

PRESS RELEASE



DATE: 12 December 2007

SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE FUTURE

Portsmouth Water is today publishing its 25 year strategy for delivering water supplies to its customers in South East Hampshire and West Sussex.

Throughout its 150 year history the Company has remained focussed upon the need to maintain secure supplies whilst delivering water of the highest quality, at low cost, to customers. The strategy outlines how the Company will maintain supplies for the future despite the challenges of climate change, rising numbers of households and population proposed in the South East Plan, together with the need to respect the treasured water environment of Hampshire and West Sussex.

Nick Roadnight, Portsmouth Water's Managing Director said:

"This strategy will ensure the security of supplies well into the future, whilst ensuring that the valuable water environment of our local area is sustained. Our customers have traditionally enjoyed low water charges and so our Plan is being developed on an economic footing which will ensure that we maintain our charges as the lowest in England and Wales."

The strategy was produced after undertaking customer research and after consultation with the Consumer Council for Water, the Drinking Water Inspectorate, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

The strategy includes the following key proposals:

- our aim is that charges to customers will remain the lowest in England and Wales
- proposals to build a new winter storage reservoir at Havant Thicket
- the development of a metering programme to deliver 85% metering in domestic households by 2035
- the continued promotion of water efficiency by the Company
- the provision of innovative solutions in the use of low carbon technologies

"Sustainable Water Supplies for the Future" can be viewed on our website, www.portsmouthwater.co.uk. For those without internet access, a copy can be requested by calling Portsmouth Water on 023 9249 9888.

We would welcome feedback on our proposals by February 2008. Comments can be made by emailing SDS@portsmouthwater.co.uk or by writing to: Portsmouth Water Ltd, P O Box 8, West Street, Havant, Hants, PO9 1LG.

For further information, please contact Neville Smith - Finance Director on 023 9249 9888.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Portsmouth Water is one of the oldest water companies in the country, having been incorporated in 1857.

OUR WATER SOURCES

Our water, of high quality, is derived from the chalk of the South Downs and is abstracted from wells, boreholes, springs and the River Itchen.

The Springs at Havant and Bedhampton are thought to be the largest group of springs used for public supplies in Europe.

STATISTICS

We serve 286,000 homes and businesses in an area covering 868 square kilometres (335 square miles) from the River Meon in Hampshire to the River Arun in West Sussex.

Every day we supply around 180 million litres (40 million gallons) of water to a population of over 640,000 people at the lowest cost in England and Wales.

OUR DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

Water is supplied to our customers through a network of over 3,200 kilometres (1,990 miles) of underground water mains and more than 280,000 individual service connections, all of which are continuously maintained by our distribution staff.