

Council – 18 July 2024

Alteration to Councillor Thornburrow's amendment to motion 8 b under Council Procedure Rule 23.4 (Deleted text ~~struckthrough~~, additional text underlined.)

Council notes the public outrage displayed in the general election about the pollution of rivers, waterways and beaches by sewage – an outrage which is shared locally in relation to the River Cam.

~~With the last government having been unwilling to take convincing measures to address this, council calls on the new government now to treat this as a priority for action, including introduction of criminal liability of water companies and suspension of executive bonuses for failure to meet performance targets.~~

Council further notes that change has begun, as seen in the inclusion of the Water (Special Measures) Bill in the King's Speech, a bill which will

- ensure water bosses face personal criminal liability for lawbreaking.
- give the water regulator powers to ban the payment of bonuses when environmental standards are not met.
- introduce a 'code of conduct' for water companies, so customers can summon board members and hold executives to account.
- and require water companies to install real-time monitors at every sewage outlet with data independently scrutinised by the water regulators.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive ~~to~~ write to the ~~new~~ Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Steven Reed, seeking welcoming the inclusion of legislation ~~to appear~~ in the very first King's Speech, ~~and to both of Cambridge's MPs asking them to support this.~~