



Essex County Council

Summons

To all Members of Essex County Council

You are hereby summoned to attend an Extraordinary Meeting of the County Council to be held as shown below to deal with the business set out in the Agenda.

The meeting has been called by the Chairman following a requisition given by Councillors Mackrory, Young, Pond, Abbott, Henderson and Turrell.

10:00	Tuesday, 12 March 2019	Council Chamber, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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Gavin Jones
Chief Executive

Officer Support to the Council:

Andy Gribben, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 03330134565

Email: Democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

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

Public Questions A period of up to 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions on any business of the Council (Standing Order 16.12.9). No question shall be longer than three minutes and speakers must have registered with the clerk no later than 7 calendar days before the date of the meeting.

On arrival, and before the start of the meeting, registered speakers must identify themselves to staff in order to be seated.

Pages

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

3 Motion to Council

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Essex County Council and Committees Information

All Council and Committee Meetings are held in public unless the business is exempt in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972. If there is exempted business, it will be clearly marked as an Exempt Item on the agenda and members of the public and any representatives of the media will be asked to leave the meeting room for that item.

The agenda is available on the Essex County Council website, <https://www.essex.gov.uk>. From the Home Page, click on 'Your Council', then on 'Meetings and Agendas'. Finally, select the relevant committee from the calendar of meetings.

Attendance at meetings

Most meetings are held at County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX. A map and directions to County Hall can be found at the following address on the Council's website:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Your-Council/Local-Government-Essex/Pages/Visit-County-Hall.aspx>

Access to the meeting and reasonable adjustments

County Hall is accessible via ramped access to the building for people with physical disabilities.

The Council Chamber and Committee Rooms are accessible by lift and are located on the first and second floors of County Hall.

Induction loop facilities are available in most Meeting Rooms. Specialist headsets are available from Reception.

With sufficient notice, documents can be made available in alternative formats, for further information about this or about the meeting in general please contact the named officer on the agenda pack or email democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

Audio recording of meetings

Please note that in the interests of improving access to the Council's meetings, a sound recording is made of the public parts of many of the Council's Committees. The Chairman will make an announcement at the start of the meeting if it is being recorded.

If you are unable to attend and wish to see if the recording is available you can visit this link <https://cmis.essexcc.gov.uk/Essexcmis5/CalendarofMeetings> any time after the meeting starts. Any audio available can be accessed via the 'On air now!' box in the centre of the page, or the links immediately below it.

Should you wish to record the meeting, please contact the officer shown on the agenda front page.

Motion to Council

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).

The future of Essex Libraries

Moved by Councillor Mackrory and seconded by Councillor Young

'Council notes:

The overwhelming public and political opposition, including from MPs, to the closure or reduction in opening hours of any Essex Library

The total number of signatures on petitions, currently 57,000, which very comfortably exceeds the threshold for debate,

This Council therefore:

calls on the Cabinet to rule out any such closures, and to commit to maintaining all 74 libraries by encouraging their better use as community hubs and to maximise the use of the buildings and sites to generate income for the Library Service.'