

Thurrock: A place of opportunity, enterprise and excellence, where individuals, communities and businesses flourish

Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **25 November 2015**

Council Chamber, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex RM17 6SL

Membership of the Council:

Sue Gray (Mayor)
Cathy Kent (Deputy Mayor)

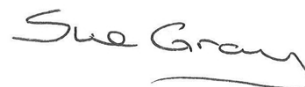
Tim Aker
Chris Baker
James Baker
Jan Baker
Clare Baldwin
Russell Cherry
Colin Churchman
Mark Coxshall
Leslie Gamester
Oliver Gerrish
Robert Gledhill
Yash Gupta (MBE)
Graham Hamilton
Garry Hague
James Halden
Shane Hebb

Terence Hipsey
Clifford Holloway
Victoria Holloway
Barry Johnson
Roy Jones
Tom Kelly
John Kent
Martin Kerin
Charlie Key
Steve Liddiard
Brian Little
Susan Little
Sue MacPherson
Ben Maney
Tunde Ojetola
Bukky Okunade

Barry Palmer
Jane Potheary
Robert Ray
Joycelyn Redsell
Barbara Rice
Gerard Rice
Andrew Roast
Peter Smith
Graham Snell
Richard Speight
Deborah Stewart
Michael Stone
Pauline Tolson
Kevin Wheeler
Lynn Worrall



Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive



Councillor Sue Gray
Mayor of Thurrock

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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| 1 Apologies for absence | |
| 2 Minutes | 9 - 32 |
| To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 28 October 2015. | |
| 3 Items of Urgent Business | |
| To receive additional items that the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972. | |
| 4 Declaration of Interests | |
| To receive any declaration of interests from Members. | |
| 5 Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council | |
| 6 Questions from Members of the Public | 33 - 34 |
| In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution. | |
| 7 Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors | |
| In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2(Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution. | |
| 8 Petitions Update Report | 35 - 48 |
| 9 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels | |
| The Council are asked to agree any changes to the appointments made to committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels, as requested by Group Leaders. | |

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| 10 | Members' led body on Prevent duties and review of existing Prevent provision | 49 - 56 |
| 11 | Thurrock Local Plan, Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) | 57 - 140 |
| 12 | Recruitment of Corporate Director of Environment & Place (New), Corporate Director of Children's Services (Existing) and Director of Commercial Services & Commissioning (New) | 141 - 146 |
| 13 | Report of the Cabinet Member of Central Services | 147 - 158 |
| 14 | Report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration | 159 - 170 |
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In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

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| 16 | Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies | |
| 17 | Minutes of Committees | |

| Name of Committee | Date |
|--|-----------------|
| Planning Committee | 1 October 2015 |
| Corporate Parenting Committee | 18 June 2015 |
| General Services Committee | 6 August 2015 |
| Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 16 September |
| Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 15 October 2015 |
| Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 8 October 2015 |

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| 18 | Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year | 173 - 178 |
| 19 | To consider motions from Members in the order in which they were submitted | 179 - 184 |

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution.

Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Stephanie Cox, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Future Dates of Council:

27 January 2016, 24 February 2016, 23 March 2016. 25 May 2016 (Annual Council)

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Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

Members of the public can attend all meetings of the council and its committees and have the right to see the agenda, which will be published no later than 5 working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published.

Recording of meetings

This meeting may be recorded for transmission and publication on the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be recorded.

Members of the public not wishing any speech or address to be recorded for publication to the Internet should contact Democratic Services to discuss any concerns.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

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The council welcomes the filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings as a means of reporting on its proceedings because it helps to make the council more transparent and accountable to its local communities.

If you wish to film or photograph the proceedings of a meeting and have any special requirements or are intending to bring in large equipment please contact the Communications Team at CommunicationsTeam@thurrock.gov.uk before the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will then be consulted and their agreement sought to any specific request made.

Where members of the public use a laptop, tablet device, smart phone or similar devices to use social media, make recordings or take photographs these devices must be set to 'silent' mode to avoid interrupting proceedings of the council or committee.

The use of flash photography or additional lighting may be allowed provided it has been discussed prior to the meeting and agreement reached to ensure that it will not disrupt proceedings.

The Chair of the meeting may terminate or suspend filming, photography, recording and use of social media if any of these activities, in their opinion, are disrupting proceedings at the meeting.

Thurrock Council Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available throughout the Civic Offices. You can access Wi-Fi on your device by simply turning on the Wi-Fi on your laptop, Smartphone or tablet.

- You should connect to TBC-CIVIC
- Enter the password **Thurrock** to connect to/join the Wi-Fi network.
- A Terms & Conditions page should appear and you have to accept these before you can begin using Wi-Fi. Some devices require you to access your browser to bring up the Terms & Conditions page, which you must accept.

The ICT department can offer support for council owned devices only.

Evacuation Procedures

In the case of an emergency, you should evacuate the building using the nearest available exit and congregate at the assembly point at Kings Walk.

How to view this agenda on a tablet device



You can view the agenda on your [iPad](#), [Android Device](#) or [Blackberry Playbook](#) with the free modern.gov app.

Members of the Council should ensure that their device is sufficiently charged, although a limited number of charging points will be available in Members Services.

To view any “exempt” information that may be included on the agenda for this meeting, Councillors should:

- Access the modern.gov app
- Enter your username and password

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Breaching those parts identified as a pecuniary interest is potentially a criminal offence

Helpful Reminders for Members

- *Is your register of interests up to date?*
- *In particular have you declared to the Monitoring Officer all disclosable pecuniary interests?*
- *Have you checked the register to ensure that they have been recorded correctly?*

When should you declare an interest *at a meeting*?

- **What matters are being discussed at the meeting?** (including Council, Cabinet, Committees, Subs, Joint Committees and Joint Subs); or
- If you are a Cabinet Member making decisions other than in Cabinet **what matter is before you for single member decision?**



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

any of your registered interests and in particular any of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

- your spouse or civil partner's
- a person you are living with as husband/ wife
- a person you are living with as if you were civil partners

where you are aware that this other person has the interest.

A detailed description of a disclosable pecuniary interest is included in the Members Code of Conduct at Chapter 7 of the Constitution. **Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer about disclosable pecuniary interests.**

What is a Non-Pecuniary interest? – this is an interest which is not pecuniary (as defined) but is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard to be so significant that it would materially impact upon your judgement of the public interest.

Pecuniary

If the interest is not already in the register you must (unless the interest has been agreed by the Monitoring Officer to be sensitive) disclose the existence and nature of the interest to the meeting

If the Interest is not entered in the register and is not the subject of a pending notification you must within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the register

Unless you have received dispensation upon previous application from the Monitoring Officer, you must:

- Not participate or participate further in any discussion of the matter at a meeting;
- Not participate in any vote or further vote taken at the meeting; and
- leave the room while the item is being considered/voted upon

If you are a Cabinet Member you may make arrangements for the matter to be dealt with by a third person but take no further steps

Non- pecuniary

Declare the nature and extent of your interest including enough detail to allow a member of the public to understand its nature



You may participate and vote in the usual way but you should seek advice on Predetermination and Bias from the Monitoring Officer.

PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

No speech may exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Mayor [Rule 19.8], except for the proposer of any motion who shall have 5 minutes to move that motion (except on a motion to amend where the 3 minute time shall apply) [Rule 19.8(a)]

All Motions will follow Section A and then either Section B or C

- | | | | |
|-----------|----|--|----------------------------|
| A. | A1 | Motion is moved | [Rule 19.2] |
| | A2 | Mover speaks | [Rule 19.8(a) (5 minutes)] |
| | A3 | Seconded | [Rule 19.2] |
| | A4 | Secunder speaks or reserves right to speak | [Rule 19.3] (3 minutes) |

Then the procedure will move to either B or C below:

| B. | | C. | |
|---|--|--|--|
| IF there is an AMENDMENT (please see Rule 19.23) | | If NOT amended i.e. original motion | |
| B1 | The mover of the amendment shall speak (3 mins). | C1 | Debate |
| B2 | The seconder of the amendment shall speak unless he or she has reserved their speech (3 mins). | C2 | If the seconder of the motion has reserved their speeches, they shall then speak |
| B3 | THEN debate on the subject . | C3 | The mover of the substantive motion shall have the final right of reply |
| B4 | If the seconder of the substantive motion and the amendment reserved their speeches, they shall then speak | C4 | Vote on motion |
| B5 | The mover of the amendment shall have a right of reply | | |
| B6 | The mover of the substantive motion shall have the final right of reply | | |
| B7 | Vote on amendment | | |
| B8 | A vote shall be taken on the substantive motion, as amended if appropriate, without further debate | | |

Vision: Thurrock: A place of **opportunity**, **enterprise** and **excellence**, where **individuals**, **communities** and **businesses** flourish.

To achieve our vision, we have identified five strategic priorities:

1. Create a great place for learning and opportunity

- Ensure that every place of learning is rated “Good” or better
- Raise levels of aspiration and attainment so that residents can take advantage of local job opportunities
- Support families to give children the best possible start in life

2. Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity

- Promote Thurrock and encourage inward investment to enable and sustain growth
- Support business and develop the local skilled workforce they require
- Work with partners to secure improved infrastructure and built environment

3. Build pride, responsibility and respect

- Create welcoming, safe, and resilient communities which value fairness
- Work in partnership with communities to help them take responsibility for shaping their quality of life
- Empower residents through choice and independence to improve their health and well-being

4. Improve health and well-being

- Ensure people stay healthy longer, adding years to life and life to years
- Reduce inequalities in health and well-being and safeguard the most vulnerable people with timely intervention and care accessed closer to home
- Enhance quality of life through improved housing, employment and opportunity

5. Promote and protect our clean and green environment

- Enhance access to Thurrock's river frontage, cultural assets and leisure opportunities
- Promote Thurrock's natural environment and biodiversity
- Inspire high quality design and standards in our buildings and public space

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100 Years in Memoriam

Remembering Thurrock's Fallen of World War One

Each month during the centenary period of the First World War, Thurrock Council will pay tribute to the 834 local residents known to have lost their lives due to causes associated with the war and their service. At each meeting of Council until November 2018, the 100th anniversary of signing of the Armistice with Germany, a Roll of Honour will be published with the agenda detailing the casualties from that month 100 years ago to commemorate the sacrifice made by Thurrock residents.

November 1915

| DATE | SURNAME | FIRST NAME | AGE | WARD | RANK | SERVICE | DIED |
|--------|----------|-----------------------|-----|------|--------------|-------------------|---------|
| 19-Nov | JOHNSON | THOMAS HALE | 28 | TIL | PTE | ASC - CANTEENS | GREECE |
| 20-Nov | TYLER | SYDNEY WARBY | 27 | G | PTE | ROYAL DRAGOONS -1 | BELGIUM |
| 21-Nov | SULLINGS | THE REV. STEPHEN JOHN | 47 | SLH | CHAPLAIN - 4 | RAMC | HOME |

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 28 October 2015 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Sue Gray (Mayor), Cathy Kent (Deputy Mayor), Chris Baker, James Baker, Jan Baker, Russell Cherry, Mark Coxshall, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Yash Gupta (MBE), Graham Hamilton, Garry Hague, James Halden, Terence Hipsey, Clifford Holloway, Victoria Holloway, Barry Johnson, Roy Jones, Tom Kelly, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Bukky Okunade, Barry Palmer, Jane Potheary, Robert Ray, Joycelyn Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Richard Speight, Deborah Stewart, Michael Stone, Pauline Tolson, Kevin Wheeler and Lynn Worrall

Apologies: Councillors Tim Aker, Clare Baldwin, Colin Churchman, Robert Gledhill, Shane Hebb, Charlie Key and Andrew Roast

In attendance: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
David Bull, Director of Planning and Transportation
Steve Cox, Assistant Chief Executive
Carmel Littleton, Director of Children's Services
Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning
Sean Clark, Head of Corporate Finance
Jackie Hinchliffe, Head of HR, OD & Transformation
Karen Wheeler, Head of Strategy & Communications
Daniel Toohey, Principal Solicitor - Contracts & Procurement
David Lawson, Monitoring Officer
Matthew Boulter, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Stephanie Cox, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

82. Minutes

Councillor Jones requested an amendment to the minutes of the previous meeting as he felt that his comments had not been sufficiently recorded in the following two items:

Minute Number 70, 'Debate of a Petition containing over 1500 verified signatures – Save Corringham Green Belt'

Councillor Jones observed that his main concern was that Iceni, the company involved in the project, had submitted three applications for the greenbelt farm land site despite two separate petitions against the proposals, one which was

submitted over a year ago with 1300 signatories and the most recent with 2500 signatories. He felt that the applicant was persisting in an attempt to get their own way and that the derelict brownfield Bata Shoe Factory site in East Tilbury was a preferred location for such a development instead of the favoured farmland nearby.

Minute Number 77, 'Motion submitted by Councillor Halden' in relation to legal highs

Councillor Jones reported that his comments had not been recorded as he had concerns about the workings of the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order and the potential cost to Thurrock Council.

The Mayor accepted the requested amendments to which Members indicated their agreement.

The Minutes of the meeting of Council, held on 23 September 2015, were approved as a correct record.

83. Items of Urgent Business

The Mayor informed the Council that she had not agreed to the consideration of any items of urgent business.

84. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests declared.

85. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council

Firstly the Mayor invited all those present to observe a minutes silence to remember Thurrock's fallen of World War One and in respect of Remembrance Sunday.

At 7.04 pm a minutes silence was observed.

The Mayor remarked that since the last meeting of Council she had the pleasure of attending the opening of the High House Production Park's Bob and Tamar Manoukin costume store, and was proud that Thurrock had this wonderful asset to store over 200,000 costumes for the Royal Ballet Productions showing at the Covent Garden Theatre. She added that the costumes could be recreated by apprentices in the workshops at the Park and young and old people were learning how to make the costumes and outfits.

The Mayor explained that she had attended a Sheltered Housing 70s night held in the Civic Hall which was attended by over 150 residents, and commended the work of Sue Kane, the Sheltered Housing Manager, for her hard work in organising the event

The Mayor reported that she had recently opened a new Foodbank store in Corringham and that the need for food banks in 2015 was increasing. She called upon all Members to donate one item from their weekly shop to help, especially in the run up to Christmas.

The Mayor further asked Members if they could help Thurrock's Looked After Children to enjoy a night out at the Christmas pantomime by purchasing a ticket for one child, and encouraged Members to also attend.

Finally, the Chamber were advised that the 12th Thurrock Civic Awards would soon be launched and asked Members to look out online for details and the nomination form, and put Friday 26 February 2016 at High House Production Park in Purfleet in the diary for the awards night itself.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that he had no announcements he wished to make.

86. Questions from Members of the Public

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be viewed under the relevant meeting date at <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock>, and are attached at Appendix A to these minutes.

87. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors

The Mayor informed Members that, in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the requisite notice had been given by one Councillor who wished to present a petition at the meeting.

Councillor Redsell presented a petition on behalf of residents of Long Lane, Kerry Road, Jesmond Road and Laird Avenue, which called on the Council to introduce a one-way system for the number 88 bus route.

88. Petition Update Report

Members received a report on the status of those petitions handed in at Council Meetings and Council Offices over the past six months.

89. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels

The Mayor enquired whether Group Leaders wished for any changes to be made to the appointments previously made to Committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels.

The Leader of the Council informed the Chamber that he wished to make the following change in accordance with the new Political Balance calculations:

- for Councillor Liddiard to be removed from the Standards and Audit Committee.

The Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group informed the Chamber that he wished to make the following change:

- for Councillor Roast to be appointed as a substitute member of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor S. Little.

The Leader of the UKIP group confirmed that he wished to make the following changes in accordance with the new Political Balance calculations:

- for Councillor James Baker to be removed from the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- for Councillor C. Baker to be removed from the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- for Councillor Cherry to be appointed as a member of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to fill the UKIP vacancy.

Councillor Ray confirmed that he wished to appoint himself to the Independent vacancies on the following committees:

- for Councillor Ray to be appointed as a member of the Standards and Audit Committee.
- for Councillor Ray to be appointed as a member of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- for Councillor Ray to be appointed as a member of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group queried whether Councillor Ray was entitled to the seats on the aforementioned Committees, to which the Mayor confirmed that the appointments were in accordance with the new Political Balance calculations.

Members voted unanimously in favour of the changes to Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Councillor Liddiard be removed from the membership of the Standards and Audit Committee.**
- 2. That Councillor Roast be appointed as a substitute member of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor S. Little.**
- 3. That Councillor James Baker be removed from the membership of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

4. **That Councillor C. Baker be removed from the membership of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
5. **That Councillor Cherry be appointed as a member of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
6. **That Councillor Ray be appointed as a member of the Standards and Audit Committee.**
7. **That Councillor Ray be appointed as a member of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
8. **That Councillor Ray be appointed as a member of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

90. Thurrock Healthwatch Co-Opted Member Request

The Mayor advised that the report set out the request from the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to amend their terms of reference to include an additional non-voting Co-Opted representative from Thurrock Healthwatch to represent children's health interests.

Councillor Halden, Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, explained that the Committee wished to formally Co-Opt a Healthwatch member so that they would have a tangible role in the scrutiny process, which would be beneficial when the Committee considered the Children's Social Care annual complaints and complements report.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendation, whereupon the Mayor declared this to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That Council agree to amend the terms of reference for the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to include an additional non-voting Co-opted representative from Thurrock Healthwatch.

91. Report of the Cabinet Member for the Environment

Councillor G. Rice, Cabinet Member for the Environment, introduced the report and in doing so provided an overview of the services provided, including the civic amenity site, 2 country parks, 3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, fleet management, street waste and the winter gritting service.

In introducing the report the Cabinet Member raised the following key points:

- That 70,000 tonnes of materials, almost 10 million bins had been collected during the past year, only 23% of which was sent to landfill.
- That the total 2015/16 weekly household cost was £4.53 per household, compared with £5.44 in 2014/15.
- This equated to £1.58 per household spent on waste collection, £1.75 on waste disposal, £0.73p on green spaces, £0.06p on Emergency Response and Highways Maintenance and £0.41p on Street Cleansing.
- That challenges to the service included the significant reduction of staff numbers, it was reported that since May 2014 8% managers, 55% of business services staff and 33% of street services front line staff had been lost.
- That the Environment Services directorate had contributed to £3.5 million in year savings and the controlled budget had been reduced by 40%.
- That the level of cleanliness in Thurrock was better than the average for local authorities in England despite the fact that funding for street cleaning had fallen year on year.
- That the levels of recycling contamination was an issue and communications had increased in an effort to better educate residents on what items could, and could not be recycled, as the cost for the disposal of recycled material was significantly cheaper per tonne rather than sending waste to landfill.
- That the new technically, environmentally and economically practicable recycling regulations (TEEP) had impacted upon recycling rates as if waste was not separated correctly the whole recycling load could be deemed as cross-contaminated.
- He commended the work of community groups and forums, such as the Friends of Hardie Park, in leading environmental projects in the local community to improve open and green spaces in Thurrock.
- He called on all residents to take pride in their community and encouraged residents to litter pick outside their homes.

Members questioned the Cabinet Member and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Halden explained that he wanted to see an improvement in the performance of the service, not maintenance at current levels, and added that the report highlighted that in 2014/15 the standard of street cleanliness in the Borough showed a further year-on-year improvement, not the levels of decline that the Cabinet Member had alluded to in his introduction, and questioned whether they were reading the same report.

In response the Cabinet Member explained that the report documented performance in 2014/15, and he had been referring to performance of the service in the early part of 2015/16 that had yet to be formally reported, which he felt had been negatively affected due to the budget pressured faced.

- Councillor Snell questioned the assertion that the standard of street cleanliness had improved across the Borough and observed that residents of Stifford Clays were unlikely to agree. He remarked that the fact that recently 60 bags of waste had been collected in Crammavill Street in just a 2 hour period suggested that the Borough was not as clean as the report implied.

The Cabinet Member explained that if the service had not faced considerable budget cuts then there would not be as much litter in the Borough and called upon all Elected Members and the public to come on board to help improve street cleanliness. He further reported that it was important to educate children and young people about the effects of dropping litter and those drivers who dropped litter from their cars was a particular issue.

- Councillor Jones commended the work of community forums and community groups for all their work in picking up litter and taking responsibility for their parks and open spaces but was concerned that the impact of the new technically, environmentally and economically practicable recycling regulations (TEEP) had not been effectively communicated to residents. He felt that residents should be made aware of the need to separate their waste correctly and the fact that this was not a Thurrock Council decision but rather a national regulation that needed to be complied with.

The Cabinet Member explained that some residents put the wrong items in the blue bin that created additional expense for the Council, which was why all blue bins with incorrect waste were identified by a tag that sought to better educate residents.

The Mayor advised that 15 minutes had elapsed for this item and asked Members whether they wished the time for questions to be extended as there were further Members who had indicated that they wanted to speak, to which all Members indicated their agreement.

- Councillor Ray highlighted that it was not easy to stop people littering the Borough from vehicles as it was difficult to remember registration numbers. He explained that he understood that rules had recently changed which allowed the registered keeper of the vehicle to be fined for littering and questioned whether this only applied in London, or was something Thurrock could adopt, as he felt that the best way to educate people was through fines and points on a licence.

The Cabinet Member remarked that this was a good idea and asked officers to investigate the matter further.

- Councillor S. Little asked how many free tonnes of salt did Thurrock obtain from Essex County Council during its promotion for winter gritting and what was its value.

The Cabinet Member advised that he did not know of the answer to the question but that he would endeavour to obtain details from officers.

Some Members interjected that Thurrock was not eligible for the free winter gritting salt, in response Councillor S. Little explained that she understood all authorities in Essex could apply, to which the Cabinet Member added that Thurrock tended to purchase its own supplies but he would ask officers to investigate any cost benefit of working with Essex County Council.

- Councillor Redsell questioned how many households had received 3 strikes, or tags, on their blue recycling bin for cross-contamination and how much money had been saved by the process.

The Cabinet Member explained that he did not know the answer to the question but would instruct officers to investigate and circulate a response to all Members.

- Councillor B. Little questioned how much levels of contamination had been reduced since Thurrock had started the process of tagging blue recycling bins.

The Cabinet Member explained that he did not know the answer to the question but would instruct officers to circulate a response to all Members.

- Councillor Tolson asked whether plans to join Coalhouse Country Park with Tilbury Fort by a footpath and cycleway were still going ahead and if so when it would be completed. She further questioned how the Council was ensuring that bicycles and pushchairs had level access over the estuary inlet.

The Cabinet Member explained that he was aware of the footpath and areas mentioned but did not know the latest position on the proposals and so would instruct officers to circulate a response to all Members after the meeting.

- Councillor Kelly advised that he had received a letter through the door that day from the Environmental Services team which explained that contamination had been found in his blue recycling bin. He explained that his collection day was a Monday and that this week he had not put his bin out as it was not full. He added that he was always very careful with what he disposed of in the blue recycling bin, and combined with the fact that his bin had not been collected that week, felt that the letter had been sent to him in error.

As a result he queried what the process was for ensuring letters were sent to the correct households, especially as some blue bins were not identifiable with house numbers.

The Cabinet Member explained that this was an operational matter which he would need to ask officers to investigate further and provide a response to the Member on.

- Councillor Worrall observed that during the summer months the waste collection trucks arrived earlier in the morning to collect recyclable waste and questioned whether this would continue in winter.

The Cabinet Member explained that blue bins started to be collected from 6am and that the change was as a result of the Council securing a different recycling contractor which charged £15 a tonne for disposal rather than £75 a tonne that had been charged by their predecessor. He explained that as the new contractor was based in East London the refuse trucks had to leave the depot earlier to start the waste collection round but that the Council had secured better value for money.

The Mayor advised the Chamber that they had run out of time to receive questions from Councillors Cliff Holloway, Barry Johnson and Mike Stone but asked the Members to email their questions following the meeting so that a response could be provided and circulated to all Members.

92. Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that one question had been submitted to the Leader and a further three questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Members appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

The Mayor advised that Councillor Hebb had withdrawn his two questions to Councillor Gerrish and Councillor B. Little.

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be found at Appendix A to these Minutes.

93. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies

There were no reports from Members representing the Council on outside bodies.

94. Minutes of Committees

The Minutes of Committees, as set out in the Agenda, were received.

95. Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year

Members received an information report updating them on progress in respect of Motions resolved at Council over the past year.

96. Motion submitted by Councillor Redsell

The Motion, as printed in the Agenda, was proposed by Councillor Redsell and seconded by Councillor S. Little. The Motion read as follows:

“We call on Thurrock Council to take action with its partners to help prevent the use of motorbikes and similar vehicles on our green spaces.”

Councillor Redsell introduced the motion, and in doing so explained that motorbikes and quad bikes were causing a nuisance across parks and green spaces in the Borough, including the Blackshots playing field in her ward, and that since her petition had been submitted ten bikes had been seized as a result of targeted work.

Councillor S. Little welcomed the motion as her ward was also plagued by motorbikes and quad bikes riding across Orsett Heath, and explained that despite proactive work by the Police the Council needed to provide further support and intelligence so that riders could be identified and information obtained on where they came from and gathered.

Councillor G. Rice supported the motion and commented that he too had seen young riders with their parents who should be better educated on where they can ride. He felt that cameras could be a good idea, especially as the Police faced considerable cuts and announced that they would be unable to attend 97% of Anti-Social Behaviour related calls.

Councillor Potheary welcomed the motion and provided an update of what the Council had been doing in support of the Police, which included:

- The introduction of signage across the Borough to advise riders of Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 where vehicles used in an anti-social manner could be seized.
- Close liaison with the Housing team
- That the Council’s CCTV team assisted the Police wherever feasible, which included the mobile camera unit.

Councillor Ojetola highlighted the work that had been undertaken with the Police and Council to prevent illegal racing, particularly around Lakeside and Chafford Hundred. He affirmed that he did not want racing of any kind on the streets and that there were other appropriate places for racing such as Arena Essex. He further reported that a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) had been supported recently, but felt that PSPOs should be delegated to a smaller Committee, rather than to full Council, so that they could be actioned much faster.

Councillor Jones reported that he too was tired of the nuisance caused by motorbikes, which was a common complaint by residents. He felt that the problem would be exacerbated by the cuts to the Police and subsequent closure of Police stations.

Councillor Cherry advised that where he had seen such incidents he had attempted to speak to the riders and take their photograph as evidence in order to share with the Police, he felt that Councillors should consider speaking to offenders in order to better educate them as a way to help.

Councillor Hipsey observed that this was an ongoing problem that had been going on for a long time, reporting that a cross-party working group had undertaken work on this in the past to examine whether an official motocross track could be developed in Thurrock. He called upon the Chair of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask officers if any redundant pieces of Council land could be identified in order to create an official motocross track, as neither the Council nor the Police had the resources to enforce the issue so an alternative solution was needed.

