



LOCAL CHARTER FOR RIVERS



RIVER ACTION LOCAL CHARTER FOR RIVERS

Our rivers and waterways are in crisis. To address this crisis, we need system level change across all sectors and authorities. Last year, River Action launched its Charter for Rivers calling on national Government to take action. River Action is now focusing on local authorities and Mayors, urging them to use their powers to restore our rivers to health at a local level.

River Action recognises the large funding gap, and the capacity challenges councils are facing. For local authorities to be able to implement the necessary measures, we must first see greater support and funding from national government that prioritises the environment and river restoration.


RIVER ACTION IS CALLING ON MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS TO RESTORE OUR RIVERS TO HEALTH BY:

- 1 ENDING SEWAGE POLLUTION**
- 2 PREVENTING AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION**
- 3 MINIMISING POLLUTION FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS**
- 4 PREVENTING HARMFUL CHEMICALS AT SOURCE**
- 5 SECURING WATER SUPPLY FOR ALL**
- 6 BRINGING NATURE BACK FROM THE BRINK FOR RIVERS AND PEOPLE**


LOCAL CHARTER FOR RIVERS

River Action is calling on Mayors and Councillors to restore our rivers to health by:


ENDING SEWAGE POLLUTION BY:

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- Identifying and publicising local sewage pollution problem areas and causes
 - Agreeing local targets for ending sewage pollution
 - Taking action to stop sewage reaching freshwater and coastal habitats, by working at catchment level with water companies, businesses, and regulatory agencies to reduce storm overflows through nature-based solutions

PREVENTING AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION BY:

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- Using the local authority planning system to stop agricultural pollutants reaching freshwater and coastal habitats, by banning construction of new intensive livestock production units in sensitive river catchments
 - Restricting use of pesticides and fertilisers on council owned land and developing a pesticide use reduction strategy with relevant stakeholders

MINIMISING POLLUTION FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS BY:

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- Adopting and implementing Natural England guidance on nutrient neutrality and using that guidance to oppose developments in sensitive catchments that do not have a nutrient mitigation scheme in place
 - Adopting best practice guidelines for sustainable drainage systems and working with relevant sewerage undertakers to ensure that their duties under the Water Industry Act are fully delivered
 - Working with developers to promote effective nature-based solutions

4 PREVENTING HARMFUL CHEMICALS AT SOURCE BY:

- Developing and delivering guidance and education to businesses and households on how to safely dispose of chemical products in order to minimise / end harmful chemical, domestic, industrial, and plastic waste reaching freshwater and coastal habitats
- Reviewing the Council's own use of chemicals and ensuring that best practice is followed in all operations

5 SECURING WATER SUPPLY FOR ALL BY:

- Ensuring that all new planning applications recognise and incorporate mechanisms to address the increasing water supply pressure, minimise water use, cut water waste, and adopt rain-water collection and other technologies where appropriate
- Carrying out and publicising an annual review of water waste and leakage
- Supporting businesses and residents in using water efficiently to allow sufficient resources for people, rivers, and wildlife

6 BRINGING NATURE BACK FROM THE BRINK FOR RIVERS AND PEOPLE BY:

- Identifying special habitats and prioritising pollution reduction activities in these areas
 - Ensuring Local Nature Recovery Strategies include catchment partnerships
 - Reconnecting rivers to their floodplains, removing barriers and physical modifications
 - Establishing wetlands and natural river buffers to catch pollution and providing corridors for wildlife to connect and recover
 - Ensuring and increasing public access to clean waterways
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Bat Conservation Trust
www.bats.org.uk



CHRIS PACKHAM

MEGHAN MCUBBIN

MYA-ROSE CRAIG

FEARGAL SHARKEY



THANK YOU



RIVERACTION

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