

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 **27 July 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 published on: 19 July 2016



## Agenda

Open to Public and Press

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1 Apologies for absence</b>	
<b>2 Minutes</b> To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 29 June 2016.	<b>9 - 28</b>
<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> In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	<b>29 - 30</b>
<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>31 - 34</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.	
<b>10 Review of Electoral Arrangements</b>	<b>35 - 70</b>
<b>11 Annual Cabinet Member Report for Education and Health</b>	<b>71 - 90</b>
<b>12 Questions from Members</b>	<b>91 - 92</b>

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
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 June 2016
Sub Licensing Committee	22 June 2016
Planning Committee	30 June 2016
Corporate Parenting Committee	5 July 2016
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6 July 2016
Licensing Committee	7 July 2016
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	12 July 2016
Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	18 July 2016

**15 Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year 93 - 100**

**16 To consider motions from Members in the order in which they were submitted 101 - 102**

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

**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:**

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

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## **Information for members of the public and councillors**

### **Access to Information and Meetings**

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

### **Recording of meetings**

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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.

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

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

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

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

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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.

### July 1916

DATE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	WARD	RANK	SERVICE	DIED
01-Jul	HILLS	THOMAS	24	G	PTE	ESSEX - 1	FRANCE
01-Jul	PITTS	GEORGE HARRY	38	G	L/CPL	ESSEX - 2	FRANCE
01-Jul	SEABROOKE	ALEXANDER STANGER	30	G	CAP	RAMC	EGYPT
01-Jul	STANLEY	THOMAS JAMES	23	G	PTE	MIDDLESEX - 2	FRANCE
01-Jul	WALING	CHARLES GEORGE BERT	19	G	L/CPL	ESSEX - 2	FRANCE
01-Jul	RAVEN	ARTHUR EDWARD	19	HOH	PTE	ESSEX - 2	FRANCE
01-Jul	HICKS	ERNEST EDWARD	24	L/TH	PTE	WEST SURREY - 7	FRANCE
01-Jul	GREYGOOSE	ALBERT	U/K	STIFF & ORS	L/CPL	ESSEX - 2	FRANCE
01-Jul	PACKETT	DAVID	U/K	STIFF	PTE	ESSEX - 2	FRANCE
01-Jul	BROWN	JAMES	23	W/TH & TIL	PTE	ESSEX - 1	FRANCE
01-Jul	ATTENBOROUGH	JOHN HADDON	24	S.OCK	2/LT	NORFOLK - 8	FRANCE
01-Jul	MUNDEY	HENRY	33	ORS	CPL	EAST YORKS - 1	FRANCE
01-Jul	EAST	JOHN	28	TIL	CAP	D.L.I. - 15	FRANCE
01-Jul	MILLS	FREDERICK WILLIAM	28	TIL	A/BMDR	RFA	IRAQ
02-Jul	HILLS	ARTHUR	25	PUR	BMDR	RFA	BELGIUM
02-Jul	COOTE	GEORGE	20	W/TH	PTE	ESSEX - 10	FRANCE
03-Jul	BECKWITH	CHARLES EDWARD	19	G	L/CPL	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
03-Jul	BESTALL	EDWARD DOUGLAS	22	G	LT	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE

03-Jul	HONEY	HENRY GEORGE	22	G & W/TIL	PTE	WEST SURREY - 7	FRANCE
03-Jul	BROWN	WILLIAM	U/K	FOB	PTE	WEST KENT - 10	BELGIUM
03-Jul	GOWER	ERNEST	20	CSM	L/CPL	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
03-Jul	DENTON	VICTOR HAROLD	19	MUCK	L/CPL	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
03-Jul	HUNWICK	ALBERT EDWARD	32	AVE	PTE	BUFFS - 6	FRANCE
03-Jul	NICHOLS	JOHN WILLIAM	31	SLH	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
03-Jul	WHEATON	ERNEST	23	L/TH	L/CPL	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
03-Jul	MERCER	BERTIE	25	STIFF	L/CPL	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
03-Jul	NORTH	ARTHUR	20	W/TH	L/CPL	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
03-Jul	ORTON	JAMES ENGLISH	27	W/TH	PTE	LANCERS - 9	FRANCE
03-Jul	HAYNES	JAMES	19	ORS	PTE	WEST KENT - 6	FRANCE
05-Jul	HOWES	ALFRED	27	G	PTE	ESSEX - 2	FRANCE
08-Jul	MANN	HAROLD	22	W/TH	CPL	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
10-Jul	KETLEY	CHARLES WILLIAM	24	MUCK & SLH & O	PTE	ESSEX - 1	FRANCE
10-Jul	BRITTON	ERNEST JOSEPH	20	SLH	L/CPL	MIDDLESEX - 12	FRANCE
11-Jul	BUTLER	ALBERT LEONARD	30	G	PTE	BEDFORD - 2	FRANCE
11-Jul	HARVEY	EDWIN MORTIMER	40	G	SGT	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
13-Jul	BAKER	RICHARD JOHN	23	TIL	PTE	WEST KENT - 7	FRANCE
16-Jul	SPARKS	FRED CHARLES	36	G	PTE	WELSH - 2	FRANCE
18-Jul	COTTIS	GEORGE ISHMAEL	24	G	PTE	LONDON - 23	FRANCE
19-Jul	PERCY	EDWIN	33	TIL	SGT	RGA	BELGIUM
20-Jul	HIDE	HARRY	30	G	RFMN	LONDON - 2/17	FRANCE
20-Jul	WEBB	WILLIAM MATTHEW	29	G	PTE	ESSEX - 10	FRANCE
20-Jul	WOOD	ARTHUR WILLIAM	20	G & L/TH	PTE	ESSEX - 10	FRANCE
20-Jul	KNOWLES	FRANCIS WILLIAM	27	CORR	PTE	ESSEX - 10	FRANCE
23-Jul	LLOYD	ERNEST	17	W/TH	PTE	R/FUS - 2	FRANCE
26-Jul	GREAVES	ARTHUR	24	TIL	PTE	AIF - 19	FRANCE
28-Jul	BRIDGER	ERNEST FRANK	26	SLH	L/CPL	MGC	FRANCE

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2016 at 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Councillors Cathy Kent (Mayor), Tunde Ojetola (Deputy Mayor), Tim Aker, John Allen, Chris Baker, Jan Baker, Russell Cherry, Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb (arrived 7.05), 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 Potheary, David Potter, Joycelyn Redsell, Sue Sammons, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Michael Stone, Pauline Tolson, Aaron Watkins and Kevin Wheeler

**Apologies:** Councillors James Baker, Claire Baldwin, Barbara Rice, Gerald Rice and Deborah Stewart

**In attendance:** Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive  
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT  
Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment and Place  
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health  
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation  
Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services  
Karen Wheeler, Head of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service  
David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer  
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.

### **13. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 25 May 2016 were approved as a correct record.

### **14. Items of Urgent Business**

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

### **15. Declaration of Interests**

No Interests were declared.

## **16. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor and the Leader of the Council**

Firstly the Mayor invited all those present to remember Thurrock's fallen during World War One and to reflect upon past conflicts and tragedies with the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of the Somme on Friday.

The Mayor then reflected on the tragedies that had happened across the world recently, with the Orlando shooting, the murder of MP Jo Cox and the recent bombing in Turkey and that together we will stand in defiance and none acceptance.

The Mayor stated that there was a 73 per cent turn out at the polling stations last week for the EU Referendum and that we will continue to support Thurrock and its residents regardless of any personal views and parties.

Finally the Mayor stated that since her election as mayor she had attended 19 events, 14 were in Thurrock and 5 were out of borough and gave a special mention to the presentation of the Sutherland pipes and drums in volunteers week and the reception attended to bid farewell to the last working Royal Mail Ship, St Helena, before her final voyages this year.

The Mayor reminded Members that it was the Orsett's Fire Station Open Day on Saturday 2 July and encouraged all to attend.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, stated that looking to the future he promised to improve the environment across Thurrock and that the administration's commitment to residents was clear, "Clean It, Cut It, Fill It". To ensure that green and open spaces are kept to a standard that we are all proud of and to keep them that way.

Residents need to be able to trust the Council to provide these and more complex services and that the Council had the right people working to get them done.

To also address these problems within the borough a new approach was definitely needed and with this in mind Portfolio Holders will be presenting reports over the next couple weeks to address these. Any changes will not take priority and announcements will be made shortly on the how these will be moved forward.

Councillor Gledhill stated that after the EU Referendum last week, the Council were still waiting to see what happens next. Particularly on funding, infrastructure and procurement and that no statements had been received as yet regarding whether any existing infrastructure projects will be going ahead or if there will be any new ones.

Councillor Gledhill reassured members and residents that as soon as the Council receives any notice of change these will be made available.



## **17. Questions from Members of the Public**

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be viewed under the relevant meeting date at <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock>.

## **18. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors**

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

Mr Perrin presented a petition to allow the continued trading of two premises in Derwent Parade in South Ockendon.

Councillor Collins presented a petition on behalf of residents of Lansbury Gardens, Tilbury on the increased concern for the safety of the complex.

## **19. Petitions Update Report**

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

## **20. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels**

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

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, informed the Chamber that he wished to make the following changes:

- For Councillor Piccolo be appointed as member of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Collins.
- For Councillor Kelly be appointed as substitute member of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Piccolo.
- For Councillor Redsell be appointed as member of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Piccolo.

Councillor Snell, Leader of the UKIP Group, informed the Chamber that he wished to make the following changes:

- For Councillor Gamester be appointed as Vice Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Wheeler.
- For Councillor Gamester be appointed as Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee.
- For Councillor Smith be appointed as Vice Chair of the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- For Councillor Hamilton be appointed as Vice Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee.
- For Councillor Hamilton be appointed to the vacancy on Licensing Committee.

Councillor Kent, Leader of the Labour Group, informed the Chamber that he wished to make the following changes:

- For Councillor Gerrish be appointed as substitute on Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- For Councillor Liddiard be appointed as member of the Health and Wellbeing Board to replace Councillor V Holloway.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That Councillor Piccolo be appointed as member of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Collins.**
2. **That Councillor Kelly be appointed as substitute member of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Piccolo.**
3. **That Councillor Redsell be appointed as member of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Piccolo.**
4. **That Councillor Gamester be appointed as Vice Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Wheeler.**
5. **That Councillor Gamester be appointed as Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee.**
6. **That Councillor Smith be appointed as Vice Chair of the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
7. **That Councillor Hamilton be appointed as Vice Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee to replace Councillor Smith.**
8. **That Councillor Hamilton be appointed as a member of the Licensing Committee.**
9. **That Councillor Gerrish be appointed as a substitute member of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
10. **That Councillor Liddiard be appointed as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board to replace Councillor V Holloway.**

## 21. Presentation by Essex Police

The Mayor introduced the Chief Superintendent, Sean O'Callaghan, the Assistant Chief Constable, Maurice Mason and Roger Hirst, Police and Crime Commissioner, to the meeting of Council and asked that they deliver their presentation which would then be followed by questions by Members.

The Police and Crime Commissioner thanked the Mayor and Members for inviting Essex Police to Thurrock Council and how important it was to engage with Members on Thurrock matters. A very detailed presentation was given by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Assistant Chief Constable to Members on the key local issues the Police faced:

- Key issues from the Community Safety Partnership and that the priorities of Thurrock will form part of the Police and Crime Plan.
- Sexual Violence – Domestic cases had been addressed in the manifesto in May.
- Road Safety – A serious issue in Essex that was being addressed by the police road unit.
- Gangs Conference – Gang activity was increasing in Essex and had received extra funding for new projects.
- Re-Structure of Community Police – This will be introduced into community hubs.
- Community Police – There are ten Special Police Officers and ten Specials lead by Inspector Lee Argent.
- Anti-Social Behaviour – Slightly down in the last few months but remains the forefront of achievements in partnerships.
- Multi Agency Safeguard Hub – It had excellent information sharing and being one of the best in the country.
- Training – Five thousand staff have been trained to be more aware and how to deal with vulnerability.
- Violence with Injury – Figures were slightly up.
- Safety – Essex was the fifteenth safest place out of forty-three in the country.
- Specials – Recruitment of 162 specials over the next twelve months and with the support of the Police and Crime Commissioner this will double in size. These will be placed into communities and safety teams.
- Community Safety Hubs – Have a good reputation in Thurrock with good information sharing and that the community safety plan will form part of this.
- Active Citizen – Recruiting of neighbours and friends to be more aware of residents around them.
- On-Line Fraud – One million pounds will be invested into digital to combat on-line fraud and to protect those most vulnerable.
- Hate Crime – This has risen in Thurrock by 50 per cent since the EU Referendum and that operations were already in place to address this.

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor Redsell – What was being done about the motorbikes that were causing mayhem across the borough? It was stated that further analysis would be undertaken with the police road unit to identify trends and patterns and that Essex Police have and will continue to be deployed to deal with incidents. The Police and Crime Commissioner would send details of what had already been achieved so far to Members.

Councillor S Little – Why were there delays when residents rang 101? It was confirmed that 92 per cent of 101 calls were answered within seconds and that the delay was with placing the call with the appropriate officer and on average there was a 2 minute wait. An investigation would be undertaken to identify the best way forward, to look at the costs and time of calls being answered against the service that was already in place.

Councillor Jones – What were Essex Police views on sharing premises with other emergency services such as Fire or Ambulance sites? It was stated that more would be done to share accommodation with other services and that advanced work was already in place with the fire service. Essex Police were also visiting schools within the borough to educate children.

Councillor Piccolo – If an off-road facility for motorbikes in the borough could be made available would this be supported by Essex Police? It was stated that if sufficient funding could be made available then yes this could be an option.

Councillor Smith – Agreed with other Members that bikers were a nuisance in the borough and that this should be prevented. It was confirmed that this was obviously a concern felt by more than one member and will be taken away and discussed with the Police Community Team.

Councillor Potheary – Were the police stations in Tilbury and Ockendon still planned to be closed? It was stated that no decisions would be reversed on the closure of police stations and that police officers should be more present in the community. Trends and patterns would be analysed on anti-social behaviour within the borough and would form part of the community safety plan.

