

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. Mental Health Services for Young People

Moved by Councillor Foley and seconded by Councillor Gadd

'Council gratefully recognises the work of schools, charities, mental health professionals and our own officers, and notes the important role they play in the lives of young people.

Council however acknowledges there has been an increase in the number of mental health problems and illness including self-harm in some of our schools...despite the Everyone's Essex aspiration, demand for mental health support services for this age group now greatly exceeds supply.

Council therefore:

- Calls on the Government to increase funding to local government and health services for young people's issues
- Asks Cabinet to review available budgets and wherever possible to redistribute funds to provide the support needed
- Refers this subject formally to the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee with a request they conduct an urgent review of mental health services for young people and report back during 2022.'

2. Bus Back Better

Moved by Councillor Playle and seconded by Councillor Barber

'This Council recognises the benefits to the economy and environment that increasing bus usage across the County would bring, including, contributing to the priorities set out in the adopted Everyone's Essex plan.

The Council also welcomes the proposed Enhanced Partnership Plan which will "level-up" the bus network across the county and make buses a more accessible and attractive travel option for residents in Essex.

This Council therefore:

- (1) Supports the measures and ambitions set out in the Enhanced Partnership to increase bus usage in Essex.
- (2) Calls on the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport to write to the Department for Transport, asking them to provide additional support and resources to ensure that the full objectives of the Enhanced Partnership can be met'

3. School Streets

Moved by Councillor David King seconded by Councillor Mike Mackrory.

'The physical and mental health of Essex children has markedly worsened in recent years. Many are obese or overweight (4 in 10 by Year 6). 1 in 6 are likely to have a mental health problem. Under half are active enough and that number is declining.

This is unacceptable when we know active children are less overweight, happier, more resilient, more trusting, and less likely to have mental health issues.

Active Travel, and as part of that, School Streets, would help significantly with these issues. School Streets incorporates exercise into daily routines, as well as reducing congestion and improving air quality. But we are failing the children of Essex as not enough School Streets are underway. Some areas are not seen as a priority, and most are not properly funded.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport to ensure existing School Street projects are prioritised and fully funded and delivered at pace. We also ask the Cabinet Member to commit to invest in safe cycle and pedestrian routes to connect these and future School Streets to the communities they serve and to work with the NHS and the DfT, to secure their help and funding to the benefit of our community's and the physical and mental health of our children.'