



Update

S P R I N G 2 0 0 3

Infrastructure investment is price review priority

Thames Water is seeking feedback on its investment priorities for the next price review period. A new document and CD Rom, 'Protecting Everyone's Liquid Assets', sets out the areas that the company feels are in most urgent need of investment.

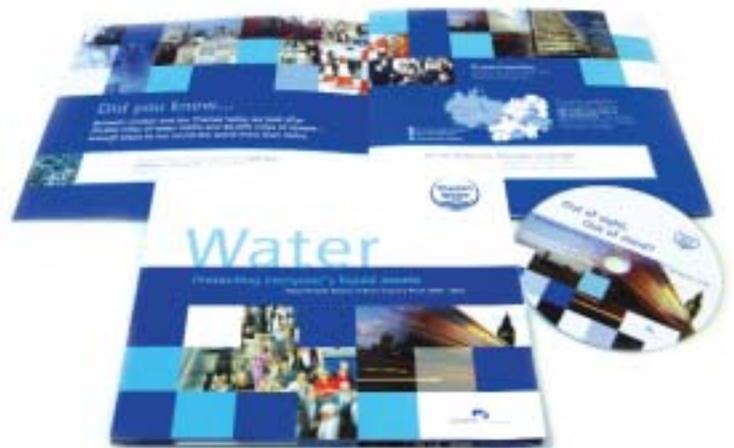
Top of the list is the need to continue to maintain, replace and renew ageing water mains and sewers. This will help to reduce leakage and to cut the amount of sewage flooding. Other priorities include investing in new resources, maintaining drinking and river water quality and complying with new EU legislation.

The water industry's economic

regulator, Ofwat, is considering companies' priorities and prices for the period 2005 – 2010. Over recent years investment has been concentrated on improving the quality of drinking water and sewage treatment.

It is now time to focus on the massive network of mains and sewers beneath our streets and we will be urging Ofwat to allow the necessary funding to be raised.

Beneath London and the Thames Valley are 40,000 miles of sewers and 20,000 miles of water mains. More than half of those mains are over 100 years old and a third are over 150 years old.



Thames Water Utilities Chairman, Bill Alexander, said, "Our water and sewerage networks are the unglamorous but essential foundations of a civilised society and they urgently need major investment. If, as a society, we fail to

provide it, we will be letting down many generations to come".

For a copy of the document and its accompanying CD Rom or to pass on your views on our priorities please email, periodic.review@thameswater.co.uk.

Partnership is key to water and sanitation needs

The UK's International Development Secretary, Clare Short gave the keynote speech at a Thames Water and WaterAid sponsored conference on water and sanitation provision in February.



Impassioned: Clare Short gave keynote speech

The purpose of the conference, organised by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), was to discuss how best to achieve the 'Millennium Development Goals' of halving the numbers of people without access to clean water and sanitation by 2015.

Other speakers included Thames Water Chief Operating Officer, Jeremy Pelczer, Michel Camdessus, Chair of the World Water Panel on Financing Infrastructure and Ravi Narayanan, Director of WaterAid.

The Minister spoke of the need to acknowledge the private sector in achieving sustainability for the developing

world. She also asserted the need for more transparent subsidies to ensure that the poorest communities could afford the services being offered.

It was agreed that governments and local communities should regulate private sector involvement in the provision of what is a fundamental human right. It was also accepted that the private sector cannot offer all the answers and will not always be the most appropriate solution. A number of speakers, including Jeremy Pelczer, asserted that strong partnerships between the private sector, local communities and NGOs were essential.

Edited by David Mephram, 'Clean Water, Safe Sanitation: An agenda for the Kyoto World Water Forum and beyond' is a collection of essays from some of the leading thinkers on water and sanitation issues.

For a copy please email ippr@centralbooks.com



Partnership: Jeremy Pelczer spoke on role of the private sectors

Royal Steam Engine inauguration

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visited Kempton Water Treatment Works in December to commemorate the restoration of a historic steam engine.

The 62-foot high engine, dating from 1928, pumped water to north London until it was replaced by electric motors in 1980. It has been lovingly restored over the last seven years by volunteers from the Kempton Great Engines Trust, and supported by funding from Thames Water for a new boiler house and other equipment.

The Prince of Wales toured the pump house, where he helped to start the engine. He also unveiled a commemorative



Congratulations: Prince Charles, Kempton.

plaque, "I want to congratulate the team of volunteers and to express warmest appreciation

to Thames Water who of course have put so much into this project", said the Prince.

Misconnections

Thames Water has completed an 18-month project that will prevent kitchen and toilet waste polluting rivers and streams in south east London.

The Environment Agency (EA) estimates that around one million households in England and Wales are misconnected and that this is one of the main causes of pollution in London.

When they discovered pollution entering a local watercourse,

Thames Water and the EA suspected the source of pollution was household appliances incorrectly plumbed into surface water sewers, instead of foul sewers that take household waste to sewage works for treatment.

The problem was traced to 56 properties where private drains were wrongly connected to public surface water sewers. Waste from 101 appliances including three toilets, 29 wash-

ing machines and 14 dishwashers was entering and polluting nearby streams and rivers.

Once individual properties with misconnected appliances were identified, Thames Water worked with the London Borough of Bromley's Environmental Health Department to advise householders of their responsibilities to ensure that private drains are properly connected to the public sewer network.

Community Award



Thames Water's commitment to investing in local communities has been recognised by the High Sheriff of Surrey.

The High Sheriff, Penelope Keith OBE, presented an award to Thames Water at a special ceremony in Guildford. The Awards are made annually by the High Sheriff and recognise outstanding contributions made by businesses that

support community initiatives by working in partnership with local authorities and voluntary organisations.

The project, managed by The Surrey Care Trust, offers canal trips to disadvantaged community groups whilst providing opportunities for young offenders to develop their skills. Miss Keith said: "We have seen that it is possible for businesses, in partnership with voluntary groups and statutory bodies, to generate hugely beneficial initiatives for their community."

NEWS IN BRIEF

American Water joins TW family

Thames Water has announced the successful acquisition of American Water, the largest privately owned water utility in North America.



The acquisition was finalised in mid January, ahead of schedule, after a year of negotiations with American Water stakeholders and US regulators.

Thames Water's parent company, German multi utility RWE, will finance the transaction.

This will make the group the leading private provider of water and related services in the United States as well as in the UK and Germany.

Minister to speak at CSR Conference

Stephen Timms MP will give the keynote speech at a one-day conference on Corporate Social Responsibility, which will be held at the University of Reading on 3 April.

Also speaking at the Thames Water sponsored event, will be the Chairman of MORI, Professor Robert Worcester, the Chief Executive of Business in the Community, Julia Cleverdon, and Thames Water UK's Chief Operating Officer, Jeremy Pelczer.

For details please email elizabeth.sale@thameswater.co.uk

Trout return to River Wandle

Thames Water Utilities Managing Director, John Sexton, will present 20 schools in south west London with trout hatcheries on 17 March as part of a project to demonstrate the cleanliness of the River Wandle.

The fish will be grown in the schools and then released into the river later this year. Thames Water's Beddington Sewage Treatment Works makes up 80% of the River Wandle's flow.