

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 **29 June 2016**

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

### Membership of the Council:

Cathy Kent (Mayor)  
Tunde Ojetola (Deputy Mayor)

Tim Aker  
John Allen  
Chris Baker  
James Baker  
Jan Baker  
Clare Baldwin  
Russell Cherry  
Colin Churchman  
Gary Collins  
Mark Coxshall  
Jack Duffin  
Tony Fish  
Leslie Gamester  
Oliver Gerrish  
Robert Gledhill  
Garry Hague

James Halden  
Graham Hamilton  
Shane Hebb  
Clifford Holloway  
Victoria Holloway  
Roy Jones  
Tom Kelly  
John Kent  
Martin Kerin  
Steve Liddiard  
Brian Little  
Susan Little  
Sue MacPherson  
Ben Maney  
Bukky Okunade  
Terry Piccolo

Jane Pothecary  
David Potter  
Joycelyn Redsell  
Barbara Rice  
Gerard Rice  
Sue Sammons  
Angela Sheridan  
Peter Smith  
Graham Snell  
Luke Spillman  
Deborah Stewart  
Michael Stone  
Pauline Tolson  
Aaron Watkins  
Kevin Wheeler



**Lyn Carpenter**  
**Chief Executive**



## Agenda

Open to Public and Press

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1 Apologies for absence</b>	
<b>2 Minutes</b>	<b>9 - 22</b>
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 25 May 2016.	
<b>3 Items of Urgent Business</b>	
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.	
<b>4 Declaration of Interests</b>	
To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
<b>5 Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council</b>	
<b>6 Questions from Members of the Public</b>	<b>23 - 24</b>
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
<b>7 Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors</b>	
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2(Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
<b>8 Petitions Update Report</b>	<b>25 - 28</b>
<b>9 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels</b>	
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.	

- 10 Presentation by Essex Police**
- 11 Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2015-16 29 - 60**
- 12 Questions from Members 61 - 62**

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

- 13 Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies**
- 14 Minutes of Committees**

Name of Committee	Date
Planning Committee	26 May 2016
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9 June 2016
Standards and Audit Committee	14 June 2016
Licensing Sub-Committee	15 June 2016

- 15 Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year 63 - 70**

**Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:**

Please contact Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

**Future Dates of Council:**

29 June 2016, 27 July 2016, 28 September 2016, 26 October 2016, 30 November 2016, 25 January 2017, 22 February 2017, 29 March 2017, 24 May 2017 (Annual Council)

## **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](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

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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](mailto: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.

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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.

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- 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.

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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**

- |           |    |  |                            |
|-----------|----|--|----------------------------|
| <b>A.</b> | 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>B.</b>		<b>C.</b>	
<b>IF there is an AMENDMENT (please see Rule 19.23)</b>		<b>If NOT amended i.e. original motion</b>	
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	<b>THEN</b> debate on <b>the subject</b> .	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 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

### June 1916

DATE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	WARD	RANK	SERVICE	DIED
01-Jun	WEST	FREDERICK WILLIAM	38	G	RSM	RFA	HOME
05-Jun	GILDERSLEEVE	HENRY	16	MUCK	BOY - 1	ROYAL NAVY	NORTH SEA
11-Jun	ALEXANDER	ROBERT	47	L/TH	U/K	U/K	HOME
17-Jun	JOHNSON	ALFRED GEORGE	40	G	AB. SEA	ROYAL NAVY	CHANNEL
19-Jun	FAIRHOLME	ALEXANDER	46	G	RFMN	RIFLE BRIG - 24	INDIA
25-Jun	GLADWELL	ARTHUR	20	MUCK & SLH & O	PIONEER	RE	FRANCE
25-Jun	DAYS	HENRY	35	TIL	SAPPER	RE	FRANCE

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Council held on 25 May 2016 at 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Sue Gray, Councillors Cathy Kent, Tim Aker, John Allen, Chris Baker, James Baker, Jan Baker, Clare Baldwin, Russell Cherry, Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Tony Fish, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Clifford Holloway, Victoria Holloway, Roy Jones, Tom Kelly, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Bukky Okunade, Terry Piccolo, Jane Potheary, David Potter, Joycelyn Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Sue Sammons, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Deborah Stewart, Michael Stone, Pauline Tolson, Aaron Watkins and Kevin Wheeler

**In attendance:** Reverend Canon Darren Barlow, Mayor's Chaplain  
Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive  
Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment and Place  
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health  
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT  
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation  
Fiona Taylor, Director of Legal and Democratic Services  
David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer  
Karen Wheeler, Head of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service  
Matthew Boulter, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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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.

The Mayor invited Reverend Canon Darren Barlow to lead those present in prayer.

Sue Gray, the Mayor of Thurrock, took the Chair for Minute Nos. 1 and 2. Following the election of the new Mayor of Thurrock, Councillor C Kent took the Chair for the remainder of the business.

### **1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 23 March 2016 were approved as a correct record.

## **2. To elect and install the Mayor for the municipal year 2016-17**

Nominations were invited for the election of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

It was proposed by Councillor B Rice, and seconded by Councillor Gledhill, that Councillor C Kent be elected Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

The Mayor declared that Councillor C Kent had been duly elected as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-2017.

Councillor C Kent signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and also received the chains of office.

The Mayor then made a short speech thanking the Council for the honour of being elected as the Mayor of Thurrock.

The Mayor presented Sue Gray and her Consort, Mr Tony Lane, with their past Mayor's badge and past consort's badge.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to the out-going Mayor, Sue Gray, for being such a gracious, good humoured and hardworking Mayor and had been a good ambassador for Thurrock. The Leader also thanked the Mayor's Consort, Mr Tony Lane, for their hard work and dedication to the residents of Thurrock. The Leader encouraged them to now put their feet up and reflect on the job well done.

These sentiments were echoed by the Leaders and Members of the Opposition who all paid tribute to the positive and fantastic work of Sue Gray throughout her mayoral year.

Sue Gray wished Councillor C Kent good luck in her Mayoral year and stated she could not have wished for a better person to step into her shoes.

Sue Gray spoke to give thanks to those who had assisted her in her Mayoral Year and stated that it had been a privilege and an honour to have been elected Mayor of Thurrock. Sue Gray paid a particular tribute to all the volunteers in Thurrock for their hard work and dedication. Sue Gray stated that she had attended 608 different events over the past year, of which she had visited 46 out of the 49 schools in the borough. Sue Gray then went on to thank all the Members, Officers, Chief Executive Lyn Carpenter, Reverend Canon Darren Barlow, Legal Department, Security and Member Services.

She wished Thurrock Council all the best for the future and asked that elected members be thoughtful to each other and to do the best for the residents of Thurrock.

Sue Gray further thanked her Consort, Mr Tony Lane, for his support over the last year.

Members stood for a standing ovation.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Councillor C Kent be duly elected as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-17.**

**3. Items of Urgent Business**

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

**4. To elect and install the deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2016-17**

Nominations were invited for the election of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

It was proposed by Councillor Gledhill, and seconded by Councillor Hague, that Councillor Ojetola be appointed Deputy Mayor of Thurrock for 2016-17.

The Mayor declared that Councillor Ojetola had been duly elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough and Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

Councillor Ojetola signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and also received the chains of office.

Councillor Ojetola then made a short speech to accept the honour of being appointed as Deputy Mayor.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Councillor Ojetola be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough and Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-17.**

**5. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Hamilton declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of the Agenda as he was a landlord.

**6. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council**

Firstly the Mayor invited all those present to reflect and remember Thurrock's fallen during World War One.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that Councillor Liddiard had agreed to be her Consort. Councillor Liddiard was asked to step forward and receive the Consort's Chain.

The Mayor confirmed that the Deputy Mayor Consort would be his wife, Bunmi Ojetola.

The Mayor announced that her charities for the Mayoral Year would be Thurrock Community Chest, The Fire Fighters Charity and The Epilepsy Group.

Furthermore, the Mayor announced that her Mayoral Chaplain would be Father Bryan O'Shea.

The Mayor then invited Councillor J Kent to make any announcements he wished to make as Leader of the Council.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to the appointment of Councillor C Kent as the new Mayor of Thurrock and to Councillor Ojetola as the new Deputy Mayor of Thurrock.

The Leader of the Council stated that he would be standing down as Leader of the Council of as of tonight, 25 May 2016, and that he would be dissolving Cabinet with immediate effect.

Councillor J Kent stated that the residents of Thurrock had spoken clearly on the day of the elections and felt it was the right time to stand down and for some else to take over representing Thurrock.

