

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 – Communication Workers Union – design and positioning of letterboxes

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 – Support for the work of the Communication Workers Union in relation to the design and positioning of letterboxes 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
-

Report in full**Motion 3:**

Proposed by Cllr Peter Faithfull

Seconded by Cllr John Heath

Motion supported by: 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.

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.