
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 14 October 2014 Order Paper

Public Questions

Prior to the meeting of the Council and following prayers the following questions will be asked by members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 16.12.10.

1. **By Mr Horslen, a resident of Chelmsford**

The indiscriminate and anti-social-behaviour of drivers who park their vehicles on our public footpaths to the detriment and ignorance of the dangers this creates for the disabled, the elderly, disabled mobile vehicles users and young mothers going about their lawful business is a scandal that needs action by the county council.

This problem can be seen throughout the county of Essex and we cannot go on ignoring the dangers this presents to the disabled without understanding their needs like all abled bodied people to be able to lead a normal of life as possible free from the dangers and inconvenience of parked vehicles on our footpaths.

I believe that Essex County Council can make a difference by instructing their employees not to park council vehicles on public footpaths and inform all the council contractors to do the same. This would be a win, win situation for the disabled. A better quality of life and safer footpaths and future savings on footpath repair costs for the county council and Setting a good example for others to follow and demonstrate that Essex Cares.

In two thousand and twelve at the London Olympic Games our disabled athletes demonstrated their abilities and thirst for life in winning so many medals for this country. Again, at the Commonwealth games held in Scotland this year, our disabled athlete's performances were outstanding. The disabled people residing in our communities need a gold medal performance from Essex County Council to improve the quality of their lives by their restricting parking on our footpaths. Thank you.

2. By Mr Everett, a resident of Frinton-on-Sea

'The council will be aware that the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, (Section 88 Schedule 10) require it to produce, and keep up to date, an accessibility strategy (for schools). The council has a very out of date strategy which is now in need of urgent updating.

What steps are the council taking to rectify this position?

Has a draft Accessibility Strategy been prepared/and or drafted by officers?

If a public consultation is to take place, who is to be included?

In line with the requirements of the public sector equality duty what equality impact assessments (if any) or other assessments have been made to inform decisions taken on how (or whether) to address the current lack of an Accessibility Strategy (for schools)?'

Summary of Procedure:

- The person must be present to ask their question.
- The Chairman will invite the person to speak.
- The person may not speak for more than three minutes in order to ask their question or submit a petition.
- There shall be a reply from the Chairman or other nominated Member.
- Save for the Member replying to the question no other Member shall be permitted to respond.
- The Chairman will then invite the next person to speak.

Agenda Item**13(a) Written Questions (standing order 16.12.1)****1. By Councillor N Le Gresley of the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Small Schemes Delivery**

'Residents living close to schools across the County have had their lives blighted during term time by unthinking and inconsiderate parents parking or waiting near school entrances. Parents park in such a way as to cause obstructions to vehicles (including emergency vehicles and buses), obstructions to pedestrians using pavements causing them to walk on the busy roads, blockading of residential driveways increasing social unrest.

Would the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation agree to:

a) Allocate additional resources to enable NEPP and SEPP to introduce:

- i.** additional parking and waiting controls in the residential roads close to schools?
- ii.** additional parking control officers, specifically though not exclusively, assigned to parking enforcement around schools?

b) Work with other local council members on NEPP and SEPP to facilitate and enable the consultation needed with the Essex Chief Constable (in accordance with Schedule 10 (3) 2C of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014); so that PCSOs are given powers to assist with the control of parking near to or outside schools?

c) Encourage the Essex Chief Constable to grant additional powers to Essex PCSOs under the Traffic Warden Order 1970, to deal with the unnecessary obstruction of a highway and parking in a dangerous position?'

2. By Councillor D Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

'Part Night Lighting – Brentwood

Following the introduction of the part night lighting scheme in Brentwood, back in March, there was an overall increase in criminal offences for the period April to June, based on the data provided by the Police.

How many months have to pass before this increase in crime in Brentwood and other communities is taken seriously, and a full review is undertaken on the effect part night time lighting is having on crime across Essex?’

3. By Councillor D Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Corporate and Traded Services

‘County Council Printing Requirements

Does Essex County Council still use a print management company based in Yorkshire? If it does, has this action helped to reduce the Procurement Department in Essex County Council?

Does the print management company get prices for printing from nationwide printers? If it does, then how are Essex printing companies supposed to compete for the County Council’s business when their business rates are so much higher than other parts of the country?’

4. By Councillor T Higgins of the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Small Schemes Delivery

‘Lamp columns in my division of Parsons Heath and Eastgates have been replaced over the last few years. However, the stumps of the old columns have been left in place – Chalfont Road being the worst street, with three such wrapped up stumps.

