

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 **26 October 2016**

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


Membership of the Council:

Cathy Kent (Mayor)
Tunde Ojetola (Deputy Mayor)

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

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

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



Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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1	Apologies for absence	
2	Minutes	9 - 38
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 28 September 2016.	
3	Items of Urgent Business	
	To receive additional items that the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
4	Declaration of Interests	
	To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
5	Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council	
6	Questions from Members of the Public	39 - 40
	In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
7	Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors	
	In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2(Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
8	Petitions Update Report	41 - 44
9	Revised Political Balance	45 - 50
10	Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels	
	The Council are asked to agree any changes to the appointments made to committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels,	

as requested by Group Leaders.

- 11 Report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Central Services 51 - 64**
- 12 Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Legal 65 - 76**
- 13 Questions from Members 77 - 78**

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

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

Name of Committee	Date
Corporate Overview & Scrutiny	21 June 2016
Licensing Committee	21 September 2016
Planning Committee	25 August 2016
Standard and Audit Committee	14 June 2016
Corporate Parenting Committee	5 July 2016
Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21 July 2016
Cleaner Greener & Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee	5 September 2016
Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6 July 2016

- 16 Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year 79 - 88**
- 17 Motion submitted by Councillor Collins 89 - 90**

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

Future Dates of Council:

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

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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.

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If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at 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 before the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will then be consulted and their agreement sought to any specific request made.

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

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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.

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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
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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non- pecuniary

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



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

PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Create a great place for learning and opportunity

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

2. Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity

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

3. Build pride, responsibility and respect

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

4. Improve health and well-being

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

5. Promote and protect our clean and green environment

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

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100 Years in Memoriam

Remembering Thurrock's Fallen of World War One

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

October 1916

DATE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	WARD	RANK	SERVICE	DIED
01-Oct	FAULKNER	WILLIAM ERNEST	38	W/TH	DRIVER	RFA	HOME
04-Oct	LILLEY	FREDERICK ARTHUR	27	ORS	PTE	SUSSEX – S	FRANCE
07-Oct	FLACK	REGINALD	36	G	PTE	WEST KENT – 6	FRANCE
08-Oct	HINES	HENRY JOSEPH	30	G	PTE	LONDON – 3	FRANCE
08-Oct	HARROD	ARTHUR ALBERT	21	BUL	PTE	WEST SURREY – 11	FRANCE
09-Oct	REID	WILLIAM	19	G	PTE	ESSEX – 9	HOME
09-Oct	TWEEN	JONATHAN	39	SLH	GUNNER	RGA	FRANCE
09-Oct	CLARK	HERBERT HAMILTON	25	L/TH	PTE	ESSEX – 11	FRANCE
12-Oct	WHITE	RICHARD JOHN	21	G	CPL	ESSEX – 9	FRANCE
12-Oct	BULLOCK	HARRY ALBERT	20	L/TH	CPL	ESSEX – 9	FRANCE
13-Oct	SOUTHGATE	ARTHUR	23	AVE	CPL	MGC	FRANCE
14-Oct	GANT	WILLIAM THOMAS	28	G	PTE	ESSEX – 9	FRANCE
15-Oct	SPOONER	ALFRED	21	L/TH & TIL	PTE	ESSEX – 11	FRANCE
15-Oct	CLARK	JOHN HENRY	35	ORS	PTE	ESSEX – 11	FRANCE
17-Oct	PLUMB	GEORGE HENRY	23	S.OCK	PTE	ESSEX – 10	FRANCE
18-Oct	SMITH	FREDERICK WILLIAM	38	G	PTE	ESSEX – 9	FRANCE
18-Oct	COOK	HAROLD WILLIAM	25	AVE	PTE	ESSEX – 9	FRANCE
18-Oct	PAGE	JOHN CANLER	19	SLH	2/LT	NORFOLK – 9	FRANCE
19-Oct	PAGE	THOMAS SPENCER	21	SLH	2/LT	NORFOLK – 9	FRANCE
19-Oct	HARROD	ARCHIBALD SIDNEY	32	ORS	PTE	ESSEX – 2	FRANCE
21-Oct	WRIGHT	SIDNEY	22	AVE	PTE	SUSSEX – 13	FRANCE
23-Oct	NORTH	ALBERT FRANK	U/K	G	PTE	ESSEX – 2	FRANCE
23-Oct	LAVAR	JAMES	30	HOH	SGT	ESSEX – 2	FRANCE
23-Oct	LAYZELL	JAMES WILLIAM	19	HOH	AB. SEA	RND – NELSON	FRANCE
23-Oct	BROWN	ALFRED CHARLES	29	TIL	PTE	ESSEX – 2	FRANCE
26-Oct	SAVAGE	HENRY OSBORNE	33	G	LT	RFA	FRANCE

27-Oct	RAYMENT	ANTHONY WILLIAM	35	G	SGT	R/FUS – 2	FRANCE
28-Oct	WARRINGTON	FRED WILLIAM	20	G	SGT	MIDDLESEX – 1	FRANCE
30-Oct	CLARKE	WILLIAM JOHN	20	G	CPL	ESSEX – 2	FRANCE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 28 September 2016 at 7.00 pm

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, Tony Fish, Oliver Gerrish (arrived 7.07), Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Clifford Holloway, Roy Jones, Tom Kelly, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Sue MacPherson, Bukky Okunade, Terry Piccolo, Jane Potheary, Joycelyn Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Sue Sammons, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Deborah Stewart, Michael Stone, Pauline Tolson, Aaron Watkins and Kevin Wheeler

Apologies: Councillors James Baker, Clare Baldwin, Leslie Gamester, Victoria Holloway, Steve Liddiard, Brian Little, Susan Little, Ben Maney and David Potter.

In attendance: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment and Place
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation
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

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.

42. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 27 July 2016 were approved as a correct record.

43. Items of Urgent Business

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

44. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Cherry declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Item 12: Members Questions as he was a member of Essex Police.

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

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

The Mayor announced the sad loss of Jonathan Catton who had spent nearly 30 years of his life working for Thurrock Council.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, echoed the sad news of Jonathan Catton and stated that he would be a true loss to the borough.

The Leader gave members an update on the Clean It, Cut It, Fill It campaign and the number of road defects that had been repaired.

On the spot fines would now be enforced by environment officers for any persons littering in the borough.

The Leader announced that Councillor Hague had stepped down as Deputy Leader of the Council and from his Portfolio for Business due to the ill health of his wife. The Leader thanked Councillor Hague for the experience and knowledge that he had brought to the borough and announced that Councillor Hebb would now become the Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor MacPherson would now join the Cabinet as Portfolio Holder to cover Public Protection and Communities.

In line with the Constitution the Leader stated that he would notify the Chief Executive of these changes.

46. Questions from Members of the Public

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

Mr Westall was unavailable to attend Full Council therefore his question was withdrawn and a written response will be provided as soon as practicable.

47. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors

The Mayor informed Members that, in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme no notices of petitions had been received.

48. Petitions Update Report

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

49. 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 Council Chamber that he wished to make the following change:

- For Councillor Watkins to replace Councillor MacPherson on the Fire Authority.

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

- For Councillor Spillman to replace Councillor Sheridan on the Arts Council.

Councillor Kent, Leader of the Labour Group, informed the Council Chamber he had no changes to make.

50. Thurrock Local Plan: Issues and Options (Stage 1) Report of Public Consultation

Councillor Coxshall introduced the report which provided members with a summary of the presentations made in response to the Issues and Options (Stage 1) Consultation Document and the public consultation. Councillor Coxshall stated that a large number of comments had been received from residents through the “Pants and Top” initiative and he read out some of those comments.

For the plan to go forward into Stage 2 and 3, residents’ comments would still be required which would give residents the opportunity to have their say on the way forward in the next 20 years.

Councillor Coxshall thanked the officers for their hard work and the previous administration for starting the Thurrock Local Plan.

Councillor Snell stated that requests for brown field site and green belt maps had not been made available and recommended an amendment to Recommendation 1.3 to read:

That delegated authority to amend timescales is granted to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration in consultation with the Corporate Director of

Environment and Place to amend the Thurrock Local Development Scheme when required.

Councillor Jones seconded the amended recommendation.

The Mayor called a vote on Councillor Snell's amendment.

Following a clear majority in favour, the Mayor declared the amended recommendation carried.

Councillor J Kent stated he would be supporting the recommendations and that the engagement with residents was vital. His concern was from other authorities and developers requesting to build on Thurrock green belt. Councillor J Kent asked for the Leader's reassurance that he will defend Thurrock Council's position and wishes on housing.

Councillor G Rice stated that assurances should be made to ensure that DP World and the Port of Tilbury are fully supported and given sufficient land for their expansions. Councillor G Rice stated that he had heard the reason that Marks and Spencers had withdrawn their application from the trade park was because of lack of housing.

Councillor Gledhill had concerns that businesses would not come to the borough if there was insufficient housing and assured Members that due consideration would be given to any requests from other local councils.

Councillor Spillman stated the Local Plan had been a disaster in Castle Point Council due to political disagreements and appealed for consensus on Thurrock's Plan.

Councillor Halden stated that the health infrastructure in the borough required to be a big part of the plan and that the Council had to be at that stage that it was building the Thurrock that was needed.

Councillor Duffin stated that he would vote against the recommendations as ground plans had not been provided to make a properly informed decision.

Councillor B Rice thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and stated that it was essential that residents are consulted and that the consultation should be undertaken in a sensitive way with Thurrock residents in mind.

Councillor Coxshall stated the decision on providing maps would be made available in Option 2 and that there were 3 options that require consultation. The approval of Option 1 was required first.

It was also vital that residents' involvement was required to ensure that housing would be available in time for when the younger population of Thurrock needed it in the future.

The Mayor called a vote on the recommendations as amended.

Upon being put to the vote, 27 Members were in favour of the Amendment with 1 Member voted against and 10 Members abstained.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Council noted progress on the preparation of the Thurrock Local Plan.**
- 2. That the Thurrock Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 1) Report of Consultation be approved by Council for publication.**
- 3. That delegated authority to amend timescales is granted to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration in consultation with the Corporate Director of Environment and Place to amend the Thurrock Local Development Scheme when required.**

51. Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance

Councillor Hebb presented the report for the forthcoming 12 months and stated that it was a pleasure to be presenting this report tonight as Cabinet Member for Finance and that the finance management plan echoed the ethos:

- Chart the course for the next 30 years through the Council Spending Review to enable the right services that operate well.
- Pro-revenue Growth that means selling our services to other councils and other organisations.
- The Council to focus on the right things such as Clean It, Cut It, Fill It.

Councillor Hebb stated that Thurrock was a unique place and that Thurrock should be benchmarked as the best unitary in the land.

There would be improvements on IT security and virus threats. Councillor Hebb stated that a virus had been sent to Thurrock and the Council had been protected by an officer who identified the piece of spam mail that resulted in it being resolved.

Councillor Jones thanked the Portfolio Holder for his report and congratulated him on his new post of Deputy Leader. Councillor Jones asked the Portfolio Holder for clarification on the Clean It, Cut It, Fill It agenda and its financial implications. Councillor Hebb stated that Clean It, Cut It, Fill It was absolutely the best thing to be done and was right for Thurrock. He stated that the cost of this initiative could be fulfilled at present but he was attending a budget meeting tomorrow to identify further savings to further strengthen its financial position.

Councillor Gerrish asked the Portfolio Holder if he agreed with his own financial plan taking into account the increase of council tax by 4 per cent in coming years. Councillor Hebb stated it was actually nice to have a financial

plan and with regard to the savings over the 3 month budget period that if the leader of the Labour Party had bothered to turn up to the Comprehensive Spending Review Meeting on Monday he would have known that we had identified everything over the next three years and the proposals were being shaped and presented. Based on that Councillor Hebb stated that he was happy with his plan and would be happy to deliver the proposals of the plan to the residents of Thurrock.

Councillor Spillman stated his concerns on the consultation on the council tax support scheme and how this increase would affect the lower paid families in Thurrock. Councillor Hebb reconfirmed that the council tax support scheme was a national recognised scheme and with regards to any instances of compassionate collections where this had not been fulfilled for Thurrock residents, councillors should make direct contact with Councillor Hebb.

Councillor B Rice thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and asked how the demand in social care was to be reduced when the census states an increase for social care in Thurrock and what the effects of future cuts would mean. Councillor Hebb stated that plans were underway and that Councillor Sue Little was an excellent advocate for Children's Services and had been working with the Corporate Director of Children's Services to address such challenges.

Councillor Duffin stated that the 15 per cent budget reduction could send out the wrong message to residents of Thurrock and clarification was required to explain the Council's actions to them. Councillor Hebb explained that the Revenue Support Grant had been forever eroding and decreasing in the previous parliament and the parliament that was coming. Councillor Hebb stated that they were expecting a 15 to 20 per cent reduction over time and that the key point was what was to be done with the 80 or 85 per cent that was left and could this be looked at differently to what has happened in the past in the interest of the public.

