

<b>19 December 2011</b>		<b>ITEM 4</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>BUDGET 2012/13 – GROWTH AND SAVINGS PROPOSALS</b>		
Portfolio Holders: All		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Sean Clark, Head of Corporate Finance		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Martin Hone, Director of Finance & Corporate Governance		
This report is Public		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To invite the Committee to note and review proposals for budget growth and savings in 2012/13 and future years.		

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report sets out budget growth and savings proposals for 2012/13 and future years, and provides information following the workshop sessions undertaken by each Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011.

The appendices to the report detail the growth and savings proposals for each Committee to be considered as part of the session to be held at a later date. The proposals include amendments requested by the scrutiny committees, and the report includes the follow up to questions raised at the workshop sessions.

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1.1 That the Committee notes and reviews the proposals for budget growth and savings in 2012/13 and future years set out in the appendices to this report.**

### **2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 2.1** The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy highlights a reduction in government grant funding through the Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates redistribution of £3.317m in 2012/13 which is consistent with the two year settlement announced for 2011/12. In

addition, inflationary cost pressures of £2.325m have also been identified. This results in a reduction in spending power of £5.642m in overall terms when comparing the 2012/13 budget to the current year.

- 2.2 The specific proposals for growth and savings for each Service and Directorate were worked into business cases and were considered during the informal Star Chamber process between July and September 2011 in order to evaluate the potential impact on corporate priorities. Now that the Star Chamber exercise has been concluded, these proposals are brought forward for consideration by Cabinet and the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
- 2.3 The cases show potential growth and savings for 2012/13 and for future years. Each business case sets the context and implications of the proposals against service-specific and Council-wide priorities. The impacts of the proposals are also addressed in terms of the public, service performance, staff and equalities. In addition, consideration has been given to the practicalities of implementing the changes in time to deliver full-year savings in 2012/13.

### 3. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:

- 3.1 At the workshop sessions held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, each Committee were invited to scrutinise the growth and savings proposals presented for the 2012/13 base budget.
- 3.2 The officers response to the specific queries raised are summarised in the table below, and further details are provided in Appendix 3:

<b>CODE</b>	<b>QUERY</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>Committee</b>
CGSG1 - Climate change Levy	Committee requested more information as to how the £325k saving has been arrived at.	See detailed response in appendix 3.	Cleaner, Greener and Safer
CGSG2 – Proposal for 3 additional Environmental Health Officers	Committee agreed to receive further supporting information for the follow up session.	The posts are required to meet statutory duties. New business and changes have led to the need for increased advice and enforcement Further details are provided in Appendix 3	Cleaner, Greener and Safer

<b>CODE</b>	<b>QUERY</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>Committee</b>
CGSG4– Street Cleansing Demographic	more information to come back about last year's £50k budget saving proposal	Savings proposal SC10 - Street Cleaning and Greening efficiencies and Service Reductions was reject at full Council last year.	Cleaner, Greener and Safer
CGSG6 – Loss of Morrison's Car Park Contract	Members would like to see details of how the Council can utilise staff to recoup some of this loss.	The loss of £41k per year relates to the payment from Morrison's for our staff to enforce their car park, in addition to this will be a further potential loss of approximately £42k that would come from the loss of penalty income (Thurrock keep 100% of the penalty income). By the redeployment of officer time, amendments to enforcement routes, better recovery of unpaid fines and the use of a CCTV car, it is anticipated that the majority of the £42k loss of income can be absorbed within the service. However, the loss of the £41k base contract could not be absorbed.	Planning, Transport and Regeneration  Corporate

<b>CODE</b>	<b>QUERY</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>Committee</b>
CGSS3 – Introduce trade waste charges for public buildings and events	A broad “policy” position was requested before Committee made a decision on this saving.	Committee requested more information on an “outline policy” to gain a better understanding of proposal. Response from Head of Service is that a full draft policy will be presented to the Committee on 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2012.	Cleaner, Greener and Safer
CGSS4 – Reduction in Stray Dogs Budget	Members requested a further breakdown of spend related to stray dogs only.	In year savings of £10,000 have been made during 2011/12. The budget pays for the contracted work in relation to stray dogs. The salary costs of officers for the monitoring of the contract is funded through the Trading Standard Budget	Cleaner, Greener and Safer
CGSS5 – Co- location with Europa Services	Further information requested on Station House lease and the change control process.	See details in appendix 3	Cleaner, Greener and Safer
CGSS7 – 2012 Olympics	Committee requested further information from Finance as to why this appeared as a £100,000 saving in 2012.	A budget provision of £100,000 has been made in 2011/12 to cover these works	Cleaner, Greener and Safer

- 3.3 The Scrutiny exercise must be completed by 22 December 2011 so that the findings can be included in a report to Cabinet on 11 January 2012.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Regular meetings of Directors' Board, the Leadership Group and the wider Council management group have been held since the budget exercise commenced in July. There have also been meetings with the portfolio holders and the Conservative Group has been briefed. A series of staff road shows were held in July and August and there have been discussions with partners. Consultation with the trade unions and staff potentially affected by the planned changes is currently taking place.

#### **5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 5.1 The growth and savings options set out in the appendices will impact on a wide variety of policies, priorities, performance and sections of the community.

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

##### **6.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Martin Hone**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652152**  
**mhone@thurrock.gov.uk**

The financial implications have been clearly set out throughout the body of the report and the implications of savings options set out in the appendices.

##### **6.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652087**  
**dlawson@thurrock.gov.uk**

Local authorities are under an explicit duty to ensure that their financial management is adequate and effective and that they have a sound system of internal control and management of financial risk. This budget report contributes to that requirement although specific legal advice may be required on the detailed implementation of any agreed savings options.

### 6.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652472**  
**sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk**

This is a set of wide ranging and far reaching proposals, a significant number of which may have an impact on staff and residents. Each of these savings proposals will need to undergo an Equality Impact Assessment to identify potential adverse impacts on any groups.

As these proposals are going through the formal approval and scrutiny process, they will need the Equality Impact Assessment evidence to be presented for each item.

The Equality Act also came into force this October and this has raised the bar in terms of public sector equality duties for example a proposed requirement to consider socio-economic impact before implementing any policy. Whilst this requirement is subject to implementation at a later stage the Council needs to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to all new equality requirements in the policy and decision making process.

## 7. **CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The budget plans are designed to ensure that a balanced financial position is achieved over the medium term while having regard to the Council's priorities, service delivery, service users and the wider public, staff and issues of equality.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:**

- Various budget working papers held in Finance & Corporate Governance Directorate

### **APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

- Appendix 1 – Growth and Savings Proposals - Cleaner, Greener and Safer
- Appendix 2 – Notes from the meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 22 November
- Appendix 3 Further information relating to queries on proposals CGSG 1, CGSG 2, CGSS 5.