Councillor Tolson commented that she had seen Section 59 notices on display but parents needed be more responsible as they often provided the bikes to the young people. She felt that tough action needed to be taken, such as crushing the motorbikes.

Councillor B. Little agreed that the use of motorbikes and similar vehicles on green spaces was unacceptable and suggested that a warning notice be included on the annual Council Tax statement circulated to every household.

Councillor B. Rice highlighted that Orsett Heath had been plagued by the problem for years but disagreed with Councillor Cherry regarding Members approaching riders, which she felt could be dangerous and not recommended by the Police.

Councillor Redsell agreed that this could be dangerous and reported that recently a resident had been threatened by a rider when confronted about their behaviour.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the Motion, whereupon the Mayor declared the motion was carried

RESOLVED:

We call on Thurrock Council to take action with its partners to help prevent the use of motorbikes and similar vehicles on our green spaces.

97. Motion submitted by Councillor J. Kent

The Motion, as printed in the Agenda, was proposed by Councillor J. Kent and seconded by Councillor Okunade. The Motion read as follows:

“Thurrock Council is concerned at reports that government is considering scrapping Universal Free School Meals for infant school children.

We believe that such a move would be damaging to both the education and health outcomes of our young people so resolve to write to the Treasury and Department for Education to show our support for the continuation of Universal Free School Meals as well as to our two members of parliament to make them aware of our concerns.”

Councillor J. Kent introduced the motion, and in doing so explained that he had been concerned by reports that funding for Free School Meals for infant school children could be axed in the Chancellors Autumn Statement and therefore felt that Thurrock should write to its two Members of Parliament (MPs) at an early stage in order to express Thurrock’s objection should this happen.

Councillor Okunade agreed that Free School Meals were vital as some parents struggled to make ends meet financially and an alarming number of children lived in poverty in Thurrock, which included Tilbury where rates of Child Poverty were higher than the national average.

Councillor Halden explained that whilst he supported the principle of the motion he would abstain from the vote as he felt the debate provoked scaremongering and fear among residents because it was based upon a hypothetical situation and not factual information. He informed Members that the Conservative manifesto supported Free School Meals, which was also backed up by the Prime Minister’s recent announcements and a statement released from the Department for Education (DfE).

Councillor Halden further expressed that Members’ time should be spent debating existent issues such as child poverty and childcare sufficiency, which he had circulated reports on through the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, rather than debating a hypothetical situation.

Councillor Wheeler felt that as Child Poverty was a real issue in Thurrock free school meals should be supported in order to assist families.

Councillor G. Rice commended the fact that free school meals had been supported but expressed a view that rumours did often turn out to be true, which was why he was supporting the motion.

At this point in the meeting there were a number of outbursts in the Council Chamber during which Members argued that the motion was based on factual inaccuracies.

Councillor Jones observed that as one of the richest countries in the World, every child should have the opportunity to have a free school meal.

Councillor B. Rice expressed her support for the motion as she felt that children should learn to eat in a social context and school meals helped them in their education through improved memory and concentration.

During the lengthy debate a number of members explained that there was a danger of confusing the two issues of free school meals with the hypothetical situation of funding being cut and therefore that they would be abstaining from the vote, as Members were in effect debating a matter which had already been ruled out.

Councillor Holloway highlighted that in the past Members had voted on motions based upon issues that had yet to be formally announced, such as a motion regarding asylum.

In response Councillor Ojetola explained that the government had already made announcements on those matters, which was not the case in this instance, and felt that free school meals was an emotive issue which nobody wanted to take away. He remarked that it was also important to provide free meals outside of term time which some community groups did enable in Thurrock.

Councillor Speight supported the principles of the motion and stated that he did not share the faith of his Conservative colleagues that funding for free school meals would not be cut.

Councillor Hamilton felt that the motion had good intentions and that it only served to highlight Thurrock's concerns to the local MP's, to which Councillor Coxshall objected as the motion was based on unsubstantiated information.

Following an extensive debate on the subject, Councillor J. Kent summed up the reasons why he had proposed the motion. He recognised that everyone supported the principles of the motion and remarked that whilst the motion was based upon speculation, in his experience such reports did sometimes turn out to be true and he just wanted to put Thurrock's thoughts on record.

Upon being put to the vote, 24 Members voted in favour of the Motion, 1 Member voted against and 17 abstained, whereupon the Mayor declared the motion to be carried.

RESOLVED:

Thurrock Council is concerned at reports that government is considering scrapping Universal Free School Meals for infant school children.

We believe that such a move would be damaging to both the education and health outcomes of our young people so resolve to write to the Treasury and Department for Education to show our support for the continuation of Universal Free School Meals as well as to our two members of parliament to make them aware of our concerns.

Councillor Stone left the meeting before the consideration of the next item.

98. Motion submitted by Councillor Ray

The Motion, as printed in the Agenda, was proposed by Councillor Ray and seconded by Councillor S. Little. The Motion read as follows:

“That this Council will explore ways of working with NHS partners to fully endorse and promote the importance of giving blood and signing up for organ and tissue donation in Thurrock.”

Councillor Ray introduced the motion, and in doing so explained that his late wife Maggie O’Keefe-Ray, who was also an Elected Member of Thurrock Council, had been posthumously honoured at an award ceremony at the Priory Church of the Order of St John on 13 October 2015 after her organs were used to save the lives of 13 people, which included a one-year old child who was given the gift of sight.

Councillor S. Little commended Councillor Ray’s emotive motion and observed that it was the 21st anniversary of the NHS organ donation register which had enabled over 55,000 transplants and millions of pints of blood donated to help others. She reported that 7,000 people were currently awaiting a transplant and that 1,300 unfortunately passed away in 2014 whilst waiting for a transplant, therefore it was essential people discussed the matter with relatives.

Councillor S. Little further remarked that registering to become an organ donor was simple and added that the Council should help to advertise organ donation wherever possible.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the Motion, whereupon the Mayor declared the motion was carried

RESOLVED:

That this Council will explore ways of working with NHS partners to fully endorse and promote the importance of giving blood and signing up for organ and tissue donation in Thurrock.

99. Motion submitted by Councillor Potheary

The Motion, as printed in the Agenda, was proposed by Councillor Potheary and seconded by Councillor J. Kent. The Motion read as follows:

“Essex Police have recently announced they plan to close two of the borough’s police stations and sell off a third, as well as cut the number of PCSOs in Thurrock from 38 to just 6. After already making cuts of £40 million, Essex Police is facing having to make over £60 million worth of cuts by 2020 thanks to the Government. The dramatic reduction in the number of police

officers and PCSOs on our streets is a big issue for our residents and has worrying implications for community safety.

The Council resolves to write to the two MPs for Thurrock to set out our concerns about the detrimental impact of police cuts on Thurrock residents and community safety, and ask them to lobby for better funding for Essex Police.”

Councillor Potheary introduced the motion, and in doing so expressed her concern at the impact of the budget cuts and the recent announcement by Essex Police that they would be unable to attend 97% of Anti-Social Behaviour calls and anticipated a reduction of 300 Police Officers by 2020.

Councillor Halden felt alternative ideas should be developed in order to offset the impact of budget cuts, such as the arrangement with the Youth Offending team and Corringham Police Station.

Councillor Halden reported that the Cabinet appointed representative to the Essex Police and Crime Panel had failed to attend numerous meetings of the panel during the previous year, and that on the two occasions he had been present he was not recorded in the minutes as contributing to the debate. He felt that Thurrock should be correctly represented at such meetings in an attempt to make a difference to outcomes with the Police, rather than submitting motions.

During the debate a number of Councillors expressed a view that the Police force was being ruined by Central Government, which was imposing significant cuts that made Essex Police less effective and able to do their job, such as through the closure of police stations.

Councillor Johnson argued that the UK needed to pay back a huge deficit that had been created by the previous government and that money needed to be spent more efficiently. He felt that the Police and Crime Commissioner should be invited to a meeting of Council so that Members could question whether money was being spent wisely.

Councillor Hipsey felt that the morale of Police Officers would be negatively affected and the pressures they faced immense, in light of the fact that a considerable number of Anti-Social Behaviour calls could not be responded to in future.

Councillor Worrall added that soon there would not be adequate Policing to enforce existing dispersal orders and Anti-Social Behaviour, especially during Halloween and Bonfire Night season where residents could become increasingly intimidated.

Councillor Snell was concerned that the Cabinet Member did not attend meetings of the Essex Police and Crime Panel during the previous year in order to represent Thurrock's interests and felt that this needed to be

remedied. He argued that the cuts had gone too deep and the priority for any government must be the protection of its citizens.

Councillor Ray remarked that Essex Police had been responsible for wasting considerable sums of money, which included spending £100,000 on equipment that was never used and £300,000 on a survey asking the public what they thought crime was.

Councillor J. Kent agreed that it was unacceptable that a representative had not attended meetings of the Essex Police and Crime Panel and explained that although Councillor Potheary would be unable to attend future meetings in her capacity as Cabinet Member for Public Protection due to work commitments a permanent substitute would be appointed.

At 9.16 pm Members agreed not to suspend Council Procedure Rule 11.1 in order to allow the meeting to continue beyond the 2 ½ hour time limit.

Councillor Ojetola felt that although the wording of the motion itself was not harmful he was concerned at the speculation during the arguments that had been made.

A further debate ensued during which a number of Councillors made comments regarding how Central Government should save money through the cessation of other schemes, initiatives and proposals.

Councillor Halden noted that it was not the current Portfolio Holder, Councillor Potheary, who had not attended Police and Crime Panel meetings, rather it was her predecessor.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 20.7, five Members indicated that the vote on the motion be recorded. Democratic Services conducted the recorded vote, the result of which was as follows:

Votes in favour of the motion:

Councillors Chris Baker, James Baker, Jan Baker, Russell Cherry, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Yash Gupta (MBE), Graham Hamilton, Terry Hipsey, Cliff Holloway, Victoria Holloway, Roy Jones, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Bukky Okunade, Barry Palmer, Jane Potheary, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Graham Snell, Richard Speight, Kevin Wheeler, Lynn Worrall, Cathy Kent and Sue Gray **(26)**

Votes against the motion:

Councillors Mark Coxshall, Garry Hague, James Halden, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Joy Redsell, Deborah Stewart and Pauline Tolson **(13)**

Abstentions:

Councillors Robert Ray and Peter Smith (2)

The Mayor declared that the motion be carried.

RESOLVED:

Essex Police have recently announced they plan to close two of the borough's police stations and sell off a third, as well as cut the number of PCSOs in Thurrock from 38 to just 6. After already making cuts of £40 million, Essex Police is facing having to make over £60 million worth of cuts by 2020 thanks to the Government. The dramatic reduction in the number of police officers and PCSOs on our streets is a big issue for our residents and has worrying implications for community safety.

The Council resolves to write to the two MPs for Thurrock to set out our concerns about the detrimental impact of police cuts on Thurrock residents and community safety, and ask them to lobby for better funding for Essex Police.

The meeting finished at 9.32 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**

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Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 28 October 2015

Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.

1 question was submitted from a member of the public.

1. From Mr Perrin to Councillor J. Kent

Mayor

Mr Perrin, would you please read out your question to Councillor John Kent, as set out on page 35 of the Agenda.

Mr Perrin

Thank you Madam Mayor, before I do so may I with your permission take a minute to reply to the rebuke made by Councillor J. Kent in response to my question at the September meeting?

Mayor

Go ahead.

Mr Perrin

Councillor Kent, I assure you that whenever you rise to speak I am all ears and you always command my undivided attention. I am sorry if you find my habit of reading a prepared supplementary question irritating; sadly when it comes to speaking in public I do not possess your skills. In comparison I am a mere novice. I ask that you be patient in my apparent shortcomings. When you say that you are used to my coming to Council month in month out, do I sense a sense of wearisome on your part?

My question is: At the September meeting Motion 3, submitted by Cllr Ray, was passed unanimously. The motion calls for this Council to commemorate Councillors who pass away during their time in office, in recognition for their work and contributions to the community of Thurrock. Has any decision been made as to how such Councillors will be commemorated?

Mayor

Councillor Kent?

Councillor J. Kent

Thank you Madam Mayor. Mayor, can I firstly assure Mr Perrin that I never find him a source of irritation and I apologise if I have not been patient with him enough.

With regards to the question, research has been undertaken to identify those members who have passed away whilst in office since we became a unitary authority on the 1st April 1998. Officers are now looking into the various options for the design and placement of a suitable memorial in this Chamber, probably across the back wall there with the other rolls.

Mayor

Mr Perrin, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

Mr Perrin

Thank you Madam Mayor. I am perplexed as to why the proposer of the motion restricts commemoration recognition to Councillors who died whilst in office. Some Councillors die years after leaving office do they not also merit recognition and commemoration?

There are many members of the public who devote their entire lives to working for and contributing to the betterment of the community, and do so without seeking recognition for commemoration. Their motivation being that it is the right thing to do. It is an example I believe that Councillors would do well to follow.

Would you accept that recognition and commemoration of former Councillors is purely a matter for Councillors and any costs should be borne by themselves and not the taxpayer?

Councillor J. Kent

Madam Mayor, probably for the last 10 years we have celebrated the contributions made by residents across the Borough, the huge contributions that are made, through things such as the Civic Awards. There are other honours such as Freedom of the Borough. There are pictures there of Freemen and Freewomen of the Borough, some of them ex-Councillors and some of them not. We celebrate the good work that happens in schools through the Education Awards, the Education Awards being in November.

I think that it is rather churlish to suggest that should we wish to have the Mayoral roll, there as we have, that the Mayor or Members should pay to have their name carved on to the wall under others. I also think it is churlish to suggest that if a member has died in office that we shouldn't do something as an authority just to mark that event and to mark our respect.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Kent.

Item 12 – Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 1 question had been submitted to the Leader and a further 3 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Members appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER

1. From Councillor Ray

Would the leader agree that Thurrock is ideally placed to take full advantage from the recent announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in regards to the full retention of the business rates?

Councillor J. Kent

Madam Mayor, regardless of this announcement supporting and enabling our businesses to grow is a priority and a good thing. Creating quality jobs that local people can get is important. It will boost local spending power, improve health outcomes, and reduce the call on public services. And it is of course right that councils that support growth should be properly reimbursed to help manage the impact of growth and improve the quality of life of local residents. So to return to the question, of course we will do whatever we can to take full advantage of this announcement – we do however need to see the details.

I don't think that this is something that we should get too excited about this government announcement. I think we all know that this Government gives nothing to local government, quite the reverse. Currently 50% of business rates are claimed to be localised, but we only get 29% and we are facing another £28m of cuts in the next 4 years. By way of detail the business rates we actually keep are based on an assessment of need, and this assessment of need is done by Government not by us. An assessment of need will remain and will dictate how much of our business rates we generate in future we can actually retain. I can confidently predict Madam Mayor that it will be nowhere near 100%.

Anybody that seriously thinks that thinks the government will hand Thurrock another £55 million of funding, is deluded. To give another example Westminster City Council generates somewhere in the region of £1.8 billion of business rates (8% of the England total) does anyone really think they will keep all of that? Of course they won't, and I expect this to be just another excuse to hand down new unfunded responsibilities to local government.

Mayor

Councillor Ray, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

Councillor Ray

No, Madam Mayor but I will thank the Leader for the most detailed reply.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO CABINET MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON A JOINT COMMITTEE

The Mayor advised that Councillor Hebb had withdrawn his two questions as set out on page 61 of the agenda and therefore would move onto question 2.

1. From Councillor Hebb to Councillor Gerrish

Please can you describe what good service looks like for you from your department, in terms of line painting across the borough?

This question was withdrawn.

2. From Councillor Kerin to Councillor Potheary

After a recent number of illegal traveller encampments across Thurrock, and particularly in our ward of Grays Riverside, can you outline the steps the Council is taking to tackle this problem?

Councillor Potheary

Thank you to Councillor Kerin for the question. This summer has seen an increase in the number of illegal traveller encampments that the Council has had to deal with. This has been the case across Essex and isn't actually unique to Thurrock. As fellow Ward Councillor for Grays Riverside, where a number of these have been, I'm as frustrated as anyone that our public amenity space is being used in this way.

That's why money has been dedicated to a target hardening campaign. This means making vulnerable pieces of land resilient against illegal encampments through gating, fencing, bollards and earthworks in some cases.

Parks and Car Parks are being prioritised so that residents can carry on using them as intended. Crown Road Car Park, Kilverts Field and Grays Beach Car Park are all scheduled for target hardening as well as Orsett Heath and the Fondu Club site in Purfleet. Some of these works have been started and the rest are very much in the pipeline.

Mayor

Councillor Kerin, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

Councillor Kerin

Thank you Madam Mayor. Thank you for your answer. It is very frustrating and this question came to me, because like yourself and like Councillor Kent, we get the same casework through and it's a big thing that people are concerned about and it's also something that previously councils have been reactive to rather than proactive. Thank you for outlining the schemes that are in place, and also you didn't mention the green on Badgers Dene where a scheme has been put in place to stop encampments happening there, which is really appreciated by the residents so thank you for that. If we can just keep on being proactive it saves in the long run. Thank you.

3. From Councillor Hebb to Councillor B. Little, as Chair of Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Conference Statement, regarding the devolution revolution of Business Rates, what role does the Regeneration Scrutiny committee have in ensuring that Thurrock Council work in good partnership with the British Government to realise all outcomes in a favourable way.

This question was withdrawn.

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There is one question from a member of the public.

1. From Mr Perrin to Councillor J. Kent

“At the Cabinet meeting on 11th November, you outlined the problem of homeless people in the Borough. You painted a somewhat bleak picture stating that the number of homeless people was increasing whilst at the same time the Council was financially limited, as a consequence of cuts to funding by the Government to Local Authorities. Has the Council any plans to make this Christmas more enjoyable for homeless people, especially young people leaving care?”

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Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 25 November 2015

| Petition No. | Description | Presented by (and date) | Portfolio Holder | Status Full copies of the responses may be obtained from Democratic Services |
|--------------|--|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| 459 | This Petition is the Thurrock Council to take action to make an indoor shopping centre in our local area South Ockendon. We want it to be built in the free space around the station area. | 22/06/2015* | Cllr Speight | <p>South Ockendon is an area that the Council is focussing on through a number of initiatives such as the development of the Community Hub and delivery of high quality housing. We recognise that Derwent Parade has declined over the years and now has a number of units vacant, but this decline is symptomatic of a lack of demand for retail floorspace in the area which makes it unlikely that a private sector developer could be secured to deliver a new covered shopping centre in this location.</p> <p>The development of South Ockendon over the next 20 years is, like the rest of the Borough, being considered through the development of the Local Plan. It may be that, in putting the plan together, further retail demand is identified which might encourage the provision of more retail space but this would require significant growth in the local residential population and, even then, consideration would need to be given to increasing provision in Derwent Parade over providing a wholly new facility.</p> |

* indicates petitions handed in at the Civic Offices or e-petitions - not presented at Council

Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 25 November 2015

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| 460 | Save Corringham Green Belt. We the undersigned object to the proposed development on Green Belt land comprising of up to 750 dwellings to the North East of Corringham which has been submitted under planning reference number 15/00205/OUT. | 17/07/2015* | Cllr Speight | <p>The petition exceeded the threshold of 1500 verified signatures, and in accordance with Chapter 1, Part 2, Article 3 of the Constitution qualified to be debated by full Council.</p> <p>The lead petitioner has been invited to present the petition at the 23 September 2015 meeting of Council and it is recommended that the petition be referred to the Planning department in order to be considered as part of the decision making process for the decision in question.</p> |
| 461 | We the undersigned residents of Crest Ave & Manor Way, petition the Council to request that double yellow lines are placed in Manor Way & that either double yellow lines or parking time restrictions & NOT parking permits are placed within Crest Ave. | 01/07/2015* | Cllr J Potheary | <p>A service request has been raised for this matter to be investigated. All service requests received are scored and prioritised for consideration for inclusion in the works delivery programme.</p> <p>We will carry out an on-site investigation to determine the feasibility of this proposal, new lengths of Waiting Restrictions require a Traffic Regulation Order to be drafted and are then subject to a Statutory Public Consultation period.</p> <p>Subject to successful feasibility and prioritisation, we will be in a position to carry out a Public Consultation on this proposal by the beginning of October 2015.</p> <p><u>Update 12/11/15:</u></p> <p>As parking permits were a concern to</p> |

* indicates petitions handed in at the Civic Offices or e-petitions - not presented at Council

Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 25 November 2015

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| | | | | <p>residents and the main issue was parking at the junction of Manor Way and Crest Avenue, obscuring sightlines; it was agreed with lead petitioner, that junction protection would be the first scheme to progress. This is due to come into force on the 13th November (subject to lining works being implemented).</p> <p>Subsequently, following further requests from residents, the next phase is to consult residents of Crest Avenue, Conway Gardens and Falcon Avenue on the possibility of extending the Seabrooke Rise PPA to include their roads.</p> |
| 462 | Residents from Parkside are asking for one way system between Kind Edward Drive and Woodview | 22/07/2015 | Cllr J Potheary | <p>A service request has been raised for this matter to be investigated. All service requests received are scored and prioritised for consideration for inclusion in the works delivery programme.</p> <p>The concern for the residents is vehicles from Stanford Road and the roads off King Edward Drive shortcutting through Parkside to get to Old Dock Approach Road, leading to the request for a one way working along Parkside. The direction for the one way working would be from Woodview towards King Edward Drive.</p> <p>We will carry out on-site investigations to determine the feasibility of the proposal. A new one –way system will need a Traffic Regulation Order to be drafted and be subject to a Statutory Consultation period.</p> |

Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 25 November 2015

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| | | | | <p>Subject to successful feasibility and prioritisation, we will be in a position to carry out a Public Consultation on this proposal by the beginning of October 2015.</p> <p><u>Update 12/11/15:</u> Currently still under review, as complexity of scheme options will impact some residents of Parkside negatively. Additional options being investigated. In conjunction with this scheme, an automatic traffic count loop will be installed on site to obtain vehicle flows to determine directional flows.</p> <p>Once the options are finalised, an informal consultation will be advanced. Due to Christmas period, this is likely to be in January 2016.</p> |
| 463 | <p>We the undersigned call on Thurrock Council to immediately review the service it provides to the residents of Chafford Hundred particularly with regards to the environment, public protection, road safety, and traffic.</p> | 22/07/2015 | Cllr J Potheary | <p>The council has finite resources which are being reduced annually through reductions in the revenue support grant it receives from government cover all services. The Environment team is just one area where the council has been forced to reduce the services it provides. Chafford Hundred receives the same level of cleansing, litter-picking and grass cutting/verge maintenance as all other areas of the borough where the service is supported by the council's General Fund. Having seen the impact of the cuts on the budget for the Environment Services and in order to try to mitigate the reductions in the workforce cabinet this year identified funding for an additional 12 operatives to work on the</p> |

* indicates petitions handed in at the Civic Offices or e-petitions - not presented at Council

Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 25 November 2015

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| | | | | <p>environment across the borough during the main growing season.</p> <p>The council as Highway Authority reviews its highway services annually when it allocates funding for improvements and maintenance. In addition the highway network is regularly inspected for defects. All of these traffic duties - highway, road safety, and others - are delivered in accordance with the Highways Act and other statutory responsibilities. The service is managed on a Thurrock-wide basis and the work is prioritised on the basis of safety, maintaining the highway, and providing targeted improvements.</p> <p>On public protection, see https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/news/community-safety-and-crime/man-fined-for-allowing-dog-to-foul, but the council again carries out enforcement activity based on demand and the availability of evidence. The council does not have area-specific policies; the same teams and criteria are applied borough wide. Should specific enforcement queries be raised with the council these can be answered on a case-by-case basis by the most appropriate officer and you will need to contact us with your question in order that it can be directed appropriately.</p> |
| 464 | Petition received by the Council from residents in opposition to the proposed | 12/08/2015* | Cllr J Potheary | This petition was considered by Members as part of the decision making process regarding |

* indicates petitions handed in at the Civic Offices or e-petitions - not presented at Council

Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 25 November 2015

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| | <p>Parish Council on the Frost Estate.</p> <p>There is no denying that some roads of the Frost Estate have fallen into a very poor state of dis-repair. In particular the cross roads on the junction of Central Avenue and Gifford's Cross Avenue.</p> <p>While the majority of residents want to see this area brought up to an acceptable condition and maintain the character of the estate, there is a split in the opinion that a Parish Council is the correct way to address this issue.</p> <p>We the undersigned want to identify an alternative solution to the Parish Council that has (as a result of the public meeting on the 15/06/2015) highlighted many issues including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road repair is not historically within a Parish Council's responsibility. 2. No confirmed precept costs 3. Precept costs linked to Council Tax banding – not equal across the estate! | | | <p>the Frost Estate Parish Council at the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 28 August 2015.</p> |
| 465 | <p>Petition received by the Council from residents in respect of the nuisance of silver birch trees at The Close, Grays</p> | 08/08/2015 | Cllr G Rice | <p>The Council has responded to comments regarding the Silver Birch trees in this area in the past and after complaints about the potential safety of the tree by a local resident, the tree was inspected by an independent arboriculturalist and he reported in March 2014. A copy of the report was provided to</p> |

Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 25 November 2015

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| | | | <p>the resident which showed that the tree was in good health and should have maintenance on a less frequent basis. The trees in this area are Silver Birches which are widely used as street trees both in Thurrock and across the country due to their strength and suitability in an urban environment.</p> <p>There are many hundreds of similar trees across the borough and to remove these particular trees which are in good health would set an unwarranted precedent. Street trees are an important feature across the urban environment breaking up the monotony of buildings, providing shelter for birds and insect life and through photosynthesis removing carbon dioxide from the air and re oxygenating the atmosphere.</p> <p>The reasons put forward to remove these trees have now changed from the original complaint but do not offer any new compelling reason for the destruction of the greening of the local environment.</p> <p>Further update 15/10/15</p> <p>Mike Heath Head of Environmental Services had agreed with the Resident Mr Cavanagh who sent the petition that if Mr Cavanagh pays £300 for a replacement tree, the mature silver birch beside his bungalow will be</p> |
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* indicates petitions handed in at the Civic Offices or e-petitions - not presented at Council

