

ITEM 16 - UPDATE ON MOTIONS PASSED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING – 23 JANUARY 2013

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
25/01/12	Cllr M Revell	That this Council forthwith make the Corporate Parenting Group an official Committee of Thurrock Council with Terms of Reference as attached and for the Constitution Working Group to consider at their meeting to be held on 31st January 2012, all relevant constitutional matters as referred to in Chapter 1, Part 2 – Article 15 (3) with reference to Chapter 5, Part 1 – Article 8, and to report back to the Full Council meeting to be held on 29th February 2012.	<p>The subject of the Motion was discussed at the Constitution Working Group on 31 January 2012 and a report was included on the agenda for the meeting of Council on the 29 February 2012.</p> <p>The Corporate Parenting Group is now a Committee of the Council and the necessary constitutional amendments have been made. The first Committee Meeting took place on 10 July 2012.</p>	Chief Executive
21/03/12	Cllr J Kent	This Council agrees to object in the strongest terms to the proposal by the Conservative Mayor of London, and to the Government's Consultation proposals, to build a major hub airport in or around the Thames Estuary.	The Government has recently announced that it will be asking Sir Howard Davies to chair an independent Commission tasked with identifying and recommending to Government options for maintaining this country's status as an international hub for aviation. The Commission will provide an interim report to Government no later than the end of 2013. The Council will provide a Member response to the Commission, which will oppose the development of a Thames Estuary airport.	David Bull
21/03/12	Cllr G Rice	This Council calls upon the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary to halt the police cuts in Essex. The public are alarmed at the 388 police posts, the 500 civilian posts and the 100 PCSOs posts that will disappear by 2014. We urge David Cameron and Teresa May to reverse these cuts as they will have a detrimental effect on policing in Essex and this will lead to a rise in crime which no citizen of Thurrock wishes to see.	<p>The Home Office have responded in a letter dated 30 November 2012, advising that all public services must constrain their spending to deal with the budget deficit and as a service spending £14 billion a year, there was a broad consensus that the police can and must make their fair share of the savings that are needed.</p> <p>The Government has made it clear that what matters is frontline service; how effective the police are at fighting crime. The effectiveness of a police force depends, not on overall numbers, but on how well it deploys its resources. The Home Office advise that decisions about the allocation of available resources are matters for Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables</p>	Jo Olsson

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			locally.	
21/03/12	Original Motion proposed by Cllr B Rice but wording amended by Cllr Arnold (seconded by Cllr MacPherson)	<p>This Council is aware of concerns regarding the Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition Government's proposals in the Health and Social Care Bill for the NHS.</p> <p>1. This Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the principles of a National Health Service, as enacted in the 1945-50 parliament [Labour Government], were set out by Henry Willick MP (Minister of Health 1943-45, Member of Parliament for Croydon North [Conservative]), following the publication of the Beveridge Report [Liberal], and endorsed by all parties who made up the wartime coalition (Conservative, Labour and Liberal). b) That there is widespread opposition to the Government's proposed reforms. c) That there was widespread opposition from within the medical establishment to the formation of that National Health Service (including from the British Medical Association, British Hospitals Association, the British Dental Association and the Royal College of Obstetricians), that Aneurin Bevan MP was accused at the time of 'destroying the relationship between the doctor and the patient' and that had the then Labour Government waited for 'consensus' the National Health Service would never have been founded. <p>2. This Council calls upon the Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition Government to continue to</p>	<p>Responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the reforms locally has been the responsibility of the Health and Well-Being Board.</p> <p>The Department of Health has been written to over specific concerns that have been raised e.g. over the adequacy of the funding transfer to Thurrock for Public Health responsibilities.</p> <p>We are developing a strong relationship with our local Clinical Commissioning Group and they are fully engaged with the HWB Board.</p> <p>It is our intention to establish joint plans with the CCG, look to where we can jointly commission services locally and hopefully base their officer team within the Civic Offices.</p>	Jo Olsson

