drainage** Project team says that marine ground investigation is required in order to inform the preparation of a construction methodology for the outfall pipeline.

This survey, which will assess the composition of the sea bed, has involved, among other things, using a jack-up platform, which has been visible off the Fingal coast this at various points this summer, in order to make a number of boreholes along the route of the proposed marine outfall.

This latest investigation in Portmarnock involves the drilling of a single borehole on

the Velvet Strand using a piece of equipment known as a 'borehole tripod'.

The test was scheduled for September to minimise the potential impact on beach users and the beach remained open during the test.

The controversial plan to build a giant regional sewage plant in Clonshaugh and take the sewage outfall from that plant out into the Irish Sea via a pipeline leaving the shore at Portmarnock and heading north east of Ireland's Eye is aimed at increasing wastewater treatment capacity for the Dublin region.

The **Greater Dublin Drainage** team completed a site selection process in 2013 and identified the preferred option as being an underground orbital sewer and two pumping stations as well as a wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) on a 23-hectare site at Clonshaugh and an outfall pipe from the wastewater treatment discharging 1km north-east of Ireland's Eye (6km out to sea).

Following completion of the site selection process and public consultation in 2013, Irish Water is progressing the studies required to prepare the planning application for the GDD project.



Marine investigations at Portmarnock.

GDD Public Information Campaign – November 2017

Irish Water @IrishWater

We're running info evenings on the Greater Dublin Drainage project. Come along to one of the sessions or see more at wtr.ie/GDD

Info Evenings **Greater Dublin Drainage**

Tuesday 21 November
Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links, 2-8pm

Monday 27 November
National Sports Campus Conference Centre, 2-8pm

Wednesday 29 November
Hilton Hotel, Northern Cross, 2-8pm

5:14 AM · 8 Nov 2017

Secure | <https://www.facebook.com/HowthSutton-Community-Council-463627267064304/>

Howth/Sutton Community Council

Howth/Sutton Community Council

Home About Photos Posts Community

Posts

Howth/Sutton Community Council
3 hrs · 🌐

GREATER DUBLIN DRAINAGE PROJECT UPDATE & PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS

In advance of submitting a planning application in 2018, Irish Water is undertaking a public information campaign for the Greater Dublin Drainage project, and are holding three public information events for GDD as follows:

- Tuesday 21st November 2017 –Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links – 2pm – 8pm
- Monday 27th November 2017 –National Sports Campus Conference Centre, Abbotstown – 2pm – 8pm

Portmarnock Drainage awareness shared their post
21 November at 17:24 · 🌐

PORTMARNOCK DRAINAGE AWARENESS

Public information event

Tuesday 21st November 2017

Irish Water is holding an information event for Greater Dublin Drainage today at

Portmarnock Hotel & Golf linksd

from 2pm to 8pm

To see what is being proposed & lodged for planning permission please attend

Additional events will happen on

Monday 27th Nov. At National Sports Campus Conference Abbotstown 2pm to 8pm

and

Wednesday 29th Nov. At Hilton Hotel, Northern Cross 2pm - 8pm

follow us on Facebook

Portmarnock Drainage awareness is at Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links
21 November at 17:21 · Dublin · 🌐

Like Comment Share

Riverwood Residents Association
21 hrs · Dublin · 🌐

As part of the Greater Dublin Drainage project, it is proposed that an underground pumping station be built in the lands adjacent to the National Sports Campus/National Aquatic Centre.

There will be a public meeting on Monday 27th November 2017 at the National Sports Campus Conference Centre in Abbotstown between 2pm and 8pm.

More info at: <http://www.greaterdublindrainage.com/>

Like Comment Share

Portmarnock Community Association
9 November at 17:06 · 🌐

Public information events for Greater Dublin Drainage (new SewageTreatment Plant in Clonshaugh as follows:

- Tuesday 21st November 2017 –Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links –2pm – 8pm
- Monday 27th November 2017 –National Sports Campus Conference Centre, Abbotstown – 2pm – 8pm
- Wednesday 29th November 2017 –Hilton Hotel, Northern Cross –2pm – 8pm

You are most welcome to attend one of the forthcoming information events to find out more about this new regional wastewater treatment facility.

