

Proposed by Cllr Chris Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Cheryl Stungo

We have now had several years of excessive and illegal discharges into the River Chess causing long term harm to the water quality in this rare and very important chalk stream. A Supreme Court ruling in July between the Manchester Ship canal and United Utilities stated that, "...unauthorised discharges of sewage to waterways are not only illegal but are grounds for compensation to those affected..."

We believe that the new Government should take firm action to protect the River Chess and other watercourses by enforcing the law against Thames Water and others for any breaches of their discharge quality.

We therefore resolve that:

- The Leader of this Council write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to insist that every illegal discharge is prosecuted with the full force of the law.
- To request the government to require that no bonuses be paid to officers of the companies if any breach occurs within in a financial year and
- To request the Government to explore how best to take back control of the water companies, in particular the sewerage companies, into the not-for-profit sector.