Since being Leader of the Council, Councillor J Kent stated that he believed Thurrock had turned the corner and although with steep cuts the council had balanced the books over the last 6 years. Councillor J Kent particularly noted that the council were now building more council homes, education results were up, one million pounds had been spent on school improvements, improvements had been made to Lakeside, High House Production and the developments in Purfleet.

Councillor J Kent stated that Thurrock had worked cross party together to say No to the proposal of the Lower Thames Crossing. Councillor J Kent stated that all parties should agree when it's the right decision for Thurrock and that this should continue.

Councillor J Kent wished Councillor Gledhill and Councillor Snell good luck to who became the next Leader of the Council.

All Members stood for a standing ovation.

Nominations were then invited for the election of Leader of the Council.



It was proposed by Councillor Jones, and seconded by Councillor Smith, that Councillor Snell be elected as Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Hague, and seconded by Councillor Halden, that Councillor Gledhill be elected as Leader of the Council.

Upon being put to the vote, the Mayor declared that Councillor Gledhill had been duly elected as Leader of the Council.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, thanked all members for their support and thanked Councillor J Kent.

Councillor Gledhill stated that Thurrock Council faces even more challenges and had plans to speak with the Chief Executive to discuss changes on how Thurrock delivers.

Councillor Gledhill stated that his new cabinet would work to the best of its ability and would work hard. Therefore the Conservative Party would not be seeking any Chairs or Vice Chairs on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees; it was proposed that all major proposals will go through the overview and scrutiny committees before going to Cabinet.

Councillor Gledhill stated that an issue in Thurrock which had to be addressed was the mess the borough was becoming with fly-tipping and rubbish. A message will be sent to those culprits and action will be taken.

The Leader of the Council then informed Members the appointments he had made to the Cabinet, together with the details of their respective portfolios, and that Councillor Hague would be the Deputy Leader of the Council.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Leader	Councillor Gledhill	Housing
Deputy Leader	Councillor Hague	Business
	Councillor Halden	Education / Health
	Councillor B Little	Transport / Highways
	Councillor S Little	Children's and Adult Social Care
	Councillor Hebb	Finance / Central Services
	Councillor Stewart	Performance and Communities
	Councillor Tolson	Environment
	Councillor Coxshall	Regeneration

## **7. The Localism Act 2011 - Appointment of Independent Persons**

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and recommended that the engagement of the Independent Persons should continue until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2019.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That for the purposes of section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council agreed to continue with the appointment of Sarah Cooper-James, Fiona Fairweather and Fola Onaeko as its independent Persons until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2019.**

## **8. Committees and their Terms of Reference**

The Leader of the Council proposed the recommendations as printed in the report.

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

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committees listed in paragraph 3.2 of the report be established for the 2016-17 municipal year, with their terms of reference being those set out in Chapter 4 of the Constitution.**
- 2. That the Committees listed in paragraph 3.4 of the report be established for the 2016-17 municipal year, with their terms of reference being those set out in Chapter 5 of the Constitution.**

## **9. Allocation of Committee Seats and Committee Appointments**

The Mayor informed Members that the nominations of Group Leaders to the places allocated on committees, and the nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of committees had been received.

The nominations made to Committees for the municipal year 2016-17, together with the nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, were set out in a booklet circulated to Members immediately prior to the meeting.

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report, which requested the Council to confirm the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees and also to appoint the nominations made by political groups to committees.

In addition, the report also requested the Council to appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Councillor Gledhill restated that the Conservative Party would not

be nominating Chair or Vice Chairs on overview and scrutiny committees therefore these positions were open for the opposition parties to fill.

The Mayor asked Councillor Gledhill which option (a or b) of the nomination booklet did he wish the Council to consider. Councillor Gledhill stated option a.

The Mayor asked Councillor Snell which option (a or b) of the nomination booklet did he wish the Council to consider. Councillor Snell stated option b.

Councillor Gledhill stated that he would like to make 2 changes to the nomination booklet:

On the Planning Committee replace Councillor Piccolo with Councillor Ojetola and make Councillor Piccolo a substitute.

On the General Services replace Councillor Coxshall with Councillor Hague and remove Councillor Halden as a substitute and replace with Councillor Coxshall.

The Mayor then called for a separate vote to be undertaken in respect of each of the contested nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees.

The result of each vote are set out below:

#### Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members voted unanimously in favour of Councillor Okunade being appointed Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Smith, that Councillor Sheridan be elected Vice Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

#### Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor Gerrish (31), Councillor Jones (17). Therefore Councillor Gerrish be appointed Chair and Councillor Cherry being appointed Vice Chair of the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor Kent (32), Councillor Duffin (17). Therefore Councillor J Kent be appointed Chair and Councillor Gamester being appointed Vice Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### Corporate Parenting Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor Okunade (32), Councillor Gamester (17). Therefore Councillor Okunade being appointed Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Smith, that Councillor Snell be elected Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

### General Services

Councillor Snell withdrew this nomination for Chair of General Services. The result that Councillor Gledhill being appointed Chair and Councillor J Kent being appointed as Vice Chair of General Services.

### Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor V Holloway (31), Councillor Snell (17). Therefore Councillor V Holloway being appointed Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Gledhill, that Councillor Snell be elected Vice Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

### Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members voted unanimously in favour of Councillor G Rice being appointed Chair of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Aker, that Councillor C Baker be elected Vice Chair of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

### Licensing Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor Stone (28), Councillor Maney (18). Therefore Councillor Stone being appointed Chair of the Licensing Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Gledhill, and seconded by Councillor Hague, that Councillor Maney be elected Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

### Planning Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor G Rice (17), Councillor Kelly (24). Therefore Councillor Kelly being appointed Chair and Councillor Wheeler being appointed Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.

### Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor B Rice (32), Councillor Smith (17). Therefore Councillor B Rice being appointed Chair of the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Gledhill, that Councillor Jones be elected Vice Chair of the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

### Standards and Audit Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor J Kent (31), Councillor Hamilton (17). Therefore Councillor J Kent being appointed Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Gledhill, that Councillor Smith be elected Vice Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

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

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.**
- 2. That the nominations of the political groups to seats on committees be approved, as set out in Appendix 2.**
- 3. That in accordance with Committee Procedure 13.2, "Participation of Appointed Members", all Elected Members be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check and those Members appointed to the following committees are expected to undertake the DBS check within 2 months of taking up their seats:**
  - Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
  - Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
  - Standards and Audit Committee**
  - Corporate Parenting Committee**

4. That the non-voting co-opted members of the Planning Committee, the Standards and Audit Committee, the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee be appointed, as set out in Appendix 2.
5. That the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees be appointed as set out below:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	Councillor Okunade	Councillor Sheridan
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	Councillor Gerrish	Councillor Cherry
<b>Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	Councillor J Kent	Councillor Gamester
<b>Corporate Parenting</b>	Councillor Okunade	Councillor Snell
<b>General Services</b>	Councillor Gledhill	Councillor J Kent
<b>Health and Wellbeing Board*</b>  *The Chair will be the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health and shall be appointed by the Council	Councillor Halden	-
<b>Health and Wellbeing Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	Councillor V Holloway	Councillor Snell
<b>Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	Councillor G Rice	Councillor C Baker
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	Councillor Stone	Councillor Maney
<b>Planning Committee</b>	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Wheeler
<b>Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny</b>	Councillor B Rice	Councillor Jones

<b>Committee</b>		
<b>Standards and Audit Committee</b>	Councillor J Kent	Councillor Smith

## 10. Appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels

The nominations of the political groups to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels were detailed in the supplementary booklet circulated to Members immediately prior to the meeting.

The Chief Executive submitted a report in respect of the appointments required to be made to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels.

The Mayor informed the Chamber that appointments to the following outside bodies, statutory and other panels were contested

- Campaign to Protect Rural Essex
- Coalhouse Fort Project
- Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress
- Essex Fire Authority
- Essex Police and Crime Panel
- Local Government Association
- Mucking Charitable Trust
- Museums in Essex
- Thurrock Sports Council
- Civic Awards Panel

The Mayor then called for a separate vote to be undertaken in respect of each of the contested nominations for appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels.

The result of each vote are set out below:

### Campaign to Protect Rural Essex

The result of the vote: Councillor G Rice (15), Councillor C Baker (26). Therefore Councillor C Baker being the representative of the council on the Campaign to Protect Rural Essex.

### Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee

No nominations were received for the vacant position on the Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee.

### Coalhouse Fort Project

The result of the vote: Councillor C Kent (16), Councillor Jones (17).  
Therefore Councillor Jones being the representative of the council on the Coalhouse Fort Project.

### Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress

The result of the vote: Councillor G Rice (14), Councillor Cherry (25).  
Therefore Councillor Cherry being the representative of the council on the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress.