Like Comment Share

DublinLive @DublinLive

Information day to be held about Greater Dublin Drainage project dublinlive.ie/news/dublin-ne...

2:03 PM - Nov 18, 2017



Information day to be held about Greater Dublin Drainage proj...
The event is scheduled to take place in Portmarnock Hotel and Go...

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility (RBSF) Coverage 2017

Publication: Meath Chronicle
Date: Saturday, February 11, 2017
Page: 25
Extract: 1 of 1
Circulation: 10373
Author: NOELLE FINEGAN
Headline: Meath could be chosen site for new Biosolids storage facility



Meath could be chosen site for new Biosolids storage facility

TREATMENT Quantity of waste generated nationally is expected to increase significantly by 2040

NOELLE FINEGAN

IRISH WATER has announced plans to develop a regional Biosolids storage facility for the greater Dublin area including Meath.

The new development will be part of the upgraded wastewater treatment infrastructure to facilitate the continued growth of this region.

IRISH WATER has begun the consultation process by inviting the public to comment on its proposed approach to identifying and assessing potential suitable sites for the new storage facility. According to **IRISH WATER**, no sites or locations have been identified at this stage.

The site may be anywhere

within the region that the proposed regional facility will cater for, which means the potential site could be in Meath.

The quantity of biosolids generated nationally is expected to increase significantly by 2040 as new and upgraded plants are completed to treat wastewater. Biosolids are a by-product of the wastewater treatment process and contain high levels of nutrients including nitrogen and phosphorus.

They are used in agriculture to fertilise the land during the planting seasons each Spring and Autumn. For the rest of the year, biosolids need to be stored.

In the coming years, the

quantity of biosolids being produced at the greater Dub-

lin's wastewater treatment facilities is expected to be greater than can be stored at the moment.

Developing regional biosolids storage facilities is one of the key objectives of **IRISH WATER's** National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan published in 2016.

Speaking at the launch of the first round of public consultation, Donal O'Connor, Project Manager, **IRISH WATER** said, "**IRISH WATER** is progressing a strategic solution to manage wastewater treatment for greater Dublin in the future. This includes upgrading all existing treatment facilities and adding the new wastewater plants and networks recommended by the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study.

"The new Regional Biosolids Storage Facility is an important part of our future wastewater infrastructure for greater Dublin and will support continued growth in the region. When a site is identified it will be included in the planning applications for both the upgrade of the Ringsend wastewater treatment plant and the proposed new Greater Dublin Drainage project between which we will provide wastewater treatment for greater Dublin for the next 25 years. **IRISH WATER** intends to lodge planning applications for both projects within the next 12 months."

This first round of public consultation on **IRISH WATER's** proposed approach to identifying and assessing potential

suitable sites for the new regional biosolids storage facility takes place over the next four weeks until Thursday, 2 March 2017. Further information is available on: <https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/biosolids/> or by emailing biosolids@water.ie.

Following this round of consultation the project team will review all submissions received and feedback will be considered before identifying a number of suitable sites. Once identified the potential sites will then be subject to a second phase of public consultation. A third non-statutory phase of public consultation will take place on the emerging preferred site once it has been identified.

When the three phases of

public consultation have been concluded on the regional biosolids storage facility and the Ringsend and Greater Dublin Drainage planning applications have been submitted to An Bord Pleanála, a full statutory planning consultation processes will begin on both projects before final decisions are made by An Bord Pleanála.

A question asked by Trim councillor Noel French recently where he asked how many tonnes of biosolids were spread on lands in Meath over the past three years, revealed

that a total of 40,289 tonnes of biosolids were spread on 3,507 acres during 2015 and 37,417 tonnes were spread on 3,236 acres during 2014. Figures for 2016 were not yet available.

Client: Ervia
Source: The Irish Times (Main)
Date: 29 August 2017
Page: 7
Reach: 66251
Size: 148cm2
Value: 2459.76

Irish Water earmarks sewage works site

KEVIN O'SULLIVAN
Environment & Science Editor

Irish Water has announced its "preferred site" for a large storage facility for treated sewage sludge, at Newtown/Kilshane, Co Dublin.

