

Motions under Standing Order

16.10.2

1. Reducing Red Tape and Financial Burdens for our residents and businesses

Moved by Councillor D Finch and seconded by Councillor D Louis.

This Council believes that the red tape, regulations and laws emanating from the EU are a serious barrier to the Council's Economic Growth Strategy as they add significant costs to Essex families and businesses, and that the EU should take immediate action to reduce these costs.

This council finds the EU's demands for an increase in its budget outrageous, particularly at a time when the public, including our residents and businesses, are facing significant austerity measures. This Council believes that hard-pressed taxpayers in Essex already pay far too much to the EU and that it should significantly reduce its budget to reduce the pressure on families and businesses in Essex and elsewhere.

This council does not support any closer political integration or the transfer of further powers both of which will force even more red tape, regulations and laws on Essex's residents and businesses.

We therefore call upon the County's MPs and MEPs to encourage the Government and the EU to:

- Significantly reduce the UK's contributions to the EU and redirect that money back to the people of the UK, including Essex residents and businesses,
- Significantly reduce the overall size of the EU budget,
- Rapidly accelerate the removal of bureaucratic burdens from the EU on businesses and residents
- Transfer no further powers to the EU without the consent of the British people through a referendum.

2. To examine the feasibility of extending the concessionary travel scheme

Moved by Councillor Mackrory and seconded by Councillor Kendall.

Council recognises that young unemployed people are particularly disadvantaged by the current economic situation and that they deserve extra support to move onto the first steps to permanent employment.

Council notes and supports the £1 billion Youth Contract Scheme – launched by the Coalition Government - that opens up various opportunities for young people.

Council further acknowledges that the cost of transport to Job Centres, Job Interviews, Work Experience and Apprenticeships can be a real barrier to young people.

Council, therefore, requests the Cabinet Member responsible to examine the feasibility of extending the concessionary travel scheme to include 18-24 year olds in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance or undertaking apprenticeships, and to report back to Council within 3 months. Would he further consider reintroducing the 'BITE' card for 14-18 year olds?