

# Motions under Standing Order

## 16.10.2

### 1. Boosting Economic Recovery in Essex

Moved by Councillor K Bentley and seconded by Councillor D Finch.

This Council recognises the disastrous state in which that the last Labour Government left the economy and welcomes news that the policies of the Conservative led coalition means the UK economy will grow faster than other countries in the EU. It also recognises that growth will still be slow and therefore calls on ministers to do more to reduce red tape to boost recovery in Essex by;

1. speeding up its BDUK Broadband roll-out programme to allow Essex County Council to bring faster download speeds to businesses and residents,
2. approving our Deal for Growth bid and allowing all partners across the county the opportunity to work closer together to reduce costs to the taxpayer and increase the potential for private sector jobs and
3. reducing costs to businesses and allowing SME start-ups 'holidays' for National Insurance and Corporation Tax to ensure their survival in the crucial first year.

### 2. Lord Hanningfield's Credit Card Claims 2005 - 2010

Moved by Councillor M Mackrory and seconded by Councillor T Higgins.

This Council, whilst recognising the changes to its governance and member expenses procedures since the Audit Commission's report of September 2010, nevertheless still has serious concerns about how Lord Hanningfield, the former Leader of this Council, was able to spend £287,000 of council taxpayers' money on expensive hotels, restaurants, bars and visits to 24 countries from 2005-2010. In particular, how this was allowed to happen without any action being taken by senior members of the Conservative administration, or the Senior Management Team.

Council therefore:

1. Considers that the residents of Essex deserve a full explanation about how this lack of accountability was allowed to occur for at least six years before any action was taken by;
  - a) those responsible for the political administration of the County Council,
  - b) Senior Officers of the Council and that disciplinary action be taken, if appropriate.
2. Immediately begins proceedings in the Civil Court to recover the misspent council taxpayers' money from Lord Hanningfield.

### **3. Energy Co-operatives.**

Moved by Councillor S Robinson and seconded by Councillor D Kendall

Council :

1. notes the allegations that energy companies are operating a price-fixing cartel;
2. notes that people in energy poverty often pay the highest prices;
3. notes the success of council-led consumer co-operatives to buy cheaper energy in places like South Lakeland and Peterborough;
4. instructs officers to prepare a report on;
  - a) how Essex County Council could facilitate the creation of energy co-operatives in Essex,
  - c) whether it would be appropriate to join the multi-council energy co-op [www.readytoswitch.co.uk](http://www.readytoswitch.co.uk) to benefit the residents of Essex and
  - d) how the benefits of such a scheme could be shared around the districts of Essex.

### **4. Essex Education**

Moved by Councillor S Castle and seconded by Councillor J Lucas

This Council supports Michael Gove's policy on the creation of Academies and is pleased to note that Essex has now seen its 100th academy established. Standards in Essex Schools have improved significantly in recent years, however Council recognises that there is still more to do, and it calls upon the coalition government to acknowledge local authorities key role in holding all publicly funded schools accountable for driving up education standards in the county.