Councillor MacPherson asked the Portfolio Holder to provide more details of the signing off process of the solar farm in Swindon. Councillor Hebb stated that this was signed off on the 19 May 2016 one week before the Conservatives took over the administration.

52. Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chambers that three questions to the Leader of the Council had been received and 10 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.

Due to the lack of time the Mayor stated that the questions not dealt with those members would receive a written response as soon as practicable.

Councillor Gledhill called Point of Order at 8.34pm stating that not all Members may be aware that questions not dealt with could be withdrawn and resubmitted for the October Council.

Councillor Spillman stated that he wished to withdraw his question and resubmit for October Council.

Councillor Smith stated that he wished to withdraw his question and resubmit for October Council.

Councillor Cherry stated that he wished to withdraw his question and resubmit for October Council.

53. Minutes of Committees

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

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

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

55. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies

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

57. Motion submitted by Councillor Aker

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

Thurrock Council calls on the government to make unauthorised traveller pitches and unauthorised events a criminal offence.

Councillor Aker introduced the Motion and in doing so explained that the Motion was submitted in the summer following the incidents that had occurred on the Manorway and it reflected the number of queries and comments received from residents.

The aim was to wake up other local authorities to make them aware of what needs to be done and that changes in extending the principles would tighten up the current legislation.

Councillor Aker stated that this needed to be a national priority with a letter going to Government to focus on the lack of action being taken on policies on traveller sites.

Councillor C Holloway stated he would be against this Motion and confirmed that there was legislation already in place to deal with this and thanked the Leader of the Council for actions taken so far.

Councillor G Rice stated that he would support the Motion and that action should be taken by Government to address this. Councillor G Rice further stated that Thurrock had taken its fair share of travellers and that the Leader should reinforce that message.

Councillor Piccolo stated that the UKIP MP should lobby in parliament for the law to be changed and there was not a national appetite for revised legislation.

Councillor Coxshall stated that the Motion was a disgrace with the attitude of the Motion in picking on one group of people. He continued to say that this was not for Thurrock and was embarrassed by the Motion.

Councillor Gledhill stated that he would not be supporting the Motion and confirmed what Councillor C Holloway stated that powers were in place but these needed to be tightened and enforced properly. He also felt that the phrase 'any unauthorised events' would be open to a wide interpretation and was not suitable.

Councillor Cherry stated that he would be supporting the Motion as travellers should be expected to pay their way and should abide by the rules of Thurrock.

Councillor Duffin supported the Motion and stated that if the law changed further action could be taken and may deter other travellers breaking the law if they knew about the new laws.

Councillor Aker requested an alteration to the Motion to read:

Thurrock Council calls on the government to make unauthorised traveller pitches a criminal offence

Councillor Duffin seconded the Altered Motion.

The Mayor called a vote on Councillor Aker's Altered Motion.

Upon being put to the vote, 24 Members were in favour of the Altered Motion with 15 Members voted against.

Councillor Aker thanked the Chambers for agreeing to the Motion Alteration and for the input and debate by Members.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion as altered.

Following a clear majority in favour, the Mayor declared the Altered Motion carried.

58. Motion submitted by Councillor Jones

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

We call on Thurrock Council to write to the secretary of State to express many residents' views that in its present state the police service contact number 101 is not fit for purpose.

Councillor Jones introduced the Motion and in doing so stated that the current 101 police service contact number was not fit for purpose and that residents were losing the trust of the Police. That the service needed to be addressed and response times had to be improved.

Council Gledhill stated that the 101 service had been designed to take the pressure off the 999 service and that operators were known to give incorrect advice to residents by directing them to the Council instead of the Police.

Councillor Cherry defended the Essex Police in stating that the cut backs in resources and the non-presence of police on the street had resulted in more 101 calls being made. He highlighted that the 101 service was designed to report historic events and not urgent requests that required immediate action. Councillor Cherry stated that if residents rang 101 or 999 the waiting time would probably be the same length of time.

Councillor Potheary echoed Councillor Gledhill and Councillor Cherry's concerns and would be supporting the Motion. In Councillor Potheary's time as Portfolio Holder residents were encouraged to consistently report incidents using the 101 service so that data could be recorded and monitored.

Councillor G Rice stated that the Conservative Government had made the cuts to the Police Service and that the Police Crime Commissioner had shut down police stations in the borough which had been vital community assets.

Councillor Redsell stated she would be supporting the Motion as residents were losing the trust of the police and that the police should be getting smarter in dealing with incidents. The 101 service was the only method for some elderly residents to use to contact the police.

Councillor Watkins stated that not everyone had access to IT to enable them to report incidents on-line and that the crime statistics for the borough were down.

Councillor Spillman stated that 1 in 5 crimes were not being recorded correctly and that the statistics were being made worse by the 101 service. Councillor Spillman stated he would be supporting the Motion.

9.15pm – Members agreed to standing orders by finishing Full Council at 9.30pm.

Councillor B Rice stated she would be supporting the Motion and that crime was on the increase in the borough with evidence from the social care survey that residents do not feel safe.

Councillor Coxshall stated that the National Crime Survey was important and that it was pro-active to ask residents for their comments and that targeting of crime needed to be done in Thurrock.

Councillor Hamilton stated that Thurrock needed to think about the crime levels for the future to encourage local businesses and new residents to the area.

Councillor Snell stated that the Chamber appeared to be split with one side looking at national statistics whilst the other was more concerned with Thurrock statistics. He firmly believed the Chamber was there to represent Thurrock residents. He stated that residents need to have the trust of the police otherwise the service will fall apart and to ensure that residents do not take matters into their own hands. The service needed to be addressed to ensure this trust was maintained.

Councillor Jones summed up that residents need to feel safe and that law and order must be implemented and sustained within the community.

Members voted unanimously in favour of this Motion.

58. Motion submitted by Councillor Duffin

The Motion, as printed in the Agenda was proposed by Councillor Duffin and seconded by Councillor Aker.

Councillor Duffin stated that residents had the right to know about the balance budget settings and why council taxes had been increased compared to the services received. Residents should be aware that these changes were not being imposed by Thurrock but from Westminster.

Members voted unanimously in favour of this Motion.

59. Motion submitted by Councillor J Kent

The Motion, as printed in the Agenda was proposed by Councillor J Kent and seconded by Councillor Kerin.

Councillor J Kent stated that Grays Beach was a jewel in the crown for Thurrock but sadly had not worked this year with the café, toilets and baby changing facilities not having been open. In addition, the flood that had taken place had closed most of the play equipment. Councillor J Kent asked that the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake an investigation to ensure that Grays Beach be open next summer.

Members voted unanimously in favour of this Motion.

The Mayor announced two charity events that she encouraged members to support. The first was the Mayor's Afternoon Tea to be held on the 13 October 2016 at the High House Production Park and the Blue Light Ball on the 3 March 2017 to be held at the Civic Hall.

The meeting finished at 9.29pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

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

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Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 28 September 2016

Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.

Two questions were submitted from members of the public.

1. From Mr Jackson to Councillor Tolson

With an increasing number of Heavy Good Vehicles using Thurrock's road network and a linked decreasing air quality (in recent years illustrated by increasing Air Quality Monitoring in the Borough). Will the Council introduce a Low Emissions Zone for Thurrock, following the lead of many neighbouring London Boroughs? Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor Tolson, could you please respond.

Councillor Tolson

Thank you Mr Jackson for your question, and I just wanted to say that it's not normally this warm in here but it seems very warm again this evening. As one of the elected Members of Thurrock Council, we're all concerned with the pollution that comes into our society and we want the area in our Borough to be as clean as we can possibly have it. Just off the top of my head I think we've got two tunnels coming into Thurrock, a bridge going out, two ports, an A13. So, in light of that, Thurrock Council is developing an Integrated Air Quality and Health Strategy for Thurrock outlining our approach to reducing harmful emissions and reducing exposure. There's a document coming to the November Cabinet, sorry not Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny meeting, I think that's chaired by Councillor Barbara Rice. So that's a public meeting that you can go to if you wish, or if you want to put a question forward, because I know that it's something you feel strongly about, you might be interested in that. Regarding the Lower Emissions Zone, there is some work we're doing around that and it's one of the things that we're reviewing to see whether there's going to be impact or advantages for our Borough, so that's something we're going to do as well and we're going to start a feasibility study shortly and the results of that should be ready about January time.

Mayor

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

Mr Jackson

No, I'll leave that there, thank you very much.

Mayor

Thank you. Question number 2, Mr Perrin could you please come to the designated area and read your question out to Councillor Tolson as set out on the Agenda? Sorry I apologise, the question is to Councillor Gledhill not Councillor Tolson. Sorry

2. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Gledhill

Mr Perrin

Thank you, Madam Mayor. My question is Anti-social behaviour is invariably a traumatic experience for the persons being transgressed against, particularly when it appears to be taking an inordinately long time to resolve. Could you tell me how long, on average, a case of anti-social behaviour takes to conclude?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill, would you like to respond to the question please?

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you, Madam Mayor and thank you, Mr Perrin, for your question. I couldn't agree more. Anti-social behaviour is blight; it takes far too long and it affects people, not just the one person is affected but also the neighbours and in my opinion does take a little bit too long to deal with. However, the Council's Housing Enforcement Service has three anti-social behaviour categories. They're Category One which represents the most complex cases, Category Two which are medium level and Category Three which are the lower level. Over the past year Category One took an average of 61 days from start to finish to deal with, Category Two took 54 days and Category Three took 37 days.

Mayor

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

Mr Perrin

Thank you, Madam Mayor and thank you, Councillor Gledhill so far. I asked the question because, in my experience and probably the experience of elected Councillors, it seems that most cases involve long, drawn out procedures, which you have outlined there, which all too often cause prolonged distress and frustration to those being transgressed against whilst allowing transgressors – I shouldn't have used all these long words – to continue with their anti-social behaviour. I acknowledge anti-social behaviour can be complicated and evidence is required to justify the complaint which can take time, but there are cases where the evidence is so obvious e.g. the parking of cars in so-called "communal gardens", which could also be

considered a breach of the code of conduct contained within the Tenancy Agreement, meriting immediate action by the Council. Would you meet with officers of the Corporate Complaints Team tasked with handling complaints of anti-social behaviour with a view to adopting a more robust approach, especially where there is an obvious breach of a Tenancy Agreement Clause?

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you, Madam Mayor and thank you, Mr Perrin. Again, you're quite right some of these cases do take too long, but you're also quite right that sometimes it does take a long time to get sufficient evidence to be able to move forward with the case. I was only made aware of what you're discussing earlier on today and I've spoken to officers and I'm not particularly happy with perhaps the time it took to respond to that. I'm more than happy to meet with the Director for Housing, indeed I'm meeting with him tomorrow to discuss the way forward on a number of issues of housing and this is one of them. Obviously the Corporate Complaints Team deal with the complaint itself they don't actually deal with the anti-social behaviour, but I shall bring this up with him tomorrow and as soon as I get a level of satisfaction with the outcome I shall certainly let you know in this case, and indeed what we will be doing to reduce the time it takes to process anti-social behaviour claims and indeed breaches of tenancy. It's not right that our tenants continue to breach tenancy rules, they're there for a reason and they need to be adhered to, if they want to stay in social housing they have to abide by the rules.

Item 12 – Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 10 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee had been received.

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

1. From Councillor Jones to Councillor Gledhill

In light of the events of the weekend of the 30/31 July, regarding the King Of The Road travellers pony and trap racing on the Manorway public road Corringham, and further to the scrutiny work and recommendations of Cleaner Greener & Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 5 September 2016 can the Leader let me know what measures are now being put in place or considered to prevent such activities being repeated. Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill?

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you, Madam Mayor and thank you, Councillor Jones for your question. Madam Mayor, unfortunately I won't be able to keep this brief, there are five parts of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer recommendations that will need to be addressed to answer the question in full. I'm sure the Chamber will agree that they do not want to see a repeat of what happened on 30/31 July. I know Councillor Jones and other Members joined together to show a visible response of how Thurrock Council were against this, I myself spent an excessively large amount of time on the telephone or via email with the Chief Executive and with the Police and Crime Commissioner and various police officers trying to jolly them into action. The Police did have sufficient force on the day to enforce the action that was outlined, unfortunately they didn't, they apologised for that and I will come to there as it forms part of the five-point plan thereafter. Cleaner, Greener and Safer met in September and discussed this event and from that they came up with five recommendations.

