

Cllr Georgia Pickering  
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission  
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Madam Mayor  
Bracknell Forest Council  
Times Square  
Market Street  
Bracknell  
RG12 1JD

Dear Madam Mayor,

### **Council Motion 03/2023 12 July 2023**

I write with reference to the council Motion 03/2023 which referred to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commission the following resolution:

Bracknell Forest Council recognises that many residents are extremely concerned about sewage discharges, specifically those flowing from Thames Water facility works in our Borough, into streams and water courses. These concerns have been amplified by the recent news over financial problems at Thames Water. Furthermore, the Council recommends that Overview and Scrutiny commits to work with other Local Authorities across the Thames Valley to challenge the failures of Thames Water to collectively minimise the environmental damage we are all facing.

This referral was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at an extraordinary meeting of the Commission, held on the 16 August 2023. The Commission meeting, mindful of the advice from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer and the legal advice from the Monitoring Officer that, "...Council did not have the authority to compel the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to incorporate a new item in its work programme but could only request that it does so", debated three options set out in the Statutory Scrutiny Officer's report to the meeting.

Based upon this report, I report to council that the Commission has resolved to:

Option B: Agree a scrutiny review on Thames Water, with a revised scope. For this review to be undertaken by the Environment and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel, in line with normal commissioning processes. For the Panel to produce a report to the Executive, for the Executive to report to Council.

The Commission has therefore added this issue to its work programme, in line with the requirements of the council's constitution **Part 3 – Section 2 (2.1, 2.2)**. The Panel will bring a report back to council, via the Executive, once their review has been completed, in line with the agreed decision of the Commission.

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Your sincerely

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Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

CC Statutory Scrutiny Officer  
Overview and Scrutiny Commission