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| | | | | removed and replanted with the replacement tree this will all be during the dormant season. Mike and Mr Cavanagh have spoken on the phone. |
| 466 | A Petition to Thurrock Borough Council by residents to reinstate the 374 bus route service. | 9/9/2015 | Cllr O Gerrish | <p>Residents of Fobbing or Corringham and other visitors, who relied on the 374 bus route that previously ran along High Road, Fobbing urge Thurrock Borough Council to commit to reinstating this much valued public transport service.</p> <p>The deadline to respond to the lead petitioner is 9 October 2015.</p> <p>There are six communities within Thurrock that require financial support for a bus service to be provided. A number of options for April 2015 were considered. Faced with a diminishing budget it was extremely disappointing that we could not seek to provide a bus service that met the needs of all residents. Both Amber Coaches and First Essex buses were prepared to put on a limited service for Fobbing but not on a commercial basis. Therefore the financial implications for the authority exceeded the bus budget available and difficult decisions had to be made. As part of ongoing concerns from residents and ward members this issue was taken to Overview & Scrutiny for Planning & Transportation on both the 29th July 2015 and 16th September 2015. It was agreed that a further review was required in</p> |

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| | | | | order to try and encourage bus operators to offer commercial services through Fobbing. We have approached commercial operators who are not willing to divert existing services through Fobbing. We are continuing to try to find ways of delivering bus services for all of our communities; however, the budget position for 2016/17 requires further reduction to bus subsidies. |
| 467 | Petition to save our homes being pulled down: Butler, Davall and Greenwood. | 23/09/15 at Council | Cllr Worrall | <p>At the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 October 2014 (decision 01104415) it was resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet not to award decant status to three Grays high rises – Butler, Davall and Greenwood House, but instead to note that continued consultation should take place with residents to include detailed design on alternative home provision to ensure residents are given a clear unambiguous set of choices. 2. Cabinet to agree that officers consider feedback from this consultation as part of the development of the emerging master plan for Grays Town Centre. 3. Cabinet to note that the Council’s new build development on Seabrooke Rise will be allocated in accordance to the Council’s existing Lettings Policy and existing residents of the Seabrooke Rise high rise towers will not benefit from enhanced priority status at the current time, therefore Council explores a local lettings plan as a |

* indicates petitions handed in at the Civic Offices or e-petitions - not presented at Council

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| | | | | <p>matter of urgency.</p> <p>4. Cabinet to note that the Council is currently reviewing the proposed Housing Development Plan and Estate Regeneration Programme in the light of the Government's imposed reductions in rent. The Council are assessing the implications and options available to ensure that the financial parameters of the HRA are met, whilst retaining an affordable and deliverable programme of housing investment and new build development.</p> | |
| Page 44 | 468 | Noise and pollution from 'The Village' building works in Aveley. Petition to complain about the activity at 'The Village' Persimmon building development in Aveley, numerous complaints have been made already about the noise from the work site. Work often begins before 8am, carries on after 5pm and on Sundays too. Thurrock Council has warned the site managers about this before and have found out that work is being done outside the permitted time and, as such, there is scope for prosecution. <p>Further to this, many residents in St Michael's Close and Stanford Gardens in Aveley have been unable to use their gardens owing to the failure of the workers to dampen waste rubble that is causing dust to pour into residents' gardens. Many</p> | 23/09/15 at Council | Cllr G. Rice | <p>Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health monitor sites for compliance with the construction environment plan agreed as part of the original planning application.</p> <p>This plan includes provisions to control dust and noise.</p> <p>If evidence of failure to comply with the conditions is found the builder will be contacted and the relevant changes in practice agreed or failing this regulatory action started.</p> <p>No evidence of breaches at the Village site is currently available. Residents experiencing issues resulting from this site should continue to report these to either the site or the Council on a case by case basis.</p> |

* indicates petitions handed in at the Civic Offices or e-petitions - not presented at Council

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| | <p>residents have been unable to use their gardens and this is particularly affecting families with children.</p> <p>The petition seeks compensation for residents of Stanford Gardens and St Michael's Close and that something is done so we can use our gardens again and not have to put up with building noise outside of normal working hours.</p> | | | |
| 469 | <p>We, the undersigned residents of Blackshots, Woodside and also many other areas affected by bikes travelling at speed on pavements across main roads ending up on Blackshots Park, we have been blighted by this problem for many years. We ask that Councillors, Council and Police take notice of this problem that is escalating day by day, waiting for a traffic accident to happen.</p> | 23/09/15 at Council | Cllr G. Rice | <p>Anti-social use of motorcycles and other vehicles is dealt with under section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. The Thurrock Neighbourhood Policing Team formed in July are tasked with dealing with this in Thurrock. So far this year 11 vehicles have been seized by Thurrock Police but unfortunately this is not broken down by cause or vehicle type on the relevant police computer system and so it is not possible to determine what percentage of these seizures were for section 59 at Blackshots.</p> <p>The Police have advised that they have no reported injuries or road traffic collisions attributable to this activity and that over recent months complaints to them about nuisance motorbikes have reduced.</p> <p>They will continue to deal with these complaints on a case by case basis with the continued support of the Councils CCTV system and other departments as necessary.</p> |

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| 470 | Petition to demolish Butler, Davall and Greenwood High Rise blocks in Grays. | 14/10/15 | Cllr Worrall | <p>At the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 October 2014 (decision 01104415) it was resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet not to award decant status to three Grays high rises – Butler, Davall and Greenwood House, but instead to note that continued consultation should take place with residents to include detailed design on alternative home provision to ensure residents are given a clear unambiguous set of choices. 2. Cabinet to agree that officers consider feedback from this consultation as part of the development of the emerging master plan for Grays Town Centre. 3. Cabinet to note that the Council’s new build development on Seabrooke Rise will be allocated in accordance to the Council’s existing Lettings Policy and existing residents of the Seabrooke Rise high rise towers will not benefit from enhanced priority status at the current time, therefore Council explores a local lettings plan as a matter of urgency. 4. Cabinet to note that the Council is currently reviewing the proposed Housing Development Plan and Estate Regeneration Programme in the light of the Government’s imposed reductions in rent. The Council are assessing the implications and options available to ensure that the financial parameters of the HRA are met, whilst retaining an |
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| | | | | affordable and deliverable programme of housing investment and new build development. |
| 471 | The petition is with regards to the shelters on Dilkes Park on the Belhus Estate, the undersigned would like them to be removed. Issues include groups of individuals setting fires, taking drugs, drinking and generally terrorising residents. | 22/10/15 | Cllr Potheary | <p>Resident of the surrounding area of Dilkes Park have suffered from persistent antisocial behaviour in the area resulting in worry for the community.</p> <p>Although the Police, supported by the Council, have been addressing the issues and taking action in the area against perpetrators, it is agreed that these shelters should be removed.</p> <p>On visiting the site it can be seen that the shelters are not in keeping with what is otherwise a very family friendly park.</p> <p>The shelters are repeatedly damaged and vandalised, leading to the Environmental workforce having to continually commit resource to address ongoing issues.</p> <p>The intention is to have the shelters removed before Christmas 2015.</p> <p>There is a risk that this will just move the problem of the antisocial behaviour, however the Police will continue to work with the Council and the Community to address any ongoing issues.</p> <p>It should be noted that removal of the shelters</p> |

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| | | | | will be an estimated cost of £4000. |
| 472 | Residents of Long Lane (Rugby Club end), Kerry Road, Jesmond Road and Laird Avenue are asking for a one way system for the bus route number 88. | 28/10/15 at Council | Cllr Gerrish | <p>Bus route 88 is operated by a private operator, Ensign Buses, and they have confirmed there are no major operational issues and do not intend to register a route change with the traffic commissioners as requested.</p> <p>In such circumstances the Council have no or few powers to act due to bus deregulation.</p> |

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| 25 November 2015 | ITEM: 10 |
| Council | |
| Members' led body on Prevent duties and review of existing Prevent provision | |
| Wards and communities affected: All | Key Decision: Not Applicable |
| Report of: Councillor John Kent, Leader of the Council | |
| Accountable Head of Service: Fiona Taylor, Head of Legal | |
| Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive | |
| This report is Public | |

Executive Summary

Full Council passed the following resolution at its meeting in July 2015, "Radicalisation of youths seems to be quite rampant, doing nothing is not an option as parents are losing their children to extremism. We call on Thurrock Council to create a member led committee to co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to tackle the threat of extremism and radicalisation in line with our Duty to Prevent." The meeting tasked the Constitution Working Group and the Monitoring Officer with drafting terms of reference for such a Member led body within the context of the existing Prevent provision and government guidance on the new statutory duty.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 **That the terms of reference of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committees be updated to address the overview, scrutiny and policy development of Prevent duties and that the Committee be recommended to set up standing cross party "Members Prevent Working Group" pursuant to Rules 8 – 9 Chapter 4, Part 1 – Article 6 of the Constitution**
- 1.2 **That such a Members Prevent Working Group to address the terms of reference found at paragraph 3.5 in this report.**
- 1.3 **That the terms of reference of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be likewise updated to address Prevent duties in the context of their remit for child protection.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act became law on 16 February 2015. The Act places a statutory duty on all principal councils from the 1 July 2015 to have “due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism”. This is known as the Prevent Duty. The Act allows the Secretary of State to issue directions to councils if they are not satisfied that they are complying with the Prevent Duty.
- 2.2 Councils are also required to establish Panels (if not already done so) to identify and support those felt to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorist activity. This is called Channel and new guidance for this also came into effect on 1 July 2015.
- 2.3 The new legal duty and statutory guidance covers all 353 principal local authorities in England and Wales, including existing Prevent Priority Areas and is an Executive function.

The Prevent Duty Guidance

- 2.4 The Prevent duty guidance, published alongside the Act sets an expectation that local authorities will:
- Establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk and co-ordinate prevent activity (these multi-agency groups, through local authorities, will be expected to put in place arrangements to effectively monitor the impact of Prevent work).
 - Use the existing counter-terrorism local profiles to begin to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism.
 - Engage with Prevent coordinators, schools, universities, colleges, local prisons, probation services, health, immigration enforcement and others as part of the risk assessment process.
 - Mainstream the prevent duty so it becomes part of the day-to-day work of the Authority, in particular children’ safeguarding.
 - Any local authority that assesses, through the multi-agency group, that there is a risk will be expected to develop a Prevent action plan.
 - Ensure frontline staff have a good understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue.
- 2.5 The other specified authorities in the Act who are also subject to the Prevent duty include criminal justice agencies including prisons, educational and childcare establishments, health and the police.

- 2.6 The intensified and changed nature of the threat, particularly from those seeking to travel to, or return from Syria, now affects many councils, not just those deemed “priority areas.” To comply with the new duty local authorities will also need to develop skills and abilities to recognise signs and indicators of radicalisation amongst all front line staff, particularly those working with children and young people or children’s and adult safeguarding leads.

Existing local Prevent and Channel provision

- 2.7 To date the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) has been leading on Prevent since it was originally brought in. The overall governance is through the Strategic Partnership Board, which is chaired by the Councils Head of Public. The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection is the statutory Member for this Board. The Fire Authority Member also has a place on this board. Within the TCSP structure there is currently a Prevent Strategic Group (PSG) who also meet regularly. This is chaired by the Head of Public Protection.
- 2.8 The TCSP have Channel processes in place – the Service Manager for Adult Social Care is currently in the process of reviewing these in line with the new prevent duty guidance described above and new advice from Essex Police Prevent lead. Although these existing Channel processes have been in place since 2011, there has, as yet, been no requirement for a Channel Panel to convene. Initial referrals to Channel will come through the safeguarding routes.
- 2.9 The multi-agency Prevent Strategic Group (PSG) are in the process of revising the strategy and action plan, again to bring in line with the new Prevent duty. It has been indicated that a Thurrock Council Members led Prevent Working Group to support and advise work on these can only be welcomed.

Enhanced Role of Local Councillors

- 2.10 As councils look to strengthen or establish processes to ensure that they are complying with the new duty there are clear roles for local councillors. Work to stop people from becoming terrorists and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism may seem distant to the day-to-day role of local councillors - however, successful prevention strategies will only work when underpinned by the support of councillors’ knowledge and relationships in a local area. Councillors involved in overview and scrutiny will also want to be assured about the nature of risk in their area and the work being done to address any identified risk. Councillors are well placed to listen to and understand constituents’ concerns, and can share their understanding of sources of community tension with the local authority. Councillors can also use their authority and legitimacy to challenge the narratives of radicalisers and extremists and put forward positive alternatives, working with the wider community to condemn the activities of extremists who misrepresent local community views.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

New Prevent Duties

- 3.1 Most councils, although it is early days, have responded to this new duty by making use of the existing Community Safety Partnerships as the continuing multi agency lead for the Prevent Duties and it is noted that Thurrock's Community Safety Partnership (TCSP - an Outside Body) has Prevent Duties within its terms of reference. However Members through their Motion have expressed a desire for a Member led body to address the new duties and such a body could usefully feed into the required multi agency lead (TCSP) and Cabinet and provide a forum for more direct and regular community, policy and ward involvement.

New Committee of Council option

- 3.2 The Constitution Working Group (**CWG**) discussed this option and were advised by the Monitoring Officer that the discharge of Prevent duties is an executive function. Therefore if the Member led body mentioned in the Motion was established by Full Council as a new "Committee of Council" then this would in effect be the creation of a further Overview and Scrutiny Committee - as it is not legally possible, pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000, for an executive function to be discharged by Council or a Committee of Council. Additionally this overview and scrutiny responsibility would seem to reside, in the main, within the existing terms of reference of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to which Prevent scrutiny duties should be explicitly added in order to satisfy central government oversight of the adequacy of the Council governance arrangements in this area.

Adding the Prevent Terms of Reference to the Licensing Committee

- 3.3 Another option discussed by the CWG was the possibility of adding Prevent duties to the terms of reference of the Licensing Committee. The Licensing Committee is a statutory decision making Committee of Full Council and as discussed above executive decision making functions could not be delegated to it under the Local Government Act 2000. Whilst it might be possible to add Prevent scrutiny duties to its terms of reference this would be highly unusual as it would combine a decision making committee with a scrutiny function which may give rise to potential conflicts. Therefore the Monitoring Officer advised against this option.

Members Prevent Working Group

- 3.4 The CWG discussed this option for a Member led body – the Monitoring Officer advised that if the intent of the Motion was to capture the enhanced role of all Members, their local knowledge of their communities and wards, to provide a flexible and relatively informal forum and focus for local intelligence and policy development then such a vehicle appeared to fill a gap in existing Prevent provision and could allow Members to lead in the areas suggested in

the terms of reference at Para 3.5 below. The Members' Prevent Group could be set up by the Cleaner Green and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee pursuant to their Prevent duty remit as a standing cross party Working Group pursuant to Rules 8 – 9 Chapter 4, Part 1 – Article 6 of the Constitution. Additionally it may thought appropriate to add Prevent duty to the terms of reference of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee given their child protection remit.

Terms of Reference

3.5 The suggested terms of reference for such a Members Group reporting to its parent committee could be as follows:

Terms of Reference

- Act as critical friends and provide overview and scrutiny function of a very specific area of work:
- That all members have attended WRAP training and have a good understanding of the PREVENT agenda in its broadest sense, including Channel:
- Ensure that the local Duty is embedded within all agencies and that the Local authority is taking the lead on ensuring a coordinated approach:
- Ensure that the Prevent strategic group under the governance of the community safety partnership has sufficient resources to deliver on the strategy and action plan for Thurrock:
- Approve the revised Prevent strategy for Thurrock Council Contribute to the action plan from a community engagement perspective:
- Act as key information networks and champion Prevent in their communities:
- Raise concerns over local community tensions in line with the agreed process:
- Raise awareness amongst their peers:
- Where strategic issues are high, work to support unblocking of concerns:
- In the event of a community issue be key conduits for ensuring the right messages are getting to our communities:
- To scrutinise spend of the £10k on implementing the duty ensuring value for money (providing this funding is agreed).

Channel Panel

3.6 Turning to Channel provision - Part 5 Chapter 2 (sections 26-35) of the Act provides a new statutory framework for a joint local authority/police panel to assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and to put in place a support plan. This now effectively places Channel on a statutory footing. The Act sets out that these panels are to be chaired by the responsible local authority as currently provided for already by Thurrock Council. The Channel process aims to provide support to individuals

at risk of being drawn into violent extremism. Channel is voluntary and an individual must provide consent. It draws on existing collaboration between local authorities, the police, statutory partners (such as the education sector, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services) and the local community and has three objectives: to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into violent extremism; to assess the nature and extent of that risk; to develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned. Funding for Channel is provided by OSCT.

3.7 More information on Channel can be found in the:

Channel Guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

and

Channel Vulnerability Assessment at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-vulnerability-assessment>

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 A cross party Members led Prevent Working Group would seem the best governance option and vehicle to capture the enhance role of all Members to bring to bear their local ward knowledge, lead on policy development and education as well a monitoring the effective discharge of Prevent duties.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 This matter has been the subject of consultation with the Constitution Working Group, the Chair of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Group Leaders and relevant Portfolio Holder

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 Such a Members' led Group would contribute to the effective discharge of Prevent duties by the Council and capture the local knowledge and contribution of all Members to an increasing important issue.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Management Accountant

Such a Members' led Prevent Group would be provided within existing budgets

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Monitoring Officer and Deputy Head of Legal

The legal implications are within the body of the report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
**Community Development and Equalities
Manager**

A Members' led Prevent Group could make a significant contribution to understanding local communities and social cohesion.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

A Members' led Prevent Group would contribute to community safety

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

Channel Guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

Channel Vulnerability Assessment at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-vulnerability-assessment>

9. Appendices to the report

- None

Report Author:

David Lawson
Monitoring Officer
Legal & Democratic Services

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| 25 November 2015 | ITEM: 11 |
| Council | |
| Thurrock Local Plan: Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) | |
| Wards and communities affected: All | Key Decision: Key |
| Report of: Councillor Speight, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration | |
| Accountable Head of Service: Andy Millard, Head of Planning and Growth | |
| Accountable Director: David Bull, Director of Planning and Transportation | |
| This report is Public | |

Executive Summary

At its meeting on the 12th February 2014 Cabinet gave authorisation for the preparation of a new Local Plan to guide the future development of Thurrock. For the new Thurrock Local Plan to be found sound, it must be prepared in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

The SCI explains how the community is to be involved in decisions on the preparation of the Local Plan and planning applications. The Council's current SCI (adopted in 2007) needed to be updated to reflect recent changes in Government legislation and the national Planning system. On the 8th July 2015, Cabinet approved a revised draft of the SCI for a 6 week period of public consultation. This consultation generated 14 responses. The revised SCI has been amended to reflect some of the responses received. Council are now asked to authorise the adoption of the revised SCI and approve the associated Report of Consultation for publication.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Council adopt the Thurrock Local Plan: Statement of Community Involvement.

1.2 That the Report of Consultation be approved by the Council alongside the Statement of Community Involvement.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 At its meeting on the 12th February 2014 Cabinet gave authorisation for the preparation of a new Local Plan to guide the future development of Thurrock.

2.2 In preparing a new Local Plan the Council is required by legislation to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out how the Council intends to engage with the community and stakeholders through the planning process. This includes the preparation of Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents and procedures for consulting the public on planning applications. In doing so the Council must adhere to the Government's principles for community engagement in planning. These require that involvement should be:

- appropriate to the level of planning;
- from the outset – leading to a sense of ownership of local policy decisions;
- continuous – part of an on-going programme, not a one-off event, with clearly articulated opportunities for continuing involvement;
- transparent and accessible – using methods appropriate to the communities concerned; and
- planned - as an integral part of the process for making plans.

2.3 The Government no longer provides guidance on how to produce a SCI with planning authorities now able to decide how they prepare their own SCI. Once the SCI has been adopted, the Council is legally obliged to comply with its Statement of Community Involvement. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 an Inspector is charged with checking that a Local Plan submitted for adoption has complied with legislation. This includes checking that the plan has been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Community Involvement.

Consultation on draft Statement of Community Involvement

2.4 The draft SCI was granted Cabinet approval for public and stakeholder consultation for a six week period commencing 27th July 2015. Copies of the document were placed on the Council's website, as well as being placed on display in Council offices and in public libraries. Consultees already registered on the Thurrock Local Plan database were also provided with a link to the Council's online public consultation portal where they could make representations on the document as appropriate.

2.5 Below are summaries of the key responses that have been received:

- Make changes to the draft Statement of Community Involvement, to introduce a power of referendum on planning applications.
- The following Local Councils should be included in the list of consultation bodies: Brentwood Borough Council, Havering Borough Council, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

2.7 Consultation responses have been assessed and where necessary the SCI amended. A full summary of all the responses is attached at Appendix 2. The Report of Consultation is submitted for approval alongside the final Statement of Community Involvement.

- 2.8 The major costs associated with the preparation of the Local Plan will be incurred during the financial year 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19. Subject to the decision of the Council in agreeing the recommendations set out in this report, it is proposed to re-align existing budgets towards the preparation of the new Local Plan in line with the plan-making programme and timescales set out in the revised Statement of Community Involvement appended to this report. This includes the retention and use of the approved LDF Reserve Fund.
- 2.9 The revision of the original SCI has the potential to reduce costs by providing a more flexible and efficient framework for formal public engagement on planning policy documents and planning applications. Increasing the level of community support for the emerging Local Plan through the active involvement of the public in the plan-making process will help contribute towards reducing the number of objections to the plan and the risk of abortive costs arising if the plan needs to be substantially amended before or after the Examination in Public.
- 2.10 The Council has a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to promote equality of opportunity in the provision of services and employment opportunities. An Equality Impact Analysis (EqIA) will be conducted as part of the process of preparing the new Local Plan. The adoption of a new SCI will ensure that the consultation process associated with the new Local Plan will provide an opportunity for all sections of the community, including harder to reach groups, to become fully involved in helping to shape the future planning and development of Thurrock.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To comply with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 The draft SCI has been subject to consultation. It should be noted that progress on the Local Plan is to be reported to Overview and Scrutiny in January 2016 together with matters resulting from Issues and Options publications.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The revised SCI sets out how the community is to be involved in decisions on the preparation of Local Plans and planning applications, consistent with wider corporate objectives.

7. Implications

7.1 **Financial**

Implications verified by: **Michael Jones**
Management Accountant

Included in the body of the report.

7.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: **Vivien Williams**
Planning & Regeneration Solicitor

Included in the body of the report.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

Included in the body of the report.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

There are no other implications associated with the report.

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None.

9. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1: Thurrock Local Plan: Statement of Community Involvement
- Appendix 2: Thurrock Local Plan: Statement of Community Involvement: Report on Consultation.

Report Author:

Sean Nethercott
Growth and Strategy Team Manager
Planning and Transportation

Thurrock Local Plan

Statement of Community Involvement



November
2015

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Contents

Part 1 Introduction

What is the Statement of Community Involvement?

- 1.1** The planning system affects everyone who lives in, works in, or visits a place. This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) identifies how members of the community can get involved in the planning process in Thurrock and have a say on how the Borough will develop in the future.

Why are we Preparing a New Statement of Community Involvement?

- 1.2** All local planning authorities are required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended ⁽¹⁾ to produce a SCI. The previous SCI was adopted by the Council in 2007. Since then, there have been significant changes to the planning system, with the introduction of the Localism Act, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and new planning regulations ⁽²⁾ in 2012.
- 1.3** In addition, the increased use of the internet among society, as well as increased financial pressures faced by the Council has prompted the Council to re-evaluate the way it consults with communities and key stakeholders.

How is this Statement of Community Involvement Set Out?

- 1.4** To ensure that communities and stakeholders are aware of how they can engage with each of the different strands of planning, the SCI has been split into the following parts:

Part 2: Having Your Say on Planning in Thurrock

- Sets out our overall approach to community engagement and involvement in the planning system, including information on who we consult and the methods that we may use.

Part 3: Plan Making

- Sets out the stages involved in preparing planning policy documents, such as Local Plans, Supplementary Planning Documents and Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedules.

Part 4: Planning Applications

- Sets out how planning applications are assessed and how and when you can make comments.

1 As amended by the Localism Act 2011

2 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

1 Introduction

Part 5: Neighbourhood Planning

- Sets out what neighbourhood planning is and the key stages that are involved in preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.

How will the Statement of Community Involvement be Monitored?

- 1.5** The success and effectiveness of the SCI will be reviewed through the Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR). Indicators will be used to review the SCI and changes will be considered where there has been a particularly low level of community involvement. Any necessary changes will be incorporated into a future revision of the SCI.
- 1.6** The following indicators will be used to monitor community involvement activities:
- The number of individuals/groups participating in consultations – including the number of 'hard to engage'⁽³⁾ individuals or groups, where appropriate.
 - Whether participants value their involvement in the process.
 - Which techniques generate the most effective response.
-

Having Your Say on Planning in Thurrock 2

Part 2 Having Your Say on Planning in Thurrock

2.1 The Council is committed to giving local people and key stakeholders a greater role in shaping their neighbourhoods and the Borough as a whole. This section of the SCI describes our overall approach to community engagement and involvement in the planning process.

Principles of Engagement

2.2 When we involve you in preparing planning policy documents or consult you on planning applications we will:

- Place community engagement at the front of the process, ensuring that opportunities for involvement exist at the earliest opportunity.
- Keep the process simple by writing in plain English and explaining any planning terms that we use.
- Communicate clearly by explaining the reasons why we want to involve you and receive your comments.
- Use engagement methods that are relevant to the community being consulted and appropriate in scale.
- Make it easy for you to get involved by setting out when and where you can provide your comments.
- Be inclusive by providing information in an accessible format and encouraging involvement from groups that are not usually involved in the planning process.
- Be transparent and objective by presenting all relevant facts about development proposals and considering all reasonable policy options for the Local Plan.
- Share information using the Council's website, local libraries and at the Council Offices in Grays.
- Make sure your involvement is effective by ensuring all comments we receive are recorded, read and taken into consideration.

Who Will We Involve?

2.3 We want everyone to have the opportunity to have their say on the development of planning policy documents and planning applications in Thurrock.

2.4 We have developed a consultation database consisting of individuals, landowners, community groups and stakeholders, who we contact when we publish planning policy documents. This database is reviewed and updated regularly. If you would like to be added to the database, you can register yourself online at <https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/portal> or you can request to be added by emailing growth&strategy@thurrock.gov.uk or by calling 01375 652705.

2.5 We are required by legislation to consult certain public bodies at key stages of plan preparation, for example, the Environment Agent, Historic England, Natural England and Highways England. A full list of these 'specific' consultation bodies is provided at Appendix A.

2.6 In line with the Equality Act (2010) and Thurrock's Single Equality Scheme, we want to be inclusive and ensure that all groups and communities within Thurrock can participate and share their views in consultations. This includes special interest groups, voluntary, community and faith sector groups.

