

## DEE VALLEY WATER SERVICES FOR DEVELOPERS



We provide services for developers or others planning developments requiring new supplies of water or needing to know the location of the water mains within our area of supply. These services are listed below and should be read in conjunction with our statement of charges for developer services.

A location map of Dee Valley Water's area of supply is on our website ([www.deevalleygroup.com/DVW/AreaSupplied.htm](http://www.deevalleygroup.com/DVW/AreaSupplied.htm)) or a copy can be provided on request.

Dee Valley Water only supplies water. Enquiries about sewerage in our area of supply should be directed to Dwr Cymru or United Utilities.

### **Location of our water mains**

If you need to know where our mains are, we can provide a plan showing their location on submission of our application form, which is available on request. If your request indicates that you have an interest in a particular area of land, we will also bring to your attention any other matters affecting the land that we are aware of: easements, for example.

### **Building water**

When you start construction, we can usually make available a temporary supply of water for your use on the site.

### **Diversion of our mains**

Our water mains have to be accessible at all times for maintenance and in case of emergencies. If you are planning any work or development that could interfere with access to our mains (by building over them, for example), we can assess the feasibility of diverting our mains for you and provide a budget estimate of the cost.

### **Feasibility of supplying water to a proposed development**

If you are considering purchasing land for development, whether it is for a single property or a major housing or commercial development, and you need to know whether there would be any problems supplying water to the site, we can provide the following:-

- a location plan of our water mains in the vicinity
- an assessment of the mains and any of our other apparatus affected by your proposed development
- details of easements or any other rights affecting the land

- an assessment of any mainlaying or other work we would need to carry out to be able to supply the site with a budget estimate of the cost, unless there are particular problems that make this impossible
- details of further studies we would have to carry out to assess the feasibility of supplying the site if there are particular problems.

In order that we can provide this information to you, you will need to complete an application form giving us details of the proposed development.

If you already have a proposed layout of mains for the site, we can also provide a budget estimate of our charges for laying the mains.

### **Connecting onto our water distribution system**

We have a statutory duty to make available a supply of water that is sufficient for domestic purposes to new premises within our supply area. Normally, we are also able to satisfy new demands for water for non-domestic purposes unless there is a particular problem; with the availability of water for example. Any problems with supplying water to a site are identified in our response to an enquiry at the feasibility stage.

If you simply require a supply to a new property and we already have a water pipe of adequate capacity that passes nearby, we can make a connection onto our pipe and lay a new service pipe to the boundary of your property. Applications need to be made on our connection quotation form, which is provided on request. If, for any reason, there is a problem with providing a supply to your property, we will notify you at this stage. In case of problems, you are advised to submit you application early.

For housing development sites or commercial or industrial developments or re-developments, a new water main to extend our existing water distribution system to your site will probably be required. When the water main is to be provided to supply water for domestic purposes, your request is called a “water main requisition”. In some circumstances, it will also be necessary for us to provide or upsize other mains away from the site (called “off-site mains”) or to provide other apparatus such as service reservoirs or pumping stations as a consequence of the new supply. The possibility that there will be such requirements will be identified in response to an enquiry at the feasibility stage.

You can either ask us to arrange to lay the new water mains and service pipes, or you can lay the water mains and service pipes yourself or using a contractor that you appoint. Water mains that you lay yourself or appoint a contractor to lay are “self-laid mains”. Because we will ultimately adopt these self-laid mains and assume responsibility for them, the self-laying of mains has to be controlled and is covered by our self-lay policy. If you are interested in self-laying water mains and service pipes, we can provide details of our scheme on request.

Water mains for developments are requested using our application form, which requires information that enables us to assess the application.

There could be several components to the charges we make for new connections, which are:-

- **Infrastructure charges.** These are fixed charges made for each new connection to water mains. They are intended to cover the general ongoing cost of developing the local network to take account of new demand placed upon it. The level of these charges is set by Ofwat. In assessing the infrastructure charges that are payable for a development, we make an allowance for any premises that were on the site and used water within the previous five years.
- **Connection charge.** This charge is for the cost of laying and connecting the communication pipe from our water main to the property of your boundary. It varies depending on the amount and difficulty of the work.
- **Requisitioning charge.** This charge is for the cost of providing the requisition main that links the new connections to the existing distribution system. It would also cover the provision of any tanks, service reservoirs or pumping stations that might be needed as a consequence of the new main. The charge is less than the full cost of providing the requisition main as an allowance is made in its calculation for the estimated revenue we will receive from the use of the main over the following twelve years.
- **Off-site mains charge.** For new mains, tanks, service reservoirs and pumping stations that are not subject to the requisitioning charge arrangement, the full cost of the work is charged as an “off-site mains charge”.

Financial arrangements are different for self-laid mains. If you self-lay mains that would qualify as requisition mains (as described above), we will pay you or allow you an “asset value”, which is an amount in recognition of the future revenue for supplies of water connected to new mains. This is explained in more detail in our policy on self-laying of water mains and services.

### **Water fittings inspections**

Anyone who installs plumbing systems (including the underground supply pipe) or water fittings has a legal duty to ensure that the systems or fittings comply with the Water Fittings Regulations. The purpose of the regulations is to prevent contamination of drinking water and inefficient use of water through waste, excessive consumption or erroneous measurement.

Before you start any installation, you must ensure that you or any architect, building developer or plumber working on our behalf gives us advance notice of the work. We at Dee Valley Water are responsible for the enforcement of the regulations within our area of supply.

We can provide on request a copy of our Code of Practice on Enforcement of the Regulations, our information leaflet on giving notification and a form on which you can use to notify us of your intended work or a proposed installation.

### **Other services**

We provide other services that could be of interest to developers including the following:

Flow and pressure testing

Installation of fire hydrants for commercial/industrial sites

Separation of joint supplies

Supply pipe leak repair

Replacement of lead communication pipes

Optional metering scheme.