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		consult widely, with a view to achieving consensus where possible, on any NHS reforms before implementing the parts of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 relating to the NHS		
21/03/12	Cllr Anderson	That this Council thanks those Members who are retiring or standing down after the forthcoming local elections for their service to the Borough of Thurrock, and wishes them all the best for the future.	No action required.	Chief Executive
20/06/12	Cllr Hebb	<p>Following Commencement Order No. 4 (Localism Act 2011), this council does hereby instruct the Constitutional Working Group to review and recommend a much needed constitutional change whereby petitions received at Full Council for planning matters, which reflect a proportionate amount of the communities affected, are debated by the entire chamber.</p> <p>Such a move will further enhance the localism agenda by giving elected members a mechanism to react to the public mood and consequently have a full and balanced debate on issues which may affect residents for years to come.</p>	<p>The Council's Petition Scheme was reviewed by the Constitution Working Group and its recommendations considered by the Council on 26 September 2012.</p> <p>The proposed amendments to the Scheme were approved, to allow petitions in respect of planning matters to be debated by the Council, subject to reaching a threshold of 1500 signatures.</p> <p>The Constitution has since been amended to reflect the changes agreed by the Council.</p>	Chief Executive
20/06/12	Cllr Pearce	This Council resolves to convey to Her Most Britannic Majesty, The Queen, our congratulations on her Diamond Jubilee and on behalf of the people of Thurrock, it recognises her selfless public service to the nation over the last 60 years. Further, it notes recent Royal visits to Thurrock and affirms our loyalty and support for the Royal Family	The Mayor sent a letter to Her Majesty, The Queen, on 14 August 2012.	Chief Executive
25/07/12	Cllr Gerrish	This Council is concerned by Tory proposals to scrap GCSEs. This would harm the opportunities of Thurrock pupils. Thurrock Council agrees to object to these proposals.	A formal response to the consultation on the future proposals to replace GCSEs was prepared and was sent before the consultation closes on December 10 th	Jo Olsson

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25/07/12	Cllr Halden	That the council receive a report at its next meeting setting out the capital and revenue costs, together with any other implications, of electronically recording, as of October 1st 2012, the proceedings of all meetings of the cabinet, council and its committees that are open to the public to attend in order for the subsequent recordings to be made available on the councils website for anyone and everyone to scrutinise.	<p>A report on the subject of the Motion was considered and agreed by the Council at its meeting on 26 September. A pilot scheme to record meetings open to the public to attend and publish those audio files to the internet commenced on at the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 16 October 2012, once the necessary equipment was in place.</p> <p>Recordings of meetings can be downloaded via:</p> <p>http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/democracy/content.php?page=committees_recordings</p>	Chief Executive
25/07/12	Cllr Healy	Thurrock Council resolves to work towards becoming a Living Wage Employer. Such accreditation when obtained will mean that anyone working for this Council as a Council employee is paid at a rate not less than the Living Wage Rate and further resolves to take steps to encourage Council contractors to do the same with their employees.	A report was considered by the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11 September. This report assessed the implications of the introduction of the living wage for Thurrock Council employees and wider workforce through its contracts and partnerships and asked the Committee to consider all implications in the report before further plans were taken to the full Council.	Chief Executive
25/07/12	Cllr Gledhill	Thurrock Council supports the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Bill to criminalise tenancy fraud and until its implementation call on the appropriate authorities to sentence those found guilty of tenancy fraud to the full extent of the law.	<p>Thurrock Council was one of the 87 Local Authorities that responded to the DCLG Housing Fraud consultation. This response was sent on 22 March 2012. In its response, the Council agreed with the Government proposal to create a new criminal offence for Housing fraud. The Government published the official response to the consultation in July. The guidance the Government is giving in terms of prosecutions is that:-</p> <p><i>“Local authorities would decide on a case by case basis with common factors such as strength of evidence and whether it would be in the public interest to pursue a prosecution.”</i></p> <p>The Government recommends that issues such as</p>	Barbara Brownlee