2 Having Your Say on Planning in Thurrock

- 2.7** Thurrock contains groups within the community, such as the elderly, youths, people from ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople whose views have historically been under represented in recent consultations. Moving forward, we will take measures to help overcome the barriers that prevented these groups from participating in a consultation activity or event. This may involve being flexible over the timing of an event, using visual aids or ensuring that venues are accessible.

How Will We Involve You?

- 2.8** The Council has begun to change the ways in which we consult and engage with local communities, with a general increased use and availability of electronic communications, such as email and the internet. These methods are more cost effective and time-efficient, and can reach a wider audience than older methods which were set out in our previous SCI.
- 2.9** The ways in which in which we engage with you and how you can have your say will vary depending on the issue. Different techniques may also be used at different stages in the preparation of a planning policy document, or in the assessment of a planning application.
- 2.10** Figure 1 identifies some of the consultation methods that we may use to engage with communities and stakeholders.

Having Your Say on Planning in Thurrock 2



Council's Website: Information on the emerging Local Plan and planning applicables will be published on the Council's website.



Thurrock's Engagement Portal – We publish consultations on the online Engagement Portal - <https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/portal>. Anyone with access to the internet can use the Portal to respond online. You may have to register first to submit comments.



Email/Letters/Newsletters: Emails/letters and/or newsletters are used to notify key stakeholders and relevant members of the community of upcoming events and consultations. Where possible, email notifications will be sent out, rather than in the post.



Social Media – Consultations may be advertised on Thurrock Council's social media pages, such as Facebook and Twitter.



Adverts in Local Newspapers: Public notices and advertisements may be placed in local newspapers, such as the Thurrock Enquirer and the Thurrock Gazette.



Posters/Leaflets/Displays: Posters, leaflets, displays and consultation documents may be placed in Council Offices, Libraries and Community Hubs to raise awareness within communities.



Questionnaires: Questionnaires may be put on to the Council's Engagement Portal, on to the Council's website and/or, may be made available in paper format. Questionnaires can be useful for gauging public opinions and thoughts.



Meetings & Community Forums: Planning Officers may attend/host local meetings and forums to engage with communities. They offer people the opportunity to raise issues and ask questions, and may encourage people to become more involved in the process.



Workshops: Workshops may be organised with community groups and stakeholders. They can encourage joint working and help to build a sense of ownership of the results.



Creative Exercises: They include things like community mapping, street stalls and photography. They can be effective for generating ideas, enable people to express their views and ideas, and can be used to engage people of all ages.



Joint Consultation Activities: Teams within the Council work together to raise awareness and to disseminate information. This includes joint consultation and engagement events, where possible. This saves costs, officer time and also avoids 'consultation overload'.

Figure 1 - Methods of Engagement

2 Having Your Say on Planning in Thurrock

2.11 The above list of engagement methods is not exhaustive. We will remain flexible in the methods that are used when engaging and will tailor the methods of engagement used to those most appropriate to the audience that we are seeking comments from. We will also consider new ways of engaging and communicating should they arise during the lifetime of this document.

What will you be Expected to do?

2.12 In order to ensure that your involvement is effective, you are expected to:

- Provide comments in a clear and concise way.
- Be aware that all comments will be made publically available.
- Be respectful of other people's views.
- If you are replying on behalf of a group or organisation, state how members of the group have been involved in formulating the response and how the full range of members' views have been represented.

The Role of Planning Officers

2.13 Generally, Planning Officers work within the following two teams within the Planning and Growth Service of the Council.

Growth & Strategy Team

2.14 The Growth and Strategy Team is responsible for most matters relating to planning policy in Thurrock, including the Local Plan. They prepare documents that set out and assess spatial policies, land allocations and other planning policies that will guide the future development of the Borough.

2.15 Contact Details

- **Website:** <http://thurrock.gov.uk/planning-policy>
- **Emails:** growth&strategy@thurrock.gov.uk
- **Telephone:** 01375 652705

Development Management Team

2.16 The Development Management Team is responsible for the determination of planning applications and other associated applications (listed building consent, advertisement consent etc...) submitted to the Council under the Planning Acts.

2.17 The Team provides advice and guidance to prospective developers and the public to keep delays to a minimum and avoid problems in processing applications. Developers are encouraged to meet with planning officers as early as possible in the drawing up of their proposals. They make every effort to resolve planning issues with all interested parties where possible.

2.18 Contact Details

- **Website:** <http://thurrock.gov.uk/planning-applications>

Having Your Say on Planning in Thurrock 2

- **Email:** development.management@thurrock.gov.uk
- **Telephone:** 01375 652291

What can you expect from us?

2.19 We will aim to:

- Ask for your views at the earliest possible time.
- Provide enough information and time so that you can understand and respond to consultations.
- Set out documents and forms as clearly as possible, ensuring we avoid the use of jargon, where possible, and provide a Glossary of Terms to explain certain meanings.
- Make it clear how you can make your comments and when.
- Plan events within communities.
- Ensure that buildings used for consultation events are accessible to all, including those with disabilities.
- Acknowledge all consultation responses relating to plan making at the earliest opportunity and make all comments publicly available.
- Review and monitor the effectiveness of our engagement processes and seek to improve them.

2 Having Your Say on Planning in Thurrock

Part 3 Plan Making

- 3.1** This part identifies how the Council intends to involve the community in the preparation of its planning policy documents. The timetable for the production of these documents is set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which is available to view on the Council's Planning Policy website and also in hard copy at the Council Offices in Grays. The LDS is updated as necessary to keep people informed and aware of when documents are going to be published and when they have the opportunity to participate in their preparation.

Local Plan

- 3.2** The Local Plan is the development plan for Thurrock. It sets out the spatial policies, guidance, development management policies and site allocations against which all planning applications and other development proposals in the Borough are assessed.
- 3.3** The Council is now preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will replace policies in the adopted Core Strategy ⁽⁴⁾ and any remaining saved policies from the Borough Local Plan, 1997. The Local Plan will ensure that Thurrock has an up to date planning policy framework upon which to guide future development. Preparing it will take a number of years and involves many stages, many of which are set by planning regulations. ⁽⁵⁾ The Council must follow these stages by law. These stages are set out in Figure 2 and are detailed further in Appendix C. Once the Local Plan is prepared, the Council must then submit it to the Government and an independent Planning Inspector will examine it and determine whether it can be adopted by the Council or not.

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 3.4** Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are prepared to provide additional detail and guidance to support policies and proposals in the adopted plan. They do not have the same weight or status as policies in the plan and are not independently examined, but once they are adopted, they can still form a 'material consideration' in determining planning applications. We will ask for your comments on draft SPDs early on in their preparation.
- 3.5** The stages involved in preparing SPDs and the opportunities for public participation are set out in Figure 3 and detailed further in Appendix D.
- 3.6** Other Plan Document
- 3.7** In preparing our new Local Plan, we will also publish on our website:
- **Local Development Scheme (LDS)** – sets out the timetable for preparing the Local Plan and other documents, such as SPDs.
 - **Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)** – sets out the progress being made in preparing the Local Plan and the Council's performance in implementing adopted planning policies and proposals.

4 Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development (Core Strategy) was adopted in 2011. A focused review of some policies was adopted by the Council in January 2015

5 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

3 Plan Making

Figure 2:
Key stages in preparing the Local Plan

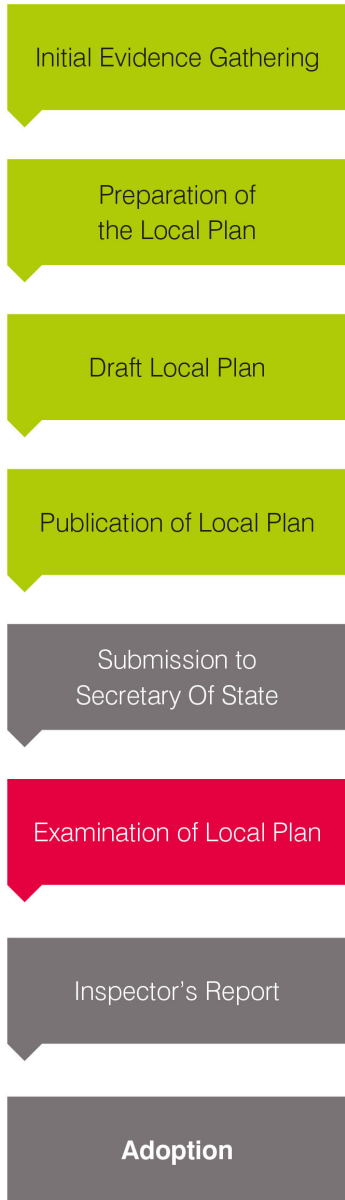


Figure 3:
Key stages in preparing a SPD

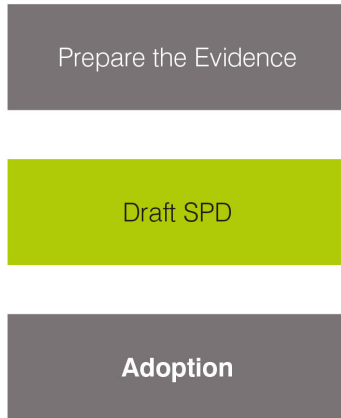
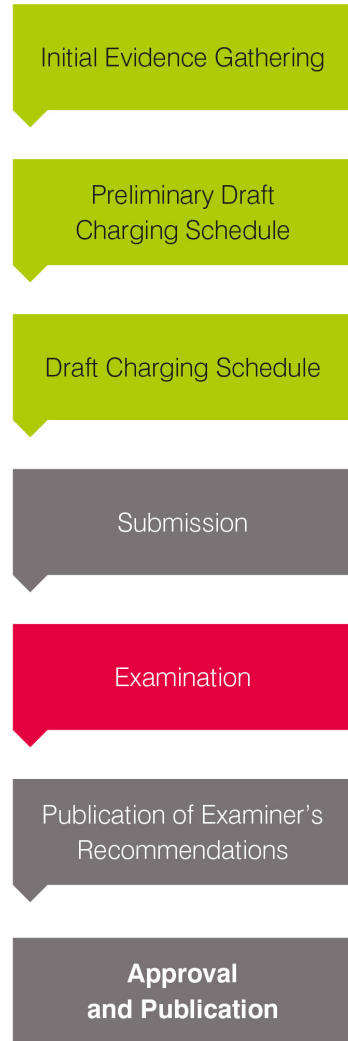


Figure 4:
Key stages in preparing a CIL



Key:

- Public Participation
- Participation in Examination
- Sustainability Appraisal

Community Infrastructure Levy

- 3.8** The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a tariff-based charging schedule that applies to specific types of development, such as housing. When planning permission is secured, developers will be required to pay a financial contribution, which is used to part-fund the provision and maintenance of necessary strategic and local infrastructure projects, such as roads, schools, community facilities and open spaces. The Council is committed to preparing a CIL alongside the new Local Plan.
- 3.9** The stages involved in preparing a CIL and the opportunities for public participation are set out in Figure 4 and detailed further in Appendix E.

Sustainability Appraisals & Background Evidence

- 3.10** We are required by law to promote sustainable development by assessing all plans and policies that we produce for their potential impacts on the environment, the economy and society. We do this through a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). Sustainability Appraisal Reports are published alongside plans published for consultation and we usually invite comments on them at the same time.
- 3.11** We also prepare background technical studies to ensure that our policies are based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the Borough. On specific occasions there may be opportunities for local communities and key stakeholders to be involved in the preparation of these background technical studies.

How Can You Respond/Comment?

- 3.12** The easiest way is to use the Council's online **Engagement Portal** to respond to Planning Policy consultations. It saves time for those wishing to respond, as the documents and questionnaires are available in one place. Responses can also be completed, submitted and received straight away, or, they can be partially completed, saved and returned to at a later date before submitting them.
- 3.13** We understand that not everyone has access to a computer and therefore, we will also accept written responses by post. We will also continue to make all consultation documents available in paper copy to read at the Council Offices in Grays, at all local libraries, community hubs and at other venues across the Borough, where appropriate.
- 3.14** All representations that we receive will be made publically available. Personal details, such as postal addresses, email addresses or telephone numbers will remain confidential.

Providing Feedback

- 3.15** We will acknowledge all representations that we receive to our consultations as soon as possible. Where comments are submitted to us using the Engagement Portal, an automatic email notification may be sent.
- 3.16** Once a consultation period has ended, we will seek to log all comments that we have received on the Engagement Portal and will summarise them, where appropriate. The Council acknowledges that an important part of community involvement is to feedback to those who have commented. Where possible, we will produce a report with officer

3 Plan Making

responses, which identifies how individual comments have been considered and taken into consideration in the progression of the Plan/document. The report may then be published on our website.

3.17 Further information on the key stages of preparing a Local Plan, a SPD and a CIL can be found in Appendices C, D and E respectively.

3.18 The planning regulations⁽⁶⁾ specify that we must consult '**specific consultation bodies**' and '**general consultation bodies**' in the preparation of planning policy document.

- **Specific consultation bodies** are a set group of bodies identified in the planning regulations. A list of them is set out in Appendix A.
- **General consultation bodies** are not set by the regulations and will differ depending on the nature of the document being consulted and its perceived impact. They may include:
 - Community and voluntary groups
 - Environmental groups
 - Gypsy and Traveller communities
 - Landowners and developers
 - Religious groups
 - Transport groups
 - Councillors
 - Ethnic groups
 - Housing groups
 - Leisure and recreation groups
 - Schools and education facilities
 - Travelling showpeople

3.19 Alongside these, we will also engage with individual residents of Thurrock and those carrying out business in the Borough.

Planning Policy Database

3.20 The Planning Policy Team has built up an extensive database for the engagement of planning policy matters over the years. The database includes contact details for 'specific consultation bodies' and 'general consultation bodies', as well as any individuals and businesses who have either requested to be added, or who have made comments to our previous consultations.

3.21 The Planning Policy Database is linked to the Engagement Portal – <https://consult.thurrock.gov.uk/portal>. Consultees can use the Portal to view and respond to consultation documents online, as well as view and update their personal details.

Duty to Cooperate

- 3.22** The Localism Act and the NPPF created a legal duty on local planning authorities and prescribed public bodies to engage with each other, on an ongoing basis, in the preparation of Local Plans and other planning policy documents relating to development that covers strategic matters. This is known as the 'Duty to Cooperate'.
- 3.23** The Council is intending to produce a Duty to Cooperate Protocol, which will set out how the Council intends to cooperate with other local authorities and other public bodies in the preparation of the Local Plan and other planning policy documents. This will ensure that cross-boundary issues are considered and planned for appropriately.
- 3.24** Appendix B lists the local authorities and public bodies that we will liaise with, as part of the Duty to Cooperate.
- 3.25** Once finalised, the Duty to Cooperate Protocol will be published on the Council's Planning Policy website at www.thurrock.gov.uk/planning-policy.

3 Plan Making

Part 4 Development Management

- 4.1 The Development Management process principally involves the consideration and determination of planning applications.
- 4.2 There are certain types of work that do not require planning permission. This is called 'permitted development'. Full details of this can be found on the Planning Portal website at <http://planningportal.gov.uk/permission/>.
- 4.3 Local authorities are required by law to consult individuals and public bodies on various planning applications. The Council take into account all views expressed and all comments made before reaching a decision.

Pre-Application Stage

- 4.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises that early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for everyone.
- 4.5 The level of engagement should be proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposed development. The more controversial the proposal, the broader the range of consultation methods should be in order to allow as many people as possible to have their say.

Who can be involved in the pre-application stage?

- statutory and non-statutory consultees
 - local people and communities
 - elected members
- 4.6 Early engagement with the Council, by applicants, before an application is formally submitted is encouraged so that the Council can give informal comments and help overcome any potential difficulties that may arise. It is considered to be a valuable way to improve understanding and consider any likely planning policy, design or other issues that may arise. The more issues that can be resolved at the pre-application stage, the more likely it is to result in a good quality and acceptable development.

Local People and Communities

- 4.7 The Council encourages developers for large scale development proposals to involve local communities before the formal application stage begins. This enables local communities to put forward initial constructive comments and suggestions, and may lead to fewer objections being made further down the line, which are then material to the determination of the application.
- 4.8 It is recommended that involvement of local communities should be in the form of meetings, presentations and/or exhibitions. Developers are encouraged to speak with the Council before arranging these events, so that they can be undertaken in a manner that is sensitive to the local community's concerns. However, any pre-application

4 Development Management

engagement undertaken with the community is done so by the developer, independently of the Council. Therefore, it is important that any comments being made are directed to the developer and not to the Council at this stage.

Applying for Planning Permission

- 4.9** Making a planning application online is the most efficient way to submit your proposals. You can submit an application to us online via the Planning Portal website - www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/applications/.
- 4.10** The Planning Portal is a quick and easy way to submit a planning application. You can upload supporting documents and plans, and pay your application fee online. You also receive immediate verification of your submission when using the Portal.
- 4.11** Once the Council receives a planning application and validates it, it should make a decision on the proposal as quickly as possible. The time limits are usually 13 weeks for a 'major' development and 8 weeks for all other types of development (unless the application is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, in which case a 16 week time limit applies). In some cases, the statutory deadline can be extended via a mutual agreement (normally through Planning Performance Agreements); this enables both parties the opportunity to resolve certain problems, avoiding the unnecessary refusing of a development proposal that could otherwise be acceptable.

Having Your Say on Planning Applications

- 4.12** You can make comments on planning applications up to the expiry date. We will use our discretion and take into account any comments received up until we prepare our recommendation report.
- 4.13** Any comments you make will be a matter of public record and they will be visible on the Council's website and for public inspection at the Council Offices. We reserve the right to obscure comments that we consider to be inflammatory before being displayed on the website.

Who will be Consulted on Planning Applications?

- 4.14** There are a range of statutory consultees that must be consulted, depending on the type and nature of the planning application. These are set by the Planning Regulations.⁽⁷⁾

Adjoining and opposite neighbours

- 4.15** Owners and occupiers of any land which adjoins that to which a planning application relates and neighbours opposite, are informed and consulted on the application.

General public

- 4.16** The Council informs the general public on planning applications in a more generalised way. All planning applications that we receive are published on the Council's website. In the case of major or controversial applications, where the Council considers there to be a wider impact resulting from a development proposal, the Council also displays

Development Management 4

public site notices in proximity of the application site. Adverts will also be placed in the local newspaper for certain development proposals such as major applications and applications to carry out works to Listed Buildings.

Making a Decision on Planning Applications

- 4.17** There are numerous steps that are taken that lead to a decision. These stages are set out in Appendix F.

Material Considerations

When a decision is made on a planning application, only certain issues are taken into account. These are often referred to as 'material planning considerations'.

Weight attached to material considerations is a matter of judgement for the decision-taker, however, they must demonstrate that in reaching that decision that they have considered all relevant matters.

Further details on this can be found in Appendix G.

- 4.18** Once a decision on an application has been reached, we will send out a decision notice to the applicant or their agent, where applicable.

Appeals

- 4.19** Where a planning application is refused, the applicant may appeal against the decision. Where an application goes to appeal, the Council will notify interested parties, such as neighbours and will give them the right to submit their views in writing or in person, depending on the method of appeal.

National Significant Infrastructure Projects

- 4.20** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are usually large-scale developments, such as, new harbours, power generating stations (including wind farms) and electricity transmission lines, which require a type of consent known as 'development consent'. The Planning Inspectorate is responsible for operating the planning process for NSIPs.
- 4.21** Any developer wishing to construct a NSIP must first apply to the Planning Inspectorate for consent to do so. The Planning Inspectorate examines the application and makes a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State, who then decides whether to grant or refuse development consent.

4 Development Management

Part 5 Neighbourhood Planning

What is Neighbourhood Planning?

- 5.1** Neighbourhood planning gives local communities the opportunity to draw up their own plans and proposals for shaping the future of their areas, as long as they comply with national and local strategic policies.
- 5.2** There are three types of neighbourhood planning available to communities:
- **Neighbourhood Plan** – enables a community to establish a vision and provide planning policies for the future use and development of land in the local community area. Once adopted, a Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Council’s local development plan, against which all planning applications and proposals will be decided.
 - **Neighbourhood Development Order** – allows communities to grant planning permission for certain types of development that they would like to see happen in their area.
 - **Community Right to Build Order** – allows communities to grant planning permission for local small-scale developments that they would like to see, such as, housing, community facilities or shops.
- 5.3** Neighbourhood planning cannot be used to block the building of the homes and businesses considered to be necessary to meet the Borough’s current and future needs. However, it can be used to influence the type, design, location and even mix of new development.

What is the Process for Preparing a Neighbourhood Plan or Development Order?

- 5.4** There are five main stages in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan or Development Order. These are:
1. Set up a Neighbourhood Forum and agree its planning area
 2. Prepare your Neighbourhood Plan or Development Order
 3. Independent Examination
 4. Community Referendum
 5. Legal adoption of your Neighbourhood Plan or Development Order.
- Please Note: The information set out in this section of the SCI only provides a basic guide to the neighbourhood planning process. If you are considering preparing a plan or development order, we recommend that you contact the Growth and Strategy Team to find out more information.

Stage 1

- 5.5** The community decides on the ‘Neighbourhood Area’ that they wish to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan or Development Order for. The only bodies that can produce a Neighbourhood Plan or Development Order in Thurrock are designated Neighbourhood Forums.

5 Neighbourhood Planning

- 5.6** A Neighbourhood Forum must be a group of at least 21 people, who either live in or work in the neighbourhood area, or are elected members for all or part of the neighbourhood area.
- 5.7** Both the Neighbourhood Area and the Neighbourhood Forum will need to be formally approved by the Council to ensure that they make sense for planning purposes and do not overlap with any other neighbourhood planning area.

Stage 2

- 5.8** The preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan or Development Order is the most significant stage in the neighbourhood planning process. The Neighbourhood Forum must gather ideas for the area and develop proposals for a Neighbourhood Plan or Neighbourhood Development Order.
- 5.9** Everyone who lives or works in or around the local community must be appropriately consulted on the proposals. This includes residents, local businesses and landowners, as well as relevant local, regional and national organisations and agencies. The Neighbourhood Planning (general) Regulations 2012⁽⁸⁾ set out the requirements for consultation and publicity at key stages with those living or working in the neighbourhood area, or with those who may have an interest in or are likely to be affected by the proposals (e.g. business). These are the minimum requirements, but engagement with all members of the local community should be an ongoing process from the beginning, to ensure the plan is prepared with high levels of involvement and has local support at the referendum stage.
- 5.10** In preparing a neighbourhood plan or development order, proposals and policies must be in accordance with:
- International, European and national designations (e.g. heritage and natural environment), and European environmental and human rights laws;
 - National planning policies and laws, including the National Planning Policy Framework;
 - Strategic policies and designations of the Council's adopted development plan – plans and orders can propose more, but not less development than is required for the area by the adopted development plan.

Stage 3

- 5.11** Once a draft Neighbourhood Plan is prepared, it will be checked by an independent examiner. He/she will consider whether it meets the right basic standards and they will consider any representations of objections to the proposals.
- 5.12** The independent examination may be carried out in writing, with the examiner considering written representations, or, it may be held as a public meeting.
- 5.13** If the examiner considers that the plan or order does not meet the right standards, he/she will suggest changes and recommend whether it should proceed to a referendum. The Council will then consider the examiner's views and decide whether

Neighbourhood Planning 5

to make those changes. If significant changes are recommended, then the Neighbourhood Forum may wish to re-consult with the local community before proceeding.

Stage 4

- 5.14** Once the examiner approves the Neighbourhood Plan or Order, it will need to be put to a community referendum. This ensures that your local community has the final say on whether the plan or order should come into effect.
- 5.15** Anyone who lives in the area that the Plan or Order covers, and who are registered to vote in local elections, are entitled to vote in the referendum. It may be appropriate for people in neighbouring areas to vote in the referendum, if the proposals within it are likely to impact on them too.
- 5.16** In the case for a Neighbourhood Plan for a 'Business Area' a separate referendum will also be held for businesses (non-domestic rate payers). Each business will have one vote.
- 5.17** More than 50% of people voting in the referendum need to vote in favour of support, for the plan to be taken forward for formal adoption by the Council.

Stage 5

- 5.18** If more than 50% of people voting in the referendum support the Neighbourhood Plan, then the Council must bring it into effect and legally adopt it as part of the statutory local development plan for the area. If there is conflict between the results of the resident and business referendums, then the decision on adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan will rest with the Council.
- 5.19** Once the Plan or Order has been formally adopted by the Council and brought into legal effect, the Council will be legally obliged to take it into consideration when assessing planning applications and other proposals for development in the area.

What is the Process for Preparing a Community Right to Build Order?

- 5.20** The process for preparing a Community Right to Build Order is similar to the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Order. The main difference is that orders are prepared by a local community organisation, not a designated neighbourhood forum.
- 5.21** To be eligible to develop a Community Right to Build Order in a particular neighbourhood area, the community organisation or group must consist of at least 10 members, all of whom must live in that neighbourhood area, in separate homes to each other. When an order is proposed, at least half of the organisation's members must live in the area. The organisation must also exist to further the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area, and any profits made as a result of Community Right to Build Orders must be used for the good of that community, not for private gain.
- 5.22** Both the Neighbourhood Area and the local community organisation need to be approved by the Council, to ensure they make sense for planning purposes and do not overlap with any other neighbourhood planning area.

5 Neighbourhood Planning

What Role does the Council Play in Neighbourhood Planning?

5.23 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), the Council has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and Orders, and to take plans through a process of examination and referendum.

5.24 The Council has six principal roles in the process of neighbourhood planning:

- To formally designate a neighbourhood area, for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.
- To provide technical advice and support for the preparation of the Plan.
- To validate and check a Plan prior to its submission for independent examination.
- To cover the costs of an independent examination into the draft Plan.
- To organise and cover the costs of a referendum, to ensure there is public support for the Plan or Order.
- To 'make' the Plan or Order, if it has been prepared correctly and which is supported by the local community.

5.25 In addition, subject to the availability of resources, the Council will endeavour to support communities undertaking neighbourhood planning by:

- Providing general guidance and advice.
- Attending meetings at key stages.
- Making available on the Council's website relevant studies and other background information.
- Providing information on the Council's website about planning policy and planning designations.
- Advising on any national or local funding opportunities.
- Providing details of relevant contacts. For example, the Environment Agency, Historic England and Highways England.

5.26 The Council must be realistic as to what it can do to support neighbourhood planning in a cost-effective and time-efficient way. Support and assistance the Council provides will be proportionate to the nature of the plans being prepared, the stage reached in plan-making and the impact on the wider community.