### Essex Fire Authority

The result of the vote: Councillor C Kent (29), Councillor Jones (17).  
Therefore Councillor C Kent being the representative of the council on the Essex Fire Authority.

### Essex Police and Crime Panel

The result of the vote: Councillor Redsell (18), Councillor Jones (17).  
Therefore Councillor Redsell being the representative of the council on the Essex Police and Crime Panel.

### Local Government Association

The result of the vote: Councillor J Kent (14), Councillor Ojetola (18),  
Councillor Smith (17). Therefore Councillor Ojetola being the representative of  
the council on the Local Government Association.

### Mucking Charitable Trust

The result of the vote: Councillor Hebb (18), Councillor Wheeler (17).  
Therefore Councillor Hebb being the representative of the council on the  
Mucking Charitable Trust.

### Museums in Essex

The result of the vote: Councillor G Rice (14), Councillor Sheridan (17).  
Therefore Councillor Sheridan be the representative of the council on the  
Museums in Essex.

### South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

No nominations were received for the vacant position on the South Essex  
Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.



### Thurrock Sports Council

Councillor Gledhill stated the removal of Councillor Watkins from the nominations.

The Mayor declared Councillors Liddiard, Fish Redsell and C Baker duly appointed as the representatives of the council on the Thurrock Sports Council.

### Civic Awards Panel

Councillor J Kent stated that nominations to this panel were made every other year therefore not required for nominations until 2017. Democratic Services will confirm and advise Council Members.

### Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

No nominations were received for the vacant position on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

The Mayor advised that following the changes detailed above there were no longer any contested appointments to the nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels. Members voted unanimously in favour of the nominations made, whereupon the Mayor declared these to be carried.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the uncontested nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels as circulated during the meeting, be approved.**
- 2. That the contested nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels as voted and agreed upon during the meeting, be approved.**
- 3. That in accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 13.2 "Participation of Appointed Members" all Elected Members be required to undertake an enhanced DBS within 2 months of taking up their role.**

### **11. Schedule of Meetings 2016-17**

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report. A copy of the schedule of meetings for 2016-17 was included in the Agenda at Appendix 1 to the report.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations to approve the calendar of meetings for 2016-17, whereupon the Mayor declared this to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Schedule of Meetings for 2016-17 be approved.**

**12. Schedule of Elections and Order of Retirement of Councillors**

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report and requested that the Schedule of Local Elections be more readily available for residents to view.

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

**RESOLVED:**

**That the schedule of elections from 2017 to 2020 and order of retirement of Councillors be noted.**

**The meeting finished at 8.35pm.**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Democratic Services at [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)**

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There is 1 question from the members of the public.

1. **From Mr Perrin to Councillor Gledhill**

Do you consider it wise to task tenants of Council rented housing with responsibility for carrying out maintenance work on gas boilers installed in their homes? I ask the question as it appears tenants of Bruyn Court, a new build in South Ockendon, are required to do just that.

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## Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 29 June 2016

Petition No.	Description	Presented by (and date)	Portfolio Holder	Status Full copies of the responses may be obtained from Democratic Services
475	The residents of Blackshots and surrounding areas are against any charging of the car park at Impulse Leisure as this could have a devastating effect on adjacent roads.	27/01/16	Cllr Redsell	<p>Impulse Leisure carried out a consultation exercise during November and December 2015, seeking public views on the introduction of parking charges at Blackshots Leisure Centre. This was a management response to identify potential solutions to parking problems at the site.</p> <p>Impulse clearly recognised from the response to their consultation exercise that car parking charging was a controversial and sensitive issue and concluded that even if charges were considered as a way forward, this could only be the case if the Council implemented a residents only parking scheme in surrounding roads. The Council's view however is that parking charges at Blackshots are not a practical or preferred solution and it has been made clear to Impulse that we will not be introducing residents parking for nearby roads.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Council's interpretation of the formal lease between the parties is that the introduction of charges to the current parking arrangements would represent a variation. The Council has written to Impulse Leisure, advising that no such variation would be agreed to, but also committing to working</p>

## Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 29 June 2016

				<p>with them to try to identify other ways of improving the parking issues at the site.</p> <p>It is therefore considered quite clear that parking charges will not be introduced at the Blackshots Leisure Centre.</p>
476	Yearly Management Charges - Quantum Premises, Grays, Essex	24/02/2016	Cllrs Worrall and Gerrish	<p>There is a signed agreement between the Highways Authority and the Developer, Persimmon Homes, for the adoption of some roads, as well as a highways improvement scheme on Woodview, which provides a relocated mini-roundabout access junction onto Woodview. There are three roads which were constructed contrary to the Council's Construction Specifications and will not be adopted as part of this agreement; being classified as un-adopted highway.</p> <p>Whilst we are still in the construction phase of the development, and the developer has yet to practically complete the roads to the required standard, it is the responsibility of the developer to maintain the highway to an appropriate standard until the Highways Authority can agree that the roads have been built to an adoptable standard.</p>
477	Highways England proposals for a New Crossing in Thurrock	23/03/2016	Cllr Gerrish	<p>Following a unanimous vote opposing the Crossing at Council on the 23rd of March, Thurrock Council submitted a formal response to Highways England's Route option Consultation comprising of a letter</p>

## Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 29 June 2016

				signed by all three Group Leaders, an Evidence Gathering Report developed by Planning, Transportation, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee summarising the various representations made to the Council in relation to the consultation; and a report by the Council's technical advisors, Peter Brett Associates, who provided a critique the detail of Highways England's proposals.
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<b>29 June 2016</b>	<b>ITEM: 11</b>
<b>Council</b>	
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015-16</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-Key
<b>Report of:</b> David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
<b>This report is public</b>	

## Executive Summary

This report introduces the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report which in accordance with the Council's Constitution, should be presented to the Council.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

**1.1 That the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015-16 be noted.**

### 2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Each year an Annual Report is produced detailing the work of the six Overview and Scrutiny committees and their main achievements for that municipal year. The report is designed to inform residents of this work in an accessible and engaging format.

2.2 The last municipal year has seen Overview and Scrutiny tackle a wide range of topics, with Members leading on issues that have come to the fore both through their own research but also by understanding the issues that have arisen in the community. The continued use of task and finish groups has meant that this annual report will focus again on the key issues that the committees picked for in depth investigation, rather than a general overview of each committee's day to day work or a simple recounting of the work programmes of each committee.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 3.1 It is hoped that the format of the Annual Report will highlight to residents how the Overview and Scrutiny committees have picked relevant community issues and how Members undertook work to form recommendations that positively affected these issues.
- 3.2 The report will be published on the Council's website and key community groups and participants from last year's work will be made aware of its publication.

### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 The report outlines the positive work that has been undertaken during 2015-16 and is being referred to Council for review in order for Members to comment on the overall Overview and Scrutiny function of Thurrock Council, and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

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

- 5.1 In accordance with Chapter 4, Part 1, Rule 7.1 of the Constitution, the annual report is submitted to Council for their consideration and comment.

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

- 6.1 The positive impact of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny committees for 2015 and 2016, in allowing residents to participate in decision making and tackling key issues of local concern, is clearly documented in the annual report. In receiving this report at its meeting, the Council has the opportunity to further align the Overview and Scrutiny function with corporate and community priorities by suggesting issues for investigation in the forthcoming year.

### **7. Implications**

#### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**  
**Senior Finance Officer – Management Accounts**

There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report. If any recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for adoption by the Council have financial implications they are identified separately in each report.

## 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**  
**Monitoring Officer**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report but it is good practice to produce an annual report reviewing Overview and Scrutiny activity.

## 7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

The Overview and Scrutiny function recognises the importance and role of diversity and equality issues. All work in 2015-16 sought to include sections of the community relevant to the issues being investigated. Members made every effort to engage and consult Thurrock residents when required.

## 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):

- Agenda, Reports and Minutes of meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Task and Finish Reviews, available from:

<http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock/>

## 9. Appendices to the report

- **Appendix 1:** Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015-16

### Report Author:

Matthew Boulter  
Principal Governance & Democratic Services Officer  
Legal and Democratic Services

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# Overview and Scrutiny

## Annual Report

### 2015-16



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# Introduction

Overview and Scrutiny in Thurrock during 2015-16 have tackled a wide range of issues from intercepting unsafe goods at border ports to widening access to arts, culture and heritage among children and young people in Thurrock. Members have also held a witness day and considered in detail matters that are important in the Borough, such as Government proposals on a new Lower Thames Crossing.

The agendas and associated reports of each Committee can be accessed by the following link: <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/>

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Members who sat on the Committees for their efforts this last year, as well as the specialists and visitors who attended to help better understand some of the issues facing our communities. Council officers, third sector partners and residents also contributed to our work and their role should also be recognised.

