

# 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. Waste Strategy

Moved by Councillor Gadd and seconded by Councillor Pond

'Council believes that landfilling, other than of inert materials, should be reduced as much as possible, and that markedly less waste creation, plus a determined, renewed, approach to increase recycling from the current 53% in Essex to 70% by 2030 as a move towards an eventual zero-waste system, is to be aimed at.

Non-inert waste has an inherently high carbon content, and should not therefore be burned, or used as the basis for fuel, as both of these lock in reliance on carbon-emitting energy for decades to come, rather than seeking renewable alternatives.

Council considers that a new waste strategy to be agreed with the collection authorities is now urgently needed, avoiding mass-burn incineration and widespread reliance on energy from waste plants.

Council calls upon the cabinet to adopt a waste plan conforming to the above within a year.'

## **2. Free School Meals**

Moved by Councillor McGurran and seconded by Councillor Scordis

'This Council notes the council's work in providing support to families in receipt of free school meals during school holidays. This council notes the benefits to children's educational achievement if they are not hungry.

This Council regrets the Government's decision not to extend free school meals. The decision not to extend the scheme - which affects around a million under-privileged children nationally - has been taken when prices are soaring in the shops, at the petrol pump and on energy bills.

This Council notes that most children in Year 3 or above are ineligible for free school meals if their household income is more than £7,400 a year. This Council does not believe this is acceptable and is not prepared to stand by and see our children go hungry when this can be avoided.

This Council notes that Henry Dimbleby- the Leon founder and the Government's food Tsar - has urged the PM to extend free school meals to all children in households receiving Universal Credit. As a compromise he has suggested raising the income threshold to £20,000.

This Council recognises that an idle promise by the government "to keep free school meal eligibility under review" is not enough when children in this county are going hungry now and recognises in the present situation it is vital to re-instate plans to expand free school meals to all children in UC households.

Therefore the Council calls upon the Leader to write to the Prime Minister as a matter of urgency asking him to implement plans to extend free school meals to all of those in families who receive Universal Credit.'

## **3. National Grid's East Anglia Green Project**

Moved by Councillor Bentley and seconded by Councillor Steel.

'National Grid's East Anglia green Project, proposes an energy transmission route consisting of the construction of 180 km of 50m tall pylons carrying 400kv cables through the entire central length of our County (as well as through our neighbours, Norfolk and Suffolk), save for a section of undergrounding at Dedham Vale.

This Council has already expressed its ambition to be net zero by 2050 and the plans for renewable wind farms off the East Anglian coast is welcomed. However, This Council has serious concerns, about the nature and short period of consultation, the route, and how carbon heavy the proposed scheme of overhead pylons are which rely on 50 year old technology. Furthermore, this Council believes that:

- There has been insufficient consideration of alternative approaches which would allow for the required infrastructure but without the sheer scale of the damage to the environment, landscape and the difficulties of this project going ahead, all at the same time as multiple large-scale infrastructure projects which have the potential to cause major disruption across the East of England.
- New offshore generated electricity should be transmitted offshore, which is why an offshore grid is needed. This is firmly in the interests of both residents and business, offshore windfarms themselves and wider interests e.g. our Freeports. Such an alternative approach would future proof the network and could avoid all the physical constraints of an above or below-ground solution, retain ease of access for ongoing maintenance and provide a more direct point of connection for any current or future off-shore wind farms.
- This pylon infrastructure is neither wanted nor needed considering the viable option of undersea power cables. These cables could transport power to where it is needed, helping future proof energy supplies and boost energy security, without adversely impacting on residents, businesses and communities across Essex.

This Council therefore calls upon:

- Both the Government and National Grid to refocus the East Anglia Green Proposals on an offshore solution and engage in discussions with Essex and its neighbouring County Councils to achieve this.
- National Grid to:
  1. Provide this Council with all the information asked for in our response of 16 June by 30 August 2022.
  2. Make publicly available full, open and transparent information on all options, including offshore and undergrounding, to enable evaluation and comparisons to be made by Essex residents, businesses, Councils and other stakeholders. This information to be publicly available for a period of at least 6 months before any Development Control Order (DCO) application is made.'