

More than 25 years of analysis and appraisal of the need and of potential solutions and alternatives has been completed in order to select the preferred option to provide a new source of water supply for the Greater Dublin Area of Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath and wider region. This process began with Dublin City Council in 1996 and was continued by Uisce Éireann when it assumed responsibility for managing Ireland's water and wastewater services in 2014.

Between 2014 and 2018 Uisce Éireann completed an extensive options appraisal process for the project. This comprised multi- criteria analysis of all available options (including technical and engineering, environmental, risk, economic and cost criteria), in addition to extensive stakeholder consultation. The outcome of Uisce Éireann's Options Appraisal process was identification of the River Shannon – Parteen Basin as the preferred option to provide a new major source of water supply for the Greater Dublin Area and other areas in the region.

Most recently, the options for the region were examined as part of Ireland's first National Water Resources Plan (NWRP).

Phase 1, the NWRP Framework Plan (the "Framework Plan") set out the approach to identifying water supply needs and quantifying those needs up to year 2044 which, following public consultation, was finalised and adopted in Spring 2021.

Phase 2 comprising the development of four Regional Water Resource Plans to identify the optimal technical solutions (the "Preferred Approaches") required to address the needs outlined in the Framework Plan. The Regional Water Resource Plan – Eastern and Midlands Region (the "Eastern and Midlands Plan") following public consultation was adopted in Autumn 2022. The Eastern and Midlands Plan reviewed 1,128 unconstrained options and developed 591 feasible options to address the needs identified in the region. A detailed assessment process was used to determine the best solutions across a range of criteria including whole life cost, carbon costs, resilience and environmental impacts. The Plan identified that the Preferred Approach to address water supply need in the Greater Dublin Area and in 36 other WRZs in the Region is a New Shannon Source comprising of an abstraction from the Lower Shannon at Parteen Basin and a treated water pipeline to a termination point at Peamount, Co Dublin.

For more information on the NWRP please visit the webpage <https://www.water.ie/projects/strategic-plans/national-water-resources>