

Motions

Members have given notice that they intend to move the following motions in accordance with paragraph 16.8.2 of the Constitution:

The Courts have made it clear that the Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it is considering these motions, even if they are motions without legal effect. There is not a general requirement for an equality impact assessment but regard should be had to the equality duty when drafting and considering motions.

The equality duty requires Council to have due regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes it unlawful to discriminate etc on the grounds of a protected characteristic.
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

1 Highways Defects

Moved by Councillor Abbott and seconded by Councillor Beavis:

'Council recognises some progress has been made on repairing highway, cycleway, and footway defects but wishes to set on record that much more remains to be done.

- 1 Council requests the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure to redouble his efforts to minimise the danger and inconvenience to residents from such defects, and particularly requests:
- 2 Developers, no matter how small, to be surcharged for any damage to roads and footways caused during their development operations, to be evidenced by before and after photography;
- 3 More stringent action to be taken over utility providers who allow inspection covers etc to deteriorate, or damage infrastructure through their operations;
- 4 Negotiations to be held with the City/Borough/District authorities for the establishment and where appropriate funding of small works teams, outside the strategic partnership with Ringway Jacobs such that minor defects can more economically and speedily be put right and thereby avoiding the restrictions presently applied to Highways Rangers;

5 An extension of the successful Member-led pothole and footway initiatives'

2 Supporting Policing in Essex

Moved by Councillor Moran and seconded by Councillor Channer:

'This Council praises the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for his great endeavours to recruit an extra 368 Officers in the county. It is also pleased to see the Government's commitment to recruiting 20,000 new Police Officers across the country.

This means that Essex will have one of the strongest Police Forces we have ever seen.

This Council further recognises that issues such as violence, knife crime and domestic abuse will not be solved by policing alone, and commits to continuing and strengthening our partnership working through social care, youth offending services and encouraging volunteering, in particular through Business Enabled Special Constables to ensure Essex is one of the safest places in the country to live and work.'

3. A Zero Carbon Essex

Moved by Councillor Deakin and seconded by Councillor Aspinell:

'Local Government has a critical role to play in an effective and just transition to a zero carbon Britain. Many of the solutions are best tackled locally with cities, towns and rural communities working together.

A part of that solution is to embark on an ambitious programme of tree planting, similar to that proposed by Chelmsford City Council. This would, over a ten-year period, mean that a tree would be planted for every resident in Chelmsford.

This Council therefore calls upon the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste to support Chelmsford and any other Essex Councils with similar ambitions, by making available suitable green spaces in its ownership for tree planting. Not only will this help reduce carbon in the atmosphere, as trees fix carbon in living biomass and soils for decades, but it will enhance the landscape, townscape and create habitat for wildlife.'