

Proposal form for items for consideration by Overview Committee



Submitted by: Councillor Melanie Martin

Date submitted: 17.01.2024

Item for Consideration: The banning of the use of snares and glue traps on council owned land.

Expected outcome (i.e. new policy, new action, new partnership, improve the performance of other public bodies or of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas):

That a new policy will be introduced to ban the use of snares and glue traps on all council owned land.

Priority for matter to be considered (please tick):

High (up to 3 months)	X
Medium (3 to 6 months)	
Low (over 9 months)	

Basis on which priority has been set: The sooner the snares and traps are banned the sooner wildlife and domesticated pets will cease suffering from the use of these contraptions.

The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate)

a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control	
b) It is a new policy area or service area of activity to be developed and introduced	
c) It is a policy area which has been required for some time and is due for development	
d) It is a major proposal for change	X
e) It is an issue raised via complaints received	
f) It is an area of public concern	X
g) It would be of benefit to residents of the district	X

Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address?:

The Council Plan priority two - to make East Devon Greener. Protection and enhancement of our natural habitats/environment.

Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? (If so, when and why?): No.

Members are requested to provide information on the following:-

What do you wish to achieve from the review?:

That cabinet agree to introduce a new policy banning the use of glue traps and all snares on council owned land as soon as possible.

Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable?:

Yes.

Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness?: Not applicable.

Additional information – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked:

This is a major proposal for change

This is a major proposal for change.

The Government has passed the Glue Traps (Offences) Bill to crack down on inhumane traps.

The Glue Traps (Offences) Bill was introduced to Parliament by Jane Stevenson MP on Wednesday 16th June, 2023. The new Bill is for a full ban on the use of glue traps to catch rodents.

However, licences can be still be issued to pest controllers and there is a two year lead up period before their use is fully prohibited.

Self locking snares are banned in the UK, while free running snares are currently legal, although this is currently under scrutiny, there was an early day motion to ban all snares in Jan 2022 and a debate in Parliament on January 2023,

The Welsh government banned snares and glue traps effective from 17 October 2023.

The Scottish government have the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill currently going through Parliament which will introduce a ban on the use of snares.

The UK has some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world. East Devon prides and promotes itself as wildlife loving County, these laws will be passed, and it would look good for EDDC to be championing this change before it is mandatory.

At present EDDC as a landlord, does not stipulate in any tenancy agreement that glue traps and snares are prohibited methods of pest control, introducing a ban would be a major policy change. There are other methods of pest control that are humane.

This is a matter of public concern and would benefit the residents of East Devon -

Glue traps are a widely available and cheap method of pest control. However the sticky traps can cause immense suffering to rodents, as the animals can remain alive for at least 24 hours after capture and it can take even longer for them to die. Pets and wildlife can also fall victim, with RSPCA rescuing buzzards and cats from the traps in the last year.

Glue traps are considered by many to be an inhumane method of trapping and the Animal Welfare Act 2006 requires that animals caught must not be subjected to unnecessary suffering.

Over the last five years alone, the RSPCA has also received over 200 reports of animals not considered to be pests including wild birds, hedgehogs and pet cats being found stuck in them.

Please can you return the completed form to Democratic Services via email to democraticservices@eastdevon.gov.uk.

MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer gives approval for Overview to consider the matter proposed.

Date: 17 January 2024