



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP,  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,  
Water Resources Management Plan consultation,  
Area 3D,  
Nobel House,  
17 Smith Square,  
London SW1P 3JR.

6 August 2018

Dear Sir

## **Thames Water's draft Water Resources Management Plan – need for a second public consultation**

Thames Water is currently preparing its Water Resources Management Plan 2019. The first consultation on the draft plan (dWRMP19) finished on 29th April 2018 and we submitted our comments on the plan at that time. The company is now preparing a Statement of Response and will issue a revised plan.

Thames Water have already announced they will make significant changes to the draft on which we were able to comment back in April. These included:

- downward Changes to the population forecasts for the life of the plan,
- changes to their plans to cut leakage (to meet the Ofwat targets), and
- the addition of several other water resources not included in the earlier draft.

In addition, important recommendations have been made in the published responses of the Environment Agency and Ofwat will also need to be incorporated in the revised plan. These include:

- the recommendations of the Environment Agency and Ofwat to reduce leakage,
- the recommendations for Thames Water to evaluate more rigorously the major scheme options both inside and outside the preferred plan (eg Direct Abstraction at Teddington, and Water Transfer from the Severn to the Thames),
- the requirement from both Ofwat and the Environment Agency to provide more transparency in the evaluation of metrics used by Thames Water to make preferred programme decisions.

One of the groups in our area (Group Against Reservoir Development) has written to the Environment Agency and Ofwat calling for a second public consultation on what will, in effect, be a substantially new plan and has been reminded that it is your decision to order such a consultation.

We would therefore support their request and ask that because of the substantial changes being incorporated into the revised Thames Water “Water Resources Management Plan 2019” be made available for a second consultation. This plan is very important because the inclusion of the proposed Abingdon reservoir in local plans would have a significant impact on our area and we would appreciate the opportunity to comment on what will effectively be a new water management plan for our region.

# Wantage and Grove Campaign Group



The Wantage and Grove Campaign Group is a non-party-political group of over 1000 individuals who live in and around Wantage and Grove in Oxfordshire. We are not against development in the Wantage and Grove area but believe:

- All Developments should be proportionate and sustainable; and
- The infrastructure should enhance and improve quality of life for its residents.

Yours faithfully

Geoff Rice  
Chairman  
Wantage and Grove Campaign Group