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			<p>vulnerable tenants should be taken into account when deciding whether to prosecute.</p> <p>This is now the subject of a private members bill going through Parliament. If Parliament passes legislation that creates a new criminal offence for tenancy fraud, the Council will consider the appropriate policy options.</p> <p>Currently, the Housing Service robustly investigates cases of housing fraud through a dedicated Housing Investigation Team, which comprises professional investigators, who work closely with the housing management teams. At any one time, the team have an open case file of about 50 active cases. In respect of the last financial year, they recovered 48 properties that had unauthorised occupation. Since April 2012, they have recovered 23 such properties. According to Audit Commission calculations, that is a saving to the overall public purse of £1.83M for this year.</p>	
25/07/12	Cllr Gledhill	<p>We call on Thurrock Council to immediately constitute a new Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as a formal committee of Council in accordance with the terms of reference attached at Appendix A and refer this to the Constitution Working Group to consider, as a matter of urgency during the recess period, all relevant constitutional and resourcing matters, and to report back to the Council meeting to be held on 26 September 2012.</p>	<p>The Council considered a report which addressed the subject of the Motion at its meeting on 26 September. The Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee was appointed to, the recommended amendments to the Constitution approved and the first meeting of the Committee was held on 10 October 2012, with further meetings having been scheduled to be held throughout the remainder of the municipal year.</p>	Chief Executive
26/09/12	Cllr P Smith	<p>Thurrock Council is concerned about the planned changes to the council tax benefit system.</p> <p>Thurrock Council believes this could lead to hardship for some of its residents.</p> <p>Thurrock Council asks the Ministers for Local Government to revisit these changes ensuring</p>	<p>Following agreement of the motion by Council a letter was sent to the secretary of state setting out the Councils concerns about the new Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS).</p> <p>A report recommending the Council's LCTSS for 2013/14 was considered and agreed by the Council on 28 November 2012, with a minor amendment to the</p>	Martin Hone

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		Thurrock is not disadvantaged by having limited opportunities to raise the 10% reduction in Council Tax benefit support.	element regarding military compensation payments	
26/09/12	Cllr Liddiard	This council recognises the sterling work of the Thurrock Foodbank and its volunteers. Thurrock Council agrees to support and promote this project on behalf of the increasing numbers of families that are without proper homes and are falling below the poverty line	<p>A food collection point will be placed within the reception area of the Civic Offices towards the end of the year, which was the preference of the Foodbank. The promotion will be to encourage staff members to 'bring a can to work' and will be advertised internally nearer the time.</p> <p>This timing was agreed at the request of the local organisers of the Foodbank.</p> <p>The food collection point will be set up in March 2013.</p>	Jo Olsson / Barbara Brownlee
26/09/12	Cllr Halden	The chamber requests a feasibility study to be done with a view to allowing schools to directly spend 106 or CIL money designated for educational provision.	Legal advice is that it is entirely reasonable to seek from developers funds for schools. However the actual decision of allocation of the apportionment of funds would need to remain with the local authority in terms of CIL policy. For S.106 monies it is not possible to direct that the funds be paid directly to schools which are not connected in any way with the development. Going forward to the CIL regime it could be possible to establish a consultation advisory panel or sounding board where the local schools could have an input into the prioritisation of such funds in terms of allocation and that would assist in terms of establish a degree of accountability. The feasibility of this will be examined in forthcoming reports on CIL to the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.	Jo Olsson / David Bull
24/10/12	Cllr P Smith	Council notes that, starting in October 2013, Universal Credit will begin to replace Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Support for Mortgage Interest.	The officer working group on welfare reform has met several times with representatives from the DWP and the local Jobcentre Plus. The roll-out of Universal Credit will commence in October 2013 as planned. However, the timing of its completion has been extended from April 2017 to April 2020.	Martin Hone

