

Report to: Council



Date of Meeting 16 July 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Motion on Notice – Emergency services

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 – Fire Rescue Services 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):

- ☐ Assets and Economy
- ☐ Communications and Democracy
- ☐ Council, Corporate and External Engagement
- ☐ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- ☐ Environment - Nature and Climate
- ☐ Environment - Operational
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities

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 motion 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)

- ☒ A supported and engaged community
 - ☐ Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
 - ☐ Resilient economy that supports local business
 - ☐ Financially secure and improving quality of services
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Report in full

Motion 1: Emergency services

Proposed by: Cllr Stuart Hughes

Seconded by: Cllr Colin Brown

Motion signed by: 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.

Financial implications:

To be confirmed, subject to the outcome of the consideration on the Motion on Notice.

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.