Thurrock will implement measures at its disposal to prevent a reoccurrence. The Highways team has worked quickly to put in a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for the Manorway which effectively makes it illegal for trap racing to take place. The TRO prohibits any horse-drawn carriages from travelling along the Manorway, from Stanford Interchange to Corringham, sorry, Coryton refinery access from Saturday 24 September to Friday 23 December. We have done this in consultation with the Police who are now able to enforce against any breaches. Since then I have asked officers to progress this to a permanent Traffic Order for the Manorway. If this is

possible a period of traffic, sorry, of public consultation will take place in line with the regulations and I would hope residents will see the benefit of this and support that action when and if we can take it.

Recommendation Two; Police and Council work in partnership to prevent the reoccurrence. In light of the above and following the intelligence shared with the Police and the Council, sufficient Police resources were made available to arrest anyone in breach of the order, the TRO, over this weekend. The organisers of this illegal event had been made aware this and they've protested to the Police, have said that the Council were acting unfairly. My response to this is simple; tough. We will not tolerate illegal activity in Thurrock and making threats to disrupt traffic across the Borough until they get their own way will not wash with me, it doesn't wash with the Chief Exec' and I hope it doesn't wash with the Police too.

Recommendation Three; Introduce a possible Public Space Protection Order on the Manorway. As mentioned I've asked officers to look at making the temporary traffic restriction order permanent, and also to look at other stretches of the highway across the Borough where this may be used. If this is not possible we will then look at a Public Space Protection Order to put in place. We've done this and it has worked well in West Thurrock with the boy racers, I cannot see how it should be any less effective against trap racers.

Recommendation to look forward, sorry, to look for road management options to prevent this. We have to remember this is a major route; it helps serve the Port and other businesses. Putting features in the road such as bollards, cattle grids, chicanes etc. will cause traffic to slow permanently on this Arterial route. Regular road traffic should not have to put up with this and more importantly, our tax payers should not have to bear the burden of the cost, so this will only come as a last resort. If this is the case we will make sure everyone is notified in advance in line with road traffic regulations and that they are proportionate.

Finally, a working protocol with Police and Council be prepared to tackle this problem; this has already been done. Indeed, in principal agreement was made on the Monday after the trap racing took place and it has been used a number of times since for reasons not just of the race but of other traveller incursions and it has worked well, even long past midnight on some occasions when I've been still in conversation with the Chief Executive and the Police to make sure that the unauthorised encampments are being moved along across the Borough.

Separately, this issue was raised at the Essex Leaders and Police Crime Commissioner's round table meeting on Monday. The meeting was to discuss the issue of travellers and I am pleased to say that we are now looking at helping to look for a County-wide solution to prevent this popping up elsewhere in the County, not just within the borders of Thurrock. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

Mayor

Thank you. Councillor Jones, do you wish to ask a supplementary question?

Councillor Jones

Yes please Madam Mayor, thank you, Madam Mayor. Thank you, Leader, for your answers. Now, many residents and local businesses requested that I do ask that question, simply because the travellers have indicated that they do intend to come back for more pony and trap racing. They approached DP security staff as to ask who was responsible for the land that backs onto the burger stall on the Manorway. Fortunately, this land, that is iron-latched, that is DP World's temporary lorry park and fortunately they had moved all of their lorries out of that site and secured the gates. Now, Saturday was a very frustrating, long day and then we find that the travellers want five more races on the Sunday, much against Council's will. Now it was disappointing that the Police went ahead with their meeting minus any Council staff as to put any input in and decided to, shall we say, give the travellers what they wanted and give them five races. Now, I must admit it was made public knowledge about the meeting on 1 August, on Monday, and I was totally disappointed at not being invited. I appreciated all the support I got from the Councillors down there and I had total respect for Stephen Metcalfe for turning up and we had a few discussions down there. But as not to be invited to that meeting on Monday when I was the first Councillor down there at 7:30, I was the first Councillor to raise the alarm, I was the first Councillor that see first-hand the mayhem that was going on, I was the first Councillor that spoke to the Inspector at the time that was organising, shall we say, the convoys backwards and forwards and I was the only Councillor that attained a dispersal order as to point out that on Saturday and Sunday this shouldn't be, because I was told by the Inspector at the time that they was caught out and they expected it to be on the Sunday and I said "no" and I supported...

Mayor

Councillor, sorry, can you make sure you ask a question.

Councillor Jones

Yeah, I'm sorry Madam Mayor but this is important for residents of my area. So, I would like to know why wasn't leaders or deputy leaders invited to that meeting, or local Councillors, on the Monday and who made the decision? Thank you.

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you, Madam Mayor and thank you, Councillor Jones. On the whole I do agree totally with your frustration. The day, it was quite clear the Police had the correct powers and dispersal order, they had sufficient units there to deal with it across the Borough, sorry across the County, all ready to go and they chose not to. Holding a meeting on Saturday where I was told I would be

going along, which took place without my knowledge, indeed my attendance, wasn't particularly happy with that either. They did agree to come and meet the Council, myself and Stephen Metcalfe on the Monday, and that went ahead. It did go ahead without yourself or indeed Members of Labour, it just felt necessary that I was there; I was fully aware of all of the issues and problems, not only from stuff that had come from yourself but also from my Councillors as well and other residents and that took place in that way. I apologise if you do feel put out by this and I can understand your frustration. If it had been Little Thurrock Rectory and I wasn't the Leader, I think I would feel probably a little bit the same. We hope that this will not happen again, we have a Traffic Restriction Order that would hopefully prevent this, and if it doesn't it is solely on the Police to deal with this. If it gets to the point where this does happen again and we do have to have another meeting, I will ensure that you are invited as Deputy Leader of the Opposition, or indeed Councillor Snell as Leader of the Opposition, to make sure that this is a round table discussion in the same way that both John (*Kent*) and Councillor Barbara Rice will also have the extension to them as well.

Mayor

Thank you. Councillor Jones, do you wish to ask a second supplementary?

Councillor Jones

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Thank you, Leader, for your answer and thank you for feeling concerned as to why I wasn't invited. Now, when the Springhouse Road traveller encampment first turned up, they broke in on, they come in on was it Park Road, and basically a convoy turned up, a young lad jumped out of the truck, they broke into the gates and that's how they got in there. They was making the residents...

Mayor

Councillor, sorry, I'm sorry to rush you but we are running out of time. Can you ask a question please?

Councillor Jones

Well, basically there was a lot of anti-social behaviour there on that site. My question, have you changed your opinion on the statement you made that criminalising travellers for their way of life is not the right way to go, after all these events that's gone on in Thurrock? Thank you.

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you, Madam Mayor, and when people have stopped flapping their school books I shall answer it. Yes, there was criminality that allowed the travellers to take occupation of Springfield Park, which was wrong, the Police should have dealt with that, indeed since then they've been using Section 61 very effectively to move travellers on so this does not happen again. That

includes where they've caused criminal damage. My statement in relation to criminalising the traveller way of life remains as is; we cannot criminalise the way of life of a group that is protected under the Discrimination Act, it is simple, we cannot do it. What we can do is to ensure that where criminality does take place, irrespective of whether it's travellers, irrespective of whether it's an elected Member in this Chamber, irrespective of whether it's any other resident of the Borough, whether they're coming into the Borough as visitors or whatever, criminality will not be tolerated and the Police should deal with it as they are entitled to. But we cannot, and I repeat, we cannot criminalise a particular ethnic group for their illegal actions, we can prosecute them for their illegal actions.

Mayor

Thank you. Councillor Duffin, could you please read out your question?

2. From Councillor Duffin to Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Duffin

Does the Leader of the Council believe that the Council has sufficient legal powers to deal with unauthorised traveller sites in Thurrock?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill?

Councillor Gledhill

Again, this is a, unfortunately because of the type of question it will be quite a long answer. It is not a simple "yes" or "no" answer question, Councillor Duffin. Local Authorities have a wide range of powers to deal with unauthorised traveller sites and they are outlined in full at the Dealing with Illegal and Unauthorised Encampments paper issued on March 2015 as amended. These include: temporary stop notices, injunctions against unauthorised encampments, licensing of caravan sites, licensing of tent sites, possession orders, interim possession orders, local bye-laws that enable the Council to suppress noise nuisance etc, parts of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act which allows the powers of arrest and seizure of property, such as caravans where these bye-laws are broken, addressing obstructions on the highway, planning contraventions, enforcement notices, and retrospective planning notices, stop notices, breach of condition notices, powers of arrest, sorry powers of entry onto land and there are a number more in relation to accumulation of rubbish and public health.

On top of that the Police have three extra powers to direct unauthorised encampments to leave land and powers to direct trespassers to alternative sites and offending squatters in residential buildings to be arrested. This list obviously includes where travellers purchase land and build without prior planning permission, however it does not include the creative use of Public

Space Protection Orders such as things as no overnight parking of vehicles for the purpose of accommodation in this area where it's been a problem in the past I would use Kevitt's Field as a prime example of that. You will remember that when I asked for Council to look at gaining an injunction similar to that of Harlow to prevent unauthorised encampments, that's now going forward. I also made clear that a large conversation needed to be had across Essex to give the provision of transit sites; this would then allow the Police to use extra powers to move on encampments as small as one vehicle with two occupants. I also said that a wider conversation should happen soon. True to my word, that happened on Monday with other Essex Leaders and I was really pleased to see that other Essex Leaders felt exactly the same as I do, the powers that are there are wide and varied, unfortunately the powers that are there are still up for abuse and they need to be tightened. So yes they are sufficient, but no they're not adequate enough to deal with real life situations as we've seen in Thurrock and indeed right across the whole of Essex and probably the entire Country, and we will be asking Government to change and tighten up these regulations to stop this abuse, and it is wholesale abuse, from the travelling community and make it much easier for both Local Authorities and the Police to do their job, to protect the settled community.

Mayor

Councillor Duffin, do you wish to pose a supplementary?

Councillor Duffin

It's interesting that you've said you're going to ask Government to do something because Councillor Piccolo wrote online "it's not a priority of any major political party", and you yourself earlier were saying with regards to these changes, and the changes we're asking for is when on Council land it takes seven days to move on, the Council is left with the clean up costs that is the law change we're after, and your comments "I don't think criminalising someone's way of life is the best way to go about it" – do you honestly think that someone's way of life is to unauthorised break onto sites and set up caravan sites? Because if that's what you think is their way of life then you don't understand what these people are doing. We're not talking about criminalising all traveller sites, we're talking about the unauthorised ones, so why is your position still that you don't want to criminalise it because these changes, as when I spoke to a Council Officer confirmed they would allow for much quicker moving on of unauthorised sites is not your idea. You seem to be welcoming that it takes seven days and the Council pays for the clean up. Is that still your position that you want the Council to pay for clean up of these sites?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill?

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you, Madam Mayor. As someone just heckled, it is the law as it is, hence I'm asking for it to be changed. No, I do not agree that travellers should have, or anybody should have, the right to go onto public land and leave it an absolute state where it costs us £6,000 to clean up on average on every incursion. But not every incursion leaves that kind of rubbish, not every incursion is on public land, there are horrible ways to get around this, parking on verges for instance doesn't mean we can use those kinds of acts is another part of the regulations that usually takes even longer but since we've had this meeting with the Police following the incident with the trap racing we now have Essex Police using Section 61 powers to move travellers on in matters of hours, not days, not weeks, but hours. It's sometimes even less than an hour and we've got to have credit to the Police for actually thinking outside of the box, working with the Council and actually taking the bull by the horns on this and making it very unpalatable for certain members of the travelling community to make our place a mess. You're right, unauthorised traveller encampments need to be moved on, there is the law already there, it just needs to be tightened. I know you're not happy with that, and anyone can see the frustration of both you and myself when I'm standing in front of a bunch of travellers that said "I've just left this place nice and clean and tidy" and I'm looking at a pile of rubbish about a foot high and about three foot wide, you know I've got to wear glasses but I'm not blind. I've been to some of these sites where, quite frankly, the sum of the human waste left is disgusting. This kind of action cannot be tolerated, but we've got laws to deal with that we just need to make sure they're tighter and they're enforced and that will stop this from happening. On the flip side of that we need to make sure travellers have somewhere to go. As Councillor Aker has suggested, and I've suggested in the past, we need these transit sites. We need to have a grown up conversation and need to be non-parochial about this; we need one in Thurrock, they need one in Southend to comply with Section 62 of the Police and Criminal Justice Act, Essex need however many Essex will need. That needs to take place. When that takes place it will make it so much easier to stop this from happening. This is no different to the HGV problem that again you experience in Aveley, we can't move them on...

Mayor

Councillor, please.

Councillor Gledhill

Sorry, Madam Mayor.

Mayor

No Councillor, Councillor please. It's 8:21 – we've got half an hour, you've had over twenty minutes already, we've only done two questions. Please can I ask you all too just ask your questions and to just answer the questions that

are asked and not carry on with lots of waffle. Do you have a second supplementary Councillor?

