

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SCOPING PAPER FOR MONITORING RIVER WATER POLLUTION IN NORTH DEVON

Members of working group: Cllr ##, Cllr ##, etc
Date: 06/07/2023

1 Scope

A brief description of the scope of the work to be undertaken and the objectives to be achieved. Also, for clarity identify areas that are outside the scope

- We are all aware of the increasing issue of river pollution and inaction of water companies to deal with or mitigate the issue
- The scope of this work is to speak to experts to support and instigate an effective centralised river water monitoring network across North Devon. We will establish what is already happening, how effective it is and what support is required.

2 Information requirements

List below the initial information that is expected to be needed for the review

- Who are the organisations running monitoring networks
- What resource and equipment is required? What's the cost?
- What data is required to instigate legal action?
- Can we help to mitigate current limitations of existing programme.

3 Witnesses and support

List below any external organisations, officers, & others required to provide evidence and support for the review

- West Country Rivers Trust
- North Devon Biosphere
- Surfers Against Sewage
- Southwest Water
- The environment Agency
- The Wildlife Trust
- Windrush against sewage pollution

4 Quantified benefits expected

The benefits you expect, expressed in measurable terms

- A network of monitoring across catchments in North Devon.
- Incidents being reported to EA.
- Water companies taking action to prevent prosecution as a result of monitoring
- Facilitate communication between groups working on the issue

5 Key risks

The key risks to the review e.g. why the work might not be completed within the proposed timescales, or why it might not produce the benefits

- Challenges in bringing all the parts together to have evidence that can have an impact.

6 Costs

Work is undertaken within existing resources and therefore no additional costs are expected, but there might be an exception

- None – but councillors may choose to donate from funds for monitoring equipment or training.

7 Timescales

A summary of the key dates and a target date for completion

- We expect two meetings the first in September to talk to all expert witnesses from the groups above we will have an evening 2.5 hr session during a policy meeting.
- The first meeting will establish what is happening and what support is required.
- The second meeting will call further experts and discuss ways to facilitate ongoing projects.