

Report to: Council



Date of Meeting 4 December 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Motion on Notice - Inheritance Tax (Agricultural Property Relief)

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 Motion on Notice – Inheritance Tax (Agricultural Property Relief) is 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
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Report in full

Motion 1: Inheritance Tax (Agricultural Property Relief)

Motion on Notice – Inheritance Tax (Agricultural Property Relief)

Proposer: Cllr Colin Brown

Seconder: Cllr Alasdair Bruce.

The motion has been supported by Councillors Aurora Bailey, Brian Bailey, Jenny Brown, Iain Chubb, Mike Goodman, Stuart Hughes and Ben Ingham.

Motion Received: 4 November 2024

This Council notes with concern the proposed changes to inheritance tax announced by the Government in the recent Autumn budget, which would scrap Agricultural Property Relief (ARP).

ARP has been instrumental in allowing British family farms to remain intact across generations, supporting food security, sustaining rural communities, and aiding environmental stewardship.

This tax is estimated to impact over 70,000 farming families with an inheritance tax bill of at least £240,000, which will force many to sell portions of their land or close entirely, paving the way for corporate ownership over family ownership.

The Council believes that this tax will have severe impacts:

1. Food Security: Selling off land and closing farms will put our national food independence at risk, at a time when global stability is already fragile. British family farms are critical to ensuring a steady supply of homegrown food.
2. Rural Community Stability: Family farms are the foundation of rural Britain, contributing to local jobs, schools and local services. The Government proposed tax, risks destabilising communities, eroding the rural way of life, and causing a negative ripple effect across the countryside.
3. Environmental Stewardship: Farms cover 70% of the UK's land, with family farms playing a leading role in nature recovery, biodiversity, and sustainable land management. The sale and

fragmentation of these lands would hinder conservation efforts and undermine environmental initiatives.

This Council resolves to: Oppose the government's changes to inheritance tax affecting family farms.

Advocate for the exemption of family farms to preserve the UK's food security, rural communities, environmental initiatives.

Request all opposition parties oppose this budget inheritance tax on this basis.

This Council urges all Councillors to stand with Britain's family farmers, to support our rural communities, and that the CEO sends a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister of State for Food Security and Rural Affairs Daniel Zeichner signed by all group leaders formally rejecting this proposed 'family farm tax'.

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.