

Item 20 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 23 October 2013

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
24/10/12	Cllr P Smith	<p>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.</p> <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. 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 	<p>The officer working group on welfare reform meets monthly with representatives from the DWP and the local Jobcentre Plus. The roll-out of Universal Credit will commence later than planned and Thurrock is unlikely to start UC roll-out until later this year at the earliest. However, the timing of its completion has been extended from April 2017 to April 2020.</p> <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> <p>The Council's Welfare Reform Group, chaired by the Director of Adults, Health & Commissioning, continues to meet on a regular basis. The work of the Group is co-ordinated by the Portfolio Holder, Cllr B. Rice. At the May meeting of the Group it was confirmed that the Essential Living Fund (previously administered by the DWP) was operating well, and payments to date were below budget. The Government sponsored Money Advice Service (MA) presented to the Group and are keen to work with the Council to identify households and individuals who could benefit from their guidance.</p> <p>Briefings are ongoing for front-line staff to update them on the latest development in welfare reform, specifically the replacement of Disability Living Allowance by Personal Independence Payments which begins to be 'rolled out' for new applicants from summer 2013.</p> <p>October update - The national roll-out for Universal Credit will commence later than planned, and is unlikely to start in Thurrock before April 2014 at the earliest. Officers of the council will be working with DWP to learn from Hammersmith experience (Our pilot area) and to start preparation work which is necessary.</p> <p>The Officer Working Group on welfare reforms meets</p>	Roger Harris/ Sean Clark

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		<p>and what office accommodation will be required?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the skills and experience of existing benefits staff be utilised and how many staff will be needed? • How does an individual citizen get face to face advice and help if they have a problem? 	<p>monthly with representatives from the DWP and the Local Jobcentre Plus. The director of Adults, Health & Commissioning (Who is the lead director for Welfare Reforms) met with the JCP Area Manager for Essex and Integrated District Operational Manager, who is the Universal Credit implementation lead DWP officer for Essex area) on 17 September 2013, to discuss Universal Credit and a local joint working partnership.</p> <p>The Welfare Reforms group has also commenced discussions on the Local Support Services Framework (LSSF) DWP sees Local Authorities as important partners for delivering local face to face support to vulnerable individuals if they have a problem with their benefit claims. (This will include; help and support to make online claims, learn to use digital services and set up a personal online professional profile and email accounts, support to obtain basic bank / credit union accounts, budgeting monthly UC payments and managing rent payments to landlords, online job search, benefit advice and outreach work and help and support with appeals). The council needs to decide the type of local support services they want locally and how they want them delivered to support vulnerable people.</p> <p>The Government sponsored Money Advice Service (MA) presented to the Group and are keen to work with the Council to identify households and individuals who could benefit from their guidance. The council's officers have since organised in partnership with the Money Advice Service (MA) to provide money advice surgeries in Thurrock. In the past three months, 30 people have been supported to see a money adviser at surgeries based in the Civic Centre, South Ockendon Community Hub and Tilbury Local Office.</p>	
24/10/12	Cllr Hebb	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.	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.	Steve Cox

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		<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>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> <p>The aspirational legacy opportunities were discussed at the last Celebrate Thurrock cross party group where various follow up actions were agreed as part of the calendar of 2013 events. The Thurrock Business Board received early proposals for capturing Olympic momentum and promoting Thurrock to businesses and investors. The sporting legacy was considered as part of the Sports Strategy at the recent CGS Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.</p> <p>Full proposals to enhance the image and promote Thurrock event take account of the Olympic legacy were presented to the Thurrock Business Board on 21 March.</p> <p>The programme of events for 2013 was published in the Enquirer "wraparound" at the end of March.</p> <p>In addition to the programme of Thurrock events contained within the recent Enquirer insert, the Celebrate Thurrock Group met with TICC, the Thurrock International Celebration of Culture group, in May to discuss their plans for the summer. As part of their programme, a collection of events will take place on Friday 12 July to mark the anniversary of the Olympic torch relay coming through the borough. This includes a parade of schools to launch the newly created Thurrock Olympic Heritage Trail, a street festival in Grays town centre and evening of music with guest soloist Chris Brubeck as well as local young performers at the Civic Hall.</p> <p>The programme of events in the Borough will continue through the summer with the Big Screen event at High House on 18 July, the Big Lunch on 24 July and T-Fest</p>	
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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 Thurrock Lottery Working Group has met and agreed its Terms of Reference and work plan to consider the feasibility of a Thurrock Lottery.</p> <p>Work is progressing to assess the feasibility in line with the agreed work plan.</p> <p>The Group continues to meet to research the potential for a Thurrock Lottery.</p> <p>The Group continues to meet to consider options.</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 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.</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> <p>Public Protection and Communications have issued publicity to the press offering advice for persons subject to illegal car clamping</p>	Lucy Magill

