

Report to: Council



Date of Meeting 15 April 2026

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Motion on Notice – Protection of Terrestrial Television Access

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 – Protection of Terrestrial Television Access

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: Protection of Terrestrial Television Access

Proposed by: Councillor Stuart Hughes

Seconded by: Councillor Colin Brown

Supported by: Councillors Mike Goodman, Jenny Brown, Iain Chubb, Helen Parr, Ben Ingham and Brian Bailey

This Council notes:

- **Ongoing national discussions regarding the potential future switch-off of terrestrial television services in the UK.**
- **That a significant number of residents in East Devon — particularly older people, those on low incomes, and those in rural areas — rely on terrestrial TV as their primary means of accessing news, public information, and entertainment.**
- **That many households do not have access to reliable, affordable broadband and would face financial or practical barriers in transitioning to internet-based television services.**

This Council believes:

- **That access to public service broadcasting is a vital public good.**
- **That any transition away from terrestrial TV must not disadvantage vulnerable residents or deepen digital exclusion.**
- **That Government must ensure universal, affordable alternatives are in place before any switch-off is considered.**

This Council resolves to:

- 1. Write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport expressing this Council's concerns and requesting clarity on the Government's long-term plans for terrestrial TV.**
- 2. Urge the Government to guarantee that no switch-off will occur until reliable, affordable broadband and suitable equipment are available to all households.**
- 3. Request that Government commits to fully funded support for residents who would face financial or practical barriers in transitioning to digital-only services.**
- 4. Share this motion with East Devon's Members of Parliament, inviting their support and asking them to raise the issue in Parliament.**

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.