



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources**

Report to:	Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Date:	27 November 2023
Subject:	County Council Resolution on Sewage Discharges

Summary:

On 15 September 2023, Lincolnshire County Council discussed a motion on sewage discharges. Following the debate, the Council referred the matter to this Committee, with a view to the issue being fully discussed and the actions available to the County Council determined.

This item enables the Committee to consider the issues raised by the County Council debate, with a focus on the actions available to the County Council.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to: -

- (1) discuss the issues raised by the County Council motion; and
- (2) decide whether to request the County Council's Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning to take any further action at this stage.

1. Background: County Council Motion – 15 September 2023

On 15 September 2023, the County Council considered a motion on sewage discharges into rivers and the sea. The motion as proposed at the meeting contained the following wording:

"We are aware that:

- *Local residents are deeply concerned about human health and the impact on wildlife of regular wastewater discharge, including untreated sewage, into our local rivers and seas.*

- *Anglian Water discharges sewage into local rivers and seas on a regular basis.*
- *Water companies are writing renewed long-term plans now.*
- *The Environment Agency has overall responsibility, but needs to be clearer on the impacts.*

This Council calls on our MPs, water companies and the Environment Agency to take whatever action is necessary to stop raw sewage discharges in our area at the earliest possible time.”

An alteration to the motion was accepted by the County Council, the effect of which was to include the following additional wording:

“This Council also asks for this matter to be referred to the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee, where this issue can be fully aired, and actions available to this Council can be determined.”

1. Actions Available to the County Council

As indicated in the Council’s decision of 15 September 2023, the focus of the discussion at this meeting will be the powers available to the County Council, which can include, for example, requesting that the Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning raising the issues, as indicated in the motion.

2. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Simon Evans, Health Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted via Simon.Evans@lincolnshire.gov.uk