

Report on	Report on Consultation from NI Water on Draft Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan
Date of Meeting	3 rd September 2019
Reporting Officer	Sinead McEvoy – Head of Development Plan
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Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide members with details of a consultation from NI Water on a Draft Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan.
2.0	Background
2.1	NI Water issued a consultation to Mid Ulster Council on 26 th July 2019 regarding a Draft Water and Resource Supply Plan for Northern Ireland. They advise in their correspondence that they have a legislative requirement to produce a Water Resource Management Plan and a Drought Plan as part of its forward planning process. They explain that the Water & Sewerage Services Act (NI) 2016 enabled NI Water to combine these two plans into a single Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan (WR&SR Plan).
2.2	NI Water explain that the WR&SR Plan is an important document for NI Water as it shows how the company will manage and develop water resources to make sure there is enough water to meet future supply needs. The draft WR&SR Plan is open for a 9 week public consultation, which closes on 27 th September 2019.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Draft Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan The draft WR&SR Plan explains that it takes into account changes in population, housing, water usage and incorporates any predicted changes to our climate. This includes how water supplies would be maintained during critical periods such as severe winters, drought and also includes a drought plan. NI Water state that it has made significant improvements in water resilience for customers since the last Plan was launched in 2012. The draft Plan aims to build on this work, ensuring continued high levels of leakage detection, sustained investment in water mains and water efficiency initiatives. A key strategic aim of this plan is to improve the resilience of Northern Ireland's water supply system.

3.2	<p>A Strategic Environmental Assessment has also been developed for the draft Plan. This assessment looks at the potential impact of the Plan on the environment. NI Water explain that they have devised the draft WR&SR Plan with input from key stakeholders, including the Department for Infrastructure, the Utility Regulator, the Drinking Water Inspectorate, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Consumer Council NI.</p>
3.3	<p>The Executive Summary of draft Plan NI Water explain the changes since the last plan. They advise that there has been a significant decrease in the dry weather average demand from WRMP 2012 dropping from 677 MI/d in 2008/09 to 570 MI/d in 2014/15. This reduction of 107 MI/d results from a combination of improved dry year uplift assessment (38 MI/d), reduced household and non-household demand (55 MI/d) and reduced leakage (14 MI/d) achieved through continued high levels of active leakage detection and sustained investment in water mains. These high levels of active leakage detection and sustained investment will continue to maintain the Economic Level of Leakage (ELL) into the future.</p>
3.4	<p>NI Water explain that it has also invested in upgrading its water mains infrastructure, which allows it to transfer drinking water between towns and cities throughout Northern Ireland. In the WRMP 2012 the Carland to Cookstown Intervention was identified and this has since been implemented.</p>
3.5	<p>NI Water advise that the following major capital projects, which were not recommendations of the 2012 WRMP, have also brought about significant improvements in its overall water mains infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castor Bay to Belfast; • Ballydougan to Newry; • Castor Bay to Dungannon.
3.6	<p>Implications for Mid Ulster</p> <p>The draft WR&SR Plan sets out a number of recommendations and I have sought to extract those that are most pertinent to Mid Ulster District.</p>
3.7	<p><u><i>NI Water Resource Plan Recommendations:</i></u></p> <p>Demand Management activities are recommended throughout Northern Ireland. The activities to be implemented include; targeted non-household (NHH) water audits, schools water audit and retrofit, hotel and hospitals water audit and retrofit and farm audits. These are actions beyond the current water efficiency measures NI Water already promotes. NI Water Communications team will continue to work on initiatives promoting the water efficiency message.</p>
3.8	<p>The draft WR&SR Plan explains that in order to meet a 2 MI/d SDB deficit in Central Water Resource Zone, booster pumps will be required on the recently constructed transfer pipeline from Carland to Cookstown, to increase the transfer capacity from 2.4 MI/d to 5.0 MI/d.</p>

<p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p>	<p><u><i>NI Water Supply Resilience Plan Recommendations</i></u> A number of potential resilience issues throughout the country were identified for consideration during the WR&SR Plan development. A number of these were discounted following further investigation. It is recommended that the following remaining schemes are considered further during the early stages of the WR&SR Plan period to determine their scope, whether they are necessary and whether they would prove cost beneficial for improving the resilience provided to NI Water's customers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lough Fea WTW & Moyola WTW Resilience; • Upgrade Killyhevin WTW; • Seagahan to Clay Lake Trunk Main; • West WRZ Resilience, Trunk Main Upgrades and Links; • Ballinrees Resilience. <p><u><i>Other Associated Recommendations</i></u> NI Water explain that throughout the production of the Plan a number of other recommendations have been made to improve on future planning exercises. There a number of recommendations detailed but the one most relevant to Mid Ulster relates to Lough Fea. The draft Plan states that further investigation of raw water intake structures for surface water sources to understand constraints at sources such as Lough Fea and Lough Bradan. The Lough Fea intake in particular requires investigation work as an immediate priority. The timescale identified for this is 1-5 years.</p> <p><u>Conclusion</u> It is my view that it is important for the council to be aware of the proposals, findings and recommendations of the draft Plan, but that it does not raise issues that would require a specific response on behalf of Mid Ulster Council.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Other Considerations</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: None identified</p> <p>Human: None identified</p> <p>Risk Management: None identified</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: The draft WR&SR Plan has been subject to equality screening assessment.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: The draft WR&SR Plan has been subject to rural needs impact assessment.</p>

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the contents of this report and agree the recommendation that a response to the draft WR&SR Plan is not required.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	None attached.