

Report to: Council



Date of Meeting 15 July 2026

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

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## **Motion on Notice – Carbon Monoxide Detectors in Vehicles – A Call for National Action**

### **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 – Carbon Monoxide Detectors in Vehicles – A Call for National Action is debated.

### **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](mailto:andrew.melhuish@eastdevon.gov.uk))

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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:**

**Proposed by: Councillor Stuart Hughes**

**Seconded by: Councillor Colin Brown**

**Supported by: Councillors Helen Parr, Brian Bailey, Jenny Brown, John O'Leary and Iain Chubb.**

## **Carbon Monoxide Detectors in Vehicles – A Call for National Action**

Council notes:

- A recent national news report highlighted a serious incident in which a vehicle struck a pothole, causing damage to the exhaust system. This resulted in dangerous levels of carbon monoxide (CO) entering the vehicle — recorded at 180 parts per million, a level that can cause loss of consciousness and death.
- The occupants survived only because a carbon monoxide detector was fitted inside the vehicle, alerting them in time to stop and exit safely.
- Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless, lethal gas, and vehicle occupants have no natural warning when exhaust systems fail or become compromised — whether through pothole damage,

corrosion, or manufacturing faults.

- CO detectors are inexpensive, widely available, and already mandatory in many domestic settings due to their proven ability to save lives.

Council believes:

- The rise in pothole-related vehicle damage increases the risk of exhaust leaks and CO ingress, particularly in older vehicles.
- There is currently no requirement for carbon monoxide detection in vehicles, despite the clear and preventable danger.
- A simple, low-cost detector could prevent fatalities and should be considered as essential as smoke alarms in homes.

Council therefore resolves to write to:

- The Secretary of State for Transport,
- The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), and
- The Local Government Association (LGA)

calling for:

1. Carbon monoxide detectors to be made mandatory in all new vehicles sold in the UK.
2. A requirement for CO detectors to be fitted to existing vehicles at the point of MOT, in the same way that other safety-critical items are checked or required.
3. A review of national vehicle safety regulations to ensure that CO detection becomes a standard, life-saving measure across the entire fleet.
4. Engagement with motoring organisations, manufacturers, and safety bodies to develop practical guidance and timelines for implementation.

Council further requests that this Motion be shared with Devon local authorities and Devon MPs, encouraging a coordinated Devon-wide approach to reducing preventable deaths from carbon monoxide exposure in vehicles and supporting wider national consideration of the issue.

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### **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.