

**ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
24 JANUARY 2024
6.45 - 7.05 PM**



Present:

Councillors C Eberle, Haffegge, Hayes MBE, McKenzie-Boyle and O'Regan

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Brown, Cochrane, Ejaz, M Forster and Watts

1. Apologies for Absence/Substitute Members

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Brown, Cochrane, Ejaz, M Forster and Watts.

2. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest and no indications that members would be participating while under the party whip.

3. Summary of the review and recommendations

The recommendations for the Thames water review were presented and discussed. The following points were noted:

- There was a suggestion to expand the reference to Storm Henk to cover the recent and ongoing changes to weather patterns and increases in storms as this could be an issue going forward.
- Regarding the first recommendation around creating a cross borough water and sewage partnership a question was asked about the links between this and the Leaders forum and whether the recommendation had been shared with the Leader of the Council. In response the Chair confirmed that he had shared this with the Leader. A point was also made that the recommendation should be more specific in what is meant by engage and to include who and how.
- Recommendation two which was to nominate an officer in the council as a touchpoint for local water quality issues received no comments.
- Recommendation three, to review planning procedures ensuring load on sewage treatment works (STW's) is minimised. Comments were made about the increased pressures from additional housing on the sewage system and the value of this recommendation.
- Recommendation four, to make aggregated information on current water quality accessible to residents and other stakeholders, was expanded. It was felt that this would be straightforward to implement through modern data management software. The more precise details around implementation would be open to further discussions.

In summary, the panel were in support of the recommendations. It was agreed that any amendments to the wording or further comments on the report could be sent to the Chair of the panel by Monday 29 January 2024.

4. **Future Scrutiny Review Ideas**

There were no further new ideas put forward for discussion at this time.

CHAIR