

ORIGINAL MOTION:

Moved by Councillor Stephen Robinson and seconded by Councillor Mike Mackrory

CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT TO MOTION:

This Council notes ~~that the challenge for~~ thousands of people in Essex and across the country, in being able to afford a decent home. ~~struggle to afford a decent home, in particular, many on low incomes working on delivering services on behalf of this Council. Without a decent home, it is difficult to obtain work and in other ways contribute to society.~~

This Council believes that councils can play a role in developing sustainable communities with more affordable homes. ~~only with radical action by councils can the country build the large total of affordable housing that it desperately needs and that there is also a role for a new agency—non-government and non-profit—to take a key role in acquiring land at low cost.~~

This Council welcomes:

- (a) the recent study ~~from Gatriona Riddell Associates~~ for the County Councils Network (CCN), calling for a re-introduction of strategic planning, to closer align planning and infrastructure and to accelerate housing delivery.
- (b) the new report from the Town and Country Planning Association for the CCN, including its backing for
 - (i) a stronger role for counties in planning,
 - (ii) closer collaboration between the two tiers in county areas, especially in the proposed Statement of Common Ground,
 - (iii) counties to improve their ability to plan for infrastructure and service provision,
 - (iv) new minimum standards, so that homes cater for elderly and disabled people and
 - (v) clear recognition of the role counties can play in solving the housing affordability crisis in the forthcoming Affordable Housing Green Paper.
- ~~(c) the work that this and other county councils are doing to deliver housing and endorses the recommendation for extra resources for counties to start building homes.~~

This Council:

- ~~1) requests that the Leader and Cabinet work with of the Council to write to all Essex MPs to promote the TCPA report. asking for their backing for the report. (as described in (b))~~
- 2) continue to give emphasis to opportunities for affordable housing, as well as housing for elderly and disabled people, in the disposal of surplus property. ~~requests that the Cabinet consider a revision to the Policy Framework such that the default position for disposing of any of its own surplus open land should be to enable affordable or specialist housing rather than open market disposal and~~

~~32 3) recognises that the creation of new sustainable communities, such as Garden Communities, give particular opportunities for affordable housing. requests that the Cabinet continues to work with all planning authorities to promote Garden Communities in Essex and support a high percentage of affordable housing within all Garden Communities.'~~

AMENDED MOTION:

Proposed by Councillor John Spence and seconded by Councillor Gagan Mohindra

This Council notes the challenge for thousands of people in Essex and across the country, in being able to afford a decent home.

This Council believes that councils can play a role in developing sustainable communities with more affordable homes.

This Council welcomes:

- (a) The recent study for the County Councils Network (CCN), calling for a re-introduction of strategic planning, to closer align planning and infrastructure and to accelerate housing delivery.
- (b) The new report from the Town and Country Planning Association for the CCN, including its backing for
 - i. A stronger role for counties in planning,
 - ii. Closer collaboration between the two tiers in county areas, especially in the proposed Statement of Common Ground,
 - iii. Counties to improve their ability to plan for infrastructure and service provision,
 - iv. New minimum standards, so that homes cater for elderly and disabled people and
 - v. Clear recognition of the role counties can play in solving the housing affordability crisis in the forthcoming Affordable Housing Green Paper.

This Council:

- 1) requests that the Leader and Cabinet work with Essex MPs to promote the TCPA report.
- 2) continues to give emphasis to opportunities for affordable housing, as well as housing for elderly and disabled people, in the disposal of surplus property.
- 3) recognises that the creation of new sustainable communities, such as Garden Communities, give particular opportunities for affordable housing.