

Andrew Fairburn, Severn Trent

We are looking forward to attending the meeting at Moreton-in-Marsh on 6 December and wanted to take the opportunity set out a few points in advance.

As you know, Severn Trent serves a significant proportion of your constituency. We are pleased to offer customers the second lowest bills in the UK and, according to the Environment Agency (EA), to have delivered the best environmental performance over the last five years. We have been awarded the EA's top four star environmental rating for an unprecedented five years in a row.

Whilst we are pleased with the excellent work of our front line teams, we know there is a pressing need to go much further and faster. Priorities include ensuring none of our operations cause any harm to rivers (as measured by the EA, using their Reasons for Not Achieving Good Status methodology), 'rewiring' the sewage network so the storm overflows we inherited only spill after the most exceptional rain (and certainly no more than 10 times a year) and being operationally Net Zero – all by 2030. We also need to invest substantial amounts to meet the twin challenges of population growth and climate change!

The above targets are challenging – we know of nowhere else in Europe going further and faster – but we are deadly serious about achieving them. We expect to spend a record £15 billion over the next five years, as well as drawing in best practice from around the world, to help us deliver success.

This investment will build on projects we already have underway locally. For example, we are investing at the following wastewater recycling sites in your constituency:

- **Blockley** – we've invested c£4m to increase the capacity of the works by 60 percent. This work was completed in February 2024.
- **Chipping Campden** – we are installing additional storage solutions to capture and store more flows on site.
- **Nethercote** - (serves Great Wolford, Little Wolford, Toddenham and Barton-on-the-Heath). We have invested £2.3m to rebuild the works with new treatment processes (including a new reed bed).

We are doing everything we can, but we cannot do it alone. We are very conscious that it will take a team effort of water companies, farmers, planners and local authorities – as well as society at large – if we are to transform our rivers and create a much better environment for future generations.

My colleague Mark Barton and I will be very happy to set out our plans in more detail and to answer questions the best we can at the meeting. If there are any site specific questions, it would be helpful to know in advance. Otherwise, if we don't know the specifics at the meeting, we will certainly follow up as quickly as possible.