

SCRUTINY REVIEW – ONE PAGE STRATEGY	
Broad topic area	Environment
Specific topic area	Pollution in Gloucestershire's Rivers
Ambitions for the review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with partners, NGOs and water treatment operators to understand the extent and derivation of pollution present in the county's rivers • To understand the extent of the damage this pollution is having on the ecosystems within our rivers • To understand the legal context of permissible sewage dumps and whether this is being followed in the county. • To invite water treatment operators and other polluters to meet with officers and councillors to scrutinise their performance. • To explore the extent of wild swimming in Gloucestershire and the possibility of establishing a designated bathing area, as promoted by the Rivers Trust's "Together for Rivers" campaign
How do we perform at the moment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019 water treatment operators discharged raw sewage into English rivers on more than a combined 55,000 occasions, totalling nearly 400,000 hours. • While discharges are legally permitted in exceptional circumstances, operators have been accused of routinely resorting to such measures. • Members of the public are concerned by this threat to public health. • Gloucestershire has just one designated outdoor bathing water spot in Gloucestershire, at the Cotswold Country Park and Beach.
Who and how should we consult?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency • Water operators: Severn Trent, Thames Water and Wessex Water • District Councils • NGOs including Windrush Against Sewage Pollution • The Rivers Trust
Background information	<p>In September 2020, a motion was referred from full Council to be considered by the Environment Scrutiny Committee on this topic. (Minutes of the full Council meeting can be found here: https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=333&MId=9405&Ver=4)</p> <p>Members of the Committee, supported by the proposer and seconder of the motion, requested the formation of a task group to further explore this issue. This was also supported by the Cabinet Member responsible.</p>
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Services • Other specialist GCC officers and teams as required
How long will it take?	6 months (post the May 2021 election)
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A greater understanding of the levels of pollution in our rivers • A plan of action for dealing with river pollution • A roadmap to achieving bathing water status for our rivers