

Item 18 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 26 March 2014

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
27/03/13	Cllr Pearce	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>A letter has been sent to the Prime Minister and a response was received from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, dated 15 May, which reads as follows:</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 voters feel from the EU and what it does.</p>	Graham Farrant

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			<p>Progress on reform has already been made. For example, the UK secured a single EU patent regime which saves innovators and entrepreneurs millions of pounds in multiple patent applications and encourages economic growth. And the UK formed a coalition of the Dutch, Swedes, Danes, Finns and Germans to argue for greater restraint in the Multi-annual Financial Framework negotiations, securing a good deal for European tax payers in February 2013. This was the first ever reduction in the EU's seven-year budget.</p> <p>Reflecting the Coalition Agreement between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, the Government has no plans to hold a referendum about the UK's membership of the EU in this Parliament. In a speech given in January 2013, David Cameron outlined future proposals of the Conservative Party about such a referendum, looking ahead to the next election. Other political parties will set out their positions on a referendum in their next manifestos.”</p>	
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. The Group continues to meet to develop a programme of commemorative events for Thurrock.</p> <p>The Group is progressing with plans to hold a Civic Event within a wider community event at Tilbury Fort 4 August 2014. A wider programme continues to develop.</p> <p>Plans for the Civic Event 4 August are developing well.</p>	Steve Cox

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			<p>As well as commemorative service, the event will provide an opportunity to showcase community partner contributions, events, activities and family entertainment. Some schools have also expressed a desire to be involved even though the event falls in the school holidays. We have adopted the national branding for WW1 commemorative events and will be promoting the event locally through the local press and partner organisations.</p>	
27/03/13	Cllr Hebb	<p>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>	<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 been passed to the Department of Health and I have been asked to reply.</p> <p>As you are aware, the NHS Medical Director, Sir Bruce Keogh, is conducting an independent investigation into 14 trusts that have higher than expected death rates, one of which is Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals Trust. The investigation will seek to determine whether there are any sustained failings in the quality of care and treatment being provided to patients at these trusts. It will identify how these trusts can be helped to improve, including any additional regulatory action that may be needed in order to protect patients.</p> <p>NHS England selected these trusts because they had provided outlying results for the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) for a period of two years. More information on the</p>	Roger Harris

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			<p>to make changes (BTUH have already made extensive changes to Board level management);</p> <p>Intense external scrutiny from the NHS Trust Development Authority and from Monitor – to ensure that improvement actions are being taken;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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> <p>November update – in January of this year, CQC carried out an inspection at the Hospital which resulted in the issuing of compliance actions against two essential standards – ‘care and welfare of people who use services’, and ‘cleanliness and infection control’, and a warning notice against another of the essential standards – ‘assessing and monitoring the quality of service provision’.</p> <p>CQC carried out a follow-up inspection in September, the report of which was published at the end of October. The inspection concluded that the warning notice could be removed and that the Hospital was meeting the outcome ‘assessing and monitoring the quality of service provision’. The inspection report also identified that the ‘cleanliness and infection control’ outcome was being met, but that some action was needed on outcomes ‘care and welfare of people who uses services’ and</p>	
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			'records' – but that there was minor impact on people that used the service.	
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	<p>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:</p> <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>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.</p> <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>January update - Workforce Development have scheduled 3 sessions for Members to undertake an hour long Dementia Friend's Information Session which will take place on from 7.00pm on Wednesday 5th, Tuesday 18th or Thursday 27th February 2014.</p> <p>March Update - We ran three Dementia Friends Information Sessions for Members during February. 21 members attended in total (out of a possible 49). Another session has been requested for those Members who were unable to attend. We will arrange a convenient date with the Members Secretary.</p>	Roger Harris
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.	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.	Darren Henaghan

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			<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. 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> <p>A letter was written to the Commercial Director of Essex and Suffolk Water on 14 November, requesting a local meeting to discuss the problem and a technical response has been received. A meeting has been arranged for 16 January 2014 for the Council to understand precisely what that might mean to residents.</p>	
24/07/13	Cllr B Rice	<p>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>	<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> <p>November Update: As of 11 November 2013, we are still awaiting a response.</p> <p>Letter received 16 December 2013, confirming that the £1.124m has been added to Thurrock Council's baseline allocation from 2013/14.</p> <p>March Update : HWB Board in March 2014 agreed Public Health Budget for the forthcoming year.</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>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</p>	Carmel Littleton

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		<p>Councils are expected to fund 60% of this project 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>to the motion. 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> <p>Response received from DCLG (Baroness Hanham CBE) dated 7/10/13.</p> <p>“The costs associated with troubled families are shared between central government, local authorities and other bodies on a payment by results basis. We estimate that troubled families cost the country £9 billion a year, £8 billion of which is spent reacting to the problems they have that they cause to local communities. This is why this Government has committed nearly £450 million in additional investment to help unlock some of these savings. As you know, local authorities and their partners are already spending a huge amount reacting to these families’ problems and this programme is about reducing the need for some of this investment by achieving results and saving money. We do not agree that this programme, in the way it is funded, requires cuts to other services”.</p>	
23/10/13	Cllr Ojetola	<p>This Council requests that NHS England and Thurrock CCG consider the introduction of a further GP surgery in Chafford, to meet increasing demand, as part of the Primary Care Strategy work already in progress.</p>	<p>November Update: NHS England Essex Area Team is in the process of developing the Primary Care Strategy from Essex. Listening events have taken place and a draft Strategy is scheduled to be developed towards the end of the year. The Strategy will then be subject to consultation. The Primary Care Strategy will look at future models of primary care – including how demand can best be met across Thurrock.</p> <p>January update – we are expecting the first draft of the primary care strategy towards the end of January 2014. This will be taken through the Health and Wellbeing Board for debate to ensure that this motion and the</p>	Roger Harris

