

Second Proposed amendment to motion concerning loss of water supply on Isle of Sheppey

1. Replace 'chief executive' with 'leader of the council' throughout the motion.

2. Make the following further additions to the text:

Following the major emergency declared on the Isle of Sheppey on the 13th July 2022, resulting from the loss of water supply islandwide, and similar incidents in January 2016 and September 2017, this council resolves;

1) To undertake urgent investigations to ascertain whether legislation exists to enable the introduction of an emergency moratorium on determining planning applications for new housing on the Isle of Sheppey;

2) To ask the Planning and Transportation Policy Working Group to consider commissioning an independent study into the sustainability of water infrastructure to form part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan for the Local Plan Review and;

3) For the Chief Executive to make a formal complaint to the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) over the recent outage of water supply on Sheppey , covering both their handling of the emergency , and their failure to act to improve resilience of supply following the 2016 outage.

The Chief Executive is asked to write to the CEO of Southern Water to notify them of this decision. A copy of this complaint should also be issued to the MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey and the Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The leader of the council is asked to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, asking him to review the legislation concerning the role of the statutory undertakers and utilities providers in the local plan making process, to require them to give evidence at the public examination of the local plan of their ability –

i. to meet their obligations with regard to supplying proposed housing development, taking full account of the effect of climate change scenarios; and

ii. to meet their obligations to safely dispose of sewage from proposed housing development.

The leader of the council is further asked to request the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to review the legislation concerning the calculation of housing numbers, so that in the event that the statutory undertakers and utilities providers are unable to provide such evidence, a deviation from the standard calculation would be allowed.

Proposer: Councillor Mike Baldock

Seconder: Councillor Alistair Gould