The new facility - on an industrial site owned by Fingal County Council - will have capacity to store 48,000 tonnes of biosolids produced mainly by an upgraded Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant on Poolbeg peninsula. It will also store material from other facilities in the region to be built under the Greater Dublin Drainage project.

Biosolids are produced during the wastewater treatment process. Processing of the waste residue results in a low odour, biologically-stable product that is not harmful to human health, according to Irish Water. When managed appropriately, they contain high levels of nutrients and are sustainably re-used as a soil conditioner and fertiliser in agriculture and forestry in compliance with European and national regulations, according to Irish Water.

Because of their source, biosolids can only be applied to lands during the planting seasons in spring and autumn and are stored for the intervening periods.

Storage capacity
Due to population and eco-

nomie growth, the quantity of biosolids produced in the greater Dublin region is expected to exceed the available storage capacity. Irish Water is working to upgrade existing wastewater treatment plants and provide new facilities where necessary to meet the needs of the capital's growing population, it said.

Five potential sites in Dublin, Fingal and Meath were looked at and assessed based on a range of environmental, economic, engineering, planning, and social criteria. The Newtown/Kilshane site was found to be more favourable for a majority of the criteria assessed including zoning; landscape and visual impact; noise, ecology, hydrology, distance from biosolids source (it is 18km from Ringsend), and costs.

It will undergo further environmental studies and assessments as part of the preparation of a planning application for the project. A six-week consultation begins today and runs until October 10th.

Client: Ervia
Source: Swords Fingal Independent
Date: 05/09/2017
Page: 8
Reach: 0
Value: 0

FINGAL SITE FOR BIOSOLID STORE

BIOSOLIDS FACILITY FOR NEWTOWN SITE SAYS IW

John MANNING

A site on the fringes of Fingal, has been chosen as the preferred site for a biosolids storage facility for the Greater Dublin Area.

A site in the Newtown and Kilshane area, close to St Margaret's has been earmarked for the facility by Irish Water who want to use it to store biosolids produced at the upgraded Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant and at the proposed new giant regional wastewater treatment plant at Clonsilla.

Irish Water explained that biosolids are produced during the wastewater treatment process. They contain high levels of nutrients and are sustainably reused as a soil conditioner and fertiliser in agriculture and forestry. Under EU and national regulations, biosolids can only be applied to lands during the planting seasons in Spring and Autumn and are stored for the intervening periods.

A spokesperson for the utility said: 'Due to population and economic growth, the quantity of biosolids produced in the greater Dublin region is expected to exceed

the available storage capacity. Irish Water is working to upgrade existing wastewater treatment plants and provide new facilities where necessary to meet the needs of our growing population.'

Earlier this year, Irish Water sought views on a short-list of five potential sites for the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility located in Dublin, Fingal and Meath.

Following public consultation, the short-listed sites proceeded to a technical assessment of a range of environmental,

economic/engineering, planning, and social/community criteria in order to identify a preferred site. A qualitative assessment using 21 classifications compared the specific site characteristics of each site.

According to Irish Water: 'The Newtown/Kilshane site was found to be more favourable for a majority of the criteria assessed including zoning (heavy industry), planning policy, landscape and visual impact, noise, ecology, hydrology, distance from biosolids source, and capital and operating costs.'

The five shortlisted sites which underwent an expert comparative assessment to identify a preferred site for the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility were Bracetown/Gunnocks, Co. Meath, Gunnocks, Co. Meath, Greenogue, Co. Dublin, Newtown/Kilshane, Dublin 11, Kilshane, Dublin 11.

The site at Newtown/Kilshane is zoned for heavy industry ('HI') in Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023 and the plan refers to Waste Disposal and Recovery Facilities as being permitted in principle under this zoning.

Newtown/Kilshane was preferred as it provides an existing industrial and infrastructural setting for both the immediate locality of the site and also as a backdrop when viewed from an elevated section of the N2 to the east. Newtown/Kilshane also presents a good opportunity for incorporation of landscape measures for mitigation, according to Irish Water.

Regional Biosolids Storage Facility
Project Development Roadmap



ervia

Aurora
TELECOM



Gas
Networks
Ireland

UISCE
EIREANN
WATER