

# 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. Encouraging making decisions and scrutinising local matters closer to local people

Moved by Councillor Pond and seconded by Councillor Smith

'Council calls attention to the ability of committees to hold meetings outside County Hall subject to funding being available and a safe venue being located.

Council notes that a local member or members may also submit a written request for meeting outside County Hall to the Chairman of the committee, who may work with officers to seek an alternative location.

Council considers that holding a meeting in County Hall, for example, to determine a planning application affecting communities distant from Chelmsford may deter affected residents from attending.

Depending on requirements of the constitution or any process followed by the Committee, local residents and elected Borough/District/City/Town/Parish councillors should be able to address a local meeting of the committee concerned, so as to ensure the views of the community be fully heard.'

## **2. Pay for Care Workers in Essex**

Moved by Councillor Scordis and seconded by Councillor McGurran

'This council recognises the fantastic work of carers across the county, and the important role they played during the pandemic working on the frontline. This council also recognises that most care workers earn below the 'Real Living Wage' despite the vital role they perform.

Therefore, this council, regarding care workers, resolves to ask the Cabinet to:

- pay covid related sick pay (including whilst isolating),
- pay at least the Real Living Wage (currently £9.50 an hour),
- pay occupational sick pay.'

## **3. Levelling Up in Essex – Concept to Action**

Moved by Councillor Butland and seconded by Councillor McKinlay

'Following on from the "Levelling Up in Essex" motion to Full Council on July 13th, 2021, which confirmed a key priority for Essex County Council, this Council welcomes the new Secretary of State for Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove's intention to, relentlessly focus on delivering for those overlooked families and which are left behind, by spreading opportunity, improving public services and restoring people's sense of pride in their communities.

This Council believes that:

1. this intention sits fully alongside the Plan for Essex and its three key themes of Renewal, Equality and Ambition which are also at the heart of the Government's Levelling Up agenda;
2. this Council is well positioned, in collaboration with its partner agencies, to work with and support the Government in delivering the opportunities that the country and the county needs as we build back from the pandemic; and
3. this County's diverse geography, demographics, and social economic groups, including three of the most deprived wards in the country, make it an ideal area to pilot new ideas and approaches.

This Council therefore:

1. Calls on the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP to positively engage with Essex County Council as a matter of priority, in order to strengthen delivery

and maximise opportunities as we turn the concept of Levelling Up, into action on the ground in Essex.

2. Requests that a copy of this motion be sent to the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.'

#### **4. Government's White Paper on Adult Social Care**

Moved by Councillor C. Whitbread and seconded by Councillor Spence

'Essex County Council spends over £600 million each year on Adult Social Care, which represents over 40% of Essex County Council's total gross revenue budget.

This Council therefore welcomes the courage of the Government in seeking to address the long-standing issues of adult social care funding and reform. The Council calls for publication of the White Paper as soon as possible.

This Council also calls on Government to:

1. Deliver a multi-year settlement which will enable local government to plan properly and resource for the new regime.
2. Provide assurance that the funding announced will be additional and will be both timely and sufficient to meet the increased running costs of the new regime.
3. Consider the funding needs of working-age adults in need of social care.
4. Undertake extensive consultation with regard to the new charging models to ensure that they are fair, practical and affordable.'