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11th October 2019

Dear Ms Fletcher,

I am writing in respect of the proposals for the future supply of water by Essex and Suffolk water.

Chelmsford is among the driest places in the Country and it is imperative that our residents continue to benefit from a clean, safe and plentiful supply of water. Chelmsford as England's newest City has ambitious plans for growth and by 2036 will see its population rise by approximately 30,000. This level of growth will put pressure on existing services and infrastructure, so it is important for companies to have regard to this and invest in the future.

Any proposals for the provision of water in Essex must be robust and lead to improved resilience of our water supply in the Essex & Suffolk operating area, an area that is designated 'water stressed'.

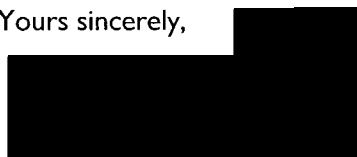
I note that Essex and Suffolk water are proposing both a significant bill reduction for Essex & Suffolk Water customers over the period to 2025 of more than 17% together with a commitment to eradicate water poverty in its operating area by 2030 and both of these appear to be sensible aims.

As I have mentioned above we have significant issues in our region, but we have a good track record of working in partnership with other agencies to deliver innovative solutions.

I hope that any deliberations give weight to striking the right balance between affordable bills today and investing to ensure future generations have a resilient service, particularly given our understanding of growing environmental pressures.

I would support the company taking a long-term view and ensuring that they can deliver schemes that secure the supply of water to our residents for the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Eveleigh
Chief Executive
Chelmsford City Council