

A child wearing a green jacket, yellow pants, and green boots is wading through a shallow stream. A large, shaggy brown dog is also wading in the water next to the child. The background is a lush green forest with many trees and plants. A dark teal curved shape is in the top left corner.

TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee
18 February 2025

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Agenda Item 6



WONDERFUL ON TAP

OUR RIVER PLEDGES



CORE PLEDGES:

OUR RIVER PLEDGES

Improving the health of our regions' rivers is a team game. We believe that water companies need to show more leadership. We need to listen, be transparent and set out a credible way forward. And that is why we are committing to Get River Positive: our five step plan to the healthiest rivers in the UK.

Get River Positive is underpinned by five key pledges that pave the way for the restoration and revitalisation of our regions' rivers.



Ensure storm overflows and sewage treatment works do not harm rivers



Create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy our region's rivers



Support others to improve and care for rivers



Enhance our rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive



Be open and transparent about our performance and our plans

www.getriverpositive.co.uk

[Get River Positive | Severn Trent Water \(stwater.co.uk\)](https://www.getriverpositive.co.uk) is our dedicated website outlining our pledges in more detail and the work we are doing. In addition, our Storm Overflow map providing close to real-time information about our storm overflows across our region is now live. This can be seen here: [Storm Overflow Map | In My Area | Severn Trent Water \(stwater.co.uk\)](#).

Since January 2022, our team of River Rangers have worked with customers, citizen scientists, community groups and environment organisations to protect and enhance our local rivers.



Get River Positive Report
April 2024



Our network:

3.1 billion
litres of wastewater treated every day and manage **>92,800km** of pipes

300 million
data points about how our storm overflows are performing in a year

100%
of our storm overflows have event duration monitors

Our progress:

£
Continuing to invest **£100m** a year on our waste network

Increasing **sewer capacity and storage** to slow the flow of storm water during wet weather

We continue to work with our **Advisory Panel** who oversee our progress against our river pledges. We expanded membership this year to **seven** experts

Our bigger efforts:

Moving **two** stretches of river towards bathing quality by **2025**

Received the highest **four-star rating** from the Environment Agency for the fourth year running in 2022 and are confident we will be awarded the highest rating for an unprecedented fifth year in 2023

Severn Trent is currently responsible for **14%** of RNAGs in our region

10 River Rangers, working in communities and with partners to improve river health

RAIN RAIN RAIN

You've seen some of the wettest months on record.

35% more rain in the region compared to 2022.

30% close to 30% of river gauge stations in our region recorded their highest ever levels in **October** during Storm Babet.

WHERE DOES THE RAIN GO?

Our sewers deal with rainfall on roads and built-up areas. But they can sometimes get too full.

During wet weather **storm overflows** act like a release valve and **protect homes from flooding**.

Heavy rain means that the majority of storm overflows spill is rain water.

We can now see **300million** data points on our monitored overflows - every single year.

WE'RE WORKING ON IT

We're improving the network. That means fewer spills from storm overflows.

£384m current programme of investment

Our aim: no storm overflow to spill more than times a year, on average.

10 in **2025-2030** to meet targets at least **five** years ahead of those set by regulators and Government.

HOW WE'LL DO IT

Here's where you'll see the difference.

- 1 Separation**
Keeping rainwater out of our sewer system.
- 2 Treatment**
Treating more sewage reduces spills.
- 3 Storage**
Additional capacity on the network storing water during heavy rainfall.

- Our *Get River Positive* and our Storm Overflow Action Plan are working to improve the health of our region's rivers. We're investing £4.4billion across our region to reduce spills and further improve river health.
- We have reduced our impact on rivers to be responsible for 14% of RNAGs in our region.

STORMING AHEAD: FAST-TRACKING OUR PLANS TO REDUCE SPILLS

- A total investment for 2024/25 of £450m aiming to reduce total storm overflow spills by 20% per year.
- We're set to hit a major milestone in the coming weeks, **installing 1,500 overflow improvements ahead of schedule!**
- This includes:
 - New **storage solutions** to capture and store more flows
 - A large-scale community trial of over 8,000 free **water butts**
 - New 'nature based' solutions including the creation of 70 new **reed beds** to treat sewage from storm overflows.
 - Enhancements to **increase the flow of sewage to treatment works**
 - **Flap valves** to prevent river ingress into the network
 - A **Zero Spills hub** dedicated to storm overflow improvements



Bassetts Pole



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