

Motion: Ambition For a Clean Tyne

Council notes with great concern that two significant outfalls of raw sewage The Tyne have occurred in the last month at the same time as volunteers have been working to clear the nurdle spill. Council notes that figures show that the River Tyne Saline Estuary experienced 840 sewage discharges in 2025, lasting a total of 5,716 hours.

- i. Council thanks residents and the volunteer community for their outstanding work in responding to the nurdle spill protecting our beaches from further damage, despite the risks to health incurred during and after outfall events.
- ii. Council endorses the suggestion from the volunteer community that we should not just aim to recover from the nurdle spill disaster, and get back what we had, but instead aim for a better and cleaner Tyne.
- iii. Council believes North Tyneside's natural environment is a precious asset which requires protection for future generations.
- iv. Council believes the sewage crisis is a national scandal. It is unacceptable that Water Companies pay their executives millions of pounds in pay, pensions and bonuses while polluting continues.
- v. Council believes that local residents should not bear the cost of improving infrastructure to reduce sewage discharges through increased water bills.
- vi. Council recognises the scale of the challenge. Council notes that changing rainfall due to climate change, and house-building will place additional pressure on water infrastructure. Council looks forward to working with Northumbrian Water to address these challenges.
- vii. Council welcomes the progress made in Cullercoats where officers, Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency are working together to tackle contaminated groundwater.
- viii. Council notes the growing government commitment to tackle the sewage crisis but also the Surfers Against Sewage Petition "End the sewage pollution scandal" demanding a stronger Clean Water Bill.
- ix. Council therefore:

a - Asks the Mayor to write to the Chief Executive of Northumbrian Water, the North East Regional Mayor and the Leaders of other Tyneside Councils to seek their involvement and cooperation to create a process that establishes urgent commitments and timescales to improve infrastructure, reduce sewage discharges and clean up The Tyne.

b – Requests that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny investigate the costs and scope of convening a water summit bringing together Northumbria Water, Regional and Local Government, environmental charities and community campaigners to work together to improve water quality across North Tyneside and along The Tyne.

c - Asks the Mayor to appoint a Water Quality champion from among the membership of this Council and report back to Council.
