

Motions

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

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. No Confidence in the Leader and Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate

Moved by Councillor Sargeant and seconded by Councillor Abbott:

'This Council has no confidence in the ability of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Customer and Corporate to deliver in the future a comprehensive and effective public library service for Essex, which is the County Council's statutory duty.'

2 Responding to drug gangs, knife crime and county lines in Essex

Moved by Councillor Beavis and seconded by Councillor Madden

'This Council recognises the impact of drug gangs, knife crime and county lines as a local, regional and national issue.

This Council commends the work of multi-agency statutory and voluntary partners in Essex, Southend and Thurrock in relation to these issues, particularly given the judgement of "Outstanding" by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, following a recent inspection.

This Council is pleased to see this work is being recognised by the Home Office in awarding the sum of £640k to the Police Crime and Fire Commissioner's Office to further expand this multi-agency work.

This Council therefore:

- Calls upon all political parties to work together to drive down the impact of drug gangs, knife crime and county lines on the residents of Essex.
- Requests that the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee has oversight of and contributes to the multi-agency strategy and its development.'

3 Essex Police Force

Moved by Councillor Mackrory and seconded by Councillor Wood:

'This Council acknowledges and commends the hard work of the Essex Police Force in the most challenging of times.

This Council notes:

- That the previous Essex Police and Crime Commissioner cut 800 uniformed officers from the workforce.
- That the present Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has recruited an additional 150 uniformed officers thereby leaving a shortfall of 650 officers.
- That the UK's Senior National Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism highlighted that neighbourhood policing was now at risk and that withdrawing police on the ground could mean losing the relationships and trust within communities.
- That violent and drug related crime in Essex is at record levels.
- That Essex Police face significant and on-going financial pressures.
- That Essex Police receives the second lowest funding per resident of any police force in the country.
- That the vital and valuable police service across Essex needs additional resources to cope with increasing pressures.

The Council recognises that the safety of its residents is paramount and therefore resolves:

That the Chief Executive writes to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, copied to the County's Members of Parliament and Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, requesting that:

- Essex Police are funded properly by the Home Office in order to carry out their duties effectively.
- That additional resources are provided to Neighbourhood Policing Teams in order to strengthen the working relationships between the Force and local communities in the county.
- That there should be no cuts to frontline policing in Essex.'