

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 Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing

Moved by Councillor Whitbread and seconded by Councillor Spence:

'This Council welcomes the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and recognises it as a significant piece of collaboration with partners across Essex.

We commit ourselves to working with them to improving the health and longevity of residents and ensuring an effective, integrated health and social care system.

Our vision is of an Essex where people:

1. wherever possible can live healthily in their communities without the need to touch the Health and Social Care system in the first place,
2. are treated early and effectively minimising recourse to acute care,
3. receive timely hospital care, early diagnosis and where discharge is planned effectively to achieve safe and lasting returns home,
4. have access to a full range of options to enable them to live independently,
5. needing long-term care achieve quality care in the right place.

We ask all our partners to join with us in achieving this outcome for the people of Essex.'

2 Lower Thames Crossing

Moved by Councillor Mohindra and seconded by Councillor Bentley

‘This Council fully supports the Government’s announcement of its preferred Option C for the proposed new Lower Thames Crossing.

This would be a bored tunnel under the River Thames east of Gravesend and Tilbury. The route would enable sustainable local development and regional growth leading to a stronger economy as well as proving a safe and reliable road that will improve the resilience of the wider road network.

It will also greatly improve the wider economy of UK PLC as well as Greater Essex and generate thousands of new jobs. It is now imperative that work on this Option gets underway to ensure the future prosperity of the County and Country.’

3 Devolution

Moved by Councillor Pond and seconded by Councillor Smith

‘This Council:

- (a) supports the idea of localism and the principle that ECC should devolve decision-making on a range of matters which affect the quality of life of the county’s residents and agrees to establish an all-party working group to recommend the way forward to the Cabinet, with a view to early and tangible action to deliver devolution.
- (b) considers that second tier authorities and town and parish councils (or groups of such) should be able see the wishes of their residents fulfilled, through greater control of local services such as traffic management, pollution near schools, local streetlight policy or footway maintenance.
- (c) considers that the additional cost of any enhanced service should be funded by the authority to which the function is devolved.
- (d) calls upon the district authorities in Essex to review their unparished areas with a view to establishing parishes where there is local support.’

4 Academies

Moved by Councillor Young and seconded by Councillor Davies

'This Authority recognises that the current governance arrangements at Academy schools lack democratic accountability which has seemingly led to financial abuse evidenced on the recent Panorama programme, therefore this Authority will:

1. Contact the Secretary of State for Education to raise our concerns and demand that a review of governance arrangements be undertaken to ensure schools are once again accountable to the communities that they serve.
2. As soon as the Essex Multi Academy Trust is launched ask the Secretary of State to ensure that the now "good" rated school Colchester Academy is taken under this trust arrangement.
3. Use its power to lobby government so that a Local Education Authority representative forms part of every Governing body irrespective of whether they are an academy or not.'