Appendix A - Plan Making Specific Consultation Bodies

Appendix A - Plan Making Specific Consultation Bodies

- the Coal Authority
- the Environment Agency
- Historic England
- the Marine Management Organisation
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- Highways England
- adjoining relevant authorities
- relevant telecommunications companies
- relevant Clinical Commissioning Group(s)
- NHS Commissioning Board
- relevant electricity and gas companies
- relevant water and sewerage companies
- the Homes and Communities Agency

Appendix A - Plan Making Specific Consultation Bodies

Appendix B - Plan Making Duty to Cooperate Public Bodies

Appendix B - Plan Making Duty to Cooperate Public Bodies

Statutory Public Bodies:

- the Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- the Mayor of London
- the Civil Aviation Authority
- the Homes and Communities Agency
- relevant Clinical Commissioning Groups
- NHS Commissioning Board
- Network Rail
- Transport for London
- Highways England
- the Maine Management Organisation
- South East Local Enterprise Partnership

Other Public Bodies and Local Authorities

(these are subject to change):

- Barking and Dagenham Council,
- Basildon Borough Council,
- Bedford Borough Council,
- Braintree District Council,
- Brentwood Council,
- Cambridgeshire County Council,
- Castle Point Borough Council,
- Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough Councils,
- Chelmsford City Council,
- Colchester Borough Council,
- Dartford Borough Council,
- East London Waste Authority,
- Epping Forest District Council,
- Essex County Council
- Essex County Council (Minerals and waste)
- Gravesham Borough Council,
- Greater London Authority
- Harlow Council,
- Havering Council
- Herts County Council,
- Kent County Council,
- London Borough Redbridge,
- London Borough Tower Hamlets,
- London Borough of Bexley
- London Borough of Havering

Appendix B - Plan Making Duty to Cooperate Public Bodies

- Maldon District Council,
- Medway Borough Council,
- Norfolk County Council,
- North London Waste Authority,
- Peterborough City Council,
- Rochford District Council
- Southend-on-Sea Council
- Suffolk County Council,
- Swale Borough Council
- Tendring District Council,
- Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership Authorities
- Uttlesford District Council,

Appendix C - Stages in Preparation of the Local Plan

Appendix C - Stages in Preparation of the Local Plan

| Stage of Local Plan Preparation | Levels of Engagement | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| <p>Stage 1</p> <p>Initial Evidence Gathering</p> <p>Gathering evidence and information to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify aims and objectives of the Plan. Identify the needs of the local area that should be covered by the Plan. Identify environmental, economic and social objectives to inform the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and produce a SA Scoping Report. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish the SA Scoping Report on our website and will invite comments from the consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) on the scope of the Report for a minimum of six weeks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Technical Studies (evidence base) on our Planning Policy website – http://hurock.gov.uk/planning/policy Request information from you. Set up workshops and meetings with key stakeholders. Undertake presentations to other teams within the Council. | <p>You can...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit information to us, when we request it. Let us know you want to be involved in the preparation of the Plan. |
| <p>Stage 2</p> <p>Preparation of the Local Plan (Regulation 18)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify specific and general consultees that we are proposing to prepare a new Local Plan and will invite comments on the issues and options for a minimum of 6 weeks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish a notice in the local newspaper which identifies the locations and times that the draft Local Plan and SA Report can be viewed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit written comments to us about what you think the Local Plan should contain and the |

Appendix C - Stages in Preparation of the Local Plan

| Levels of Engagement | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Stage of Local Plan Preparation | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| <p>Prepare draft 'Issues and Options' document which will identify the main issues and different options that could be included in the Local Plan.</p> <p>We will undertake a Sustainability Appraisal to assess the environmental, economic and social impacts of the plan's objectives, various options and reasonable alternatives.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish on our website and at various locations within the Borough the draft Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report. • Publish a notice on our website which identifies the locations and times that the draft Local Plan and SA Report can be viewed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place advertisements in the local newspaper. • Organise and attend meetings/workshops with local communities. • Set up manned and unmanned displays and exhibitions at locations within the Borough. • Put posters up and distribute leaflets in local areas. • Use social media to promote and raise awareness of the consultation. | <p>issues that should be included within it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit written comments to us about the SA Report. |
| <p>Stage 3</p> <p>Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)</p> <p>We will review comments we receive at Stage 2 and amend the Draft Local Plan, where necessary.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify specific and general consultees that we have published the Draft Local Plan and will invite comments on it for a minimum of 6 weeks. • Notify specific and general consultees that we have published a Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Draft | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a notice in the local newspaper which identifies the locations and times that the Draft Local Plan and SA Report can be viewed. • Place advertisements in the local newspaper. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit written comments to us about the Draft Local Plan and whether there are any changes that you think should be made to it. |

Appendix C - Stages in Preparation of the Local Plan

| Stage of Local Plan Preparation | Levels of Engagement | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| <p>We will undertake a Sustainability Appraisal to assess the environmental, economic and social impacts of the Draft Plan.</p> | <p>Local Plan and will invite comments on it for a minimum of 6 weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish on our website and at various locations within the Borough the Draft Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report. • Publish a notice on our website, which identifies the locations and times that the Draft Local Plan and SA Report can be viewed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise and attend meetings/workshops with local communities. • Set up manned and unmanned displays and exhibitions at locations within the Borough. • Put posters up and distribute leaflets in local areas. • Use social media to promote and raise awareness of the consultation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit written comments to us about the Sustainability Appraisal Report and whether you agree or disagree with the findings. |
| <p>Stage 4 Publication of the Local Plan (Regulation 19 and 20)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send to specific and general consultees: • a copy of the representations procedure. • a statement of the fact that the Proposed Submission documents are available to view and the times and places where they can be viewed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place advertisements/notices in the local newspaper. • Put posters up and distribute leaflets in local areas. • Attend and organise meetings/workshops with the local communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit written comments to us about the Proposed Submission Local Plan and any accompanying documents. |

Appendix C - Stages in Preparation of the Local Plan

| Levels of Engagement | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Stage of Local Plan Preparation | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| <p>We will review comments we receive at Stage 3 and consider them when preparing the Local Plan that we intend to submit to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>We will undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of the Proposed Submission Local Plan, taking into consideration comments we received back to the Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Draft Local Plan at Stage 3.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish on our website: • a copy of the representations procedure. • a statement identifying the places and times that the documents can be viewed. • the Proposed Submission Local Plan and any accompanying documents. • the Sustainability Appraisal Report. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up manned and unmanned displays/exhibitions at locations within the Borough. • Use social media to promote and raise awareness of the consultation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit written comments to us about the Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Proposed Submission Local Plan. • Request to be notified when the Council submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State. • Request to be heard at the Examination (the decision of who is heard is made by the Inspector appointed to Examine the plan). • Request to be notified when the recommendations by the Inspector are published. |

Appendix C - Stages in Preparation of the Local Plan

| Stage of Local Plan Preparation | Levels of Engagement | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| <p>Stage 5</p> <p>Submission of the Local Plan (Regulation 22)</p> <p>We will submit the Local Plan, accompanying documentation and Sustainability Appraisal Report to the Secretary of State for independent Examination.</p> <p>Once the Plan has been submitted, all correspondence should be made to the Inspector appointed to undertake the Examination, via the Programme Officer.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit the Local Plan and accompanying documents, including the Sustainability Appraisal Report to the Secretary of State. Notify those people who requested to be notified that the Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State. Notify specific and general consultees that the Local Plan and accompanying documents, including the Sustainability Appraisal Report, are available to view and the times and places where they can be viewed. Publish on our website, within the Civic Offices and at various locations within the Borough: the Local Plan and accompanying documents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish on our website, within the Civic Offices and/or at various locations within the Borough: copies of the representations that we received to the Proposed Submission Local Plan. any supporting documents which are relevant to preparation of the Local Plan. Publish a notice in the local newspaper informing people that the Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State and the places and times that it and its accompanying documents can be viewed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to be notified when the Local Plan is adopted. |

Appendix C - Stages in Preparation of the Local Plan

| Levels of Engagement | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Stage of Local Plan Preparation | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Sustainability Appraisal Report a Statement of Representation a notice stating the times and places that the above documents can be viewed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place advertisements in the local newspaper. | |
| <p>Stage 6</p> <p>Examination of the Local Plan (Regulation 24)</p> <p>The Local Plan is examined by an independent Planning Inspector who will assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements, and whether it is sound.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify anyone who made representations to the Proposed Submission Local Plan, at least 6 weeks before the opening of the hearing: the date, time and place that the hearing will be held. the name of the inspector appointed to carry out the examination. Publish on our website, at the Civic Offices and at other various locations within the Borough, at least 6 weeks before the opening of the hearing: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish in the local newspaper information to inform people of the date, time and place that the Examination will be held, and the name of the Inspector who will carry out the Examination. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend the Examination (but only those who have been invited to speak by the Inspector can do so). |

Appendix C - Stages in Preparation of the Local Plan

| Stage of Local Plan Preparation | Levels of Engagement | | |
|---|---|-----------|------------|
| | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the date, time and place that the hearing will be held. the name of the inspector appointed to carry out the examination. | | |
| <p>Stage 7</p> <p>Inspector's Report (Regulation 25)</p> <p>Page 97 Following the Examination in public, the Inspector who examined the Local Plan will send a report to the Council which identifies any recommended changes to be made to the Plan and whether the Plan has been approved.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish on our website, at the Civic Offices and at other locations within the Borough, a copy of the recommendations. Notify those who requested to be notified that we have published the recommendations made by the Inspector. | | |
| <p>Stage 8</p> <p>Adoption (Regulation 26)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish on our website, at the Civic Offices and at other locations within the Borough: - the Local Plan | | |

Appendix C - Stages in Preparation of the Local Plan

| Stage of Local Plan Preparation | Levels of Engagement | | |
|---|--|-----------|------------|
| | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| <p>Any recommended amendments will be made to the plan before it is submitted to Full Council for adoption.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an Adoption Statement - the Sustainability Appraisal Report - details of the times and locations at which the documents can be viewed. - Notify anyone who requested to be notified that the plan has been adopted. | | |

Appendix D - Stages in Preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document

Appendix D - Stages in Preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document

| Stage | Key Tasks |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Stage 1</p> <p>Prepare the Evidence</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather up to date information on a range of social, economic and environmental matters and produce the scope of the SPD. • Identify whether a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required. |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Stage 2</p> <p>Draft the SPD</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft the SPD using information gathered in Stage 1. • Undertake the SA, if required. <p>We will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish on our website and at various locations within the Borough the draft SPD and invite comments for a minimum of 6 weeks. <p>You can...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide written comments to us about the Draft SPD during the specified time period. • Request to be notified when the SPD is adopted. |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Stage 3</p> <p>Adoption</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider comments received on the draft SPD and amend the document if necessary. • Submit the SPD to Full Council for adoption (SPDs are not subject to independent examination). <p>We will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the SPD is adopted, we will publish it on our website and make it available at various locations within the Borough, along with any SA Report and an Adoption Statement. • Send a copy of the Adoption Statement to anyone who requests to be notified of the document's adoption. |

Appendix D - Stages in Preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document

Appendix E - Stages in Preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

Appendix E - Stages in Preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

| Stage of CIL Charging Schedule Preparation | Levels of Engagement | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| <p>Stage 1</p> <p>Initial Evidence Gathering</p> <p>Gathering of information to identify local infrastructure needs and funding gaps, and assess the viability of developments.</p> <p>1</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish on our website any Technical Studies that we prepare to inform the Charging Schedule. | | |
| <p>Stage 2</p> <p>Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule</p> <p>Preparation of the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send a copy of the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule to consultees (as listed in The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, as amended) and invite representations for a minimum of 6 weeks. Publish, on our website and at various locations within the Borough, the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and invite comments for a minimum of 6 weeks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish a notice in the local newspaper which identifies the locations and times that the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule can be viewed. Place advertisements in the local newspaper. Attend and organise meeting and workshops. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit written comments to us on the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule. |

Appendix E - Stages in Preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

| Levels of Engagement | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| <p>Stage of CIL Charging Schedule Preparation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a notice on our website which identifies the locations and times that the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule can be viewed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up manned and unmanned displays/exhibitions. • Use social media to promote and raise awareness of the consultation. | |
| <p>Stage 3 Draft Charging Schedule Review and consideration of comments made to the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and prepare the Draft Charging Schedule.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send a copy of the Draft Charging Schedule and a statement of representation procedure to all those consulted at the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule stage and invite comments for a minimum of 6 weeks. • Notify anyone else who commented on the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule that the Draft Charging Schedule has been published. • Publish on our website and at various locations within the Borough the Draft Charging Schedule, any appropriate Technical Studies (evidence) and a statement of the representation procedure, and invite comments for a minimum of 6 weeks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a notice in the local newspaper which identifies the locations and times that the Draft Charging Schedule can be viewed. • Place advertisements in the local newspaper. • Organise and attend meetings and workshops. • Set up manned and unmanned displays/exhibitions in local areas. • Use social media to promote and raise awareness of the consultation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit written comments to us on the Draft Charging Schedule. • Request to be heard in public by the Examiner undertaking the Examination. • Request to be notified when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Charging Schedule has been submitted to the Government. |

Appendix E - Stages in Preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

| Levels of Engagement | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| Stage of CIL Charging Schedule Preparation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish on our website and in the local newspaper a notice which identifies a statement of representation procedure and the locations and times that the Draft Charging Schedule can be viewed. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Examiner publishes their recommendations. the Council approves the Charging Schedule. |
| Stage 4 Submission Submission of the Charging Schedule to the Government. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit to the Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Draft Charging Schedule a Statement of Representation copies of representations made a statement of any modifications made to the Draft Charging Schedule copies of relevant evidence. Publish on our website and at various locations within the Borough the documents submitted to the Government, as above. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish a notice within the local newspaper which states that we have submitted the Charging Schedule. | |

Appendix E - Stages in Preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

| Levels of Engagement | | |
|---|---|---|
| We will... | We may... | You can... |
| Stage of CIL Charging Schedule Preparation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish on our website a notice which identifies the locations and times that the documents above can be viewed. • Notify those who requested to be notified that the Schedule has been submitted to the Government. • Send a copy of a statement of any modifications made to the Draft Charging schedule, if applicable, to consultees. | |
| Stage 5 Examination The Charging Schedule is examined by an independent Examiner. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish on our website and in the local newspaper, the time and place that the examination is to be held and the name of the examiner. • Inform anyone who made a representation on the Draft Charging Schedule and anyone who requested to be heard, the time and place that the examination is to be held and the name of the examiner. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place advertisements in the local newspaper |
| Stage 6 Publication of Examiner's Recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish on our website and at various locations within the Borough, the recommendations and reasons. • Notify anyone who requested to be notified that we have received and | |

Appendix E - Stages in Preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

| Stage of CIL Charging Schedule Preparation | Levels of Engagement | | |
|---|--|-----------|------------|
| | We will... | We may... | You can... |
| The Council receives recommendations and reasons for those recommendations from the examiner. | published the recommendations and reasons. | | |
| <p>Stage 7</p> <p>Approval and Publication</p> <p>The Council approves and publishes the Charging Schedule.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish on our website and at various locations within the Borough the approved Charging Schedule. • Publish in the local newspaper a notice that the Charging Schedule has been approved and where it can be viewed. • Notify those who requested to be notified that the Charging Schedule has been approved. • Send a copy of the Charging Schedule to each relevant consenting authority. | | |

Appendix E - Stages in Preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

Appendix F - Stages of a Planning Application

Appendix F - Stages of a Planning Application

| Stage | We will | You Can |
|--|--|--|
| Stage 1 – Application is registered | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send a letter of acknowledgement to the applicant with a target date for making a decision. | |
| Stage 2 – Application is publicised | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish the application by means of sites notices and/or advertisements in the local newspaper. Send letters to neighbouring properties, including businesses. Publish the application on our website. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant may wish to speak to their neighbours themselves. Support or object, in writing or email, to any planning application as long as they are received by the Council before the expiry time. Track the progress of any current application via the Council's website. |
| Stage 3 – Views of relevant bodies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek the views of agencies such as the Highway Authority and the Environment Agency, if the application could have an effect on roads, traffic or flood plains, for example. | |
| Stage 4 – Inspection of the site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect the site to gather information about it and the surrounding area. | |
| Stage 5 – Application is assessed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the proposal against national policies, government guidance and local planning policies. | |

Appendix F - Stages of a Planning Application

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Stage 6 – Consideration of material effects</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider comments made by neighbours and relevant bodies. Consider the effects of the proposal on neighbours and matters such as highway safety. | |
| <p>Stage 7 – Negotiate any amendments</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate some points of the application to reach a positive decision, where possible. | |
| <p>Stage 8 – Decision is reached</p> | <p>Delegated decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a report. Senior Officers of the Council will consider and agree the recommendations. Inform anyone who has submitted written to comments to us, the outcome of the decision. <p>Committee decision:</p> <p>Applications that we feel are likely to have a significant impact, or those that are ‘called in’ by Councillors are taken to the Council’s Planning Committee for determination. In such circumstances we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a report and present it to Members of the Planning Committee. Inform anyone who has submitted written comments to us, the outcome of the decision. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Planning Committee – usually held every 4 weeks. Members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting. Applicant may appeal against a refusal or against any condition of approval. By law, no one else has the right of appeal. |

Appendix G - Material Considerations

Appendix G - Material Considerations**Material considerations can include, but are not limited to:**

- Local, strategic, national planning policies and policies in the adopted development plan of an area.
- Emerging plans which have already been through at least one stage of public consultation.
- Pre-application planning consultation carried out by, or on behalf of the applicant.
- Government and Planning Inspectorate requirements – circulars, orders, statutory instruments, guidance and advice.
- Previous appeal decisions and planning inquiry reports.
- Principles of Case Law held through the Courts.
- Loss of sunlight (based on Building Research Establishment guidance).
- Overshadowing/loss of outlook to the detriment of residential amenity (though not loss of view as such).
- Overlooking and loss of privacy.
- Highways issues: traffic generation, vehicular access, highway safety.
- Noise or disturbance resulting from use, including proposed hours of operation.
- Smells and fumes
- Capacity of physical infrastructure e.g. in the public drainage or water systems.
- Deficiencies in social facilities e.g. space in schools.
- Storage & handling of hazardous materials and development of contaminated land.
- Loss or effect on trees.
- Adverse impact on nature conservation interests & biodiversity opportunities.
- Effect on listed buildings and conservation areas.
- Incompatible or unacceptable uses.
- Local financial considerations offered as a contribution or grant.
- Layout and density of building design, visual appearance and finishing materials.
- Inadequate or inappropriate landscaping or means of enclosure.

Appendix G - Material Considerations

Appendix H - Further information and advice on planning

Appendix H - Further information and advice on planning

The Planning Portal

- The Planning Portal is the Government's online tool for planning and building services. It provides information about the planning system, allows you to submit planning applications and find out about development in your area
- **Website:** <http://planningportal.gov.uk>

Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

- The DCLG website provides general information on the planning system, including the latest national planning policy, decisions on planning, research and statistics.
- **Website:** <http://gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government>

Planning Aid England

- Planning Aid England, which is provided by the Royal Town Planning Institute, offers free, independent and professional planning advice to individuals and communities who cannot afford to pay professional fees.
- **Website:** <http://rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid>

Locality

- Locality is the national network of ambitious and enterprising community-led organisations, working together.
- **Website:** <http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/>

Department for Communities and Local Government.

- **Website:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neighbourhood-planning>

Planning Aid

- Planning Aid have a NP forum to support communities on using rights.
- **Website:** <http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/>

The Planning Inspectorate

- The Planning Inspectorate deals with planning appeals, national infrastructure planning applications, examinations of local plans and other planning-related and specialist casework in England and Wales.
- **Website:** <http://gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate>

Appendix H - Further information and advice on planning

Glossary

Area Action Plan

- A document that sets out policies and proposals for the change or special conservation of a specific area.

Community Infrastructure Levy

- A levy which allows local authorities to raise funds from new development which can be used to pay for a wide range of infrastructure, including roads, schools, community facilities and open spaces.

Community Right to Build Order

- A special type of Neighbourhood Development Order prepared by a community organisation and made by the Local Planning Authority. It grants planning permission for a particular type of development in a particular area.

Core Strategy

- A type of development plan which sets out the long-term vision, spatial strategy and policies for future development of the Borough. Thurrock adopted its Core Strategy in 2011.

Development Plan

- A document(s) that set out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and policies for development in an area.

Duty to Cooperate

- This was created by the Localism Act 2011. It places a legal duty on the Council to engage on an ongoing basis with neighbouring local planning authorities and other bodies on issues that go beyond Thurrock's boundary.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

- An assessment of the plan is undertaken to ensure that it does not discriminate against disadvantaged or vulnerable people. In Thurrock, this is usually incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal.

General Consultation Bodies

- A list of organisations, groups and individuals who the Council deems appropriate to consult on the preparation of the Local Plan and other planning documents

Glossary

Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)

- An assessment is required if a Plan or the policies it contains is likely to have a significant adverse effect on Special Areas of Conservation or Special Protection Areas. In Thurrock a HRA is usually incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal.

Localism Act 2011

- An Act of Parliament introduced in 2011, which seeks to take more decision making powers away from central government and put it back into the hands of local councils, communities and individuals.

Local Plan

- A plan which sets out a vision and objectives for the development of an area. It identifies future needs and opportunities for housing, economic development, community facilities and infrastructure, whilst also protecting the built and natural environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design.

Major Planning Applications

- Housing development of 10 or more dwellings, or a site area of 0.5 hectares or more
- Other development where the floor space to be built is 1,000 sq m or more, or where the site area is 1 hectare or more.

Material Consideration

- The issues that are taken into account when a decision is made on a planning application.

Minor Planning Applications

- Housing development of less than 10 dwellings
- Other development where the floorspace to be built is less than 1,000 sq m or where the site area is less than 1 hectare.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- Introduced in 2012, the NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England. It essentially consolidates previous national planning policies and guidance, including Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes into one single document.

National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)

- This was introduced in 2014 and provides details to support the effective implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Neighbourhood Planning

- This was introduced by the Localism Act (2011) and allows local communities to shape new development in their area, through the building of homes, jobs and community facilities.

Permitted Development Rights

- Certain minor changes that can be made to a house or building without the need for planning permission.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

- An Act of Parliament introduced in 2004, which substantially reformed the planning system in England. It replaced Local Plans and Structure Plans with Local Development Frameworks.

Soundness

- The Inspector who examines the Local Plan will test whether it is 'sound'. To be found sound, the plan must be:
 - **Positively Prepared** – based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements and consistent with achieving sustainable development.
 - **Justified** – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on evidence.
 - **Effective** – the plan must be deliverable over the plan-period and based on effective joint working on issues that go across the Borough boundary.
 - **Consistent with national policy** – the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with policies within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Specific Consultation Bodies

- A list of bodies identified in the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 which the Council must consult during preparation of its Local Plan.

Statement of Community Involvement

- A document that sets out the standards for involving the local community in the preparation of Local Plans and decisions on planning applications.

Glossary

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- Assesses the environmental effects of a plan. In Thurrock SEAs are usually incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal.

Supplementary Planning Document

- A document that provides additional guidance in relation to a policy or policies within a Local Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- An appraisal undertaken during the preparation of a plan to assess its possible social, environmental and economic effects and to ensure that the plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

Growth & Strategy Team

growth&strategy@thurrock.gov.uk

Planning and Growth
Planning and Transportation
Civic Offices, New Road
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THURROCK LOCAL PLAN: DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

Report of Consultation

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report outlines the methods and activities used in the public consultation event for the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The Council received 14 responses. Table 1 and 2 at para 3.0, shows each response together with officers comments and actions.

2.0 Activities/publicity undertaken

- 2.1 The draft SCI was granted Cabinet approval on the 8th July 2015 for public and stakeholder consultation for a six week period commencing 27th July 2015 ended on Monday 7 September 2015. Copies of the consultation document with questionnaires were made available on the Council's website, and hard copies in Civic offices and in public libraries.
- 2.2 Over 1200 emails and 3500 letters were sent to consultees registered on the Thurrock Local Plan database. These were consultees who previously asked to be notified of consultations on Thurrock Council's planning policy documents or they had previously participated in planning consultations. All consultees were provided with a link to the Council's online public consultation portal where they could register and make representations on the document as appropriate. Copies of the emails and letters are attached at appendix A.
- 2.3 An advert was put in the Thurrock Enquirer on the 30th July 2015, informing readers of the dates, details and how to get involved in the consultation event. The advert is attached at appendix B.

