

## Sewer Improvement Scheme Market Street, Downpatrick



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## Introduction

The town of Downpatrick, in the heart of the County Down area is one of Northern Ireland's busiest commercial and tourist town centres.

A Drainage Area Study of the town's sewerage system has been carried out by Northern Ireland Water (NI Water) and a number of key projects have been identified. These will improve the system, reduce the likelihood of out of sewer flooding and restrict storm discharges to the local river environment in line with criteria set by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

## Investment

NI Water is committed to providing a modern and effective sewerage system across Northern Ireland.

The Downpatrick Drainage Area Study has identified a requirement for major infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of Market Street. Down District Council are due to commence environmental improvement works in spring 2010 which include major decorative resurfacing in the Market Street and St. Patricks Centre areas of Downpatrick. NI Water has therefore advanced a contract to lay the required sewers and minimise any future disturbance to the proposed council scheme. This contract represents an immediate investment by NI Water of £830K on what will ultimately be a £2.3 million project.

## Proposal

The proposed infrastructure improvements will involve the installation of deep sewers along existing roads (Market Street and along the road network past the St. Patricks Centre) with associated traffic and pedestrian restrictions required to allow the works to be completed in a safe environment. This will include the restricting of traffic to a one way system in Market Street between St. Patricks Avenue and Church Street for the

duration of the work in this particular area. The work will cause disruption to the local community, but we aim to minimise vehicle and pedestrian traffic disruption by using tunnelling techniques (also required due to ground conditions and abundance of services in the area). Work is planned to commence in mid February 2010 and be fully completed by July 2010 (with work on Market Street complete by late April 2010).

NI Water has liaised closely with Roads Service in Downpatrick and Down District Council's Public Realm Team for programming of the proposed works to minimise disruption and coordinate the two separate contracts.

## Benefits

The proposed sewers will ultimately facilitate the relocation and upgrading of the existing sewerage pumping station from Market Street to a new position in the car park at the rear of the Grove Shopping Centre. This will provide the following benefits:

- Reduce the risk of out of sewer flooding in the Market Street Area.
- Removal of existing storm overflows in wet weather conditions from the Plank Drain.
- Meet Northern Ireland Environment Agency Standards.
- Enhancement of the sewerage system to meet future growth and demand.

## Consultation

NI Water understands that construction work on this scale in a sensitive location can cause concern and some inconvenience for the people living close to it. We have a responsibility to keep this disruption to a minimum for local residents and businesses, and we take this responsibility very seriously.

We believe it is important to keep the local community involved in the process, and help local people understand the need for, and long term benefits of the construction work.

## Contact

We intend to update stakeholders regularly on the progress of the project. However, if you require any further information, please contact:  
NI Water Project Manager, Lisa Hughes on **028 9035 4813 (ext 30802)**.

BSG Civil Engineering is the contractor for this scheme and can also be contacted between the hours of 9am – 5pm on **028 7964 3610**. Alternatively, you can contact the 24 hour Waterline number on **08457 440088**.

