



The Rt. Hon. Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Secretary of State
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Date: 13th January 2023
Contact: Paul Mackie
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Dear Secretary of State,

RE: Response to the former Secretary of State on Anglian Water's action on sewage discharges.

At the meeting of East Suffolk Council's Full Council on 23rd November 2022 Councillors unanimously passed the following Motion:

"This Council notes that sewage pollution continues to be allowed to flow untreated into our local waterways and coastal waters. It is imperative for our residents' health, the environment and our economy that water quality issues are addressed.

This Motion calls upon this Council to write a letter to Anglian Water to ask that it:

- Improves water quality checks in a bid to protect our rivers and coastline from pollution.
- Takes action to address all recent sewage discharges as a matter of urgency.
- Ensures that all its outfalls are equipped with operationally functioning Event Monitors or other sensors that are checked and maintained regularly.
- Ensures that all of its communication with Council Environmental Officers is prompt and informative.
- Reduces surface water run-off overwhelming the Combined Sewer System.

And to also write to the Secretary of State for the Environment to:

- Acknowledge and act to protect our water systems.
- Engage with all stake holder to work together to improve water quality throughout East Suffolk."

Full council collectively passed this Motion to urgently engage with Anglian Water regarding their action on this issue which is causing significant concern to communities and businesses across our District, as you will be aware. A lack of private investment in Anglian Water's infrastructure has the potential to affect delivery of new developments in the District, inhibiting economic growth. Plus of course, sewerage entering the water system is concern for all of us.

Importantly, East Suffolk has two up-to-date Local Plans in place allocating significant necessary housing and employment growth. Working with infrastructure providers to predict and deliver improvements in a plan-led manner will ensure this growth delivers benefits to all.

LEGAL ADDRESS East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT

POSTAL ADDRESS Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ

Anglian Water were actively engaged with throughout the production of our Local Plans. This helped ensure that growth could be supported by sewage treatment facilities and necessary improvements would be possible.

We read with interest Anglian Water's response to the former Secretary of State regarding their recent and planned action on sewage discharges and related challenges. We also welcomed your recent and previous statements on these matters and are encouraged by your commitment to hold our water companies and Ofwat to account.

As a Planning Authority and coastal District Council, we share many of your core matters of concern and have written to Anglian Water to request a response on their progress on the following issues affecting East Suffolk, specifically:

- 1. Improving water quality checks to protect our rivers and coastline from pollution.**
- 2. Action to address sewage discharges.**
- 3. Ensuring that outfalls are equipped with operationally functioning Event Monitors or other sensors that are checked and maintained regularly.**
- 4. Actions to reduce surface water run-off overwhelming the Combined Sewer System.**
- 5. Investments planned over the next AMP period to address the needs of the District's growing population and to support the delivery of associated growth on new developments allocated in the Local Plans.**

In light of the EU Law Revocation Reform Bill, we seek your reassurance that the Bill will not be detrimental to the current protection afforded to our environment and indeed strengthen the legislation related to environmental protection.

We would be most grateful if you could advise what action or legislation is proposed to increase scrutiny of water quality, to ensure standards are strengthened.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor Jenny Ceresa
Chairman
East Suffolk Council**