

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. Enabling Pedestrians to Travel Safely

Moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Pond:

'Council seeks to help all Essex residents, especially those who are elderly, infirm or disabled, to travel about safely on foot (as well as those who need to use wheelchairs, powered or otherwise). Actions taken by the Cabinet Member so far are appreciated, and Council calls upon the Cabinet to take following steps without delay, especially during the need to distance socially and to avoid public transport;

- 1. write to the Government to call for the swift introduction of a default pavement parking ban (as enacted in London by the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1974) to Essex and the rest of England.
- 2. create a programme to install tactile paving on the footway at crossing points. This could be achieved if all members were asked each year to nominate a set number of locations to the Cabinet Member for Highways, rather than use the expensive and lengthy LHP process,
- 3. develop a smartphone app that connects with signalised pedestrian crossings to help less able residents to cross busy roads with far greater safety and
- 4. institute a programme for the prompt and consistent installation across all parts of the county of pedestrian route signage, school streets, residential quiet zones, and appropriate cycling infrastructure.'

2. Tackling Inequality Across Essex

Moved by Councillor Scordis and seconded by Councillor Henderson:

'Covid-19 has exposed the huge inequalities in our county after ten years of cuts to public services. Families that were 'just about managing' have faced an uncertain future, while our most disadvantaged have been relying on the kindness of the community to make it through lockdown. We now face the biggest economic crisis since the 1930s, where thousands of Essex residents face the possibility of redundancy or their business folding. Youth unemployment is already at record highs.

This council resolves to send its thanks Marcus Rashford MBE for his extraordinary work to expose holiday hunger, and to all the charitable organisations, teachers, residents and businesses of Essex that went above and beyond to help others. Their kindness exemplifies the best of Britain.

The council calls upon

1. the Cabinet to:
 - ensure that the "holiday activity and hunger" programme to be appropriately resourced and delivered in partnership with schools and partner agencies targeted to the most in need,
 - work with local district and borough councils to create youth zones, initially targeted at the areas of highest deprivation, to support the needs of all young people in Essex,
 - investigate the council's contract with Virgin Care to ensure lost children and families are identified and supported, and
2. the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee to create a task and finish group with the role of scrutinising how to maximise opportunity for young people across Essex.'

3. ECC support for residents and businesses

Moved by Councillor McKinlay and seconded by Councillor Ball:

'This Council recognises the fears and concerns of residents as we enter a new year and are positioned between a post lockdown and pre vaccine COVID-19 era.

This Council will ensure that we are there to support our residents, businesses and those families and children in the greatest need.

The Council notes that it has already invested hundreds of thousands of pounds to run a holiday hunger programme, provide summer camps and given money to foodbanks and organisations to help the most vulnerable in

our communities. We recently announced a multi-million-pound rescue package to support communities and small firms with the assistance of our district colleagues.

Now, we must work with partner organisations as we plan for the new challenges and opportunities of the post lockdown, post Brexit, pre-vaccine world.

The Council calls upon the Leader and Cabinet to build on the work already undertaken with a focus on:

1. Ensuring support is given to young people and families across Essex to help them develop and seize opportunities.
2. Building resilience for families and communities as we ensure our vulnerable young people are protected.
3. Promoting and developing the conditions for businesses to grow the Essex economy, with a focus on the hospitality and leisure sectors.'

4. Acknowledgement to the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Proposed by Councillor Spence and seconded by Councillor Henry:

'This Council recognises that 2020 has been an unprecedented year and wishes to formally thank all its employees, those of our partner organisations who have worked with us, the volunteers who have stepped forward from their community and the residents of Essex for their forbearance and resilience.

The Council particularly recognises all those across Essex who have been involved in creating a Covid-19 response that is regarded as being one of the best in the country. The level of support and performance given by our staff across all portfolios is something of which they should be rightly proud.

This Council commits, as we move into 2021, to maintain its high standards of financial probity and efficiency, and to expand still further the scale of its effectiveness. We recognise that innovation and focussed prioritisation will be required if we are to continue to deliver on the aims of the Organisational Strategy.

For the health and adult portfolio, this will require us to address the wider determinates of health, prevention agenda, and the ambition to optimise the quality of life and provide high standards of service to all in our care.