
Motions under Council Procedure 17.10.2

1. Children's Homes

Moved by Councillor Julie Young, seconded by Councillor Tony Durcan and supported by Councillor Chris Pond and Councillor Brian Wood:

'Council believes the administration should pause for thought over plans to dispose of children's homes.

With the news of a financial crisis in the care sector and in Southern Cross in particular, the present seems a particularly inappropriate time to transfer to third parties the homes of many vulnerable young Essex people.

Council appreciates that achieving savings is necessary, but calls upon the Cabinet to re-assess whether these can be made without closure or disposal of these homes.'

2. Use of Council's Resources

Moved by Councillor Mike Mackrory, seconded by Councillor David Kendall and supported by Councillor Mrs. Theresa Higgins.

'Council notes that evidence provided in the recent trial of Lord Hanningfield regarding House of Lords expenses, and the subsequent statement by the current Leader of Essex County Council that the Council was referring to Essex Police concerns about Lord Hanningfield's County Council expenses when he was Leader, have raised serious concerns and questions by the public about what was going on at the County Council at the time and what controls, if any, were in place to prevent misuse by Councillors of taxpayers' money.

Whilst Council notes that the Leader of the Council has publicly stated he has worked with others to enhance the governance processes, since becoming Leader in February 2010, for some years prior to that there were widespread serious concerns regarding improper use of Council resources.

Whilst understanding the need not to prejudice any possible future Court proceedings, Council resolves that, at the earliest opportunity, it will act in an open and transparent manner to address public concern and publicly state –

1. when it was aware of possible improper and/or unlawful use of Council resources;
2. what internal or external investigations took place regarding these concerns and their findings;
3. what action is being taken to recover money and benefits if it is found that any have been improperly received ;
4. what steps have been taken to enhance governance processes and guard against future improper behaviour.'