

APPENDIX B

PRESS RELEASES

“GREATER DUBLIN DRAINAGE” LAUNCHES - FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL TO CONSULT WIDELY ON NEW WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Tuesday, 12th April 2011: Fingal County Council, on behalf of the seven local authorities in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), will start public consultation in the coming months to identify a suitable route and location for vital new drainage and wastewater treatment infrastructure in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area. **Greater Dublin Drainage** aims to provide safe, reliable drainage and waste water treatment for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), to meet current and future economic, industrial and residential demands, to protect the environment and to meet the EU Water Framework Directive standards (information on the project can be found on our project website www.GreaterDublinDrainage.ie)

The Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) carried out on the GSDSDS by the local authorities in 2005 and 2008 identified the need for new drainage infrastructure as the current system is not adequate to cope with the demand. The lack of wastewater capacity in parts of the Greater Dublin Area is placing constraints on the implementation of existing accepted planned development, as set out in the respective City and County Development Plans.

“Ultimately **Greater Dublin Drainage** will facilitate employment, social progress and economic growth. There will be extensive public consultation with all stakeholders from the start and opportunity for everyone to have their say. Public Consultation starts later in the near future and will be widely publicised,” says David O’Connor, Fingal County Manager.

The GSDSDS and the SEA considered 16 different options and recommended that

- a new wastewater treatment works should be built at a suitable site in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area with an outfall point on the Dublin coastline discharging in to the Irish Sea and
- a new orbital sewer is required to bring wastewater from the west of the GDA and to accommodate future development and new industries in areas around Blanchardstown Lucan, Clondalkin, Mulhuddart, East Meath and Kildare.

“The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), together with the GSDSDS, provides the best picture of the current drainage situation in the Greater Dublin Area and gives clear direction as to how to address the issue of inadequate drainage in the most sustainable manner,” says Gilbert Power, Director of Planning and Strategic Infrastructure, Fingal County Council. “We will be seeking feedback from all interested parties on our decision making process and will consult widely on the constraints involved in developing the project. A shortlist of sites will then be compiled before a preferred scheme and site are identified.”

“We often do not think about waste water until it stops working. The Dublin Region needs more drainage and treatment capacity to prosper and thrive and for the health and wellbeing of the citizens and the environment,” says Cllr. Ken Farrell, Mayor of Fingal

“The **Greater Dublin Drainage** project will ensure that there is adequate drainage and treatment of the waste water produced in the Dublin Region. It will ensure that we can prosper into the future and protect our environment for generations to come.”

Jacobs Engineering (Ireland) Ltd and TOBIN Consulting Engineers have been appointed to assess potential sites and pipeline routes. RPS Project Communications has been appointed to ensure that the consultation with all stakeholders will be robust, accessible, meaningful and accountable. When completed, the new works will have sufficient wastewater treatment capacity to meet the future needs of the Greater Dublin Area and facilitate the ongoing population and economic growth of the region. Water in the Irish Sea will also meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.

ENDS.

For further information: Mary Murphy, 087-233 6415 / 709 8001

Lo Call Information line: 1890 44 55 67 or email us at info@greaterdublindrainage.ie.

Note to Editors:

- Wastewater from the Greater Dublin Area is currently treated at the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Works, which is almost at capacity and is being extended already to meet current demand and immediate future. It makes sense, therefore, to provide for the long term sustainable needs of the region
- The exact size of the wastewater treatment works will be confirmed as part of the planning process.
- A single, regional wastewater treatment plant is preferable to a series of smaller plants. A single plant offers the greatest planning, procurement, engineering, cost, flexibility and future operational benefits.
- The Greater Dublin Area (GDA) includes Fingal, South Dublin, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Kildare, Wicklow and Meath County Councils and Dublin City Council.
- The SEA on the GDSDS is available at:
www.fingalcoco.ie/Water/WaterServicesProjects/RegionalProjects/SEAontheGreaterDublinStrategicDrainageStudy



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL OFFERS PEOPLE THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO FEED INTO THE FIRST STEP TO DETERMINE THE BEST LOCATIONS FOR VITAL NEW DRAINAGE AND WASTE WATER TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

25th May 2011: Fingal County Council would like to engage with all stakeholders at a very early stage of Greater Dublin Drainage by commencing an initial consultation process. The **Greater Dublin Drainage** initiative aims to provide the drainage infrastructure that the Greater Dublin Area needs to continue to develop, both socially and economically. The initiative involves the provision of a new wastewater treatment works, a marine outfall and new drainage network in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area.