3.0 Representations with officer comments and actions.

Table 1 summary of Received representations and officer responses.

| Ref | Name and/ or Company | Summary of representations | Officer response to comment: | Officer Action: |
|-------|--|---|---|--|
| SCI_1 | Health and Safety Executive | The HSE acknowledges that early consultation can be an effective way of alleviating problems due to incompatible development at the later stages of the planning process, and we may be able to provide advice on development compatibility as your plan progresses. Therefore, we would like to be consulted further on local plan documents where detailed land allocations and use class proposals are made, e.g. site specific allocations of land in development planning documents. | Acknowledged. | Ensure HSE continues to be consulted on the emerging Local Plan. |
| SCI_2 | Dr L.S. Grewal NHS Thurrock CCG | I believe more thought needs to be given before building new homes on the existing health resources available. The more young families that move into the area mean more GP resources are required, the hospital is stretched plus other infrastructure like schools. You need a well consulted quality impact study. | Acknowledged. However, it is not the place of the SCI to undertake this assessment. The emerging Local Plan will assess how much new infrastructure is required and where it should go. Through the use of | No action needed. |

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| | | | s106 agreements and CIL, new schools and GPs can be provided where they are most needed. | |
| SCI_3 | Miss Janet McCheyne | I think you should consult with Brentwood Borough Council as it adjoins Thurrock, and also Havering Borough Council, when appropriate. I note that the list is subject to change, so hope this would happen anyway. | Agree. Adjoining local planning authorities and other authorities who need to work with on strategic issues should be appropriately consulted throughout the plan-making process under the Duty to Cooperate. It is therefore proposed to amend Appendix B of the SCI to include the London Borough of Havering, the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and Brentwood Borough Council. | Brentwood Borough Council and Havering Council have been added to Appendix B Including Plan Making Duty to Cooperate Public Bodies. |

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| SCI_4 | Mr Scott Sullivan Thames Chase Trust | The London Borough of Havering, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and Brentwood Borough Council should be added to the list. These authorities have been involved in strategic conversations relating to environment and heritage enhancements as part of Thames Chase Community Forest since 1990. The Thames Chase Trust continues to work with these authorities including Thurrock Council to support delivery of environment, in line with the Thames Chase Plan 2014. Including the above local authorities on the Duty to Cooperate list will ensure there remains a link between Thurrock plan-making and sub-regional work on the environment that has been in place for 25 years. | Agree. Adjoining local planning authorities and other authorities who need to work with on strategic issues should be appropriately consulted throughout the plan-making process under the Duty to Cooperate. It is therefore proposed to amend Appendix B of the SCI to include the London Borough of Havering, the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and Brentwood Borough Council. | Adjoining Local Planning Authorities will be automatically consulted on all stages of the Local Plan. The London Borough of Havering, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and Brentwood Borough Council are all added to the list of consultees in Appendix B. |
| SCI_5 | Mr Barrie Stone | Well thought out document. No changes required. | Support acknowledged. | No action needed |

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| <p>SCI_6</p> | <p>Cllr T Aker</p> | <p>The ultimate principle should be that the people have a right to approve or reject any planning application through referendum. Petitioners should have a 3 month window to gain the signatures of 20% of the ward population (eligible on the electoral roll) to initiate a binding local referendum on any development. Spurious challenges won't gather an organisation or persuade enough people to sign the petition. Major changes, such as the proposed Biomass Plant for West Thurrock or the destruction of Davall, Greenwood and Butler House, will get the organisation and signatures. It is not enough to just 'consult'. You have to place the final approval in the hands of the people if a consultation is going to mean anything. If you ask the people for input you have to give them the right to accept or reject the plans.</p> <p>Amended to read: "The ways in which in which we engage with you and how you can have your say will vary depending on the issue. Residents have the right to initiate a binding local referendum on any planning application on the condition of collecting signatures from 20% of eligible voters in the ward of the planning application. Different techniques may also be used at different stages in the preparation of a planning policy document, or in the assessment of a planning application."</p> | <p>Disagree. Planning applications can only be determined on material considerations. The current Government does not consider the holding of local referenda to be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for development. Advice received from the Councils Planning and Regeneration Solicitor is that while the Council could introduce referenda for planning applications their result would not constitute valid grounds for granting or refusal of planning permission. Furthermore the holding of referenda would add significant costs and</p> | <p>No action required.</p> |
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| | | | slow the planning system, to a point, where the Council would not be able to comply with the statutory timescales for dealing with planning applications. | |
| SCI_7 | Natural England | Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. We are supportive of the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisations and statutory bodies in local planning matters, both in terms of shaping policy and participating in the process of determining planning applications. However, we have no specific comments to make on this consultation. | Support Acknowledged | No action required |
| SCI_8 | Mrs Linda Mulley | I agree that developers must contact the local community direct, but I do feel that when a considerable development is being put forward, expert advice from the council would be helpful to assist residents even at this juncture. Large consortiums selling their "plan" and the tactics and legalities they can | Acknowledged, unfortunately due to a lack of resources it may not be possible for Council Officers to attend meetings to clarify what | No action needed. |

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| | | <p>quote and employ can be very daunting.</p> <p>Suggestion that a council Planning official be invited along to those meetings to clarify in layman terms what residents are being told.</p> | <p>developers are proposing. However, the case officer is available to answer questions should the need arise and a request to attend a meeting can be made. Further advice and assistance can be obtained by the local community from Planning Aid who are an organisation which provides free and independent advice on planning matters.</p> | |
| SCI_9 | Mrs Anne Sandu | <p>The reliance on electronic means of communication can exclude people who either do not understand how to use it, do not possess devices at home and/or are unable to access local facilities at a library - if indeed there is one.</p> <p>Engaging with local communities within the community, with for example a 'road show' near local shops, workplaces, commuter areas. A travelling presentation that explains what is happening and how to comment, presented by people that know their subject and how to explain it would</p> | <p>Agree, consultations need to be tailored to the issue being considered and the audience. Figure 1 sets out a selection of consultation methods we can use in preparing the emerging Local Plan including but not limited to these. They are extensive and will seek to</p> | No action needed. |

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| | | <p>give real democratic access to planning policy. I think that people want to engage but if it's difficult or obscure then they are excluded.</p> | <p>engage the majority of local residence in Thurrock. The process will involve capacity building for local communities. Here officers from the Council will travel to local community hubs, libraries and Council offices before and during consultation events to explain, discuss and encourage community involvement. In addition the Council will continue to make hard copies of consultation documents and comments forms available at the Civic Offices in Grays and in all libraries in the borough.</p> | |
|--|--|--|---|--|

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| SCI_10 | Mrs Anne Sandu | I agree with T Aker about the consultation process. (SCI_6) | Disagree. Planning applications can only be determined on material considerations. The current Government does not consider the holding of local referenda to be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for development. Advice received from the Councils Planning and Regeneration Solicitor is that while the Council could introduce referenda for planning applications their result would not constitute valid grounds for granting or refusal of planning permission. Furthermore the holding of referenda would add significant costs and | No action required. |
|--------|----------------|--|---|---------------------|

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| | | | slow the planning system, to a point, where the Council would not be able to comply with the statutory timescales for dealing with planning applications. | |
| SCI_11 | Mr Joseph Ramon Greenwise Nurseries | We are in agreement with the aims of the draft statement of community involvement. Unfortunately with Thurrock constantly in a perpetual Election cycle, the vocal minority dominate the politics and no bold visionary decisions are ever addressed with a timely sustainable integrated strategy, that said the Council Officers should be commended for their work and efforts with The London Gateway Port and Logistic Park which is and will be a tremendous asset and benefit to the Borough. Please keep me informed of any further consultations or developments on the Local plan documents. | Support acknowledged | Ensure that Greenwise Nurseries continue to be consulted on the emerging Local Plan. |
| SCI_12 | Mrs Anne Sandu | Engaging with residents via electronic methods excludes those who do not know how to use it, those who do not possess such equipment and/or cannot access a library, if there is one. Looking at the number of responses to this Draft Statement shows the disconnect between the residents of Thurrock and those making decisions on their behalf. How can electronic means be democratically | Agree. consultations need to be tailored to the issue being considered and the audience. Figure 1 sets out a selection of consultation methods we can use in preparing the emerging Local Plan | No action needed. |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | <p>inclusive if a significant portion of residents haven't used it? If the technology excludes people, or people do not understand how to use it, is it a useful method? Yesterday I submitted responses but the system has not worked and I am re-submitting them today. If other people experience the same problems - will they bother?</p> <p>Nothing can replace person to person interaction and I would suggest that however convenient it is to computerise everything, for many people who are not computer confident their accessibility is limited. Not relying mainly on electronic means but including others would be useful - for example, Basildon Council had a 'roadshow' exhibition in the town centre inviting residents to a display to explain their plans.</p> | <p>including but not limited to these. They are extensive and will seek to engage the majority of local residence in Thurrock. The process will involve capacity building for local communities. Here officers from the Council will travel to local community hubs, libraries and Council offices before and during consultation events to explain, discuss and encourage community involvement. In addition the Council will continue to make hard copies of consultation documents and comments forms available at the Civic Offices in Grays and in all libraries in the borough.</p> | |
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|--------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| SCI_13 | Carla Piper Historic England | Thank you for consulting on the Thurrock Statement of Community Involvement. Historic England has no comments on the consultation processes set out in the SCI, although with regards to planning application consultations, we would like to draw attention to our charter for advisory services which can be found online at www.historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/our-planning-services/charter/ and sets out when Historic England should be consulted. | Acknowledged. | No action required. |
| SCI_14 | Trustees Of A Parish Deceased | Whilst we agree that the policies included in the Council's adopted "Core Strategy" have made a useful start to formulating economic growth in the borough, re-assessment of housing need and provision is required in the light of economic recovery and new pressure now placed on housing and employment opportunities: | Acknowledged. However, it is not the place of the SCI to undertake this assessment. The emerging Local Plan will undertake a comprehensive review of housing and employment needs during the plan period. | No action needed. |

Table 2 SCI Modifications

| Paragraph | Page | Original with highlighted changes. | Reason For Amendments | Amended version |
|-----------|---------|---|--|---|
| 1.6 | page 4 | The number of individuals/groups participating in consultations – including the number of ‘hard to engage ¹ ’ individuals or groups, where appropriate. | Helpful to define ‘hard to reach groups’ for purpose of planning. Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET) | Insert foot note at para 1.6 with short definition for hard to engage individuals or groups. |
| 2.11 | Page 8 | What will you be expected to do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to ensure that your involvement is effective, you are expected to: • Provide comments in a clear and concise way. • Be aware that all comments will be made publically. | Lose the first bullet point (and have other points as bullets underneath – minor detail but would look better) Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET) | What will you be Expected to do? 2.12 In order to ensure that your involvement is effective, you are expected to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comments in a clear and concise way. • Be aware that all comments will be made publically |
| 2.18 | Page 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide enough information and time so that you can understand and respond to consultations. | 2.18 – second bullet, be helpful to change to ‘Provide enough information and time so that you can....’ Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide enough information and time so that you can understand and respond to consultations. |
| 4.4 | Page 17 | Some Proposals, such as those classed as ‘major’ applications (see Glossary) require the applicant to consult with the local Community before a planning application is submitted. | Internal comment from Development Management to remove this paragraph. | Remove para 4.4 |

Appendix 2

| | | | | |
|------------|---------|---|---|---|
| 4.11 | Page 18 | Once the Council receives a planning application and validates it, it should make a decision on the proposal as quickly as possible. The time limits are usually 13 weeks for a 'major' development and 8 weeks for all other types of development (unless the application is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, in which case a 16 week time limit applies). In some cases, the statutory deadline can be extended via a mutual agreement (either through Article 29 agreements or normally through a Planning Performance Agreements); this enables both parties the opportunity to resolve certain problems, avoiding the unnecessary refusing of a development proposal that could otherwise be acceptable. | Article 29 is now an out of date reference. Replace with <i>'...agreement (normally through a Planning Performance Agreement)'</i> (Internal comment from: Development Management). | Once the Council receives a planning application and validates it, it should make a decision on the proposal as quickly as possible. The time limits are usually 13 weeks for a 'major' development and 8 weeks for all other types of development (unless the application is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, in which case a 16 week time limit applies). In some cases, the statutory deadline can be extended via a mutual agreement (normally through a Planning Performance Agreements); this enables both parties the opportunity to resolve certain problems, avoiding the unnecessary refusing of a development proposal that could otherwise be acceptable. |
| 5.9 | Page 22 | | Be good to add a hyperlink to regs where stated: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/made Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET) | The Neighbourhood Planning (general) Regulations 2012 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/made |
| 5.15 | Page 23 | | An m missing from 'likely to impact on the too' Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET) | 'likely to impact on them too' |
| Appendix B | Page 27 | Other Public Bodies and Local Authorities | I think you should consult with | Other Public Bodies and Local Authorities |

| | | | | |
|------------|---------|--|---|--|
| | | <p>(these are subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon Borough Council • Brentwood Council • Havering Council • Castle Point Borough Council • Essex County Council • Rochford District Council • Southend-on-Sea Council • Greater London Authority • Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership Authorities - Dartford Borough Council - Gravesham Borough Council - London Borough of Bexley - London Borough of Havering - Medway Council - Swale Borough Council | <p>Brentwood Borough Council as it adjoins Thurrock, and also Havering Borough Council, when appropriate.</p> <p>Changes made in response to Ref SCI_3 (see table 1)</p> | <p>(these are subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon Borough Council • Brentwood Council • Havering Council • Castle Point Borough Council • Essex County Council • Rochford District Council • Southend-on-Sea Council • Greater London Authority • Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership Authorities - Dartford Borough Council - Gravesham Borough Council - London Borough of Bexley - London Borough of Havering - Medway Council - Swale Borough Council |
| Appendix B | Page 27 | <p>Other Public Bodies and Local Authorities (these are subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon Borough Council • Barking & Dagenham Council • Brentwood Council • Havering Council • Castle Point Borough Council • Essex County Council • Rochford District Council • Southend-on-Sea Council • Greater London Authority • Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership Authorities | <p>The London Borough of Havering, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and Brentwood Borough Council should be added to the list.</p> <p>Changes made in response to Ref SCI_4 (see table 1)</p> | <p>Other Public Bodies and Local Authorities (these are subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon Borough Council • Barking & Dagenham Council • Brentwood Council • Havering Council • Castle Point Borough Council • Essex County Council • Rochford District Council • Southend-on-Sea Council • Greater London Authority • Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership Authorities |

Appendix 2

| | | | | |
|------------|---------|--|---|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dartford Borough Council - Gravesham Borough Council - London Borough of Bexley - London Borough of Havering - Medway Council - Swale Borough Council | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dartford Borough Council - Gravesham Borough Council - London Borough of Bexley - London Borough of Havering - Medway Council - Swale Borough Council |
| Appendix H | Page 49 | | <p>Additional resources – Appendix H</p> <p>A new and complex area for communities, some additional resources for NP/NDO that would be useful to add to Appendix H - e.g. Locality via http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/</p> <p>CLG via: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neighbourhood-planning Planning Aid have a NP forum to support communities on using rights: http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/</p> <p>Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET)</p> | <p>(Added to) Appendix H</p> <p>A new and complex area for communities, some additional resources for NP/NDO that would be useful to add to Appendix H - e.g. Locality via http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/</p> <p>CLG via: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neighbourhood-planning Planning Aid have a NP forum to support communities on using rights: http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/</p> |

Appendix A

Consultation Letter and email

Address...

Dear,

Thurrock Council's New Local Plan

I am writing to let you know that a 6 week period of public consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement starts at 9 am Monday 27 July and ends at 5pm on Monday 7 September 2015.

You have received this notification because you have asked to be notified of consultations on Thurrock Council's planning policy documents or you have previously participated in consultations on Thurrock Council's Local Plan (formerly Local Development Framework).

Thurrock Local Plan (2015-2035)

In February 2014 Thurrock Council's Cabinet gave approval to prepare a new Local Plan for Thurrock. The new Local Plan will provide a planning and development strategy to guide future development in the borough. It will establish a vision for the borough up to 2035 and identify the overall level of different types of development (including housing, employment and retail) that is envisaged during that period. The plan will also allocate sites for new development, designate areas for protection and set out policies to manage development in the borough.

Work on the new Local Plan is already underway as we seek to update key pieces of our evidence base ahead of a formal public consultation early next year. For more information on the plan and the plan making process in Thurrock please see the enclosed first edition of the Thurrock Local Plan Update newsletter. This twice yearly newsletter will keep you informed about the latest progress on the Local Plan and will let you know how and when you can get involved.

Draft Statement of Community Involvement

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a key part of the Council's emerging Local Plan. It will set out how the local community, businesses and interest groups will be involved in the preparation of Local Plan documents and planning applications that may affect them.

The Statement of Community Involvement was first produced and adopted in 2007. Since then the Government has introduced substantial changes to the planning system. This draft Statement of Community Involvement seeks to take account of these changes and once adopted will replace the former document.

We need you to get involved and check that our chosen approach to consultation on planning matters is fit for purpose and inclusive so that anybody who wants to have their say will be able to.

Having your say on the Statement of Community Involvement

The easiest way to make comments on the consultation document is by using the Council's online consultation portal. The consultation portal allows you to:

- Search and view current and past consultations.
- Comment online on live consultations.
- Search for any comments we receive to a consultation.

As a member of our previous planning policy database your details have automatically transferred to the new system to ensure that you are kept informed of upcoming consultations. The consultation portal can be accessed at <http://consult.thurrock.gov.uk>, your username and password are as follows:

Username: ThurrockC837

Password: Thurrock1

If you wish to comment on the document but do not have access to the internet, you can still have your say by filling in a Local Plan Comments Form. Copies of the consultation document and Comments forms will be made available at the Civic Offices in Grays and at Libraries or community hubs across the Borough during the consultation period. If required a Local Plan Comments Form can be posted on request. Completed Local Plan Comments Forms should be returned to the Growth and Strategy Team.

For further information regarding this consultation or the emerging Local Plan please contact a member of the Growth and Strategy Team by emailing the Council at the following address growth&strategy@thurrock.gov.uk or calling 01375 652705.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Nethercott', written in a cursive style.

Sean Nethercott
Growth and Strategy Team Leader

Email / Address...

Date

Dear...

I am writing to acknowledge that we have received your representation to the Draft Statement of Community Involvement.

Once the consultation period on this document has ended, we will begin to review all of the representations that we have received and will amend the document, where necessary, before adopting it.

Yours sincerely,



Sean Nethercott
Growth and Strategy Team Leader

Newspaper Advert.

Planning in Thurrock affects everyone who lives here.

That's why we want your help on how we plan for the future.

We want your comments on our draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

It sets out how and when people can be involved in the new Local Plan and planning applications. We want to know if we've got it right.

You can give us your views from
Monday 27 July 9am to
Monday 7 September 5pm 2015

Join the conversation by visiting
thurrock.gov.uk/planning-policy
 or emailing
growth&strategy@thurrock.gov.uk

Hard copies of the document and comments forms are available at the Civic Offices in Grays, public libraries and community hubs.



Big concerns raised over standard of local NHS services

Social care cut fears **Tilbury GPs in 'crisis' with three surgeries struggling**

FEARS have been raised over the impact cuts in adult social care will have on the vulnerable in Thurrock. A report has laid out how Thurrock Council proposes to save £200,000 in the next year, which includes cutting the social worker posts, introducing charges for some services and closing a number of the six elderly day care centres. The council will launch a 12-week public consultation to gauge on people can voice their preferences on where cuts are made. Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group says the cuts are "crucial" to get more pressure on NHS services. Councillor Yash Gupta said: "We fear in that it will have a very adverse impact on our most vulnerable people. It's not just me, we're trying to prevent people ending up in social care."

Jan Singh, of Thurrock Council, said: "All the proposals will have a huge impact on elderly people, disabled people to name just a few." Roger Wright, head of social care, said: "It's not an easy choice to make at all. We have already delivered £1million savings this year, and the consequences of doing this have put extra pressure on our existing social services."

Dr Paul Shehadeh has been placed into special measures after his surgery at the Shehadeh Medical Centre, in Quaker Road, was also found to be inadequate. Dr Mustafa Razaqbandhan, who operates out of Malik House, Ottawa Road, has also been told to improve his services. A health and wellbeing overview and scrutiny committee meeting at Thurrock Council last week discussed the situation facing Tilbury's health needs. Kate James, of Healthwatch Thurrock, a local health advocacy group, said: "We have got some very worried and frightened patients in a very bad place. They feel changed again that the cuts have reached these proportions through no fault of their own."

Councillor Steve Liddford expressed concern over NHS England director Andrew Piss who attended the meeting. Mr Liddford said: "Every week we get residents coming up to us and asking what's happening? When are you going to come up with a plan?" Mr Piss said all of the South-East's patients had been reviewed of the changes and offered alternative GP provision and a full replacement was found. Among the challenges discussed was both recruiting and keeping good quality doctors and nurses to work in Tilbury. Councillor and deputy leader Barbara Rice criticised the lack of adequate health provision in Tilbury and said it is lower than national standards. She said: "It's completely unacceptable that we have our residents in Tilbury being made to see someone less than the rest of the country. Something has got to be done."

Mr Liddford said: "Every week we get residents coming up to us and asking what's happening? When are you going to come up with a plan?" Mr Piss said all of the South-East's patients had been reviewed of the changes and offered alternative GP provision and a full replacement was found. Among the challenges discussed was both recruiting and keeping good quality doctors and nurses to work in Tilbury. Councillor and deputy leader Barbara Rice criticised the lack of adequate health provision in Tilbury and said it is lower than national standards. She said: "It's completely unacceptable that we have our residents in Tilbury being made to see someone less than the rest of the country. Something has got to be done."

Walk-in centre fury over 'lack' of consultation

CONCERNED citizens slammed a lack of public consultation over the closure of the Grays walk-in health centre. The High Street site will close next year following a consultation with patients. The consultation, which received 251 written responses out of 1,800 given out, was criticised as a health and wellbeing scrutiny committee meeting at Thurrock Council by NHS England.

Dr Sue Nixon, from the NHS, said it had spoken to 100 residents at three face-to-face meetings around Thurrock and interviewed 138 residents about the plans. Responses to the questionnaire showed 49 per cent of people preferred to keep the centre open, 23 per cent preferred a managed service and 14 per cent were in favour of closure and opening two new health hubs.

Dr Nixon said: "We have got some very worried and frightened patients in a very bad place. They feel changed again that the cuts have reached these proportions through no fault of their own."

Councillor Yash Gupta said: "We fear in that it will have a very adverse impact on our most vulnerable people. It's not just me, we're trying to prevent people ending up in social care."

Jan Singh, of Thurrock Council, said: "All the proposals will have a huge impact on elderly people, disabled people to name just a few." Roger Wright, head of social care, said: "It's not an easy choice to make at all. We have already delivered £1million savings this year, and the consequences of doing this have put extra pressure on our existing social services."

Planning in Thurrock affects everyone who lives here.

That's why we want your help on how we plan for the future.

We want your comments on our draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). It sets out how and when people can be involved in the new Local Plan and planning applications. We want to know if we've got it right. You can give us your views from Monday 27 July 9am to Monday 7 September 5pm 2015. Join the conversation by visiting thurrock.gov.uk/planning-policy or emailing growth&strategy@thurrock.gov.uk. Hard copies of the document and comments forms are available at the Civic Offices in Grays, public libraries and community hubs.



THE winners of the Thurrock Council read safety competition. Hannah Waddy, of St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School, Grays, and Kayla Arthur, of Warran Primary School, Chelford Hundred, were given a big hug of real safety.

Gazette's FREE legal advice

DO you need free legal advice? We can help. The Gazette has joined forces with Lloyd's Grant Solicitors to offer our readers free, no-obligation legal advice. Call the helpline or if you've got straight through to a solicitor. Whether you require advice on an accident, medical error, employment issue, family dispute, wills and probate or conveyancing we can help. In fact if you just need the services of a lawyer or conveyancer, except a formal case and receive after specialist advice, then simply call the helpline number below.

01275 285103 or visit www.thurrockgazette.co.uk/advice

£3k to help catch gang

A REWARD of up to £3,000 is on offer for information following the brutal assault of a 16-year-old Thurrock resident. Adam Nicholas was attacked by four masked men on the Erving Industrial Estate, Grays, on Wednesday, January 25, while he was carrying a 'van full of clothing worth £300,000. He was treated and better, before being equipped of his car and threatened with death. He suffered a damaged eye socket and shattered ribs. If you can help call Crimeoppers on 0800 593 111.

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|---|----------------------------------|
| 25 November 2015 | ITEM: 12 |
| Council | |
| Recruitment of Corporate Director of Environment & Place (New), Corporate Director of Children’s Services (Existing) and Director of Commercial Services & Commissioning (New) | |
| Wards and communities affected: All | Key Decision: Non- key |
| Report of: Councillor John Kent, Leader of the Council | |
| Accountable Head of Service: Jackie Hinchliffe, Head of HR, OD and Transformation | |
| Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive | |
| This report is public | |

Executive Summary

This report seeks the agreement of Council to recruit a new Corporate Director of Environment & Place, to recruit a replacement for the Corporate Director of Children’s Services (existing) and a new Director of Commercial Services & Commissioning.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 To note and approve in accordance with the Council’s Constitution and the Pay Policy Statement:

Subject to the outcome of formal consultation, General Services Committee to make arrangements for the recruitment of a Corporate Director of Environment & Place, Corporate Director of Children’s Services and a Director of Commercial Services and Commissioning; and

1.2 The recruitment of Senior Officers.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Consultation on a revised senior management structure commenced on the 15 October 2015 and it concluded on 16 November 2015.

The proposed changes are intended to streamline senior management roles enhancing corporate strategic focus, reduce costs and maximise capacity across the council to prepare the organisation for the challenges ahead.

This moves away from service specific directors to three Corporate Directors with wider service accountability as well as matrix responsibility for transformation programmes to develop our response to the financial challenges ahead. These roles will be supported by a corporate centre of services reporting directly to the Chief Executive. Overall the proposal reduces the number of senior officers by 3 (14%) and saves circa £430k. The current budget for 15/16 already assumes an in-year saving of £167k which was intended to be delivered through shared services and so this proposal both meets that target and delivers a further £263k reduction.

The Chief Executive will directly line manage the corporate service areas including HR, Finance and Legal etc. which removes the need for a Corporate Director of Resources and will avoid costs to the council of £150k.

To recognise the direct line management to the Chief Executive and their role on Directors' Board, these Heads of Service will be retitled Directors. This change is to enable the authority to be attractive to a high quality calibre of applicant and renaming the roles to 'Director' will appeal to a wider candidate pool. There will be no cost implications of the change in the title to Director.

- 2.2 There are six key principles which have underpinned the restructure proposals which are detailed below. They are intended to guide the organisation although they also need to remain flexible as one size does not necessarily fit all the service areas for which the council is responsible. The principles will drive a more effective internal 'way of working' and it is intended that all restructures going forward will be based on this guidance to drive one model for the organisation.

A key principle is that, in light of the financial challenges ahead, the organisation needs to ensure that it 'gets it right, first time, every time' and having all service functions in one place will help support this aim. Not only will this ensure the organisation is more effective, but more importantly it will provide a better service to residents, customers and businesses.

The six key principles are:

- Spans of control will have no fewer than 4 and up to 7 direct line reports;
- Services will be located in one place i.e. ICT, procurement, strategy etc;
- An effective corporate hub that enables and supports front line delivery;
- Embed commerciality and innovation throughout the organisation;
- Matrix working and collaboration; and
- Fewer senior managers.

2.3 The proposed new structure includes the following posts which, subject to the outcome of consultation, are expected to require external recruitment/market testing:

- The new Corporate Director of Environment and Place brings together all the services which really drive the agenda around Thurrock being a great place to live and work with particular reference to the public realm, regulatory services and those that the 'universal resident' values most highly. The current structure of Directors of very specific service teams has meant that the potential synergies of working closely together on one agenda can sometimes be lost. Having a single, highly effective senior officer in this role will support the council in achieving its ambitions around Regeneration and the real opportunity to deliver a world class Place for our residents and businesses; and
- Director of Commercial Services and Commissioning – this role is being put in place to embed a commercial approach within the council, driving innovation and income generation and a council wide strategic approach to commissioning and procurement. To meet the future challenges the council needs to move towards a position of financial independence and increased income in order to continue to meet the needs of residents and achieve our aspirations.

2.4 The current Director of Children's Services has indicated her intention to leave to take up a role at London Borough of Islington although the timescales have not yet been finalised. Council is also asked to approve recruitment to this key role to enable the recruitment process to be as cost-effective as possible.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 General Services Committee has responsibility for the discharge of employment functions including the selection of Senior Officers.

