

Motions

1 Localism and Subsidiarity

Moved by Councillor Pond and seconded by Councillor Sargeant.

'This Council applauds achievements of the Administration to date in the field of localism, such as the Community Initiatives Fund. Local Highways Panels were a useful step in bringing together County and District members; their funding needs to be sufficient, and their processes (including Highway Rangers) more effective, the better to suit local needs.

This Council now needs to take further initiatives to ensure that decisions affecting local people are taken as close to them as possible, instead of centrally at County Hall, or by remote joint boards. Devolution to or involvement of districts and parishes in such functions as highway repairs, parking control and enforcement would all increase local buy-in, and should be attainable within existing budgets.

This Council refers this whole question to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for further examination.'

2 Support for local business, commerce and local government finance

Moved by Councillor Mackrory and seconded by Councillor Robinson.

'This Council notes that the result of the recent General Election did not give any one party an overall majority. This Council therefore welcomes the opportunity for more cross party working in the House of Commons to deal with the enormous challenges facing this country.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to support local business leaders by:

- a) Negotiating a Brexit deal to include membership of the Customs Union and the Single Market which will benefit business and commerce in Essex and the eastern region.
and
- b) Agreeing a new long term funding settlement with Local Government leaders to meet the ever growing demands, in particular Adult Social Care, placed upon it.'

3 Planning and Infrastructure

Moved by Councillor Gadsby and seconded by Councillor Wagland.

‘At the October 2014 Full Council, it was agreed that:

Essex County Council will not support Local (Development) Plans unless adequate resources are identified from developers, local councils and/or Government grants to ensure that sufficient infrastructure, including roads, schools, medical facilities, parking, sewerage and drainage, is provided in a timely manner and in a way that balances the needs to promote economic growth and provide housing for residents whilst protecting their quality of life.

Given the significant housing development emerging from Local Development Plans, this Council reaffirms its commitment to this policy.

This Council also expresses its concern that whilst Local Development Plans and Neighbourhood Plans are being progressed to decide where this housing should be best located, some developers are exploiting the lack of a 5 year housing supply to gain planning permission on greenfield sites, often outside the development boundary, even when these sites have been excluded from the draft local plan and in some cases where there are brownfield sites available or in the pipeline.

This Council therefore calls on the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to issue urgent statutory guidance, which removes the opportunity for this exploitation and protects valued greenfield sites from predatory development.’

4 Fire Safety

Moved by Councillor Young and seconded by Councillor Scordis

This Council recognises and applauds the heroic effort of the London Fire Service attending the horrific Grenfell Tower fire; action which demonstrates the very best of public service. We further pay tribute to and commend the community and voluntary organisations who pulled together to support the victims of this tragic fire in their hour of need.

This Council believes that all councils must take action to ensure people are safe and remain safe. Therefore this Council asks the Leader to arrange for a thorough investigation into all buildings owned and maintained by Essex County Council to be undertaken to ensure that any cladding is fire resistant and, if not, action is taken to resolve this.

In addition, the Council calls for the Leader to ensure that any new school, hospital, care home, house in multiple occupation or high-rise accommodation

commissioned by or in partnership with Essex County Council must include a sprinkler system.

Finally, the Council calls for the Leader to ensure that sprinkler systems are retro fitted into schools, hospitals, care homes, houses in multiple occupation or any high-rise buildings owned and maintained by Essex County Council, as part of future refurbishment plans.