

Pat Gallagher
Meath County Council
Buvinda House
Dublin Road
Navan
Co. Meath

Date: 27th August 2018

Re: Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional biosolids storage facility
Townlands of Clonshagh, Dubber and Newtown, County Fingal and Dublin City

Dear Sir

An Bord Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-873 7107

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

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Meath County Council

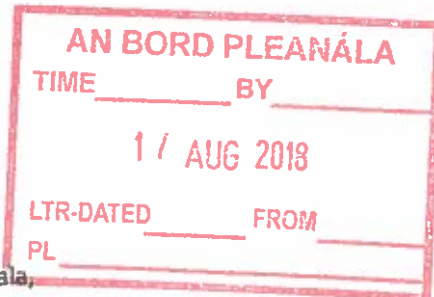
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The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Planning Department.

16th August 2018.

Your Ref: PL06F.301908

Re: Irish Water Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning Application for the construction of a new regional Wastewater Treatment Plant at Clonsaugh, Orbital Sewer, Outfall Pipeline, Sludge Hub Storage Centre and Regional Biosolids Storage Facility

1.0 Introduction

Meath County Council welcome the opportunity to comment on the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Planning Application for the proposed new regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) at Clonsaugh, pumping station at Abbotstown, and associated pipelines from Blanchardstown to a final termination point in the Irish Sea.

Wastewater outfall from higher tier south Meath settlements including Dunboyne and Ashbourne is currently treated at Ringsend. In order for County Meath to continue to sustain balanced economic, social and residential growth it will be important that adequate wastewater capacity will be made available into the future and the construction of a new regional WWTP at Clonsaugh and development of ancillary infrastructure including the pumping station at Abbotstown will have a crucial role to play in realising the objectives set out within Meath County Council's economic, settlement and core strategies.

2.0 Need for Project

The requirement for additional wastewater treatment capacity to serve the Greater Dublin Area (including a number of higher tier settlements in south Meath such as Dunboyne and Ashbourne) was identified within the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study 2005 (GDSDS). This study recommended "as the optimum drainage solution from a range of alternative scenarios the upgrading of all existing wastewater treatments plants in the GDA, the construction of a large WwTP in North County Dublin discharging to the Irish Sea, and an orbital drainage network to divert either in full, or in part, some existing foul drainage catchments to the new WwTP".

The Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS, 2005) examined how future demand for wastewater treatment can be met. It recommended that all of the main regional WwTPs be upgraded to their ultimate capacities. Some of these upgrades are complete, others are currently

in planning, and some are planned for the future..... However, the GDSDS also identified that, even with these upgrades, due to the projected increases in population and industry in Dublin and in the surrounding counties of Kildare and Meath, there is a need to develop an additional regional wastewater treatment facility in order to meet future demand. The Greater Dublin Drainage project aims to provide this additional capacity by the time it is needed in the early to mid 2020's.

The Greater Dublin Drainage project will consist of:

- a new wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) on a 23-hectare site at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh);*
- an underground orbital sewer and two pumping stations;*
- an outfall pipe from the wastewater treatment plant discharging to the Irish Sea, (approximately 1km north-east of Ireland's Eye).*

At operation, over 50% of the wastewater treated at this new regional plant at Clonshagh (Clonshaugh) will come from Fingal including from part of the North Fringe area (Dublin Airport, Meakstown, Grange/Baldoyle) as well as from the Blanchardstown catchment. The remainder will come from the northern fringes of Dublin City and south east Meath – intercepting sewers that currently go to Ringsend.

The new GDD facility will form a key part of the regional drainage network and will enable residential and commercial development to occur both in Fingal and in the greater Dublin area.

The GDD project will protect the environment and help to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and other relevant EU and national water quality regulations”.

The need for additional wastewater capacity to serve the GDA set out in the GDSDS is reinforced in Project Ireland 2040- the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan. The NPF sets out the following: *“Implement the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, through enlarging capacity in existing wastewater treatment plants (Ringsend) and providing a new treatment plant in North County Dublin known as the Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) Project”* (NPF Section 10.3, National Strategic Outcome 9, Pg 148).

Outcome No 9 of the National Development Plan specifically makes reference to the new regional wastewater treatment plant as part of the Greater Dublin Drainage Project *“This is a 500 million major wastewater treated plant for the Dublin region, to augment the existing plant in Ringsend and facilitate economic development, cater for a growing population and protect the environment”* (NDP Section 5.2, Outcome 9, Pg 83).

The proposal is therefore fully compliant with National planning policy.

3.0 Meath County Development Plan, 2013-2019

Within Section 7.12 of the current Meath County Development Plan there are a number of specific policies set down which support the proposed new regional WWTP proposals as follows:

WS POL 10: *To facilitate the provision of an adequate wastewater collection and treatment systems to all towns and villages in the County to serve existing and planned future populations in accordance with the Settlement and Core Strategies identified in this plan, the water Framework Directive 2000, the Water Services Investment Programme and as finances permit, thus improving the quality of Meath's surface, ground, transitional and coastal waters..*

WS POL 13: *To co-operate with the DoECLG, adjoining authorities and other statutory agencies to continue the sustainable development and improvement of the wastewater treatment systems throughout the County to meet the anticipated drainage requirements of the county and to achieve ongoing compliance with the requirements of discharge licences and certificates of authorisation as granted by the EPA.*

WS POL 14 : *To implement the policies developed for the Greater Dublin Area by the Greater Dublin strategic Drainage study and to ensure that all developments will have regard to the policies expressed in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study.*

4.0 Economic Development as a priority in Meath

Meath County Council prepared an Economic Development Strategy (EDS) for County Meath 2014-2022. Leading the economic development of County Meath through the successful implementation of the 7 no. Actions identified in the Strategy is a key priority of the Meath Corporate Plan 2014-2019. Meath County Council have also adopted Variation no 3 (economic variation) of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 which aligns the County Development Plan with the key tenets of the EDS as they relate to statutory land use planning. This approach is consistent with the plan-led approach and provisions of the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 for the Greater Dublin Area.

Section 2.3 of the MCDP 2013-2019 pertains to the development of Sustainable Communities where the following is set out *"Sustainable communities are defined as 'places where people want to live and work, now and in the future"*. The additional wastewater treatment capacity proposed will also assist in the realisation and progression of the sustainable work-live model particularly in the higher tier settlements of Dunboyne and Ashbourne. Continued successful implementation of the Economic Development Strategy and supporting residential growth will require wastewater infrastructure that is resilient, secure and reliable to serve existing and future development.

5.0 Conclusion:

The proposal is supported by the National Strategic Outcomes set out within the National Planning Framework (Section 10.3) and the National Development Plan (Section 5.2) 2018-2027. In addition the objectives of the GDSDS, the WSSP 2040, the Irish Water Business Investment Plan 2017-2 and the current Meath County Development Plan are all in support of the proposed development.

The delivery of this infrastructure is critical to facilitate future sustainable economic, social and residential growth of the South Meath settlements (particularly Dunboyne and Ashbourne).

Meath County Council request that the comments outlined above are taken into consideration in the assessment of the application.

Yours sincerely,


Pat Gallagher,
Senior Planner