

Motions under Standing Order

16.11.2

1. Increased Business Confidence

Moved by Councillor S Lissimore and seconded by Councillor P Channer

‘This Council welcomes the recent news that the UK economy grew by 0.8% in the first three months of 2014, and the UK is now one of the fastest growing western economies. This Council recognises that the direct impact in Essex has been to improve business confidence, help to secure jobs and improve skills.

The creation of the Essex Employment and Skills Board led by business and further and higher education together with the Greater Essex Business Board, is a clear indication that the policies of this Council and its partner organisations have increased business confidence and are helping to improve the lives and futures of our residents.’

2. Part Night Street Lighting

Moved by Councillor D Kendall and seconded by Councillor S Robinson

‘The members of Essex County Council call on the administration to give Essex residents more democratic control and flexibility in terms of how part night lighting operates in their local areas.

As residents were not properly consulted before part night time lighting was introduced, the County Council will now:

1. Fund the full cost of a referendum on whether part night lighting should continue in a specific area if a city, borough or district council calls for one to take place.
2. If the majority of the residents taking part in the referendum call for the lights to be switched back on, then the County will abide by that democratic decision and will meet all the ongoing costs.’

3. Part-Night Lighting

Moved by Councillor I Henderson and seconded by Councillor M Danvers

‘Council acknowledges the responsibility for elected representatives to take decisions on behalf of our communities across Essex.

Council recognises that in doing so, residents should be put at the heart of the decisions taken, ensuring that the safety and well-being of our residents are of principal importance.

Council acknowledges that it has failed to consult our residents countywide despite investment of £6.5M of taxpayers’ money to enact a countywide part-night lighting policy, and failed to carry out individual risk assessments for each district to assess the safety of drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Council calls on the Administration to put residents first, by discontinuing part-night lighting at least pending a formal countywide public consultation (to include gathering views on alternative lighting strategies and technologies such as LED/white light/alternate lighting) and for individual risk assessments to be carried out for each district and independently verified.’

4. Commendation of the Administration’s Determination

Moved by Councillor J Spence and seconded by Councillor V Metcalfe

‘This Council commends the administration’s determination to achieve both a range of strategic outcomes and a balanced budget, and recognises that this will inevitably require difficult issues to be raised and difficult choices to be made.’

5. Withdrawal of Subsidy for Meals on Wheels Service

Moved by Councillor G Helm and seconded by Councillor R Lord

‘This Council pledges to retain the meals on wheels service, as a consequence of that service being considered the primary initial contact point with social services for the majority of progressively dependent people. It also recognises that the true cost of providing the service is not a pure reflection of the cost of the meals and is only a small part of the wider principle of social contact; with those in need of assistance.

Council calls that the proposed removal of the subsidy of 84 pence per meal from the service be withdrawn as the saving of the cost cannot be justified whilst meals for County Councillors are provided free of charge.’