

Variation of Leep Networks (Water) Limited's appointment to include Kingsgrove, Wantage

On 28 November 2022, Ofwat began a [consultation](#) on a proposal to vary Leep Networks (Water) Limited's ("**Leep Water**") appointment to become the water services provider for a development in Thames Water Utilities Limited's ("**Thames Water**") water supply area called Kingsgrove, Wantage ("**the Site**"). Details of the application and our assessment of it were set out in the consultation document.

The consultation ended on 30 December 2022. During the consultation period, we received a response from one organisation, which is summarised in Section 1 of this document.

We will only make an appointment or variation if our assessment concludes that the application meets the criterion it has been made under; that customers or future customers on the site will be no worse off than if the site had been served by the existing appointee; and if the applicant will be able to finance the proper carrying out of its functions as a water and/or sewerage company. As set out in our consultation we are satisfied this is the case. The response we received to the consultation has not changed that view.

Having assessed Leep Water's application and having taken account of the response we received to our consultation, we decided to grant a variation to Leep Water's area of appointment to allow it to serve the Site for water services. This appointment became effective on 1 March 2024.

The Site Map for the variation can be found in Section 2 of this document.

The Variation Notice legally making the variation can be found in Section 3 of this document.

1. Responses received to the consultation

We received one response to our consultation from Vale of Whitehorse District Council ("**VoWDC**"). The planning officer acknowledge receipt of the consultation notice and confirmed that, if it provided no further response before our consultation deadline, we were to assume that VoWDC had no comments to make on the proposal. We received no further response from VoWDC.

3. Variation Notice

WATER SERVICES REGULATION AUTHORITY
WATER INDUSTRY ACT 1991, SECTIONS 6 TO 9

Variation of the Appointments of Leep Networks (Water) Limited and Thames Water Utilities Limited as Water Undertakers

Made on 29 February 2024

Coming into effect on 1 March 2024

1. Leep Networks (Water) Limited ("Leep Water") and Thames Water Utilities Limited ("Thames Water") hold Appointments as water undertakers for their respective areas ("the Appointments").¹ The areas to which the Appointments of Leep Water and Thames Water as water undertakers relate ("Water Supply Area") are set out in their Instruments of Appointment.
2. The site called Kingsgrove, Wantage, Oxfordshire, which is shown edged in red on the plan attached to this variation, ("the Site") is within Thames Water's Water Supply Area. The Site is being developed by St Modwen Developments Limited.
3. Leep Water has applied under section 7(4)(b) of the Water Industry Act 1991 ("the Act") for a variation of its Appointment as a water undertaker to include the Site and for a consequential variation of Thames Water's Appointment to exclude the Site.
4. On 27 June 1995, the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for Wales acting jointly and pursuant to sections 6(1) and 7(2) of the Act authorised the Director General of Water Services² to make variations such as those contained in paragraph 5 below. After public consultation, as required by section 8 of the Act, the Water Services Regulation Authority has decided that it should grant Leep Water's application.
5. Therefore, as provided by sections 7(2) and 7(4)(b) of the Act, and with the agreement of St Modwen Developments Limited, the Water Services Regulation Authority **varies**–

(a) the Appointment of Leep Water as a water undertaker so that the Site is included in Leep Water's Water Supply Area; and

(b) the Appointment of Thames Water as a water undertaker so that the Site is excluded from Thames Water's Water Supply Area.

Signed for and on behalf of the Water Services Regulation Authority



Sally Irgin
Director of Enforcement

¹ Thames Water's original Appointment as a water undertaker was made by the Secretary of State for the Environment under sections 11 and 14 of the Water Act 1989, now replaced by sections 6 and 11 of the Water Industry Act 1991. Leep Water's original Appointment was made by the Water Services Regulation Authority under sections 6 and 11 of the Water Industry Act 1991.

² With effect from 1 April 2006 the functions of the Director General of Water Services were transferred to the Water Services Regulation Authority in accordance with section 36 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Water Act 2003.