

Report to: **Personnel Committee**



Date of Meeting 31 March 2026

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

---

## **Quarter 3 Health and Safety Report 2025/6**

### **Report summary:**

East Devon District Council has a moral and legal responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of its staff, members, customers and partners. For this reason, the Council employs specialist, qualified officers who are based in the Environmental Health Service, to advise the Council on health and safety matters and ensure compliance.

This report is review of the Council's performance in relation to Health and Safety and the work carried out by the Corporate Health and Safety Team during Quarter 3 of 2025/26.

### **Is the proposed decision in accordance with:**

Budget Yes  No

Policy Framework Yes  No

### **Recommendation:**

- To note the findings of the report.

### **Reason for recommendation:**

To ensure that the Council is compliant with Health and Safety law.

Officers: Matt Blythe, [matt.blythe@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:matt.blythe@eastdevon.gov.uk) , Jeremy Prichard, [Jeremy.pritchard@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:Jeremy.pritchard@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

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk; The risk related to this report is low. However, failure to deliver the action plan could potentially increase risk of accidents and/or enforcement action.

### **Links to background information**

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

### 1. Introduction

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, imposes duties on employers for the health and safety of its employees and non-employees who are affected by the 'work activity'. These wide-ranging duties include:

- assess risks to employees, customers, partners and any other people who could be affected by their activities;
- arrange for the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of preventive and protective measures;
- have a written health and safety policy if they employ five or more people;
- ensure they have access to competent health and safety advice;
- consult employees about their risks at work and current preventive and protective measures.

Failure to comply with these requirements can have serious consequences – for both organisations and individuals. Sanctions include fines, imprisonment and disqualification.

In order to assist EDDC to discharge its responsibilities as an employer it employs two health and safety officers who are based in the Commercial Premises Team in the Environmental Health Service and managed by a Principal Environmental Health Officer (PEHO). The Corporate Health and Safety Officer tends to focus on corporate policies and procedures whereas the Operational Health and Safety Officer focuses on Street Scene as this is the highest hazard area of work. However, under the management of the PEHO resilience across all services is assured.

### 2. Q3. 20226 – Highlights

A full review of Q3. is given in appendix 1. Key points to highlight:

- Implementation of the new Corporate Safety and Lone Worker systems are progressing well.
- Meeting of Central Joint Safety Panel on 18/11/25. Currently reviewing membership criteria before arranging next meeting.
- No reportable (to HSE) accidents in Q.3. Other accidents and violent incident reports reviewed and investigated as necessary.
- Significant amount of training delivered in Q3.
- Site audits carried out. Significant progress in addressing issues.
- Fire and blue light drills up to date.
- Service risk assessments currently being updated.

### 3. Conclusion

The Council continues to make good progress in delivering on its key health and safety projects whilst ensuring that day to day management of health and safety matters is under control.

---

**Financial implications:**

There are no direct financial implication arising from this report.

**Legal implications:**

The legal issues are covered in the report