



Supplementary Agenda

Item 10: Alteration to 10 (i)

for the meeting of

THE COUNTY COUNCIL

to be held on

12 DECEMBER 2023

(i)

10 ORIGINAL MOTIONS

Item 10 (i)

Paul Follows (Godalming South, Milford & Witley) to propose to alter the motion standing in his own name under Standing Order 20.3(a) to read as follows:

(additional words underlined in bold and deletions crossed through)

This Council notes:

- The disruption to potable water supply across large parts of the boroughs of Guildford and Waverley that commenced on Saturday 4 November, the ongoing water supply issues in Cranleigh and surrounding villages, and the repeated discharge of raw sewage into the river network;
- All efforts from across the community to support people, and in particular those who are vulnerable, in accessing alternative supplies of water during the period of disruption;
- The legitimate concerns of residents about raw sewage being regularly discharged into our river network from Sewage Treatment Works and from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and from raw sewage back flowing onto their private property and highway network;
- Concerning elements of Thames Water's response to the disruption, including but not limited to:
 - (a) poor communication with those impacted in the community, and
 - (b) limited actions to ensure the vulnerable or those unable to queue for water, were able to access alternative supplies.
 - (c) delayed environmental cleanup operations.
- The chronic underinvestment from ~~the government towards~~ the water industry which risks the possibility of future water shortages and increased raw sewage discharges and notes the three lead executives at Thames Water during the previous financial year were estimated to have been paid a total of £1.52 million, exclusive of bonuses, benefits, pensions and other incentives.

This Council resolves to:

- I. Ensure the Leader of the Council writes to the leadership of Thames Water, to request:
 - a. a detailed report of the cause of the disruption to water supply and the steps taken to resolve the matter;
 - b. a detailed report on the instances and quantity of raw sewage discharges into the river network and Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) assurances over the past four years and the investment plans to resolve this;

(iii)

- c. that residents and businesses receive timely and full compensation for the disruption to water supply and sewage spills;
 - d. an improved communications plan for informing the local community should a similar disruption to water supply occur again and/or raw sewage incidents; and
 - e. a reassessment of its processes, procedures, and criteria for ensuring the vulnerable or those unable to queue are able to access alternative supplies of water in the event of a disruption.
- II. Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to commission an investigation into the most recent water supply incident and the agency response, in addition to the requirement for water companies' to record and report raw sewage spills onto private property and the public highway through their assets.
- ~~III. Task the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee with:~~
- ~~a. reviewing the Council's emergency response measures regarding water and sewerage infrastructure.~~
 - ~~b. reviewing how and when the Council determined the need to enter into emergency response measures.~~
- III. **Work with Guildford Borough Council, Thames Water and Waverley Borough Council to collectively learn lessons from this incident and the emergency response measures taken.**