### **Report Author Contact Details:**

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Appendix 1 – Growth and Savings Proposals - Cleaner, Greener and Safer

<b>MTFF - Growth and Savings</b>		<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Reference</b>	<b><u>Cleaner, Greener and Safer</u></b>				
CGSG 1	- Climate Change Levy	325	300	300	300
CGSG 2	- 3 x Environmental Health Officers	100	50	0	0
CGSG 3	- Waste Demographic/Non-household waste	50	75	75	75
CGSG 4	- Street Cleaning Demographic	8	13	13	13
CGSG 5	- Regulatory Officers (DP World)	0	0	0	150
CGSG 6	- Loss of Morrison Car Park Contract	0	41	0	0
CGSG 7	- Additional Street Cleaning Demands to Reflect DP World	0	25	55	30
		<b>483</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>568</b>
CGSS 1	- New income from arboriculture service	(5)	0	0	0
CGSS 2	- Reduction in 'bring site' facilities	(10)	0	0	0
CGSS 3	- Introduce trade waste charges for public buildings and events	(10)	0	0	0
CGSS 4	- Stray Dogs	(20)	0	0	0
CGSS 5	- Co-location with Europa Services	(25)	0	0	0
CGSS 7	- 2012 Olympics	0	(100)	0	0
		<b>(70)</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 2012/13 Budget - Growth Proposal

**Service: Chief Executive's Delivery Unit - Regeneration**  
**Proposal Number: CGSG 1**

<b>Description of Proposal: Climate Change Levy</b>
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<b>Climate change levy</b>
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### Proposed Growth

Proposed Growth in 2012/13  £'000s	Proposed Growth in 2012/13  FTE Staff	Proposed Growth in full year £'000s	Proposed Growth in full year FTE Staff
325		325	

	2012/13 £'000s	Full Year £'000s
<b>People</b>		
<b>Property</b>		
<b>Third Party</b>	325	325
<b>Infrastructure/Kit</b>		

### Base Budget 2011/12

	£'000s
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employees	
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	350
Third Party Payments	
Transfer Payments	
Capital Financing Costs	
Support Services Costs	
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	350
<b>Income</b>	
Sales, Fees and Charges	
Grant and External Contributions	
Support Services Income	
<b>Gross Income</b>	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	350
Base Budget 2011/12 Full time Equivalent Staff	0



## Recent Changes to Base Budget

	<b>£'000s</b>
Growth approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	350
Savings approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0

<b>Impact of Proposal on public / services</b>	None. The levy is expected to increase to £625k for 2013/14 and to continue to increase by increments of £300k in each successive year until 2015/16.
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<b>Impact of Proposal on performance</b>	None.
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<b>Impact of Proposal on staff</b>	None.
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<b>Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable</b>	None.
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<b>Equalities Impact</b>	TBC.
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## 2012/13 Budget – Growth Bid

**Service: Public Protection**  
**Proposal Number: CGSG2**

<b>Description of Proposal: 3 x Environmental Health Officers</b>
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<b>Recruitment of 3 additional Environmental Health Officers to deliver the Statutory Health and Safety and Food Safety duties of Thurrock Council in House.</b>
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### Proposed Growth

Proposed Growth in 2012/13 £'000s	Proposed Growth in 2012/13 FTE Staff	Proposed Growth in full year £'000s	Proposed Growth in full year FTE Staff
100	2	150	3

	2012/13 £'000s	Full Year £'000s
<b>People</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Property</b>	-	-
<b>Third Party</b>	-	-
<b>Infrastructure/Kit</b>	-	-

### Base Budget 2011/12

<b>EH001 0001 and EH009 0001</b>	<b>£'000s</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employees	347
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	15
Third Party Payments	39
Transfer Payments	
Capital Financing Costs	
Support Services Costs	47
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>448</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Sales, Fees and Charges	
Grant and External Contributions	
8Support Services Income	
<b>Gross Income</b>	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>448</b>
Base Budget 2011/12 Full time Equivalent Staff	9

## Recent Changes to Base Budget

	£'000s
Growth approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0
Growths approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0

<b>Reason for Proposal</b>	<p>Will ensure that the Council's duties with regard to food and health and safety are fulfilled, therefore ensuring that residents and businesses are safe. There has been an increase in business in the Borough and a significant change in the type of business with more ethnic food stores and home packers of food. These types of business take a considerable resource to deal with and monitor and ensure compliance so that we are satisfied that our residents are safe. The changing demographic of the Borough brings with it new and different challenges for Environmental Health to address food safety and health and safety matters.</p> <p><u>Calculation</u></p> <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Top of band 7 with on costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£47,860.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BUA for 12 months</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,149</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average Mileage for 12 months</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£960</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total per EHO</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£49,969.80</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Top of band 7 with on costs	£47,860.80	BUA for 12 months	£1,149	Average Mileage for 12 months	£960	<b>Total per EHO</b>	<b>£49,969.80</b>
Top of band 7 with on costs	£47,860.80								
BUA for 12 months	£1,149								
Average Mileage for 12 months	£960								
<b>Total per EHO</b>	<b>£49,969.80</b>								
<b>Impact of Proposal on public / services</b>	<p>The demand for inspection, enforcement and the provision of advice from the Health and Safety and Food Safety teams has increased over the period since 2005 to the present date. Refer to attached document for details.</p>								
<b>Impact of Proposal on performance</b>	<p>Increased resources will allow the team to continue to respond to complaints, accidents and infectious disease risks and allow for work to deal with premises and businesses posing a high or medium risk to health to be sustained. This will ensure that residents and employees are kept safe.</p>								
<b>Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable</b>	<p>Recruitment procedure to be followed. Provision of ICT and other facilities required by staff is included within the total figure quoted in this growth bid.</p>								
<b>Equalities Impact</b>	<p>This growth would ensure that we are fulfilling our statutory duties. Improved protection for vulnerable residents.</p>								

## 2012/13 Budget - Growth Proposal

**Service: Environment**  
**Proposal Number: CGSG3**

<b>Description of Proposal: Waste Demographic / Non-Household Waste</b>
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Legislative review of Controlled Waste Regulations may lead to waste authorities becoming responsible for waste from hospitals and other establishments. This would increase collection and disposal.
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The operational impact of this change cannot be accurately assessed at this point so the cost involved has been estimated as a broad provision.
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### Proposed Growth

Proposed Growth in 2012/13 £'000s	Proposed Growth in 2012/13 FTE Staff	Proposed Growth in full year £'000s	Proposed Growth in full year FTE Staff
50	0	50	0

	2012/13 £'000s	Full Year £'000s
<b>People</b>	15	15
<b>Property</b>		
<b>Third Party</b>	25	25
<b>Infrastructure/Kit</b>	10	10