## What is Overview & Scrutiny?

In general terms, Overview and Scrutiny is the process whereby Councillors investigate, scrutinise and oversee the work of the Council. More specifically Overview and Scrutiny pays particular attention to:

- The decisions made by Cabinet, Council and officers in relation to Council policy or key decisions.
- The activities carried out by the Council and other bodies (such as the National Health Service (NHS)).
- The performance of the Council in relation to its targets and objectives.

## Work Programme

The work programme for Thurrock's Overview and Scrutiny is informed by a combination of:

- What Councillors feel are important topics (this is gathered from their work in their wards and activities across the whole of the Council).
- Members of the public highlighting issues for debate, either through Call-Ins or through consultation.
- Requests by Thurrock's Cabinet for Overview and Scrutiny to undertake "pre-decision scrutiny" prior to policies being taken to Cabinet for consideration and decision.



- Council officers requesting Overview and Scrutiny to investigate and consider certain issues on their behalf.

## Committees

At Thurrock, the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function is carried out by six committees, which each have a specific remit:

- Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
- Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Membership

The membership of Thurrock's Overview and Scrutiny Committees is made up of Councillors drawn from the political parties of the Council. The Overview and Scrutiny function enables Councillors who are not members of the Cabinet (also known as the Executive) to have an active role in the decision-making process of the Council.

Thurrock has a number of non-Councillors sitting on Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Children's Services Committee has two parent-governors as well as a diocesan representative from the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches respectively. There are also two co-opted members on the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee representing health interests.

In addition, sub-committees or panels may also be formed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to undertake specific tasks, such as a review, the membership of which is decided alongside the remit of the review.

### The decision making process

In Thurrock, Overview and Scrutiny plays a key role in adding value to the Council's decision-making process. It also reviews the existing practices of the Council and makes recommendations to Cabinet to enhance and improve service provision.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees meet in an informal atmosphere and engages with people who can help with their work and provide evidence for their reviews. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Committees and at the discretion of the Chair may even be able to take part

## Overview and Scrutiny Online

Overview and Scrutiny has a dedicated section on Thurrock Council's website and can be found at ([www.thurrock.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny/overview-and-scrutiny-committees](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny/overview-and-scrutiny-committees)).

Thurrock Council's website provides the most up-to-date information on Overview and Scrutiny in Thurrock. Participation from the public is actively encouraged and promoted online.

A number of documents are available and easily accessible, including our Overview and Scrutiny annual reports. Reports, agendas and minutes from each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting are also available electronically from Thurrock's website.

### Getting in Touch

The Overview and Scrutiny process at Thurrock is managed by our Overview and Scrutiny Team. The Team is located within Democratic Services which is part of Legal Services. Democratic Services manages the Council's decision making process and services a wide range of Council decision making bodies including the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet, Planning Committee, Licensing Committee as well as full Council.

If you have any queries about this report or the Overview and Scrutiny process, or if you are interested in participating, please feel free to contact us.

Email: [scrutiny.team@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny.team@thurrock.gov.uk)

Address: Overview and Scrutiny Team, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays  
Essex RM17 6SL

## Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

This year the Committee continued to build strong links with Youth Cabinet, with two Youth Cabinet Members attending meetings to give young people a voice on matters affecting children and young people in Thurrock, such as young people's Mental Health Issues, the development of the 'Inspire' youth hub and sharing ideas on apprenticeship and work placement opportunities. A non-voting representative from HealthWatch was also co-opted to the Committee by Council in October 2015, at the suggestion of Committee Members, who felt that Healthwatch would embed the public's voice at the heart of the decision making processes on services for children and young people.

High on the agenda for the Committee has been to consider and monitor the learning points from the Serious Case Reviews issued by the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children's Board this year, with Members requesting regular updates and scrutinising action plans in order to demonstrate how the Council and its partners were being held to account. Children's Safeguarding is a topic at the forefront of the Committee's work, and as a result in February 2016 the Chair requested that a standing item be included on the agenda for each meeting so that the Thurrock Local Safeguarding Board could refer a matter or cause for concern without delay for consideration by Committee Members.

The Committee have reviewed the progress and performance of the Troubled Families Programme in helping to turn around the lives of families in Thurrock, and heard that during Phase 1 of the programme Thurrock had exceeded their target, with the programme aiming to assist 1160 more families by May 2020.

Members were keen to see how the Cultural Entitlement programme was making a difference to the lives of children and young people in Thurrock in widening access to arts and culture activities across the Borough and take full advantage of opportunities from partners such as the Royal Opera House in Purfleet. This further built upon the work of the Committee in relation to Supporting Pathways into Work for Young People as successful apprenticeships had been delivered through the programme.

In addition to examining various other issues ranging from Child Poverty to Supporting Parents back into Work, the Committee also examined the alternative delivery model for the Thurrock Youth Offer which proposed the development of 'Inspire', the Youth Trust, as a staff mutual in order to respond to and take advantage of funding and partnership opportunities as a means to address social-economic, health and educational inequalities facing the young people of Thurrock.

I am extremely proud of how my committee stacks up against its peers. All committees and all members do great work, but the officers and members on my committee do deserve high praise. This Committee sat for more meetings than in previous years to ensure a diverse and ambitious agenda could be dealt with and by far has spent more hours in committee debating and discussing issues of importance, and has heard more reports on a vast range of key subjects. Yes I know sometimes officers were run a little ragged getting everything in order and my fellow members had a number of very late nights, but I know we can all say that we truly had a robust and energetic committee that was serving the people of Thurrock.

Together we made efforts to ensure that committee ran better than ever. When parents in East Tilbury were concerned about Nursery Care, we invited them in to debate with the same rights as members. When we started to look at school improvement, we took the entire committee out to be hosted in a school to try and make us more accessible to the public. We took the Youth Cabinet and Healthwatch and rather than give them tokenistic involvement, we made them a part of the committee with real projects to work with us on. Finally we added a standing item for The Local Children's Safeguarding Board so they can come to committee at any time to report concerns to members. As Chairman, myself and Democratic Services kept a running log of all actions and recommendations of the committee so everyone could track our work and the committee's genuine contribution to education and child social care. Of course it is not just about the sheer tonnage of work we undertook. It is about outcomes. We took a Serious Case Review (Julia) and instead of just reviewing it we returned it to committee many times to track the councils learning experience from tragedies in child social care. I personally chaired our working group that produced a refresh of our work experience and pathways for young people into employment policies that won high praise. We pored over and helped refine the creation of our staff mutual for youth skills and we launched a major and fruitful project where we spoke to London partners about working together to tackle Serious Youth Crime. That is not to mention our over-viewing of school improvement, the use of the pupil premium, NEET provision, the budget, adoption figures, the Local Child Safeguarding Board issues, school transport, social worker issues, and much more still.

Not only do I thank those officers in education and child social care who prepared our reports and briefings, the team in Democratic Services who supported me as Chairman, and my fellow members who made our overview, scrutiny and policy development discussions in committee so worthwhile, but mostly I thank all those teachers, carers and all those who work in children services in Thurrock who are working hard to make our borough great.



***Councillor James Halden***  
***Chair of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee***

## Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny

This year the Committee heard that in light of the significant reductions in the money received from Government and other pressures on services the Council will have to make, the Council could no longer afford to operate all of the services that it has historically provided and it has to focus its attention on delivery of its statutory functions. As a result the Committee explored a number of options for community delivery of services and functions and highlighted examples of opportunities to empower groups to take ownership and responsibility for local facilities, in response to the fact that community organisations had approached the council who wished to take responsibility of environmental services in parks and open spaces.

Instances of fly-tipping and fly-posting in the Borough remained a cause for concern for the Committee, who requested regular updates in relation to what action was being taken to mitigate this issue, examine how intelligence was being followed up and progress on the clean-up at the Cory Wharf site.

The Committee also scrutinised what action was being taken by the Trading Standards team in intercepting unsafe goods at border points in London Gateway and Port of Tilbury. Members were advised that Thurrock's Trading Standards Team were in their third year of delivering the Safety at Ports project on behalf of the National Trading Standards Board (NTSB) that prevented unsafe products, including a range of cosmetics, toys and electrical items, entering the UK.



The Committee were notified that the previous Chief Executive received a letter of thanks from Lord Toby Harris, chair of the National Trading Standards Board for the work Thurrock's Trading Standards team had undertaken and the contribution to the UK economy.

It has been a privilege to serve as chairman of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee this past municipal year and I thoroughly enjoyed the task.

