

Agenda for Council Wednesday, 16th July, 2025, 6.00 pm

To: All elected Members of the Council; Honorary Aldermen

Venue: Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton

Contact: Andrew Melhuish, Democratic Services Manager;
email andrew.melhuish@eastdevon.gov.uk 01395 517541
(or group number 01395 517546)
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East Devon District Council
Blackdown House
Border Road
Heathpark Industrial Estate
Honiton
EX14 1EJ
DX 48808 HONITON
Tel: 01404 515616
www.eastdevon.gov.uk

This meeting is being recorded for subsequent publication on the Council's website and will be streamed live to the [East Devon District Council YouTube channel](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

Meeting of the Council of the District of East Devon on Wednesday, 16th July, 2025 at 6.00 pm

You are called upon to attend the above meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton. It is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered at the meeting and resolution or resolutions passed as the Council considers expedient.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Hendren".

Tracy Hendren, Chief Executive

1 **Apologies**

2 **Declarations of interest**

Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 8 - 15)

4 Public speaking

Information on [public speaking](#) is available online

5 Matters of urgency

Information on [matters of urgency](#) is available online

6 Announcements from the Chair and Leader

7 Confidential/exempt item(s)

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the Press) have been excluded. There are two items which officers recommend should be dealt with in this way, but if confidential minutes from Cabinet and/or the Council's Committees are being discussed, Officers may recommend consideration in the private part of the meeting.

8 To answer questions asked by Members of the Council pursuant to Procedure Rules No. 9.2 and 9.5 (Pages 16 - 27)

9 Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees and questions on those reports (Pages 28 - 97)

10 Request for powers - Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting (Pages 98 - 108)

11 Executive Leadership Team structural review (Pages 109 - 115)

12 Natural Seaton Interpretive Masterplan (Pages 116 - 121)

13 Recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel (Pages 122 - 160)

14 Motion on Notice - Emergency Services (Pages 161 - 163)

Motion 1: Emergency Services in East Devon
Proposed by Cllr Stuart Hughes
Seconded by Cllr Colin Brown

Supporters: Cllrs Aurora Bailey, Brian Bailey, Iain Chubb, Mike Goodman, Jenny Brown

For nearly three decades, trained firefighters have worked alongside ambulance services to provide critical, lifesaving assistance to patients experiencing medical emergencies. Their swift intervention has saved countless lives, ensuring communities receive prompt professional care when ambulance crews are delayed or unavailable.

This Council:

1. Recognizes the vital role fire service co-responders have played in supporting emergency medical incidents, especially in isolated areas.
2. Acknowledges widespread concerns from fire stations, emergency personnel, and residents regarding the impact of this decision on community safety.
3. Calls on SWAST and Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service to reconsider this phase-out and explore alternative solutions that preserve co-responders' role alongside Community First Responders.
4. Requests that the Chief Fire Officer and SWAST leadership provide a full assessment of how this change will affect response times and public safety.
5. Urges the relevant authorities to engage with councils and local communities to ensure transparency and accountability in future emergency response planning.

Resolution:

This Council formally requests a review of the decision and will write to SWAST, Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, seeking clarity on how emergency response standards will be maintained following the removal of fire service co-responders.

- 15 **Motion on Notice - Inclusion of care homes and hotel accommodation in flood risk assessments** (Pages 164 - 166)

Motion 2: Inclusion of Care Homes and hotel accommodation in Flood Risk Assessments

Proposed by Cllr Stuart Hughes
Seconded by Cllr Geoff Jung

Supporters: Cllrs Aurora Bailey, Brian Bailey, Iain Chubb, Mike Goodman, Jenny Brown, Colin Brown, Paul Hayward, Yehudi Levine, Tim Dumper, Del Haggerty, Bethany Collins, Charlotte Fitzgerald, Matt Hall, Anne Hall, Olly Davey, Paula Fernley, Marcus Hartnell, Joe Whibley

Inclusion of Care Homes, and Hotel accommodation in Flood Risk Assessments.

As part of East Devon`s work on Coastal Protection Schemes, care homes housing a significant number of vulnerable residents, plus important hotel accommodation are assessed as commercial properties. Unfortunately the current flood risk assessment models` classification means only individual dwellings count towards substantial grant funding yet care homes and hotel accommodation are classed as commercial properties and are subject to far less beneficial funding.

To ensure a comprehensive and a more accurate assessment, the Council urge the Government, through Defra & the Environment Agency, to formally classify both care homes and hotels as dwellings in calculations for flood defence funding and coastal protection schemes. This adjustment would better reflect community vulnerability, improve resource allocation, and strengthen long-term resilience planning for East Devon and beyond.

Therefore the Council calls on Defra and the Environment Agency to review this oversight and incorporate care homes and hotels as a distinct category in future flood risk strategies.

- 16 **Motion on Notice - Communication Workers Union - design and positioning of letterboxes** (Pages 167 - 169)

Motion 3: Communication Workers Union – design and positioning of letterboxes

Proposed by Cllr Peter Faithfull

Seconded by Cllr John Heath

Supporters: Cllrs Bethany Collins, Jenny Brown, Geoff Jung, Chris Burhop

This Council will actively support the work of the Communication Workers Union in relation to the design and positioning of letterboxes.