Councillor Hague – What assurances can you give to residents of Thurrock that the threat of gangs to areas, such as Lakeside, was in hand? It was stated that significant arrests had taken place, with very good communications in place with the Metropolitan Police. More operations were being undertaken with stop and search proving a success. Monies had also been contributed by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Cherry – How many police officers were non-operational? It was stated that great strides were being made to address the high proportion of officers on sick leave. It was also stated that although officers were not

necessary available for operational work they would be working in the back office.

Councillor Tolson – With 46 per cent of hate crime been recorded in Essex how did this relate to Thurrock? It was stated that the 46 per cent related to 46 offences in Essex with very few of those offences in Thurrock.

Councillor Okunade – What forward planning and steps are being taken to protect residents of Thurrock? It was stated that the model used revolves around public protection, a serious crime directorate to deal with gangs and the local community police who will deal best with the local community issues.

Councillor Spillman – What assurances can you give residents that crimes were being recorded correctly? It was stated that a very robust approach to recording crimes was in place and Essex were the second best in the country for data accuracy. Essex Police would not become complacent and would continue to maintain high standards.

Councillor Ojetola – What links do the police have with gangs and multiple occupational homes? It was stated that gangs were buying and dealing from these premises and that inter agency action was in place and the community safety hubs were also in place to ensure the community was a safer place.

Councillor Hebb – What work was being done to reach the unreachable? It was stated that these were normally those people who did not feel safe or afraid to speak out and that any damaged reputation of the trust of the police needs would need to be rectified. The use of Crime Stoppers would need to be promoted and used in these situations.

Councillor Watkins – Will there be any future Resident and Police Events in the next year? It was confirmed that yes there will be future events as these events enabled Essex Police to track any trends and patterns in areas, however, police visibility was also important online.

Councillor Gerrish – What was in place to help educate residents to ring 101/999 if they have felt the system has failed them in the past? It was stated that this was a concern that some calls were being missed and that calls were monitored and this would be addressed so that the service improved.

The Police and Crime Commissioner thanked the Mayor and Members for inviting Essex Police to the council meeting and had received some good feedback to take away and asked Members to continue with questions and feedback by emailing himself or the Assistant Chief Constable.

The Mayor thanked the Chief Superintendent, Assistant Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner for attending.

## **22. Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2015-16**

Members received information on the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report that provided them with the main achievements of the overview and scrutiny committees for the municipal year 2015-16. The report was designed to inform residents of the achievements in an accessible and engaging format.

Councillor Hebb stated that lots of great ideas came out of the overview and scrutiny committees last year with some very passionate chair, vice chairs and members with good discussion. Noticeable was Councillor B Little's chairmanship of the cross party board and examination of the Lower Thames Crossing.

Councillor Hebb thanked all Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the work undertaken and thanked all Officers for the reports prepared.

Councillor Hebb stated that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered three parts – Democracy, Performance and Finance. For democracy, a cross party discussion on the elections in Thurrock had taken place and it had been agreed to reach out to Thurrock's customers, residents and business to ask them how the model of how politicians are elected in Thurrock in the future and announced that a report on this will be presented at July's Full Council.

Councillor Hebb stated he had one regret about a task that had not been undertaken at Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that was the accountability of Members and how they operated and represented Thurrock. Councillor Hebb stated that through the Legal Team, a report would be presented that would look at the highest accountability that will apply to members who do not abide by code of conduct or good governance.

Councillor Hebb stated that one performance KPI on Environment had not improved so this will now be followed up on the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Hebb stated that the review of the quality of KPI performance measures model which was currently red, amber and green would be changing to only Achieved or Failed.

A great amount of discussion had taken place with Sean Clark, Director of Finance and IT, on the future budget and the reserves amount which had not been revised since 2010/11 and those results would be announced in due course.

Councillor C Holloway stated that with regard to the announcement made by C2C on providing more carriages on trains he asked that Members to ensure that C2C are more specific on what they promise.

Councillor B Little stated that a further Planning Transport and Regeneration Committee was scheduled for next week and further updates would be available following this committee.

Councillor Wheeler asked if there were any details of costings on the employing of staff rather than Agency. Councillor Hebb stated as a new administration these costings will be reviewed and feedback would be available in due time.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**23. Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that five questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Members appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee were received.

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

**24. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies**

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

**25. Minutes of Committees**

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

**26. Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year**

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

**The meeting finished at 8.55pm.**

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)**



## Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 29 June 2016

### **Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.**

One question was submitted from 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.

#### **Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Madam Mayor and Mr Perrin.

Thank you for your kind words and sensible words. Excluding my size and weight I can assure you I am a very gentle with 15 years as a special constable makes you a much nicer person than some people might think.

On to your question. No. It is not wise for tenants either here or within any council property to be carrying our repairs to their gas appliances. In this specific case, Willmott Dixon have responsibility for the repairs and servicing for the first 12 months of the opening of the Bruyn Court and beyond that the Council will take up full responsibility of both servicing and repairs.

#### **Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Gledhill

#### **Mayor**

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

#### **Mr Perrin**

Taking account of the potential danger resulting from an improperly maintained gas boiler, I ask that the Council does not merely assume that the contractor is complying with its statutory duty regarding the maintenance of gas boilers, but is seen to be doing so?

#### **Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Perrin. Yes. That is a very good point to make sure that every single contract within the council is undertaken with an outside supplier is followed up whether it be gas boilers or indeed any of our other housing repairs or indeed road repair contracts. I will be liaising with officers to make sure this does happy and will write to you to assure that this will take place.

## **Item 12 – Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 5 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee had been received.

### **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 Council's repairs contractors missed in the last municipal year 2015/16?

**Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill, could you respond?

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Madam Mayor, and thank you Councillor Smith for your question. From the information collected by Mears, 1,668 appointments were missed by the contractor and a further 789 were missed by residents who had been notified of works. This is 8.66% of appointments missed by the contractor and those fall within the contract target of 10% that were missed. My personal opinion that is far too high, that does equate to somewhere between 6 and 7 a day over the whole year, and I can assure you that we are looking at this to see how this can be improved further from the results at the back end of the year.

**Mayor**

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

**Councillor Smith**

Yes, thank you Madam Mayor and a bewildering number. I have received a number of complaints citing broken appointments by TBC contractors, considering the previous portfolio holder painting a somewhat rosier picture of the figure. Interestingly, and Councillor Gledhill spoke about ideas of how we can improve that, he touches on something that I found interesting recently when dealing with a multi-national energy provider I was surprised and delighted to learn that if their engineer did not arrive within the 2 hour booked appointment slot they would compensate me, which I thought that was quite good. Could we expect Thurrock Council's housing repairs supplier to offer the same quality of service, and would the portfolio holder agree that compensating residents for missed appointments is something worth exploring?

## **Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you, Councillor Smith and Madam Mayor for allowing that supplementary. You raised very good points there. Other contractors for other services outside do put clauses within their contracts that people will be compensated if there are missed appointments. Obviously, the contract was set up under the previous administration, personally I think 10%, as I said, of missed appointments is too high a target to just accept that 1 in 10 is going to be missed and we do need to do a lot more and if that means putting a lot more pressure on our suppliers to do so then I'm more than happy to use any technique or anything that we can do within the contract to make this happen. Our housing residents should come first in this, not our suppliers. I do know that our suppliers and indeed our officers are working closer on a much better working relationship to decrease that size, but in my opinion 10% is too high, indeed in my opinion 5% is too high.

## **Mayor**

Councillor Smith, do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

## **Councillor Smith**

Does the portfolio holder think we have the right systems in place to look after the homes of our residents and can you advise if there are protections in place to renegotiate or potentially end contracts where a supplier is not delivering?

## **Councillor Gledhill**

There is always the option to end contracts where suppliers are not delivering, but as I have said a number of times already, they had a target to meet of 90% so therefore 10% of missed appointments. They're falling at 8.66% for the whole of last year but towards the back of the year it had reduced to 7.51%. Personally, as I say, that's still way, way too high, anything we can do within the contract framework obviously we will do, and nothing will ever be left out of the scope of making this a much better service including, should we need to, ceasing the contract, but I would much rather work with our contractors and with our officers and with our residents to make sure that this 92% is increased way, way up to the 97-98-99%.

## **Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Stone, would you please read out your question.

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

Thank you, Madam Mayor. In the Grays Thurrock ward we have had many complaints from residents in the Arthur Street / William Street area about the 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?

**Mayor**

Councillor Tolson, would you like to answer the question please?

**Councillor Tolson**

Yes, thank you Madam Mayor. Well, Councillor Stone would know that I don't like fly-tipping because we sat on the same committee. You probably, may be aware Councillor Stone that the fly-tipping was identified to two local individuals so they will be being dealt with by Environmental Enforcement Officers. Four cars were left there, two have been scrapped, one has been reclaimed and one, what happened to the other one? Oh yes, one has been removed from the car park.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Stone, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Stone**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Yes, your administration's commitment to residents is "clean it, cut it and fill it". Have you seen the length of the grass Councillor Gledhill has to pass every day in Grove Road when he walks to the Council and what can we do about it?

**Councillor Tolson**

I'm not sure that is a supplementary for this but I will happily answer it. The previous portfolio holder, during his term, last October sold a significant amount of cutting equipment for our parks and green spaces, significant amount and it has had a major impact and what that's done is it has meant that when we have incurred a problem, which we have, namely the spearhead being put in for service last November, being looked at in January and not being worked on finally until the 12<sup>th</sup> May this year, it's had a massive impact for our residents. So, people that want to play in the parks have had long grass and we're playing catch up. So whilst the team I've met are doing a sterling job, one of them really, really disappointed, he takes a great deal of pride in his work, he's worked for us for a long while he's never seen it like this. So unfortunately there wasn't any future provision and we can't even perform an elementary task like cutting the grass in Thurrock but I have to say I've spoken again recently with them, they're more upbeat, we've hired equipment in and we're getting on top of it.

## **Mayor**

Councillor Stone, do you wish to pose a secondary supplementary question? Okay. Councillor Victoria Holloway, could you please read out your question as on the agenda?

### **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?

## **Mayor**

Councillor Halden, could you please answer the question.

## **Councillor Halden**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Yes, I can give a commitment that we will seek to reduce health inequalities, but I have to address this myth that was always perpetrated that there was a difference between the life expectancy of areas like Orsett and the life expectancy of areas like Tilbury because of relative affluence or other reasons. It was always used as a bit of a sop, a bit of an excuse. The reasons are more complex than that, they're generational, they're educational and that's what we've got to tackle. So yes, I've already met with colleagues on the CCG to discuss primary care; I'm going to be meeting with colleagues on the Health and Wellbeing Board where we will be taking forward the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan which will include specific actions for Tilbury. I am meeting colleagues from Basildon Hospital to discuss the type of care that the people of Tilbury have to access at the Hospital because they don't have it at the primary care stage, I'm in fact going to be visiting Basildon Hospital late at night on a Saturday evening with the deputy Chief Executive to see it at its worst, but that in itself isn't going to deal with the issue. It is generational, there are complex educational issues, that's why I have also met already with the Head Teacher at the Pioneer School, at the Herringham School, at the Gateway Academy, visited two of those institutions in person because we've got to bring education and health together in the early years to make sure we don't see these same issues cropping up again in 50 years' time. We need to prepare children who are fit for adulthood. That's what this administration is going to do, we're going to bring education, we're going to bring health together, this Conservative administration is going to show Tilbury some love. Although, I can't get away with talking about Tilbury without talking about the issue of access to GPs and primary care. When you've got a situation where GPs are allowed to apply for funding to do things like health living disability checks and they don't do them, quite clearly, we have to be quite frank we're saying that some GPs are failing the population, I have got my team working on Metrics, we are going to hold these people to account, there's going to be absolutely no question of when there is poor access to primary care actually naming it and shaming it.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Holloway, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Holloway**

Thank you for your response Councillor Halden. I agree that there are complex reasons for the inequalities; however I probably don't agree that it's just age and education. However you did highlight that health and education was one of your key areas to look at; it would be very interesting to know your other key priorities for your Health remit of your portfolio.

**Mayor**

Councillor Halden?

**Councillor Halden**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. So, at the moment we've obviously got the situation where the NHS is going through a period of change, trying to consolidate the links between primary care and acute care, hospitals and GPs essentially, it's called the STP (Sustainability Transformation Plans). I've met with colleagues on the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, on the Southend Health and Wellbeing Board, the Leader of the Council of Southend to look at how we can best gel together these services because obviously the Success Regime, which is looking at improvements in acute hospital care, Southend, Mid Essex and Basildon. We're fortunate that our STP footprint happens to be exactly the same as the Success Regime, so we have got real scope to bring primary care and hospital care together in that really knitted way. That's why I've gone out of my way to get out of this building and to meet with partners to see how we can best do that whilst clearly articulating what is a political priority of mine, that we will work with you, we will get these things right, we will improve primary care, but at the same time we will not be subsumed into some sort of pan-Essex body. We will protect the integrity of the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board, the Thurrock Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Thurrock CCG and the Thurrock Cabinet. We will not be absorbed into some sort of large leviathan that will essentially be an old PCT in all but name, that's not going to serve the people of Tilbury and I won't be allowing it.

**Mayor**

Councillor Holloway, do you have a second supplementary?

**Mayor**

Councillor Gerrish, could you please read out your question as set out on the agenda.

**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?

**Mayor**

Councillor Tolson, could you please answer the question.

**Councillor Tolson**

Madam Mayor, thank you very much.

Can I just say, do you think it's hot in here? Can we get it sorted out for next month? I know it's not your job but whose job is it? I have asked for somebody else to do it.

Thank you, Councillor Gerrish, for your question. As alluded to earlier, the first thing I need to do now is sort out the equipment. We need to give our staff the equipment to do their role so that we can again shine in this borough, because we do have some lovely open spaces, we're nearly at the 6 weeks holiday and we all want to enjoy the good weather while we can. That's going to take a little bit of time; I didn't expect to have to do that. That's the first priority, and once we get that cut in we want to maintain it, make it look good. Second thing, there's far too much litter on the floor, but we have plenty of public bins to put it in, so we are going to have a littering campaign in the borough this summer. Point 3 is we're going to have some greater enforcement against fly-tipping. Fly-tipping has a few different facets; there's criminally organised activity, there's residents that do it and get prosecuted and they get caught, but if I could just say one thing directly to homeowners, homeowners and residents that forego the Thurrock bulk collection service, because of the cost or whatever, for whatever reason and they employ somebody to take that rubbish from their house they need to have a waste-transfer license. That person taking those goods from your house has to have a license and it has to have a booklet in triplicate: a copy for the homeowner – what they're taking, a copy for the driver and a copy for the CA site because you may pay that person to take that rubbish, but does it get to the CA site? So, third point just to reiterate, greater enforcement against fly-tipping because the homeowner may be paying twice through council tax too, because we have to clear it up afterwards. Point 4, as people will know the A1089, it has improved, I don't know whether people have been going down there, I have to say it has improved, but equally we want the A13 as well clean so it's keeping an eye on that, making sure that people that are working down near the port don't have to look at all that litter in those laybys, as the residents do as well, so let's just keep it tidy because we want business to come to Thurrock and we want it to be a clean borough. Thank you.

