

NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: 15/07/26
	Mover: Councillor Adam Carter
	Seconded: Councillor Tarmey
	Title of Motion: Stop Polluting Our Rivers and Hiking Our Bills

That this Council:

1. Notes with great concern the figures recently released by the Environment Agency that show there was 16,412 hours of sewage discharges in local rivers and waterways in Rotherham last year. This is despite drought being declared across many regions of the UK. Untreated sewage discharging is only legal in periods of extreme rainfall in which drain systems are at risk of being overwhelmed. Across England, a total of 2.65 million hours of sewage discharging took place into natural areas last year. This is a reduction on the previous year. However, during a year of drought and record dry weather across certain months, Council believes the level of sewage discharging at both local and national level is as disgraceful and unacceptable as ever.
2. Council further believes that local residents should not bear the cost of water companies upgrading decades worth of crumbling infrastructure, while these companies continue to make profits. However, in our borough, average water bills are set to rise by 6% for Yorkshire Water customers and 10% for Severn Trent customers this year.
3. Council notes the introduction of a Clean Water Bill in the Kings Speech to Parliament that promises to create a super-regulator with wider enforcement powers over the economic and environmental performance of water companies. Though this has been welcomed, many campaigners believe it does not go far enough, fast enough.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of the State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to make clear the position of this council and to demand that all loopholes allowing water company bosses to continue to take home huge bonuses are removed.
2. Invite the Chief Executives of Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent to a special meeting of Full Council to answer questions from councillors and members of the public and to establish urgent commitments and timescales to improve their infrastructure and reduce sewage discharges in

Rotherham.

3. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to environmental charities The Rivers Trust, River Action and Surfers Against Sewage to demonstrate the council's commitments and support to work with partners to improve water quality in Rotherham.

To be completed by Governance

Date received by Governance/Head of DS:	05/07/26
Date sent to Monitoring Officer:	05/07/26
Date approval from Monitoring Officer received:	