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		<p>Council recognises that Universal Credit is a household benefit and that the income from Universal Credit will therefore be critical to the household incomes of thousands of its residents who are both in and out of work.</p> <p>Council therefore believes that the quality of the Universal Credit 'service' will be important to the lives of its citizens and that the planned reliance on a web based delivery model backed up by remote call centres without the inclusion of a local, easily accessible, face to face service element puts the successful introduction of Universal Credit at significant risk.</p> <p>Council resolves to approach the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and raise its concerns.</p> <p>Council further resolves to ask Cabinet to develop, jointly with DWP, local arrangements for the delivery of Universal Credit and to report back on progress to a future Full Council specifically addressing the resources required and responses to the following basic questions:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How will someone apply locally?• Where will they apply locally?• Where will they take required documents locally?• Where will the local 'Universal Credit' office be and what office accommodation will be required?• How will the skills and experience of existing benefits staff be utilised and how many staff will be needed?	<p>Officers are working closely with colleagues in other Essex authorities to ensure that we are ready to deal with the impact of Universal Credit in terms of demands on Council services.</p>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does an individual citizen get face to face advice and help if they have a problem? 		
24/10/12	Cllr Hebb	<p>Thurrock Council recognises the success of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations; specifically the sense of 'Olympic Spirit' and the renewed pride in our shared British identity that these events have engendered.</p> <p>This council notes the work that has already begun on securing the sporting aspects of the Olympic legacy, and wishes to extend it to build on the renewed sense of pride, aspiration, and achievement in other areas of community life in Thurrock. To this end, the Council commits to establishing a cross-party Legacy Working Group as a forum to develop members' ideas to capitalise on the memorable events of 2012 and to secure their legacy for future generations.</p>	<p>An initial meeting has been convened between Councillor Hebb and relevant Directors to explore the potential areas of focus and the desired outcomes. This will ensure the right officer leadership is in place to support members and the risk of mission creep is avoided.</p> <p><u>January Update</u></p> <p>A short report from the Legacy Working Group has been prepared. The report's ideas for an aspirational legacy linked to perceptions of the Borough will be taken forward through Thurrock's January Business Board meeting. The Celebrate Thurrock cross party Member group will look at how best to incorporate ideas for events linked to the aspirational legacy, in the Thurrock 2013 events calendar.</p>	Steve Cox
28/11/12	Cllr Ray	<p>The Council, having to face in the coming years the certainty of ever increasing its Council Tax, establish a cross-party working group to look into the feasibility of creating a Thurrock Lottery for the benefit of the residents of Thurrock.</p>	<p>A Member Group is being set up to investigate the options, gather evidence from other lottery providers including local authorities or their equivalent elsewhere in the world and take a view on whether a lottery should be pursued.</p> <p>The Lead Officer is waiting for nominations to form a working group to explore the motion to look into a Lottery for Thurrock.</p>	Steve Cox
28/11/12	Cllr Ojetola	<p>This Council recognises the distress and unfair treatment of residents of Thurrock caused by unscrupulous car clampers. To that end, it welcomes the Conservative led Government's legislation outlawing rogue car clampers.</p> <p>The Council resolves to publicise this widely to all</p>	<p>The Council will work with other agencies to publicise new rules around car clamping. The aim will be to empower motorists in Thurrock to resist illegitimate attempts to clamp their vehicles and then demand fees for release.</p>	Jo Olsson

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		residents of Thurrock to ensure that drivers are aware of the new rules and their rights in respect to parking, complaints and appealing against illegal clamping and calls on the new police commissioner to ensure the new rule is enforced.		
28/11/12	Cllr J. Kent	<p>Thurrock Council welcomes the Government's intention to move to Free Flow Tolling for the Purfleet to Dartford Crossing as this will significantly reduce congestion at the crossing.</p> <p>To further cut congestion Thurrock Council calls on Government to bring forward improvements to the A13 / M25 junction and remains opposed to any new crossing in Thurrock.</p>	<p>The Council has responded to the Government's intention in support of free tolling on the QE11 bridge.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place between Council officers and the DfT on developing proposals at Junction 30/31 on the M25. These discussions are ongoing.</p>	David Bull
28/11/12	Cllr Wootton	<p>This council applauds and supports the aims and objectives of the "Climate Local" scheme, and agrees to sign up to the "Climate Local Commitment".</p> <p>The council agrees to set locally owned and determined targets and actions, aimed at both saving money and tackling climate change, and to publish these within 6 months as required by the commitment.</p>	<p>A briefing meeting took place on the 21st December with the Chair and Vice Chair of Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny. This provided an update on the current status on the Council's Climate Change work programme. A Member group is being set up to agree the development the local targets and actions. Terms of Reference for the group are currently being drafted and the timetable of meetings will be set up when Membership of the group has been confirmed.</p>	Steve Cox