**Mayor**

Councillor Gerrish, do you have a supplementary question?

### **Councillor Gerrish**

Thank you, Madam Mayor.

I was about to suggest that if she couldn't handle the heat...but I think I'll be more generous than that and say welcome to the role; and obviously there's a lot to be getting on with in Environment. Clearly I support those priorities and I would say in particular that rubbish and litter is a key concern for residents, certainly in West Thurrock. As Chair of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Committee I want to make sure that plans to improve our borough are given the priority they need and on that she will have my support. In order to achieve this though, does she envisage any in year changes to the budget that she abstained on in March, and will there be any service reorganisation or changes and if so what will those be?

### **Councillor Tolson**

Well, as I have just explained, we are going to have to go and buy equipment, or hire or do something in that area. That's going to have a budget implication and I will be bringing a report to O&S and I hope that I do have your support, and other Members', I know there are some older Members on that Committee with experience and I know there are some newly elected Members, but at the end of the day we all want a cleaner borough because we all live in it and we should not have to be looking at all this litter which has a cost implication either in council tax one way or another. Thank you.

### **Mayor**

Councillor Gerrish, do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

### **Councillor Gerrish**

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Yes, I will do just briefly. I think we've heard from Councillor Gledhill's comments this evening and from the press release that was issued on the 28 June "our mantra is clear, clean it – we want litter free, clean streets and open spaces". Madam Mayor that's certainly something that I would agree with and I'm sure we've all seen this beautiful graphic distributed by the Conservative Party that the Conservative Council will "clean it, cut it and fill it". Madam Mayor, what is crucial in this is I think that the administration has some comprehending of the amount of money that it takes to run a full service, to make sure that our streets are entirely litter free because that is, after all, what they've promised, so Madam Mayor can I ask the portfolio holder when she will be bringing forward those proposals to make sure that our streets are entirely clear, and more importantly when residents can expect our streets to be entirely clear of litter as she's expected? After all I do believe that "clean it, cut it, fill it" is a good idea, I don't want it to become "wing it, fudge it, dodge it".



**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Tolson, could you please respond.

**Councillor Tolson**

Unfortunately, Councillor Gerrish, some people's behaviours are so entrenched that they don't realise when they toss that cigarette onto the floor, or throw that wrapper on the floor, they just don't realise they're doing it. So through education it hasn't worked so there's got to be a financial penalty brought in and that's going to be in the enforcement document, and I really hope you're going to have it for October's meeting. Thank you.

**Mayor**

Councillor Gerrish, would you please read your question out to Councillor Little as on the agenda please.

**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.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Brian Little?

**Councillor B. Little**

Thank you Madam Mayor, thank you for your question, Councillor Gerrish. Yes, we are committed to tackling the conflicts between HGV traffic and our residential communities. This year's transportation and highways capital programme includes the development of a range of new projects to help manage HGV's, using camera enforcement of HGV bans, which will help deliver the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. I have also asked officers to develop further plans to tackle congestion across the borough. Keeping traffic moving can bring about significant reductions in emissions, as the recent DEFRA-sponsored study on Elizabeth Road has highlighted. We have recently been out to consultation on further transport measures to support the Thurrock Air Quality & Health Strategy, with the intention of bring action plan proposals to Cabinet in September.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Gerrish, do you have a supplementary question?

**Councillor Gerrish**

Thanks, Madam Mayor. Yes, I do and I do thank again the portfolio holder for that response. In my view air quality is a hugely important issue in Thurrock, certainly in the West of the borough and I know through recent reports that we've seen how much of an issue it is in the East as well. I've always felt that we should expand this trial and seek to turn Thurrock into a fully-fledged Low Emissions Zone to better protect our air quality. Is that a direction the portfolio holder would support, and if so what would he be doing to advance that ambition?

**Councillor B. Little**

At the moment we are considering our options, as you would probably think that we would need to, but there are two new zones that are going to be developed very shortly through emissions issues and there will be monitoring going on and there are a number of action plans determined for the zones we currently have problems with. So, at the moment we are looking at what we can do and any possible actions in the future we will look at as well.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Gerrish, do you have a second supplementary question?

**Councillor Gerrish**

Thank you, Madam Mayor, and I would welcome that response. Certainly it's something that I would be very keen to see pursued, I hope that that will be something that the portfolio holder comes to as well. Madam Mayor as well as the HGVs on our roads, general congestion, as has been alluded to, also contributes to poor air quality. I wonder if the portfolio holder could update us on when we can expect to see the first set of actions starting to emerge from the congestion task force?

**Councillor B. Little**

Thank you for that supplementary supplementary. Our congestion task force met, I believe, in April. It's a very large group of people; there's another meeting set for September this year. We are currently looking at, within Thurrock, setting a group up for Thurrock Council that looks at congestion and tries to push along some of the items that are being suggested and proposals that are being suggested. I don't think, we're not going to fix them all and other people need to support us to be able to fix some of the ones we want to fix and also, in conjunction with some of the big agencies, we need them to work towards some of the objectives that we need as well. So there will be a group set up, I hope it's going to be cross-party, and we'll get a reasonable monthly push on where we want to go rather than it being meetings that go on for a number of months or waiting for diaries to be free and things like that of people that have got other jobs so watch this space. Within the next couple of weeks we will have a proposal.

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There is 1 question from the members of the public.

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

In 2014 I raised the issue of the £600,000 gifted to the Council by the Heritage Lottery Fund to spend on improvements to the Mardyke Valley. Can you tell me what improvements have been made since 2014 and if any improvements are currently ongoing?

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## Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 27 July 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 – 27 July 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>

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

## Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 27 July 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.
478	Petition on behalf of residents of Lansbury Gardens, Tilbury on the increased concerned for the safety of the complex	29/06/2016	Cllr Gledhill	Officers are currently assessing the request for installing gates as well as other means to improve the security and safety of residents at this complex. Other sheltered blocks have made similar request and so all of these will need to be looked at in terms of priority and available resources
479	Resolve the problems it has with the owners of "Nisa" and "Ockendon Pound Store" and allow them to continue trading thereby providing a much needed and highly value facility for the residents of South Ockendon	29/06/2016	Cllr Tolson	There has been communication between a number of people (within and external to the Council) regarding matters relating to the occupation of 11, 13 and 15 Derwent Parade for a number of years. Matthew Essex, Legal and Corporate Property have provided a number of replies to enquiries regarding the action being taken under the leases.

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<b>27 July 2016</b>	<b>ITEM: 10</b>
<b>Council</b>	
<b>Review of Electoral Arrangements</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Key
<b>Report of:</b> Cllr Shane Hebb, Cabinet Member for Finance & Corporate Operations	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Fiona Taylor, Director of Law & Governance	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
<b>This report is</b> Public	

## Executive Summary

This report provides background information to enable the Council to make a decision on the recommendation received from Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee that Full Council should consider consulting with the communities in Thurrock on potential changes to the Council’s electoral arrangements.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 **That a public consultation exercise be undertaken in accordance with the statutory requirements, relating to proposals to change the cycle of electing councillors to Thurrock Borough Council from elections by thirds to whole-Council elections with effect from May 2018.**

### 2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 On the 2 February 2016, as part of its planned work programme Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered an extensive report prepared by officers on “Review of Electoral Arrangements and Existing Boundaries”
- 2.2 This report advised of the ability of the council to change its electoral cycle and opt for whole-council elections, rather than by the current method of election by thirds. It also set out in detail the issues and options associated with moving to whole-council elections, the notional costs/savings of such a change together with the relative advantages and disadvantages of each method of conducting elections. The Committee were asked to consider the information provided and decide whether a change to the current electoral cycle should be recommended. The full Committee report and relevant minute may be found at **Appendix 1** of this report.

## **Whole-Council Elections**

- 2.3 At present the Council is elected by thirds, with one third of the councillors elected at a time. Under the four-yearly election option, all the seats on the Council would be up for election at the same time and the Borough Council elections would be held once every four years. At a meeting of Council held on 22 October 2014, consideration was previously given to a Motion also suggesting moving to whole-Council elections, but it was resolved not to change the electoral arrangements at that time. As indicated above the current recommendation has come forward from the work of Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee in February 2016.
- 2.4 The Local Government and Public involvement in Health Act 2007 (“The Act”), as amended by the Localism Act 2011, sets out a number of provisions in relation to elections including one enabling councils to vary their cycle of elections. The Act allows councils that elect by thirds to move to whole-Council elections. However, the law does not permit councils to move from elections by thirds to elections by halves.
- 2.5 In 2004, the Electoral Commission published a paper entitled “The Cycle of Local Government Elections in England: Report and Recommendations”. Although the report is now some years old, the research and recommendations are still pertinent to the decision faced by the Council. The main arguments for partial/whole-Council elections were identified in the Commission’s consultation document (2003) as follows:

### **For partial elections – the existing status quo:**

- More frequent opportunities for electors to exercise their right to vote.
- May facilitate more immediate political accountability, although unlikely to make larger; wholesale changes to the council’s ruling administration.
- Tends to produce less drastic changes in political direction, and provide greater political continuity.
- May reduce the likelihood that the timing of important or controversial decisions are distorted by the timing of elections.

### **For whole Council elections:**

- Greater possibility of wholesale change in control is likely to encourage additional voter participation in local elections.
  - Too frequent elections might dilute public interest.
  - Opportunities for all electors in an area to influence the composition of the authority at the same time.
  - Encourages greater long-term planning by authorities, and discourage continuous election campaigning/regime change.
- 2.6 The Commission also acknowledged that the costs to local authorities of running whole-Council elections would be less than those incurred by holding elections by thirds (see paragraph 7 for financial implications).

- 2.7 The Commission concluded that a pattern of whole-Council elections for all authorities in England would provide a clear, equitable and easy to understand electoral process which would best serve the interests of local government electors. The Commission recommended that each local authority in England should hold whole-Council elections, with all Councillors elected simultaneously, once every four years.
- 2.8 The Commission has provided information on the electoral cycle of local authorities in England, which shows that 38 out of the 56 unitary authorities currently have whole-Council elections (over 66% of all unitary councils across the borough). All of the London Boroughs and County Councils have whole-Council elections and 128 (out of the 201) of the second tier district authorities have this form of election. All of the Metropolitan districts are on elections by thirds.
- 2.9 If, the Council was minded to move towards holding four-yearly elections, then a public consultation exercise would need to be undertaken before any final decision was made. The legislation does not specify the type of consultation that should be carried out or how long the consultation process should take. However, the good practice guidance on consultation exercises suggests that a 12 week consultation period would be appropriate. The intention would be to use the following forms of consultation:
1. Website – Information about the process to be placed on the website with the ability for members of the public to complete an online survey (hard copies will be available on request and placed in libraries).
  2. Issue press release and use of other communication channels to promote the consultation e.g. social media.
  3. Consultation with Elected Members, local Members of Parliament.
- 2.10 Following the conclusion of the consultation period, if it is decided to move to all out elections, an Extraordinary meeting of Council will be needed to pass a resolution to change to whole-Council elections. There is a requirement that the resolution must be passed “by a majority of at least two thirds of the Members voting on it” (Section 33 (3) (b) of the 2007 Act). The resolution would need to specify the year the elections would be first held.
- 2.11 If, at the Extraordinary meeting, it is decided to move to whole-Council elections, then as soon as reasonably practicable, an explanatory document has to be produced setting out details of the new electoral arrangements. In addition, the Electoral Commission would need to be advised that the Council has passed a resolution to change to all-out elections.

### **Timing**

- 2.12 The suggested recommendation proposes a move to publically consult about potential moves to whole-Council elections which would take effect in 2018.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed that a change in the electoral cycle could take place in any year.

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

- 3.1 The Council is not obliged to move to whole-Council elections. The provisions in the governing legislation are not prescribed and the Council may choose to retain the system of holding elections by thirds should it wish to do so. However, the law does not allow the Council to move from elections by thirds to elections by halves.

#### **The cost of running local elections**

- 3.2 Under the current system of electing by thirds, the cost of running a local election has been estimated as follows:

- Local election, not combined with another election (see 2018 on the current timetable of elections) £200,000
- Local election, combined with another election (see 2016 and 2019 on the current timetable of elections) £120,000
- Local election, combined with two other elections (see 2020 on the current timetable of elections) £100,000

- 3.3 The cost of running a whole-council local election has been estimated as follows:

- Local election, not combined with another election (for example 2017 /18 and 2021 /22 on the proposed revised timetable) £230,000

- 3.4 If the council moved to whole-council elections from May 2017, and every four years thereafter, the next scheduled local election would take place in 2021. It should be noted that the local elections would not be combined with the Parliamentary elections.

- 3.5 It has been estimated that, under the current system of electing by thirds, the cost of holding local elections in each applicable year from 2016 to 2021 will be in the region of £540,000.

Cost	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Estimate cost to 2020/21
	Local	-	Local	Local	Local	
	-	-	-	-	General	
	-	-	-	European	-	
	PCC (Police Crime and Commissioner)	-	-	-	PCC	
<b>Cost to Local Authority</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>£540,000</b>
	Referendum 2016					

3.6 The estimated cost of holding local elections in the same time period under a whole-council system starting in **May 2017** would be in the region of £350,000, an estimated saving of £190,000 as shown below:

Cost	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Estimate cost to 2020/21
	Local (by thirds)	Local (whole council)	-			
	-	-	-	-	General	
	Referendum		-	European	-	
	PCC	-	-	-	PCC	
<b>Cost to Local Authority</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£350,000</b>

3.7 The estimated cost of holding local elections in the same time period under a whole-council system starting in **May 2018** would be in the region of £350,000, an estimated saving of £190,000 as shown below:

Cost	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Estimate cost to 2020/21
	Local (by thirds)		Local (whole council)			
	-	-	-	-	General	
	Referendum		-	European	-	
	PCC	-	-	-	PCC	
<b>Cost to Local Authority</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>230,00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£350,000</b>

### By-elections (and associated costs)

- 3.8 The term of office of a councillor is four years. A by-election is required when a vacancy on the council has to be filled between regularly scheduled elections.
- 3.9 The cost of holding a by-election to fill a single vacancy has been estimated in previous reports as between £10-12,000. The recent by election for West Thurrock & South Stifford in September 2015 cost approximately £13,000. A by election in a ward with temporary polling stations (for example The Homesteads) would be around £20,000.

