

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. Decline of the Highways in Essex

Moved by Cllr Lee Scordis and seconded by Cllr Ivan Henderson.

'This Council recognises that:

1. The current administration are running a policy of managed decline of our Highways.
2. We are investing less than half the annual amount required to just 'stay still'.
3. There is no money left for potholes.
4. We are likely to lose two vital link roads in Essex, and
5. The council faces extra costs from claims due to a failure to maintain our roads, which is likely to increase further with a policy of managed decline.

Therefore this council calls for;

1. The first Highways emergency to be declared, as Essex is unable to maintain its roads and footways to a safe or adequate standard.
2. That the Leader of the council writes to the Secretary of State for Transport requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the current financial black hole regarding Highways, and
3. That the Leader of the council writes to the new Chancellor opposing further cuts to local councils.'

2. ECC Transport Policy

Moved by Cllr Kerry Smith and seconded by Cllr Michael Hoy.

‘Council calls for an early LGA peer review of the county council's transport policies, to include consideration of arrangements with its strategic highways partner.’

3. Constructive Approach to Achieving Net Zero

Moved by Cllr Peter Schwier and Seconded by Cllr Holly Whitbread

‘This Council notes that the United Kingdom is leading the way on climate change, with 90 per cent of the world's economy covered by net zero targets, a significant increase from just one third before the UK's COP 26 presidency.

This Council is supportive of the UK Government's ambition to make this country a clean energy superpower and is proud of the UK's record on cutting greenhouse emissions.

This Council acknowledges our Climate Action and our ambitious £200 million Climate Action Plan which has seen Essex recognised as one of only 122 locations across the globe taking bold leadership on environmental action and transparency, despite the pressures of a challenging global economic situation.

However, this Council:

1. Is concerned by the impact of illegal protests on residents, threatening nationally important infrastructure.
2. Understands the need to act on the environment but believes that cooperation with the UK Government and residents is the right way to pursue our objectives.
3. Condemns all illegal protests organised by Just Stop Oil.
4. Commends the robust and timely action taken by Essex Police to minimise disruption.
5. Demands that Just Stop Oil end all illegal protest activities and work constructively alongside local and national government to achieve our net zero target.’