

Motions under Standing Order

16.11.2

1. Highway Maintenance

Moved by Councillor J Young and seconded by Councillor K Bobbin. Supported by Councillors M McGeorge and D Harris.

‘We welcome the renewed focus of this Authority on Highways.

The new Vision for Essex gives a commitment to develop and maintain infrastructure and this means our roads and pavements must be improved ensuring safety is paramount.

We call upon the Administration to review the contract with Ringway Jacobs as we believe that it is neither flexible nor agile and as such cannot respond to technical advancements which would lead to better outcomes for Essex roads and pavements. Our guiding principles must be quality, safety and value for money and this contract needs to reflect these aspirations.’

2. Executive Arrangements

Moved by Councillor J Lodge and seconded by Councillor C Pond.

‘This Council believes there is merit in a return to the committee system so as to involve many more elected councillors in decision-taking, and that an all-party committee, advisory to the Chairman, be established to consider changing the existing system, to consider, amongst other matters, a return to the committee system, or a hybrid executive/committee system, whereby cabinet decisions be not actioned (save in cases of emergency) until committee affirmation has been obtained.’

3. Changing from Cabinet to the Committee System

Moved by Councillor M Mackrory and seconded by Councillor T Higgins. Supported by Councillor S Robinson.

‘The recent County Council Election results show there is much wider range of political views amongst the residents of Essex than there has ever been before, and this is reflected in the fact that there are now six groups at County Hall.

In recognising this change in the political landscape, this Council is keen to embrace and utilise all the talents and ideas that Members have to offer, cross party, as it faces up to the serious financial challenges ahead and explore new ways of working that make decision making more transparent, open and democratic.

This Council welcomes the aim of the Localism Act 2011 to allow power to be exercised at the lowest practical level, close to the people who are affected by the decisions. The Act contains provisions that allow local authorities to change from the Cabinet system, imposed by the Local Government Act 2000, to the Committee system.

Council, therefore, requests the Chief Executive to prepare a report for the next Cabinet meeting.'

4. Cross-party commitment to addressing financial challenges

Moved by Councillor R Hirst and seconded by Councillor V Metcalf

This Council acknowledges that the previous Government's economic legacy requires the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government to take drastic action to restore public finances.

This Council appreciates that this action has resulted in severe reductions in central government funding at a time of significant increase in demand; leaving the Council needing to make £365m savings over the period 2009-2013 and further savings of over £220m during the period 2013-2017.

This Council applauds the work that has taken place to date under the Phase 1 of the Transformation Programme and acknowledges that the savings were made without a significant negative impact on services. It does however realise that further savings under Phase 2 of Transformation Programme will inevitably mean some very tough decisions and whilst every effort will be made to reduce the impact of these on services, given the sheer scale of the cumulative savings this is unlikely.

This Council therefore calls on all parties to work constructively to find solutions which will deliver the required savings and protect services for our residents wherever possible.

5. North and South Essex Parking Partnership

Moved by Councillor R Lord and seconded by Councillor M Ellis.

‘This Council believes that the North and South Parking Partnerships should be fully accountable and transparent to all Members in order for Councillors to represent the views of local business, the tourist industry and residents when matters of concern arise.’

6. Highways Defects

Moved by Councillor J Abbott and seconded by Councillor M Hoy.

This Council agrees that County Members should have a direct role in dealing with highway defects in their division.

Therefore when a defect is reported by the local Member to Member Services with valid local reasons as to why it should be addressed, and where it meets the minimum intervention criteria set down in the Highway Maintenance Policy, the defect should normally be remedied within 3 weeks of submission by the local Member.

7. Essex County Council Policy on Bus Lanes

Moved by Councillor T Higgins and seconded by Councillor A Turrell.
Supported by Councillor B Aspinell.

‘This Council has a countywide policy of allowing two-wheeled motorised vehicles in the bus lanes.

This Council believes that the policy should be changed to permit the Essex District / Borough / City Councils to make that decision to take account of local circumstances and priorities.’

8. Street Lighting

Moved by Councillor M Danvers and seconded by Councillor D Harris.

‘Council recognises that two areas of Essex have piloted the switch off but Essex is a large and diverse County and Uttlesford and Maldon are very different to some of our large Urban Towns which enjoy a lively night-time economy.

The period of consultation regarding implementation was too short and poorly timed allowing little time for proper consideration and appeals for areas to continue to be lit to be put forward.

Council welcomes the setting up of the Task and Finish Group by the Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee. Council believes that current switch off plans should be halted to allow for proper consideration of

alternative lighting methods and a further look at the effectiveness of the consultation process.'

9. Financial Strength of Care Suppliers

Moved by Councillor G Helm and seconded by Councillor N Le Gresley

Following the report by Company Watch in August which showed that one in three care home businesses across the country are at risk of collapsing into insolvency, owing to escalating levels of borrowing within the sector; this Council seeks an urgent review of care suppliers and an upgrading of contingency plans for system failures.