#### West Thurrock & South Stifford (2015)

Staffing	£4,500
Buildings	£550
Postal voting	£950
Ballot papers & Postal Packs	£1,434
Poll cards & postage	£4,358
Miscellaneous	£1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,792</b>

### Implications of any change on the running and management of already scheduled elections

- 3.10 The practical impact of organising separate elections on the same day needs to be considered carefully, particularly if the scale of the local election was to increase owing to a move to the full council being elected rather than a third of members of the authority.

- 3.11 The turnout figures for local elections are likely to be boosted by association with a high profile election. However, that association could obscure local issues for voters when casting their vote in the local elections. Whole council elections from 2017 or 2018 would not schedule the local elections in line with a national election.
- 3.12 Considerable expertise and organisation will be required to ensure these crucial events are run well. The risk to the council's reputation is substantial, so the professionalism and experience of staff in producing a transparent and accurate result is crucial.
- 3.13 A change to the electoral cycle in 2017 or 2018, or a year thereafter, is likely to have the following implications:
- There is a high risk of elector confusion, as they will be asked to vote for more than one candidate when this has not previously been the case in Thurrock. This could cause problems on the day of the election. However Thurrock has many new communities who may be familiar with this approach.
  - Staff training will need to be reviewed and resources increased to ensure the nomination process is managed effectively with the increase in candidate numbers and a change to ballot papers with voting for more than one candidate.
  - The cost of ballot papers will increase due to the increased number of candidates and potentially increase the number of ballot boxes required.
  - The nomination process and timeframe will require additional staff resources to check and input nomination papers.
  - Count venue costs and staffing costs may increase due to lengthened count process.
  - There is a risk of rushing to implement any change in 2017 and 2018 may be better. Electoral Services and electors are adjusting to Individual Elector Registration (IER). Consultation may need to be resourced corporately and is likely to involve additional costs.
  - Retention of staff knowledge and training on local elections may be difficult to sustain with a four year cycle.
  - Electors will not be expecting an election in 2017. Considerable publicity and resources will be required to highlight a change to the electoral cycle and voting process within Thurrock.

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

- 4.1 To respond to the recommendation of Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

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

- 5.1 As set out in the report.

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

6.1 Becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.

**7. Implications**

**7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**  
**Senior Finance Officer**

The cost of an election is met by the body or bodies whose representatives have been elected and therefore, any occasion where a local election is combined with another would see a reduction in costs to the council.

The costs associated with running an election and a by-election have been estimated and are set out in the report. Any move to whole council elections would generate an estimated saving of £190,000 over the next 4 years.

Any savings that may be associated with a proposal to change the cycle of elections would be dependent upon the year in which the new cycle was to commence, as this would determine when local elections may be combined with others and therefore see a reduction in costs.

The savings achieved by the proposed changes to the electoral arrangements would contribute towards meeting the Council's budgetary challenges.

**7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**  
**Deputy Monitoring Officer**

The legal implications are addressed in the report.

**7.3 Diversity and Equality**

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

None.

**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):

- The Cycle of Local Government Elections in England – Consultation Paper – Electoral Commission (2003)
- The Cycle of Local Government Elections in England – Recommendations for change - Electoral Commission (2004)
- The Economic Development and Construction Act 2009
- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- Localism Act 2011
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Reviews (2014)

**9. Appendices to the report**

**Appendix 1** – Review of Electoral Arrangements Report – Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee – February 2016

**Report Author:**

David Lawson  
Monitoring Officer  
Law & Governance

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<b>2 February 2016</b>		ITEM: x
<b>Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Review of Electoral Arrangements and Existing Boundaries</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Key	
<b>Report of:</b> David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer		
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Fiona Taylor, Head of Legal Services		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive		
<b>This report is public</b>		

### **Executive Summary**

This report advises of the ability of the council to change its electoral cycle and opt for whole-council elections, rather than by the current method of election by thirds.

Issues and options associated with moving to whole-council elections are set out within the report. The notional costs/savings of such a change have also been included, together with the relative advantages and disadvantages of each method of conducting elections.

The Committee is asked to consider the information provided and decide whether a change to the current electoral cycle should be recommended.

The report also provides information on local government boundary reviews.

#### **1. Recommendation(s)**

**1.1 Members are requested to consider whether to recommend a change to the electoral cycle of the council and move to whole-council elections every four years, rather than electing by thirds.**

**1.2 Officers were asked to provide an analysis on the current ward boundaries and confirm what Members are legally required to do in terms of a boundary review whereby Members will discuss and debate the information and make recommendations.**

#### **2. Introduction and Background**

**2.1** The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the Election Arrangements in Thurrock at its meeting on 20 March 2014, where Committee

Members resolved to inform and update their respective groups around the report and its contents and seek to progress debate on the issue in the new municipal year. Minutes of the meeting are attached at **Appendix 1** for information.

- 2.2 Subsequently, Councillor Hebb submitted a motion to Full Council on 22 October 2014 which read as follows and is attached at **Appendix 2**:

*“Thurrock is an area which is thirsty for regeneration, and needs political stability to attract investment. It therefore needs to demonstrate a more stable; consistent; lower-cost governance system.*

*Following a number of years of being in No Overall Control (NOC) Thurrock Council resolves to investigate and implement a move to a Four Yearly Election model”.*

- 2.3 Following debate at the meeting on 22 October 2014 the motion was lost, detailed at **Appendix 3** (minute number 67 refers). Since this time the matter has not been progressed further, however further information is set out for Members information and consideration.

- 2.4 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2000 provides principal authorities with three options for holding local elections, as set out below:

- whole-council elections, where an election is held every four years and all councillors are to be elected
- elections by halves, where an election is held every two years and half of the councillors are to be elected on each occasion
- elections by thirds, where elections are held three years out of every four and one third of the councillors are to be elected on each occasion.

- 2.5 Thurrock Council currently elects by thirds and the Committee are therefore requested to consider whether to recommend a move towards whole-council elections every four years.

- 2.6 Prior to 2008, the process of changing the electoral cycle of a local authority involved seeking approval from the Secretary of State. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 made it easier for principal authorities to change their electoral arrangements and gave councils the opportunity to decide this issue for themselves, subject to certain restrictions as to the years the whole-council election could be held.

- 2.7 Section 24 of the Localism Act 2011 has since amended the provisions in the 2007 Act and now allows councils that currently elect by thirds or halves to resolve, at anytime, to move to whole-council elections.

- 2.8 If the council wishes to move to whole-council elections under Section 32 of the 2007 Act, it must carry out the following actions in the order listed:

- Take reasonable steps to consult with such persons as it thinks appropriate on the proposed change;
- Convene a special meeting of council;
- Pass a resolution at that special meeting to change the electoral cycle by a two thirds majority of those voting. The council must pass the resolution before 31 December to allow all-out elections to be held in the following May (Section 34);
- Publish an explanatory document on the decision and make this available for public inspection (Section 35); and
- Give notice to the Electoral Commission that it has passed the resolution (Section 36).

2.9 When seeking to pass such a resolution, Section 24(3) of the Localism Act 2011 requires the council to specify the year in which it will hold its first election and elections will then be held every fourth year thereafter.

2.10 If the council were to seek to change its electoral cycle and move to whole-council elections, the earliest opportunity for these to be held will be in May 2017. In order to do this, the council must pass a resolution to do so before 31 December 2016.

2.11 The council may seek to change its electoral cycle at any time in the future and until such time as legislation is amended, must follow the steps set out in paragraph 2.8 above.

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

#### **Forthcoming elections in Thurrock**

3.1 The scheduled timetable of elections in Thurrock from 2016 to 2020 includes the following types of election:

- Local
- Parliamentary
- European Parliamentary
- Police and Crime Commissioner

3.2 There will also be a Referendum called before the end of 2017. The current timetable of elections up to 2020 is set out below:

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Local	-	Local	Local	Local
-	-	-	-	General
-	-	-	European	-
PCC	-	-	-	PCC
Referendum before end 2017				

3.3 Should the cycle of local elections be changed to whole-council elections, for example from 2017, the number of local elections required to be held will be reduced by three (in 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21). The timetable of elections in Thurrock will therefore be as follows:

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Local (by thirds)	Local (whole council)	-			Local (whole-council)
-	-	-	-	General	
Possible Referendum	Possible Referendum before end 2017	-	European	-	
PCC	-	-	-	PCC	

### Strengths and weaknesses of different electoral cycles

3.4 The primary strengths and weakness of the move to whole-council elections, rather than elections-by-thirds, are set out below.

Strengths:

- The council has a clear mandate for 4 years, allowing it to adopt a more strategic, long term approach to policy and decision making and focus less on yearly election campaigning. Indeed, Lord Heseltine's 2012 report on economic growth "No Stone Unturned in Pursuit of Growth" makes a strong recommendation for whole Council elections based on his views that 4 year term authorities are better placed to take long term strategic decisions;
- It avoids election fatigue and the results are simpler and more easily understood by the electorate. There would be a clear opportunity for the electorate to change the political composition of the council once every four years;

- Greater publicity of whole council elections may generate higher turnout. The Electoral Commission suggests that electorates associate more clearly with whole-council elections;
- It may appear to be cheaper for the council and political parties as well as less disruptive to public buildings used as polling stations excluding those years where there is a standalone, non local election; and
- Causes less disruption and ensures the council is working 12 months per annum not 10 in 3 out of every 4 years when an election is to be held

#### Weaknesses:

- Electors would lose the opportunity to influence and hold the Council to account on an annual basis;
- Smaller parties may find it harder to resource the “whole Council” elections process
- It may be harder for independent candidates standing on a matter of strong local interest to get elected without an annual poll
- Perceived lack of continuity if there are a lot of new Councillors at one election, although this has not been a problem in any councils operating the system;
- Higher potential for by-elections;
- Additional cost of consultation on any proposals to change the electoral cycle; and
- Additional cost of publicity on the new system and what this means for electors.
- Additional cost of whole council election in 2017/18 (unplanned for) and a whole council election in 2021/22 will not be part funded by a Parliamentary election
- Whole council elections in 2017/18 and 2021/22 will not be assisted by national publicity for Parliamentary elections and may not benefit from the higher local turnout at these elections.

3.5 The primary strengths and weakness of retaining elections-by-thirds are set out below.

#### Strengths:

- Avoids electing a complete change of councillors with no experience and allows continuity of councillors;
- More likely to be influenced by local rather than national politics, and this national influence will increase given the trend toward Parliamentary elections being held on the same day as local elections;
- Encourages people into the habit of voting, and voting for one person is well understood by voters. Voting for two or three councillors under whole-council elections could cause confusion;
- Allows judgement of a council annually rather than every four years and allows the electorate to react sooner to local circumstances, thereby providing more immediate political accountability;

- Regular booking of polling facilities and use of staff on election duties increases effectiveness of training and retention of polling facilities;
- Electors are familiar with an election every year and a change to whole-council elections is likely to cause confusion; and
- In 2 out of the 3 years the cost of the local election will be part funded by a Parliamentary election. In 2019/20 this will be a 50% cost for a local election. In 2020/21 this will be approximately 33% cost as there will be three elections scheduled.

#### Weaknesses:

- Current system encourages short-term thinking and lack of planning; and
- Costs of holding elections in three out of every four years. However, if whole elections were held in 2017 the local election costs will be funded in full by the local authority for 2017 and 2021 as there is no scheduled Parliamentary election.

### **The cost of running local elections**

3.6 Under the current system of electing by thirds, the cost of running a local election has been estimated as follows:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| • Local election, not combined with another election (see 2018 on the current timetable of elections)      | £200,000 |
| • Local election, combined with another election (see 2016 and 2019 on the current timetable of elections) | £120,000 |
| • Local election, combined with two other elections (see 2020 on the current timetable of elections)       | £100,000 |

3.7 The cost of running a whole-council local election has been estimated as follows:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| • Local election, not combined with another election (2017 and 2021 on the proposed revised timetable) | £230,000 |
|--|----------|

3.8 If the council moved to whole-council elections from May 2017, and every four years thereafter, the next scheduled local election would take place in 2021. It should be noted that the local elections would not be combined with the Parliamentary elections.

3.9 It has been estimated that, under the current system of electing by thirds, the cost of holding local elections in each applicable year from 2016 to 2021 will be in the region of £540,000.



<b>Cost</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Estimate cost to 2020/21</b>
	Local	-	Local	Local	Local	
	-	-	-	-	General	
	-	-	-	European	-	
	PCC (Police Crime and Commissioner)	-	-	-	PCC	
<b>Cost to Local Authority</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>£540,000</b>
	Referendum before end 2017					

3.10 The estimated cost of holding local elections in the same time period under a whole-council system would be in the region of £350,000, an estimated saving of £190,000 as shown below:

<b>Cost</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Estimate cost to 2020/21</b>
	Local (by thirds)	Local (whole council)	-			
	-	-	-	-	General	
	Possible Referendum	Possible Referendum before end 2017	-	European	-	
	PCC	-	-	-	PCC	
<b>Cost to Local Authority</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£350,000</b>

**By-elections (and associated costs)**

- 3.11 The term of office of a councillor is four years. A by-election is required when a vacancy on the council has to be filled between regularly scheduled elections.
- 3.12 The cost of holding a by-election to fill a single vacancy has been estimated in previous reports as between £10-12,000. The recent by election for West Thurrock & South Stifford in September 2015 cost approximately £13,000. A by election in a ward with temporary polling stations (for example The Homesteads) would be around £20,000.