Councillor Duffin

It's obvious to see that now your view has changed from the moment you gave the comment to the Gazette where you said you didn't want a law change now you're saying you do want one, so can you confirm at what point you changed your mind from "no law change" to "law change"? Because I think residents deserve to know.

Councillor Gledhill

Sorry, Madam Mayor I did not turn my mic off. I'm going to have to make it very clear and very short again. I have not said there should not be a law change, I've said the law it needs to be tightened. (*heckling in background*) If you're going to interrupt this it is going to take longer, Councillor Duffin. It's going to need to be tightened, not changed. It's going to need to be improved, not thrown out with the bathwater and started again, and criminalising everything as your party wish to do. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

Mayor

Thank you. Councillor Kent, would you like to read out your question please?

3. From Councillor John Kent to Councillor Gledhill

Will the Leader of the Council explain the process for agreeing Thurrock Council's submission to the Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission?

Councillor Gledhill

I will keep it much shorter than the answer that I got previously, Madam Mayor. In the budget of 2016 the then Chancellor announced the Thames Estuary Commission would be created. On 7 July myself and Councillor Hague attended, with other Commissioners, a river trip along the Borough. On 14 July the Commission launched its growth plans and a call for ideas which were heard first hand at the Olympic Park and that had to be submitted by the deadline of 9 September. During the summer we worked closely with Partners, I will not list them there are a number of them, and on 7 September the draft report was presented to members of the Governance Group, which is the three Group Leaders, for that to be finalised and submitted on 9 September.

Mayor

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

Councillor Kent

Yeah thank you, Madam Mayor. The Governance Group I didn't attend as I wasn't in the Borough, do you really think that that is an appropriate forum for signing off and getting agreement for a document this important? And I'll just give, if I can, one specific: this document says, agreed as I understand by the Group Leaders who were at the Governance Group so that's Councillor Snell and Councillor Gledhill, that Thurrock Council believes that Thurrock has the physical capacity to deliver 20-30,000 new homes by 2036. Can I just ask where Councillor Gledhill believes that we can put 30,000 new homes?

Councillor Gledhill

Well, obviously some people must have been asleep when we covered this point earlier in Councillor Coxshall's report. We have not got specific sites at this time, and indeed this is an idea paper that was presented to Lord Heseltine, not one of those that's Policy, not one of those that's going to be a way that the Council's going to do and certainly not one of those that's site specific, that's very clear obviously reading the entire document, Councillor Kent. Indeed, perhaps if you had been there at the meeting you could have asked that question and it could have been answered or indeed amended to make it a little bit clearer to anyone reading it. Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor Kent, do you wish to pose a second supplementary?

Councillor Kent

So we are told a statement that says "the Council believes that Thurrock has the physical capacity to deliver 20-30,000 new homes by 2036" is nothing more than an idea or a fancy. I'll move on. We're told that the Council recommends a review of Local Government boundaries across South Essex to create greater scale and influence, better Policy integration, decision making agility and delivery capacity. It says Thurrock Council would support a Government and business led review of Local Government boundaries in South Essex that review must have at its heart the purpose of creating a form of Local Government that effectively unites the interests of communities and businesses across South Essex. It has to be agile and nimble enough to drive and respond to growth...

Mayor

Councillor, could we have the question please?

Councillor Kent

...which can be put in place and deliver a single vision and plan for one of the most important economic growth areas in the UK. Madam Mayor, I have to ask is that nothing more than the idea of creating a single Unitary Authority for

South Essex that would stretch from Thurrock to Southend? And if so, how do we then deliver on what we all want to see, decisions on housing numbers and other things for Thurrock taken in Thurrock by Thurrock people, not people from Rochford, Castle Point or anywhere else?

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you, Madam Mayor and as I put earlier, these are ideas and things that are being put forward to deliver better across all of the Local Authorities in the Thames Estuary area. We will need to be working much, much closer. Should that be larger Unitary Authorities, plural? Maybe. Should that be one larger Local Authority, Unitary Authority? Maybe. Should that be a kind of second tier working, like we have in London? Again, maybe. I can't reiterate this enough, these are ideas and plans to see how well they will go. We cannot make that decision on our own; there are other Local Authorities that are involved in this. Southend are of a slightly different view, from their point of view, obviously we have a few districts in there that would need to break away from the Essex County Council to do so. This is a whole thing, it's 2050 this will be delivered, we can sit here arguing about my new shy and sit here arguing saying "well how is Thurrock going to be better off than somebody else?" It's not about Thurrock being better off; it's about the Thames Estuary, the whole of the Thames Estuary being better off. We have taken the brunt so far of a lot of the housing, some of which has not been high quality, and some of the industry, some of which is obviously causing health problems in later life. We need to make sure that is spread right across the Thames Estuary. We need to make sure that people in Rochford take their fair share in the same way that we would be taking our fair share of improvements in highways infrastructure and improvements in housing and improvements in health. If someone is against that then maybe they should step down and let someone else take the role of Councillor who really wants to make something better for not just Thurrock, but the whole of Essex and the Thames Estuary.

Mayor

Right, I will now take questions that have been submitted to Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs. Councillor Duffin, can you please read your question?

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 B Little**
(Answered by Councillor Gledhill in place of Councillor Little)

Is the Portfolio Holder aware that residents including parents with buggies are forced to walk in the road, around the blind corner on Silvertown Avenue and Thors Oak because people are parking on pavements and may I ask what, if any, action is the Council planning to take to stop this?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill, can you answer the question please?

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you, Councillor Duffin and I can sympathise with your residents and indeed yourself, we have a similar problem in Little Thurrock Rectory with inappropriate parking forcing a number of disabled and elderly residents to have no alternative but to walk or be pushed along through the road both day and night on a very bad lit corner. However, the Council does not have a Traffic Regulation Order in place at this site at the moment; consequently the enforcement of obstruction of the highway falls to the Police. This matter has now been flagged with Officers at the Council's Traffic Team, I understand you did this very early on in your term of office, and they will now go back to investigate whether further parking restrictions are appropriate. But in the meantime, I'm sure you'll join me in urging all users of the road to think pedestrian and park considerately. A good acid test for all of them would be "could my most elderly relative be able to negotiate the road now I've parked where I've parked?" If the answer is no, they need to get back in their car and park somewhere sensible. So let's make a big request out to the people that are parking inappropriately, not just here but across the Borough, think pedestrian and make it safe for everybody not just convenient for you. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

Mayor

Thank you, Councillor Duffin do you have a supplementary?

Councillor Duffin

Yeah, thank you very much for your answer. Could I just ask that the Council look at the process, the way of doing it because it was one of the first three bits of casework I put in and I was told it takes six months to review whether it's safe for a parent to walk in the road with a buggy, which I just think is a bit silly really. So, is there any way to just speed up the process in future to make it easier for everyone else?

Mayor

Councillor?

Councillor Gledhill

Obviously I can't speak for Councillor Brian Little on this but I really share your frustration. You know, it's going to be the point where somebody is seriously injured or killed and that is wrong, especially when the Local Authority is aware of this. It makes the liability a little bit more on us and that is wrong, so yes I will be speaking to Councillor Little to make sure that this is on the agenda for further action.

Mayor

Councillor Stone, would you like to read your question please?

2. From Councillor Stone to Councillor Coxshall

Thank you, Madam Mayor. How many days was the cafe open at Grays beach during the last 3 months?

Councillor Coxshall

I'm going to make this short, zero.

Mayor

Councillor Stone, do you have a supplementary question?

Councillor Stone

No.

Mayor

Okay, Councillor Watkins?

3. From Councillor Watkins to Councillor Halden

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Could the portfolio holder for education, please inform me what steps are being taken for sports at all schools in Thurrock?

Mayor

Councillor Halden?

Councillor Halden

Thank you, Madam Mayor. The Council actually supports the Daily Mile which is a terrific scheme that the vast majority of our primary schools are now undertaking. We're continuing to support schools in that vein. Councillor Watkins has lobbied me very successfully over the last few months in regards to healthy living choices within schools. A paper will be coming to the Cabinet in October outlining how all of our smoking cessation, weight management and other contracts will be streamlined into a new service that will be predominantly targeted at school-age children and the tender will be built around the need to engage with schools to help young people make positive changes to their lives to make sure we break generational issues of health inequality and sports are a key part of that.

Mayor

Thank you, Councillor Watkins do you have a supplementary?

Councillor Watkins

I do, thank you Madam Mayor. I'm glad you mentioned the Daily Mile, obviously it's an important and very clever initiative that's actually been actioned across the Country. Can I ask the Portfolio Holder please to ensure that going forward obviously that we have all of our schools in some capacity doing the Daily Mile? I know that some of our schools currently do, but obviously if we could try just try and branch it out to all our schools it is a great way for not only improving the health of the children in our schools but also helps in their concentration, in their mood and their behaviour as well.

Mayor

Councillor Halden?

Councillor Halden

Thank you, Madam Mayor. I will certainly continue to push that and one of the things that I'm proud that this Administration is doing as part of my lobby group, myself and the Director of Service met with the Regional School's Commissioner today where we discussed the Council's support for Free School bids which included a number of our excellent Academies like William Edwards, a specialist Sports Institution. Making sure there's more great sports provision linked with education in the Borough is a top priority of this Administration.

Mayor

Councillor Watkins, do you have a second supplementary?

Councillor Watkins

I do, thank you Madam Mayor. I'd like to thank you as well, as you mentioned in your first statement, for obviously listening to some of my ideas and making sure they get actioned into Policy as well. I'd like to comment on the fact that I believe we have got a fantastic number of sporting groups across the Borough. They range from a variety of different activities, we have American Football, we have football, we have golf, we have rugby, we have cricket. I do believe though there's a great way to introduce greater participation across the Borough...

Mayor

Councillor, can we have a question please?

Councillor Watkins

Yes, okay. Would the Portfolio Holder please, I request that he sits with me and discusses with me potentially introducing an interactive map whereby we are requesting and allowing those communities and sports groups to come to us and discuss what actually they are doing? We can put those into an interactive map, on the website whereby residents can go forward and find out what sports are taking place.

Mayor

Councillor Halden?

Councillor Halden

Thank you, Councillor Watkins, for your question. I believe he has made that request of me in the past and I believe that is something that we are already actively working on as part of our SEND agenda to ensure that sports is available for all children, including those living with disabilities. That is in addition to a meeting that Councillor Watkins joined me at today with one of our larger multi-Academy Trust Sponsors as we are considering how sports education can be further incorporated into schools to help deal with Mental Health issues amongst young people and self-esteem issues.

Mayor

Thank you. Right, I'm afraid we've run out of time, so the other questions answers will be in writing to Councillors. Councillor Spillman?

Councillor Spillman

I'd like to ask an important question about the Citizen's Advice Bureau, to be honest.

Mayor

No, I'm afraid we're out of time. Sorry Councillor, I did ask you to be brief with your answers and questions because of the time constraints.

Councillor Gledhill

Sorry, Madam Mayor just as a quick Point of Order, some Members may not know that they can withdraw their questions now to re-submit them rather than just receive a written answer so perhaps that might need to be pointed out to them.

Mayor

Okay.

Councillor Spillman

Yeah, I'd like to withdraw my question and resubmit then.

Mayor

Okay, Councillor Stewart?

Councillor Stewart

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Councillor Spillman, if you want to talk to me just outside I'll be happy to talk to you about it.

Mayor

Councillor Smith?

Councillor Smith

Yeah, I'd like to withdraw question 9, please.

Mayor

Okay. Councillor Cherry?

Councillor Cherry

If I can withdraw my question and re-submit it? Thank you

Mayor

Okay, are there any other Councillors that want to withdraw their questions? No? Okay, so we will withdraw those, the other questions will receive written answers.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There is 1 question from the members of the public.

1. **From Mr Abbott to Councillor B Little**

Can we ask for specific details of what exactly the Council are currently doing to challenge and work with Highways England to deal with the almost daily misery the residents face at the current crossing? After all regardless of what or if another crossing is built the misery on Thurrock local road network will remain unless the current crossing is fixed.

