
Essex County Council

14 May 2019

Order Paper

Agenda Item 18 Written Questions asked by Members of the Council

1. By Councillor Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate

‘Please could the Cabinet Member tell us which libraries under threat of closure have had offers from the local community to run them? When will members be able to see the details of these arrangements?’

2. By Councillor Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development

‘I understand that there are going to be a number of redundancies made in the Economic Development team following an internal consultation. Please could the Cabinet Member tell me why there was no external consultation on this issue and why the matter has not been brought before the relevant Scrutiny Committee before any final decisions are made?’

3. By Councillor Robinson of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

‘Will the Cabinet Member commit to ensuring that Members are informed when highways projects are to be undertaken in their Division?’

4. By Councillor Robinson of the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer

‘Will the Cabinet Member agree to retain the inter-lending service between all libraries of all types and will the Cabinet Member also commit to meeting district and parish tier councils to discuss retaining libraries in their areas?’

5. By Councillor Baker of the Cabinet Member for Education

‘Following my call-in last year of the decision to sell by auction Essex Education Service, I would be grateful if the current situation with regard to this vital service for all types of schools across Essex could be clarified.’

6. By Councillor Deakin of the Cabinet Member for Education

‘It is recognised that primary school aged children are being groomed by gangs and often by the time they reach the age 13 it’s too late.

In light of this, can Youth Services/YSG commission work for children from aged 10 to 19 rather than the current 13 to 19?’

7. By Councillor Mackrory of the Leader of the Council

‘Concerning A-Block; given the extensive and costly recent external repairs to this building, what recompense is the Council seeking from the building contractors who carried out the same work at enormous cost in 2013?’

8. By Councillor Mackrory of the Leader of the Council

‘Concerning Shire Hall, Chelmsford; can the Leader explain why eight years after this ECC owned historic listed building was closed it still remains empty with the interior rapidly deteriorating? Can he further explain why a suggestion from an interested private individual that part of the building be used for an Art Gallery has been rejected?’

9. By Councillor Henderson of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

‘What discussions are taking place between ECC and Districts/Boroughs to ensure that poor Air Quality is being effectively monitored and ameliorated. Particularly, what are we doing as an authority to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account when discussing new housing developments?’

10. By Councillor Scordis of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

‘Considering the recent Climate Change protests, documentaries and the damning UN report on climate change, would the portfolio holder considering reversing the current policy not to replace trees and look at more trees where possible across the County, perhaps also working with Parish Councils as well as District and Boroughs?’

11. By Councillor Scordis of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

‘Would the Cabinet Member agree to support the aims of Colchester Cycling campaign's new cycling charter? It states:

We recognise that...

- Cycling has an important part to play in addressing Colchester’s challenges of congestion, inactive lifestyles, pollution and population growth
- Cycling supports business, boosts economic productivity and contributes to the health and well-being of our workforce
- Pressure on the growing town will be relieved if more people cycle
- Increased physical activity helps ease the burden on our health and social care services

We want Colchester to be a town where...

- Children can cycle to school or college safely
- People can travel to work safely, directly and easily on a convenient and connected cycle network
- Our roads and public spaces prioritise people and make cycling the safe, natural choice for a large proportion of everyday journeys
- Cycling contributes to our prosperity, helps us stay healthy and keeps people and goods moving’

12. By Councillor Young of the Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate

‘Would the Cabinet Member confirm what investigations they have done on the educational impact library closures would have on young people under the age of 16. As under 16-year-olds heavily feature as a library user and so maybe detrimentally affected by the library closures.’

13. By Councillor Reid of the Cabinet Member for Education

‘With youth services slowly being slowly eroded and the budget reduced dramatically, what plans are the ECC putting in place to help those young people who are vulnerable and are increasingly being targeted and groomed into gangs and coerced into County Lines? Does ECC agree that we need to do more than sit in our meetings talking about these problems? Do we agree that more funding needs to be injected into youth services, breakfast clubs etc. so that teams of youth workers can work with our young people to encourage them to focus on their future in society?’

14. By Councillor Davies of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

‘Could the Cabinet Member inform council of any plans to improve the quality of footpaths? Basildon New Town celebrates its 70th Birthday this year but the footpaths on some estates are in an appalling state and are in desperate need of a facelift.’