### Base Budget 2011/12

	£'000s
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employees	2,962
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	1,181
Third Party Payments	4,602
Transfer Payments	0
Capital Financing Costs	1,086
Support Services Costs	0
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>9,831</b>
<b>Income</b>	0
Sales, Fees and Charges	(50)
Grant and External Contributions	(36)
Support Services Income	0
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>(86)</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>9,745</b>
Base Budget 2011/12 Full time Equivalent Staff	0

## Recent Changes to Base Budget

	<b>£'000s</b>
Growth approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0
<b>Impact of Proposal on public / services</b>	Overall scope of Waste service would change in response to regulatory prescription. Service to public would not be affected, but additional resources would be needed to deal with new waste streams.
<b>Impact of Proposal on performance</b>	Additional resources to deal with extra workload would enable current service levels to be maintained.
<b>Impact of Proposal on staff</b>	None. Additional capacity needs (e.g. vehicles) would be incremental, covered in the short term by additional hours.
<b>Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable</b>	Govt proposals are not confirmed, so the impact and the response to meet this aren't clear at this point. Short term increases in service levels can be covered by hired in labour and vehicles. Disposal volumes would be covered by existing contractual arrangements.
<b>Equalities Impact</b>	None.

## 2012/13 Budget - Growth Proposal

**Service: Environment**  
**Proposal Number: CGSG4**

### Description of Proposal: Street Cleansing Demographic

Additional capacity is needed to cope with annual demographic pressures on the cleansing function, particularly associated with general housing development and related road /footpath infrastructure.

Cost of proposal is linked to increase in domestic property numbers across the borough.

### Proposed Growth

Proposed Growth in 2012/13 £'000s	Proposed Growth in 2012/13 FTE Staff	Proposed Growth in full year £'000s	Proposed Growth in full year FTE Staff
8	0	21 (£8k+£13k)	1

	2012/13 £'000s	Full Year £'000s
<b>People</b>	6	15
<b>Property</b>		
<b>Third Party</b>		
<b>Infrastructure/Kit</b>	2	6

### Base Budget 2011/12

	£'000s
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employees	2,033
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	1,461
Third Party Payments	205
Transfer Payments	0
Capital Financing Costs	9
Support Services Costs	0
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>3,708</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Sales, Fees and Charges	(3,272)
Grant and External Contributions	0
Support Services Income	0
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>(3,272)</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>436</b>
Base Budget 2011/12 Full time Equivalent Staff	0

## Recent Changes to Base Budget

	£'000s
Growth approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0
<b>Impact of Proposal on public / services</b>	Demographic impact on workloads requires additional capacity to avoid service degradation. Proposal will enable current service standards to be maintained across the borough.
<b>Impact of Proposal on performance</b>	Current levels of performance will be maintained.
<b>Impact of Proposal on staff</b>	None.
<b>Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable</b>	No problems anticipated. Capacity increases needed to keep pace with workload demands equate to around 1 FTE per year with associated increases in plant and tools etc. Periodic changes in cleansing frequencies and work schedules are planned in advance.  This item is on-going.
<b>Equalities Impact</b>	None.

## 2012/13 Budget - Savings Proposal

**Service: Environment**  
**Proposal Number: CGSS1**

<b>Description of Proposal: New income from arboriculture service</b>
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<p><b>The new arboriculture team currently being established will provide an opportunity to generate income by carrying out some chargeable tree works for external customers as well as reducing usage of external contractors for our own work.</b></p>
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### Proposed Saving

<b>Proposed Saving in 2012/13</b>	<b>Proposed Saving in full year</b>
<b>£'000s</b>	<b>£'000s</b>
5	5

### Base Budget 2011/12

This is a new scheme, and therefore does not currently have a budget allocation

	<b>£'000s</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employees	0
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	0
Third Party Payments	0
Transfer Payments	0
Capital Financing Costs	0
Support Services Costs	0
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Sales, Fees and Charges	0
Grant and External Contributions	0
Support Services Income	0
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>
Base Budget 2011/12 Full time Equivalent Staff	0



## Recent Changes to Base Budget

	£'000s
Growth approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0
Savings approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0

<b>Impact of Proposal on public / services</b>	Small increase in range of services provided. Potential to undertake work for other public bodies, schools etc.
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<b>Impact of Proposal on performance</b>	Improved flexibility and ability to deal quickly with dangerous trees in parks, verges etc.
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<b>Impact of Proposal on staff</b>	None
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<b>Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable</b>	No problems anticipated. Team is already being established. Income-generating opportunities are being explored.
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<b>Equalities Impact</b>	None.
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## 2012/13 Budget - Savings Proposal

**Service: Environment**  
**Proposal Number: CGSS2**

<b>Description of Proposal: Reduction in “Bring Site Facilities</b>
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<p><b>Bring Sites - Introduction of the 3-bin collection service has resulted in a considerable reduction in bring site tonnages (down from 344 tonnes in 2007/08 to 64 tonnes in 2011/12). This allows us to rationalise bring sites from 40 to around 8 ‘supersites’ located where usage is heaviest (mainly in supermarkets).</b></p>
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### Proposed Saving

Proposed Saving in 2012/13  £'000s	Proposed Saving in full year £'000s
10	10

### Base Budget 2011/12

	<b>£'000s</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employees	2,962
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	1,181
Third Party Payments	4,602
Transfer Payments	0
Capital Financing Costs	1,086
Support Services Costs	0
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>9,831</b>
<b>Income</b>	0
Sales, Fees and Charges	(50)
Grant and External Contributions	(36)
Support Services Income	0
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>(86)</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>9,745</b>
Base Budget 2011/12 Full time Equivalent Staff	0

## Recent Changes to Base Budget

	£'000s
Growth approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0
Savings approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0

<b>Impact of Proposal on public / services</b>	More effective overall bring site facilities, concentrated in areas of highest use.
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<b>Impact of Proposal on performance</b>	General improvement in overall Waste service through removal of facilities at sites that are little used and not cost-effective.
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<b>Impact of Proposal on staff</b>	None
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<b>Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable</b>	Change in contractor-operated arrangements will be straightforward to implement.
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<b>Equalities Impact</b>	None
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## 2012/13 Budget - Savings Proposal

**Service: Environment**  
**Proposal Number: CGSS3**

<b>Description of Proposal: Introduce trade waste charges for public buildings and events</b>

### Proposed Saving

Proposed Saving in 2012/13  £'000s	Proposed Saving in full year £'000s
10	

### Base Budget 2011/12

	£'000s
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employees	
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	
Third Party Payments	
Transfer Payments	
Capital Financing Costs	
Support Services Costs	
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Sales, Fees and Charges	
Grant and External Contributions	
Support Services Income	
<b>Gross Income</b>	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	
Base Budget 2011/12 Full time Equivalent Staff	

## Recent Changes to Base Budget

	<b>£'000s</b>
Growth approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	
Savings approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	

<b>Impact of Proposal on public / services</b>	
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<b>Impact of Proposal on performance</b>	
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<b>Impact of Proposal on staff</b>	
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<b>Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable</b>	
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<b>Equalities Impact</b>	
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## 2012/13 Budget - Savings Proposal

