

Motions under Standing Order

16.11.2

1. Community Transport

Moved by Councillor D Kendall and seconded by Councillor S Robinson

‘This Council appreciates the very important role that Community Transport plays in providing a vital lifeline for many vulnerable residents living across Essex.

Whilst this Council has no statutory duty to provide funding to Community Transport schemes, Members call for the following:

1. A firm commitment from the Cabinet Member that this Council will continue to provide existing levels of Community Transport funding for the next financial year.
2. Any new funding agreements to be put in place for at least three years to give Community Transport providers sufficient time to develop solid business plans and ensure continuity of services.
3. A full review of the existing funding criteria to ensure that funds are allocated to Community Transport providers as fairly as possible.’

2. Fuel Poverty

Moved by Councillor J Young and seconded by Councillor I Henderson

‘That this Council;

- notes that fuel poverty is a significant public health issue in Essex which contributes to long-term illness and to excess winter deaths which totalled 31,100 in England and Wales for 12/13.
- further notes that latest figures show the average fuel poverty gap for households in Essex is £451.
- recognises the concerns of the tens of thousands of households that are worst affected in Essex, households with one or more dependent child and residents aged over 60 who face an average fuel poverty gap of more than £500.
- is appalled that 1000 elderly users of Meals on Wheels in Essex, will now face further financial pressure this winter due to a price increase by the administration to their nutritious meals.
- acknowledges recent publication of the Green Deal Report, which branded Government’s flagship policy to improve some of the key drivers behind fuel poverty, as having ‘failed to live up to expectation: its planning flawed, its funding inefficiently delivered and its implementation poor’.
- further acknowledges National Energy Action’s assessment of Government cuts to the Energy Company Obligation which will now assist under 7% of fuel poor households nationally.
- believes the administration should be doing much more to tackle fuel poverty in Essex.

Council therefore resolves to;

1. Seek partnership opportunities with social enterprise such as Warm Zone, to build sustainable area-based capacity for low-income households, maximising free home insulation, energy advice and income opportunities, following similar successful delivery of zones in London, the Midlands and the North East.
2. Explore opportunities to support Credit Unions in providing financial assistance such as energy saving low-interest loans to households.
3. Explore opportunities to redevelop and expand capital funding to the Community Initiatives Fund to incentivise the delivery of community micro-energy generation projects.

3. A Fair Deal For Essex

Moved by Councillor D Finch and seconded by Councillor M Buckley

'This council welcomes the result of the Scottish Independence Referendum and the decision of the people of Scotland to remain as part of the United Kingdom.

This Council also welcomes calls across the majority of the political spectrum for a fairer settlement for the people of England.

In particular, this Council calls upon the Government to deliver:

1. Fairer representation at Westminster for Essex MPs.
2. Devolution of powers to Essex Local Authorities.
3. Fair and consistent funding of public services for the residents of Essex.'

4. Review of Member Dining Facilities

Moved by Councillor J Abbott and seconded by Councillor M Hoy

'This Council notes that there is continued downward pressure on local government finances which due to Government policy is likely to remain in place for some years.

Council further notes that the authority (Essex County Council) is having to review its services to find significant year on year savings and that this is impacting on its residents in a number of ways, such as the provision and cost of school transport.

In this context Council agrees that it is not appropriate that Members of the authority should continue to benefit from "free meals", which are a cost to the authority and hence to taxpayers.

Council agrees that a review of the provision will be conducted with the aims of retaining the service to Members but with a fairer and more appropriate mechanism for meeting the cost of meals.'

5. Support of Infrastructure to New Housing Developments Countywide

Moved by Councillor N Le Gresley and seconded by Councillor A Erskine

‘Given the tens of thousands of new homes that the Coalition Government is imposing on towns and villages throughout the County; and given the grave concern of Essex County residents that existing social, physical and highways infrastructure cannot cope with current housing development plans, let alone future development strategies, this Council will make the following firm pledges:

1. It will oppose any new housing development plans prepared by City, District and Borough Councils unless adequate financing and other resources are made available from developers, local councils and/or Government grants to enable highways to be improved, bypasses to be built, new primary and secondary schools to be provided, primary and secondary medical care to be significantly enhanced, antisocial parking to be addressed and utilities, especially sewage and drainage, to be fundamentally upgraded, as deemed needed by the residents of each affected community.
2. Where such ECC opposition is insufficient to prevent Government Inspectors from rejecting development strategies that have been adjusted to take account of such physical, social and highways infrastructure limitations, this Council will fully fund any shortfall in the financial resources needed to implement such infrastructure enhancements.’