

Agenda Item 15c

Ordinary Council Meeting of: 12 December 2023
Cllr Heaney/Cllr Vallely

AGENDA ITEM 15c - Southern Water

Amendment:

To add a new paragraph four:

“Council notes that Ofwat have stated that ‘Customer bills must be fair. Customers will only pay for future investment, not past company mistakes’.
(1) We call on Ofwat to ensure that there is rigorous scrutiny of water company plans to ensure this happens during the period of consultation. We also call on the government to give the water regulator Ofwat the power to ban bonuses for water company bosses until they have stopped regular discharge of untreated wastewater into rivers and the sea.”

In paragraph five (now paragraph six) after “... Southern Water” add “...and the Chief Executive of Ofwat...”

Therefore the amended motion to read:

Council notes that Southern Water has advanced plans to increase domestic water bills by at least 55% in order to fund its environmental cleanup programme and shareholder payouts.

Customers in the area covered by Southern Water should not be penalised because of Southern Water's long-term mismanagement and incompetence.

Council asserts that Southern Water should be properly investing in its network to eliminate sewage discharges rather than expecting customers to bear the responsibility of shareholders.

Council notes that Ofwat have stated that ‘Customer bills must be fair. Customers will only pay for future investment, not past company mistakes’.
(1) We call on Ofwat to ensure that there is rigorous scrutiny of water company plans to ensure this happens during the period of consultation. We also call on the government to give the water regulator Ofwat the power to ban bonuses for water company bosses until they have stopped regular discharge of untreated wastewater into rivers and the sea.”

Southern Water has a long history of "misreporting" its performance and being fined not only by Ofwat but by courts for polluting our waters.

Council calls on all group leaders to sign a joint letter to the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Chief Executive of Southern Water and the Chief Executive of Ofwat demanding a freeze on the proposed increase in customers' bills and asks our local MPs to do likewise.

(1) [Water companies must deliver a step change in performance and investment - Ofwat](#)

Proposed by Councillor Graham Heaney

Signed_____

Seconded by Councillor Mary Vallely

Signed