**Service: Public Protection**

**Proposal Number: CGSS4**

<b>Description of Proposal</b>
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<b>Reduction in the Stray Dogs Budget</b>
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### Proposed Saving

Proposed Saving in 2012/13	Proposed Saving in full year
£'000s	£'000s
20	20

### Base Budget 2011/12

<b>EH006</b>	<b>£'000s</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employees	263
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	132
Third Party Payments	0
Transfer Payments	0
Capital Financing Costs	0
Support Services Costs	0
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>395</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Sales, Fees and Charges	3
Grant and External Contributions	0
Support Services Income	0
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>392</b>
Base Budget 2011/12 Full time Equivalent Staff	6

## Recent Changes to Base Budget

	£'000s
Growth approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0
Savings approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	11

<b>Impact of Proposal on public / services</b>	As long as there is no significant increase in the number of stray dogs in Thurrock there will be no impact on the public.
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<b>Impact of Proposal on performance</b>	May limit any proactive dog chipping events carried out to try and prevent costs incurred when dogs stray
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<b>Impact of Proposal on staff</b>	None
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<b>Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable</b>	None
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<b>Equalities Impact</b>	None
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## 2012/13 Budget - Savings Proposal

**Service: Environment**  
**Proposal Number: CGSS5**

<b>Description of Proposal: Co-location with Europa Services</b>
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Co-location of Europa highways staff in Curzon Drive. Closer working with the Europa team (particularly the inspection function) would allow us to be more efficient in our service delivery by improving communication processes and helping to stabilise workflow.
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### Proposed Saving

Proposed Saving in 2012/13	Proposed Saving in full year
£'000s	£'000s
25	25

### Base Budget 2011/12

**This is a new scheme, and therefore there is no budget allocation currently held against it.**

	£'000s
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employees	
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	
Third Party Payments	
Transfer Payments	
Capital Financing Costs	
Support Services Costs	
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Sales, Fees and Charges	
Grant and External Contributions	
Support Services Income	
<b>Gross Income</b>	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	
Base Budget 2011/12 Full time Equivalent Staff	



## Recent Changes to Base Budget

	<b>£'000s</b>
Growth approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0
Savings approved in the 2011/12 Base Budget	0

<b>Impact of Proposal on public / services</b>	General service delivery will be improved through increased responsiveness and management of workflow.
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<b>Impact of Proposal on performance</b>	Increased stability of work will reduce the need for short-term labour and plant, improving efficiency and unit costs.
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<b>Impact of Proposal on staff</b>	No negative impacts.
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<b>Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable</b>	Accommodation issues have already been addressed and office/parking space identified at Curzon Depot. Relocation could take place with a few weeks' notice. The current Council premises occupied by the Europa staff concerned would be vacated, providing potential for disposal or letting.
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<b>Equalities Impact</b>	None.
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**MINUTES of the meeting of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Scrutiny  
Committee held on Tuesday 22 November 2011 at 6pm**

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**Present:** Cllr J Halden (Chair), Cllr S Liddiard, Cllr M Stone, Cllr J Redsell, Cllr P Tolson.

**Apologies:** Councillor W Curtis

**In attendance:** Cllr L Worrall - (for Public Protection items)  
Cllr V Morris – Cook (for Environment items)  
B Newman Director of Sustainable Communities (BN)  
L Magill – Head of Public Protection (LM)  
A Murphy – Head of Environment (AM)  
T Cutbush – Finance Officer (TC)

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**2 Additional Item – Briefing Note on PCSO Review**

Cllr Halden circulated his review note on Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) and a discussion took place on the note.

- The paper outlines three options
- Page 4 contains a list of outcomes
- Didn't want to take a saving - want as much enforcement if possible
- The review accepts police are the experts and trusts them to administer service
- Match funding from the Council is acceptable as it contributes to Essex wide approach and gives Thurrock an element of control
- Areas of concern were also outlined for Cllr Worrall to consider as Portfolio Holder

Cllr Worrall informed the Committee that she needed time to go away and look at document. She has concerns – the Police will lose 100 PCSO's across Essex and she wants to make sure Thurrock Council gets additional PCSO's to match the funding Thurrock Council puts in and not what Thurrock Council would have got anyway (without providing match funding). Cllrs Liddiard and Halden agreed.

Cllr Liddiard said the police have assured that Thurrock Council will get additional PCSO's as a result of funding but that needs to be confirmed by Portfolio Holder. Cllr Worrall agreed to do that.

Discussion about work bases for PCSO's - confirmed as Ockendon and Tilbury

Decision: Report recommended to portfolio holder

### **3 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Halden stated that a colleague may bid for the recycling bring site contract and he had taken advice from David Lawson (Legal Services) who had confirmed it is a not personal or prejudicial interest. However, he felt that he should declare this.

Cllr Stone declared a personal interest over the Olympics item as he is employed by a company that is working for the Olympics 2012.

### **4 Savings Proposals Workshops**

#### *Growth Bid no CGSG2 (page 43) – Proposal for 3 additional Environmental Health Officers*

LM outlined proposed growth for 2 EHO's in 12/13 and another in 13/14. Needed to fulfil statutory duties in relation to food safety and health and safety. Reason for growth – lots of new businesses and changes in business ownership, which has led to a need for increased advice and enforcement. There has also been an increase in associated infectious diseases and accidents that require investigation. The committee had a discussion around duties that persons in the EHO post would carry out.

Cllr Halden asked how long an inspection takes and how numbers have been arrived at. LM explained about risk rating system for commercial premises and how often each type needs inspection. Also, the increasing number of businesses that are registered/need to register.

Decision: Committee agreed to receive further supporting information from LM before plenary session next week.

#### **Savings Proposal CGSS4 (Page 57) – Reduction in Stray Dogs Budget**

This was a service inherited from the police due to a change in legislation. The budget has been under spent for last 2 years therefore LM is confident can make the budget saving. The under spend has been used in past for 4-6 free chipping sessions per year to encourage dog owners to security chip their dogs. The Chair requested a further breakdown of spend related to stray dogs only.

Decision: Committee agreed to receive further information before plenary session next week.

#### **Growth Proposal CGSG1 (Page 41) - Climate change Levy**

No officer available to present this item

Decision: Deferred to plenary session next week. Committee requested more information as to how the £325k saving has been arrived at.

*Growth Proposal CGSG3 (Page 45) – Waste Demographic - Non Household Waste*

AM explained the expected change in legislation that would make councils responsible for some hospital waste and that this was to make a sensible provision in next years budget.

Decision: Approved

**Growth Proposal CGSG4 (Page 47) – Street Cleansing Demographic**

AM explained how the amount of growth had been calculated and that it was based on the cost of street cleansing per household and anticipated growth in housing. Cllr Morris-Cook (Portfolio Holder) explained that streets are clean and she doesn't wants to let standards slip.

