AtkinsRéalis

Attn: Muirin Gowen
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

OUR REFERENCE:
5161805-21-CO-00955

YOUR REFERENCE:
ACP-324447-26

Dear Muirin

5 November 2026

Subject : Proposed Upgrades to Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant and Kilkenny Road Pumping Station, Carlow, County Carlow

AtkinsRéalis have been instructed by the applicant, Uisce Éireann, to prepare a submission in response to Carlow County Council's Chief Executive Report. We refer to An Coimisiún Pleanála's correspondence inviting a submission on Carlow County Council's Chief Executive's Report dated 13 October 2026 and the accompanying resolution of the Elected Members in respect of the above application.

The applicant welcomes the Carlow County Council's (hereafter referred to as *the Council*) support for the strategic importance of the proposed development and notes that the relevant local authority departments raise no objection, subject to the matters and recommended conditions identified in the report. This response is confined to the matters raised in this report and relies on the application documentation already submitted. No additional or supplementary report accompanies this response.

For ease of assessment, this response addresses the principal matters raised in the sequence in which they arise in the Chief Executive's Report and relies on the EIAR, NIS, Outline CEMP and associated application documentation already submitted.

No.	Matter	Carlow County Council Position/Issue
1	Elected Members' resolution	The application is welcomed and the critical importance of the upgrade to the future of Carlow is emphasised.
2	Planning policy and need for the development	The development is supported by national, regional and local policy and is required to provide wastewater capacity and environmental compliance.
3	Appropriate Assessment, EIAR and environmental mitigation	The NIS and EIAR were reviewed and found satisfactory. Full implementation of all mitigation and monitoring commitments is required.
4	Surface-water drainage and SuDS	Conditions are recommended concerning an oil/petrol interceptor, flow metering, drainage standards, nature-based solutions and prevention of runoff to roads, footpaths or private property.
5	Roads and construction traffic	Conditions are recommended in relation to the protection and reinstatement of public assets, traffic management, HGV controls, road cleanliness, appointment of traffic management co-ordinator, parking restrictions and road-opening licensing are requested.
6	Odour, Noise and Vibration	Construction and operational controls are requested for noise, dust, vibration, odour, working arrangements, monitoring and complaints.

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7	Landscape and visual mitigation	Implementation of the submitted landscape plan, replacement and bolstering of planting, and perimeter screening are requested.
8	Archaeology	Compliance with the archaeological requirements of the Development Applications Unit is requested.
9	Development contributions	A general development contribution is identified for consideration; no special development contribution is considered warranted.
10	Waste Water Discharge Authorisation	The Council notes that the final discharge will be regulated by the EPA and that the existing Waste Water Discharge Licence requires review.

1. Elected Members' Resolution

The resolution of the Elected Members welcoming the application and emphasising the critical nature of the Mortarstown WwTP upgrade for the future of Carlow is noted and welcomed. The proposed development is required to address existing and future hydraulic and organic loading constraints, alleviate overloading, improve treatment performance and provide capacity for planned growth.

2. Planning Policy and Need for the Development

The Council's conclusion that the proposed development is consistent with national, regional and local planning policy is noted. The applicant agrees that the project represents enabling public infrastructure required to support the sustainable development of Carlow and to improve the performance and resilience of the wastewater treatment system.

As described in the application, the proposed upgrade will increase the treatment capacity of Mortarstown WwTP from 36,000 PE to 58,500 PE. The works will also support compliance with relevant wastewater and environmental requirements and improve protection of the River Barrow receiving environment.

3. Appropriate Assessment, EIAR and Environmental Commitments

The Council's review of the NIS and EIAR, and its conclusion that both documents are satisfactory, is noted. The applicant confirms that the mitigation and monitoring measures identified in the NIS, EIAR and Schedule of Commitments will be implemented in full.

The Outline CEMP submitted with the application incorporates the construction-phase mitigation and monitoring commitments. The Outline CEMP sets the parameters within which the Contractor will develop a Detailed CEMP. The Detailed CEMP will provide the site-specific implementation arrangements without revisiting or diluting the environmental commitments already established by the application documents.

Council's recommended conditions relating to the implementation of all mitigation and monitoring commitments, including the appointment of suitably qualified environmental and ecological personnel during construction, and preparation and implementation of the Detailed CEMP are noted.

4. Surface-Water Drainage and SuDS

The recommendations of the Environment Department concerning surface-water management are noted. The upgrade includes a new surface-water drainage system serving the extended WwTP site, including drainage controls and an oil/petrol interceptor prior to discharge via the outfall route.

