

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

11 December 2012

Order Paper

Agenda Item	
12	<p>To receive a report of Cabinet Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from the meeting of 7 December 2012 (to follow)
14(b)	Written Questions (Standing Order 16.11.3)
1.	<p>By Councillor M Lager of the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Waste and Recycling.</p> <p>‘Is the Cabinet Member happy that, in spite of a fully evidenced case for early investment in faster broadband in Essex, especially in rural areas such as the Braintree District, we are ranked 31 out of 35 project areas, and is he prepared to take every step to secure earlier funding for Essex?</p> <p>Will he report back to the Council any success he achieves?’</p>
2.	<p>By Councillor L Barton of the Leader.</p> <p>‘The BBC claims that many local councils are filling posts through limited companies and, as such, employees can avoid paying PAYE if they so choose. They can opt to pay themselves in dividends which are taxed at a lower rate; they can also pay National Insurance at a lower rate. This is, in effect, a tax avoidance scheme.</p> <p>Would the Leader of the Council confirm how many Essex County Council employees are paid through limited companies?’</p>

3.	By Councillor D Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation Programme.
	'What practical support is the County Council going to be giving to the City, District and Borough Councils across Essex to help them deliver the Coalition Government's Welfare Reform agenda at a local level?'
4.	By Councillor L Barton of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation
	<p>'The latest Lifelines report shows the quality of road markings on the UK's roads is in decline.</p> <p>In my division the road markings on Pownall Crescent in Berechurch are now almost invisible, meaning that markings for speed bumps and a "no entry" sign can no longer be clearly seen. I reported this at least 6 months ago.</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member for Highways give some assurances that, in view of the safety implications, the Department has a timescale for these repairs and that there is a planned maintenance scheme in place?'</p>
5.	By Councillor D Kendall of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation
	<p>'I understand that there were 31,365 pothole repairs completed across Essex between June 1st 2012 and October 26th 2012 using the Jet Patcher. Would the Cabinet Member please clarify the following points:</p> <p>1) What is the projected life span of a pothole repair using the Jet Patcher, set against other methods used to repair potholes?</p> <p>2) What ongoing monitoring is being done on the pothole repairs that have been completed using the Jet Patcher to ensure that they are providing a long term cost effective solution to maintaining the County's roads?</p> <p>3) If this monitoring has been taking place please could members be sent details of the results?'</p>

6.	By Councillor J Whitehouse of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation
	<p>'How many Highways officers were employed by Essex County Council at 1 December 2009, 1 December 2010, 1 December 2011 and 1 December 2012 and how many of these were involved in designing the types of highway schemes that are within the Local Highways Panels' remit?</p> <p>I have been advised that Essex County Council will soon no longer directly employ officers that design these schemes. At present these officers come on site visits with members to discuss problem highway sites and advise on solutions. Under the Ringway Jacobs contract, what will the future arrangements be for such visits and advice?'</p>
7.	By Councillor J Whitehouse of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation
	<p>'1. How many metres of footpaths alongside the highway have been resurfaced in each district in the financial years 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, and how much has this cost?</p> <p>2. Which footpaths in Epping Forest are being resurfaced in this 2012-13 financial year and which footpaths are on the list for 2013-14?'</p>
8.	By Councillor T Higgins of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation
	<p>'A-Boards:</p> <p>Colchester made national headlines with its cluttered streets.</p> <p>When will the Cabinet Member ratify the decision made by the Economic Development, Environment and Highways Policy Scrutiny Committee?</p> <p>When will Essex devolve the Highways enforcement powers to districts, borough and city councils, so that they can deal with this "growing menace"?'</p>

9.	Councillor M Fisher of the Cabinet Member for Education, Lifelong Learning & the 2012 Games
	<p>'Following on my question at the Council meeting on 16 October, would the Cabinet Member please tell me how many responses were gathered by the survey on attitudes to the Olympic Legacy and what was learned from them?</p> <p>Secondly, what is the budget for Sportivate, which seems like a positive initiative and has it already started?'</p>