

Motions

1. Health

Moved by Councillor Graham Butland and seconded by Councillor Ann Naylor.

'This Council re-affirms its commitment to the next phase of integration of health and social care. It recognises the role Sustainability & Transformation Plans (STPs) could play in this.

The Council believes that STPs must be a genuine joint commitment between the NHS and local government. For this reason the County Council is disappointed that the geographical integrity of the County has been ignored by NHS England in establishing its national 'footprints'. The unilateral decision of NHS England to include Essex in three STPs is regrettable and places an unreasonable burden on the authority.

Nevertheless, to protect the interests of its residents, the Council will work constructively with health partners providing that any proposals brought forward in the emerging STPs:

- (a) are based on high quality care and improved clinical outcomes for patients and not merely financial expediency;
- (b) address the issues of accessibility for patients and their families;
- (c) take full account of the impact on both community and social care services;
- (d) give an equal importance and parity of esteem to Mental Health services; and
- (e) contain a genuine commitment to focus on preventive health services.

The Council will also press for there to be genuine consultation on any proposals and that patient need is put first, that decisions are taken in public and that appropriate joint governance arrangements are established.'

2. NHS in Essex

Moved by Councillor Mike Mackrory and seconded by Councillor Jon Whitehouse.

'This Council notes with concern current pressures and challenges facing the NHS in Essex including:

- The "Success Regime" being implemented across most of Essex.

- The Care Quality Commission's assessments of hospitals serving Essex residents which identify three major hospitals serving Essex as 'Inadequate', one in 'Special Measures', six as 'Requires Improvement' and only two as 'Good'.
- The decision of some Clinical Commissioning Groups to withdraw treatments/services previously available through the NHS.
- Increasing concern from residents about access to services including waiting times for GP appointments.
- Increasing demand for social care and the impact on the NHS when timely care is not available.

The Council notes the three Sustainable Transformation Plans covering Essex. Whilst welcoming the intention for greater collaboration across the NHS and Public Health, Council expresses its concerns about:

- The lack of public debate and consultation to informing the preparation of the STPs.
- The proposed downgrading of Accident and Emergency at Broomfield Hospital despite the proposed construction of thousands of dwellings within a ten mile radius of the hospital which will create extra demand and the additional distance ambulances will have to travel to Basildon carrying patients with life threatening conditions.
- The failure of Government to adequately fund the increasing demands on the NHS and Public Health.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Cabinet Member for Health to:

- Oppose the downgrading of Broomfield Hospital Accident and Emergency.
- Continue to play a full part in discussions about the health and social care system in Essex including through the Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Ensure local members are briefed on the implications of the STPs for residents in their areas.
- Request the Leader of the Council express these concerns formally to the Secretary of State for Health.'

3. Central Government Funding

Moved by Councillor Mike Danvers and seconded by Councillor Tony Durcan.

'This Council is reminded of the words of the Leader, Councillor David Finch, when he remarked that local government is 'not a reservoir that Whitehall can keep tapping'. This Council strongly supports and endorses these remarks, and further challenges the narrative that Essex County Council has been able

to absorb excessive cuts without damaging the quality and reach of essential services delivered to residents across Essex.

This Council also notes with concern, evidence which suggests that it is the most vulnerable who have been the hardest hit, with those least able to cope bearing the brunt of cuts in Government funding. This continued strain on the Council's limited finances is unsustainable, and raises questions about the scale and scope of future spending reductions. Essex County Council faces significant challenges moving forward, and will simply be left unable to provide for residents unless this authority receives reasonable support from Central Government - acknowledging the task ahead.

This Council therefore seeks cross-party endorsement, calling upon the administration to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on behalf of Essex residents, outlining concerns with the anticipated level of cuts and demand that greater financial provision be put in place to ensure that services meet the needs of residents, with the capacity to grow to meet future demand.'

4. Social Care

Moved by Councillor Malcolm Maddocks and seconded by Councillor Dick Madden.

'This Council welcomes that through modern science and better understood health opportunities we are all living longer but recognises that an ageing population does put considerable extra pressure on County Council budgets. We applaud the hard work of our staff in Adult Social Care and the excellent service provided to Essex residents particularly during these times of increasing demand.

This Council recognises that to continue to provide services to the residents of Essex as expected, new approaches to deliver quality services are needed, which include developing digital and assistive technologies.'

5. Recycling Centres

Moved by Councillor James Abbott and seconded by Councillor Michael Hoy.

'Council believes that the new rules introduced on 1st November for the 21 ECC Recycling Centres are flawed.

Council believes that the ban on householder DIY waste from 11 of the Recycling Centres will have undesirable effects for the convenience of residents through increased travelling distances and could potentially increase fly-tipping which would consequently be a cost to Borough/City/District council taxpayers.

Council notes that the banning of vans at 12 Recycling Centres will prevent many legitimate users from taking their own household materials for disposal or recycling locally.

Council further notes that the 28 day and 6 month restrictions on DIY wastes that can be taken to some Recycling Centres are far too prescriptive and effectively unenforceable.

Council believes that rules on the use of Recycling Centres should be fair and applied evenly across the County and that boosting recycling should be a top priority.

Council agrees that inappropriate entry of commercial materials to Recycling Centres needs to be tackled but notes that other authorities such as Suffolk County Council take the position of accepting this material, but for a charge.

Council recognises that the Cabinet Member, following a call in, has agreed to review the situation after three months of operation, but believes the original decision was flawed and therefore should be withdrawn.'