

**PC21 Draft Determination  
NI Water Response**

**Annex 5.11 PC21 Water and  
Sewerage Public Realm**

## Background

The Department of Communities currently co-ordinates public realm and environmental improvements in cities and towns across Northern Ireland. Such public works, particularly Public Realm, involve the laying of very high specification pavement. These surfaces consequently dictate high reinstatement costs if disturbed.

In addition as aesthetics are a key aspect there is a lot of publicity and associated reputational damage for any works that take place post-completion. As a consequence the Department Of Communities, local councils and other stakeholders would prefer if NI Water would replace any ageing infrastructure within the footprint of the Public Realm works prior to the works taking place.

The outputs of this work minimises the risk of incurring very expensive reinstatement cost and also negatively publicity but it can divert funds form infrastructure in other areas deemed to be at most risk of failure.

## PC15 Overview

The submission for PC15 was £6m (£3m for both Water & Wastewater) for this element within SP23 & SP24.

To date £2847k has been spent on minor public realm schemes in PC15 with the vast majority, £2327k spent on Wastewater, and £520k on Water. It should be noted, for Wastewater, the spend was logged against SP12 and for Water £271k was logged against SP10 and £249k against SP08. The details of the individual schemes can be seen in the tables below.

**Table 1 – PC15 Minor Wastewater Public Realm Schemes**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Cost £k</b>
Derry Inner Walls Public Realm – CCTV & investigations	33
Derry Inner Walls Public Realm – Rehabilitation works in advance of resurfacing	268
The Diamond, Derry Public Realm - Rehabilitation works in advance of resurfacing	150
Market St, Magherafelt Public Realm – Collapsed sewer replacement / upsize	123
Portrush Public Realm - CCTV & Investigations	63
Portrush Public Realm - Rehabilitation works in advance of resurfacing	264
Moirá Public Realm - CCTV & Investigations	75
Irish St Public Realm, Downpatrick - Rehabilitation works in advance of resurfacing	58
Belfast Streets Ahead / High St Public Realm – CCTV	116
Lisburn Linkages Public Realm – CCTV & Investigations	37
Lisburn Linkages Public Realm – General rehabilitation works in advance of resurfacing	330
Lisburn Linkages Public Realm, Antrim St – Repair to brick sewer (utility damage)	300
Enniskillen Public Realm – CCTV & Investigations	50
Lisburn Linkages Public Realm, Railway St – Rehab works in advance of resurfacing	130
Coalisland Public Realm - Rehabilitation works in advance of resurfacing	230
High St Belfast Public Realm – Sewer repairs in advance of cycle lanes construction	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>2327</b>

**Table 2 – PC15 Minor Water Public Realm Schemes**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Cost £k</b>
Enniskillen Public Realm	249
Magherafelt Public Realm	14
Lisburn Linkages Public Realm	9
Downpatrick Public Realm	9
Kings Hall Belfast Public Realm	38
Dromore Public Realm	7
Enniskillen Public Realm	16
Dungannon Public Realm	2
Ballymena (Mill St) Public Realm	10
Coalisland Public Realm	10
Maghera Public Realm	17
Belfast Transport Hub (Translink) Phase 1	34
Belfast Rapid Transport (DfI Roads)	91
Glenbrook Flood Defence Works (DfI Rivers)	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>

It should be noted that given the constraints to the budgets in PC15 NI Water could not carry out all work associated with Public Realm Schemes and for the most part only minor work was taken forward. This was a particular issue for part of the Enniskillen Public Realm where circa £500k of additional work was identified but due to funding was not taken forward.

A letter from the Director of Asset Delivery was issued to the Department of Communities in December 2018 highlighting that NI Water could not guarantee that work identified in the footprint of Public Realm would be carried out and also requested details of schemes being considered in PC21.

### **PC21 Current Position**

Although the original PC21 submission was for £9.6m for Public Realm within SP23 and SP24, for PC15 the spend for Public Realm was against other sub-programmes. Assuming these sub-programmes in PC21 are funded to similar levels as PC15 NI Water accepts it should be able to carry out similar minor Public Realm schemes in PC21.

However as highlighted not all identified Public Realm work was carried out in PC15 and certainly any major schemes, similar to Enniskillen would require additional funding within SP23 and SP24 if these are to be addressed in PC21.

Appendix A below lists the Public Realm schemes proposed to take place in PC21. The majority of these would be deemed to be relatively minor however there are a number highlighted red that would be considered major and based on latest information there is a high likelihood these will advance in PC21.

These are:-

- Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3
- Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 5

- Clifton Gateway
- The Five Cs Public Realm

Given the constraints in funding detailed CCTV work has only been carried out for Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3 (Cost £200k) but this has identified circa £3m of work required within the footprint of the proposed Public Realm scheme.

The wastewater costs associated with the other schemes are also likely to be significant and NI Water would ask that the funding for Public Realm Wastewater is reconsidered as per the original submission of £4.808m.

A high level assessment of the water infrastructure within the Major Public Realm scheme footprints has been carried out and this has determined that only work on services/stop-cocks etc should be required and therefore a high level estimate of £200k is required for this work.

### Summary

In summary NI Water would ask that funding for major Public Realm schemes is reconsidered with a total estimated budget of £5.008m as detailed below.

Public Realm – Water (SP23)	£0.200m
Public Realm – Wastewater (SP24)	£4.808m



















