



Council 18 July 2024

Meeting recording: [Council - Thursday, 18th July, 2024 6.00 pm \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Agenda item 8b. Motion – Sewage Pollution in our water

Council notes the public outrage displayed in the general election about the pollution of rivers, waterways and beaches by sewage – an outrage which is shared locally in relation to the River Cam.

Council further notes that change has begun, as seen in the inclusion of the Water (Special Measures) Bill in the King's Speech, a bill which will

- ensure water bosses face personal criminal liability for lawbreaking.
- give the water regulator powers to ban the payment of bonuses when environmental standards are not met.
- introduce a 'code of conduct' for water companies, so customers can summon board members and hold executives to account.
- and require water companies to install real-time monitors at every sewage outlet with data independently scrutinised by the water regulators.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Steven Reed, welcoming the inclusion of legislation in the very first King's Speech.