

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 A Comprehensive and Efficient Public Library Service

Moved by Councillor Pond and seconded by Councillor Sargeant:

'Council calls upon Cabinet, in proper discharge of the Council's statutory duty to continue to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library service:

1. To undertake after reorganisation to provide in every library service point, no matter how staffed or with what partners, access to the whole stock of Essex Libraries through established reservation and stock circulation systems
2. To provide access in every library to ECC computer services and databases as now.
3. To take every opportunity that partnership working affords to secure maximum utilisation of library premises and facilities, and to restore service hours cuts made in the last ten years.'

2 Essex Education Emergency

Moved by Councillor Young and seconded by Councillor Henderson:

‘The Council considers that a state of emergency should exist relating to Essex Education. It is concerned that proposed library cuts and previous school transport cuts and adult community learning are eroding educational opportunities. In addition, it is concerned that school funding is in crisis with 91% of schools having had their per pupil funding cut equal to a loss of £134.4m.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Cabinet to:

1. Resist the ongoing cuts to school budgets and call on Government to invest in more funding to schools
2. Support the coalition of trade unions campaigning against school cuts.
3. Call on the Government to fully fund and fully implement the recommendations of the school teachers review body on teachers’ pay.
4. Review the impact of school transport cuts with a view to alleviating hardship.
5. Maintain a comprehensive library service professionally staffed with enhanced book stocks.’

3 Social Mobility and Social Justice

Moved by Councillor McKinlay and seconded by Councillor Spence:

‘This Council is committed to ensuring the best outcomes for people across Essex. As we work towards this for our residents, we will continue to focus on improving social mobility, increasing levels of aspiration and providing conditions for individuals to fulfil their potential and benefit from the growing economy and opportunities in our County.

To achieve this, we understand that hard working people who are just about managing should see the rewards of that hard work and therefore we will continue to adopt a focused and targeted approach.

To improve the opportunities for hard working people, we ask the Leader and the Cabinet to work to:

1. Improve social mobility and social justice
2. Increase levels of aspiration
3. Provide conditions for individuals to fulfil their potential and benefit from the growing opportunities in our County.

We call on our partners in local authorities, law enforcement, health, education and business to join the Council in delivering positive and sustainable results.’