As a planning authority we are in a unique position to influence the fitting of letterboxes to reduce the risk of harm to our postal and delivery workers. The CWU have, for a long time, been campaigning for a ban on low-level letterboxes. The two main causes of injury in relation to low-level letterboxes are back injuries and dog bites. I therefore request that this council work in a number of ways to support the campaign of the CWU.

1. That we actively discourage low-level letterboxes on new build homes.
2. We actively promote discouraging low-level letterboxes on replacement doors.
3. That we will show our support of the CWU campaign to our two Members of Parliament.

Along with the main campaign about low-level letterboxes, we will discourage the use of poor designed letterboxes that can often include sharp edges and overly powerful springs, that can often cause minor injuries in the form of cuts and bruises.

17 Motion on Notice - Newton Poppleford Settlement Boundary (Pages 170 - 172)

Motion 4: Newton Poppleford Settlement Boundary

Proposed by Cllr Chris Burhop

Seconded by Cllr Paul Hayward

Motion supported by: Cllrs Stuart Hughes, Colin Brown, Yehudi Levine, Ben Ingham, Ian Barlow, Jess Bailey

At the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) meeting of 22nd November 2024 when settlement boundaries were discussed, the SPC minutes record the following in relation to Newton Poppleford's proposed settlement boundary;

“Newton Poppleford – raising the issue of consistency, concern was raised on the proposed Settlement Boundary in that the area described as excluded in stage 2 on the map should be included. Road safety concerns were also raised. A proposal to support the report recommendation failed. Therefore, a proposal to have the settlement boundary as the area shown as Stage 2 with the inclusion of area adjacent to Exmouth Road was supported.”

Recommendation (f) of that minute went on to state “Newton Poppleford – that the Settlement Boundary be drawn as including Stage 2 plus area adjacent to Exmouth Road, with the exact boundary to be drawn by officers for delegated approval by the Assistant Director and the Chair of Strategic Planning Committee.”

Whilst the thought process given at the time of expanding the settlement boundary to “make the settlement boundary more even over the geographical area of the village” was on the face of it understandable, the discussion, which excluded the District Councillor for the village, ignored the fact that all of the village’s amenities are located to the Eastern end of the village, which is why historically the settlement boundary was set to expand only to include the two proposed development sites Newt 04 and Newt 05 to the East of Exmouth Road, per officers’ recommendation.

The revised boundary, attached as a file to this motion, was presented at the subsequent SPC on 11th December at which I spoke in respect of the errors in the thoughts about expanding the settlement boundary to the West of Exmouth Road, namely that the lack of footpath provision makes expansion on the Western side of Exmouth Road inaccessible. This debate is covered in pages 6 & 7 of the minutes (minute 249). They record that “During discussions some members concurred that unless the footpath was installed the western side of the village would be unsafe and there was nothing to confirm at this stage that the footpath would happen. It was suggested that a condition could be imposed to ensure that no development could take place until there was a suitable footpath”.

However legal advice obtained at that meeting confirmed that no decision taken by a committee of the council could be moved within 6 months of the original decision unless the motion to amend is signed by 15 or more councillors. In other words errors identified in any council condition need 25% of the council to sign up to an amendment at full council in order to be corrected. I resolved to draw up such a motion to propose a correction.

Subsequent to the meeting I was told by the Chair of the SPC that, as the plans had now been submitted for Regulation 19 consultation, then again they could not be amended until the consultation ended. I have requested that the proposed amendment be included in the agenda of the Strategic Planning Committee of 8th July however the published agenda did not include this proposal.

I therefore submit the following motion to full council;

Motion

The settlement boundary for Newton Poppleford submitted in the Regulation 19 Consultation in the Draft Local Plan contained a material error and should now be amended per the proposed map, being officers’ original recommendation.

18 Planning Committee - Appointment of Vice Chair (Pages 173 - 174)

19 Outside Body - Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee

To consider the inclusion of the Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee (PATROLAJC) to the list of outside bodies and the nomination of a councillor on the outside body.

20 Appointment of Independent Community Representative to serve on the Housing Review Board (Pages 175 - 179)

21 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 - Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider passing a resolution having been duly proposed and seconded under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason: Para 3 Schedule 12A Information relating to the finance or business affairs of any particular person.

22 Leisure Review including final Options Appraisal of the preferred Leisure Contract Arrangements (Pages 180 - 196)

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, any members of the public are now allowed to take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media). No prior notification is needed but it would be helpful if you could let the democratic services team know you plan to film or record so that any necessary arrangements can be made to provide reasonable facilities for you to report on meetings. This permission does not extend to private meetings or parts of meetings which are not open to the public. You should take all recording and photography equipment with you if a public meeting moves into a session which is not open to the public.

If you are recording the meeting, you are asked to act in a reasonable manner and not disrupt the conduct of meetings for example by using intrusive lighting, flash photography or asking people to repeat statements for the benefit of the recording. You may not make an oral commentary during the meeting. The Chair has the power to control public recording and/or reporting so it does not disrupt the meeting.

Members of the public exercising their right to speak during Public Speaking will be recorded.

[Decision making and equalities](#)

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