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24 May 2024

## **EXECUTIVE**

A meeting of the **Executive** will be held on **Tuesday, 4th June, 2024** in the **Council Chamber, Forde House, Brunel Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4XX** at **10.00 am**

PHIL SHEARS  
Managing Director

### **Membership:**

Councillors Buscombe, Goodman-Bradbury, Hook, Keeling (Deputy Leader), Nutley, Palethorpe, G Taylor, Williams and Wrigley (Leader)

**Please Note:** The public can view the live streaming of the meeting at [Teignbridge District Council Webcasting \(public-i.tv\)](#) with the exception where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public.

## **A G E N D A**

### **Part I**

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 6)  
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2024.
3. **Announcements (if any)**
4. **Declarations of Interest (if any)**
5. **Executive Forward Plan**

To note forthcoming decisions anticipated [on the Executive Forward Plan](#)

**6. Public Questions (if any)**

Members of the Public may ask questions of the Leader or an Executive Member. A maximum period of 15 minutes will be allowed with a maximum of period of three minutes per questioner.

**7. Strategic Asset Plan**

(Pages 7 - 12)

**8. Update on Future High Street**

**9. Notices of Motion referred from Council on the release of untreated sewage into our rivers and water courses**

Notice of Motion presented by Cllr Cox referred from [Full Council on Tuesday, 23rd April, 2024](#) – update on progress

*South West Water Sewage Spills*

*Recognising the importance of Teignbridge's coasts and rivers to our area's outstanding natural environment, the intrinsic aesthetic, cultural, value of this to our residents, and considering the substantial contribution that these natural assets make to our local economy via tourism, Teignbridge District Council, note the widespread concern among Teignbridge residents regarding the state of our local and national sewage infrastructure.*

*Teignbridge District Council finds the significant increase of 55% of sewage spills by South West Water last year a totally unacceptable behaviour requiring curtailment. (Data released by the Environment Agency has shown that South West Water, which covers Devon, discharged sewage a staggering 582,49 times last year, a 55% rise compared to in 2022).*

*Noting that central Government funding for the Environment Agency and OFWAT, the relevant regulatory authorities, had been cut in real terms between 2009/10 and 2021/22, and conscious of the need for Teignbridge District Council to address these issues on account of its responsibilities to the environment, environmental health, and as the Local Planning Authority, while noting with frustration that all most all legal powers of investigation and enforcement are reserved to central government and under-funded, under-staffed statutory regulators:*

*1. Teignbridge District Council declares that it has no confidence in South West Water's existing systems and processes for managing and investing in Teignbridge's sewage infrastructure;*

*2. Teignbridge District Council believes continual Government underfunding has reduced the regulators the Environment Agency and OFWAT to a toothless tiger.*

*3. Teignbridge District Council requests that the Leader write to the Chief Executive of South West Water to invite the company to:*

*a. Commit to involving the District Council in discussions with Town and Parish Councils regarding ongoing and upcoming works on South West Water infrastructure,*

*b. Jointly convene a regular liaison group bringing together senior staff from South West Water and Teignbridge District Council, together with relevant Teignbridge Executive members and their shadows, to proactively monitor and respond to ongoing developments and issues,*

*c. Proactively and transparently engage with Teignbridge District Council's Portfolio Holder for Planning and his/her shadows*

*d. Commit to working with Teignbridge District Council's Planning officers to help manage development pressures on infrastructure and respond to community concerns, to responding to requests for consultation and providing relevant data, to accepting invitations to Planning Committee meetings to discuss applications whenever possible, and taking other relevant steps,*

*e. Actively engage with Teignbridge District Council's Resorts Team and Environmental Health team to proactively advise of overflow discharges in the interest of public safety;*

*4. Additionally, we request that the Leader copy correspondence to our local MPs to encourage them to support our efforts to engage South West Water, and to lobby government to:*

*a. Revisit weak legislation allowing water companies until 2038 to reduce phosphate pollution in rivers from sewage overflows by only 80%, with a view to requiring more immediate action in the short- and mid-term to reduce storm overflows and ameliorate capacity issues,*

*b. Resist a request by South West Water to raise bills by over 20% by 2030, before inflationary increases, until demonstrable action on sewage spills has been taken to reduce spills towards South West Water's own 2025 targets, and*

*c. Restore Environment Agency funding to 2009/10 real-terms levels, and properly fund other environmental regulators, to ensure that polluting activities are fully and robustly monitored, investigated, and where necessary enforcement action taken.*

**10. Notice of Motion referred from Council on South West Water Sewage Spills.**

Notice of Motion presented by Cllr Macgregor referred from [Full Council on Tuesday, 23rd April, 2024](#)– update on progress

*Figures for discharges into the water courses, rivers and coastline have just been released for last year. These paint a very disturbing picture for Teignbridge and its residents, visitors and businesses. For the Teign Estuary alone, there were 420 discharges totalling over 2100 hours of untreated sewage and wastewater into the Teign. Every single site managed by South West Water had occasions last year where untreated sewage and wastewater was released into the water courses. It is likely this was repeated in similar fashion in the Exe Estuary and water course and coastal discharge points throughout the district.*

*This represents a risk to health for residents and visitors. It represents a risk to businesses reliant on the produce from rivers and estuaries. It represents a risk to*

*tourism businesses and to the management and maintenance of beaches, including blue flags.*

*The motion:*

*This council deplores the release of untreated sewage into our rivers and water courses. This council asks the leader and MD to write jointly to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, as well as the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP expressing the concern that these discharges represent a risk to the environment, food production, tourism and housing development due to contamination of beaches, rivers, seafood beds etc., and seek their intervention to insist on immediate infrastructure investment to address this.*

## **11. For Information - Individual Executive Member Decisions**

[Executive Member Decisions](#)

If you would like this information in another format, please telephone 01626 361101 or e-mail [info@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:info@teignbridge.gov.uk)