

Mr John Halsall
South East Water Chief Executive
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Enquiries to: Richard Millard
Direct line: 01730 234108
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Date: Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Dear Mr Halsall,

WRZ4-W Water Supply Constraints – Urgent Need for Engagement

I am writing as Leader of East Hampshire District Council regarding the increasingly serious concerns surrounding the water supply constraints affecting South East Water's WRZ4-W water resource zone.

This issue has rapidly become one of the most significant matters facing local communities, elected Members and planning authorities across the affected area. There is growing public concern about the implications for existing residents, future housing delivery, economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the current situation. Local people rightly expect clear answers about the scale of the challenge, the likely timescales involved and, most importantly, how and when a solution will be found.

The Council is receiving a substantial volume of correspondence and enquiries from residents and community groups. At the same time, we have a significant number of planning applications within the affected area that require determination based on a robust and up-to-date evidence base. The continued uncertainty is creating real challenges for decision-makers and communities alike.

When you were appointed Chief Executive, you stated that one of your priorities would be *"responding to customers' immediate concerns"*. Our residents have immediate concerns, and so do I. They are looking to South East Water for transparency and reassurance in relation to an issue that has potentially far-reaching consequences for their communities and local services.

The information shared to date indicates that the WRZ4-W area faces a significant supply-demand challenge, with implications relating to environmental constraints, water resource availability and infrastructure capacity. Local authorities are now having to consider the consequences of this position across a wide range of planning decisions, while residents are left seeking reassurance about what it means for their future.

Against this backdrop, I believe there is a pressing need for more visible engagement from South East Water at the highest level.

I would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you personally at the earliest opportunity to discuss the current situation, South East Water's plans to address the issues affecting WRZ4-W, and how we can work together to provide greater certainty and confidence for our communities.

The Council recognises the complexity of the challenge and the work being undertaken by South East Water alongside the Environment Agency, Natural England and local authorities to identify a way forward. However, given the potential implications for existing residents, housing delivery, investment, local planning decisions and public confidence, I believe there is now a compelling case for direct senior-level engagement and a more open dialogue with the communities affected.

I would therefore be grateful if your office could contact mine as a matter of priority to discuss arrangements for a meeting between us and, potentially, a wider public engagement event to enable residents and stakeholders to hear directly from South East Water.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Millard', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Richard Millard
Leader of East Hampshire District Council