

## **Menu of appropriate Objectives/Policies for Water Services in Development Plans**

### General Policies in relation to Water Services

- a) To work closely with Irish Water to identify and facilitate the timely delivery of the water services required to realize the development objectives of this plan;
- b) To consult with Irish Water in the development of Plans, SDZs, etc. in order to ensure the proposed spatial strategy takes account of:
  - the available capacity of the public water services infrastructure;
  - the need to protect and optimise existing and planned public water services infrastructure;
  - the need for sequential and phased development;
  - the financial and environmental implications of development in sensitive areas.
- c) Prior to granting planning permission the Council will ensure that adequate water services will be available to service development and that existing water services are not negatively impacted. The Council should require developers to provide evidence of consultation with Irish Water prior to applying for planning permission;
- d) To protect existing wayleaves and buffer zones around public water services infrastructure through appropriate zoning and to facilitate the provision of appropriate sites for required water services infrastructure as necessary;

### Water Supply

- e) To protect both ground and surface water sources, to avoid water quality deterioration and reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with Article 7(2) of the WFD. Protection and restoration of drinking water at the source can have co-benefits for biodiversity and climate change;
- f) To support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans which seek to protect human health by identifying, assessing and managing risks to water quality and quantity; taking a holistic approach from source to tap.
- g) To support Irish Water in the development and implementation of the National Water Resources Plan for Ireland's public water supplies which seeks to address issues around the availability of water;
- h) To promote water conservation and demand management measures among all water users, and to support Irish Water in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements, including innovative solutions in specific situations.

### Wastewater Services

- i) To ensure that the Local Authority provides adequate storm water infrastructure in order to accommodate the planned levels of growth within

the plan area and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure;

- j) To require all new development to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate in new development and the public realm;
- k) To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water;
- l) To support Irish Water in the promotion of effective management of trade discharges to sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing sewer networks and minimise detrimental impacts on sewage treatment works;
- m) To ensure that all new developments connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer. These will be subject to a connection agreement with Irish Water;
- n) To refuse residential development that requires the provision of private waste water treatment facilities (i.e. Developer Provided Infrastructure), other than single house systems;
- o) The provision of single house septic tanks and treatment plants in the Plan area will be strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Where such facilities are permitted, full compliance with the prevailing regulations and standards, including the EPA's Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2021), as may be amended, will be required;
- p) To ensure that private wastewater treatment facilities, where permitted, are operated in compliance with their wastewater discharge license, in order to protect water quality.

**Note:** As per Section 5.3 of the Draft Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities, *'Alternative solutions such as private wells or waste water treatment plants should not generally be considered by planning authorities. Irish Water will not retrospectively take over responsibility for developer provided treatment facilities or associated networks, unless agreed in advance.'* The opportunity may arise for the development to connect into the network in the future however, the developer provided treatment facility would not be taken over.