The Chair raised issue of £50k efficiency saving that was proposed last year. AM explained that the £50k proposed saving last year was a non-specific saving that did not make it through the budget process.

Cllr Tolson raised the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices and raising more income to cover street cleaning costs.

Decision: Chair not prepared to approve (supported by Cllrs Tolson and Redsell) and requested further information about last years proposed saving. Cllrs Liddiard and Stone voted against more information.

AM to come back with more information about last years £50k budget saving proposal before plenary session next week.

*Savings Proposal CGSS6 (Page 49) – Savings made through supplies and services austerity measures*

This proposal has been withdrawn.

**Growth Proposal CGSS1(Page 51) – New Income from Arboriculture service**

AM explained the introduction of a new arboriculture Team from April 2012 and the opportunity to generate income from the service.

Decision: Approved

**Savings Proposal CGSS2 (Page 53) – Reduction in Bring Site facilities**

Cllr Morris- Cook explained the rationale behind the proposed saving.

Decision: Approved

### **Savings Proposal CGSS3 (Page 55) – Introduce trade waste charges for public buildings and events**

Cllr Morris-Cook explained that currently some public buildings and events received free collections that were not statutory. The committee had a discussion about the types of premises affected. They felt they needed to agree a broad “policy” position before agreeing this saving although supported the principle.

Decision: Approved in principle subject to outline “policy” for the next meeting.

### **Savings Proposal CGSS5 Page 59) – Co-location with Europa Services**

AM explained that Europa highways maintenance staff are currently located in Station House but that communication and working practices could be improved by co-location with Environment highways maintenance officers leading to improved efficiency. In addition, there is sufficient office space at Curzon Drive to accommodate those Europa staff. This saving includes no provision for the possible savings on the lease costs of Station House. A “change control” has already been submitted but the office move has not yet been agreed by Vertex.

Decision: Approved in principle subject to further information on Station House lease and the change control process.

### **Savings Proposal CGSS7 (table on Page 39) – 2012 Olympics**

Committee requested further information from Finance as to why this appeared as a £100k saving in 2012. TC to provide before plenary session next week.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**

**Officer Response to CGSG 1**

The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) is legislation which came into force this year. The CRC has undergone a number of changes in how it operates since it was announced and some elements are not yet confirmed. It now acts as a tax on carbon emissions from energy use. For Thurrock Council it covers gas and electricity emissions and the Council is responsible for the emissions on all its properties, and the schools within its boundary.

Under the legislation the Council is required to purchase "allowances" to cover the total emissions from its operations. The price per tonne was originally scheduled to start at £12 and be subject to a trading market.

The latest publications on the price of carbon identify a sliding scale of costs from £14 per tonne to £30 per tonne. It is not clear when these will be applied to the CRC.

The Council's total carbon footprint is in the region of 20,000 tonnes per annum, there are some elements of our footprint that are excluded for the baseline year (2011-12) which will reduce the cost and we are waiting for confirmation on if these will be re-included for 2012-13.

We have modelled a range of price and emissions forecasts for 2012 to 2015 and these have contributed to the budget within the medium term financial strategy. We are forecasting that the full value of the 2012-13 budget will not be required; however the Council's electricity contract is up for renewal in September 2012. The utilities cost for 2010-11 was £2.7m and it is likely that the new contract prices will increase by a minimum of 20%, this will add at least £0.5m to the Council's energy costs. We have therefore recommended that the CRC budget for 2012-13 should be reviewed at the beginning of the financial year when we have completed one cycle of the payments and any changes are re-allocated to support the change in energy supply.

Additional information will be available shortly following briefings for the Planning, Transportation and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change sub group. This will include information on the new Energy Strategy that is being prepared and the financial modelling.

## **Officer Response to CGSG 2**

### REVIEW OF STAFFING LEVELS IN PUBLIC PROTECTION FOOD TEAM

#### PURPOSE

To determine whether additional staff are required in the Food Team in the light of increasing demands on the service.

#### BACKGROUND

##### 1. Statutory duties of the Food Team

Thurrock Council, is designated a food authority by statute. Thurrock must comply with both UK and EC legislation relating to food safety and any enforcement taken must comply with the Food Law Code of Practice. In addition, the Food Standards Agency has laid down a Framework Agreement, which it expects all food authorities to follow and it is on this standard that the Agency regularly audits those authorities. Failure to comply can result in food authorities being publically named and shamed.

Under the above statutes, Codes of Practice and Framework Agreement, food authorities must produce and undertake an annual risk based programme of food hygiene and food standards inspections. It should also inspect premises on change of use or ownership and new businesses within 28 days of registration. Food premises range from importers and places of manufacture, packing and storage through restaurants, take-aways, home caterers, care homes and children's nurseries to retail stores, market stalls, mobile food vehicles and childminders.

As a food authority, Thurrock must also investigate food and food premise related complaints, suspected or confirmed cases of food poisoning and a significant list of legally notifiable diseases (the latter in liaison with the Health Protection Agency).

Where risks to public health from unsafe food are found, the enforcement options include: advice and guidance, warning letters, legal Notices, detention and seizure of food, prosecution and immediate closure. In cases of infectious disease, children may be formally excluded from nursery or school and food handlers excluded from their place of work.

##### 2. Current staffing issues for the Public Protection Food Team

The current staffing level of the Food Team is 3.5 FTE officers (2.5 Environmental Health Officers who are able to cover the full range of food work and 1 Food Safety Officer who is able to carry out all work except inspections in high risk premises, food seizures and food premise closures). The demands on the food team have increased greatly over the last five years.

### 3. Changes in demands on the Food Team

In line with national trends, the number of takeaways and restaurants per head of population has been increasing for a number of years. Thurrock, however, has seen a rapid increase in population size over the past ten years, which is expected to continue to 2031 and there has also been a change in the nature of food operations in the borough.

- a) Undoubtedly due to the current economic downturn, there has been an increased turnover of ownership, with many more premises opening and closing each year, often doubling the number of food safety inspections required per premise.
- b) There has been deterioration in the standard in a significant number of food premises. Again, this may be due to the current economic situation, with many businesses cancelling pest control contracts, reducing training of staff and cleaning. This has led to more formal enforcement being necessary. In 2011 so far two takeaways have had to be closed due to imminent risk and the food team have forwarded three food files to the legal department for prosecution, including one complex food fraud case.
- c) Thurrock has become a more diverse area and this is reflected in the food imported, manufactured and sold in the borough. Many of the new importers, manufacturers and caterers are specialising in food from Eastern Europe and West Africa and for the majority of these proprietors, this is their first experience of operating a food business. Some will require a large amount of advice and guidance to run a safe business, which complies with UK and EU legislation.
- d) The majority of new businesses opening are small and independent. The owners do not have access to the level of technical knowledge required and they are approaching the food team for this advice. Such businesses are, however, helping to provide economic growth to the borough.
- e) The service provided by the food team has become more widely known across the borough and the number of service requests per year has more than doubled since 2005 and is continuing to rise. These include concerns about food bought in the borough and standards of existing food premises, in addition to the advice on opening new premises.
- f) The volume of food being imported into Thurrock has increased and, again, often by new companies unused to this type of work. For example in July 2011, several hundredweight of yams from the Dominican Republic had to be detained pending analysis and then subsequently destroyed due to illegal levels of pesticides.