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Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 26 October 2016

Petition No.	Description	Presented by (and date)	Portfolio Holder	Status Full copies of the responses may be obtained from Democratic Services
477	Highways England proposals for a New Crossing in Thurrock	23/03/2016	Cllr Gerrish	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 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	<p>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.</p> <p>Update : The four pedestrian gates now have key pads so that only residents, family and carers can access. The two main vehicle gates are due to be fitted with a lock and gates will be locked at night by tenant as</p>

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

Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 26 October 2016

				agreed. Every flat will be provided with a key and the emergency services can all access the lock with a drop key. It is hoped that these will be fitted this week. We will pilot this for 6 months.
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	<p>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.</p> <p>The Council is very much aware of the value placed on the service provided through the NISA store by local people within the South Ockendon area and remains in direct discussion with the tenant and their nominated representatives with a view to reaching an amicable agreement.</p> <p>The Council and other agencies have registered a range of concerns with the tenant in respect of changes that they have made to the property and these lie at the heart of the action being taken. The Council is coordinating its action with those other agencies and is working with the tenant to support their efforts to remedy the issues identified and has recently granted an extension of time to allow the tenant further opportunities to do so.</p>

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				We are hopeful that the tenant will ultimately be able to address these issues. However, in the event that they cannot and the Council is forced to seek the return of the property it will clearly be a priority to secure an alternative operator who can continue to provide this much needed service to local people.
480	There is insufficient parking for local residents living in Limeslade Close. We request the Council build more parking so that residents are able to park their cars in the road that they live. The two ideas we would like to see is the grass at the end of the Cul de sac on the right turned into parking	27/07/2016	Cllr B Little	Officers in Housing are currently investigating the feasibility of the proposal, obtain quotes for the work, carry out a full consultation with the residents and then if necessary add the request to the list.
481	There is insufficient parking for local residents living in Plashet Close and along Southend Road between numbers 94-116. There is parking outside their properties but this is regularly used by people that are not local to the area meaning that residents cannot park their cars. We request the Council install a parking permit scheme for the parking spaces outside of these properties which would mean that local residents could guarantee that there is space for them to park their vehicles.	27/07/2016	Cllr B Little	This request will be included in the Stanford Le Hope Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) review for inclusion into next year's Highways Capital Programme. There is also merit in undertaking further grassed verge reinforcement to provide additional spaces and this will be added to the request list for review under next year's programme.
482	We ask our Councillors, to consider what the least worst option would be in their view given the possibility of Option A, Route 14 and request officers of the Council to look at this as an option and report on its viability. An	30/80/2016	Cllr B Little	A response is currently being prepared by Officers. An update will be presented at the October full council.

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	announcement from the Government will be due to follow soon, we request the Council, to be prepared and well researched into the best possible solution should be we faced with no other alternatives outside of Thurrock.			
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26 October 2016	ITEM: 9
Council	
Revised Political Balance	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Head of Service: David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

This report requests the Council to confirm the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees following Councillor Churchman becoming a member of the Conservative Group on 20 September 2016.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the political balance and allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.
- 1.2 Council note the manual adjustment requirements outlined in 2.3 and agree those adjustments proposed by group leaders at the meeting.
- 1.3 In the absence of group leaders proposing agreed manual adjustments at 1.2 above for Full Council to identify and agree any necessary adjustments to committee membership to allow appointments to be made by group leaders in accordance with the reviewed political balance. Council is advised that the calculations indicate that the Labour Group need to give up one seat on Planning Committee and one seat from a Overview & Scrutiny Committees or Standard & Audit Committee.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The political balance of the Council was confirmed at its annual meeting on 25 May 2016 following the local elections. This balance is now altered with the Council's sole independent member, Councillor Churchman, joining the Conservative Group changing party figures to:

Conservatives: 18
UKIP: 17
Labour: 14

Political proportionality

- 2.2 Appendix 1 of this report shows the impact of this change of party membership to the political balance, namely that the two seats Councillor Churchman held as an independent councillor (1 seat on General Services Committee and 1 seat on Licensing Committee) are now gained by the Conservative Group.
- 2.3 There is a subsequent impact on manual adjustments and as can be seen in row 21 of the chart in appendix 1 the following adjustments are required to be made:
- Labour to lose 2 seats across committees
 - Conservatives to gain 1 seat across committees
 - UKIP to gain 1 seat across committees
- 2.4 Group Leaders are expected to propose their preferred manual adjustments at the meeting to be agreed by Council.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Manual adjustments are discretionary and are based on agreement between all group leaders as to how these adjustments should be made. The adjustments reflected in 2.4 were agreed between the three group leaders.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 For transparency the Council are encouraged to have sight of any changes to political balance and agree or note them.

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

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken in respect of this report with the leaders of each of the political groups represented on the Council. Their agreement has been obtained to the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees and their respective nominations can be put before Council for approval.

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

- 6.1 Appointing members to committees in accordance with the political balance of the Council and associated allocation of seats on committees will enable the Council to properly discharge its functions.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

There are no direct financial implications related to the change in political balance. The cost of servicing committees will be met through the existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

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

These are set out in the body of the report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

The Council is under a statutory duty to ensure that equality and diversity is a key part of the decision making process of the Council. Therefore, attention is drawn to the importance of ensuring that appointments to committees are underpinned by appropriate training on the statutory equality framework. The introduction of essential member training provides the assurance that members of committees will be able to fulfil their obligations with a full understanding of equality and diversity issues. This is fundamental to the Council being able to meet its statutory responsibilities. However, consideration must be given to members not completing the training or not attending, and the steps to be taken in these circumstances, once the member has been appointed.

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

None.

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

- None.

9. Appendices to the report

There are the following appendices to this report:

- Appendix 1 – Revised Political Balance Calculations

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Principal Governance & Democratic Services Officer

Legal and Democratic Services

Thurrock Council
**No-Majority
Proportionality**

Party Group	Committee	Size of Committee	Conservative		Labour		Independent		UKIP		Ungrouped / Seats to allocate	Total
			Strict entitlement	Rounded Entitlement	Strict entitlement	Rounded entitlement	Strict entitlement	Rounded entitlement	Strict entitlement	Rounded entitlement		
Number of members			18		14		0		17		0	49
Overall proportionality			0.367346939	36.73%	0.285714286	28.57%	0	0.00%	0.346938776	34.69%		
Total strict entitlement			29.75510204		23.14285714		0		28.10204082			
Total rounded entitlement			30		23		0		28		81	0
Children's O&S		6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0
Cleaner & Greener O&S		6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0
Corporate O&S		6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0
Health O&S		6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0
Housing O&S		6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0
Planning, Transport & Regeneration O&S		6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0
Planning		9	3.31	3	2.57	3	0.00	0	3.12	3	9	0
Licensing		15	5.51	6	4.29	4	0.00	0	5.20	5	15	0
General Services		7	2.57	3	2.00	2	0.00	0	2.43	2	7	0
Corporate Parenting		8	2.94	3	2.29	2	0.00	0	2.78	3	8	0
Standards & Audit		6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0
Total seats		81		29		25		0		27	81	0
Adjustments				1		-2		0		1		

Notes:

- 1 The total rounded entitlement of each party group is compared with the total number of seats allocated to that group. The allocations are then adjusted manually to ensure that the number of seats allocated to a particular group matches their entitlement.
- 2 Compare total rounded entitlement of each party group (Row 7) with the total number of seats allocated to that group in Row 20. Then adjust the allocations manually to ensure that the number in Row 20 matches that in Row 7
- 3
- 4

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26 October 2016	ITEM: 11
Full Council	
Cabinet Member Report for Performance and Central Services	
Report of: Councillor Deborah Stewart	
This report is public.	

Introduction by Performance & Central Services Portfolio Holder

This is my first report to Council as Portfolio Holder for Performance and Central Services. I am delighted to be able to present this as it encapsulates something about which I am very passionate – supporting teams to deliver good quality services to Thurrock’s residents.

Often people's eyes will gloss over and ears shut at the mention of key performance indicators, targets and statistics. However, these are the very tools by which we can see how the council and its services are performing; if we are maintaining levels and improving or if standards are slipping. The sole purpose of measuring performance is to ensure we are offering the best services possible to Thurrock residents and making people's lives better. We deserve the best, which is why I will do my utmost to highlight and measure performance in a way that strives for continual improvement.

I want our performance results to be clear, transparent and easy to interpret, which is why the style of reporting has changed. For so long services nearly on target but not quite have been recorded as Amber... nearly passing. Well I will not accept mediocrity for Thurrock residents. Being nearly good enough is quite simply just not good enough! The new report design allows us to instantly see service areas that are achieving and improving, but more importantly highlighting the areas that are not. Cabinet members will be informed of failing performance on a monthly basis asking not only for causes of concern but what actions will be taken to improve.

By taking a more holistic approach to performance, by embracing complaints, examining data from our customer contact centre and the KPIs, including our residents’ comments and perceptions from the residents survey, we will strive to be proactive and forward thinking, thus reducing the problems residents experience and aiming to stop the problem from arising in the first place.

And it’s not just for councillors, we want more residents to keep an eye on what’s going on and the best way to do that is to keep it simple and to the point which is a key part of my ongoing review.

This portfolio covers a wide range of support services and it keeps me very busy.

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE

▶ SERVICE OVERVIEW

My portfolio has oversight of the wider corporate performance framework which is primarily concerned with ensuring the council and its services are delivering against its objectives to improve the lives of Thurrock residents.

▶ REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

Since I took over this portfolio I have changed the reporting format, frequency and scrutiny process to make performance information of the council more transparent and easier to understand.

With the demand for council services increasing and being ever more complex, a more holistic approach to monitoring data and intelligence will be used. This will include scrutiny of the workflow and demand in front line services at the highest level. There will also be increased analysis of internal processes at service level by Directors. This approach will ensure the mixture of data being monitored is most useful and provides proper intelligence for business decision making.

The reports no longer categorise KPI performance against target as Red, Amber or Green (RAG status). Instead there is a simplified Achieved or Failed i.e. performance which is worse than target regardless of the margin they will have “failed” by.

I have also changed the order in which performance is scrutinised, therefore Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee now receive quarterly reports before Cabinet. This enables cross party scrutiny and issues to be raised before Cabinet considers the report. This can only be a good thing for transparency and for the sharing of ideas and recommendations for improvement.

This team expanded to incorporate the Performance Quality and Business Support team supporting Children’s and Adults services which was relocated to the corporate centre following the senior management restructure.

▶ PERFORMANCE

The corporate performance report is presented to Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet on a quarterly basis and as such is available for all to see.

The cross-council officer led Performance Board meets monthly to review, monitor and challenge performance of the key performance indicators which are used to monitor progress against the council priority activities. Directors Board and Portfolio Holders review the information relating to their areas on a monthly basis.

▶ FUTURE: CORPORATE PERFORMANCE

There will be a full and thorough review of existing KPIs and other performance tools in 2016 keeping in line with recommendations made by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny in 2015/16.

This review will also take into account feedback and intelligence the council receives from residents. As part of the review the council will also be looking at the trends in other forms of feedback received including complaints and customer service requests and the resident survey which will be undertaken this Autumn.

▶ **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Service Area	Full Year Budget £0	Full Year Forecast £0	Variance £0
Strategy and Performance	401,244	401,244	0
Performance Quality and Business Support (Children's and Adults)	805,512	805,512	0
Total	1,206,756	1,206,756	0

IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

▶ SERVICE OVERVIEW

The Improvement Service incorporates business improvement, recruitment team and the Executive Support Hub. This service was newly established back in February 2015 with the primary focus of driving process improvements and cost efficiencies across the HR, OD & Transformation directorate and the council.

▶ REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

The business improvement element of the Improvement Service has developed well in the past year. Key achievements in this area include the re-procurement of the council's managed service provider for agency staff (Matrix SCM) which has been implemented successfully and enables the council to robustly monitor spend and use of agency staff with a continuous focus on driving down cost, usage and spend where possible. The team has also worked to ensure any off-contract spend in this area has been addressed, with figures recently showing that spend on temporary staff outside of the Matrix contract, which is sometimes necessary for hard to recruit roles, has decreased.

Also re-procured in the last 12 months, is the council's absence management system, now with FirstCare which has provided an enhanced front-end service and better management information. Occupational Health administration and the council's wellbeing offer also sits within this area; referrals have been simplified to ensure quicker access to the service and the support needed to return to work. Occupational Health referrals have increased in recent months, whilst of concern at first glance, this does also indicate that Managers are effectively managing staff wellness and are enabling them to access the right support.

The recruitment team was absorbed into the service in October 2015 prior to the official transition of Serco services back to the council as it was a failing service. A red audit report for recruitment was published recently, which considered new starters in the period April – September 2015. However a focussed re-audit clearly demonstrated the extensive improvements that have taken place since the service returned to the council, these include:

- The implementation of an applicant tracking system (ATS) in October 2015 has provided an online solution for applicants, improved the timeliness of the service and streamlined processes across the organisation.
- The recruitment team is now fully resourced, is managing the recruitment process across the council efficiently, has received a number of compliments over recent months and is progressing well with its commercial aspirations.

The Executive Support Hub provides dedicated support to the Chief Executive, Directors and Heads of Service. The remit of their team has expanded in the last few months to incorporate a number of additional Heads of Service into the support structure and this has been done without any increase in resource.

