
Essex County Council Meeting

11 July 2017

Order Paper

Prayers

The meeting will be preceded by Prayers led by The Right Reverend Hugh Allan o.praem, the Abbot of Beeleigh and Chaplain to the Chairman of Essex County Council.

Public Question Time

Prior to the meeting of the Council the following question will be asked by a member of the public in accordance with Standing Order 16.12.9.

Public Speaker: Mr Ian Fuller – a resident of Springfield, Chelmsford – has stated:

‘My question centres around the s.106 agreement between the Council and the developers at the ‘Channels’ development.

I refer to the agreement dated 17th July 2015 and the fourth deed of variation (an amendment to Schedule 5 relating to payments for transport matters), July 2016

Why have the promised local highways works not been delivered and when will they all be delivered.’

Summary of Procedure:

- The person must be present to ask their question.
- The Chairman will invite the person to speak.
- The person may not speak for more than three minutes in order to ask their question or submit a petition.
- There shall be a reply from the Chairman or other nominated Member.
- Save for the Member replying to the question no other Member shall be permitted to respond.
- There is no opportunity for supplementary questions nor for debate.
- Thirty minutes overall is allocated for public questions.

Report of the Local Government Ombudsman

Under the Local Government Act 1974 any public report of the Ombudsman is required to be 'laid before the Council'. This does not require the report to be considered at a meeting of the Full Council but the Ombudsman has expressed the view that the matters ought to be referred to in the papers for a meeting.

One report has been received and is noted here.

The Council has accepted the recommendations set out in the report.

Copies of the report are available by email from Andy Gribben, Council and Member Support Officer. andy.gribben@essex.gov.uk

Date of report	Reference	Subject
22 February 2017	15 016 298	Children's Social Care

12.	Error in Council Issues Report
	<p>The appendix to the Council Issues report showing the terms of reference for the South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) Joint Committee contains an error.</p> <p>The word 'north' which appears in paragraphs 8 and 11 should be replaced with 'south'. Those paragraphs should read:</p> <p>'8. Determine the levels and nature of fees and charges in respect of on street car parking provisions in South Essex;</p> <p>11. Provide a forum to discuss strategic issues relating to parking across South Essex;'</p>
14	Written Questions asked by Members of the Council
1.	By Councillor Pond of the Cabinet Member for Education
	<p>'What proposals are there to make good the shortfall in bus provision caused by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The withdrawal of Route 167. 2. The halving of service frequency on Route 418 serving Loughton, Theydon Bois, Abridge and Epping.

	3. The incipient opening of a substantial retail park at Langston Rd Loughton without any bus service.'
2.	By Councillor Blackwell of the Cabinet Member for Highways 'There seems to be an increase in weed growth in the streets on Canvey Island could the Cabinet Member look into getting a weed spray programme done in June instead of July in the future before weeds set seed.'
3.	By Councillor Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Property and Planning 'What extra powers does the Essex County Travellers Unit need from the Government to make their job and that of the Police more effective when it comes to the removal of travellers from publicly owned land? What steps is Essex County Council taking to lobby for these powers?'
4.	By Councillor Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Education 'Would it be possible for the Cabinet Member or his Deputy to attend each of the Transport Representative meetings that are held twice a year across the County? I make this request because I know that a number of people who attend these meetings in my area are concerned that the County Council is not taking on-board the constructive input that is being put forward to maintain, develop and promote bus services in the Borough of Brentwood. If residents and Parish, Borough and County Councillors are going to give up their time to attend these meetings, they would like those making the ultimate decisions to be in attendance to hear their views.'
5.	By Councillor Robinson of the Cabinet Member for Highways 'What measures are being taken to ensure traffic flows are maintained on the approach roads to Broomfield Hospital while works are underway on Hospital Approach between now and October. Will works be phased to avoid the peak periods?'
6.	By Councillor Turrell of the Cabinet Member for Highways 'Could the Cabinet Member please clarify that the current Transport Plan Consultation that is going out to 6000 residents can also be completed by

	any other resident? If yes, where will the paper questionnaires be held?
7.	<p>By Councillor Robinson of the Cabinet Member for Education</p> <p>‘What advice, guidance and training is given to schools, teachers and young people on dealing with the growing problem of cyber-bullying - via computers and phones? Since `phones are becoming essential, even for school pupils, it can be difficult to get away from cyber bullying.’</p>
8.	<p>By Councillor Turrell of the Cabinet Member for Highways</p> <p>‘Recently we heard that the Ombudsman upheld a complaint from a resident, supported by the majority of residents, myself included, about the shared cycle/pedestrian path on Mile End Road, Colchester.</p> <p>The complaint was among other issues that Highways did not look at any other option, the shared path was dangerous because the access to private driveways crossed the shared path and the hill would mean cyclists travelling up to 25mph downhill.</p> <p>The cost of the work was almost £1million.</p> <p>The shared path is not used by the majority of cyclists who still use the road as it is wide enough for cars and cyclists to use; nor has it encouraged others to cycle.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member now remove the traffic order that makes the pavement on one side of Mile End Road a shared path and ensure that in future any such schemes only proceed if backed by a proper consultation?’</p>
9.	<p>By Councillor Mackrory of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care</p> <p>‘Will the Cabinet Member make representations to the Essex Pension Fund regarding the apparent contradiction of their doubling of investments to £9m into tobacco companies whilst the County Council is funding Health programmes encouraging people to give up this habit which costs lives and the NHS millions of pounds each year.’</p>
10.	<p>By Councillor Mackrory of the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Skills, Infrastructure and the Digital Economy</p> <p>‘In the light of the recent report from the National Audit Office into the costs of the Hinkley Point nuclear plant project, which stated that it was ‘risky’</p>