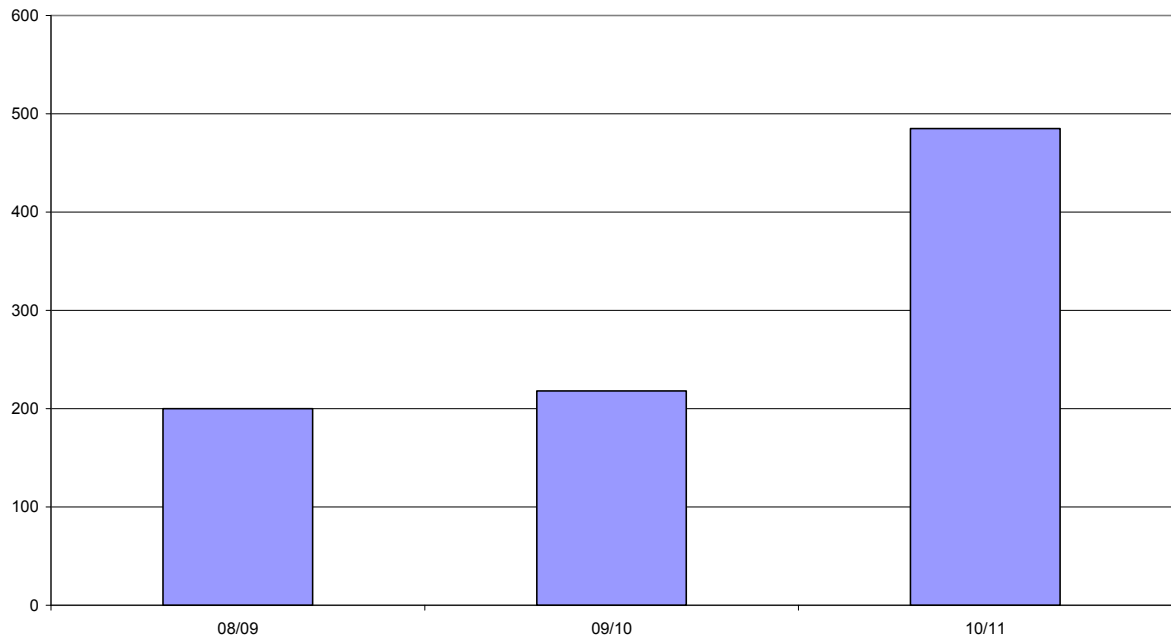
Table 1 Changes in demands on the Food Team between 2005 and 2010.

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Population of Thurrock</b>	146,600	157,200
<b>Number of food premises</b>	906	1280 (current figures for August 2011 are <b>1340</b> )
<b>Programmed inspections required</b>	384	516
<b>New food businesses opening</b>	44	68 Between 2005 to 2010 an average of 46 new food premises opened each year. In 2010 68 opened and in the first 7 months of 2011 69 new premises have opened.
<b>Service requests</b>	161	389
<b>Manufacturers</b>	13	21
<b>Importers</b>	12	18

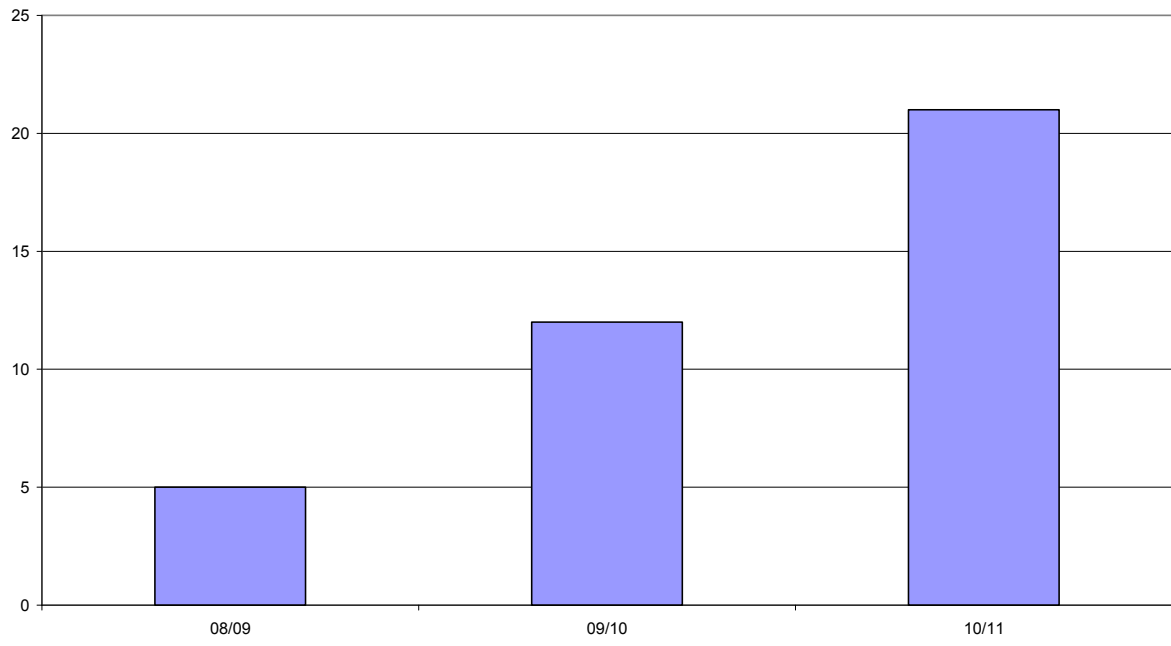
Table 2 the results of a benchmarking exercise undertaken in July 2011 on the ratio of food inspectors to food premises across the Essex Local Authorities. From this it can be seen that Thurrock Council has the lowest ratio at one officer per 670 food businesses for food hygiene inspections. The other staffing resources in the team undertake infectious disease investigations, food standards work (which includes chemical contamination, composition, food fraud and labelling) and Lead Food Officer management duties.