The applicant notes the conditions requiring:

- a suitably designed and maintained oil/petrol interceptor on the proposed storm-water overflow pipeline;
- a magnetic flow meter to quantify surface water conveyed by the site roads and internal collection systems;
- design of surface-water collection and disposal systems in accordance with applicable Carlow County Council requirements;
- incorporation of SuDS and nature-based drainage measures where practicable; and
- prevention of surface-water runoff from the development onto public roads, public footpaths or adjoining private property.

Any final condition should allow the detailed drainage design to be agreed with the relevant authority and should remain consistent with the drainage strategy, EIAR and NIS submitted with the application.

5. Roads and Construction Traffic Management

The Municipal District Engineer's report raising no objection, subject to road-protection and traffic-management requirements, is noted. The submitted application includes construction traffic management measures and the applicant accepts the need to protect the local road network and associated infrastructure throughout the works.

The Detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan will address construction access, haul routes, HGV delivery scheduling, temporary traffic management, signage, monitoring, road cleanliness, parking and queuing controls, and liaison with the Municipal District Engineer. Any disturbance to public roads, footpaths, drainage infrastructure, signage, verges or other Council assets arising from the works will be reinstated in accordance with the requirements of the Roads Authority.

The applicant also acknowledges that the necessary road-opening licences will be obtained before excavation or other works are undertaken within public roads or associated public areas. A traffic management coordinator will be appointed for the construction phase.

6. Odour, Noise and Vibration

Odour

Operational odour was assessed through air-dispersion modelling. The proposed upgrade includes covering and abatement of potentially odorous processes and provision of dedicated odour control units. The assessment predicts an overall improvement in odour conditions relative to the existing WwTP, with the modelled maximum ground-level odour concentration for the proposed development below the applicable assessment criterion at identified sensitive receptors.

It is noted that the Council acknowledges, in relation to odour, that there will be a net overall improvement in odour air quality in the vicinity of the facility as a result of the development and impact associated with the proposed development is considered positive and imperceptible.

Noise and Vibration

The recommended controls to protect sensitive receptors are noted. Construction activities will be undertaken in accordance with the mitigation and monitoring measures set out in the EIAR and Outline CEMP, including measures addressing working practices, noise, dust, vibration, traffic and complaints management.

The Planning Authority's conclusion that potential impacts on residential amenity can be adequately addressed and mitigated through the proposed measures, including odour abatement measures, implementation of the Odour Management Plan, and compliance with relevant standards, is noted.

The applicant notes that standard conditions, securing the submitted mitigation and monitoring measures, are recommended in the Council's report.

7. Landscape and Visual Mitigation

The Planning Authority's conclusion that the proposed development would not result in adverse visual impacts is noted.

The Council's request for implementation of the landscape measures and Landscape Plan in Appendix 6-4 of the EIAR is noted. The applicant confirms that the committed landscape measures will be implemented, including replacement tree and hedgerow planting, retention and bolstering of existing vegetation where practicable, reinstatement following construction, and biodiversity-focused planting around the WwTP site and associated works areas.

8. Archaeology

The requirement to implement the archaeological measures identified through the application and the Development Applications Unit response is noted. The applicant confirms that the archaeological mitigation and monitoring commitments contained in the EIAR will be implemented by suitably qualified personnel and in accordance with the requirements of the relevant statutory authorities.

9. Development Contributions

The Council's position that no special development contribution is warranted is noted. Any general development contribution should be determined strictly in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions and the adopted Carlow County Council Development Contribution Scheme.

10. Waste Water Discharge Authorisation

The Council's statement that the quality and impact of the final discharge will be regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Waste Water Discharge Authorisation process is acknowledged. Uisce Éireann confirms that the proposed development will require a review of Waste Water Discharge Licence D0028-01.

The applicant notes that a standard condition requiring an application for review of the licence be submitted to the EPA is recommended in the Council's report.

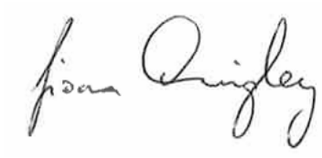
Conclusion

Carlow County Council supports the strategic purpose of the proposed development and the relevant local authority departments raise no objection, subject to the recommended conditions. The applicant has considered each matter raised and confirms that the principal environmental, drainage, roads, traffic, amenity, landscape, archaeological and operational matters are addressed through the EIAR, NIS, Outline CEMP and associated application documentation.

The applicant notes that the Council have recommended several conditions for consideration by An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) for inclusion in any Grant of Permission.

The applicant respectfully requests that An Coimisiún Pleanála proceed to determine the application, subject to such appropriate conditions as ACP considers necessary.

Yours faithfully



Fiona Quigley