	and 'expensive' and the costs have increased from £6bn in 2013 to £30bn now, is the Cabinet Member confident that the Bradwell nuclear plant is a project Essex County Council should be promoting?'
11.	<p>By Councillor Baker of the Leader of the Council</p> <p>'In light of the outcome of the recent General Election and the Brexit negotiations currently underway, would the Leader of the Council explore the possibility of negotiating and setting up a cross-party working group to meet on a regular basis, with senior officer input, in order to identify potential opportunities and possible threats for the County of Essex arising out of leaving the European Union.</p> <p>The strategic purpose for setting up this group would be to minimise any discernibly negative outcomes and to maximise any discernibly positive outcomes for the people of Essex and for its businesses and communities.'</p>
12.	<p>By Councillor Smith of the Cabinet Member for Highways</p> <p>'Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update with regards to the re-paving of Station Way (in front of Trafford House) and the filling in of the nearby subway to enable a set of traffic lights to be installed?'</p>
13.	<p>By Councillor Smith of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Communities and Customer</p> <p>'Has the footfall within the library at the Basildon Centre increased since the relocation of the DWP offices/front counters to the Basildon Centre? Is the library service now using this unique opportunity to actively reach out to the DWP's clients to improve literacy rates in Basildon?'</p>
14.	<p>By Councillor Scordis of the Leader of the Council</p> <p>'Following the Agreement between the Conservative and Unionist Party and the Democratic Unionist Party on Support for the Government in Parliament and the £1 billion extra funding going to Northern Ireland, will the Leader confirm whether he will be lobbying the government for increased funding for Essex County Council?'</p>
15.	<p>By Councillor Scordis of the Cabinet Member for Education</p> <p>'In light of proposed cuts to the Education Services Grant and a plan to</p>

	introduce a National Funding Formula, could the Portfolio Holder confirm what representations have been made to the Secretary of State for Education, regarding funding?’
16.	<p>By Councillor Henderson of the Cabinet Member for Education</p> <p>‘Statistics published in June 1017 by the Department for Education, show that following the upward trend between 2010 and 2015, there has been a further increase in the percentage of schools which have at least one advertised vacancy or temporarily-filled post. In Essex 11.9% of schools reported having at least one advertised vacancy or temporarily-filled post on the census day in November 2016.</p> <p>What measures are Essex County Council taking to address the crisis in vacancy rates and reduce the number of teacher vacancies in Essex?’</p>
17.	<p>By Councillor Henderson of the Cabinet Member for Highways</p> <p>‘It is a duty of the highway authority to keep public rights of way free from obstruction by natural upgrowth [Highways Act 1980, Section 41].</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member confirm when the decision was taken to restrict public rights of way routes to one cut per year and explain why contracts do not include removal of the resulting green waste?’</p>
18.	<p>By Councillor Young of the Cabinet Member for Education</p> <p>‘Vacancy rates are at all-time high for school crossing patrols in Essex. Could the Cabinet Member advise if terms and conditions for the role have been altered or pay rates reduced in the last 12 months?’</p>
19.	<p>By Councillor Young of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care</p> <p>‘Falls account for up to 40% of ambulance call-outs to homes for people aged over 65, costing £115 per callout and between 2010 and 2015 there has been a 18% rise in emergency hospital admissions for older people</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member confirm that priority will be given to falls prevention given these statistics?’</p>
20.	<p>By Councillor Davies of the Cabinet Member for Resources</p> <p>‘Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that the lack of mention in the Queens Speech about Business Retention Rates is deeply concerning and could lead to a shortfall in this council’s financial plans?’</p>

21.	<p>By Councillor Harris of the Cabinet Member for Highways</p> <p>‘Could a 20 mph speed limit be applied as a standard measure for all new developments and a simpler retrospective application of 20mph be applied to estates with a simple access in and out of the estate?’</p>
22.	<p>By Councillor Hillier of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</p> <p>‘Could the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the current status of the MBT waste plant in my Pitsea division?’</p>
23.	<p>By Councillor Butland of the Leader of the Council</p> <p>‘How many EU nationals currently work for Essex County Council and how many are employed in Essex schools?’</p>
24.	<p>By Councillor Butland of the Cabinet Member for Highways</p> <p>‘How many claims have been submitted to the Council in respect of (a) personal injuries, (b) damage to motor vehicles, (c) damage to motor cycles and (d) damage to pedal cycles arising from alleged faulty road surfaces including potholes in each of the financial years 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17?</p> <p>How many of the claims resulted in the claimant being successful and what was the total compensation paid in each the four financial years?’</p>