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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> <p>A transport minister has indicated that the Free Flow Tolling will be implemented in the autumn 2014 – the LEP are pressing for this to be bought forward.</p> <p>The consultation on the Lower Thames crossing option by the DfT started on 21st May. This will be discussed at the Planning, Transportation and Regeneration O & S Committee & Cabinet.</p> <p>This matter was the subject of an O&S Select Committee event on 1st July and a report, detailing a proposed Council response to the consultation, was discussed by Cabinet on 10th July. The response shall be submitted to the Government by the closing date of 16th July.</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 was set up to agree the development the local targets and actions.</p> <p>The first meeting of the Climate Local Group was held on 19th February and agreed the terms of reference and timetable for the Climate Local Commitment submission.</p> <p>The group will be meeting monthly to review progress from current Council activities and develop a set of priorities and targets for the submission. Progress will be reported to Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny in April and the commitment will be developed for agreement in June 2013.</p> <p>The second meeting of the group is scheduled for 18th</p>	Steve Cox

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			<p>March and will provide a detailed briefing on the Council's and borough emissions and progress to date on work programmes. This will be used to identify areas of focus which will be developed into the new Climate Local targets.</p> <p>A detailed briefing has been completed and an outline list of priorities agreed. These are being developed into further with costings and best practice information for the next meeting in May. Depending on the outcome of the next stage, the action plan will be completed by July Council for agreement and signing of the Commitment.</p> <p>Work remains on track for July, analysis of the priority list is being completed and worked into an overall set of targets for the commitment.</p> <p>A report from the Climate Local Group with recommendations to the portfolio holder for environment was presented to CGS O&S on the 11th July. The commitment is now ready for signature and a delivery plan will be prepared to action these.</p>	
23/01/13	Cllr Halden	<p>It is the will of council that members should defend their taxpayers. As such, council requires a specific section on every portfolio holder report to full council (delivered under the provisions of chapter 2 part 2 section 3.8 of the constitution) be dedicated to financial matters.</p> <p>This financial section of the report should cover all finance and budget issues of the portfolio that the portfolio holder considers relevant, including (but not limited to): fiscal management; budget responsibility of the cabinet member; receipts and actual spend vs. predicted spend; the levels of virements; and value for money.</p>	<p>The report template has been amended to provide for the financial information requested by the Motion to be included in the written reports submitted by Cabinet Members to future meetings of the Council. The template can be found in J:\THURROCK\Corporate Templates.</p>	Graham Farrant

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27/02/13	Cllr Hague	<p>All council tax payers are entitled to a discounted rate for use of the Dartford Crossing, by filling in a form. Since the council will be writing to all council tax payers next month with the bills, the council resolves to include a copy of the form with each bill, to ensure every resident has the opportunity to take advantage of the discount.</p>	<p>An application form was included with each council tax bill sent out in March. Although the form was not in the correct format, it has been confirmed that applications will be honoured. It is also possible to apply on-line.</p> <p>Customer services received a large number of calls from residents soon after the 2013/14 Council Tax bills were sent out and the initiative seems to have stimulated demand for the discount.</p>	Sean Clark
27/03/13	Cllr Pearce	<p>Thurrock Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister David Cameron to welcome the announcement of a referendum on the United Kingdom's continued membership of the European Union.</p>	<p>A letter has been sent to the Prime Minister and a response was received from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, dated 15 May.</p> <p>Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister about the EU. As you can appreciate, the Prime Minister receives a high volume of correspondence. Where relevant, letters are delegated to officials at the appropriate government department for a response.</p> <p>The Government believes that membership of the EU is in the national interest, but also that important reforms are needed in the way the EU works. The UK's membership of the European Union is of huge benefit in terms of the jobs and investment that the single market helps to bring to the UK; in terms of the strong collective voice which the EU provides on negotiating free trade agreements; through the UK's ability to use targeted, effective sanctions to counter threats to our security; and to act internationally on cross-border issues such as climate change, peace keeping and conflict prevention.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the EU needs reform. And so, while the UK is committed to playing an active and influential role across all areas of EU activity, it will also argue for reforms that will ensure the EU can better tackle the challenges it now faces. The Prime Minister has been clear that the EU must address its main challenges: the Eurozone crisis, the EU's lack of competitiveness and the disengagement that many</p>	Graham Farrant

