

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Project Proposal

1. Proposal by: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (Housing and Environment)**
2. Proposed name of Task and Finish Group: **Contaminate Water Task and Finish Group**
3. Parent Scrutiny Committee: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (Housing and Environment)**
4. Description of proposed project:
 - **Phase 1 - Opportunity for the public to provide details of how they felt Anglian Water responded to the situation**
 - **Phase 2 – To be scoped following production of the Drinking Water Inspectorate’s report and Anglian Water’s investigation report into the situation**
5. Proposed outcomes of project:
 - **Should the Drinking Water Inspectorate/Anglian Water undertake a public inquiry into the situation, Overview and Scrutiny’s evidence will inform that inquiry**
6. External organisation involvement:
 - **Other neighbouring Local Authorities**
 - **Drinking Water Inspectorate**
 - **Anglian Water Limited**
7. Departmental Officer support:

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Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

- Environmental Health Officer
- Health and Safety Officer
- Emergency Planning Officer

8. Overview and Scrutiny Advisor:

- Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Proposal checklist

Why review this issue?

Council viewpoint

Criteria	Response
The Council views the issue as a priority	Yes
The item is in the Councils forward plan	No
At least one councillor regards the issue as a key issue	Yes
The matter has been raised with councillors and is considered worth investigating	Yes
A high level of funding is committed by the council to the subject	No
There is a pattern of overspending in the area	N/A
There is a pattern of under spending in the area	N/A
The issue has been referred for further investigation by a Council Committee	No

Community Viewpoint

Criteria	Response
The issue has been raised in a meeting with the community	Yes
There have been high levels of complaint	Concerns have been raised rather than complaints
There has been high levels of	Yes

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Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

praise	
Media attention has highlighted an of public interest or concern	Yes

Performance

Criteria	Response
The performance indicators show poor performance	N/A
The performance indicators show strong performance	N/A
The area will be the subject of a major performance review and members would like to have an early input	N/A
External Auditors or inspectors have raised the issue (adversely or otherwise)	N/A

Relevant National Issues

Criteria	Response
Central Government is planning to address the issue	Yes
The issue has been subject to recent Government guidance or legislation	No
Members may wish to know if the authority is able to deal with a national issue which is receiving national media attention	Yes

What would the review involve?

Factor	Comments
What are the resources likely to be required?	Venue, Departmental Officers, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, consultation and publicity
What time scale is likely to be required for the review?	Initially two meetings, then held in abeyance until the publication of the Drinking Water Inspectorate's report
What are the main risks and un-	Size of venue required for the

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Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

certainties involved in the resourcing and timescale factors?	event. Resourcing issues, in particular other urgent issues that may come forward for Overview and Scrutiny to investigate
Which research methods are most appropriate?	Facility for on-line comments, questionnaire, written evidence, public meeting
Who are the stakeholders that we need to engage?	General public and local businesses
What input will be needed from experts or professional advisors?	Environmental Health Officer Emergency Planning Officer Health and Safety Team Leader
What equality and community cohesion issues do we need to initially consider?	Engagement with 'hard to reach' and vulnerable groups. Questionnaire to be translated in the 6-7 languages common to Northampton. Questionnaire to be sent to the voluntary sector and disabled people's forum members
Task and Finish Group membership	Councillor Christopher Malpas (Chair) Councillors Pam Varnsberry, Tess Scott, Dennis Meredith and either David Garlick or Paul Varnsberry

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