

## **READING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – 23 JUNE 2026**

#### **COUNCILLOR QUESTION NO. 1** in accordance with Standing Order No.36

Councillor Moore to ask the Chair of the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee:

#### **Discharges into Foudry Brook from the Reading Sewage Treatment Works**

In November 2023, this Committee heard evidence from Thames Water following a Full Council motion, including a stated long-term average of 8 discharges per year into the Foudry Brook from the Reading Sewage Treatment Works. Thames Water has not returned to this Committee since.

Independent data from the Rivers Trust shows that in 2025, discharges into the Foudry Brook from this site nearly doubled that figure, at 14 spills totalling 168.5 hours.

Question:

1. Will the Chair ask officers to obtain a written update from Thames Water on discharge volumes and causes at the Reading Sewage Treatment Works since 2023, particularly into the Foudry Brook, for circulation to this Committee?
2. Will the Chair commit to inviting Thames Water back before this Committee, given the scale of deterioration since their last appearance?

#### **REPLY by Councillor Cross, Chair of the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee:**

I invite Councillor McGoldrick, Lead Councillor for Environmental Services and Community Safety to make the response on my behalf.

#### **REPLY by Councillor McGoldrick, Lead Councillor for Environmental Services and Community Safety:**

I thank Cllr Moore for his question and concur that Thames Water's failure to address the ongoing discharges into the Kennet Flood Plain and Foudry Brook is unacceptable. It is also apparent that that Thames Water faces challenges that it has been unable to address in a satisfactory and timely manner.

I can confirm that I have asked officers to write to Thames Water's Chief Executive to obtain a written update on annual discharge volumes and the causes of discharges at Reading Sewage Treatment Works, including the number of incidents since 2023, when Thames Water last appeared before this Committee to set out their long-term proposals to improve their performance and reduce the pollution incidents.

I have also asked that Thames Water attend a future meeting of the Strategic Environment Planning & Transport Committee to answer Members' questions and to provide assurance that they will finally address our concerns.