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27/03/13	Cllr J Kent	Thurrock Council establishes a working group to ensure the events of the First World War are appropriately commemorated in Thurrock.	<p>Nominations have now been received for the working group and a meeting will be convened at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>The Group has held its first meeting and is considering a programme of events. Local groups, schools and residents will be invited to share their ideas.</p> <p>The Group has prepared an outline programme which will be shared with Full Council in October.</p>	Steve Cox
27/03/13	Cllr Hebb	Thurrock Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister David Cameron to show support for his recent announcement of a new proposed Chief Inspector of Hospitals in response to reported persistently high death rates at BTUH.	<p>A letter has been sent to the Prime Minister and a response was received from the Department of Health on 13 May 2013, which reads as follows:</p> <p>“Thank you for your letter of 12 April to David Cameron about Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals Trust. As this matter is health-related, your letter has</p>	Roger Harris

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			<p>BTUH) will be attending the September meeting of the Health and Well-Being Board to go through the report in more detail and explain the hospitals initial response.</p> <p>October update - The Department of Health have recently announced what being in 'special measures' means for the eleven Trusts where 'special measures' apply following the Keogh Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trusts are required to published an Improvement Plan – with monthly progress updates published; • Leadership reviewed – with Trusts required to make changes (BTUH have already made extensive changes to Board level management); • Intense external scrutiny from the NHS Trust Development Authority and from Monitor – to ensure that improvement actions are being taken; • An Improvement Director will be allocated to each Trust; • Trusts could have some of their freedoms suspended – e.g. freedom to decide who sits on the executive board, how to spend their money etc. <p>How and the extent to which some of the above measures are applied will be on a case by case basis.</p>	
24/04/13	Cllr Hebb	Thurrock Council recognises and acknowledges the services to the nation of the late Baroness Thatcher as Prime Minister, and asks the Mayor to send the council's condolences to her family.	The Mayor had written to the Prime Minister to express condolences on behalf of the Council before the Council meeting was held in April.	Graham Farrant
19/06/13	Cllr B Rice	In recognition of the growing demands on the Council and society at large caused by the increasing numbers of people with dementia this Council resolves:	Workforce Development are currently arranging with Members Services the dates of the dementia training that will form part of the Members Development Programme. We plan to offer approximately 4 sessions.	Roger Harris

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Thurrock will become a Dementia Friendly Council. All members will be encouraged to gain more understanding and awareness of dementia by signing up to be a dementia friend at www.dementiafriends.org.uk and attending a one hour information session 	<p>We are also reviewing the delivery of our Dementia Strategy and a report on the impact of our Dementia Action Plan and a refreshed plan for 2014/15 will be going to HOSC in the Autumn.</p> <p>October update - Workforce Development had scheduled 3 sessions (on in the Morning, Afternoon and Evening) on the 16th October. However, due to the unforeseen election uptake has been low. As such this date has been cancelled and will be rearranged.</p>	
24/07/13	Cllr W Curtis	This Council calls upon Essex and Suffolk Water Company to provide a Water Ring Main to service the Buckles Lane, South Ockendon area. This is to ensure the appropriate water pressure is available to the Fire Service in the event of another fire.	<p>The issues with the water supply are associated with the site itself as opposed to the public supply provided by Essex and Suffolk Water. This is due to the size of the site meaning that some areas on it are distant from the public main.</p> <p>In order to provide the best fire cover in these circumstances, Essex Fire have enhanced their prearranged attendance for this site to include a water tanker and a hose laying vehicle.</p> <p>Any enhancements to the water distribution system on site to improve fire fighting capabilities would be the responsibility of the site owner or occupier.</p>	Lucy Magill
24/07/13	Cllr B Rice	Thurrock Council Welcomes the transfer of Public Health functions to this council and notes that, despite promises that funding would be at 2012/13 levels, the public health grant awarded for 2013/14 includes a funding cut of 12.7% - or £1.124m. The Council calls on the Department of Health to fully restore the level of Public Health Grant funding to £8.541m.	<p>We have produced a detailed analysis of how the funding of Public Health services was built up during the last financial year (2012/13) when run by the SW Essex PCT – to show that Thurrock has experienced a £ 1.1m shortfall.</p> <p>This has now been submitted to the Department of Health and we await their formal response.</p>	Roger Harris
24/07/13	Cllr P Smith	<p>Whilst welcoming the principles behind the Troubled Families Project, Thurrock Council feels that the project should have been fully funded.</p> <p>Councils are expected to fund 60% of this project</p>	The Chief Executive has written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury requesting a response to the motion.	Carmel Littleton

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		<p>whilst facing year on year cuts to their operating budgets and to fund this initiative will mean that another service provided to our residents will have to be cut to fund this Government plan.</p> <p>We ask that the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles MP, and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP, to ask that this important project is fully funded by the Government.</p>	<p>The position of the council underlying this motion was also explained at a meeting with DCLG representatives when they visited the Troubled Families Programme in mid September.</p>	
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