

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. **Creation of a free Essex-wide parking permit scheme for carers on duty**

Moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Hoy

'Council calls upon the Cabinet to create an Essex-wide on-street parking permit scheme for the exclusive use for carers, healthcare assistants and associated volunteers who visit patients/residents living in controlled parking zones and similar to provide caring services, so as to create a single permit system for the whole county, to be issued gratis. Council asks the cabinet member to negotiate, if possible, similar reciprocal arrangements with neighbouring authorities, so as to facilitate provision of care in border areas.'

2. **Changing the culture of Sexual Harassment towards girls and women**

Moved by Councillor Cory and seconded by Councillor Goldman

'This Council recognises the saddening state of affairs outlined by the Ofsted report on 10th June 2021 stating: "culture change needed to tackle 'normalised' sexual harassment in schools and colleges". Ofsted's inspectors visited 32 state and private schools and colleges and spoke to more than 900 children and young people about the prevalence of sexual harassment in their lives and the lives of their peers. The review found

that sexual harassment, including online sexual abuse, has become 'normalised' for children and young people.

Around 9 in 10 of the girls spoken to said that sexist name calling and being sent unwanted explicit pictures or videos happened 'a lot' or 'sometimes'. Inspectors were also told that boys talk about whose 'nudes' they have and share them among themselves like a 'collection game', typically on platforms like WhatsApp or Snapchat.

The review recommends that school and college leaders act on the assumption that sexual harassment is affecting their pupils and take a whole-school approach to addressing these issues, creating a culture where sexual harassment is not tolerated.

Furthermore, Ofsted explain that it was clear that effective joint working between Local Safeguarding Partnerships (LSPs) and all schools and colleges was not happening consistently. The report makes recommendations for schools, colleges, local and central government to implement.

This Council therefore calls upon Cabinet, with the support of all councillors, to:

1. Publicly acknowledge and respond to the content and recommendations in the Ofsted report on Sexual Harassment in schools and colleges.
2. Create a working group of Councillors and experts to conduct further research into the Essex experience and understand the wider causes and determinants of this culture of sexual harassment.
3. Take a lead across educational establishments in Essex to improve engagement between multi-agency safeguarding partners, ensuring effective joint working occurs between Local Safeguarding Partnerships.
4. Share resources, training and guidance for school and college leaders, ensuring that relationships, sex, and health education (RSHE) is provided and is of a consistently high standard across every school and college in Essex.
5. Share developing government guidance about sexual harassment and online abuse to help change attitudes, including advice for parents and carers.
6. Communicate support for women and girls across Essex, primarily by removing the blame upon women and acknowledging the need to change the education, culture and attitudes of boys and men towards women.

Link to the Ofsted Report on Sexual Harassment in Schools and Colleges, including recommendations: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-culture-change-needed-to-tackle-normalised-sexual-harassment-in-schools-and-colleges>

3. Levelling up in Essex

Moved by Councillor Guglielmi and Seconded by Councillor Mackenzie

'The Government and Essex County Council have already done a huge amount to protect Essex residents, businesses and jobs during this tragic pandemic.

This Council therefore welcomes the Government's commitment to levelling up, to ensure that no community is left behind, particularly as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Council also:

- Acknowledges the work already being progressed with our partners, via the Essex Partnership Board, to develop plans across the County and to reflect the needs of various cohorts.
- Notes that there are complex matters in Essex, related to levelling up and that our focus needs to be on; the root causes, a drive to raise aspiration and a self - expectation for people to fulfil their potential and ambition, thereby removing the constraints of being reliant on the state.

This Council therefore calls on the Government, to work with us and support our initiatives to promote and drive forward "Levelling Up" in Essex.'