I would like to thank all the committee members that attended the meetings and for their input into the issues that were put before them. Also many thanks for officers that supported this committee and presented many a presentation.

It was a good induction as to be a chair of what is a very worthwhile and important committee as at the very first meeting held in July we had to attend to an item of urgent business which was about the travellers that decided to invade and camp out at Lakeside sports ground and later when they were moved on, Belhus Park. This meeting was attended by Essex Police with a report on the issue. It was requested by committee that they report back at a later date which they did at the October meeting.

At the November meeting we had Essex Fire and Rescue Services attend with a very good presentation but sadly it was all about the reduction in services for The Borough of Thurrock which the committee conveyed their disapproval of and request that they attend with an update on this important issue at another meeting. This they did in March 2016. Sadly there was no change in the outcome.

The Cleaner, Greener and Safer committee has covered many issues over this past municipal year including Community Delivery of Environmental Services in Parks and Open Spaces, a very good cause and excellent report. Report on COMAH site in Thurrock, Waste Framework, Thurrock Trading Standards on intercepting unsafe goods at ports which Thurrock Council are doing a very good job at. Fly Tipping, Fees and Charges for Thurrock, Prevent and Local Air Quality, a very important issue as Thurrock is one of the worst areas for air pollution in the UK.

As you can see the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Committee have had a very productive year and covered some very important issues and I know there are many more in the pipeline for next year's committee.

Many thanks again to all parties that took part and supported this very important committee.

***Councillor Roy Jones***  
***Chair of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee***



# Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee have had a busy year, not only in scrutinising the performance of the Council in relation to matters such as recycling rates and taking the lead in reviewing the work of the Budget Review Panel Process but also in initiating and overseeing a number of other projects.

One of the biggest matters considered by Committee Members was monitoring the progress achieved in transferring services from SERCO back to the Council and ensuring this was a smooth transition. On the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 mainly back office and support services and functions. As part of this work the Committee reviewed the background to the transition programme, the work completed to date and the proposals for the hosting and management of the returning services which included the transfer of 350 permanent staff, around 75 contracts and approximately £3 million worth of equipment.

The Committee also reviewed the range and scope of officers training and development across social care which included mandatory training, certification requirements, how the Council ensured staff remained competent and demonstrated the balance between personal/council accountability. Following on from this Members Training and Development was also studied to establish whether further training could be provided to better equip Councillors in their work in the local community, as community leaders and advocates for local residents. Subsequently a Members Training Working Group was established which Committee Members Councillors Deborah Stewart and Graham Snell took part and shared their views.

In September 2015 the Committee considered the approach adopted by Thurrock in regards to Members DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and Register of Interest process and welcomed the proposal to introduce enhanced DBS checks for all Councillors and any Co-Opted Members who were members of a Committee or Board which discharged an education or social services function. This was later referred to the Standard and Audit Committee as the appropriate decision making body, which endorsed the decision.

In February 2016, Members examined the issues and options associated with moving to whole-council elections and reviewed the notional costs/savings of such a change, together with the relative advantages and disadvantages of each method of conducting elections. As a result Members recommended that Full Council consult further with the communities in Thurrock and potential changes to the electoral cycle of the council which could involve a move to whole-council elections every four

years, rather than electing by thirds. It is expected this work will continue into the forthcoming municipal year.

### **“How good actually is Thurrock Council?”**

Councillors are residents of the borough too, and we have our own varied opinions on the matter. Some things are good; some not so good; some are excellent; some require improving. This year we investigated how Thurrock actually performs and whether we are in the right place yet to push Thurrock further into a more unknown, but equally exciting, future. Our key aims were:

- The Committee’s principle purpose was to start to identify what a “platinum standard” looked like in terms of customer service with residents.
- It wanted to cast an eye on the council’s performance and commitments to its “customers”
- It wanted to be a “doing” committee, not a Committee which just “noted” officer reports. Actions, not words!

One of the proudest changes to this year’s Corporate Committee, was the remodelling of the way we review performance:

- Performance indicators which are not hitting target for consecutive months and facing continued challenges are now reviewed differently – Directors/Heads of Service come to Committee and we discuss options, make recommendations, and the presenter then goes off to pursue what has been discussed, in an attempt to turn the trend back upwards.
- We took the stance that staff performance reviews were integral and linked to department performance and investigated ways these could be more aligned.

We also looked at four yearly elections of Councillors. We investigated the options in moving from an election-by-thirds model which we are using currently (where a third of the council are elected each year, and councillors have more choice over who is in office), to a single vote once in four years (where we vote for all 49 councillors for 4 years, and the voters will usually provide the councillors the answer who should be in office). This was extensive, well-balanced, and unnerving for councillors. Good – it was designed to be. Views were very diverse and often diametrically opposing – but collectively we agreed that Thurrock residents should actually be the ones to give us their views on what election model works best for them. This is the recommendation which will be pursued in the next municipal year.

### **“What is the Council’s role in theatre provision? What does “fairness in Thurrock” actually mean?”**

The Committee also reviewed a number of independent reports and made recommendations for Cabinet. The future of the Thameside Theatre in Grays was a key discussion this year. As was the Fairness Commission report. Both reports were discussed, debated, and recommendations made. Some of the future decisions are not going to be easy; perhaps some of the hardest local government politicians will



ever make in Thurrock- it will come down to making some cross-party and timely decisions.

**“Does our Council have the credentials already to be a “platinum-standard” Council?”**

Thurrock clearly does a lot of things right. It would be easy for me as an opposing party politician to say we are not doing any of the right things. We have seen awards issued to Planning and other departments, who have moved forward in their capability in providing a “platinum-standard” service. However we looked into a number of potential ways to enhance the Council’s offer including staff training records, IT and Environmental Management.

**“Is Thurrock’s budget book ready for the future?”**

Of course, we reviewed the budget for this year, and assessed our ability to be impregnable from future changes. We supported the Adult Social Care precept unconditionally, and although there were some disagreements, the majority view was that the council tax contribution needed to increase by the maximum 1.99% too.

**CLOSING REMARKS:**

Clearly there is lots of “caring” about things in Thurrock. I will end by adding some thanks to all councillor colleagues who sat on the committee, and who engaged with activities designed to take the council, and ourselves, out of our comfort zones on many occasions. I am not one for patting my colleagues on the back unnecessarily, but there was some good cross-party collaboration – so thank you. Likewise to the report writers and speakers, I appreciate your work that you compiled and presented.

Can we be the best unitary authority in the UK? – Yes. It is ours to make happen; let’s do it.

***Councillor Shane Hebb***  
***Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee***



# Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny

The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee have had a busy year scrutinising many emotive local issues, which has been particularly challenging against the backdrop of the considerable budget pressures faced by the adult social care service. Adult Social Care was required to deliver in-year reductions of £500,000 in 2015/16 as Thurrock faces cuts on a scale that has not been seen in the Borough before. Although to date most of these savings have been made through cuts and increased efficiency in back office functions; it is becoming increasingly difficult to find ways of making savings that do not impact on front line services. This is exacerbated by the changing demographic growth and that Thurrock's population of older people is growing and the complexities of people's needs are increasing.

At the start of the year the Committee heard that there were to be considerable reductions in the Public Health Grant for 2015/16 and at the same meeting an urgent item of business was raised for Members attention by the Chief Operating Officer of HealthWatch Thurrock on Coach House, a residential care home, which the providers Family Mosaic had served notice to the CCG.

Following the announcement by Central Government that it was placing £3.8 billion of existing health and social care funding into a single pooled budget to enable health and social care services to work more closely together, the Committee was keen to continually review and monitor the progress of the establishment of the Better Care Fund. This pooled fund required to be established by April 2015 and administered in line with a Section 75 agreement between NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group and Thurrock Council.

One of the most significant legislative changes affecting Adult Social Care which the Committee considered the impact of was the introduction of The Care Act 2014, as Part 1 of the Act became operational in April 2015 and introduced a number of new duties and requirements for councils and their partners including a general duty of wellbeing, a duty to prevent, reduce and delay the need for care and support, and the duty to provide information and advice.

The future of the Thurrock Walk-In Service was an issue that received much press interest locally and Committee Members were keen to hear the summary of the findings and feedback from both pre-consultation and public consultation processes which informed the Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) decision to close the walk-in service from April 2016 and reinvest the funds in four GP hubs across Thurrock.