3.2 The Council's Pay Policy requires Council approval to commence recruitment to Senior Officer posts.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 To ensure the arrangements for the implementation of the new senior structure are not delayed it is recommended that General Services Committee progress the selection process.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 None.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 None.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Sean Clark**
Head of Corporate Finance

Members will be aware that the Council has to find in excess of £28m as a net budget reduction over the next four years and it is right that senior management costs should play a part in this.

The current budget includes a target of £0.167m in savings that would have covered the lost income from previous shared services. This proposal will save an estimated £0.430m thus meeting the savings target and contributing a further £0.263m towards meeting the forecast deficit in 2016/17. This should also be seen in the context of previously reported reductions to the cost of senior management totalling circa £1m.

The cost of senior management will continue to be reviewed as the council moves through a period of change over the medium term.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Monitoring Officer and Deputy Head of Legal Services

General Services Committee may discharge the final decision on the appointment of Chief Officers (except statutory Chief Officers/ Directors where the final decision on appointment shall be by Full Council upon recommendation of General Services Committee)

Additionally pursuant to the Authority' Pay Policy Statement prior agreement of Full Council is required for a recruitment exercise for "any new permanent, senior officer post."

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development & Equalities Manager

Recruitment to will be in accordance of the Council's policies

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None

Report Author:

Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive

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| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 25 November 2015 | ITEM: 13 |
| Council | |
| Cabinet Member Report – Central Services | |
| Report of: Councillor Victoria Holloway | |
| This report is public. | |

Introduction

The Central Services portfolio includes all of the central functions, which provide corporate support across the council, in finance, legal, HR & Organisational Development. In addition corporate performance, the transformation programme and the Serco contract also fall under this current remit. In summary it is a wide ranging and varied portfolio.

The past year has been particularly challenging for local government, and Central Services have played a crucial role in supporting the work of the Council and in ensuring we continue to provide good value, sound financial management, proper governance and an employment environment that enables us to recruit and retain the workforce we need. A key theme throughout the report is the focus on digitalising transactions.

The report sets out some of the key issues from the past year and some of the issues for the future, including the termination of the Serco contract and the opportunities that affords to the Council.

Sundry Debtors

The value of invoices raised for the current year as at the end of September is £29.3m compared to £28.1m last year. Strong recovery performance continues with the debt book at the end of September totalling £4.5m compared to £5.7m for the comparable period last year. Performance in this area is vital as the Council seeks to maximise income in the light of the ongoing funding reductions.

The Debt Management Team is currently working with the new management team at the CAB and arranging a joint Surgery at the Civic Offices for people with the highest value debts across the Council Tax and Sundry portfolios, this surgery is due to take place early November.

Council Tax

The service continues to perform strongly and at the end of September an in year collection rate of 54.22% had been achieved which is 0.24% favourable to last year. This level of performance places Thurrock on track to deliver a collection rate of

98.70% for year-end which compares well to the average national performance of 97%.

The council continues to promote online transactions which is now available for the following activities:

Advising of a change of address;
Claiming Discounts/ Exemptions;
Setting up or amending a direct debit;
Making Payments; and
Viewing an online Council Tax statement.

To date circa 7,000 tax payers have registered with my account and this continues to increase at the rate of 500 a month.

National Non Domestic Rates (Business Rates)

One of the key associated risks for councils in relation to Business Rates is the potential impact of reductions in rateable value following appeal to the Valuation office. Currently Thurrock has a total provision of £14m for outstanding appeals, the risk for which is jointly shared with the government.

Whilst we continue to monitor the position closely and represent Thurrock's position where appropriate, the responsibility for valuation and appeals itself is outside of the teams control. The team are however placing additional effort on initiatives to counter losses, where possible, through improved collection performance and additional surveillance to identify businesses that either do not appear or are undervalued in the rating list.

Since Business rates retention was introduced, circa £8m in rateable value has been added to the list through these initiatives. This equates to an additional £2m of income per year for the Council. In addition to this, strong collection performance has been maintained.

As at the end of September the in-year collection rate was 57.96%. This represents both a small improvement on last year and places Thurrock on track to deliver over 99% collection by year end which compares favourably to the average national performance of 97.9%.

Housing Benefits

Processing times for claims continues to improve with the average turnaround time year to date now at 16 days for New Claims and 7 Days for Changes in Circumstance.

The service continues to promote online transactions and 100% of New Claims are now being received online with approximately 20% of the claimant base signed up through my account for additional services available through 'My Account'.

As Members will be aware Universal Credit roll out commenced in Thurrock on 16

March 2015. Initially the DWP's rollout within Thurrock is only for single people of working age submitting a new claim for Job Seekers Allowance. As a result claimant numbers are low and there has been minimal impact on Housing Benefit claims.

Whilst Universal Credit is administered by the DWP and longer term will replace Housing Benefit for most working age applicants, it is unlikely that there will be any significant volumes transferring to UC in Thurrock before the DWP rolls out its digital platform in 2017. It is worth again noting that even when fully rolled out the Thurrock benefits team will still be responsible for processing claims for Local Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit for pensioners and some other groups.

Exchequer Services

BACS and Post

We currently pay 94.97% of our suppliers by BACS (electronically). The number of remittances and Purchase Orders sent via post as opposed to email has also reduced by 90% in the last two years, with the vast majority of commercial suppliers receiving them via email.

This year to date Thurrock has paid 95.7% of invoices within 30 days and performance continues to improve. The improvement has been delivered through increased focus and development of a dashboard that highlights performance by service and source.

Further improvement will be made through the continued push for iSupplier that allows our suppliers to 'self-serve' their own transactions eliminating the need for any data processing duplication. To date approximately 1,152 of our commercial suppliers have signed up, which is about half of our commercial supplier base. This is a reduction of approximately 45% of paper invoices.

Corporate Finance

Counter Fraud & Investigation Service

The Counter Fraud and Investigation Department has completed its transition from a traditional internal service focusing on benefit fraud to a new department providing a proactive service to reduce all fraud and economic crime risks affecting the Council.

A programme of anti-fraud workshops will be held in the Council Chamber over the coming weeks to provide targeted, service-specific anti-fraud awareness training. Member briefings are also being planned to coincide with that training.

Investigators from the department will also be hosting a stand in the Civic Offices reception area promoting engagement and the new Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy & Strategy.

External Recognition

- The department was recently inspected by the Home Office and Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (due to its unique access to police data) who has praised the department for its professional approach to tackling economic crime.
- The department's work with the College of Policing now sees it being the only unit (outside of the police) who is accredited to deliver the Professionalising Investigation Programme. This means that all investigation staff in the department are trained to the same standards as Police Detectives seeing them able to successfully investigate the most serious crime, if required.

Counter Fraud Fund Project

As well as the new internal scope of the department, the government has provided funding of £594k to expand and promote counter fraud activity. The department is conducting investigations for 8 local authorities, 4 housing associations and 2 government departments on a national basis.

These engagements bring over £390k of income to the authority with an additional £300k having been received through the effective use of Proceeds of Crime Act.

The authority continues to work with partners around the UK in a collaborative way to share best practice and resources for a common purpose of being unified against any fraud and corruption in the public purse.

Commercial Services

Commercial Services continues to move ahead with the Strategic Services Partnership (SERCO) transition, including bringing back under the Council's control through a mixture of novation and award of new contracts, a number of critical third party contracts valued at a total of £3M. The process is well underway with a view to improving the Council's position in terms of cost and service delivery. To date £100K has been saved with no loss of quality.

A strategic approach to procurement is now embedded in Housing and Commercial Services, focussed on the achievement of outcomes and savings through up-skilling an "intelligent client" and revising contract packages to attract the market. To date this has achieved annual savings of circa £864K against the HRA budget for Housing Cyclical maintenance and replacement programme contracts, and an additional £86K annual saving on corporate contracts. A new contract for agency staff is also at the implementation stage which should support greater cost control, including reducing off contract spend.

It is appreciated that cost control and the availability of good quality data on third party spend is essential to the Council's ability to identify opportunities to leverage savings through collaboration and joint procurement across the organisation and with partners, and through negotiation at critical points during the term of a

contract. To support this, a number of enhancements to the Oracle system have recently been implemented and rolled out effectively.

Post transition, development of the Procurement Service will roll out the successful strategic approach and enable a focus on the delivery of enabling, outcome focussed support to all directorates.

Strategic Services Partnership Contract

On the 21st July 2015 the Council and SERCO announced that they had mutually agreed to terminate the Shared Services Partnership Agreement under which SERCO were responsible for the provision of a range of services and support functions including Customer Service, Revenues and Benefits, Business Administration and IT. Over the 11 years that the contract has been in place there have been a range of changes with services expanding and contracting and some areas being returned to the Council (Highways Management etc). At the present time the contract has a value of around £18m per annum.

Given that it had been more than 10 years since the Council had been directly responsible for the services, a detailed due diligence exercise was conducted through the remainder of July up to the end of August 2015. Since then, the focus has been on putting in place the arrangements necessary to secure the transfer of the staff, systems, contract and assets which are used in delivering the service, which include:

- Circa 350 permanent SERCO staff who will transfer to the Council through TUPE. In addition, the services are currently supported with around 100 agency staff and up to 10 contractors (mainly within IT);
- Around 75 contracts covering everything from the provision of agency staff and facilities management through to the licenses and services which support the Council's IT systems and total around £8m in expenditure per year; and
- Around £3m in assets which are used to deliver the services – this is primarily made up of IT equipment.

Since the decision to terminate the Serco contract was taken, there has been a focus of activity on the smooth transitioning of the workforce to the Council, including establishing a dedicated TUPE team; a comprehensive consultation, communications and engagement programme and a support programme for all staff affected by the transition. Post transition there is a full programme of induction which includes a presentation from Lyn Carpenter on the direction and challenges for Thurrock. Another focus of work post-transition will be re-looking at services and teams to ensure Thurrock has in place the optimal structures.

Terminating this contract has already identified £3.6m annual savings and, having complete control over both the people and financial resources, will allow greater flexibility to the Council over the coming years to implement the changes that grant reductions will require.

Legal Services & Democratic Services

Thurrock Shared Legal Services

- Thurrock Shared Legal Service has now been established for just over 4 years;
- Following its Municipal Journal Achievement and “Lawyer of the Year” awards it continues to enhance Thurrock’s regional reputation through building capacity, resilience and internal expertise which has resulted in both savings and the generation of traded income for the Council;
- The Thurrock Shared Service arrangement was recently amended to appoint Monitoring Officers for each authority in order to improve services, build in extra capacity and responsiveness but retains a joint Head of Legal;
- We continue our 8 year track record of Thurrock’s Shared Service being a top performing Legal Service for Lexcel Accreditation by The Law Society which recognises solicitors who meet the highest management and customer care standards and show excellence in areas such as client care, case management and risk management;
- This year’s annual monitoring inspection by the Lexcel Inspector noted that:

“BDT Legal is an innovative and forward looking in-house legal team that combines high quality professional skills and knowledge with a breadth of experience across a wide range of services, delivered in a focussed manner by practitioners who display a strong sense of commercial awareness – an approach that is hard to achieve. Strong leadership skills are evident at all levels and there is a ‘can do’ attitude that informs everything the team undertakes. I have had the pleasure of assessing the work of the organisation for three years and they have consistently met or exceeded departmental objectives throughout that period.”

Performance examples from our teams include:

- Our Children’s Legal Safeguarding team are concluding cases on average in 17 weeks which is a major achievement bearing in mind that the Family Justice Reforms require care proceedings to be concluded within 26 weeks and this year the cases have become more complex, including an increase in cases involving an international element and non-accidental injury cases;
- Our Partnership lawyer has been working with Council officers to facilitate the transfer back to Council management of strategic services from Serco Ltd following the Council’s decision to bring the partnership to an end;
- Our Procurement team has assisted with the prompt roll out of Thurrock’s flagship Gloriana project;
- Thurrock’s Shared Service Governance team continues to build its regional reputation and income generation with it regular briefings on key developments, training courses and governance advice. Our colleague, now Dr Paul Field has recently been awarded a doctorate for his well received thesis on the changes to the standards regime post Localism Act 2011;

Traded Services

Since the latter half of 2013 the Thurrock Shared Service legal team were appointed as legal providers to Brentwood District Council providing both the

Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal role along with legal support across the full range of a District council's responsibilities. This work has been undertaken on a fee traded basis and has now been extended by Brentwood District Council to 2016 with a view to long term collaboration. The team has also successfully provided legal services to Westminster, Havering and Newham Council's and Lea Valley Regional Park on a fee traded basis and have been approached by a range of other authorities interested in learning lessons on shared working, especially in Essex.

Democratic Services:

Democratic Services has undertaken a number of initiatives in the last year including:

- Being a key member concerning the Frost Estate Parish Council issue, helping to progress understanding and harmony in the community;
- Completed a number of task and finish groups and special meetings to investigate and progress a Fairness Commission, the Purfleet fly-tip, pathways into employment for young people and voluntary sector cuts, among many others;
- Digitised all committee paperwork and improved and streamlined administrative processes in relation to agenda creation and the flow of reports across the council;
- All team members have completed or are on their way to completing a national diploma recognising their professional Democratic Services skills;
- The team have been shortlisted for 'Team of the Year' at the Association of Democratic Services (ADSO) National Awards in Birmingham;

Electoral Services

The team has:

- Successfully implemented Individual Elector Registration (IER) and undertook the first statutory annual canvass under IER with publication of the revised electoral register on 1st December 2014;
- Continues to undertake extensive data mining and data matching using council records and has issued 10,000 invitations to register to vote. This helped to generate 14,219 applications to register to vote from April to end October 2015;
- Successfully managed the Parliamentary election and local election on May 7th 2015;
- Is currently undertaking the 2015 statutory annual canvass and will publish the revised register on 1st December 2015;
- Has worked to improve the accuracy of the register and reduce the risk of eligible electors being removed from the register. The register currently has 1,577 (1.4%) unconfirmed electors who will be removed from the revised register when it is published on 1st December. In December 2014 this figure was 4,232 (3.78%);
- Has commenced planning for the Police Crime and Commissioner election combined with the local elections on May 5th 2016;

- Successfully managed three unscheduled by-elections all within peak canvass periods.

Human Resources, Organisational Development & Transformation

The role of HR & OD is to ensure the council has a workforce in place that is confident, competent and delivering in line with the council's priorities. The restructuring of the service at the beginning of the year resulted in a reshaped unit and delivered savings of over £250k. The focus this year has been organisational change and delivering added value. Key activities include:

Chief Executive Recruitment

Following the resignation of the previous Chief Executive the Council undertook, with cross party support, a high profile campaign to attract a new full time Chief Executive. Attracting a high number of excellent candidates a comprehensive assessment process resulted in Lyn Carpenter's appointed in June.

Social Worker Recruitment & Retention

The national shortage and our proximity to London continues to create challenges for the council as regards the recruitment and retention of social workers – children's services particularly. This year has seen two initiatives to help respond to this challenge:

- **Regional Memorandum of Co-operation for Social Workers.**

Both our children's and adults services have signed up to a regional memorandum of co-operation. This work has supported targeted work with recruitment agencies to cap agency rates, taking regional approaches to data collection and focusing on reducing use of agency social workers and increasing permanent recruitment.

- **Newly Qualified Social Workers Campaign**

A joint innovative attraction campaign and assessment process resulted in the appointment of 19 excellent candidates. Key people from OD worked with Service Managers to raise the profile of Thurrock to newly qualified social workers (NQSW's) so they could appreciate the benefits of joining the Council and the opportunities on offer. An effective and engaging programme was established, including open days, tours of the Borough and comprehensive assessments of their skills. This campaign has been shortlisted for the Staff Award for Innovation.

IIP Gold Regional Group

As IIP Gold achievers Thurrock was invited to participate in a regional Gold achievers group. This prestigious invitation has been welcomed as both beneficial and supportive for our on-going accreditation and review in July 2016.

Health and Wellbeing

In order to ensure staff remained fully supported we delivered an enhanced health and wellbeing programme this year, culminating in a successful Health & Wellbeing week held in October which saw dozens of suppliers on site providing advice and support to employees. This year we have also provided the opportunity for staff to

access a free flu vaccination (200 in total), the first time we have done this for staff not on the frontline of services.

The corporate transformation programme has continued to deliver changes to infrastructure and systems to modernise the council's ways of working and facilitate savings.

IT Connects

The programme to modernise the desktop computing and telephony at the Civic Offices concludes at the end of November 2015. All users based at the Civic Offices now benefit from using modern up to date software and hardware that enables users to work flexibly. Additionally the new technology has enabled 700 staff to work directly in the community using mobile devices which is giving customers a more responsive service and increasing productive time for field staff.

The programme has been expanded and now includes all external sites as well. By the end of November 2015 all sites external to the Civic Offices will be equipped with modern up to date software and hardware that is improving the way staff can work across the whole of the council's estate of buildings.

Digital Council Programme

Supporting the 'Digital Council' ambition the Digital Council programme has delivered a number of new key systems, enabling directorates to deliver savings and providing a foundation for future efficiencies.

The Adults information, advice and guidance portal is now live and available on the website to provide residents with easy access to information about care and support options available. An online assessment tool has also been developed. This is currently being tested by staff and will be available to residents in the near future. This will provide residents with clear and quick advice about what financial support they are entitled to.

The digital documents solution is being deployed across the Council. Most services are now live with this and transferring their files to the new solution. This again supports our 'digital by design' ethos, eliminating paper, improving productivity and legal compliance.

Work is also starting to review and improve our corporate systems for Finance, HR/OD and Procurement to ensure we have a trusted single source of information, streamlined processes that provide timely and accurate meaningful management information that informs effective decision making. Enhancements to staff and manager self-service are also being delivered to drive out efficiency savings.

Work is underway to encourage staff and residents to use the website and the Council has now launched a feedback facility for residents to tell us what they think of the site so we can improve it further and report any problems. Residents are being encouraged to use the website and the range of services available is being expanded:

- 24,638 customers have registered for 'MyAccount'.

- 7,328 customers have registered for Council Tax.
- All Housing Benefits claims are now made online.
- 57% of bulky waste requests are made online.
- 40% of environmental reports are made online.

Operational Estate

There has been substantial progress in transforming the workspace in Civic Offices. New flexible working arrangements have been introduced on all four floors of CO2 increasing the capacity from 700 staff to 1100 staff. The investment and benefits detailed in the business case are running to plan with £2.6m of capital investment which is offset over a five year period by expected revenue income of £2.9m from the leasing of CO1; negotiations are currently underway to ensure the council achieves the best possible rate of income.

Complaints

The combined total of complaints and concerns received for the reporting period is 4102. During 2013/14, 3575 complaints/concerns were received and processed, so the reporting period has seen an increase in overall numbers received. During the reporting period, 41% of complaints have been upheld. This is an improvement compared with 2013/14, as 48% of complaints were upheld. For the reporting period, 98% of complaints were responded to in timeframe. This performance is encouraging when considered against the backdrop of the national austerity measures and the impact of reduced resources within the council.

The average response time for responding to LGO enquiries is 16 days. This is an improvement on 2013/14, where a year end average figure of 21 days was achieved. 4 cases investigated by the LGO were upheld.

Members Enquiries

A total of 758 MP enquiries were received, of which 92% were responded to within timeframe. During 2013/14, performance within timeframe was reported as 98%, so this is a dip in performance (although there was an increase in enquiries received).

A total of 2913 Members enquiries were received, of which 98% were responded to within timeframe. The reporting period has also seen an increase in Members' enquiries that have been logged, as during 2013/14 2023 were received.

The correct process for logging Members Enquiries has been reinforced recently and Members are being asked to ensure that use membersenquiries@thurrock.gov.uk.

FOI Requests

During 2014/15, the council processed 98% of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests within the legal timeframe. This is based on 548 FOI requests that were processed. The council refuse requests where it is estimated that the time taken to process the request exceeds 18 hours. During 2014/15, 26 requests were refused due to the 18 hour threshold.

During 2014/15 the council received 21 Subject Access Requests under the Data Protection legislation. 71% of these requests were processed within timeframe.

Future Plans

Counter Fraud & Investigation Service

To build on the work already carried out and continue to develop and trade the service to other public service bodies.

Legal and Democratic Services

Continue to trade the service to (i) generate income and raise the reputation of the Council and (ii) to provide in house solicitors with greater opportunities for personal development and thereby further increase our staff retention rates;

To continue to seek to improve our client satisfaction from both our in-house and external clients and provide a value for money service;

We are also developing an external facing website as a platform for further traded services and income generation, with a focused offer on high value specialist areas, training and governance support. In addition to this we are looking at structural reforms to lower our cost base and resource capacity for income generation;

Pay and Reward Review

The pay review will progress over the next 12 months. This will include the introduction of a 'job families' approach, which many forward-looking Councils are starting to adopt; pay grades which will be compliant with equal pay legislation and an improved job evaluation scheme.

Digital Council Programme

The next phase of the programme is now being considered with the aim of further exploiting technology to improve services and deliver efficiencies across the Council. This will be the subject of a future report and business case to Cabinet.

A system is being developed that will enable the Council to analyse data to identify the children most at risk of maltreatment so that early intervention action can be taken to prevent this.

The Council is implementing innovative technology that will enable us to streamline services, increase staff productivity and minimise the cost of back office services, developing workflow technologies and automating repetitive manual tasks.

We are also developing systems that enable us to identify where we should take early preventative action in order to help the council support vulnerable adults, families and children before they reach crises point. This will target resources more effectively and create better outcomes for the families and individuals involved, reducing how much the Council pays for crises intervention and the costs of our wider partners in dealing with the related broader social impact resulting from A&E admissions, crime and ASB, for example.

People Strategy and Staff Engagement

A revised People Strategy will be developed aimed at equipping the Council with the workforce we need for the future. To support this, a new staff engagement approach will be developed which supports both employer and employee viewpoints.

Financial Information:

(A Motion agreed by the Council on 23 January 2013 requires the Cabinet Member to cover all finance and budget issues of their portfolio that they consider 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.)

| Service | Original Budget | Revised Budget | Budgets to Date | Actuals To Date | Variance | Forecast Outturn | Outturn Variance |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Facilities | 2,297 | 2,297 | 1,569 | 1,498 | (71) | 2,293 | (4) |
| Corporate Finance | 965 | 1,063 | 687 | 515 | (172) | 963 | (100) |
| HR, OD & Transformation | 2,388 | 2,675 | 924 | 759 | (165) | 2,275 | (400) |
| Legal Services | 2,364 | 2,385 | 1,278 | 1,170 | (108) | 2,385 | 0 |
| | 8,013 | 8,419 | 4,458 | 3,942 | (516) | 7,915 | (504) |

The above table shows a summary of the financial position within the portfolio. There will be an under spend within the portfolio, which has been reported to Directors boards and has been taken into consideration as part of the Councils corporate budget monitoring position.

The underspend is largely split between Corporate Finance and HR, OD & Transformation. These are underspends in 2015/16 only.

The savings within Corporate Finance are mainly around income generation through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

Within HR, OD & Transformation, there are a number of projects that the Council has allocated funds against. Whilst these are essential to the Councils continuous improvement and in order to meet statutory functions around its work force, it is anticipated that there will be some underspend in year, but these funds are fully committed in the future.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 25 November 2015 | ITEM: 14 |
| Council | |
| Cabinet Member Report – Regeneration | |
| Report of: Councillor Richard Speight, Cabinet Member for Regeneration | |
| This report is public. | |

1.0 Introduction and Overview

I am delighted to introduce this report as Portfolio Holder for Communities at a time when the growth programme is delivering real opportunities for local people.

The growth programme in Thurrock continues to be one of the largest and most exciting opportunities in the country. Thurrock's reputation as a place full of opportunity has helped attract large projects of national importance such as DP World and Thames Enterprise Park. And we have focussed on smaller but nevertheless significant projects for local people such as expanding our small business accommodation offer in the borough, helping local people find work and improving our town centres.

In the eight months since my last report to Council good progress has been made in a number of areas as the programme continues to move from plans to deliverables. Since March:

- The commercial terms for the Purfleet Centre development, which will create over 2,300 homes as well as a new town centre and a possible new film and television studio complex have been agreed by Cabinet.
- The Royal Opera House Costume Store at High House Production Park has been completed, cementing our relationship with one of the UK's great cultural institutions.
- The Council has facilitated the sale of the State Cinema in Grays to JD Wetherspoon who will invest some £3million to convert the building into a pub/restaurant, bringing back its art deco splendour.
- New occupiers of DP World have been announced including UPS.
- The Port of Tilbury has continued to expand bringing in major companies such as Travis Perkins and NFT Distribution
- The Thurrock economy has continued to go from strength to strength:
 - The job growth rate since 2007 (7.9%) has outpaced the region (3.5%) and England (3.8%)

- In recent years (2007-12) Thurrock has seen a higher rate of business growth (25%) than London (23.4%) and Essex (6.3%).

Alongside implementation of the growth programme the strategic context in which decisions are being taken has continued to evolve.

Work on the new Thurrock Local Plan is progressing well and Council is being asked to consider and approve the adoption a new Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) at this meeting. The SCI sets out the Council's commitment to working in an open and inclusive way with the local community and stakeholders at all stages of the plan-making process to ensure that the adopted Local Plan fully reflects and responds to challenges and opportunities facing the Borough over the period up to 2035. In addition, beyond Thurrock's boundaries we are leading on the coordination of growth and investment planning across the wider Thames Gateway South Essex area.

Alongside the Local Plan our Economic Development Strategy is being refreshed to reflect the progress and achievements we have made over recent years. The data collated to inform the strategy shows both the strength of the economic recovery in Thurrock and how far we have come since 2007:

- Our employment rate is now above the national average. In the 12 months to December 2014, 73.4% of working age residents in Thurrock were in employment - above the England (72.5%) average and only slightly below the rate for Essex County (74.1%).
- Our unemployment rate is falling. In the 12 months to December 2014, 6.0% of economically active residents in Thurrock were unemployed (5,000 people). The unemployment rate is now in-line with the rates for Essex County (6.0%) and England (6.2%) as a whole.
- Between 2007 and 2013, there was an increase of 5,000 jobs in Thurrock (from 63,000 to 68,000). This is equivalent to growth of 7.9%, which is above the rate of jobs growth in both neighbouring Essex County (5.5%) and double that across England as a whole (3.8%).
- Our skills base has increased. There are now 14,200 more working age residents qualified at NVQ Level 3 and above than in 2007
- The number of active enterprises registered in the local area increased by 1,030 from 2007-2013. At 25.0%, Thurrock saw a higher rate of business growth between 2007 and 2013 than for any region in England, including London (23.4%). This was also significantly above the Essex County (6.3%) and national (7.7%) averages.

Development activity in Thurrock remains strong reflecting the growing confidence of developers and investors in the Borough. This puts us in an enviable position to secure lasting change, to address some of the infrastructure issues in the borough and to create opportunities for local residents.

