

## **Water Supply Risk Motion**

East Herts District Council notes that it has a duty under River Basin Management Plans to reduce the water usage of development until sustainable supplies are in place.

East Herts District Council further notes the important recommendations in the water cycle studies document, "Hertfordshire Water Study 2017", particularly:

- Planning for strategic intervention by 2031 to ensure sufficient availability.
- A holistic implementation masterplan, including an integrated sustainable water system aimed at achieving water neutrality for new settlements.
- Reliance on water imports should be reduced.

The Council also notes the risk of a major environmental disaster for Hertfordshire's chalk streams, including significant harm to biodiversity and adverse impacts on irreplaceable habitats.

Therefore, East Herts District Council authorises the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to write to:

Natural England, pointing out the very clear correlation between excessive chicken effluent in the Wye Valley and excessive human effluent in the Lee Valley both resulting in poor river water quality, and asking them to reconsider their inconsistent responses in these cases.

Affinity Water, pointing out that their statutory responses for both Gilston and Ware is at odds with their own Water Resources Management Plan, the recommendations of the water cycle studies document, "Hertfordshire Water Study 2017" that reliance on water imports should be reduced, and the reality of water stress and damage to our chalk streams, and ask for more considered responses.

The Environment Agency, pointing out that their statutory responses for both Gilston and Ware is at odds with its response Bourn Airfield et al in south Cambridgeshire.

Thames Water, asking for an explanation for its continued discharges of untreated sewage into East Hertfordshire's waterways and threatening to serve them serve a statutory nuisance abatement notice requiring the nuisance and any further reoccurrence to be stopped, should their unacceptable activities continue.

Proposed by Councillor Nicholas Cox

Seconded by Councillor David Woollcombe