

Matters referred to Scrutiny from Cabinet or Council

Exempt Information

None.

Executive Summary

The following Committee has referred the following matter to Scrutiny:

Committee	Matter referred	Scrutiny Committee
Council (28.02.23)	Improving Water Quality Within Rivers in Tamworth	Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To follow up on the resolutions made by Full Council as below –

Background

The following Motion was submitted for consideration at Full Council on the 28th February 2023:

According to a map produced by The Rivers Trust using the latest available public data, there has been hundreds of hours of raw sewage discharge in Tamworth during 2021.

These discharges are across multiple sites in the borough, and we are sure that residents will be shocked to find raw sewage is being dumped in local rivers in the 21st century. Residents should have access to clean rivers and open water and we very much support the steps the government is taking towards a ‘polluter pays’ principle when it comes to tackling river pollution.

It was resolved that Council

1. Agreed to call on Severn Trent Water to undertake urgent action to prevent further raw sewage discharge into our local rivers in the short, medium and long term.
2. ask scrutiny to look into this matter and engage with local partners, environmental bodies and utility providers to develop a broader approach to improving water quality in rivers in Tamworth; and
3. support the Government’s new initiative to use money from fines for water pollution to benefit the nature environment and call for some of this to be used to improve Tamworth's environment. Letter to the relevant minister would seem appropriate?

Executive Summary

The Rivers Trust are the umbrella organisation for 65 member Rivers Trusts across Britain, northern Ireland and Ireland.

The Trust release The State of our Rivers Report 2024 which can be viewed here –

[State of our Rivers Report 2024 | The Rivers Trust](#)

Based on data from 2022 Sewage map, 0% of England's Rivers are classed as having a good or high overall health status.

23% are classed as in poor or bad overall status.

77% are classed as moderate.

85 % of river stretches fall below good ecological standards – only 15 % achieve good or above ecological health status.

62% achieve a moderate status

With 23% falling into either poor or bad status.

The Trent Rivers Trust work within the Trent catchment to ensure that rivers are valued by everyone and provides information on local rivers

[A big stink: Sewage in the Trent and tributaries - Trent Rivers Trust](#)

Options Considered

Information for Committee only at this stage to consider how to proceed following the referral from Full Council