2.0 Progress in the Growth Hubs

Our focussed approach to securing significant growth within our six key Growth Hubs is delivering results.

2.1 Tilbury

We are now making significant progress in our long-term plan for growth.

The Council has appointed a master planning team to begin realising the vision for the Civic Square as the heart of the community with quality services and public realm and importantly a place that local residents can be proud of. Working with Thurrock CCG and NHS England our proposals for a flagship primary care centre will kick start the wider regeneration of the Civic Square. And we have supported the Tilbury Community Hub to open providing a resource where local people can get information and guidance from trained volunteers and access to computer equipment.

Our housing company Gloriana is progressing plans for housing development on two vacant sites in Tilbury and is focussing attention on how improvements could be delivered on the Broadway Estate as part of the Estate Regeneration Programme.

The Port of Tilbury continues to create jobs for local people. Nearly a quarter of the staff recruited to the new Travis Perkins facility come from Tilbury and a further 45% live elsewhere in Thurrock.

When NFT opens in March 2016 it will create 700 jobs and the Council is leading a taskforce including Job Centre Plus and South Essex College to help the company recruit local people for their workforce. If successful the taskforce approach will be rolled out in the future.

2.2 Purfleet

Purfleet Centre will deliver more than 2,300 new homes and a 600,000 sqft. film and television studio complex as part of a new town centre providing a range of local facilities including a supermarket, primary school, health centre and leisure facilities. Since the preferred developer – Purfleet Centre Regeneration Limited (PCRL) – was selected in March 2014 all efforts have been focussed on agreeing funding and commercial terms for the development agreement.

Last March I was able to report that discussions were continuing and the relationship with PCRL was increasingly bearing fruit. Since then the negotiations have gained pace and, in October, Cabinet approved the commercial terms of the deal with the developer and signing of the development agreement by all parties is expected imminently.

This will trigger further design work, public engagement and development of a new outline masterplan for the scheme over the next 12 months. The first phase of

development includes public infrastructure to support the whole scheme, including the GP surgery and a new primary school and a supermarket.

Elsewhere in Purfleet, the Council continues to support High House Production Park's (HHPP) development. The Royal Opera House's (ROH) Costume Centre was formally opened in October and provides state of the art storage facilities for the ROH costume and historic collections. Through a partnership with University of the Arts London and South Essex College the ROH are also sponsoring a new costume making degree course to provide specialist skills for the industry.

Also on HHPP Creative and Cultural Skills have received designation as one of seven new National Colleges in the country and the Council has supported development of a bid for funding to build a new facility which will provide accommodation for students at HHPP and commercial units for small creative businesses to locate in Purfleet.

Working closely with Creative and Cultural Skills and High House Production Park the Council is leading a SELEP wide bid for European money to grow the digital, creative and cultural sector across the South East. If successful it would place Thurrock at the centre of a SELEP-wide business support programme which encourages and promotes new business starts, helps existing businesses to grow and links HE institutions with local businesses to promote skills development and facilitate knowledge transfer.

2.3 Lakeside

Lakeside Basin provides thousands of jobs for local people, generates significant business rate income and attracts millions of visitors to the Borough every year. We continue to work with landowners and businesses to ensure that Lakeside can grow and thrive in the coming years.

We have jointly developed an exciting vision for the future development and transformation of the Lakeside Basin which is set out in two Council commissioned reports - "Planning for the Future of the Lakeside Basin: A Framework to deliver Town Centre Potential" (David Lock Associates) and "Transport Strategy for Lakeside Regional Town Centre" (Integrated Transport Planning and David Lock Associates).

Under this vision, Lakeside's role will be diversified to improve the leisure and community offer as part of a network of Borough 'town centres'. As part of the vision we have developed ambitious proposals to expand and diversify the basin to provide more retail floorspace alongside greatly enhanced leisure, commercial and residential uses as part of a Regional Town Centre supporting growth in jobs and new homes.

To kick start our ambitions the Council has granted planning consent for Intu, the owners and operators of the Lakeside Shopping Centre, which is seeking to bring forward ambitious plan to deliver £230m retail and leisure expansions.

We are seeking to increase transport capacity within the Basin; encouraging the use

of public transport and reducing reliance on the car to move around the Basin. The Lakeside bus link became operational at the beginning of November improving public transport connections between the bus station and Lakeside shopping area. Looking ahead the Council is leading a South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) bid for a Public Transport Inter-change, which proposes relocating the existing bus station next to Chafford Hundred Rail Station footbridge allowing train passengers to easily access the 16 bus routes at Lakeside Bus Station and vice versa.

2.4 Grays

The Council has made great strides in delivering the vision for Grays which is intended to support the growing resident, student and business communities and develop a thriving destination with a day and night time economy. Pulling together the work underway a masterplan for Grays is being developed as the physical incarnation of the vision, transforming Grays and opening up links to the riverfront. The emerging masterplan will be consulted on next year.

The opening of South Essex College has brought large numbers of people in to the town centre. National chains are now looking to invest with the recent sale of the State Cinema building to JD Weatherspoon's and companies such as Costa Coffee showing interest in locating in the town centre.

Later this year the former Magistrates Court will open as a small business centre, generating local employment opportunities. New houses have been built in Seabrooke Rise and a new Community House is nearing completion. The Council continues to work with Network Rail to prioritise the creation of an underpass under the railway line and is continuing to develop the funding package to enable the project to progress.

Building on the town's role as the Civic Hub of the borough an options appraisal is progressing for the future of the Thameside Complex which will be reported to Cabinet in the near future.

Recognising that whilst we continue to develop larger schemes we also need to get the basics right, the Council has worked in partnership with Southend to bring in additional Town Centre Management resource to support the Grays Town Partnership and promote the town centre. The first big partnership event was the Christmas light switch on held on 19th November

2.5 London Gateway

London Gateway Port is establishing itself as a major operator in international shipping. The first three berths (of an eventual six) have hosted some of the largest ships in the world and the next berth is under construction.

Whilst shipping activity clearly continues to build, the development of the logistics and distribution park remains slower than anticipated. The bulk of the jobs anticipated from London Gateway will be generated through the logistics park and therefore the Council is keen to engage and continue to work with the port owners to

further development and secure job opportunities at all levels for local residents.

In August, UPS obtained consent to develop their London distribution centre on 18.6 hectares in the distribution park in just 17 days via the London Gateway Local Development Order. Speed of decision-making is paramount to attracting growth and investment and this case highlights the proactive and efficient approach taken by the Council's award winning Planning Service.

2.6 Thames Enterprise Park

The Council has continued to work with Thames Oil Port and Thames Enterprise Park to develop and agree the masterplan for the 500 acre site that places Thurrock at the heart of the emerging Green Technology / Energy market. The site has recently been put up for sale and there is strong interest from investors. The Council is supporting the sale process and will seek early meetings with the new owners to reinforce the commitment to the shared vision for the site and will continue to work with Thames Oil Port on the proposals for their site.

The Council has worked with the Joint Venture company to submit an application to secure Enterprise Zone status for the site, which will enhance the proposition to developers if approved. A decision is expected sometime this month.

Alongside this work, the Council has brokered a range of discussions with local and national skills providers to ensure that the ultimate occupiers of the site have access to a suitably skilled workforce and that local people can access the jobs being created. This activity has seen Thames Enterprise Park, SEC and the University of Northampton develop a series of industry designed courses which will be delivered through SEC's Thurrock Campus from September 2015.

3.0 Wider Regeneration and Economic Development

The Council's Regeneration Service is responsible for leading a broad range of regeneration, growth and economic development work. Outside of the growth hubs and capital projects the service has focussed on:

- Revision of the Thurrock Economic Development Strategy which provides the strategic focus for the work of the Regeneration Service. In light of the progress that's been made and changes to local, regional, national and international context, the strategy is being reviewed and brought up to date. This review will be complete by December 2015.
- Building strong partnerships and playing a leading role in South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), Thames Gateway Partnership and South Essex Growth Partnership (SEGP).
- Working with other Council departments to secure and manage Local Growth Funding. Working with partners across SEGP more than £160m of Local Growth Fund support has been secured, with nearly £100m coming to Thurrock alone.

- Developing a stronger working relationship with Southend Council to achieve our aspirations. We are currently sharing Southend's highly regarded town centre management and, in a reciprocal arrangement, we are now in talks with Southend about how the Council's successful Learning and Skills Team can support them.
- Working with partners to develop a simplified and co-ordinated approach to business support and engagement through the Business Essex, Southend and Thurrock Growth Hub – which formally opened on 21st October.
- Strengthening the relationship with our business community through the very popular Thurrock Business Conference held on 4th November, regular meetings of the Business Board and Network Groups facilitating a two way discussion on a range of strategic issues.
- Continuing our successful programme of business engagement and support activity through the very successful Low Carbon Business and TIGER programmes. Collectively, these programmes have provided 48 workshops, supporting 500 businesses and provided more than £1.78m in funding which has supported the creation and safeguarding of 365 jobs in the Borough. However, both of these programmes will be coming to an end shortly and it is important that we secure the necessary resources to maintain the elements of those programmes that local businesses find particularly valuable.
- Working across TGSEP, SELEP and with our Business Rates Pooling partners (London Boroughs of Barking & Dagenham and Havering and Basildon District Council) to secure external resources with a particular focus on European Union funds. The Council is leading or a key partner in a number of new bids for funding which will provide support services to priority growth sectors and make finance available to businesses to support their own growth plans.

Our efforts over the past four years have ensured that Thurrock was able to buck the national trend and achieve significant growth despite the severe economic downturn. We are now strongly placed to realise further benefits and provide local communities with significant opportunities.

4.0 Strategic Planning

The Council's Strategic Planning Team is responsible for the development and implementation of planning policy and strategy which includes the following key areas of work:

- The preparation, consultation and production of the Local Plan (including Supplementary Planning Documents, Local Development Scheme, Statement of Community Involvement and Authority Monitoring Report);
- Assistance and involvement in other corporate plans and strategies, and
- Involvement in sub-regional strategies and plans (including work associated with the Plans of other authorities).

The Thurrock Core Strategy was adopted in 2011 and has had a key role to play in supporting growth and regeneration across the Borough.

A review of the Core Strategy and the preparation of a new Local Plan is now underway to build on our progress. This included consultation on the development of a new Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which will set out how the Council will involve and engage with local communities in developing a sound and deliverable Local Plan. A recommendation on this is before the Council at this meeting. The Council has undertaken a 'call for sites' and in total nearly 600 will be assessed in terms of their suitability for development and inclusion within the new Local Plan. The outcome of this assessment will help inform future stages of the plan-making process.

Strategic Planning has continued to take the lead on behalf of the Council in coordinating and inputting into key national and regional infrastructure projects that could have a significant impact on Thurrock. Officers from planning have led on the coordination of Duty to Cooperate arrangements on strategic planning matters with other South Essex Authorities. This has supported a review of the area Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which will be completed by the end of 2015. Thurrock is also leading on behalf of those other authorities on the coordination and preparation of a Statement of Cooperation, a planning vision and employment studies.

5.0 Development Management

The Council's Development Management Service is responsible for:

- The determination of Planning Applications;
- Pre-application enquiries and advice service;
- Appeals;
- Discharge of conditions; and
- Enforcement of planning controls.

The Service's performance is assessed using a set of national indicators and I'm proud to say that extremely high performance levels have recently been achieved across all types of application.

I am delighted to highlight that the team has been shortlisted for 'Local Authority Team of the Year' at the National Planning Awards. In addition, the team have been shortlisted for the 'Award for Planning for Economic Growth' for its proactive approach to planning at Thames Enterprise Park. Having an efficient Development Management Service and a strong and competitive Building Control service is particularly important in a regeneration area as credibility and reputation has a considerable influence on investor confidence, helping to attract growth and investment in Thurrock.

Looking ahead, my priority will be on maintaining and improving these levels of performance wherever possible, and working on initiatives to further improve the quality of service delivery and outcomes so as to make Thurrock an even more

attractive place for high quality development and investment.

6.0 Challenges In the Coming Year

As my report makes clear, there is a significant amount of exciting activity underway in the borough with major schemes now being delivered and generating jobs and economic prosperity. Thurrock is proving increasingly attractive to investors and developers and we have fantastic opportunities to improve the place we live, work and socialise, create jobs and enhance the lives of our communities.

The major challenge going forward will continue to be maintaining momentum in the face of competing demands and with reduced resources because of public sector funding cuts

In the coming months there will be a particular focus on: -

a) Securing maximum benefit through external funds

External funding to deliver the programmes and projects that will create opportunities for local people is increasingly competitive and difficult to secure.

Thurrock won significant funding allocations in past SELEP rounds of the Local Growth Fund. We will continue to work to turn these allocations into secured funding and make the case for our priorities.

Positive relationships with the Arts Council, Historic England and the Heritage Lottery Fund are of increasing importance as we work to transform the heritage, arts and culture opportunities available to local people. Further development of these relationships and the development of a portfolio of projects will continue.

We will bid for European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund monies. Thurrock is leading or a major delivery partner in four applications already and we will continue to scan for opportunities to access additional funding to support priorities in the borough.

b) Leading the delivery of key projects

With many projects now underway the Council must continue to focus on securing their delivery in order to secure tangible benefits. We will play an active role in creating and nurturing these opportunities and developing relationships with partners and investors so that projects are delivered and local people benefit.

c) Progressing the development of the Local Plan

Having a clear and positive policy framework in place is critical to the delivery of the Council's wider regeneration ambitions. There will remain a clear focus on ensuring that the momentum created by the 2011 Core Strategy is maintained in the ongoing work on the Local Plan. Over the next year, our focus will be on engaging with communities to develop a strong spatial vision for the future of the Borough that seeks to build upon the many opportunities that exist to bring investment that will

accelerate the delivery of infrastructure, jobs and homes.

d) Assisting in the delivery of growth and investment in the Borough

Dealing effectively and efficiently with development proposals is vital to ensuring that Thurrock becomes a key location for investment and growth. The work of the Development Management service enables and assists in this being achieved. Major developments expected to progress over the next 12 months and beyond include further commercial developments associated with London Gateway and the Port of Tilbury, retail and leisure developments at Lakeside and major education projects and housing developments including the new Purfleet Centre.

7.0 Financial Information:

| Sub Service | Original Budget | Revised Budget | Budget To Date | Actuals To Date | Variance to Date | Forecast Outturn | Forecast Variance |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Regeneration | 888,164 | 888,164 | 516,552 | 424,271 | (92,282) | 858,164 | (30,000) |
| Strategic Planning, Growth & Development Management | 1,047,448 | 1,182,337 | 358,763 | 285,924 | (72,839) | 1,122,337 | (60,000) |
| Grand Total | 1,935,612 | 2,070,501 | 875,315 | 710,195 | (165,121) | 1,980,501 | (90,000) |

The financial position for the Regeneration Portfolio is show in the table above

The services which form the Regeneration portfolio are contained within two separate directorates; the Chief Executive's Delivery Unit and Planning and Transportation.

Within both services there is a small underspend projected at the end of the financial year. These are both being reported as part of the corporate budget monitoring position, and will therefore count favourably towards the Councils overall financial position.

The main reasons for the favourable variance are as a result of planned salary underspend within Regeneration (2015/16 only), and Planning and Growth has received a higher than anticipated level of income within its development control budget.

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QUESTION TIME

Questions from Members to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Members appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee in accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

There are four questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee. No questions to the Leader were received.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER

No questions to the Leader were received.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO CABINET MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON A JOINT COMMITTEE

1. From Councillor Hebb to Councillor Gerrish

“Please can you describe what good service looks like for you from your department, in terms of line painting across the borough?”

2. From Councillor Hebb to Councillor V. Holloway

“Please can you describe what reasons there could be for a 28-day reply timeframe (four weeks) for Thurrock Council to respond to residents and members alike?”

3. From Councillor Hipsey to Councillor Potheary

“Prime Minister David Cameron MP, has recently questioned the Police and Crime Commissioner for Oxfordshire, (the county he resides), about the Police stations that are to close in Oxfordshire. Would the cabinet member inform me if either the MP of Thurrock or the MP of South Basildon and East Thurrock have to date troubled themselves to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex about the recently announced Police Station closures in Thurrock?”

4. From Councillor Ojetola to Councillor Potheary

“How many Houses in Multiple Occupation do we have in Thurrock?”

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Item 18 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 25 November 2015

| Date | From | Motion | Status | Accountable Director |
|----------|---------------|---|---|----------------------|
| 28/01/15 | Cllr Pearce | Along with the residents of Aveley and Uplands this council welcomes the decision by the Secretary of State to reject plans for 500 houses on the former fireman's club site in Aveley on greenbelt land. | No update required. | David Bull |
| 28/01/15 | Cllr Aker | Thurrock Council calls on the Cabinet to reject fortnightly bin collections. | At its meeting on 11 February 2015 Cabinet considered the comments of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the proposal to move to alternate weekly collections for the residual and recycling waste streams. Following receipt of the committees comments Cabinet agreed to withdraw the proposal for alternate week collections of these two waste streams within the current year's budget proposals and instructed officers to seek alternative savings from within the waste collection budget. | Mike Heath |
| 25/03/15 | Cllr Gledhill | We call on Thurrock Council to investigate taking similar action to Essex and Harlow Councils and apply for an injunction to help stop unauthorised traveller encampments in Thurrock. | The granting of an interim injunction in Harlow against unauthorised encampments and the future court hearing to establish whether a full injunction will eventually be granted is being closely followed to see if a similar measure would be an appropriate measure in Thurrock. This is being done both locally and through the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit, of which Thurrock is a member council. A further response will be submitted when the outcome of these court proceedings is known. | Gavin Dennett |
| 25/03/15 | Cllr Gledhill | This Council thanks all retiring elected members for their service to Thurrock. | No action required. | David Bull |
| 22/07/15 | Cllr Ojetola | Radicalisation of youths seems to be quite rampant, doing nothing is not an option as parents are losing | A full briefing note on the background, current provision and options for greater Member involvement / panel was | David Bull |

Item 18 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 25 November 2015

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| | | <p>their children to extremism.</p> <p>We call on Thurrock Council to create a member led committee to co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to tackle the threat of extremism and radicalisation in line with our Duty to Prevent.</p> | <p>provided to Constitution Working Group Members in August 2015.</p> | |
| 23/09/15 | Cllr Halden | <p>Legal highs are quickly becoming a social disaster, from both the point of view of being harmful as substances, but also giving a very incorrect impression of the dangers of substance abuse, especially amongst younger people.</p> <p>We instruct Council to consult with Essex Police on the most effective way of tackling the use of legal highs in public spaces, including Public Space Protection Orders, with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitoring the outcome.</p> <p>In addition we instruct the constitution working group to consider how to best exercise and delegate all of our streamlined public protection powers that come from the 2014 Crime and Disorder act to be accessible to all members.</p> | <p>The Head of Public Protection has consulted with the Local Police Commander to determine whether the Police would support the application of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Thurrock to impose control measures on the use of legal highs.</p> <p>The Police have indicated that based on the evidence available to them and the practicality of enforcing control measures against an otherwise legal activity they would not prioritise enforcement of any control measures imposed by a potential PSPO at this time.</p> <p>Should further evidence alter the Police position with regard to the prioritisation of enforcement resources for legal high work they will update the Council and liaise with the relevant council department to consult on a PSPO for this purpose.</p> | Gavin Dennett |
| 23/09/15 | Cllr Worrall | <p>Thurrock Council are concerned over implications for tenants and housing stock of the Conservative government's Emergency Budget's housing measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Benefit withdrawn for 18–21 year olds; • Housing Benefit/ Local Housing Allowance (LHA) frozen for five years; • Tax Credits and Housing Benefit/LHA | <p>A paper is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 11th November on the principles the council may adopt for mitigating detrimental impact that these proposals may otherwise have on our existing affordable housing building programme. This is set to be followed by a report to Housing O&S with the results of the more detailed impact assessments that are currently being undertaken.</p> <p>In addition the Council is in the process responding to recent formal consultations issued in respect of the</p> | David Bull |

Item 18 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 25 November 2015

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| | | <p>include only first two children in households born after April 2017;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market rents charged in social housing where incomes are £30,000, additional rent receipts go to Treasury not Housing Revenue Account or Council. <p>The impact will increase poverty, homelessness and numbers at risk of being homeless, amongst young and very low income families.</p> <p>For individual tenants who have faced significant above inflation rent increases and falling incomes over the last few years, the Budget proposal to cut social sector rents by 1% for the next four years will be welcome.</p> <p>That a 1% rent cut will mean loss of rental income to Housing Revenue Account of £18.75 million by 2019/2020, that loss will have significant consequences for Council's plans to build new homes, maintain and refurbish existing stock of homes.</p> <p>The Council resolves to write to the two MPs for Thurrock to lay out concerns and to highlight the impact on Thurrock residents of these measures in Westminster.</p> | <p>market rents proposals for all households exceeding £30,000.</p> <p>David Bull will be writing to the MPs in October with the current understanding of the proposed measures on Thurrock Residents.</p> | |
| 23/09/15 | Cllr Ray | <p>This Council calls for those Councillors who passed away during their service as a member of Thurrock Council (since the turn of the new century) to be commemorated in the Council Chamber for their work and contributions to the community of Thurrock.</p> | <p>Research has been undertaken to identify around ten councillors who have passed away while still serving on the council since 1998. Officers are now looking into the various options for designing a suitable memorial.</p> | Fiona Taylor |
| 23/09/15 | Cllr Halden | <p>The current crisis with refugees has led to calls for</p> | <p>Officers have been looking at how the council currently</p> | Carmel Littleton |

Item 18 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 25 November 2015

| | | | | |
|----------|--------------|---|--|------------------|
| | | <p>national and local governments to act in support. The chamber agrees with this.</p> <p>Thurrock resolves to play its part to aid refugees and will make this position known to the Home Office.</p> <p>We instruct the council to be ready with clear plans for service support from housing, social care, to public protection.</p> <p>While we welcome the notion of using international aid funding to help with costs, we of course understand local pressures we are already under and therefore council will make representations to the Home Secretary that support must be evenly sought across local authorities to avoid disproportionate costs being applied to the taxpayer.</p> | <p>supports refugees and those seeking asylum and how it can do so in the future. There is a well-established process for dealing with unaccompanied asylum seekers who are looked after as children in care. Thurrock has recently looked after higher numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children than in previous years and is already playing a full part in offering support.</p> <p>Departments across the council are looking in details at how refugees subject to the new resettlement scheme can be accommodated successfully in the borough and the funding available from government to achieve this. Early details of government funding for the scheme have been released and these are informing departmental plans. A letter has been sent to the Home Secretary requesting that support is evenly sought across local authorities to avoid disproportionate costs falling to the taxpayer.</p> | |
| 28/10/15 | Cllr Redsell | <p>We call on Thurrock Council to take action with its partners to help prevent the use of motorbikes and similar vehicles on our green spaces.</p> | <p>The Council work closely with Essex police to address this problem across the Borough. There are posters advising residents against this anti-social behaviour and requesting that they report such illegal use to either the Police or crimestoppers; which have been displayed in all housing communal areas.</p> <p>Specific concerns are brought to the multi-agency community safety partnership Local Action Groups for discussion and attention. This has led to a section 59 notice being served at Blackshots and a subsequent reported reduction in nuisance vehicles.</p> <p>The Police will continue to deal with such reported nuisance with support as required from their partners.</p> | Lucy Magill |
| 28/10/15 | Cllr J. Kent | <p>Thurrock Council is concerned at reports that government is considering scrapping Universal Free</p> | <p>Letter to Treasury, DfE and Thurrock 2 MP's sent out.</p> | Carmel Littleton |

Item 18 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 25 November 2015

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|----------|---------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| | | <p>School Meals for infant school children.</p> <p>We believe that such a move would be damaging to both the education and health outcomes of our young people so resolve to write to the Treasury and Department for Education to show our support for the continuation of Universal Free School Meals as well as to our two members of parliament to make them aware of our concerns.</p> | | |
| 28/10/15 | Cllr Ray | <p>That this Council will explore ways of working with NHS partners to fully endorse and promote the importance of giving blood and signing up for organ and tissue donation in Thurrock.</p> | <p>Ian Wake, the Council's Director of Public Health has discussed Councillor Ray's motion with senior colleagues in NHS Thurrock CCG.</p> <p>The Council's Public Health team have agreed to develop a joint communications campaign with the CCG to promote blood and organ donation and encourage our population to participate in both of these important national programmes.</p> | Roger Harris / Ian Wake |
| 28/10/15 | Cllr Potheary | <p>Essex Police have recently announced they plan to close two of the borough's police stations and sell off a third, as well as cut the number of PCSOs in Thurrock from 38 to just 6. After already making cuts of £40million, Essex Police is facing having to make over £60million worth of cuts by 2020 thanks to the Government. The dramatic reduction in the number of police officers and PCSOs on our streets is a big issue for our residents and has worrying implications for community safety.</p> <p>The Council resolves to write to the two MPs for Thurrock to set out our concerns about the detrimental impact of police cuts on Thurrock residents and community safety, and ask them to lobby for better funding for Essex Police.</p> | <p>Letters sent to both MPs</p> | Lucy Magill |

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Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor J. Kent

“This Council remains opposed to government plans for a further river crossing in Thurrock and commits to continue campaigning, alongside local residents, on this issue.”

Monitoring Officer Comments:

This motion is within the power of Full Council and relates to a matter which affects the authority or the authority's area and for which the authority has relevant function.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

Any campaign costs will need to be kept within existing budget envelopes.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes

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Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 2

Submitted by Councillor Halden

“Thurrock Council adopts the official position of being pro grammar school and desires that Thurrock children should have access to them.

The Authority should actively pursue / explore opportunities for grammar schools to expand into Thurrock via an annex”

Monitoring Officer Comments:

This motion relates to a matter which potentially affects the authority or the authority's area and for which the authority has relevant function

Section 151 Officer Comments:

This motion should not result in any financial implications for the Council as any cost to implement a grammar annex would be with the provider.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes

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Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 3

Submitted by Councillor Stewart

"We call on Thurrock Council to immediately fund an alteration to the bus route to serve Fobbing over the winter months."

Monitoring Officer Comments:

This motion relates to a matter which affects the authority or the authority's area and for which the authority has relevant function. The motion uses the words "Call on" and as such is a request for a consideration of this option by the executive within the approved budget.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

For a three day per week service until the end of the financial year, a cost of £9,000 has been calculated.

When considering this, Members should note that the Cabinet considered a report at their meeting in November that spelt out a number of financial pressures that are being faced in this financial year and this would add to them.

In addition, Members should also consider why a service should be supported for this area and not for others that would then increase this estimated amount.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes

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