	<b>West Thurrock &amp; South Stifford (2015)</b>
Staffing	£4,500
Buildings	£550
Postal voting	£950
Ballot papers & Postal Packs	£1,434
Poll cards & postage	£4,358
Miscellaneous	£1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,792</b>

#### **Implications of any change on the running and management of already scheduled elections**

- 3.13 The practical impact of organising separate elections on the same day needs to be considered carefully, particularly if the scale of the local election was to increase owing to a move to the full council being elected rather than a third of members of the authority.
- 3.14 The turnout figures for local elections are likely to be boosted by association with a high profile election. However, that association could obscure local issues for voters when casting their vote in the local elections. Whole council elections from 2017 would not schedule the local elections in line with a national election.
- 3.15 Considerable expertise and organisation will be required to ensure these crucial events are run well. The risk to the council's reputation is substantial, so the professionalism and experience of staff in producing a transparent and accurate result is crucial.
- 3.16 A change to the electoral cycle in 2017, or a year thereafter, is likely to have the following implications:
- There is a high risk of elector confusion, as they will be asked to vote for more than one candidate when this has not previously been the case in Thurrock. This could cause problems on the day of the election. However Thurrock has many new communities who may be familiar with this approach.

- Staff training will need to be reviewed and resources increased to ensure the nomination process is managed effectively with the increase in candidate numbers and a change to ballot papers with voting for more than one candidate.
- The cost of ballot papers will increase due to the increased number of candidates and potentially increase the number of ballot boxes required.
- The nomination process and timeframe will require additional staff resources to check and input nomination papers.
- Count venue costs and staffing costs may increase due to lengthened count process.
- There is a risk of rushing to implement any change in 2017. Electoral Services and electors are adjusting to Individual Elector Registration (IER). Consultation may need to be resourced corporately and is likely to involve additional costs.
- Retention of staff knowledge and training on local elections may be difficult to sustain with a four year cycle.
- Electors will not be expecting an election in 2017. Considerable publicity and resources will be required to highlight a change to the electoral cycle and voting process within Thurrock.

### **Implications of any change on the work of Electoral Services**

- 3.17 With the current cycle of elections, as shown in paragraph 3.2, Electoral Services will have one year where no elections are scheduled to be held, 2017-18. Any change to the cycle of elections is likely to have implications for the work of the team.
- 3.18 It is important to note that throughout the course of any given year, the team continue to undertake vital work to support both the electoral registration and election process. Those years where an election is not scheduled to be held provide an opportunity for statutory and other more time-consuming project work to be undertaken.
- 3.19 The types of work usually undertaken by the team are:

#### Statutory Annual Canvass:

- Canvass all households according to the current legislation. This is typically a 5 month project
- Publication of the revised register by 1 December each year

#### Compilation of the Register of Electors on behalf of the Electoral Registration Officer, including:

- Monthly updates by statutory dates
- Maximising registration – data mining, tracking and inviting new residents to register, including statutory requirement to follow up non responders and personally visit non responding electors

- Accuracy of register – reviewing existing electors following receipt of information and removing from register if required
- Maintaining the property register
- Provision of data to credit agencies and other persons permitted to receive the register by legislation
- Reporting on performance standards to the Electoral Commission

#### Project work:

- Review of processes in non election years
- Refresh of paperwork including storage of forms / scanned images
- Audit and refresh of election equipment
- Statutory Absent Vote Refresh. This is typically a 3 month project
- Statutory Polling Place and District Reviews. This is typically a 4 month project at a minimum. The next review must commence by October 2018.
- At any time there is the potential for By elections, Community Governance Reviews, Referendums and Council Tax referendums

- 3.20 A proactive approach is required by the Service throughout the year in order to maintain accurate and complete registers, ensuring as far as possible that all eligible persons are on the register and that all non eligible persons are removed. The Electoral Registration Officer has a duty to maintain an accurate register and the service undertakes activity throughout the year to identify people who are not registered individually and encourage them to register.
- 3.21 The Service implemented Individual Elector Registration (IER) in 2014 and carried out the first annual canvass under IER in 2015. 2015/16 will be the first 'normal' year of operation under IER. One implication of IER is the requirement to continuously data mine to identify electors who are not registered and send up to three reminders and personally canvass potential electors who do not respond to initial invitations.

#### **Transition to whole council elections**

- 3.22 If the council pass a resolution to move to whole-council elections, the term of office of all councillors will come to an end in May of that year, irrespective of the councillors' length of service at that time.
- 3.23 This will need to be explained to both serving councillors who have not served their full four year term of office, together with any candidates who wish to stand in a local election the year before a change to the electoral cycle comes into effect. This would therefore impact on the forthcoming local election in May 2016/17 and bring forward a local election in a year scheduled for no election (2017/18).

#### **Boundary Reviews**

- 3.24 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is responsible for conducting reviews for local government.
- 3.25 Electoral reviews are a review of electoral arrangements of local authority and may include the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards and electoral divisions and the number of councillors to be elected to each.
- 3.26 An electoral review is initiated primarily to improve electoral equality and to ensure that as far as is reasonable the ratio of electors to councillors in each electoral ward or division is the same.
- 3.27 The commission is responsible for putting any changes to electoral arrangements into effect and does this by making a Statutory Instrument or Order. The local authority then conducts local elections on the basis of the new arrangements set out in the order.
- 3.28 The electoral arrangements of every principal local authority in England must by law, be reviewed from time to time. These reviews are known as periodic electoral reviews (PERs). The Commission decide when there is a need to conduct a programme of such work. The last round of PERs commenced in 1996 and was completed in 2004. The Commission is not currently undertaking PERs but has a rolling programme of electoral reviews undertaken for a number of different reasons.
- 3.29 The Commission undertake electoral reviews when the electoral variances in representation across a local authority become notable. The criteria for initiating a review in those circumstances are as follows:
- more than 30% of a council's wards/divisions having an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for that authority; and/or
  - one or more wards/divisions with an electoral imbalance of more than 30% *and*
  - the imbalance is unlikely to be corrected by foreseeable changes to the electorate within a reasonable period.
- 3.30 To put this in to context within Thurrock, the Electoral Services Manager has provided an analysis of variances across the borough based on electorate figures in 2015. The officer is not aware of the calculations used by the Commission; the figures and calculations used are one possible way to provide an analysis for debate and to put any request for a review in perspective.
- 3.31 For the purposes of this analysis, the 20 wards have been split into two and three member wards. The average number of electors per councillor was calculated based on whether the ward had two or three members. It was then possible to see how many electors were served by one member and what the variance was against the average variance. These calculations are shown in Appendix 4.

- 3.32 The analysis provided that three of 20 wards had an average variance more than 10%. Three wards were more than the average whilst one ward (Tilbury St Chads) was under the average ratio.
- 3.33 The commission states that to initiate a review, more than 30% of a council's wards should have an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for that authority. By following this analysis the imbalance is only 15%. This does not appear to meet the criteria outlined by the commission.
- 3.34 The other criteria for initiating a review is that one or more wards has an electoral imbalance of more than 30%. The largest (negative) imbalance is within the ward of Chafford and North Stifford. However, this ward is still below the 30% threshold by approximately 373 electors per member.
- 3.35 There is no upper limit in legislation regarding the number of councillors that may be returned from each ward or division. However the Commission's view is that wards or divisions returning more than three councillors results in a dilution of accountability to the electorate and they will not normally recommend a number above that figure. There are currently no principal authority wards or divisions in England returning more than three councillors.
- 3.36 Members have requested information relating to the current boundaries for Thurrock and for officers to recommend changes. Although this would be the remit of the Commission some context and statistics have been provided. Appendix 5 outlines a draft timeline and actions provided by the Commission. However, the analysis provided in Appendix 4 suggests that the criteria for requesting the Commission to carry out a review would not be met.

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

- 4.1 At the request of the Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the report sets out the options to change the model of local government elections cycle in Thurrock and information on local government boundary reviews.
- 4.2 The Committee are requested to consider making a recommendation whether to progress the change the electoral cycle of the authority and so enable the council to take a decision and
- 4.3 The Committee are requested to discuss and debate the information provided on the terms of a boundary review and make recommendations.

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

- 5.1 There has been no consultation undertaken in respect of this report.

5.2 Should the Committee decide to make a recommendation to move to whole-council elections, the council is required to take reasonable steps to consult with such persons as it thinks appropriate on the proposed change.

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

6.1 There is no impact at this stage. Any proposal to change the cycle of elections will be the subject of a report to the full council and, if approved, will also be subject to public consultation.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Jonathan Wilson**  
**Chief Accountant**

The cost of an election is met by the body or bodies whose representatives have been elected and therefore, any occasion where a local election is combined with another would see a reduction in costs to the council.

The costs associated with running an election and a by-election have been estimated and are set out in the report. Any move to whole council elections would generate an estimated saving of £190,000 over the next 4 years.

Any savings that may be associated with a proposal to change the cycle of elections would be dependent upon the year in which the new cycle was to commence, as this would determine when local elections may be combined with others and therefore see a reduction in costs.

### **7.2 Legal**

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

The legal implications associated with changing the electoral cycle of the Council are set out in the body of the report.

It may be observed that the financial impact is dependent on the combination of polls and the election cycle of Parliamentary elections which are fixed in law. Whilst savings may be achieved there will be a budget impact initially if the electoral cycle is changed to whole council elections pursuant to any relevant governance change in this respect.

### 7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

In considering this report, Members must consider whether the decision will or could have a differential impact on: racial groups; gender; people with disabilities; people of a particular sexual orientation; people due to their age; people due to their religious belief.

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken in respect of this report and this is because it is not considered that there will be an adverse impact arising from changing the cycle of elections held by the Council. However, if a decision is taken to change the cycle of elections, an Equality Impact Assessment will be conducted to help inform the implementation of this decision.

### 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):

- No Stone Unturned in Pursuit of Growth. Lord Heseltine. 2012 (recommendation 14)  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/34648/12-1213-no-stone-untuned-in-pursuit-of-growth.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/34648/12-1213-no-stone-untuned-in-pursuit-of-growth.pdf)
- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Reviews, Technical Guidance April 2014  
[https://www.lgbce.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/10410/technical-guidance-2014.pdf](https://www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/10410/technical-guidance-2014.pdf)

### 9. **Appendices to the report**



- Appendix 1 – Excerpt of the minutes of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 March 2014
- Appendix 2 – Motion submitted by Councillor Hebb to the meeting of Full Council on 22 October 2014
- Appendix 3 – Excerpt of the minutes of the meeting of Full Council, 22 October 2014.
- Appendix 4 – Boundary Analysis 2015
- Appendix 5 – Stages for a Requested Electoral Review

**Report Author:**

Elaine Sheridan

Electoral Services Manager

Legal Services, Democratic and Electoral Services

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**EXERPT OF MINUTES of the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 March 2014 at 7.00pm**

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**Present:** Councillors Richard Speight (Chair), Barry Johnson, Wendy Curtis, Terry Hipsey and Yash Gupta

**Apologies:** Councillor Charlie Key

**In attendance:** S. Welton- Performance Officer  
K. Wheeler – Head of Strategy  
F. Taylor – Head of Legal Services  
S. Clark– Head of Finance  
R. Harris – Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning  
J. Hinchliffe – Head of HR OD & Customer Strategy  
R. Parkin – Head of Housing  
M. Boulter – Principal Democratic Services Officer

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**37. REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee noted that two thirds of the whole council membership needed to vote in favour of a four yearly election for it to come into practice. Members queried the process should certain Members not be present at the full council meeting in which the vote would be taken. How would they cast their vote? The Monitoring Officer noted this point and stated she would come back to the committee to clarify.

The Committee noted the well written report but felt they could not make a decision at the meeting as the issue needed to be discussed with groups. There were many implications to consider.

The Committee asked for clarification around when the Police Crime Commissioner elections would take place and whether they would be held in November or with the other elections in May.

**RESOLVED that the Committee inform and update their respective groups around the report and its contents and seek to progress debate on the issue in the new municipal year.**

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## **Motions Submitted to Council**

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

#### **Motion 2**

##### **Submitted by Councillor Hebb**

“Thurrock is an area which is thirsty for regeneration, and needs political stability to attract investment. It therefore needs to demonstrate a more stable; consistent; lower-cost governance system.

Following a number of years of being in No Overall Control (NOC) Thurrock Council resolves to investigate and implement a move to a Four Yearly Election model”.

##### **Monitoring Officer Comments:**

Before 2008, the process of changing the electoral cycle involved seeking the approval of the Secretary of State.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 gave Councils the opportunity to decide this issue themselves, subject to certain restrictions as to when whole-Council elections could take place.

The Localism Act 2011 amended the provisions of the 2007 Act to give greater ability to Councils to decide which year the system of whole-Council elections could be introduced.

The 2007 Act sets out the steps that would need to be taken to move to whole- Council elections. The Council would be required to undertake a public consultation exercise on the proposed change. The legislation does not specify the type of consultation that should be carried out or how long the consultation process should take.

However, the good practice guidance on consultation exercises suggests that a 12 week consultation period would be appropriate.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, if it is decided to move to all-out elections, an Extraordinary Council meeting will be needed to pass a resolution to change to whole-Council elections.

There is a requirement that the resolution must be passed “by a majority of at least two thirds of the Members voting on it” (Section 33 (3)(b) of the 2007 Act). The resolution would need to specify the year the elections would first be held.

If, at the Extraordinary Council meeting, it is decided to move to whole-Council elections, then as soon as reasonably practicable, an explanatory

document has to be produced setting out details of the new electoral arrangements. In addition, the Electoral Commission would need to be advised that the Council has passed a resolution to change to all-out elections.

**Section 151 Officer Comments:**

The subject of this motion has previously been considered by Overview and Scrutiny with the report demonstrating that a four yearly model did reduce the overall cost over the four year period. The total amount is difficult to estimate with any accuracy as it depends on whether there are any by-elections, timing of other elections, etc. However, the Overview and Scrutiny report did provide an estimated saving of £380,000 over the period 2015-2020 as an indication.

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

Yes

**EXCERPT of the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 22 October 2014 at 7.00pm.**

**67. Motion submitted by Councillor Hebb**

The Motion, as printed in the Agenda, was proposed by Councillor Hebb and seconded by Councillor Halden. The Motion read as follows:

*“Thurrock is an area which is thirsty for regeneration, and needs political stability to attract investment. It therefore needs to demonstrate a more stable; consistent; lower-cost governance system.*

*Following a number of years of being in No Overall Control (NOC) Thurrock Council resolves to investigate and implement a move to a Four Yearly Election model”.*

Councillor Hebb introduced the motion and in doing so made the following key points:

- That a four year election model would make Thurrock more stable and allow time for the ruling group to drive forward and embed their policies.
- That a move to a four year election model would save approximately £400,000 to the Council every four years.
- That it would improve political turnout and engagement.

