

Okehampton Town Council
24th February 2025
Meeting Report

Date:	12 th February 2025
Name:	Emma James

13.2 Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework – To consider a council response to the [consultation](#) which closes on 26th February 2025 in accordance with the draft document prepared by Cllrs Fisher, Yelland and the Clerk.

Draft OTC response for consideration of the Council, to be read in conjunction with the consultation, previously circulated.

Q2 Yes

Q3 No

Q4 Yes

Q5 Yes (within WDBC it forms part of the Audit and Governance Committee)

Q6 Yes

Q7 Yes

Q8 No

Q9 No

Q10 Chairing of the standards committee should be at the discretion of principle authority.

Q11 No (In addition a summary of the total number of allegations made and the outcomes should be published along with a brief description of the nature of the complaints in order that trends can be identified and monitored. Regarding Q12, where a councillor is dual/triple hatted then investigations should continue and the findings should be published)

Q12 Yes

Q13 0

Q13a 0

Q14 n/a

Q15 n/a

Q16 n/a

Q17 Confidentiality for all parties when investigation is occurring.

Q18 Yes

Q19 No (yes, but not in an election year as people will submit potentially vexatious complaints in order to discredit sitting councillors to their disadvantage)

Q20 No

- Q21 Yes, maximum of six months
- Q22 Infrequently
- Q23 Yes
- Q24 Yes
- Q25 Yes
- Q26 Yes, but this would need to be carefully applied, or it could be deemed that the subject of the complaint is guilty.
- Q27 Yes
- Q28 No, should be a timeframe to ensure timely resolution of the complaint
- Q29 If the investigation is not complete the suspension could be extended if there is good reason such as the councillor has not cooperated. If the investigation is complete any sanction would take effect from the decision date.
- Q30 Yes
- Q30a Investigation should be timely and not delayed. Complainant needs assurances of clear timeframe for conclusion. If councillor does not engage, suspension should be an option until such time as the investigation is complete.
- Q31 No
- Q32 Yes
- Q33 Yes
- Q34 Yes
- Q35 Yes
- Q36 Yes
- Q37 With respect to all of the question relating to appeal, appeal should be allowed when there is concern about the process rather than the decision. With would prevent large number of appeals and a system backlog. The claimant should have right of appeal if they have additional/supporting evidence.
- Q38 No
- Q39 n/a
- Q40 neither (Councillors need to be free to express opinion in line with the code of conduct without fear of being sanctioned because someone takes offense and complains. The procedure needs to take into account the possibility of vexatious complaints from either a single complainant and/or complaints from multiple persons against the same councillor which could result in numerous suspensions whilst investigations continue. System of monitoring should be implemented to help prevent this situation)

13.4 Fire Service Consultation, Automatic Fire Alarms – To consider responding to the consultation which closes on 9th April 2025



For the full information about the consultation, please visit our website, www.dsfire.gov.uk/about-us/AFA-consultation

1. Looking at the definitions for each category and exemptions which you can find [on the consultation pages of our website](#), are there any other types of premises which you feel should be exempted from the change? Premises have been exempted based on risks specific to those locations.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

2. Please explain your answer, including any type of premises you think should be exempted, and why.

Here is a summary of the options, which you can find out more about [on our website](#). The blue dots show where we propose to respond to automatic fire alarms. Where there is no dot, we will respond on confirmation of a sign of fire. Option one represents what we do at the moment.

	Industrial and commercial			Retail and public assembly			Residential			Domestic		
	Night-time	Week day daytime	Weekend daytime	Night-time	Week day daytime	Weekend daytime	Night-time	Week day daytime	Weekend daytime	Night-time	Week day daytime	Weekend daytime
Option one	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Option two	●		●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●
Option three							●	●	●	●	●	●
Option four				●			●		●	●	●	●
Option five							●		●	●	●	●

We will always attend when there is a confirmed sign of fire.
The blue dots show when we will also respond to automatic fire alarms.

3. How reasonable do you think it is for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service to consider the above options about how we respond to automatic fire alarms?

	Very reasonable	Reasonable	Neutral	Not reasonable	Not reasonable at all	Don't know
Option 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

A People Impact Assessment and Equalities Risk and Benefits Assessment have been completed for this project, and are both available to read on our website as part of the consultation document. These assessments help us to understand positive and negative impacts for each of the options proposed.

We are interested in hearing how you feel you would be impacted by the proposed changes, so we can check that we have fully understood this.

4. If we change how we respond to automatic fire alarms based on the options above, how much of an impact would this have on you?

	Severe impact	High impact	Moderate impact	Little impact	No impact	Don't know
Option 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Please explain what type of impact this would have, for instance it could be financial, wellbeing, or any other.

6. Do you think any community group will be more impacted than others due to the proposed changes?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

7. Please explain which group you feel will be more impacted, and why.

8. Is there anything that you would like to add about how we respond to automatic fire alarms?