When are these stumps going to be removed, as some have been left in this state of disrepair for over eighteen months?’

5. By Councillor J Deakin of the Cabinet Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Wellbeing

‘Some time ago I asked, through Members’ Enquiries, for the number of people taking lunchtime ‘Meals on Wheels’ in Chelmsford and, more specifically, Chelmsford West Division. I received a standard reply, thanking me for my Freedom of Information request!

Why was my question treated as an FOI? I still await the reply.’

6. By Councillor M Ellis of the Leader of the Council

‘Excessive salaries for employees must be avoided, and most importantly this Council must be seen to set a precedent as the standard for others to follow.

- Therefore, will the Leader of the Council recommend a maximum salary of no more than £100k be applied to all new senior positions offered within Essex County Council?
- Will he also consider putting in place a Programme containing a progressive reduction of payments for future positions?’

7. By Councillor D Harris of the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Corporate and Traded Services

‘Would the portfolio holder consider re-evaluating the Council’s supplier charter to ensure that procurement activity carried out to the highest ethical standard is underpinned by a set of principles which should be addressed in every contractual arrangement with our suppliers?’

8. By Councillor D Harris of the Cabinet Member for Libraries, Communities and Planning

‘Could the portfolio holder supply data showing the response times against agreed targets for Member enquiries, as some Members are having to wait several weeks for a reply?’

9. By Councillor I Henderson of the Cabinet Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Wellbeing

‘Would the portfolio holder consider introducing seasonal based interventions in relation to the work of community agents, ensuring that agents are properly trained to give energy advice to older people and informal carers during winter months?’

10. By Councillor I Henderson of the Cabinet Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Wellbeing

‘Would the portfolio holder confirm whether ECC has carried out a needs assessment of the LGBT community in Essex and could she outline what steps are being taken to address the needs of the LGBT community through sexual health commissioning?’

11. By Councillor K Clempner of the Cabinet Member for Libraries, Communities and Planning

‘Essex County Council is committed to working in partnership with other agencies to ensure that an appropriate balance is struck between the rights of local settled communities and the rights of Travellers. To this end it owns and manages a Traveller site at Fern Hill in Harlow. Regrettably approximately half of this site has been derelict for ten years and the County Council has not invested in it to bring the available authorised pitches for Travellers into use. Given that since October 2014 there have been more than sixty unauthorised and illegal Traveller encampments in Harlow, with the number of Traveller caravans varying between 20 and over 40 at any one time, what steps is Essex County Council taking to bring the available authorised Traveller pitches at Fern Hill into use to relieve the negative impact unauthorised and illegal encampments are having on the settled community of Harlow?’

12. By Councillor K Clempner of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

‘Would the portfolio holder please inform the Council what progress in further consultation on the proposed junction 7A to the M11 is being made, and is he keeping the member of the division for North Harlow, which is most affected by the proposals, fully informed, especially about local consultation meetings.’

13. By Councillor M Danvers of the Cabinet Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Wellbeing

‘At a recent Cabinet meeting the statement was made that provision for therapy care would be ‘too expensive to contemplate’ in house as opposed to the private sector. Would the portfolio holder explain the evidence that has given rise to this statement?’

14. By Councillor M Danvers of the Cabinet Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Wellbeing

‘Would the portfolio holder indicate what further progress is being made in writing into new contracts for care companies better conditions of service including a living wage and the avoidance of zero hour contracts that insist that the person does not apply for other paid employment positions?’

15. By Councillor J Young of the Leader of the Council

‘Further to my previous question on becoming a Living Wage Authority, would the Leader consider creating an ‘Essex wage’ as a step towards becoming a living wage authority, taking a leading role with our partners, by raising ‘pound for pound’ the gap identified by Labour at the budget meeting in February of ECC employees being paid under the living wage at this authority?’

16. By Councillor J Young of the Cabinet Member for Families and Children

‘Would the portfolio holder confirm the number of children’s centres that were de-registered in Essex as part of the decision to restructure children centre delivery, could he clarify governance arrangements in terms of inspections and quality of service of these de-registered centres?’

17. By Councillor K Smith of the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Small Scheme Delivery

‘Does the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Small Scheme Delivery have any planned programmes to tackle the loose and missing kerbstones in Basildon?’

18. By Councillor J Whitehouse of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

‘Earlier this year Cllr Bass said that a review of the North and South Essex Parking Partnerships would take place in September 2014.

Please will you provide an update on the scope, progress and timescale of this review?’

19. By Councillor K Smith of the Deputy Leader of the Council

‘In the 21st Century, should any would-be apprentice be discriminated against?’