

Tackling the Release of Untreated Sewage into the Local Environment

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 20 on 7 August 2023, proposed by Councillor Mark McGeever, seconded by Councillor Robert Brown, as follows:-

“Council notes official Scottish Water figures have revealed that untreated sewage was dumped at least 2,354 times in South Lanarkshire during 2022. These instances occurred at sewage overflow points in Hamilton, Rutherglen, Cambuslang, East Kilbride, Bothwell, Biggar, Strathaven and Larkhall.

Council further notes that across Scotland only four percent of sewage overflow points are monitored (144 out of 3,614), and that this compares to around 90 percent in England. Accordingly, the actual instances of untreated sewage released into the environment will be much worse than what has been recorded.

South Lanarkshire Council believes that the local environment - and everyone who uses Scotland's rivers and beaches - deserves the highest possible protection. This council agrees with calls by campaigners for:

- ◆ the proper recording and publication of every instance where untreated sewage is released from the sewage system into the environment;
- ◆ the introduction of legally-binding targets for reducing these overflows;
- ◆ the upgrading of Scotland's ageing sewage system;
- ◆ an end to dumping around Scotland's best beaches; and
- ◆ a faster process for the protection of waters used for swimming, surfing, and other recreational activities.

Therefore, the Council requests that the Chief Executive contact both Scottish Water, SEPA and the Scottish Government to endorse the above points, set out the council's concern, and to request an urgent update regarding the situation within South Lanarkshire.”