The Committee valued the contributions from the representatives from HealthWatch and Thurrock Coalition, who provided important input on issues relating to patients' care in the Borough throughout the year. Their feedback was particularly welcome in

relation to the consultation on the proposed changes to the way Social Care was provided in Thurrock, which was received by the Committee in January 2016. At this meeting Members scrutinised the proposed actions to reduce costs and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of adult social care services, which affected the following four following key areas:

- Day Care for older people including the service at the Carers' Centre
- Charges for adult social care services
- Equipment and adaptations costing less than £50
- The provision of Extra Care Housing

First of all, I would like to thank the Officers and Members of the committee for their hard work over the past municipal year. Some of the meetings have gone on a bit and some have been a touch feisty but throughout, all committee members have been exemplary in their conduct. In a challenging year dominated by funding cuts and changes to adult social care the committee has been robust in its scrutiny of the issues and has always focused on achieving the best outcomes for the people of Thurrock.

***Councillor Graham Snell***  
***Chair of Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee***



# Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee have kept up-to-date with the Government's key policy changes that were announced in July 2015 and formalised in the Housing and Planning and Welfare Reform Bills 2015. Committee Members examined the impact of these changes on Thurrock and the key issues that in turn affected the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan, which included:

- 1% reduction in social rents for four years from the 1st April 2016;
- "Pay to stay" proposals from 2017/18; and
- A requirement for local authorities to finance the cost of the expansion of the Right to Buy and associated discount to tenants in Housing Association Homes.

Committee Members have also monitored the Council's ambitious programme to improve the quality of Council owned homes within the borough to a high standard that supports the long-term viability of the asset and to build new affordable homes for current and future generations, such as through the Transforming Homes Programme. One of the challenges has been to review changes to existing housing investment and development programmes in order to deliver a balanced HRA to absorb the impact of more major changes in central Government policy.

In June 2015 the Committee reflected on the four main causes of homelessness in Thurrock, the impact of welfare reform and the introduction of Universal Credit on rates of homelessness and scrutinised the Homelessness Prevention Strategy which set out the plan for the prevention of homelessness and for securing sufficient accommodation and support for homeless residents or those at risk of becoming so.

Early in 2016 Members reviewed the Housing Allocations Scheme, which was in its second year, and recommended further amendments along with more detail to reflect recent additional legislative requirements. Such recommendations included:

- Procedural changes to how properties are advertised
- Local lettings plans for new developments on existing Council housing estates
- Pre-tenancy training for all new tenants
- Allowing tenants to under occupy 2 bedroom, older person properties, where there are no waiting applicants who meet the 2 bedroom criteria
- Discretion to award a welfare priority for homeless prevention

In November 2015 the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a Call-In that had been received in relation to the Housing Estate Regeneration of Seabrooke Rise, specifically the future of the three Grays high rises – Butler, Davall

and Greenwood House. The Committee particularly welcomed the comments of local residents in its consideration of the Call-In, which highlighted the added value the public can bring to the scrutiny process in Thurrock.

I would like to thank all Committee Members and Officers for their hard work and contributions to the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee over this past municipal year.

My thanks also go to the Housing Tenant Representative for her involvement and valuable input as a Thurrock tenant. Of the many items discussed at this year's Scrutiny Meetings, those that I am most proud of were the Housing Estate Regeneration Call-In, where we wanted to hear the comments of local residents and three tenants were invited to the November 2015 committee to express their views and the Local Lettings Plan that clarified which Thurrock Council tenants met the set criteria that could apply from the housing stock that was available.

A working group was also set up to which Members and Officers visited The Mears Group in Manchester who provide a rapid response and maintenance services to Thurrock tenants and saw first-hand how calls were handled on a day to day basis.

As is it clear from the above comments, the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee have had a busy year with some very important agenda items. As to next year, I know the work programme is currently being prepared with even more interesting and vital items.

Many thanks again to all parties that took part and supported this very vital committee.

***Councillor Cathy Kent***  
***Chair of Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee***



# Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny

The Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee have considered and endorsed a number of wide ranging developments which are of great interest to Thurrock residents and the local business community this year, including the regeneration of Grays and improvements to Grays Rail Station.

One of the biggest issues that has come to the fore and been reviewed by the Committee are the changes to the c2c timetable, which was of significant public interest. In December 2015, c2c changed their train timetable train to increase capacity on their Thameside service and accommodate 3,000 more passengers during the morning peak. The changes were designed to leave most passengers better off, however there has been an unexpected surge in passenger numbers, leaving many stakeholders dissatisfied with the resultant service.

c2c representatives attended the meeting in January 2016, where the Planning, Transport, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee had the opportunity to hear first-hand the reasons for the timetable changes, the nature of the operational difficulties that have resulted and the plans in place to respond to stakeholder concerns. This was a good example of the scrutiny process working and engaging with stakeholders to inform future timetable amendments, and a matter that is likely to remain of interest to Committee Members going forward.

Committee Members were also keen to scrutinise proposals for changing Local Bus Services and considered alternative ways of providing communities with the transport services required. This was particularly challenging, and Members were keen to continue support to local bus services that without financial support were likely to be cut due to the fact that some routes were not commercially profitably or at times had low levels of demand, principally in areas such as Fobbing, East and West Tilbury, Bulphan and Horndon-on-the Hill.

It has been my pleasure to have Chaired the Overview and Scrutiny committee during the last year. Thank you to all the other members of my committee for their contributions.

I would like to comment on the two main aspects that this committee are tasked to oversee. One is the internal working of this council, and the other, items that affect us of which we have little control over, but can influence.

As previously mentioned in the report, one of these was the removal of rural bus services that were likely to cause hardship. A really robust meeting primarily dealing with this considered public opinion and suggestions for a way forward. Pressure for a solution was applied and cabinet was asked to take a long look at reinstating a form of service that would help those in need. Thankfully this has now been implemented this year.

It is particularly heartening to be able to take our residents views of Regeneration proposals like those at Purfleet, Grays Town Centre and Tilbury.

Overseeing the development of a replacement for the current Thurrock Local Plan. This item is as yet in its formative stages but will become the dominant document that informs our future direction as a community. This committee has been involved with this process from the very beginning and has been able to comment and propose suggestions as to how our community can be really involved.

C2C were called in by this committee to explain the reasons for the dip in performance since Christmas. It is pleasing to see that C2C have recently announced that they will be providing more carriages on trains from October this year. This committee will continue to challenge underperforming organisations.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to the officers who have worked to support this committee. I would also like to thank all the contributors to our committee, without their input our decision making would have been less effective.

***Councillor Brian Little***

***Chair of Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee***



# Budget Overview and Scrutiny

The Council set a balanced budget for 2015/16 having made some difficult decisions about where savings could be made. Pressures remain in the current financial year and are expected to escalate in the following years. The cumulative effect of £83.2m savings over 6 years now visibly impacts on communities and it will also make the Council's ability to make further savings increasingly challenging.

In July 2015 the cross-party Budget Review Panel was endorsed by Cabinet which held a series of meetings to inform the strategic approach to shaping the Council in this financial context with consideration of the complexity and scale of the challenge that lay ahead.

Group Leaders, Deputy Group Leaders, the Chief Executive and Head of Corporate Finance formed the Panel which was chaired by the Leader, and Portfolio Holders and Directors were invited to attend specific sessions.

The purpose of the Panel was to:

- Build and strengthen awareness and ownership of portfolio budgets and issues across Group Leaders, shadow portfolio holders and other opposition leads
- Consider and comment on the Council's draft 2020 Vision, the four change programmes, and the on-going bottom up review of Council functions
- To explore options for budget savings in either 2015/16 or 2016/17 to be taken forward through the autumn scrutiny process, ensuring proposals are broadly consistent with the 2020 Vision and direction of travel
- To refer to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny the task of overseeing the Budget Review Panel process

The Panel was not a decision making but areas identified by the Panel were drawn together to identify areas for public consultation and review by Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee taking an overview of the whole Shaping the Council programme. Scrutiny Committees held productive and engaging debates on a number of key issues in order to maximise efficiency savings to the authority and in February 2016 the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee were asked to comment specifically on two areas: the recommended increase in Council Tax; and the issue on bus subsidies, in part linked to the motion that was carried at the Council meeting on 25 November.



# Overview and Scrutiny Reviews

Overview and Scrutiny Committees can establish Scrutiny Review Panels to investigate in-depth issues which have come to their attention. In 2015-16 the work of two Scrutiny Review Panels concluded, which had begun the previous year, the details of which are set out below.

## Thameside Complex Review Panel

In July 2015 the Thameside Complex Review Panel issued its final report and recommendations following its comprehensive review to support the consideration of the options for the future of the services and the complex. The cross-party panel had been established in January 2015 by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee where it was felt the complex and its services were vitally important to Thurrock and needed proper consideration. As part of the review process a witness day was held to meet with voluntary sector tenants, service managers and theatre specialists in order for panel members to gain an insight into the challenges faced by the Thameside Complex and the benefits.

