

## **RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

**COUNCIL – 14 DECEMBER 2022**

#### **QUESTION B**

**Councillor Ms Livesey to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:**

“What communications either written or oral has the Leader or any other portfolio holder or officer of the council had with Severn Trent since 28<sup>th</sup> September about sewage in the River Avon?”

**Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:**

“At Council on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 Councillor Ms Livesey raised a Notice of Motion regarding river quality and the recommendation that letters should be sent to the Chair and Chief Executive of Severn Trent was agreed.

Letters were sent on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and have been made available to all Members in SharePoint via one of the regular communications briefings. However, to date no responses have been received. Officers will be writing again requesting a response.

Borough Council officers have recently met with Severn Trent Project Managers in November 2022 with regards the Green Recovery Programme and Bathing Rivers projects currently being delivered by Severn Trent.

The preliminary discussion outlined Severn Trent’s aspiration to create over 2,500 jobs in the Midlands with unique trials acting as a blueprint to help shape the future of the water industry. The Green Recovery Programme is a direct effort to support the country’s green economic recovery from the pandemic and Rugby Borough Council has been engaged as a key stakeholder.

The Bathing River project seeks to create safe bathing stretches of river across the region with improvements to the river infrastructure within the borough whereby there are currently three monitoring locations. The River Bathing project has identified additional potential scope within Rugby and has engaged with the council for preliminary discussions.

The project seeks to establish information on river use, developing a water quality monitoring programme and developing an app to give the public live updates on water quality. The proposed infrastructure in Rugby would enable water quality improvements within the River Avon and River Leam as the project seeks to significantly reduce the frequency and volume of spills at 25 storm overflows.”