During the course of debate on the Motion, the following key points were raised both in support and opposition:

- Councillor Gerard Rice felt that in his experience a 4 year election model did not work well or was in the best interests of the electorate, and recounted that some political groups had become complacent for 3 years out of 4 after winning an election. He felt that the current model provided more opportunity for challenge.
- Councillor Speight remarked on the achievements in Thurrock and felt that the electorate wanted more cross-party working not shutting people’s voices out for an additional year.
- Councillor John Kent questioned how elections by thirds created instability, and highlighted a number of regeneration success stories which had been achieved under the current model. He felt that the election by thirds model provided stability.
- Councillor Ray agreed that regeneration was important but felt that the political balance had little effect. He added that there was no evidence to support the claim that a 4 year election model was good for residents and instead stated that it was of paramount importance to let residents have their say.
- Councillor Johnson felt that there would be greater turnout on general election years and that a 4 year election model supported zero based budgeting.

- Councillor Coxshall felt that the 4 year election model would give more time for policies to embed and for the political majority to deliver their manifesto.
- Councillor Snell explained that the 4 year model would give residents less of a voice and that the current system worked well to keep Members on their toes.

Upon being put to the vote, 15 Members voted in favour of the Motion, and 30 Members voted against, whereupon the Mayor declared the motion was lost.



## Boundary Review - Analysis

**Three member wards**

	<b>Electorate per ward</b>	<b>** Average ratio for 2015 (61258/27 cllrs)</b>	<b>10% variance</b>	<b>No. Electors per cllr 2015</b>	<b>Variance 2015</b>
1 Aveyley & Uplands	6632	2269	227	2211	-58
2 Belhus	6739	2269	227	2246	-23
3 Chadwell St Mary	7042	2269	227	2347	78
7 Grays Riverside	7256	2269	227	2419	150
8 Grays Thurrock	6265	2269	227	2088	-181
11 Ockendon	7012	2269	227	2337	68
14 Stanford East & Corringham Town	6355	2269	227	2118	-151
17 The Homesteads	6447	2269	227	2149	-120
20 West Thurrock & South Stifford	7510	2269	227	2503	234
	61258				

\*\* total electorate of all three member wards divided by no. of three member wards

**Two member wards**

	<b>Electorate per ward</b>	<b>***1 Average ratio for 2015 (50637/22)</b>	<b>10% variance</b>	<b>No. Electors per cllr 2015</b>	<b>Variance 2015</b>	<b>30% variance</b>
4 Chafford & North Stifford	5238	2302	230	2619	317	691
5 Corringham & Fobbing	4334	2302	230	2167	-135	
6 East Tilbury	4594	2302	230	2297	-5	
9 Little Thurrock Blackshot	4702	2302	230	2351	49	
10 Little Thurrock Rectory	4481	2302	230	2241	-62	
12 Orsett	4842	2302	230	2421	119	
13 South Chafford	4562	2302	230	2281	-21	
15 Stanford le Hope West	4580	2302	230	2290	-12	
16 Stifford Clays	5066	2302	230	2533	231	
18 Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park	4255	2302	230	2128	-175	
19 Tilbury St Chads	3983	2302	230	1992	-311	
	50637					

\*\*\*1 Total electorate of all two member wards divided by no. of two member wards

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**Stages for a Requested Electoral Review**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Duration*</b>
Before agreeing to the Review	Commission will meet with Chief Executive and Leader of the council to establish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reason for the request</li> <li>• The likely scope of the review</li> <li>• The commitment and capacity of the council to meet the requirements for information in a timely manner</li> </ul>	
<b>If agreed:</b>		
Preliminary Period	Informal dialogue with local authority. Focus on gathering preliminary information including electorate forecasts and other electoral data. Commissioner-level involvement in briefing group leaders on the issue of council size. Meetings also held with officers, group leaders, full council and, where applicable, parish and town councils. At the end of this process, the council under review and its political groups should submit their council size proposals for the Commission to consider.	Up to 6 months in advance of formal start of review
Council size decision	Commission analyses submissions from local authority and /or political groups on council size and takes a 'minded to' decision on council size.	5 weeks
<b>Formal start of review</b>		
Consultation on future warding / division arrangements	The Commission publishes its initial conclusions on council size. General invitation to submit warding/division proposals based on Commissions' conclusions on council size.	12 weeks
Development of draft recommendations	Analysis of all representations received. The commission reaches conclusions on its draft recommendations.	12 weeks
Consultation on draft recommendations	Publication of draft recommendations and public consultation on them.	8 weeks
Further consultation (if required)	Further consultation only takes place where the Commission is minded to make significant changes to its draft recommendations and where it lacks sufficient evidence of local views in relation to those changes.	Up to 5 weeks
Development of final recommendations	Analysis of all representations received. The Commission reaches conclusions on its final recommendations.	12 weeks
* Time periods shows are the expected typical duration of stages. They are not standards or undertakings. The progress of a review will be determined by the nature of the issues to be addressed and the availability of information to underpin sound decision-making, not by a determination to complete a review within any given period.		

Source: Electoral reviews, Technical guidance, April 2014  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

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<b>27 July 2016</b>	<b>ITEM: 11</b>
<b>Full Council</b>	
<b>Annual Cabinet Member Report for Education and Health</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Councillor J Halden (Conservative, Homesteads) Portfolio Holder for Education and Health	
This report is public.	

I am delighted to present my first report to the Chamber as the Cabinet Member for Education and Health.

**Our mission :**

Our overriding priority in all things we do is to tackle mediocrity, which is how we will ensure that Thurrock can fulfil its potential.

Key to tackling mediocrity is the following three areas :

1. Council Leadership – We need to show true commitment to leadership to improve public services, for example, academies may be far more independent from the Council than maintained schools, but our role is just as vital.
2. Expectations – Some people simply expect a low quality of service and accept low outcomes for themselves. We must be rigorous in challenging services and being residents champions i.e. holding poor GP's and Primary Care facilities to account.
3. Early Years Support – Whether it's our role as corporate parents or our role monitoring the causes of child poverty or neglect, we must view poor early years support as a serious threat to the long term future of the Borough.

The reason for bringing Education and Health together in one brief was to ensure that we bridge the gap found between poor educational and employment outcomes, and the associated poor physical and mental health outcomes. We have a positive vision where we are preparing "children to be fit for adulthood".

My report covers issues from public health to schools; issues relating to looked after children and adult care packages etc will be covered in a later report by the Cabinet Member for Social Care.

Whilst I am proud to be a part of a Conservative Administration since the May 2016 election, I pay tribute to all those Cabinet Members who dutifully served the Borough prior to myself, as well as to all members for their contributions.

I am grateful and proud for this opportunity to make a contribution to public life and thank my party colleagues, my team in the directorates, all members, and the people of Thurrock.

## **Health Directorate**

### **Public Health Offer**

Having Public Health responsibilities with the Council and building strong relationships with health partners enables the Council to be in a position where it is able to better influence the factors that impact the ability of our residents to achieve good health and wellbeing outcomes.

The new DPH has already implemented some key programmes of work. These include:

- Significantly strengthening working relationships and the Public Health “Core Healthcare Public Health Offer” to NHS Thurrock CCG, including increasing health informatics capacity within the team to ensure a more robust focus on analysis of the cost-effectiveness of what is commissioned.
- Undertaking two comprehensive needs assessments for Tilbury and Purfleet/South Ockendon which have highlighted an unacceptable level of variation in Primary Care quality and access, and a high and unsustainable level of A&E usage and under-doctoring in Thurrock. However it is important to note that our work on challenging poor primary care across the entire borough will be robust to ensure we can move from simply managing service provision crises to in fact preventing them. The DPH is in the process of compiling metrics and data to be used to hold our partners to account.
- Developing a local Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework to quantify the impact of delivery of the new Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy (see later section).
- A review of all services commissioned from the Public Health Grant to ensure that they are both effective and cost-efficient and robust contract negotiations with providers which have delivered significant savings.
- Undertaking a detailed cancer deep dive that considered all aspects of cancer prevention, screening and treatment which highlighted significant variation in screening uptake and referral clinical practice between different practice populations, and fragmented hospital cancer care pathways that are leading to extremely poor performance against the 62 day wait national cancer standard.

In 2016/17 Public Health will be delivered in a way that embeds the profession’s unique skill sets in data modelling, statistical analyses, needs assessment, and assessment of evidence are deployed more widely, in order to improve efficiency across the council and local NHS. There will be a renewed and strengthened focus on the “Placemaking” and regeneration agenda in order to ensure that we maximise and capitalise on the potential health and wellbeing benefits of our current regeneration plans for the Borough such as sports access for young people.

Most importantly there will be a strong focus moving forward on the prevention agenda around children and young people. We will shift resources on Tobacco Control away from chasing meaningless “four week smoking quit targets” for

consenting adults and towards evidence based prevention programmes in schools that have been shown to be highly effective in dissuading young people from starting to smoke.

### **Better Care Fund**

Our first Better Care Fund Plan has been approved. The Plan allowed for over £17 million of health and adult social care money to be placed in a pooled fund overseen by both the Council and CCG. The aim of the Fund is to enable the development of greater joint working across health and social care – including opportunities for integration. The Plan's focus was (and still is) on people aged 65 and above – looking at how a greater emphasis on community-based solutions could reduce the number of people reaching crisis point and in turn reduce avoidable attendances at Hospital and residential homes. Out of a target of 3.5%, Thurrock managed to reduce emergency admissions during 2015-16 by 3.2%. To further quantify and shape our “community based offer”, we will be making this area of “social value” a part of the council's review of our KPI system. What gets measured gets done!

### **Partnership working with Thurrock CCG**

We continue to work closely with Thurrock CCG. A good working relationship is essential as so many of our existing adult social care service users are also patients requiring services commissioned by the CCG. There are therefore a number of areas where we either need to seek to influence the work the CCG undertakes, or work jointly with them – Mental Health and Learning Disabilities being two such areas. We also need to work with the CCG so that we can prevent residents from becoming ill in the first place – e.g. via good screening programmes. However this also means holding them to account and not allowing a mentality to emerge where we try to defend poor practise such as GP members of the CCG not carrying out Learning Disability Checks. I am working with partners on the HW Board to ensure Thurrock is best placed to delivery primary care commissioning changes, despite some of the primary care deficiencies we have.

### **Appointment of the Integrated Care Director with North East London Foundation Health**

We not only need to work closely with health commissioners (Thurrock CCG), but with our health providers. North East London Trust (NELFT) is one of the key providers of health care in Thurrock. An opportunity arose early in 2016 to create a joint post across NELFT and the Council. The benefits of doing this are already coming to fruition – e.g. the development of a Single Access Point across mental health, community health, and adult social care.

### **Integrated Healthy Living Centres and Primary Care**

For too long, the Primary Care offer (namely GP services) in parts of the Borough has been either extremely stretched or inadequate. Recently, this has been reflected in the virtual collapse of primary care in Tilbury. In many ways, the existing primary care model is out dated – we need a more modern system-wide approach

which can respond to local needs and focuses on keeping people well. Part of this response is to develop four Integrated Healthy Living Centres across the Borough – the first of these being in Purfleet and Tilbury. The Centres will be attractive to GPs, but will also allow other services to co-locate – e.g. those currently based in Hospital, pharmacists and also social care services. The Centres will also be able to provide information and advice and link with what is available in the local community. The Council is involved in the development of the Centres with the first due in 2018/19.

I want to ensure that work on the Tilbury and Purfleet Integrated Healthy Centres progresses at pace and are expanded across the entire Borough. We will be proactive and show leadership to try to prevent these crisis events from happening again. They offer both a response to the primary care issues in those areas, but also provide an opportunity to focus on keeping people well. The development of the IHLCs is part of our refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy and I will want to be assured that the relevant progress is being made.

Whilst the four IHLCs being developed across the Borough will help to respond to the quality and capacity issues in primary care, it may well take until 2020 and beyond to provide the centres and there are immediate issues that need to be addressed. It was clear at the first HWB Board that I chaired on 14<sup>th</sup> July that a lot of the solutions to the health challenges we face in Thurrock all lead back to a need to significantly improve the quality and capacity of Primary Care. For this reason, I will be maintaining a continued focus on this issue and will be discussing with my officers how we can work more closely with the CCG to make this one of our top priorities for action this year.

This will involve being robust at challenging poor primary care and highlighting what support communities in Thurrock need. I have already begun this work with the NHS via an initial dialogue, and the DPH has been charged by me to provide regular updates on what is happening in Thurrock primary care and where we need corresponding pressure and accountability applied via NHS England, the HW Board and other relevant bodies. This is a key element of setting expectations so the people of Thurrock know that we are on their side when it comes to working towards the quality of service they need and deserve.

### **Essex Success Regime and the Sustainability Transformation Plans**

Essex Success Regime (ESR) was launched in response to the NHS financial position in Essex. The area covered is mid and south Essex. A number of work streams exist as part of the ESR and the Council is involved in most of these. Whilst engagement with the Council has taken place, I am mindful of the possible impact of NHS changes on both local people and on Council services and for this reason I will be keeping a watching brief on this area of work – including through the Health and Wellbeing Board and our neighbouring Health and Wellbeing Boards in Essex and Southend. I have already met with my counterparts in Essex and Southend to see where possible we can present a joint approach across the three local authorities. We were informed at the HWB Board on 14<sup>th</sup> July that a formal consultation will start in the late Autumn. This is now joined by the new STP's which is a nationwide scheme to address sustainability in the system – our STP is the same footprint as the ESR.



The ESR could have a significant impact on both residents and services. Whilst the Council are involved at different levels, I am keen to have a strong input personally whilst also maintaining a watchful eye over the Regime and its work streams' development.

With a number of Essex-wide agendas in development, it is important that we decide locally how we deliver the best health and care services for our residents. This means the ability to deliver services and solutions that are tailored around the individual and best enable them to achieve the outcomes they wish to achieve. Integrated and joined up services are solutions for making this happen. I want to make sure that we are clear about our direction of travel, and that we achieve the necessary partnership approach to make this happen.

