

Motions under Standing Order

16.11.2

1. Careers Advice for Young People

Moved by Councillor M Danvers and seconded by Councillor D Harris

'That this Council:

acknowledges the impact of revised statutory guidance, introduced by the Conservative-led government, on schools having to deliver careers guidance; noting findings by Pearson UK, which revealed that 37% of secondary school pupils surveyed were relying on television programmes for careers guidance, with only 1 in 3 teachers surveyed confident they were providing legally required careers advice;

further notes recent concerns expressed by Ofsted, into youth participation that not enough schools and academies have a clear strategy for providing impartial and independent careers guidance to all their pupils aged 13-18, and too few providers are evaluating the quality of their careers guidance provision effectively; with around 36% of schools using teaching assistants to carry out this work with little training available;

believes that the administration has been short-sighted in cutting the Council's careers advice service whilst our key partner councils on the Essex Employment and Skills Board, Thurrock Council and Southend Borough Council, have retained and refined their careers advice offer to young people;

This Council therefore resolves to:

explore opportunities to secure County Council provision of careers information, advice and guidance to all young people 13-18 in Essex, ensuring that the evidence base for skills developed by the Employment and Skills Board is deployed consistently and impartially through face to face, trained personal advisers to support young people in making positive and productive post 16 choices that are right for them as individuals, to thrive in the jobs market.'

2. Devolution

Moved by Councillor D Finch and seconded by Councillor K Bentley

‘This Council welcomes the measures the Government has taken to devolve powers to local people through the Localism Act. However, this Council now asks that more devolved powers and funding be made in a number of areas including skills, transportation, greater flexibility on business rates retention and tax raising responsibilities to ensure that a greater proportion of taxes paid by the people of Essex are kept in Essex.

This Council believes that the people of Essex are the ones who should determine the future of these areas and have greater say on investment in their county through their locally elected representatives.

This Council also resolves that County Councils play a critical role in the building of the UK economy and wishes Essex and other counties be treated by the Government as equals to the metropolitan cities of England when it comes to devolution.

This Council further resolves that a written copy of this motion be sent to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, all Essex MPs and all Leaders of Essex District, Borough and City Councils.’

3. Regeneration and Promotion of Small Businesses throughout Essex

Moved by Councillor G Helm and seconded by Councillor J Huntman

‘Council understands much time and resources are spent in promoting or regenerating "key sectors" of business such as technology, manufacturing, financial services, ports and logistics and offshore wind-farms. This however neglects a huge sector of the Essex economy.

Therefore Council calls upon the administration to consider a package of incentives specifically designed to support a sector presently ignored, namely sole traders, self- employed and small business owners. The package should include support and assistance for new start-ups, and retail outlets struggling on High Streets throughout Essex.’

4. Infrastructure

Moved by Councillor J Knapman and seconded by Councillor S Barker

'This Council supports fully its district, borough and city councils which, when developing their Local Plans, seek to protect Green Belt sites from inappropriate development and ensure that housing development cannot occur where there is insufficient infrastructural provision. Whilst noting collaborative working between local authorities and the public sector over the use of brownfield sites; this Council calls on Central Government to endorse wholeheartedly these approaches to house-building within councils' borders.'

5. LED Lighting

Moved by Councillor S Robinson and seconded by Councillor D Kendall

'This Council notes that:

- (a) Many councils including nearby unitary authorities, are moving to LED street lights.
- (b) The Green Investment Bank (GIB) has £3.8 billion from the UK Government to help the UK's economy become greener and stronger, and sees energy efficiency measures, including LED street lighting, at the heart of a low carbon economy.
- (c) The GIB says that Local Authorities deciding to make the switch to low energy streetlights will have a short payback period on their investment, as early as five years. After that, they will be able to enjoy a reduction in their electricity bill of up to 80 percent.

This Council therefore resolves to include in the 2015/16 budget funding to begin switching Essex street lights to LED, either from own Invest to Save reserves or by taking a GIB loan - the 30% of lights that are left on all night and lights on street signs being considered first.'