

# Motions

Members have given notice that they intend to move the following motions in accordance with paragraph 16.8.2 of the Constitution:

The Courts have made it clear that the Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it is considering these motions, even if they are motions without legal effect. There is not a general requirement for an equality impact assessment but regard should be had to the equality duty when drafting and considering motions.

The equality duty requires Council to have due regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes it unlawful to discriminate etc on the grounds of a protected characteristic.
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

## 1. Rising sea-level and the Essex coast

Moved by Cllr Paul Thorogood and seconded by Cllr Chris Pond.

'Given that the world is in all probability going to overshoot a +1.5C temperature rise Council asks the Cabinet to prepare plans for Essex to be ready for a world with higher sea levels, long-term droughts, occasional flash flooding and supply chain problems impacting food supply. Council further asks the Cabinet to present those draft plans to Council in December 2023 for the purpose of consultation.'

## 2. Health and GP Services in Essex

Moved by Cllr Marie Goldman and seconded by Cllr Stephen Robinson.

'This Council believes that timely and face to face access to GP services are essential for the health and wellbeing of our residents and calls for more consistent access across the county and reduced waiting times, as this will help Essex residents, and reduce pressure on Accident and Emergency and other hospital services.

This Council notes unacceptable waiting times and difficulty in securing access to a GP. Same day appointments are available for some, but other residents can wait for a week or more, with significant risks to health for some. A face-to-

face appointment is increasingly difficult to secure in some practices, and many residents are having to see other health professionals, rather than a GP.

This Council requests the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to obtain from the three Integrated Care Systems a position statement on the number of GP vacancies in the county and what steps are being taken to fill these.

The Council requests the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care asking that the Government fund additional doctor training places at Anglia Ruskin University's Medical School, to meet the need for new doctors, based on growing demand and forthcoming retirements.
- Support the City, Borough and District Councils in Essex when they want to make provision for GP surgeries and other health provision in their Local Plans.'