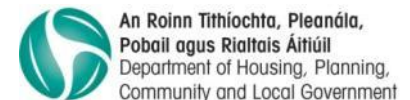


Water Services Training Group

20th Annual Conference

Meeting Standards and Expectations in the Water Industry

Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny



Meeting Standards and Expectations in the Water Industry

Planning to Address Housing Need

Joan Martin
Chief Executive
Louth County Council

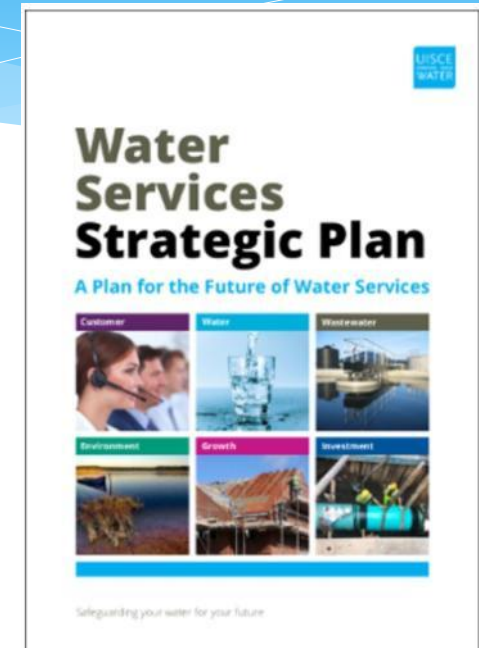


An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government

Background

Irish Water seeks to:

- ✿ Maximise capacity of existing assets
- ✿ Plan water service infrastructure at a strategic level
- ✿ Invest to meet projected demand
- ✿ Construct new assets to match demand
- ✿ Maintain appropriate headroom to facilitate growth



Background

- * Need to open up strategic development areas
- * Hope that some funding will be available
- * How do we prioritise Irish Water investment decisions???
- * This is about network extensions
- * Primary focus on housing



So....What's the Objective?

Finding a process to assist in delivering Government objective of ensuring that the **“right development takes place in the right locations and at the right time”**



Key Principles

- * Consult local authorities about decisions
- * Decisions to facilitate national housing objectives
- * Decisions should be plan-led and evidence-based
- * Create/develop sustainable communities
- * Generally adopt sequential approach
- * Prudent financial management



Selection – Two Stage Process



- * Stage 1 – **Vertical**

This stage will produce a list of priority settlements (cities and towns)

- * Stage 2 – **Horizontal**

This stage will evaluate and prioritise between sites from within the eligible settlements



VERTICAL – Settlement Selection

- * National Housing Policy
- * Hierarchy of Spatial Plans
- * Availability of Zoned & Serviced Land



- * Identify 10-15 priority Settlements
 - * With greatest housing need **and**
 - * Deficit of available serviced land



HORIZONTAL – Site Selection

- * Achieving planning objectives
- * Suitable zoning
- * Sequential
- * Needs to be “Ready to Go”
- * Threshold of 250+ units
- * Other key services in place or committed
- * Financial feasibility
- * Unit cost of water services infrastructure

Final Outcome

- * Detailed evaluation of proposed sites



- * Priority List for 0-6 years
- * Priority list for 6+ years
- * Water services networks extended
- * Delivery of large numbers of units to meet need



But.....

This initiative may help deal with a **small** number of housing sites **in areas of greatest need** but.....

- * What about the very many towns and villages throughout the country with lesser but equally important need and water services deficits?
- * Water services deficits - only one of the many issues impeding the housing market
- * Economic development and job creation also remain top priorities and water services can be a challenge for this too
- * Where does rural and regional development sit?