► PERFORMANCE

KPI Title	2015/16 Outturn	Qtr 1 Data	Qtr 1 Target	Performance	Direction of Travel
Average no. of calendar days from advert to starting date to fill vacant DBS* roles	n/a	60.3	60	FAILED	n/a
Average no. of calendar days from advert to starting date to fill vacant non-DBS roles	n/a	65	30	FAILED	n/a

*DBS = Disclosure Barring Service (formerly known as Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check

Performance Commentary: Quarter 1 saw high levels of recruitment – a new online DBS system is being brought in which should reduce time to recruit as it is typically DBS checks that delay the on-boarding of new starters ; team now fully resourced and expecting to continue reduction in time to recruit. Whilst performance shows failing, the team have not previously been able to measure time to recruit so this is the first year which will give us indicative data to work against going forward. Additionally, the recruitment service was recently acknowledged by the audit team of having made good improvements to the process since the transition of the service back from Serco last year. With these targets recently set the service are confident these will be achieved at the end of 2016/17 with the revised system / processes in place and setting standards for actions on both the recruitment team and manager side in relation to the recruitment process.

KPI Title	2015/16 Outturn	Qtr 1 Data	Qtr 1 Target	Performance	Direction of Travel
No of agency FTE staff - whole council	210	227	220	FAILED	Higher
£ Spend on agency staff - whole council	8,861K	2,421K	Lower than 2015/16	FAILED	Higher

Performance Commentary: Work is ongoing to reduce numbers of and spend on agency staff across the council and is being monitored closely at People Board and Directors Board. With support from the improvement team directorates are working to achieve these targets. Spend on agency staff remains high, and whilst this was expected due to the transition of a number of agency staff from Serco , we are undertaking work to reduce this spend through permanent recruitment to vacancies where possible and ensuring agency staff are only used to fill essential requirements in services.

► FUTURE: IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

The business improvement team will continue to work with FirstCare and Matrix SCM to ensure absence and agency staff, respectively, are addressed and monitored on an ongoing basis with managers. A number of additional contracts are also due for re-procurement, including the council's employee assistance programme, so ensuring best value for money and a quality service will be a priority. The implementation of Neyber, a financial wellbeing offer for employees, will be a priority project aiming for go-live in October 2016.

The recruitment team's focus is the re-procurement of the Applicant Tracking System which is expected to go live in December 2016, this will enable further process improvements to be made and allow us to develop our commercial aspirations further. Additionally they will start to consider the council's advertising strategy, ensuring that Thurrock Council is on the map!

The apprentice levy that comes into force in 2017 is also a focus to ensure the council makes the most of its contribution and work on achieving the target number of apprentices whilst ensuring they have a valuable and worthwhile experience in Thurrock.

The Executive Support Hub will continue to work with senior management to ensure the service provided is first class and remains flexible to any changing needs or requirements.

HUMAN RESOURCES & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (HR OD)

▶ SERVICE OVERVIEW

The HR OD Service came together following the transition of ex Serco staff into the Council on 1 December 2015. The service now comprises an organisational development team with a focus on delivering people strategy, HR Advisory team with a focus on ensuring compliance with people management standards, policies and legislation, and Payroll services which delivers both corporate and schools payroll.

The way the Serco transition was managed and the support that was put in place for the people transferring in has been recognised with the achievement of a national award from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development for 'Best Employee Relations Initiative 2016'.

The team alongside colleagues in the Improvement team were also finalists in the PPMA Excellence in People Management Awards in the Health & Well Being and Recruitment, Reward & Retention categories and are also finalists for the November Personnel Today awards in the HR Impact; Employee Relations and Excellence in Public Sector HR categories.

▶ REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

The Organisational Development (OD) team have progressed well over the past 12 months: shaping and delivering a staff survey to measure employee engagement and overseeing the organisational wide action plans to address key areas; delivered Investors in People process and achieved reaccreditation at Gold status; as well as redefining our corporate people development programme to ensure services have access to a modern, forward thinking workforce.

We have seen an increase in requests for support and training from other local authorities over the last 12 months and are in a good position to shape a traded OD consultancy service as well as from selling individual training programmes. We will be actively seeking to do this and generate income from this service to reduce the need for savings in other areas important to residents.

Since the transition the HR Advisory team have embedded well and have been focussing on aligning process and policy and providing managers with effective support across all employee relations matters.

Since the transition the Payroll team have seen a number of changes and have made good progress with embedding online processes – this has been absorbed into the Oracle Improvement project.

Our Payroll services to schools have been a focus for the team and we are adapting our services to incorporate the changes they require in moving to Academy status.

► **PERFORMANCE DATA**

KPI Title	2015/16 Outturn	Qtr 1 Data	Qtr 1 Target	Performance	Direction of Travel
Average sickness days per FTE	9.69	2.22	2.25	ACHIEVED	Better
No of FTE	1659	1653	n/a	n/a	lower
No of new starters	256	107	n/a	n/a	lower
No of leavers	263	72	n/a	n/a	lower

► **FUTURE: HR & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

The People Strategy is currently being shaped and the OD team will deliver the key priorities identified; we will continue to refine the corporate development programme to meet the training needs of all Directorates; we are currently scoping a leadership and management development programme to capture key skills that the organisation needs to deliver its priorities e.g. commercialism, customer service, generic skills that can be deployed flexibly. The OD team will continue to work with services to address the actions identified from their Staff Survey results and will coordinate the actions identified in the Investor in People continuous Improvement plan.

We will continue to align the HR Advisory team to support the directorates and services as they change as part of the Service Reviews which will be ongoing throughout 2016 /17 and beyond.

We will continue to refine our traded services offer to ensure we can take advantage of the interest from other authorities, schools and academies on buying training, HR advice and support and Payroll services.

► **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Service Area	Full Year Budget £0	Full Year Forecast £0	Variance £0
Improvement	895,252	895,252	0
HR & Organisational Development	1,653,093	1,653,093	0
Total	2,548,345	2,548,345	0

CORPORATE PROGRAMME TEAM

▶ SERVICE OVERVIEW

The Corporate Programme Team is responsible for the delivery of the Council's Transformation Programme initiatives. This ambitious programme ranges from enhancing the way citizens interact digitally with the Council, via Thurrock On Line, to implementing new ways for its employees to work and deliver services. Primarily consisting of Project and Programme Managers supported by Project Officers the team is continuously delivering corporate changes that impact the whole organisation with regards the delivery of Council services.

Balancing demand, technology and budget is an everyday task for this team and operational efficiency requirements have increased in complexity over the years giving us plenty of challenges.

▶ REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

Over the last twelve months we have been focussing on continuing to deliver against the digital programme with a number of successfully completed and in-flight projects:

Completed

- Tilbury and Purfleet Community Hubs refurbishment
- Lync for business phase 2 (audio conferencing and screen sharing)
- Digital Documents phase 1 - Electronic Document Records Management System (EDRMS) roll-out
- Thurrock On Line:
 - Online school admissions
 - AD Contact
 - Enhanced "report it" capability: pothole, street lighting
 - Web Survey
 - Registrar bookings
 - Bulky Waste bookings

In progress

- Business Improvement – Oracle
 - Data cleansing
 - Improved management Reporting
 - Enhanced HR & Payroll processes and services
- Data Analytics / early intervention (Children's Services)
- Thurrock On Line:
 - Council Tax eBilling
 - Web chat
 - Licencing (various)
- EDRMS phase 2:
 - Integration with Line of Business Applications
 - Bulk document scanning and archiving

► PERFORMANCE DATA

Currently our main focus is to drive citizens of Thurrock to utilise self-service and online facilities through individual household registration with MyAccount. The target was 61% by 2016 - we currently have 66% of households registered on MyAccount. We have not forgotten residents who are unable or unsure how to get online and offer assisted self-service within the Civic Offices as well as support at Community Hubs to ensure we minimise online/digital exclusion. Further online assistance will be available live when web-chat is introduced later this year.

KPI Title	2015/16 Outturn	Qtr 1 Data	Qtr1 Target	Performance	Direction of Travel
No of people registered for My Account	31,561	36,035	35,000	ACHIEVED	Better

► FUTURE:

New initiatives that are currently under consideration, development or in early stages of project commencement are:

- The development of a citizen facing Data Portal to publish a variety of data feeds in order to reduce/speed up the response to FOI requests and provide a central point for self-service public facing data access.
- Digital Documents Phase 2 – enhanced electronic document workflow to minimise internal paper handling.
- Civic Offices Phase 3 – Transformation of Ground Floor to reflect a more modern approach to citizen services, such as self-service kiosks, supporting document scanning facilities etc.
- Integrated Data Solution & Service Data Analytics (NHS & Social Services) – predictive modelling of data to allow early health care intervention.
- Cashless council – further integration of ad-hoc on-line payments (certificate re-prints, library fines etc.) to minimise cash handling costs/risks across the council.
- Bi-directional online reporting of missed bin collections – to allow citizens to see online why their bins may have been missed before calling us (we will tell them they did not put it out or it was contaminated). It also allows citizens to report missed bins online rather than make a phone call.

► FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Service Area	Full Year Budget £0	Full Year Forecast £0	Variance £0
Transformation	481,671	481,671	0
Total	481,671	481,671	0

CUSTOMER SERVICES

▶ SERVICE OVERVIEW

This part of the portfolio includes all front line customer contact including contact centre, box office, Careline, out-of-hours and the Face to Face on the ground floor of the Civic Offices.

A key part of this portfolio for 2016/17 will be the development of a new customer services strategy and the work of the Customer and Demand Management Board.

▶ REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

Customer Services colleagues transferred from Serco in December 2015. Recently the team have taken over the receipt of calls to the HR and Payroll service, to provide a better and more timely response to staff and external callers.

The quality of the customer service is well regarded and the performance data shows consistent achievement of targets. This has been recognised externally as well and earlier this year the Customer Services team were awarded the CCA (Customer Contact Association) Version 6 accreditation. This is a great achievement and I am really proud of the staff.

This was an independent audit of our customer services operation against industry developed and approved requirements. Version 6 provides a platform for excellence in customer service and we will be looking to embed this ethos across the council through the development of the new strategy and culture supported by training.

▶ PERFORMANCE

KPI Title	2015/16 Outturn	Qtr 1 Data	Qtr 1 Target	Performance	Direction of Travel
No of phone calls made to the Contact Centre	420,737	107,861	n/a	n/a	Fewer
Customer Service call quality	96.5%	97%	85%	ACHIEVED	Better
No of Face to face visits to Civic Offices	85,416	24,634	n/a	n/a	Higher
Average waiting time for Face to Face (mins:sec)	8:23	7:27	<10	ACHIEVED	Better
No of emails received	14,691	2151	n/a	n/a	Fewer
% of emails responded to within 2 days	100%	100%	100%	ACHIEVED	Same

▶ FUTURE: CUSTOMER STRATEGY

One of the ways that the council is going to reduce its reliance on the general fund is through looking at more efficient ways of delivering our customer services and generating income to protect other areas. A new Customer Strategy is being developed, which ties in all forms of direct contact with our residents, and supports

channel shift, but goes further to embed the “getting it right first time” principle. This is a wide ranging piece of work, as there are so many aspects to it, from analysis of customer requests and queries through the contact centre, monitoring of trends in complaints, usage of website to a whole scale look at the quality of the correspondence we send out. This strategy will also recognise the valuable role Community Hubs play in supporting residents who need to help to access online services.

We will be proactively engaging with our residents more through the website, social media and new e-newsletter. These channels will be used to promote the good things we do as well as encourage residents to get involved through the Hubs, timebanking and other volunteering.

► **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Service Area	Full Year Budget £0	Full Year Forecast £0	Variance £0
Customer Services	1,839,218	1,839,218	0
Total	1,839,218	1,839,218	0

INFORMATION TEAM

▶ SERVICE OVERVIEW

This team is responsible for ensuring compliance with information governance regulations and protection of the council's reputation, including information security (policies and procedures), data protection, Freedom of Information (FOI), complaints and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) including Local Land & Property Gazetteer (LLPG) /Local Street Gazetteer (LSG).

▶ REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

During 2015/16, the council processed 98% of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests within the legal timeframe. This is based on 980 FOI requests that were processed. The reporting period shows an increase in FOI requests received compared with 2014/15. It has been estimated that the average FOI request takes 2 hours 45 minutes to process.

During 2015/16 the council received 43 Subject Access Requests under the Data Protection legislation. 93% of these requests were processed within timeframe. This is a performance improvement compared with 2014/15.

The Information Governance Team is continuing to ensure an increased amount of data is identified for routine publication online. This work forms part of the transparency agenda and aims to increase openness and accountability; whilst reducing unnecessary processing of FOI requests.

There has been a great deal of analysis done on the volume and issues relating to complaints received by the council.

