

Report to: Council



Date of Meeting 10 December 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Motion 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 Motion on Notice – Marine Health 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, Corporate Lead Democratic Services & Scrutiny
(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: Motion for the Ocean

Proposed by: Cllr John Heath

Seconded by: Cllr Aurora Bailey

Motion signed by: Cllrs Geoff Jung, Tim Dumper, Paula Fernley, Olly Davey, Brian Bailey, Charlotte Fitzgerald, Alasdair Bruce, and Marianne Rixon.

It is the UN Ocean Decade, and the tide is turning on Ocean neglect. Our Ocean and climate are in a state of emergency, and whilst many local authorities have already declared a climate emergency, the Ocean is still missing from many of our climate action plans. By supporting this evidence-based Motion, based on Dr Pamela Buchan's pioneering research on marine citizenship, we can help local and national governments take action to improve Ocean health.

A model 'Ocean Recovery Declaration' – or Motion for the Ocean – seeks to help ALL local governments recognise that the world's Ocean is a fundamental part of climate regulation and that it must be considered as part of an effective climate emergency response. It is vital to ensure that local Councils commit to supporting a more ecologically healthy sea and to rethink how Ocean is taken into account in planning and decision-making at local level.

Many councils up and down the country have supported this important motion. They are too numerous to mention, and I believe that EDDC should add its name to the list. The councils that have so far affiliated to the motion are listed under Motion for the Ocean [Motion-for-the-Ocean-coastal-councils.pdf](#).

We welcome the opportunity to support Devon County Council colleagues in protecting our Oceans, and will work in conjunction with all signatories to play our continued part in improving our seas and oceans.

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.