Local Authority Waters Programme
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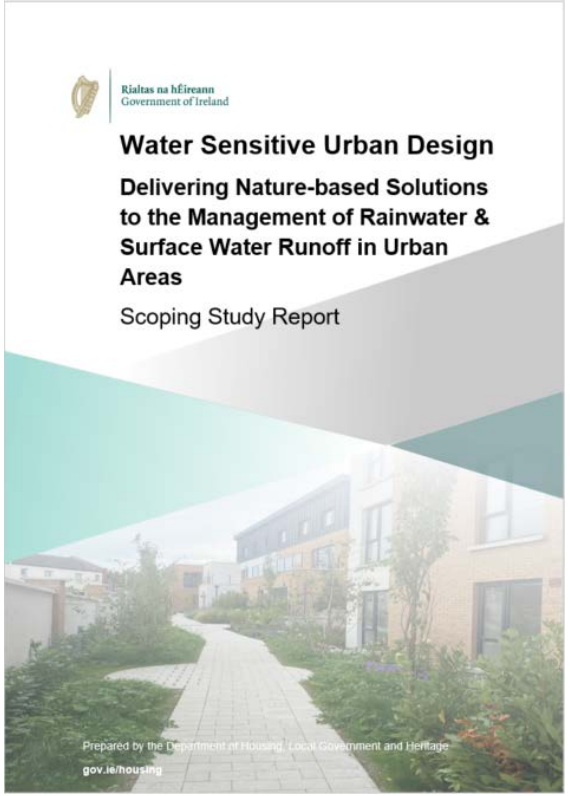
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Nature-based Urban Surface Water Management

National Implementation Strategy

Scoping Stage Report

Presentation to Webinar 30/11/21



Water Sensitive Urban Design

- DHLGH initiative following the Nov 2020 webinar
- 6 month scoping exercise
- Local Authority led with support from DHLGH & LAWPRO
- Steering group chaired by CCMA with LA membership, planning, architecture & engineering

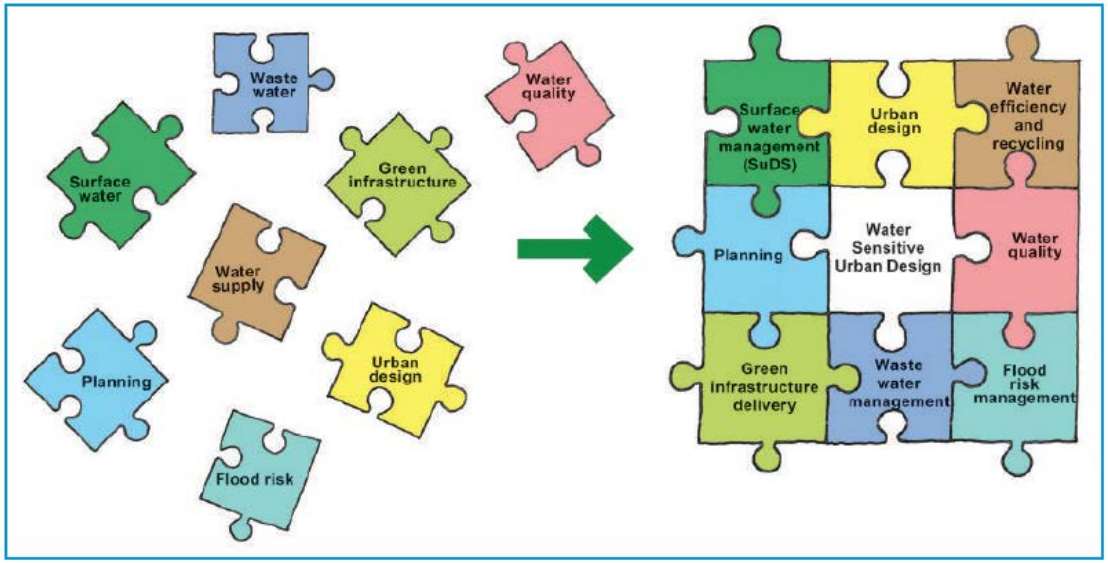


Figure 1 WSUD uses a holistic approach where various considerations come together

"Water Sensitive Urban Development is not a set of solutions or measures but a process and philosophy"

Scoping Report Structure

1. **Introduction**
2. Definitions
3. Legislative, Regulatory & Policy Context
4. Governance
5. **Stakeholder Engagement**
6. **Identified Constraints & Proposed Solutions**
7. Scoping Stage Review
8. **Implementation Roadmap & Timeline**

Introduction

- Urban rainwater runoff identified as having a significant negative impact on water bodies
- Resolving this is one of the objectives of the 3rd. Cycle of the RBMP 2022 to 2027
- Impermeable surfacing leads to increased flood risk
- Flood risk from urban rainfall increasing due to changed weather patterns / climate change
- Importance of green infrastructure and biodiversity as part of urban areas.

