

# 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 Local Government Reform

Moved by Councillor Young and seconded by Councillor Davies:

'As the government seeks to reform Local Government, this council believes any reorganisation to local government should:

- give the people of Essex more power and control of decisions,
- be vested locally, with more devolution of powers to local communities,
- value representative democracy and reject any dilution of this power, and
- be done with the people and not to the people.

Furthermore, we recognise the part local councils have played and will continue to play to support and keep Essex residents safe during this pandemic.

Therefore, any reorganisation of local democratic structures should only be progressed when:

1. this pandemic is behind us,
2. adequate time and attention has been given to determining where vital services such as Adult Social Care and Children's Services should be administered,
3. agreement is achieved between a majority of district authorities in Essex on a preferred model, and
4. when the new model can be seen to protect the unique identity of place, respecting the traditions and characteristics of each community.'

## **2 Active Travel in Essex**

Moved by Councillor Wagland and seconded by Councillor Buckley:

‘This Council is committed to a carbon neutral target by 2050. Measures taken by this Administration so far demonstrate this determination. The successful launch and work of the Climate Change Commission and the work to increase more use of sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling. We recognise that more must be done across the entire County but applaud the work undertaken thus far.

This Council calls on all County Councillors to play their part in greatly reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through encouragement of our constituents and leading by example.’

## **3 Traineeship and Apprenticeship Schemes**

Moved by Councillor Gooding and seconded by Councillor Ball:

‘This Council recognises the effects that Coronavirus COVID-19 has had on businesses and jobs and particularly the vast number of Essex SMEs that are adversely affected by this awful virus.

This Council supports firms and employees which are the backbone of our economy by ensuring it is at the vanguard of the new Kickstart and New Traineeship and Apprenticeship schemes launched by the Government.

This Council notes that it is a major employer in the county and will use these schemes to create the opportunity for people in Essex to access employment and in doing so will invest over £300k as evidence of its commitment.

This Council will also encourage all employers, public and private, to use these schemes for the benefit of Essex and be at the forefront of the economic recovery from this virus.’

## **4 Memorial to Coronavirus Victims**

Moved by Councillor Mackrory and seconded by Councillor Kendall:

‘This Council believes that there should be a permanent memorial to all those residents of Greater Essex, currently approaching 1,800, who have tragically lost their lives through the Coronavirus pandemic. Such a memorial will ensure that those who have died from the virus will never be forgotten.

Council therefore resolves that the Chairman of the County Council convene a panel of members comprising himself, the Leader, the relevant Cabinet Member and the three Opposition Group Leaders to propose a suggestion for a suitable memorial for consideration and decision by The Leader.’