

Report to: Council



Date of Meeting 21 February 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Motions on Notice

Report summary:

The constitution provides that members of Council may submit written notice of motions for debate at Council. A motion must be signed by the proposer and seconder and at least 3 members and submitted not later than 10 clear days before the date of the meeting.

Motions must be about matters for which the council has a responsibility, or which affect East Devon District Council and will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice received..

Motions for which notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received unless the member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That the Motions on Notice are debated and determined by Council.

Reason for recommendation:

The constitution makes provision for motions on notice to be debated and decided by Council.

Officer: Andrew Melhuish, Democratic Services Manager (andrew.melhuish@eastdevon.gov.uk)

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

The impact is low as this report is dealing with the submission of motions on notice. Any work undertaken following the consideration of the motions on notice would be subject to an equalities impact assessment being undertaken.

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk; A risk assessment would need to be completed on any works or further investigations resulting from the motions of notice.

Links to background information N/A

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

Report in full

Motion 1: Winter Fuel Allowance

Motion Proposed: Cllr Mike Goodman

Motion Seconded: Cllr Colin Brown

Motion signed: Cllrs Aurora Bailey, Brian Bailey, Jenny Brown, Alasdair Bruce, Maddy Chapman, Peter Faithfull, Stuart Hughes, Ben Ingham, Sophie Richards and Henry Riddell

Motion received: 10 September 2024

The full text of the motion is set out below.

The Council notes.

The Labour government is withdrawing the winter fuel allowance for all Pensioners' unless they are on pension credit.

There will be a 10% increase in the energy cap.

These two measures will affect and cause hardship to many pensioners in East Devon.

This will plunge many East Devon pensioners into deep anxiety, a serious risk of ill health and a threat to life.

The 2021 census showed East Devon had over 45,000 people of pensionable age. Although this might have changed since the pensionable age being changed to 66 years. It still represents around 30% of the population.

East Devon is a leader in tackling poverty and helping residents, this was acknowledged during the 2024 peer review process.

Many residents have contacted members with their concerns about these Labour measures which have been well published locally and nationally.

It is important that East Devon council and its members do all they can to support our pensioners.

The Council therefore resolves that they:-

Ask that the CEO jointly with the leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payments to Pension Credit receipts be paused and introduce a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments. That they also find a solution to protect vulnerable pensioners who will be subject to energy increases.

That the Council urgently commences a significant awareness campaign in East Devon to maximise the uptake of pension credits, this would include the use of Council notice boards, social media, promotion in local press, targeted letters to those who may be eligible.

Resolve that the Leader and Chief Executive report back to Council.

Motion 2: Housing Motion

Motion Proposed: Cllr Henry Riddell

Motion Seconded: Cllr Mike Goodman

Motion Signed: Cllrs Aurora Bailey, Brian Bailey and Stuart Hughes

Motion received: 1 October 2024

The Council notes

Damp and mould has serious impacts on residents' lives and can cause negative health implications which can be life changing.

Under Awaab's law the council has to investigate each complaint about damp and mould in social housing and this will be extended to the private rented sector next year. If they do not, residents will be able to hold their landlords to account by taking legal action through the courts for a breach of contract.

That a stock condition survey of all properties commissioned in 2021 has still not been completed.

Once the stock condition survey is completed, a costed programme of housing improvements will be required and will need to be built into the Housing Revenue Account once the information is available. Along with a fund for tenants legal action. The council will also have to significantly invest in environmental health while there is a national shortage.

The Grant Thornton report in December 2023 stated that East Devon has one of the worst maladministration rates in the country at 89%. The report also said that there was evidence that this had continued in 2023.

The Council resolves to

1. An urgent report within the next three months is required to establish what the cost is to bring housing stock under the council stewardship to decent home standard, along with potential liabilities including legal action by tenants on failure to do this.
2. Investigate why the stock condition survey has not been completed, and report back to the full council.
3. A review of the procurement process and why it has not been delivered.
4. A hotline is established before winter for all residents, owner occupier, social and private rented areas to report damp and mould.
5. A plan is implemented to protect all residents (including owner occupied) from mould with guidance on how to remove, reduce and avoid damp and mould.

Motion 3: Ecological Crisis

Motion Proposed: Cllr Jess Bailey

Motion Seconded: Cllr Melanie Martin

Motion Signed: Cllrs Ian Barlow, Alasdair Bruce, Chris Burhop, Olly Davey, Paula Fernley, Mike Howe, Vicky Johns and Yehudi Levine

Motion received: 2 October 2024

The shocking depletion of nature in our country has resulted in an ecological crisis. The UK is within the bottom 10% of countries globally for biodiversity and is the worst G7 nation for biodiversity loss.

EDDC must take action to help stem the decline of nature on its own doorstep.

As a matter of urgency this Council will

1. Install bat boxes and bird boxes as required in its 2016 planning permission when Blackdown House was built
2. Install boxes specifically for swifts at Blackdown House, noting the excellent work elsewhere in Honiton to support swifts
3. Identify and implement further nature supporting initiatives for the Blackdown House site.

Financial implications:

To be confirmed.

Legal implications:

The motions on notice have been submitted in accordance with the Part 4 of the Council's Constitution – Rules of Procedure 10.1 Notice: Except for motions which can be moved without notice under Rule 11, written notice of every motion, signed by at least 5 members, must be delivered to the Chief Executive not later than 10 clear days before the date of the meeting.