In 2015/16, there were a total of 4,506 complaints/concerns received. 50% of those complaints were upheld. 98% of complaints were responded to in timeframe. During that period the top five expressions of dissatisfaction related to:

- Housing Repairs
- Missed Bins
- Estate Management
- Council Tax
- Housing Solutions

Reducing upheld complaints is a key area of focus. The mechanism to achieve this is the completion of Learning Action Plans (LAPs) for those services who are reporting a high percentage of upheld complaints. LAPs will:

- Confirm what went wrong in the service and identify the cause of the problem
- Explain what action, targeted to address the cause of the problem, will be taken to stop it happening again and who will be responsible for ensuring this happens
- Provide a timescale for when that action took place or will take place
- Provide objective evidence of those actions

A review of the council’s complaints process has also been undertaken and a few changes have been brought in including the removal of the “concerns” stage – now dealt with as a Stage 1 complaint – and the shortening of timeframes for responding to complaints.

► **PERFORMANCE DATA**

KPI Title	2015/16 Outturn	Qtr 1 Data	Qtr 1 Target	Performance	Direction of Travel
% timeliness of response to all complaints (all services exc. social care)	98.1	99	98	ACHIEVED	Better
% of complaints upheld (all services except social care)	50	46	40	FAILED	Better
No of complaints (all) - whole council (excluding social care)	1516	346	Reduction	ACHIEVED	Better
No of member enquiries	3536	1148	n/a	n/a	Higher
No of Ombudsman enquiries received	17	4	n/a	n/a	Same
% Ombudsman notices upheld	24	0	Reduction	ACHIEVED	Better
No of FOI requests received	980	290	n/a	n/a	Higher
No of information governance incidents	37	15	Reduction	FAILED	Higher

► **FUTURE:**

The team is currently working on the following:

- To produce monthly reports to Performance Board and the Customer and Demand Board providing top level and service specific information on all complaints handled by the services. These reports will contain complaint performance information, trends and detail on upheld complaints. This will then allow services to use the information to identify and share any learning from complaints and to inform their service planning process.
- To hold complaint review meetings with services to discuss complaint volumes and trends and to agree actions for improving complaint performance.
- To continue to review the complaints procedure to ensure it best meets the needs of our residents and customers; including reviewing our existing channels open to receiving complaints at Thurrock to ensure all complaints are captured for reporting purposes.
- To explore solutions aimed at providing a more digital approach to complaints. This will include the provision for complainants to log complaints directly and to track progress/status.

► **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Service Area	Full Year Budget £0	Full Year Forecast £0	Variance £0
Information Management	436,508	436,508	0
Total	436,508	436,508	0

26 October 2016	ITEM: 12
Full Council	
Cabinet Member Report for Finance and Legal (Report II - Legal Services, Strategy & Communications, Commercial Opportunity)	
Report of: Councillor Shane Hebb, Cabinet Member for Finance	
This report is public.	

Following on from my previous report, this is the second-half of my Cabinet responsibilities, revised to take account of recent Cabinet responsibility changes – the report specifically covers Legal Services, Strategy & Communications, and Commerciality.

The economic climate which all local authorities are navigating requires different thinking. The new administration has set-out its pro-revenue agenda which put simply:

£££ made (by our corporate finance arm) = **less savings** that have to be found in existing services + **more £££** which can be pumped into key initiatives such as Clean It, Cut It, Fill It.

Our commercial focus will complement the Council Spending Review; creating a borough which is set-up for success for the next 30 years; enabling a borough which works for everyone.

1. **Our unashamedly pro-revenue growth plan will generate new opportunities for Thurrock customers** – I have said before that revenue-generation is not an ugly word – it isn't. Local councils need to be more commercial, and not just talk about being open for business: they need to get on and do it! Our unique geographical position is one of our biggest assets – we are located 20 minutes from the greatest capital centre on Earth, and are at the epicentre of all of Essex and Kent. If we can't make money for the public services we provide to our customers, no one can...
2. **We need to take the opportunity to create an “Aspirational” Thurrock Vision** – the existing Vision has been our vision for six years, and it has served good purpose; and been our cross-party, cross-agency vision which saw us chart a new future once upon a time. The world has changed, and so have our needs. Clean It, Cut It, Fill It is not just about making Thurrock look nicer – it's merely the first step in our plan to make Thurrock be recognised as the best place to live, work and play. We have a wonderful; unique heritage –

one full of work opportunities, environmental delights and aspiring people. It is time to shape a new vision; one for an aspirational; heritage-rich borough, again as part of a cross-party, cross-agency piece of work.

3. **When we talk “Thurrock”, we need people’s heads to turn** - our innovative Communications team have a key role in marketing the best of Thurrock out to the wider world, to draw investment and engagement into our borough. Furthermore, our accelerated and ever-present social media presence means people can engage with our council in their homes, coffee bars, on break while at work, or even in the pub (personal preference clearly!). This administration will continue to ensure that when they talk to us on social media, they leave feeling they have spoken to a person representing the Thurrock-brand; not get a corporate fob-off.
4. **Politics in Thurrock has a unique platform to change for the betterment of our electorate** – the Administration will be taking forward a formal consultation with the electorate of Thurrock – do residents want (a) one vote every four years which will lead to the electorate deciding the colour of Thurrock’s future administration, or (b) retain the status-quo. A decision needs to be taken, and the argument for and against, informed by the opinion of Thurrock electors. 49 councillors, deciding the election process for 165,000 residents can never be right. It is time to trust the electorate with our futures.

Like the national scene in the United Kingdom, Thurrock has never been at a more critical pathway in terms of making this borough a place where everyone fits in, and has the opportunities to live healthy and happy lives.

I would like to pay tribute to all the individuals who work in the teams who are relentlessly driving this borough forward. Thank you – your part in taking the next steps in Thurrock’s journey is recognised, and most importantly, very much appreciated.

Cllr Shane Hebb | Cabinet Member for Finance & Legal, October 2016

LEGAL SERVICES

▶ SERVICE OVERVIEW

The Legal Services directorate includes the shared legal services team, democratic services, members services and electoral services.

▶ REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

LEGAL SERVICES

The Legal Shared Service has now been successfully established for over 5 years.

The Shared Service continues to enhance Thurrock's region wide reputation through building increased legal capacity, resilience and internal expertise which has resulted in both significant savings and – even more importantly – become the first successful generator of traded income for the council.

The Shared Service arrangement was recently amended to appoint a joint Legal Services Manager in order to improve services, build in extra capacity and responsiveness and help drive forward the Service' commercialisation and income generation agenda.

The Legal Service is now into its eighth year of being recognised as a top performing Legal Service by The Law Society for Lexcel Accreditation, which recognises legal practices who meet the highest management and customer care standards and show excellence in areas such as client care, case management and risk management.

Performance examples from our teams include:

Children's Legal Safeguarding team have had a case relating to the deprivation of liberty of a young person/ child that has been reported in the Law Reports. This is now seen as a leading case for deprivation of liberty cases for children and the procedure and guidance in that case should be used as a guide when the care plan for the child is to place in a placement that involves the deprivation of the child's liberty.

In the financial year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 there has been over 100 per cent increase in the number of care cases, but it has to still been possible to conclude the cases within the 26 week timetable.

Contracts Procurement team has assisted with Thurrock's Legal Contracts and Procurement and has advised on a wide range of matters, spanning all directorates within the council. The team recently advised on a number of innovative contracts such as the completion of a concession contract allowing all council employees to borrow money at preferential rates of credit with repayment taken direct from their monthly salary; and a roundabout advertising concession contract, whereby the council granted a marketing company access to its roundabouts to providing an

advertising service for local businesses and enabling the council to generate a percentage of the income from chargeable marketing services.

The team supported the council's departments in providing a service to the young and vulnerable within the borough - such as procuring educational psychologists to work in schools supporting children with special educational needs, as well as a number of other contracts supporting young homeless people within the borough.

The team advised the Adult Social Care service in relation to a number of key projects, during a period of sustained budgetary pressure for the Directorate. With legal support the council has extended major contracts with resultant procurement savings, and successfully managed the contractual exit of a leading domestic care provider (by optimising TUPE consequences for incoming care staff, supporting the procurement of new domestic and residential care services, an innovative shared lives project, integration of health and care data project). This has resolved long-standing contractual issues arising from public health services commissioning, achieving significant financial savings for the council. The team is currently involved in advising on the re-procurement of the domestic care services, taking place in 2017.

Litigation, Housing, Education & Adults Team has assisted with aspects of the home to school transport policy review, which saved money for the council. Ongoing assistance with Special Education Needs cases, which are becoming more complex with the ongoing roll out of conversion from Statements to EHC plans.

Significant increase in planning prosecutions, for example in one case obtained a £20k and £18k fines (£20k being the statutory maximum) against the defendants for unlawful conversion of a car park to a car wash.

Successful pursuit of historic debts in Adult Social Care debt, has resulted in around £0.5m being recovered this financial year.

A continuation of a 100 % track record of representing the council in employment tribunal matters.

The Property & Regeneration Team within Law & Governance successfully completed the sale of the former Treetops School site at Dell Road, Grays on 28 September 2016 in accordance with the Asset Management Delivery Plan. The land sale has brought forward the redevelopment of the site for much needed housing close to Grays Town Centre comprising 74 dwellings incorporating a proportion of affordable housing provision with nomination rights to the council for affordable housing applicants on the council's housing register. Planning obligations were also secured by agreement with the developer Keepmoat Homes Limited providing education contributions towards the provision of facilities for the education and care of children in early years childcare and primary school at Thameside Primary Academy as well as protecting the woodland area to the south of the site by providing for its transfer to The Land Trust with a long term management strategy for public access making the managed woodland permanently available as outdoor space for the benefit of the community.

In addition the team completed leases for the Arthur Bugler and Chadwell St Mary Primary Schools, enabling the schools to fulfil their wish to convert to Academy status.

Completion of the sale of the former Caretaker's House at the Graham James School site on behalf of the council to the North East London NHS Trust will bring forward the delivery of a much needed new NHS facility for residents of the Corringham area.

The Procurement and Regeneration teams are jointly advising the council's Regeneration service in respect of the A13 Widening scheme which will improve the road network capacity and road connections with DP World London Gateway Port. DP World will provide £10 million funding towards these improvements. Works will begin once a further £80 million of government funding is confirmed.

Governance Team continues to build its regional reputation and income generation with its regular briefings on key developments, training courses and governance advice. The team has had 5 well received articles published in national legal journals, with our Annual Governance Conference being attended by over 80 delegates from 32 authorities with delegates stating:

- *“An informative and useful seminar which covered a wide range of topics. I found this to be very helpful in refreshing/updating my existing knowledge of the subject area.”*
- *“Excellent – covered a range of very relevant issues.”*
- *“The content and quality of delivery was excellent and speakers very responsive to answering questions, which is helpful.”*

This and the development of other initiatives such as public facing website, setting up and chairing a Thames Estuary Special Interest Group of lawyers from 15 authorities north and south of the Thames and developing a supportive third sector legal offer to local charities and the voluntary sector.

Traded Services

The Legal Shared Service Team is now into its third year of providing a full legal service offer to Brentwood District Council. This includes not only the Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal roles but also legal support across the full range of a district council's responsibilities. This work has been undertaken on a fee traded basis and has now been extended into next year 2017 with a view to long term contract. The team has also successfully provided legal services to East London Waste Authority, Westminster, Lea Valley Regional Park and Redbridge councils on a fee traded basis and continue to be approached by a range of other authorities interested in learning lessons on shared working, especially in Essex.

Going forward the direction of travel plan for the service includes:

- Agreeing a formal collaboration agreement to formalise the shared arrangement with a detailed strategic business development plan:
- Identifying the trading activity through greater use of available legal powers to target new clients
- Advance proposals of converting to a company structure to aid the business model and intensify trading. A key factor in this decision will be achieving financial targets set out in the business plan.

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Democratic Services continues to provide support to public committees at the council. The team won the prestigious “Team of the Year” Award at the annual Association of Democratic Services Officer Awards in Birmingham in November 2015 for their innovative approach to providing Democratic Services functions.

This included the team’s ability to streamline digital ways of working and improve processes regarding governance by working directly with the council’s senior management team.

Two members have completed their professional qualifications in Democratic Services and two other officers are on course to complete next year.

The team are continuing to introduce new ways of working to improve efficiency within the committee system.

ELECTORAL SERVICES

Some key outcomes delivered by Electoral Services in the last 12 months are:

Published the statutory revised electoral register on 1st December 2015;

Successfully managed the combined Police Crime and Commissioner Election and local elections on May 5th and May 6th 2016;

Successfully planned for and managed the EU Referendum on 23rd June whilst preparing and delivering the elections on May 5th 2016;

Processed 23,454 applications to register to vote between 1st December and September 2016. 18,000 were processed in the first six months of 2016 for the election and referendum;

TESTIMONIALS

Phil Ruck – Chief Executive – Brentwood Borough Council

“Brentwood Borough Council have been working in partnership with Barking, Dagenham and Thurrock legal services for nearly three years. During that time BDT have consistently proved themselves to be an organisation focused on customer

service but perhaps more importantly one that delivers the best legal solution/options to meet the ever changing environment we work in.