	<b>Food Hygiene Staff</b>	<b>Number of food premises (2011)</b>	<b>Population size (2009)</b>	<b>Ratio of staff to number of food premises</b>
<b>Thurrock</b>	2	1,340	157,200	1:670
<b>Basildon</b>	No response	n/a	174,100	n/a
<b>Braintree</b>	5.5	1,215	142,700	1:221
<b>Brentwood</b>	2	640	73,800	1:320
<b>Castlepoint</b>	No response	n/a	89,200	n/a
<b>Chelmsford</b>	No response	n/a	167,800	n/a
<b>Harlow</b>	2.3	661	80,600	1:287
<b>Maldon</b>	2	600	62,900	1:300
<b>Rochford</b>	2.3	600	83,100	1:261
<b>Tendring</b>	3	1,100	148,000	1:367
<b>Uttlesford</b>	3.6	774	75,600	1:215

Number of Service Requests received - Food



Number of Notices/ Closures



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## NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR FOOD TEAM

It can be seen from the information above that the demands on the food team officers have increased. As a consequence of this, the following issues have arisen:

1. Under the Food Law Code of Practice, all food premises must be inspected within 28 days of registration or opening. This is especially important, as there is no requirement for a food licence or other pre-approval for the majority of food businesses and therefore, until an inspection is carried out, it is not possible to make an accurate determination on whether the food being produced, stored or sold is harmful to public health. Although the team carry out all inspections on a predicted risk basis, there are currently 85 catering food businesses in Thurrock which have yet to receive their first inspection. Many of these are home caterers.
2. Recent communication with the CEF department has identified 40 childcare centres including nurseries and pre and after school clubs which were previously unknown to Public Protection and have therefore not received an inspection.
3. Although the majority of childminders will subsequently receive a low risk rating, they must, by law, receive a minimum of one inspection. Thurrock has 180 childminders registered with Ofsted, none of which have received an inspection by the food team.
4. All programmed food inspections are undertaken at a frequency dependent on their risk rating. 105 inspections due to be carried out prior to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 have not yet taken place, due to poor food safety having been found in earlier inspections, which has required additional officer time to rectify.
5. Food sampling has decreased. This has, in previous years, shown a high percentage of poor or borderline microbiological results and has been an effective method to identify unsafe hygiene practices in Thurrock businesses, which can then be remedied. For example a sample of a cream cake manufactured in Thurrock was sampled on 24.8.11 by a Southend Environmental Health Officer and found to contain e-coli (a food poisoning organism which can be fatal). A detailed investigation is now being carried out.
6. No proactive work is being carried out to identify unregistered food premises in the borough. The businesses with the lowest knowledge of food safety requirements rarely register with the Local Authority.
7. The European Commission has concerns with the level of inspections on primary producers and importers within the UK and has been undertaking a series of audits, concentrating on the south-east of the country. The food team has not carried out any proactive work to identify primary producers or new importers. A survey of the district and a consequent program of inspections has been planned since 2010, but the team have not yet had time to undertake this.

8. A requirement of the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement is to carry out health promotion work to increase the understanding of the general public on food safety and healthy eating. The food team took part in a very successful Essex wide project in 2009/10, which encourages local businesses to provide and promote healthy food options on their menus. Sixteen businesses were invited to the Council Chamber to receive their certificates in February 2010. However, this project has had to be put to one side whilst the team concentrate on high risk inspections and service requests. Obesity remains one of the primary causes of health inequality in Thurrock.
9. Pennington Enquiry and E-Coli. In 2001 and 2005 in the UK, large outbreaks of food poisoning, including some fatalities, resulted from cooked meats contaminated by e-coli organisms from raw meat. In 2011 outbreaks of disease, including a number of deaths occurred in France and Germany from e-coli contaminated ready to eat vegetables. The Food Standards Agency has released guidance on additional controls that food businesses must have to reduce the risk of further outbreaks of not just this organism, but from other food poisoning organisms such as salmonella. In order to ensure that Thurrock's businesses comply with the additional controls, an extensive project will need to be undertaken across the borough. Current staffing levels will not make this possible.

#### FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

All the food work carried out by the Public Protection Team is required by statute and it is all prioritised on a risk basis. However, the significant gaps in the service required, as detailed above lead to the following risks:

1. Unsafe food being imported, manufactured and/or sold within the borough or nationally.
2. Increased risk to public health.
3. Failure of Thurrock Council to comply with its statutory duties as a food authority.
4. Failure of an EC or UK Food Standards Agency audit, with consequent adverse publicity for the council.

## REVIEW OF STAFFING LEVELS IN PUBLIC PROTECTION HEALTH & SAFETY TEAM

### PURPOSE

To determine whether additional staff are required in the Health & Safety Team in the light of increasing demands on the service.

### BACKGROUND

#### 4. Statutory Duties of the Health & Safety Team

Thurrock Council is a designated enforcement authority for health & safety by statute. Thurrock must comply with both UK and EC legislation relating to health & safety and any enforcement taken must comply with the Health & Safety at Work Act (etc.) Act 1974, Enforcement Concordat, Primary Authority Guidance, Thurrock Council's Enforcement Policy and the Enforcement Management Model (EMM) supplied by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and any other relevant code of practice or guidance. In addition, the HSE has laid down an inspection regime that all local authorities must follow in relation to the frequency of inspections of premises via a risk based scoring system which it expects all authorities to follow and it is on this and the section 18 standard that the HSE regularly audits those authorities. Failure to comply can result in authorities being publically named and shamed and being the subject of government intervention to resolve failures to undertake a statutory function.

Under the above statutes, Codes of Practice and inspection regime, health & safety authorities must produce and undertake an annual risk based programme of health & safety audits, inspections and investigations. It should also inspect premises on change of use or ownership. Thurrock is responsible for the enforcement of health and safety legislation and the provision of advice for the majority of businesses in its area with the HSE only responsible for a smaller number of businesses involved in manufacturing and large scale construction.

Additionally the Health and Safety Team deal with the licensing and inspection of Massage Special Treatments (MST) premises, Intense Pulsed Light (IPL - Laser) treatments and Tattooists. The incorrect conduct of these businesses can have a high profile and serious detrimental effect on residents.

As an authority, Thurrock must also investigate accidents including those resulting in fatalities and it should be noted that as opposed to previous years when fatal accidents were relatively rare events five fatal accidents have required investigation in the last four years, with three of these occurring in the last two years. These were the death of a child in a swimming pool, the death of a warehouse worker crushed in an accident with a pallet truck, the death of a weight lifter at a gym, the death of an elderly vulnerable resident in a care

home and most recently the death of an elderly customer in the parking area of a shop.

The Health and Safety team must continue to investigate complaints from public and employees relating to health and safety at business premises and these increased significantly from 07/08.

The team also participate in county wide enforcement projects, where these address risks that are prevalent in Thurrock. Examples of these projects include a recent project to deal with asbestos in business premises, the cause of fatal lung diseases. There is a continuing upward trend in asbestos related deaths nationally.

We also have a flexi warranted officer who can enforce in HSE enforced premises should the need arise in case of an emergency or as part of project work. Requests for such activity are considered and we participate if the request is deemed to address serious risks to Thurrock residents that would not otherwise be addressed.

