



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 20 MAY 2009

Report Title	RECOMMENDATIONS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 (HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT) – CONTAMINATED WATER TASK AND FINISH GROUP (PHASE 2)
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Agenda Status: PUBLIC

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet the report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Two on the findings of the Contaminated Water Task and Finish Group (Phase 2).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Task and Finish Group asks Cabinet to note that: -
 - 2.1.1 Anglian Water Limited has installed sufficient measures to prevent such an incident occurring in the same manner at Pitsford Water Treatment Works.
 - 2.1.2 The review of the Drinking Water Inspectorate's report and the tour of Pitsford Works concludes the work of the Task and Finish Group.

3. Background and Issues

- 3.1 Northampton Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee Two (Housing and Environment) set up a Task and Finish Group to review how Anglian Water Ltd had handled the recent cryptosporidium contamination. Phase One of the Review was reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 26 November 2008.
- 3.2 As reported in Phase One of the Review, on 20 June 2008 tests found cryptosporidium in a sample from water supplies to Northampton, Daventry and surrounding villages. The parasite causes stomach upsets and the most common symptom is diarrhoea.
- 3.3 The Task and Finish Group led by Northampton Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2, together with representatives from Northamptonshire County Council, Daventry District Council and Wellingborough Borough Council reviewed the Drinking Water Inspectorate's (DWI) report, which was published on 5 November 2008.

3.4 It was established that:-

- The equipment at Pitsford Reservoir should be checked regularly. The monitoring process did not appear to be rigorous enough.
- DWI's Report recommends that a thorough Review be undertaken throughout the Company's entire water supply area covering the hygiene arrangements in place for the exclusion of vermin, birds, insects and other small animals. The Review should cover every treated water storage unit and water treatment process unit where ingress had the potential to adversely affect the quality of treated water. DWI requested that Anglian Water Limited provide it with a summary report, by 30th November 2008, on the review work together with a detailed site by site listing of the findings, and deficiencies found and remedial actions taken or pending.
- Ultraviolet (UV) equipment is very expensive to run. Pitsford Reservoir is classed as a low risk site and is continually monitored.
- Bottled water was delivered successfully to the vulnerable people although not everyone was aware of the WaterCare Register.
- The Vulnerable People's List is a list that is kept and used for all emergencies.
- When a problem arises such as the Cryptosporidium incident the Data Protection Act does not apply. Within the Act, it is stated that the sharing of information is permitted. Secondary Legislation states that in an emergency there is a need to share information and for Agencies to co-operate. This incident fits the criteria of an emergency and there is the need for Agencies and Organisations who hold such data to have a combined list of vulnerable people / voluntary groups.

3.5 The Review concluded with a site visit to Pitsford works to check the measures that are in place and to see where the problem occurred on the site. The Task and Finish Group noted the sufficient remedial measures that Anglian Water Limited has installed to prevent such an incident occurring in the same manner at the Pitsford Water Treatment Works.

4. Options

4.1 This report is for information and therefore there are no options for decision.

5. Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Policy

5.1.1 The work of Overview and Scrutiny plays a major part in the development of the Council's policy framework through its work programme.

5.2 Resources and Risk

5.2.1 Not applicable.

5.3 Legal

5.3.1 Not applicable.

5.4 Equality

5.4.1 Not applicable.

5.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

5.5.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (Housing and Environment).

5.5.2 Northamptonshire County Council, Daventry District Council and Wellingborough Borough Council.

5.5.3 Environmental Health Team Leader, Northampton Borough Council.

5.5.4 Anglian Water Limited.

6. Background Papers

- Drinking Water Inspectorate's Report

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