What became wholly evident during the review was the exciting potential to improve and modernise cultural provision in Grays and Thurrock. The panel made a number of conclusions, which included:

- That there was potential to modernise and improve the Museum, Library, Theatre and Registry Services. The Council should take the opportunity with relevant funding, if available, to improve services as much as possible.
- Services must remain accessible to all and close to transport links and other related amenities.
- That the theatre played an important role in the lives of many residents and community groups. However, there is potential to improve it to become a viable regional theatre attracting more popular acts with wide appeal.
- If the theatre offer was to be improved it must maximise its commercial revenue and not rely on Council funding.
- The theatre should remain in Grays as it is a key urban centre as well as helping to contribute to the economy of the town.
- The Thameside Complex is not suitable for the future aspirations of the services currently residing there.
- That there was no evidence that housing is being considered to replace the Thameside Complex and the Arts

These conclusions helped to formulate the recommendations the panel referred back to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then in-turn to Cabinet for a

decision in October 2015, which were presented by Councillor Graham Snell in his capacity as Chair of the Thameside Complex Review Panel. The recommendations included:

- 1. A site that represents the Arts should remain in Grays.**
- 2. The Council should endeavour to improve and modernise the library, museum and registry service whether this be in the Complex or in another location.**
- 3. Any theatre needs to cater for the community but also a variety of professional acts and productions. It should represent the aspirations of a competitive regional theatre.**

At the meeting, Cabinet accepted the conclusions set out within the panel's final report as a set of guiding principles when exploring future cultural provision at the Thameside Complex.

## Supporting Pathways into Work for Young People

In November 2014 the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish the Supporting Pathways into Work for Young People Review Panel to examine how Thurrock Council and its partners currently support young people into the workplace, particularly through teaching employability skills in education and the work experience offer in Thurrock.

The Task and Finish Group was primarily concerned with the 11-16 age bracket which is prior to sixth form / college education and the common age of taking on part time work. The group took evidence from local businesses, educational providers, and included the Thurrock Youth Cabinet in all meetings of the group. The group was comprised of Cllr James Halden (Conservative, Homesteads) as Chair, Cllr Graham Snell (UKIP, Stifford Clays), and Cllr Steve Liddiard (Labour, Tilbury St Chads).

In November 2015 the panel formulated its conclusions and issued its final report, which were later referred to Cabinet in January 2016 where it was presented by Councillor James Halden, as Chair of the Supporting Pathways into Work for Young People Review Panel, and subsequently agreed. The panel's final recommendations included:

- That work experience offers became a part of the published admissions information given to parents and students when deciding upon a school.**

- **That work experience quality become part of the education awards and the business awards.**
- **Thurrock Council to offer a small amount of premium provision work experience places as a part of a Borough wide award for young people's community service.**
- **Youth Cabinet and Thurrock Youth Services to support schools and young people who wish to shape their own work experience offer.**
- **Thurrock Council to continue to work with Ensign Buses and C2C regarding the associated travel costs of work experience.**
- **That a request be made to the Chair of the Thurrock Business Board for a future agenda item on Youth Employment and Work Experience, that takes account of the outcomes from the recent Business:Education Summit.**

# Call-ins

Thurrock's Call-In process is a vital aspect of the Overview and Scrutiny function. It allows Councillors or Members of the public to ask that a decision of the Cabinet not be implemented until it has been subject to scrutiny by the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A Call-In of a Cabinet decision can be requested by two elected Members who are not members of the Cabinet, a voluntary group with an interest in the Borough, a local business situated in the Borough or ten residents in the Borough. The Call-In must be in writing and include reasons for the Call-In together with an alternative course of action.

The Call-In once it has been verified as legitimate and in accordance with the provisions of the council's constitution is then referred to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. The Committee receives all the evidence relating to the issue in question and following consideration, makes recommendations about whether the original decision should stand or whether Cabinet should be requested to reconsider its original decision.

During 2015-16 the Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered one Call-In as detailed below:

## Housing Estate Regeneration, Seabrooke Rise

The future of the Seabrooke Rise Housing Estate was a matter of much interest this year with debate at various meetings, the submission of petitions by members of the public and the matter being subject to a Call-In.

In October 2015 Cabinet agreed 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 were given a clear unambiguous set of choices. At this meeting it was also noted 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.

Following this meeting, Councillors Ojetola, Coxshall and Halden called in the recommendations of the Cabinet report 'Housing Estate Regeneration' (decision 01104415), in their capacity as three non-executive Members.

The Members who called-in the decision argued that the flats were not sustainable and did not represent 21st Century Britain, that a clear strategy needed to be in place that set out how the flats could be brought up to a decent homes standard or if they could not, to demonstrate a viable alternative option, such as demolition.

In November 2015 the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the comments of the Call-In Members together with the views and comments of officers, the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Lyn Worrall, and a number of residents of the Seabrooke Rise Estate who had also made representations at the earlier Cabinet meeting. Following a debate the Committee agreed to reject the Call-In with four votes to two, with the prevailing viewpoint that Cabinet had made a sound decision with the information available at its October meeting.

# Lower Thames Crossing

In early 2016 the Government released an announcement following a planning exercise for a number of Thames Crossing location options in Thurrock. Highways England is currently consulting on options for a Lower Thames Crossing; a new road crossing of the River Thames connecting Kent and Essex in order to reduce congestion at the Dartford Crossing and unlock economic growth, supporting the development of homes and jobs in the region.

The assessment by Highways England led to a proposal which is a tunnel under the Thames located east of Gravesend and Tilbury, with three possible route options north of the river, and two south of the river, which would connect to the new crossing being identified.

With such a significant scheme being planned for Thurrock and the considerable impact it will have on residents, businesses and third sector organisations, the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee organised a witness session for businesses and community organisations during the day of 9 February 2016, as an evidence gathering session where a number of community forums, charities, residents and businesses had an opportunity to share their views on the proposals.

Speakers included but were not limited to, Bonners Residents Association, Woolings Close Community, Horndon on the Hill Society & Community Forum, Lower Dunton Group, Orsett Forum, South Essex Wildlife Hospital, CPRE (Campaign for Preservation of Rural England), Vopak/Greenergy, Port of Tilbury and residents from Baker Street (Orsett), Bulphan, Chadwell St Mary and King Edward Drive. Many questions were raised by these groups at the witness session, which included:

- Why option D was ruled out and could it be relooked at?
- Why the outer ring option was not being considered.
- What was the problem that the crossing was aiming to resolve? It was felt that the problem was revised as the consultation continued.
- How Highways England and the Government would ensure that community severance would not have a major impact on the local people and that people would not be isolated.
- Would houses be built next to the new road in the green belt?
- Would a 14% traffic reduction on the existing crossing be value for money?
- Would the new crossing require Police escorted tankers?
- Was there evidence that work had already begun on both sides of the river?

All interested parties were concerned about the flood risks and air quality impact on Thurrock residents' health and wellbeing. It was felt that the current options were not

long term sustainable solutions to traffic growth and that the new routes would not reach their full capacity in the near future. Interested parties also highlighted that statistics used by Highways England were out of date and they alternatively raised many positive aspects of option D. Residents and communities feared that the only wildlife hospital in the region based in Orsett would be affected including rare wildlife and that the green belt required to be preserved along with Grade 2 listed buildings.

Following this witness session an extraordinary meeting of the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held that was chaired by Councillor Brian Little and included an update on the outcomes of the witness session, a presentation by Highways England and information on Lower Thames Crossing Consultation Options. As part of this meeting a number of Members from all political parties made statements, including Councillors John Kent, Sue Little, Tim Aker, Gerard Rice, Oliver Gerrish and Lynn Worrall.

At the meeting the Chair of the Committee also read a written statement to Members which was produced by the South Basildon and East Thurrock Member of Parliament Stephen Metcalfe. The MP's statement specified that he remained firmly opposed to all the options, however if following the consultation Highways England were determined to press forward with a new crossing in Thurrock, it was stated that Thurrock must have confidence that this was a genuine consultation and not a public relations exercise. The Committee were informed that the MP would be holding a number of drop-in session events for residents to bring their concerns directly.

Highways England are also hosting a number of information sessions in addition to other events hosted by the local authority, prior to closure of the Highways England Consultation which is anticipated to close on 24 March 2016. With such a considerable issue affecting the lives of Thurrock residents this matter is likely to continue to be a topic high on the agenda for Overview and Scrutiny next year.