I am clear regarding what health "collaboration" means in Essex; it means areas that share a common set of circumstances being able to action work based on mutual benefits. I am very relaxed about finding a way of South Essex working together because we share infrastructure, similar demographic and so on, as well as having opportunities by working together to reduce wider system pressures such as at the acute hospital stage. However any notion of a Pan County ESR or STP is one that I will not allow Thurrock to be a participant in. To this end I have met with both the NHS Clinical Commissioning Director, The Chair of the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, the Leader of Southend Council as well as our own HW Board to make the point clear that I will not allow our local determination as independent CCG's or HW Boards be undermined by absorbing us into a large structure which, given time, would morph back into an old style Primary Care Trust – this would take focus and resource away from Thurrock and centralise it.

## **Education Directorate**

### **Educational setting and the role of the local authority**

All councils have been asked to consider the persistent variation that exists across our school system and the role the local authority should play in raising educational standards for all children and young people. The future role of the local authority should be co-determined with schools and settings in line with the recommendations of the education "White Paper" – "Educational Excellence Everywhere" published on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

As an education service we continue to place high value on:

- knowing our schools and academies well;
- investing in our school leaders and creating opportunities for new leaders to emerge;
- challenging leaders about rates of pupil progress;
- supporting our governors to recruit the best leaders;
- developing the skills of governors in holding school leaders to account;
- creating opportunities for schools/academies to provide support and challenge to each other;
- identifying risks early so that we can work with schools and academies to

- address issues quickly;
- ensuring that all schools and academies are using data smartly to drive focused initiatives and promoting the highest expectations within communities for children’s well-being and educational aspirations.
- being our schools advocates within the DFE and EFA to attract resources
- growing our leadership function to help strong schools expand so every child in the borough has access to the tools to fulfil their potential

Thurrock Local Authority is seeking to play a key role in driving ambition at individual school level and across the borough to sustain improvements in school provision.

Thurrock is in a robust position. A few years ago we had the third worst access to good primary schools in the nation, yet the council’s position was “we are on the way up”. The cross party education commission that followed intense scrutiny on the administration’s performance brought to bear a number of long running issues regarding schools lacking confidence in the local authority. From here we had a watershed moment that has seen us go from a poor provider of services to a strong commissioner in partnership with our schools.

We now need to build on this as we continue to shape our role. Leadership to challenge performance and advocate for schools is key, that is why the department restructure will make our interim strategic lead functions permanent with a focus on helping our local schools form larger and stronger multi academy trusts in order to aid school on school improvement, compared to the old model of local authorities spending money on themselves to intervene in schools in a haphazard way. A good example of Council to school collaboration is in us actively supporting the excellent work from Gable Hall to aid in Hassenbrook’s improvement journey.

### **Thurrock Education Alliance (TEA)**

Excellent progress has been made in developing the strong partnership work between schools, academies and the local authority, using this body to coordinate which I chair personally. Schools, academies and early year’s providers are working closely with the local authority to create a strong and shared vision to reach excellence everywhere.

Underpinning the approach to ensure improvement, the principle that there is a wealth of expertise across our schools and settings that can be used to support others in their improvement. Some primary schools and academies have put in place plans to share their expertise in groups called Triads supported by regional senior HMI, Tim Bristow, sharing areas of expertise and collaborating on areas for development. HMI have also praised the council for supporting their schools/academies in developing sector-led improvement and reiterated the importance of reviewing the shared vision developed in Thurrock on a regular basis. In my first meeting as Chairman, we agreed further funding for advanced teacher training.

I announced at my first meeting of the TEA that my team will revisit the original education commission questions to consider how much progress has been made

and what the next step is as we continue to define our role. Progress has been made but a vital part of political leadership is to forge forward and not allow success today to mean a slowness of pace tomorrow.

## **Thurrock Education Awards**

A key recommendation from The Education Commission was the need to celebrate success and publicise our educational achievements in Thurrock. The second Thurrock Education Awards at High House Production Park last year was an excellent event with more than 300 guests attending. This year the event will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and it is expected more than 400 people will attend. The event celebrates the achievements of our headteachers, teachers, support staff and governing bodies who work tirelessly to transform our children's lives. In recognising the backing from our local businesses that sponsor the event and provide financial support, further work is needed to encourage more local companies if this event is to be sustainable into the future. I have written personally to all head teachers and chairs of governors to encourage diverse nominations, as well as to the head girls and boys. In addition, I have written to businesses seeking additional support and have undertaken to return to the next TEA meeting with a plan for a long term future for the awards.

## **Educational attainment and OFSTED outcomes**

### **Overall Performance of Thurrock Primary schools**

#### **Early Years**

- The provisional un-validated data for Thurrock indicates a further rise in the percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD). The performance of Thurrock pupils is 6% higher than the provisional data for England.
- The gap between the lowest and highest performing children has narrowed this year, meaning that the lowest performing 20% did better than the comparable group last year.
- Of the four LAC, 50% reached a GLD. Only 24% of children with SEND reached a GLD, which is a drop from last year.
- 62% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium reached a GLD.

#### **Key Stage 1 performance – (7 year olds)**

The provisional results are looking positive when compared to the estimated national averages. Thurrock is currently 2 percentage points above the estimated national average for reading, writing and maths both individually and combined. Science is currently 3 percentage points below the estimated national average but this does not affect the combined result with all subjects. Thurrock falls behind when looking at those achieving a greater depth in each subject. This is a common theme

across all primary key stages where Thurrock has a lower percentage of pupils achieving the higher standard compared to national.

### **Key Stage 2 performance – (11 year olds)**

**The provisional data for 2016 can't be compared to previous years. This is due to the introduction of a new curriculum two years ago and the new assessment arrangements.**

- The percentage of pupils nationally who reached the expected standard in reading writing and maths is **53%**, and in Thurrock is **51%**. Currently 2 percentage points below the National Standard (*subject to challenge*)
- The range across the Thurrock schools is from 20%-90%,
- 62% of Thurrock pupils reached the expected standard in reading, 75% in writing, 71% in GPS and 67% in maths
- There is likely to be at least two schools labelled as 'coasting'
- There is likely to be a number of schools that will fall below the government floor standards although this is not yet known until the progress data has been released (late September 2016)

### **Overall Performance of Thurrock Secondary schools**

GCSE results will be released on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Last year saw a dip in GCSE results locally following changes in the grade boundaries for GCSE English and maths by the examination boards, the number of Thurrock young people that achieved the benchmark 5 grade A\*-C including English and Maths decreased by 5 percentage points. There has been a range of initiatives from the local authority, from academy trusts, from the three teaching schools and from the Thurrock Education Alliance (TEA) to support schools and academies which performed less well than others.

### **Pupil Place Planning and School Building**

The Authority successfully met the demand for school places in 2015/16, however there are long-running issues with our good schools being full and therefore causing some students having to travel across the borough to access a school they did not want to go to. Our policy is to support the growth of home-grown MAT's to support weaker schools – to this end we have a departmental lobbying delivery team chaired by myself that looks at ways in which we can help attract free school or EFA funding and broker relationships to realise ambitions. This work sits alongside the work we are doing with regeneration such as to support the creation of the two new Harris Free schools.

Understandably, the large increase we have seen in the primary sector will feed through to the secondary sector and we have already commenced work to ensure there is a robust process in place to ensure places are available and we are

confident that this demand will be met through expansions of some existing schools and new schools built as part of the Free School programme.

We will continue to work with our schools and academies in supporting their physical ambitions where possible and this will include support with regards any Free School applications where there is a demand for school places. A master plan is being developed which will set out how the council will work with the schools, communities and other partners to set out a vision for the future of school improvement, and our ambitions for building capacity to meet increasing demand for pupil places using a combination of our own lobby team as well as our planning and regeneration powers.

### **Pupil Attendance**

Children and young people are unlikely to reach their full potential if they do not attend school regularly. I am pleased to report that overall absence and persistent absence levels have continued to fall over a three year period for both Primary and Secondary sectors.

Even more encouraging is Thurrock's significant improvement in persistent absence for pupil premium pupils which has fallen from 7.3% in 2013 to 5.3% for Primary and in 2013, 14.4% to 9.0% for Secondary schools.

In addition the local authority has seen an unprecedented number of applications for Penalty Notices in respect of unauthorised leave of absence (term time holidays). We will meet these requests in full. The next release of attendance data both for Thurrock and nationally is anticipated to evidence a reduction of the number of children absent due to family holidays taken during term time.

Thurrock's position is to continue to support schools with their efforts to reduce all unauthorised absences, including term time holidays, and we will, where there is already an attendance concern and/or if attendance is below 90% after the holiday has been taken, continue to issue Penalty Notices. This is in line with the advice from DfE and our own lawyers. In addition, to further show our commitment, at the July meeting of the cabinet we amended the school transport plan to remove sanctions against school transport in all but the most extreme circumstances.

The Education Welfare Service, which monitors attendance and intervenes where necessary, continues to work closely with staff and families at schools and academies to ensure that good attendance is a top priority for all. Our expectation is that the improvements in primary attendance will provide an improved foundation for attendance in secondary schools as expectations about and patterns of good attendance are embedded early.

### **Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)**

Thurrock has once again done well in ensuring that young people not in education, employment or training are all identified and Thurrock careers personal advisers support them into an appropriate training/education or employment option.

The NEET figure has continued to decrease down to 4.7% in December 2015.

Particularly pleasing is NEET 16 Year old figure standing at 1.2% which is 0.6% less than England average (1.8%). Participation figure has increased in December 2015 to 83.7% placing Thurrock above England average at 81% and well above South East average at just 77.5%.

The not-known figure now stands at just 0.4%. The Department for Education (DfE) has praised Thurrock Careers on their commendable partnership with other Thurrock Council departments and would like to use Thurrock as an example of best practice for other local authorities.

Thurrock is providing career advice not only in secondary educational establishments but also in primary – raising children’s aspirations and ambitions from an early age. Our work to truly release our entrepreneurial spirit will come to fruition as we take our career service outside the council as a staff mutual. This will mean that it will be free of the normal rules that bind local authorities such as the inability to turn a profit. We are already seeing some boroughs trying to pay for our services, and this is the next step as we look to a service that is not reliant on ever increasing taxpayer funds to cope with demand. This will still be firmly routed as a public service as evidenced by its governance structure which will include the LA.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

Significant work has taken place, working closely with the Parent Carer Forum, on all areas of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the new reforms introduced in the Children and Families Act 2014. An in-depth Self-Assessment of all areas of the implementation of the reforms is now underway using a Quality Assurance Toolkit and incorporating the key issues that have been identified in the new Ofsted / CQC SEND Local Area inspection to date

Working closely with adult providers, colleges, schools and settings on the implementation of the reforms including reviews of all school “Local Offers.” This includes work on Health provider engagement and incorporation of Social Care involvement. The new post-16 developments include supported Internships and close working with Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions for new services for students with complex needs.

SEND services are working hard to convert all SEN Statements to the new Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP’s) in line with the Department’s recommendations of first focusing on children and young people in transition from one phase of education to the next. e.g. Primary Year 6 to Secondary Year 7 and to Post 16. My department is also actively and robustly supporting the Treetops Free School bid to expand their outstanding provision.

Additionally, there has been a significant increase in the number of new requests for EHC Plans. Significant work has taken place to resolve the systems difficulties in the delivery of these plans and new requests and conversions are now being

completed at 100% within the new timescales.

Our school transport plans that are centred on having an exceptional circumstance criteria opposed to simply trying to stipulate every situation means that we can offer more support to SEND pupils than the statutory minimum in certain situations.

### **Arts and Cultural Entitlement – the Trailblazer programme**

2016 also saw the continuation of the arts and cultural entitlement programme in Thurrock for young people, with 30 schools involved in the pathfinder programme which was devised here in Thurrock and has created considerable national interest. The council commissioned the Royal Opera House Learning team to organise the programme for the schools. It is pleasing to note the programme has been jointly funded between the council, the Arts Council and schools themselves. It is this partnership approach which ensures the cultural entitlement is sustainable.

Such work is vital to rising aspirations and ambitions for pupils, however I have made it a priority for all funding to be justified i.e. are we reaching out to the pupils who would otherwise not get exposure to such services? This work is ongoing.

### **Grammar schools**

This administration is pro-grammar school. Currently the only route to new grammar school places is via an annex of an existing grammar school. However the new Education Secretary has an “open mind” on the current situation. Regardless of the criteria, Thurrock is and will continue to ready itself to make the most compelling case possible to attract grammar school places to Thurrock. Meetings are currently happening regarding this work, and I will have further such meetings in September.

## **Cross cutting areas between the directorates**

### **Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

Thurrock’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy was refreshed in 2016 and agreed by full Council in March this year. The refresh allowed us to refocus the Strategy on five clear goals, with each goal being underpinned by four outcome-focused objectives. The Strategy recognises the importance of being able to influence the wider determinants of health, and these feature throughout. We want to stress the importance of employment and support in early years in giving people better life chances. A significant piece of engagement was undertaken as a result of the refresh, which was undertaken by Thurrock Healthwatch. This allowed the Strategy to be influenced accordingly. The Health and Wellbeing Board’s agenda will be focused on ensuring the Strategy’s delivery.

We are now moving to implementation of the plan which will see us taking each goal and turning it into a set of measurable objectives to reduce health inequalities. Each set of metrics will be taken to the health and wellbeing board by myself as Chairman. We will be focused on the wider health outcomes opposed to simply noting inequalities or making spurious and over simplified conclusions such as the

mortality rate between Tilbury and Orsett being solely about relative affluence.

At my first Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, we both agreed the process for monitoring progress and measuring success. I am keen to ensure that Strategy makes a difference – as I said above my priorities are to support young people in their early years to ensure they get a good start in life and to bring more jobs into the Borough as this is one of the best determinants of good health.

This is a key area where the cross over between education and health makes my joint portfolio vital in terms of bridging the gap between poor education/employment outcomes, many of which are generational, and the knock on effect on physical and mental health.

### **Children centres integration**

We are looking at the current provision with children centres and nurseries. Some of the generational issues we wish to address have clear links between education and health. By ensuring that we look at integrated services opposed to old and separate models of delivery, we can assure that we have wrap around care for children who require the most support. This work will go hand in hand with our work with schools to ensure “children are fit for adulthood”. Between this work and the HW Strategy work, we will end the unacceptable fragmentation in the system.