Where risks to public health are found, the enforcement options include: advice and guidance, warning letters, prohibitions, improvement notices, seizure, prosecution and immediate closure.

The number of improvement and prohibition notices served has increased from 2 three years ago to 14 in each of the last two years.

#### Current staffing issues for the Public Protection Health & Safety Team

The current staffing level of the Health & Safety Team is 5.5 FTE officers. The team is managed by one officer who also carried out operational functions. The Health and Safety team cover internal health and safety which consists of 3 FTE, one of which is funded and dedicated to Environment and 1.5 FTE on external health and safety which is where the growth is requested. "External" officers are able to cover the full range of health & safety work.

#### 5. Changes in demands on the Health & Safety Team

Thurrock has seen a increase in population size over the past ten years, which is expected to continue to 2031 and there has also been a change in the nature of all types of businesses within the area particularly those providing consumer services to residents for which Thurrock is the enforcement authority.

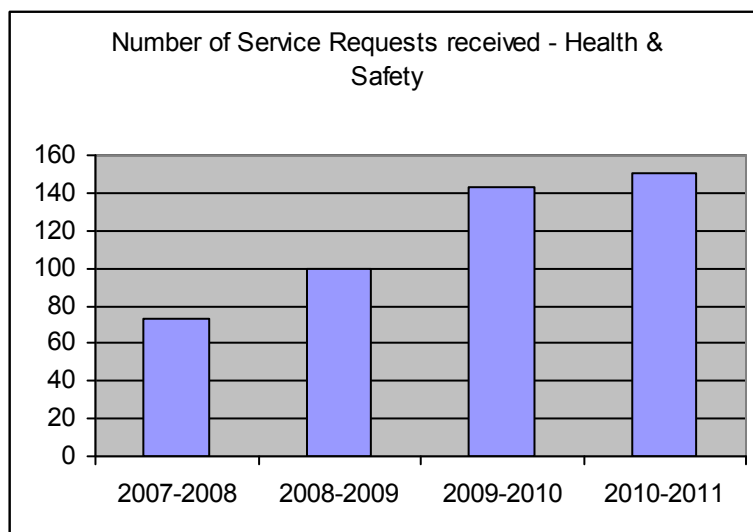
- a) Undoubtedly due to the current economic downturn, there has been an increased turnover of ownership, with many more premises opening and closing each year. This places additional demands for health and safety advise and enforcement due to the relative inexperience of some business operators.
- b) There has been deterioration in standards generally this may be due to the current economic situation, with many businesses reducing training

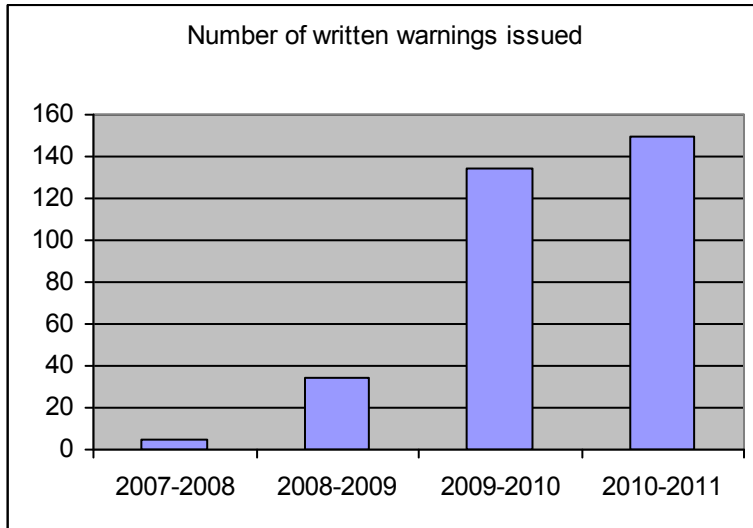
of staff and a reduction of maintenance. This has led to more formal enforcement being necessary. In relation to workloads just one fatality investigation could take a member of staff off normal duties for up to three months.

- c) The majority of new businesses opening are small and independent. The owners do not have access to the level of technical knowledge required and they are approaching the health & safety team for this advice. Such businesses are, however, helping to provide economic growth to the borough.
- d) There has been a significant increase in multi-cultural businesses in the area and language barriers are now quite common. This means inspections take longer and the volume of follow up work is increased, in addition to the advice on opening new premises.

The following tables and graphs illustrate some of the figures and trends in the demand for health and safety work.

Type of Activity	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11
Number of Service Requests received - Health & Safety	73	100	143	150
Number of Notices served	2	14	14	16
Number of written warnings issued	5	34	134	150
Number of simple cautions issued	0	0	0	0
Number of completed prosecutions	0	1	0	0
Number of External Accidents	24	70	240	163





### NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR THE HEALTH & SAFETY TEAM

The demand on the health & safety team officers has increased, whilst the number of officers has reduced. As a consequence of this, the following issues have arisen:

1. Under the law all local authority health & safety enforced premises must be as per the risk rating inspection schedule score and new premises inspected with a reasonable timescale from date of opening dependant to the type of business. Until an inspection is carried out, it is not possible to make an accurate determination on whether the premises are being managed affectively and that risks to staff and the public have been adequately been covered/negated. Although the team carry out all inspections on a predicted risk basis, there are currently 40 businesses in Thurrock which have yet to receive their first inspection.
2. Recent communication with the CEF department has identified 40 childcare centres including nurseries which were previously unknown to Public Protection and have therefore not received an inspection for health & safety..
3. Minimal proactive work is being carried out to identify new businesses in the borough.



## FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

All the work carried out by the Public Protection Team is required by statute and it is all prioritised on a risk basis. However, the significant gaps in the service required, as detailed above lead to the following risks:

1. Unsafe practices within the borough which could impact nationally should we have a role as a Primary or Originating Authority.
2. Increased risk to workers and the public health risks.
3. Failure of Thurrock Council to comply with its statutory duties as a health & safety authority.
4. Failure of a HSE audit, with consequent adverse publicity for the council.

## **Officer Response to CGSS 5**

The information regarding the lease of Station House to Europa is detailed below :-

Term: 5 Years

Commencement Date: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Rent: £2,500pa

Currently occupied by 22 FTE, 5 Lands, 17 Highways etc. with 11 marked parking bays.

NB – The council owns the freehold

The change control CC814 was drafted at the request of Andrew Murphy on the 12th October for discussion at both October pre-POB and POB meeting, and for Vertex to review and provide feedback to the Council on the proposed changes.

Vertex has subsequently reviewed the proposed changes outlined in the change control document, and provided formal feedback on the 9th Nov 2011.

This feedback and proposed alternative model has been provided to Sustainable Communities for operational discussion and agreement with Vertex.

At present the change control is with the Councils operational groups in Sustainable Communities to discuss with the partner; to resolve and agree on the points raised as part of the feedback provided by Vertex. Once this is done the change control and/or revised version would then be presented back to POB for ratification.