The Lower Thames Crossing witness session was an extraordinary event, allowing local residents, businesses and organisations to put forward their opinions on the proposals from Highways England. Thank you all for giving your time and making your points so succinctly.

I was Chairing this committee for the day and also the evening session for Thurrock Council members.

A consolidated report which also included responses from consultants appointed by Thurrock Council was presented and agreed at cabinet for adopting as Thurrock Councils formal response to the consultation proposal.

Many hours were spent setting up the witness day, producing minutes and finally proposals. Thank you to all involved, it was an extremely professional report with clear messages.

The consultation has now closed and further announcements are expected later in the year.

The strength of feeling against these proposals was evident in the first days of the consultation.

Many organisations have been formed to continue the campaign against these proposals. I support your aims and wish you well in your endeavours.

Lastly I would like to thank the members of my committee for their time and efforts over the consultation period.

***Councillor Brian Little***

***Chair of Lower Thames Crossing Witness Day and  
Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee***





### 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 0 questions to the Leader and 5 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

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

**1. From Councillor Smith to Councillor Gledhill**

How many appointments have Thurrock Councils repairs contractors missed in the last municipal year 2015/2016?

**2. From Councillor Stone to Councillor Tolson**

In the Grays Thurrock ward we have had many complaints from residents in the Arthur Street / William Street area about black sacks of rubbish being dumped in the car park which also has cars which look like they have been abandoned. Can the portfolio holder tell me and the residents what will be done to keep this car park clean and stop the fly tippers using Thurrock as a dustbin?

**3. From Councillor V Holloway to Councillor Halden**

Will the portfolio holder commit to seeking a reduction in the health inequalities and life expectancy between Tilbury and Orsett?

**4. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Tolson**

Would Councillor Tolson set out her priorities for the Environment portfolio and when she expects to achieve them?

**5. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor B. Little**

Would the Cabinet member for Transport and Highways confirm the commitment of the new Administration to the former Labour Administration's Lower Emission Zones HGV management scheme?

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## Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 29 June 2016

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
22/07/15	Cllr Ojetola	<p>Radicalisation of youths seems to be quite rampant, doing nothing is not an option as parents are losing 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>A full briefing note on the background, current provision and options for greater Member involvement / panel was provided to Constitution Working Group Members in August 2015.</p>	David Bull
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"> <li>Housing Benefit withdrawn for 18–21 year</li> </ul>	<p>A paper is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> 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</p>	David Bull

## Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 29 June 2016

		<p>olds;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Benefit/ Local Housing Allowance (LHA) frozen for five years;</li> <li>• Tax Credits and Housing Benefit/LHA include only first two children in households born after April 2017;</li> <li>• Market rents charged in social housing where incomes are £30,000, additional rent receipts go to Treasury not Housing Revenue Account or Council.</li> </ul> <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>report to Housing O&amp;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 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	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	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	Fiona Taylor

## Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 29 June 2016

		commemorated in the Council Chamber for their work and contributions to the community of Thurrock.	various options for designing a suitable memorial.	
23/09/15	Cllr Halden	<p>The current crisis with refugees has led to calls for 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>Officers have been looking at how the council currently 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>	Carmel Littleton
28/10/15	Cllr Redsell	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>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>	Lucy Magill

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			The Police will continue to deal with such reported nuisance with support as required from their partners.	
28/10/15	Cllr J. Kent	<p>Thurrock Council is concerned at reports that government is considering scrapping Universal Free 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>	Letter to Treasury, DfE and Thurrock 2 MP's sent out.	Carmel Littleton
28/10/15	Cllr Ray	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>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</p>	Letters sent to both MPs	Lucy Magill

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		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.		
25/11/15	Cllr 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.	<p>The Council is expecting a Government decision on route options for the Lower Thames Crossing before the end of January. Two public meetings have been organised to discuss the issues on January 25th and February 25th and a special extended Planning, Transportation and Regeneration Scrutiny is planned for 9 February 2016. Highways England's proposals were published on 26th January with a preferred option for a bored tunnel between Gravesend and Tilbury.</p> <p>Revised Text:</p> <p>The Government decision on route options for the Lower Thames Crossing was published on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Since then two public meetings have been organised to discuss the issues on January 25th and February 25th and also a special extended Planning, Transportation and Regeneration Scrutiny took place on 9 February 2016.</p> <p>Highways England's preferred option is for a bored tunnel between Gravesend and Tilbury</p> <p>A PTR Scrutiny report has been produced and discussion took place at Cabinet on 9 March 2016. Three letters seeking to extend and then stop the flawed consultation were sent to the Secretary of State for Transport. No replies have been received.</p> <p>This Council meeting is being asked to sign off the formal consultation response in the opposition to the LTC through Thurrock.</p>	David Bull
25/11/15	Cllr Halden	Thurrock Council adopts the official position of being pro grammar school and desires that Thurrock	Local authority officers met with the Regional Schools Commissioner representative on 14.1.15 to explore	Carmel Littleton

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		<p>children should have access to them.</p> <p>The Authority should actively pursue / explore opportunities for grammar schools to expand into Thurrock via an annex.</p>	<p>opportunities for grammar schools to open an annexe in Thurrock. Exploratory discussions will be held over the coming weeks with local grammar schools.</p>	
25/11/15	Cllr Stewart	<p>That we ask Cabinet, at its next meeting, to immediately fund an alteration to the bus route to serve Fobbing over the winter months.</p>	<p>This has been implemented. Route 14 serves Fobbing to Basildon via Corringham and will operate until the end of the financial year.</p>	David Bull
27/1/16	Cllr Hebb	<p>That Thurrock Council looks to encourage the extension of the current Oyster Card Railcard / Contactless Payment Scheme and/or its replacement from Grays C2C station to all zones across the borough as they would both be helpful and a support to residents and growth. Council resolves to work with external agencies to realise this request.</p>	<p>Discussions are ongoing between Council Officers and c2c to progress this request.</p>	Ann Osola
27/1/16	Cllr Halden	<p>The chamber resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Health with regards to poor communication/ engagement from representatives of NHS England and NHS commissioning, particularly with reference to the consultation on the PET CT Scanner (cancer services) which we view as an unsound consultation.</p>	<p>On the 5 February 2016 a letter was sent to The Rt. Honourable Jeremy Hunt M.P, Secretary of State for Health, House of Commons.</p>	Ian Wake
27/1/16	Cllr Stone	<p>Further to the proposed cuts to the fire service across the borough of between one third and one half. This council resolves to express its concerns by:</p> <p>a) Objecting to these proposals through the Essex Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS) public consultation - and urges residents to do the same.</p> <p>b) Raising these concerns with the two members of</p>	<p>The Fire Authority will be attending Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny on March 17th as part of their consultation exercise. This will give members the opportunity to raise their concerns.</p> <p>Both MPs have been written to.</p> <p>A link to the EFRS public consultation has been included on the Council's website under Have my say (consultation portal).</p>	Lucy Magill / Karen Wheeler



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		parliament to enlist their support  c) Urging the EFRS to consider expanding the level of fire cover in Thurrock due to the rapid increase in jobs, industry and homes.		
24/2/16	Cllr Aker	A letter has been sent from the Leader of the Council to the Chief Executive of c2c setting out this request. No response has been received to date.	A letter has been sent from the Leader of the Council to the Chief Executive of c2c setting out this request. No response has been received to date.  C2C have endeavoured to find additional carriages to relieve the overcrowding in peak periods on services through Thurrock. However they have not been successful to date.  Council officers pressed C2C to attend PTR Scrutiny on 1st March 2016 but they were unable to attend. It has now been agreed that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and the PTR Scrutiny Chair will meet with C2C to discuss progress on the issues. A letter explaining the reasons for the Council motions has been sent to C2C.	Ann Osola
24/2/16	Cllr Jones	In light of recent events where the Borough of Thurrock was brought to a virtual standstill on the 28th January and 9th February because of events relating to the Dartford crossing, we request that Thurrock Council send a letter to both Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Services to rethink their proposals to drastically cut essential services to the borough of Thurrock and work with Highways England on an action plan to combat the chronic congestion that affects the whole Borough during such incidents.	Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Service have been written to.	Lucy Magill
23/3/16	Cllr Halden	Thurrock Council calls on the Home Office to expedite work to release money from police management costs in order to provide more funding	Letter sent by Steve Cox to the Home Secretary.	Lucy Magill

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		to the front line, such as the ongoing work to bring the blue light services together.		
23/3/16	Cllr Snell	This Chamber agrees that excessive bureaucracy and costs emanating from the EU have a detrimental effect on the efficiency and cost of Thurrock Council meaning that Thurrock Council would be better off if Britain was to vote to leave the European Union.	This motion does not require officer action.	