Definitions / Overview

- **Project Definition** - The incorporation of Nature-based Solutions into urban areas, existing and planned, to the greatest extent possible and using all available opportunities to achieve this.

- **Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)** - to create greater harmony between water and communities by creating attractive, functional and valued places to live in that are sensitive to the needs of the natural water cycle.

Copenhagen
"Cloudburst Management Plan 2012"

Rainwater Management Plan

Planning for urban rainwater management through the incorporation of three-dimensional planning into spatial and land use plans at Settlement Level (City Plans, Urban Area Plans, LAPs, SDZs)

A "Whole of City" catchment-based approach

Policy & Regulatory Context

- UN Sustainability Goals
- EU Green Deal
- Water Framework Directive
- National Planning Framework 2018
- Sustainable Settlement Strategy
- Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS)
- *Sustainability focused largely on transport – needs to include the water environment, climate adaptation, in line with UN SDG and EU Green Deal*

Stakeholder Engagement

- April to July 2021
- Government Departments – 2 workshops
- Statutory Agencies – 5 workshops
- Professional Representative Bodies – 5 workshops
- Local Authorities – 14 workshops
- Detailed analysis of LA workshops to identify priority issues
- Summary of all outputs in Appendix 1

Constraints and Solutions

- Chapter 6 sets out 12 identified **Constraints and Proposes Solutions** for each.
- Chapter 8 groups these constraints and solutions into a series of **STEPS** to be taken, identifying who is responsible and proposing a timeline.
- Chapter 8 also identifies some potential "**quick wins"** for early action
- The following slides summarise these steps.

Quick Wins

- Language – Use of terms such as **“urban rainwater management”, “nature-based solutions” and “water sensitive urban design**” rather than traditional terms will emphasise that implementation can happen only as an integral part of all urban plans and designs.
- Interim Guidance Document – **complete**
- DHLGH Guidance document on the incorporation of the WFD into the planning system includes some of the NBS and WSUD concepts (public consultation early 2022) – **in progress**
- NBS Advice Note on DMURS – **in progress**
- Funding to be linked to incorporation of NBS – **in progress**

Roadmap

- **Constraints:**
  - NBS not incorporated into plans and projects from initial concept stage
  - Reluctance to take NBS in charge
  - Perception that NBS is competing for urban space

- **Proposed Solutions:**
  - Introduction of Ministerial Planning Directives
  - Use of Interim Guidance Document and DMURS Advice Note
  - Training, use of “champions” and examples

Roadmap

- **Constraints:**
  - SuDs seen as a “drainage issue”
  - Lack of understanding of NBS and environmental issues relating to urban runoff and flood risk
  - Promotion of NBS not seen as important by LA Management

- **Proposed Solutions:**
  - DHLGH, CCMA, LAWPRO to work with LA management to improve understanding
  - Training through LANTG across LA sections
  - Amendments to NOAC KPIs

Roadmap

- **Constraints:**
  - Use of NBS requires cooperation across a range of LA Directorates / Department
  - Implementation of NBS requires integrated policies across Government Departments

- **Proposed Solutions:**
  - Government to establish interdepartmental group to examine policies and changes required
  - DHLGH and CCMA to look at DoS responsibilities to integrate environment, water quality, & climate, with urban planning & design

Roadmap

- **Constraints:**
  - Lack of capacity to value multiple benefits of NBS within project analysis
  - Removal of NBS from projects due to “Value Engineering”
- **Proposed Solutions:**
  - Review and update current economic appraisal methods
  - Training of Government Funding Agencies
  - Clear Government Policies and Guidance

Roadmap

- **Constraints:**
  - Resistance to incorporation of “SuDS features” into public spaces by the public, elected members, and LA officials
  - Concerns about long term maintenance and safety

- **Proposed Solutions:**
  - NBS should be integrated into all designs and not be designed as “stand alone SuDS features”
  - Use of best practice in design, materials will resolve concerns about maintenance and safety
  - Closer cooperation between LA operational sections

Next Steps

- Work on DMURS Advice Note and with Funding Agencies already underway to be concluded in Q1 2022
- 3rd. Cycle RBMP currently out for public consultation – DHLGH to take steps towards a National Implementation Strategy for NBS during 2022
- DHLGH, CCMA and LAWPRO to consider how best to implement Roadmap steps.

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Thank You for your attention

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