Public Health are also commencing a major piece of work with the Council’s Children’s Services Department and NHS Thurrock CCG to integrate the commissioning and delivery of the 0 to 19 care pathway. This will both provide an improved offer to local children and families, deliver better outcomes and release savings and efficiencies within our local health, education and social care system.

### **Key worker housing**

Our regeneration potential is massive. This presents us with an opportunity to do what many boroughs cannot do in terms of using large scale place making as an attraction. In collaboration with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, we will be working with the CCG and schools over the next few months to consider how to best deploy a key worker housing scheme to attract and retain key skills in Thurrock.

### **Visits / Meetings : Education and Health Directorates**

As the Portfolio Holder, I am the most senior Member of the Administration when it comes to setting individual polices. While polices are driven from our manifesto, it is also vital to have a robust dialogue with those on the ground to both have constant learning about what is happening with services and to take new ideas on.

I was clear upon taking the brief that I was here to lead the departments, but not be a cheerleader for them – I will defend the public interest and challenge maladministration wherever I find it. To this end, it is vital for me to get out and about to meet with groups in the education and health arena so they can share their thoughts with me directly.



I am very proud of the very hectic diary I have maintained since we took office 63 days ago and I will continue to do so.

This is a listening and open administration, and a very proactive Education and Health Directorate. By the time I deliver this report at the Full Council I would have conducted the following visits and meetings (along with dozens of meetings with my directorate team and fellow cabinet colleagues).

- I have met with the chairs of the Essex and Southend HWB Boards and will seek to maintain a positive ongoing relationship with them as we work in collaboration while maintaining our own position outside of the county council.
- I have met with the Leader of Southend Council to discuss how the two Unitaries can work together more closely around Health and Social Care.
- I have visited Healthwatch Thurrock and Thurrock CVS and discussed how their work can be developed. I believe Healthwatch provides an excellent service for the people of Thurrock and I am keen to explore how its role can be developed further.
- I am meeting with the Interim Acting Accountable officer of the CCG to discuss how we can build on our working relationship and how we can work together to improve the quality of Primary Care.
- I have met with the Director of Commissioning Operations (Andrew Pike) to discuss the Success Regime / STP and a number of other matters relating to the Thurrock health and care system and how we can build strong yet not invasive collaboration with fellow partners.
- I am embarking on a set of visits to GP and other primary care facilities in early August.
- I have chaired the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board to start to approve the measuring metrics and focuses of the HW Strategy.
- I have chaired the Thurrock Education Alliance and have taken away a number of actions in regards to teacher retention and recruitment.
- I have met with the GLC at Tilbury Pioneer School where I was supporting them in a meeting with a representative of the DfE.
- I have met with the Chief Executive at the Gateway Academy with the Head of Herringham to hear about their ambitious plans for the growth of their Mat in some of the most challenging areas in Thurrock.
- I have met with both the Head of Gable Hall and the Acting Head of Hassenbrook to discuss how the council can help with the Development of their MAT to improve Hassenbrook.
- I have visited William Edwards and met with the Head twice to discuss their excellent system of retention of staff and looked into how the council could expand this via key worker housing.
- I have visited Treetops and given my assurances to the Head that I will support their application to expand their outstanding special needs school via a free school.

- I will be embarking on a set of children centre visits with both Education and Health Officers in September as we work to ensure that we deliver true united services provision.
- I have made myself available at all of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny meetings thus far so all members, and not just executive members, can have regular access to me. In addition, I have met with members of various parties when they have requested to talk to me about issues of interest or issues in their wards.
- I have visited Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions and met with their CEO as we look to TLS as an example of best practise as we consider our service offers such as NEET provision. In addition, conversations have been had with TLS and Healthwatch to consider how to best hold our systems of “means testing” to account to consider how they truly effect the vulnerable. This will be the subject of a later cabinet report.
- I have met the Deputy Chief Executive at Basildon Hospital, late on a Saturday afternoon, to consider the issue of A&E capacity and how that relates to primary care.
- I have visited the team at the Royal Opera House to discuss the outreach of the Trailblazers programme.

## **In conclusion**

This is an exciting period, a massive and complex brief, and a job that I relish.

By the end of the municipal year I hope that our leadership will see a less fragmented system, so we offer far more comprehensive care to people to help guild them from early years education to employment and healthy lifestyles.

I hope that by robustly challenging poor public services we will raise the ambitions and expectations of Thurrock so we no longer accept poor quality provision and therefore build bigger and better services.

Finally I hope that, as I continue a robust schedule of visits, our partners in Thurrock grow and grow in confidence that Thurrock is an open and ambitious council that wants to work with them to deliver for our great borough.

## Financial information

### Public Health Funding

Ring fenced public Health funding was introduced to local Authorities for 2014/15, with additional allocations and responsibilities coming in through 2015/16.

The grant relates to services that have transferred from the Department of Health responsibility to Local Authorities, and relate to generic strategies to improve public Health and outcomes.

Much of the Funding is currently committed to commissioned contracts with Health partnerships and there has been little influence the Authority has been able to deliver in the short term, due to the length of the contracts. There have been reductions in the total grant funding since the initial cash transfer from Health to Local Authorities, which has meant the Authority has had to rationalise services.

For 2015/16 the Outturn for Public Health is detailed below

	<b>Expenditure</b>
	<b>£ 000's</b>
<b>Public Health - 2015/16</b>	
Sexual health services - STI testing and treatment (prescribed functions)	<b>565</b>
Sexual health services - Contraception (prescribed functions)	<b>565</b>
Sexual health services - Advice, prevention and promotion (non-prescribed functions)	<b>564</b>
NHS health check programme (prescribed functions)	<b>385</b>
Health protection - Local authority role in health protection (prescribed functions)	<b>1,282</b>
National child measurement programme (prescribed functions)	<b>30</b>
Public health advice (prescribed functions)	<b>153</b>
Obesity - adults	<b>51</b>
Obesity - children	<b>205</b>
Substance misuse - Drug misuse - adults	<b>528</b>
Substance misuse - Alcohol misuse - adults	<b>608</b>
Substance misuse - (drugs and alcohol) - youth services	<b>78</b>
Smoking and tobacco - Stop smoking services and interventions	<b>546</b>
Children 5–19 public health programmes	<b>1,440</b>
Miscellaneous public health services - Children's 0–5 services (prescribed functions)	<b>1,939</b>
Miscellaneous public health services	<b>1,569</b>
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH</b>	<b>10,508</b>

### Education Funding

Education Provision is funded through two separate main grants, the Dedicated School Grant and the Education Services Grant

**The Dedicated School Grant (DSG)**, is the main funding source for all Schools funding. This is broken down into three blocks, Schools block, which is for direct School funding, High Needs Block, which covers the costs of additional needs of Students, including both state and independent Special Schools and pupils with Statements in Schools. The third block is the Early Years block, which supports the costs of 2, 3 and 4 year old provision in Schools and Private and Voluntary provision. Schools block funding is allocated to Schools using a formula methodology agreed by the Schools Forum. This is the same formula for both maintained Schools and Academies; however for Academies the grant is “recouped” from the Local Authority and paid directly to them by the Education Funding Agency.

The Dedicated Schools grant has stayed at the same per pupil amount for the last five years and has only been increased in relation to pupil volume, for the Schools block and the Early Years block, however the High need block has seen only minor adjustments, not linked to pupil number increases.

Up until 2013/14 Local Authorities with permission, from their School Forum were able to centrally retain elements of the Dedicated School grant to manage such as a contingency. Regulations have now changed and only very limited amounts can be retained for services available to all, such as admissions. All other funding must be delegated to Schools.

The Second element of funding relating to Education is the **Education Services Grant (ESG)**. This was introduced in 2013/14, not as additional funding for the Council, but a new label for existing funding which had previously been part of the Department of Communities and Local Government core funding. This grant is being phased out over this spending period and therefore the rates are decreasing year on year, and represent a significant real terms decrease in funding.

For 2016/17 the rates for the Education services grant were broken down as follows (rates are per pupil)

ESG General Funding Rate for mainstream schools	£77.00
ESG General Funding Rate for special schools	£327.25
ESG General Funding Rate for PRUs	£288.75
ESG Retained Duties Funding Rate	£15.00

The same base rates are used to fund Academies core services and the same funding reduction will be seen in Academies in the long term, however they all have differing protection rates depending on point of transfer and the reductions may take longer to filter through the system.

Currently we are awaiting the second phase of a consultation to move to a national funding formula by 2020. This will mean all Schools and Academies in the Country would be funded on the same formula basis, with only area cost adjustments. Local Authorities would receive a reduced core grant to cover the statutory services that are retained.



## Notes

- A This is the original Final DSG Figure, before recoument for historic and in-year Academy Conversions.
- B This is the reduction in the Thurrock allocation of DSG for those Schools that are no longer under local Authority Control and are now funded directly by the DfE
- C This is the Net DSG figure issued by DfE in March 2016. For Funding Maintained Schools and Specific Education services to Schools and Academies.
- D This figure brought forward from 2014/15, is unspent Central DSG Contingency.
- E Any amount which the authority decided after consultation with the schools forum to carry forward to 2016/17 rather than distribute in 2015/16.
- F Budgeted distribution of DSG, adjusted for in year Academy conversions, as agreed with the schools forum.
- G Budget movements from Contingency to the Individual Schools Budget (ISB)
- H Actual amount of central expenditure items in 2015/16, after contingency allocations to ISB.

- I Amount of ISB actually distributed to schools (ISB is regarded for DSG purposes as spent by the authority once it is deployed to schools' budget shares).
- J Any contribution from the local authority in 2015/16 which will have the effect of substituting for DSG in funding the Schools Budget.
- K Carry forward to 2016/17

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### QUESTION TIME

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

There are 2 questions to the Leader and 7 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

**1. From Councillor Duffin to Councillor Gledhill**

Is your Administration still proposing to only debate decisions and reports at Cabinet that have passed through pre-scrutiny at the overview and scrutiny committees first?

**2. From Councillor Jones to Councillor Gledhill**

The Conservative Administration's new agenda programme for Thurrock - Clean It, Cut It, Fill It. Has this been costed?

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

**1. From Councillor Duffin to Councillor Tolson**

Please could the Council publish on its website the monthly grass cutting calendar as many residents have concerns over the Council's promises to cut their grass and this way residents and Councillors can make sure that they are getting the promised services that they pay their Council Tax for?

**2. From Councillor Smith to Councillor Gledhill**

How many repeat visits (more than 3) for minor/intermediate and major repairs have TBC repairs contractors made in municipal year 2015-2016?

**3. From Councillor B Rice to Councillor Gledhill**

How many Thurrock households are currently classified as homeless?

**4. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Tolson**

There is a severe problem of dumping in back alleyways in the Grays Thurrock ward. This is not a new problem and it is not confined to Grays Thurrock.

Does the portfolio holder have any plans for helping residents deal with this scourge?

**5. From Councillor B Rice to Councillor**

Following reports of the council failing to cut grass at Blackshots leading to residents having to do the job themselves can the portfolio holder explain what steps she is taking to ensure this doesn't happen again?

**6. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Hebb**

What is the current Thurrock Council savings target for the financial year 2017/2018?

**7. From Councillor Redsell to Councillor Gledhill**

As I am still getting a regular complaints about damp and mould can the portfolio holder say whether he is happy with the current service being provided to tenants in respect of treating and resolving these issues in Council properties please?

## Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 27 July 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

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		<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

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		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.	

### **Motions Submitted to Council**

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

#### **Motion 1**

#### **Submitted by Councillor Duffin**

**Thurrock Council calls upon the government to introduce legislation to provide for a right of "Real Recall" of underperforming local government councillors on grounds similar to those put before parliament when MPs debated "Real Recall" in 2014.**

If such legislation passes, Thurrock Council could then work to implement 'Real Recall' along the lines debated by parliament in 2014 as laid out below:

- That Recall should be a mechanism for political accountability, not a judicial or disciplinary process.
- A recall petition should require 20% of the number of registered voters. Recall campaigns should have 90 days to collect the signatures.
- Signatures for the petition should only be collected by volunteer canvassers
- A recall petition should trigger a recall referendum, where a simple majority recalls the politician. If the recall referendum is successful, the councillor seat is vacated and a by-election is held.
- There should be a grace period of six months before and after election and six months after a recall referendum or by-election when no recall petition can be triggered.

There are four key examples of situations in which full recall could strengthen the individual accountability of councillors:

- Misconduct
- Failure to Represent
- Crossing the Floor
- Breaking Electoral Promises

A properly designed system of recall, with appropriate safeguards, introduced by parliament through legislation would minimise disruption while ensuring that it promotes accountability. Recall should be difficult, but not impossible.

#### **Monitoring Officer Comments:**

Currently no statutory right of recall exists for elected councillors in local government nor any option of suspension from office for a breach of the Code of Conduct since the enactment of the Localism Act 2011. Any such recall scheme therefore would require parliamentary legislation to be passed.

This motion calls on the government to consider enacting such legislation which if passed would require the Authority to write to the government indicating that

Thurrock Council was in favour of such legislation and asking the government to consider this option.

A limited right of recall of MPs was recently passed into law under the Recall of MPs Act 2015.

There are no direct legal implications at this stage as the matter is a decision of Parliament which has the necessary power to enact such change on such terms as it may consider appropriate.

Beyond this an elected Member will cease to be an elected councillor if any of the following occurs:

- Non-Attendance: Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a member of an authority fails, throughout a period of 6 successive months from the date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the authority, they shall cease to be a member of the authority, unless the non-attendance was for a reason approved by the authority before the expiry of the 6 month period.
- Employed by the local authority or holds a paid office under the authority (including joint boards or committees but certain limited exceptions).
- Holds a politically restricted post.
- Bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order (subject to detailed rules).
- Sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine.
- Disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations).
- Disqualification upon conviction in court for failing to register or declare a DPI or participating or voting with a DPI.
- Ceasing to be a registered local government elector when only ground to stand as a candidate. If this was the only qualification claimed by the Member their name must appear on the register at the time of their nomination and throughout their term of office - this is an ongoing qualification.

### **Section 151 Officer Comments:**

There are no financial implications at this stage as the motion simply asks for government action. Should legislation be passed, there will undoubtedly be costs associated with investigating any concerns but these are not known at this stage.

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

Yes