“Very often critical infrastructural projects are the subject of public disquiet because the public are not involved early on and given an opportunity to help to decide where projects should be built. We hope that by offering the public this very early chance to have their say on the criteria that should be taken into account before any locations for the project are placed on a map, we can build the infrastructure Dublin needs in partnership with the people who need it most. These criteria could be environmental, economic heritage social or other – we want to hear about them all,” says David O’Connor, Fingal County Manager.

This phase of the non-statutory consultation is four weeks long, ending on 24 June 2011. Among the ways in which people can have their say on the Greater Dublin Drainage initiative during this period are:

In person: by coming to meet the team at one of four Open Days in Fingal

- 7th June Fingal County Council, Swords, 2pm-7pm
- 8th June Fingal County Council, Blanchardstown, 2pm-7pm
- 14th June, Balbriggan Town Hall, 2pm-7pm
- 16th June, Fingal County Council, Swords 2pm-7pm

In writing: by submitting feedback in writing to: Greater Dublin Drainage Project Manager (c/o RPS Group, West Pier Business Campus, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland)

Online: by emailing us at info@greaterdublindrainage.ie

By phone: by calling the Project Team at the Lo Call Information Line: 1890 44 55 67

Without this initiative, the potential for development of essential resources and facilities, such as schools, hospitals, industry, businesses and homes, will be severely restricted throughout the Greater Dublin Area – a scenario which is unthinkable for a capital region. The Council is determined to ensure that the most appropriate and suitable locations are selected for Greater Dublin Drainage, and that all interested stakeholders be consulted with and involved in the decision making process.

Fingal County Council seeks feedback from stakeholders on what issues or concerns should be taken into account in determining the locations of the three elements of the Greater Dublin Drainage project. This early engagement is in addition to the future statutory consultation phases of the initiative, when a planning application will be made for whichever locations are chosen for the new infrastructure.

Information on the project can be found on the project website www.GreaterDublinDrainage.ie



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The GSDSDS and the SEA considered 16 different options and recommended that a new waste water treatment works should be built at a suitable site in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area with an outfall point on the Dublin coastline discharging in to the Irish Sea. A new orbital sewer is required to bring waste water from the west of the GDA and to accommodate future development and new industries in areas around Blanchardstown, Lucan, Clondalkin, Mulhuddart, East Meath and Kildare. A shortlist of sites will be compiled in the coming months before a preferred scheme and site are identified.

ENDS

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**UPDATE ON OPEN DAYS FOR GREATER DUBLIN DRAINAGE –
13th June 2011**

A steady stream of people dropped in during the afternoons and evenings of the first Open Days held by Fingal County Council for the Greater Dublin Drainage project to identify a suitable route and location for vital new drainage and wastewater treatment infrastructure in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area. Open days were held in the Co Council offices in Swords and Blanchardstown this week and further meetings will be held in Balbriggan Town Hall on Tue 14th June and again in Fingal Co Council's Swords headquarters on Thursday 16th June, from 2pm – 7pm on both days.

“People were surprised that there are no dots or lines drawn on maps yet and they were interested in telling us about the constraints they see that will affect the routes and locations for the new wastewater treatment works, the marine outfall and the route for the large new sewer pipes that are needed”, says Peter O'Reilly, Project Engineer, Fingal County Council.

People who attended studied maps of north Dublin, reviewed the project information with the Project Team, asked questions and provided interesting ideas and feedback which the Project Team will use to help develop the project. A total of four Open days in total will be held during this first phase of consultation.

“People are very interested in the project development timeline and how the feedback they are giving us will fit into the project and be used to move the project forward”, said O'Reilly. “We're telling them that the next phase of the project will involve the Consultants taking on board all the constraints that would prevent the new infrastructure being located in any area. The Consultants will then agree a shortlist of a minimum of 6 potential sites or locations and we will put all these sites out for further public consultation.

“Some people are asking about the length of time it will take to get to making a planning application and we tell them that it will be could be two years or more before we get to that point”, says O'Reilly. “We are still at the very early stages of consultation and these 4 Open Days offer people the opportunity to feed into the first step along the way to determining the best locations for this vital new drainage and wastewater infrastructure that is required to comply with the EU water Framework Directive and the Eastern River Basin Plan, both of which have the objective of achieving good quality water, to benefit all.

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For further information : Mary Murphy: 087 233 6415