

**Report to the Protocol Committee for noting and referral to the City Council**

<b>Councillor Name</b>	Declan Flanagan
<b>Conference / Seminar Name</b>	Overview of the Water Utilities that operate in Ireland
<b>Conference / Seminar Topic</b>	In depth discussion around the role of Irish Water in maintaining and improving the water quality and infrastructure in Ireland
<b>Venue/Location</b>	Radisson Blu Sligo
<b>Date (s) of Conference</b>	22 July 2023

**Brief Summary**

Excellent speakers in attendance including Anthony Skeffington, Regional Operations Manager for the West and North West region of Irish Water and John Dempsey, Local Authority Engagement Director. We received a comprehensive update on Uisce Éireann's national asset investment and operational activity. It was felt that when Councillors make representations to Irish Water they are initially acknowledged in a timely fashion. However, to get more information on an Irish Water issue can prove problematic and difficult in the main. We received a presentation on how Irish Water intends to strengthen and improve engagement and communication with the elected members. There was a detailed Questions and Answers session with the audience after the presentations. We received some interesting statistics which include 1.6m Households Served, 3,157 Operations Staff, 9 DBO Contractors, 1,076 UE Vehicles, Opex spend of €620m and a Capital Maintenance spend of €78m. Leakage Management of €45m, €5.35bn Capital investment nationally. Prioritising most urgent improvements. Water quality, wastewater capacity and compliance, leakage reduction, sustainability and environment, customer service. Delivery challenges Safety, planning & consents, supply chain, inflation. For a large treatment plant, requiring more consents and Ministerial approval - timelines can extend up to 10 years. For smaller projects, like watermain rehabilitation or minor upgrades, the timescales would be much less, with works planned and delivered within 12 to 24 months

**Recommendations**

Lively discussion, particularly the questions and answers sessions directly after the presentations. It would be beneficial that each council has a copy of these presentations so that they can clearly see what projects Irish Water is carrying out during the course of the year.

**Declaration**

I certify that I attended the above-mentioned Conference/Training Seminar.

Signed by Declan Flanagan Date 28/7/23