

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. Railways and fares in Essex

Moved by Cllr Chris Pond and seconded by Cllr Paul Thorogood.

'Council much regrets the proposed withdrawal of the London Day Travelcard and its form of an add-on from Essex; on a wider canvas, draws attention to the positive role of railways in the life and economy of Greater Essex, applauds the construction of the new station at Beaulieu Park, asks the Executive to support suitable opportunities to reopen closed stations and lines, and as far as possible to elimination of diesel traction from the County.'

2. Youth Service in Essex

Moved by Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor McGurran.

'Essex is a diverse county and there are significant differences in the opportunities for our young people to attend youth facilities and participate in activities with other youngsters. Some of our young people are being denied these opportunities because of where they live in the county.

Clearly youth provision is hampered in some areas because of a lack of volunteers and voluntary organisations – compared with communities that are

well organised with established links to groups who can set up appropriate facilities for the youth.

The Council therefore asks the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee to consider creating a “task and finish group” to consider Youth Services and Youth Club provision, using information held by Essex Youth Service Officers and details held at District, Borough, and City Councils.

The aim is to ascertain areas of lack of service and viability of volunteer led groups so that Essex County Council officers can provide appropriate support to “level up” youth service provision.’

3. HGV SAT NAV

Moved by Cllr Dan Land and seconded by Cllr Lewis Barber.

‘HGVs using standard car Sat Navs that collide with local infrastructure, such as railway bridges, or becoming stuck on narrow roads causes major disruption and is costly to local communities. They often take significant amounts of time and resources to free, causing major congestion across the Essex Road network, generating more emissions, and disrupting local rail services.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to work with Satellite Navigation companies, and others providing road information to remove By Ways, By Roads and other similar roads from their systems.’

4. ULEZ Expansion

Moved by Cllr Holly Whitbread and seconded by Cllr Marshall Vance.

‘This Council recognises the importance of air quality for Essex residents and the Council’s forthcoming strategy sets out the current understanding of the air quality issues and clear actions to improve the air quality in Essex going forward.

However, this Council condemns the London ULEZ expansion which will impact businesses and could separate families and friends who live in Essex from those who live in the historic parts of Essex that are now within the Greater London Boundary. This ULEZ expansion will also disproportionately hit key workers and those on low incomes who cannot afford to buy new, compliant cars and therefore calls upon the Mayor of London to reverse this decision.

This Council also calls upon the Cabinet Member for Highways and Sustainable Transport to not permit any new ULEZ signage on Essex County Council land or highways, nor allow any existing ULEZ signage on Essex Highways property to be changed.’