

County Development Plan Review,
Forward Planning,
Planning Department,
Roscommon County Council,
Aras an Chontae,
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22_IW_FP_29_RosLAPIss

Re: Issues Paper – Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029

A Chara,

Irish Water (IW) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Issues Paper for the Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029. We have provided commentary and suggested text and objectives for inclusion in the draft Local Area Plan below and attached.

Wastewater Infrastructure

Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs)

There is potential spare capacity at Roscommon Town WWTP to cater for the projected population increase of 1,608 over the County Development Plan period 2022-2028. Roscommon Town WWTP has capacity available however, the plant is currently not compliant with WWDL ELVs but is capable of achieving at least UWW standards. Connection applications will be assessed on an individual basis considering their specific load requirements. A capacity upgrade may need to be planned at Roscommon town WWTP in the medium-long term to ensure standard headroom requirements are met. Further information is available in Irish Water's 2021 Wastewater Treatment Capacity Register which was issued to Roscommon County Council in June 2022.

Wastewater Networks

A detailed assessment of the Roscommon town wastewater network was completed in recent years. Further to this assessment, sewer rehabilitation was carried out to address inflow and infiltration issues, and the Roscommon Town Main Drainage project recently commenced construction and involves the upgrade of sewers, pumping stations and provision of storm storage to bring storm overflows on the network into compliance. Irish Water and Roscommon County Council will continue to monitor the performance of the networks to ensure that the most urgent works are prioritised as required.

A Network Development Plan has been drafted for Roscommon town, which will help inform how zoned sites within the town could be serviced.

Water Infrastructure

Water Supply

Roscommon town is supplied by the Roscommon Central Water Resource Zone. It is envisaged that there is adequate capacity to cater for the projected population increase of 1,608 over the

Plan period 2022-2028, although some Level of Service improvements may be required e.g. leakage reduction.

Following public consultation, the National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) Framework Plan was adopted in Spring 2021. The next stage of the NWRP is now underway which involves the development of four regional water resources plans which will identify plan-level approaches to address the identified need in a sustainable manner. Public consultation stage for the North-West Regional Plan, which includes Roscommon town, will be carried out in 2022.

Water Networks

Irish Water and Roscommon County Council are continually progressing leakage reduction activities, mains rehabilitation activities and capital maintenance activities. Irish Water and Roscommon County Council will continue to monitor the performance of the networks to ensure that the most urgent works are prioritised as required. There are no known major water network constraints in Roscommon town. In recent years, approximately 5km of mains have been replaced in Roscommon town and surrounding areas.

Zoning

Irish Water would welcome the opportunity to assist Roscommon County Council in identifying suitable zoned lands from a water services perspective. In order to maximise the use of existing water services, Irish Water encourages sequential development in areas with existing water services infrastructure and spare capacity.

All new developments wishing to connect to an Irish Water network are to be assessed through Irish Water's New Connections process which will determine the exact requirements in relation to network and treatment capacity. New connections to Irish Water networks are subject to our Connections Charging Policy. Further information on this process is available at: <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/>.

Depending on the extent of development targeted and realised, network upgrades may be required, particularly in areas served by sewers with a diameter of 150mm or less, or watermains with a diameter of 80mm or less. In order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water, the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers is not permitted. Where network reinforcements such as upgrades or extensions are required, these shall be developer driven unless there are committed IW projects in place to progress such works.

Where Irish Water assets are within a proposed development site, these assets must be protected or diverted. If there is a possibility that Irish Water assets will need to be altered or diverted as a result of a proposed development, a diversion agreement may be required. Further information on this process is available at: <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/diversions/>.

Sustainable Drainage and Green-Blue Infrastructure

Irish Water encourages policies and initiatives supporting the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the enhancement of green and blue infrastructure, which is provided for in the NPF under NPO 57. SuDS and Green-Blue Infrastructure are encouraged in new developments including the public realm and retrofitted in existing developed areas.

These measures can provide a cost effective and sustainable means of managing stormwater and water pollution at source, keeping surface water out of combined sewers while providing multiple benefits e.g. improved air quality, amenity, noise reduction. The removal of stormwater from combined sewers, thus increasing capacity for foul drainage from new developments, is particularly relevant to the achievement of compact growth objectives.

Irish Water would be happy to engage with any planning authorities interested in progressing nature-based rainwater management initiatives in line with the recently issued Nature-based

Planned road and public realm projects

Planned public realm and road projects have the potential to impact on Irish Water assets and projects e.g. tree planting, building over of assets, new connections, requirement to programme upgrade works in advance of road project.

Development in the vicinity of Irish Water assets should be in accordance with our Standard Details and Codes of Practice, and Diversion Agreements will be required where an Irish Water asset is diverted or altered.

Early engagement in relation to planned road and public realm projects is requested to ensure public water services are protected, enable Irish Water to plan works accordingly and ultimately minimise disruption to the public.

Suggested policies/ objectives

Irish Water has a suite of policies/objectives which we would like to suggest to the Council for inclusion in the Local Area Plan in relation to protecting Irish Water assets and the environment for the benefit of current and future population served by public water services networks. We have attached these policies/ objectives to this submission.

We look forward to engaging with Roscommon County Council as the Plan preparation progresses.

Yours Sincerely,

Elaine Heneghan

Elaine Heneghan

**Regional Forward Planning Specialist
Asset Strategy**