
Motions under Standing Order

17.10.2

1. Engaging with, and opening up the Council to, the public.

Moved by Councillor T C Smith-Hughes, seconded by Councillor M Mackrory and supported by Councillor Mrs T M A Higgins:

“Council notes that whilst corporate governance processes and procedures have been enhanced since February last year, there is still more that needs to be done to engage with the public and restore confidence in the County Council by Essex residents and council taxpayers. The Council has stated it believes in being accountable to the public, and in open and transparent democracy, but there is still an urgent need to improve public engagement and explore ways of opening up the Council to the public.

Council therefore:-

- Resolves to form a cross-party Working Group to investigate ways of improving public engagement with the Council, firstly by setting out a workable procedure for allowing members of the public to ask questions in person at public Council meetings, relating to the business of the Council.
- Resolves that, far from stopping there, it should also explore the potential of further, innovative ways of opening up the Council's meetings and processes to the public.
- Resolves that the Working Group report back to Cabinet or Full Council by May 2012 at the latest. “