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			<p>wider concerns of the Council over Primary Care in Thurrock are fully addressed.</p> <p>March Update – The Health and Well-being Board in March discussed the first draft of the Primary Care Strategy. Formal consultation will start later in the year.</p>	
27/11/13	Cllr B. Rice	<p>In May Newcastle City Council passed a declaration setting out their commitment to tackle the harm smoking causes their communities. This has become known as the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control and been endorsed by, among others, The Public Health Minister, Chief Medical Officer and Public Health England.</p> <p>This Council will sign up to the Declaration and commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities • Develop plans with partners and local communities • Participate in local and regional networks • Support Government action at national level • Protect tobacco control work from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry • Monitor the progress of our plans • Join the Smokefree Action Coalition. 	<p>Thurrock Council is now listed as a signatory to the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control on the Smokefree Action website: (http://www.smokefreeaction.org.uk/declaration). A paper is being considered on this topic by the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board on 9th January.</p> <p>March Update – The Thurrock Tobacco control strategy will come back to the HWB Board in May.</p>	Roger Harris
27/11/13	Cllr Anderson	<p>That Thurrock Council will work pro-actively with local community groups to create a comprehensive list of Assets of Community Value in Thurrock, which would then be protected by the Community Right to Buy provisions of the Localism Act.</p>	<p>Thurrock Council is a member of the ACE Partnership with libraries, Thurrock Adult College, engage and Thurrock CVS. The ACE Partnership organises free training for community groups and residents on issues relating to empowerment and voluntary action. The Partnership is negotiating training dates with Locality, a</p>	Steve Cox

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			<p>national organisation commissioned by the government to support the implementation of community rights. This will provide an opportunity to promote the Community Right to Bid and to encourage nominations to the Assets of Community Value.</p> <p>All forms for nominating Assets of Community Value are available on the Council website.</p> <p>Training by Locality will be included in the next ACE programme May – July 2014. Targeted promotion will highlight Thurrock's Community Right to Bid process and how to make a nomination. Staff in the Council and voluntary sector supporting community development will promote the training and take a pro active role in encouraging residents to understand the rights and use the processes in place.</p>	
27/11/13	Cllr Gledhill	The Council request that a review be carried out of the implementation of the Veteran's Charter and publish the results before its second anniversary (March 2014), to ensure that the commitment we signed up to is working in Thurrock.	<p>A review will be carried out and published within the requested time frame.</p> <p>March 2014 – 12 responses were received to inform the review. A report has been sent to those who responded and added to the Council website. A press release will communicate this to a wider audience.</p> <p>The review concluded that although the Veterans' Charter has supported some individual cases, more could be done to raise awareness and promote the Charter. This will be achieved through staff training and an event with service organisations to promote awareness about the Charter, and support Veterans use the charter effectively. The event will provide an opportunity to consider other possible actions that either the Council or partners could take to promote the Veterans Charter.</p>	Steve Cox

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22/01/14	Cllr Hebb	<p>Thurrock Council seeks to address the following concerns of residents and businesses in Stanford-le-Hope following their recent experience of significant flooding underneath the railway line in Wharf Road, and formally requests that DP World and Network Rail engage in a process to manage the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General accessibility and emergency plans to be looked at to minimise the isolation of residents and businesses, with particular regard to emergency services, school and workplace commutes etc. 2. Free and direct access be re-established to the pumping plant for Thurrock Council to complete any required works as quickly as possible. 	<p>This is a long standing issue that has proved difficult to progress as the result of the intransigence of other parties. Due to the extreme weather conditions experienced over recent weeks, all available resources have been allocated to deal with immediate flooding issues in other locations. We remain committed to resolve this difficulty and meetings are being arranged to discuss and negotiate a satisfactory solution.</p> <p>New controls fitted to the system since New Year have increased the reliability of the pumping station, with no further reported issues in recent weeks.</p>	David Bull
22/01/14	Cllr Halden	<p>Thurrock Council objects to any bid for a road/bridge connecting Canvey and East Thurrock, and pledges to use any appropriate resources to challenge this.</p>	<p>Castle Point Council are consulting on the link road through their Core Strategy, the council will formally object to this proposal. We are also asking Thurrock residents to object to the proposal through the Castle Point website.</p> <p>This Council's formal response to the Core Strategy consultation (including the link road) will be submitted by the recently extended closing date of 28th March.</p>	David Bull
22/01/14	Cllr Gaywood	<p>In recognition of the wonderful support and much needed food provided by Thurrock Foodbank to our families and residents in need, particularly over the Christmas period, this Council resolves to write to the Thurrock Foodbank to thank and congratulate them.</p> <p>Furthermore, Thurrock Council calls upon</p>	<p>Letters are being prepared to address the requests highlighted in the motion.</p> <p>An update is provided on Thurrock Foodbank below:</p> <p>The foodbank is Garron's Lane is now up and running and has been for a few months. They already have high demand and are already outgrowing the property that</p>	Barbara Brownlee

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		Government to reconsider its decision to refuse the £22 million European Union funding available to help with the costs of running UK food banks.	<p>they let from the Council. There is a meeting to take place on 19th February 2014 to look at what future needs the Foodbank will have and how Housing might be able to help accommodate these.</p> <p>A further site visit was also carried out by Lands and the Head of Housing after the meeting. A few options have been to provide more space for the business and they are currently being evaluated.</p>	
26/02/14	Cllr Hipsey	Recently national publicity has demonstrated the Treetops school is among the very best schools in the country for children with special needs, (autism). Therefore, council resolves to congratulate the school on its continued fantastic work with our children and young people.	A letter has been sent to Treetops school to congratulate the staff for their fantastic work with Thurrock's children and young people.	Carmel Littleton