

14. Next Step

Phase four of the consultation process has now begun with the publication of the Final Options Appraisal Report (FOAR) and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Scoping Report. The Final Options Appraisal Report (FOAR) confirms that the preferred scheme is:

- Abstraction of water from the Lower Shannon at Parteen Basin
- Water treatment nearby at Birdhill
- Treated water piped to a termination point reservoir at Peamount in South County Dublin, with supplies of treated water available to Midland communities along the route.

The EIS Scoping Report considers potential issues which may arise from the preferred scheme and describes how any impacts will be assessed.

We are now undertaking a 14 week non-statutory public consultation on these two reports and invite submissions from the general public and key stakeholders. During the consultation period a number of landowner evenings and eight public open days will be held at various locations along the proposed pipeline route where members of the project team will be available to answer any questions.

Following on from the conclusion of the consultation process in early 2017, Irish Water will be in direct contact with landowners affected by the proposed pipeline route.

The feedback from this consultation period alongside further technical and environmental studies and engagement with landowners and the general public will inform the selection of the final scheme. This will be detailed in the EIS and will accompany Irish Water's planning application to An Bord Pleanála.

An Bord Pleanála will undertake all necessary statutory consultations on the Planning Application, including Oral Hearings where the views of all parties will be heard by the Board., following which An Bord Pleanála will determine whether consent should be granted.