“Most importantly they understand local government and work hard to develop the relationships at all levels so that they understand the business context of the complexities faced by their clients. Their advice is very clear and they work at a pace that assists, not hinders, decision making.

“Clarity not jargon could well be said to be one of their USPs”.

Mark Ash – Managing Director – East London Waste Authority

“Despite being a single purpose body ELWA operates in a complex and commercial public sector environment and frequently requires legal support across a wide range of subject matters.

“The BDT Legal team has provided legal support to ELWA for the last 10 years in areas such as contract and procurement, property transactions and data protection. LBB also provide the Authority with Monitoring Officer and governance support and have become trusted advisors and partners.

“The team is knowledgeable, quick to get to grips with issues and provides client focussed sensible solutions and professional reassurance that allows ELWA to move forward within a legal framework.”

Philip Knight – Lexcel Assessor, Law Society

'BDT Legal continues to respond to the challenging and demanding local authority environment. The service develops and grows year on year with innovative solutions to expand income. This year has seen the development of a new website, an advocacy team and a greater training offer to the sector and staff. There is active management and leadership of staff at all levels with support to staff being given across a range of public sector clients. Interview feedback confirms the effectiveness of people management arrangements, with staff reporting that they feel well managed and well supported, with open communication structures, a high degree of transparency and easy access to Supervisors and Managers. The department exhibits commerciality at many levels with ideas for growth being developed at a pace many would envy. There is a high level of compliance across the service and the team can be justifiably proud of such an achievement'

▶ FUTURE

The shared service with the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, deserve full recognition for embracing the need to become financially self-sustainable. This report details the income generated by the Legal team in terms of income versus cost to the council. The natural next question is simple – how far can it go? This report outlines an administration policy to transition our Legal service to a full commercial arm, where income generation potential is not in principle restrained to local-government practice.

The Legal Shared Service is now in the advanced stages of finalising a fully costed and commercial business and marketing plan to take forward and build on the traded aspect of the service - taking full advantage of changes within the regulatory environment for solicitors that will allow a broader legal offer.

The Democratic Services team has started to market its expertise and training offer to other authorities in the region.

Electoral Services team is currently undertaking the 2016 statutory annual canvass and will publish the revised register on 1st December 2016. As of the end of September 62% of households have responded.

Following the July 2016 Council, proposals of consultation documents and the consultation questions are being finalised, and I can confirm the timetable for the consultation will be Q1 2016. A reminder letter to engage with the consultation will be issued via the annual council tax notice letter, sent to all households. General Services Committee will be engaged in the formative stage of the consultation before the commencement of the consultation.

The administration's commitment on a higher form of councillor accountability endures – our study of other schemes, and previously debated schemes, has been useful and constructing proposals which will be brought to Council in the future. We have sent a message to national government, and this council will happily be the local authority in the UK which leads the pressure on this piece of democratic accountability.

▶ FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Service Area	Full Year Budget £0	Full Year Forecast £0	Variance £0
Legal Services	757,019	757,019	0
Members Services	785,280	785,280	0
Democratic Services	217,020	217,020	0
Electoral Services	433,222	433,222	0
Total	2,192,541	2,192,541	0

In 2012/13 the legal budget was £1,723,200 with an income figure of £72,500. In 2016 the baseline budget is £757,019 with a projected income target for this year of £691,904. There has also been a 20% increase in legal instructions from 2012/13 to

date. This makes the income recovery by the shared service as an even greater achievement.

STRATEGY & COMMUNICATIONS

▶ SERVICE OVERVIEW

The service leads on the wider corporate strategy, policy research/intelligence, as well as providing communications, including media relations, marketing, design, web and social media.

▶ REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

February was a particularly busy month with the LGA Corporate Peer Review, Lower Thames Crossing public meetings and the Thurrock Civic Awards 2016 – all of which were coordinated by the Strategy & Communications team.

The administration has a key ambition of creating a personalised, yet professional social media presence. From June 2016, we have ramped up our social media engagement and this is now a daily, two-way, instant channel of communication with our residents and other stakeholders. We now have around 9,500 followers on Twitter and nearly 2,000 Facebook “likes”. We tweeted over 800 times in the last four months. The key here, is that people feel like they can have a one-to-one dialogue with “someone”, rather than “something”. The focus on landing key messages in the hustle-and-bustle of modern working life, has led to the social media accounts being manned on evenings and weekends. This is part of our increasingly customer-centric approach to our residents.

We are now tweeting press releases and posting them on Facebook to get maximum coverage. We also utilise LinkedIn.

▶ FUTURE: REVIEW OF VISION AND PRIORITIES

The current vision and priorities need updating to reflect the uniqueness of Thurrock, where we are now, our ambition for delivery and balancing the need for growth with quality of life. This will be developed over the course of this municipal year with input from political groups and other agencies across the borough.

The new vision and priorities will also draw on the feedback from the Resident Survey which will take place during the autumn, with results expected back around Christmas time.

Through the survey we will establish a new baseline for perception levels focused on the current priorities, one clearly being improving the Thurrock environment (Clean It, Cut It, Fill It). The results will be used to inform the review of the vision and priorities including placemaking, with questions focused on views of Thurrock the place.

The results will also inform the KPIs we use going forward to reflect the issues of most concern to residents as well as provide evidence to help with policy direction and decision making to inform budget setting.

The administration also take a dim view of KPI's which do not add value, nor address the biggest performance deviations. The administration are therefore reviewing the Corporate KPI's, and ensuring that our top "complaints" are formed into the new scorecard. The mantra "what gets measured, gets done" is critical here. My Cabinet colleague, Cllr Deborah Stewart, will be reporting back on the HOW we achieve these KPI's in her report; my department outlines the WHAT we are going to target.

▶ **FUTURE: INCOME GENERATION**

Despite being a comparatively small team, the service is constantly looking at areas of generating income. As such, later this year we will be launching the new roundabout sponsorship scheme. Following a tender process, this will be run for us, as a concession contract, by an external organisation who specialises in this type of work and is expected to deliver approximately £80K per annum into the general fund.

▶ **FUTURE: E-NEWSLETTER**

A new monthly e-newsletter will be introduced during the Autumn - an additional, customer-centric communication channel to complement the use of other channels i.e. social media, website, local media, outdoor advertising. It will be coordinated by the Communications team and be campaign-led enabling the communication of key priority messages. It will also feature event dates for the diary. This will be a regular communique which residents can sign-up for, and we encourage them to do so.

▶ **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Service Area	Full Year Budget £0	Full Year Forecast £0	Variance £0
Strategy (including Performance)	401,244	401,244	0
Communications	434,191	434,191	0
Total	835,435	835,435	0

COMMERCIAL SERVICES

The procurement section of this portfolio was included in the report that came to Council in September, therefore this section concentrates on the work of the Commercial Board.

▶ BOARD OVERVIEW

The Commercial Board have developed a series of project income initiatives that will deliver £915k income growth for 2017/18 and further growth for future years.

A review of the progress against key income initiatives is summarised below.

▶ DIGITAL SMALL CELL CONCESSION:

Following the soft market test carried out in the summer, it was concluded that there is merit in progressing a wireless concession through the Wireless Concession Framework Agreement currently being established by the London Borough of Harrow which could leverage the delivery of Public Wi-Fi as part of a wider Small Cell opportunity for the Borough.

Tender documents have been issued and the timetable is such that award of a provider will be made by January 2017.

▶ ROOFTOPS:

A further recommendation from the soft market test carried out in the summer was to build on the current and meritable initiatives already being pursued by Asset Management in respect to the use of council owned rooftop sites and actively promote and utilise council owned rooftop assets to enable the provision of Superfast Business Broadband Connectivity into local businesses and business parks as well enhancing mobile coverage within the borough.

The intention was for this to be realised through direct engagement with the market, Thurrock have been approached by Optimity who have expressed an interest in some of our buildings and discussions are in progress to ascertain an appropriate income stream.

▶ COUNTER FRAUD & INVESTIGATORY DEPARTMENT (CFID) BUSINESS PLAN:

A detailed Sales & Marketing Plan has now been developed and endorsed by the Transformation Board.

The CFID will primarily offer a traded consultancy service with specialist public sector fraud and counter fraud expertise and commitment to a high quality provision. The aim is to expand upon previous external income generation and structure future growth so that both supply and demand are managed sustainably.

The business plan provides a proactive retention and acquisition sales approach that will increase income over a 3-year period as highlighted above.

▶ **TRADE WASTE INCOME GROWTH:**

Following a series of workshops with the Trade Waste Team during the Summer there is now a business plan in place for the trade waste activity.

With a current market share of 4.3% and an annual income of £189k and investment was made in the Trade Waste team to recruit two sales officers this summer. A weekly target of £2k sales per officer has been set (In keeping with other authorities) and the Director of Commercial Services meets regularly with the team to monitor their progress against target.

▶ **FEES & CHARGES**

During October a series of reviews will be undertaken by members of the Commercial Board to consider a more commercially orientated approach to fees & charges is presented for consideration.

▶ **TREASURY VEHICLES**

It is to be noted that this target has been delivered through the recently implemented Solar Project.

▶ **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Service Area	Full Year Budget £0	Full Year Forecast £0	Variance £0
Commercial Services (including Procurement)	610,020	610,020	0
Total	610,020	610,020	0

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 no questions to the Leader and 10 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

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

1. From Councillor Spillman to Councillor Stewart

If the council ends its funding to Thurrock Citizens Advice it will close its doors in April 2017. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm whether council funding will cease in April 2017?

2. From Councillor Smith to Councillor Stewart

The portfolio holder will no doubt be aware of the closure of Aveley community forum and the many youth services it provides. Is the Council considering action to mitigate the loss of the important services it was offering to residents?

3. From Councillor Cherry to Councillor Tolson

The very latest Traveller incursion onto land at Chadwell Hill, Chadwell St Mary cost the Council over £6000. This is likely to happen again next year as it has happened before, unless something is done. Would you agree that the money that will very likely be spent next year be earmarked and spent towards preventing incursions there and elsewhere in Thurrock where this regularly happens by using methods of hardening that cannot easily be undone. Thus sending out the message that Travellers who break the law are not welcome so that all Travellers do not get blamed in Thurrock and save Thurrock residents the cost and annoyance of this unlawful trespass on their community land.

4. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Halden

In her inaugural speech as Prime Minister, Teresa May described mental health as a key social injustice, would the portfolio holder agree
In her inaugural speech as Prime Minister, Teresa May described mental health as a key social injustice, would the Portfolio Holder agree and how does the Portfolio Holder see this injustice being addressed in the borough?

5. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor B Little

Tenants and residents of the three Western High Rises on the Seabrooke Estate in Grays are currently experiencing great difficulties with car parking. There is a problem with capacity not meeting demand. What plans does the portfolio holder have for rectifying this situation?

6. From Councillor G Rice to Councillor Tolson

What actions are the Council taking to bring fly tipping in Chadwell under control.

7. From Councillor G Rice to Councillor B Little

What actions are the Council taking to repair street columns and street signs in Heath Road in Orsett Heath and Brentwood Road Chadwell?

8. From Councillor Collins to Councillor Tolson

From the latest report on street cleanliness in Thurrock, would the portfolio holder explain why in the year 14/15 the measure of street cleanliness for both litter and detritus was at level 3 but for the year 15/16 and part of this current year the score of unsuitability rose to 4?

9. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Tolson

What is the Environment Portfolio Holder's assessment of the success or otherwise of the Clean It, Cut It, Fill It pilot?

10. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Tolson

Will the Portfolio Holder repeat her assurance to the recent Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee that she categorically rules out any move to fortnightly bin collections as part of any waste strategy or financial review?

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 26 October 2016

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
23/09/15	Cllr Halden	<p>Legal highs are quickly becoming a social disaster, from both the point of view of being harmful as substances, but also giving a very incorrect impression of the dangers of substance abuse, especially amongst younger people.</p> <p>We instruct Council to consult with Essex Police on the most effective way of tackling the use of legal highs in public spaces, including Public Space Protection Orders, with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitoring the outcome.</p> <p>In addition we instruct the constitution working group to consider how to best exercise and delegate all of our streamlined public protection powers that come from the 2014 Crime and Disorder act to be accessible to all members.</p>	<p>The Head of Public Protection has consulted with the Local Police Commander to determine whether the Police would support the application of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Thurrock to impose control measures on the use of legal highs.</p> <p>The Police have indicated that based on the evidence available to them and the practicality of enforcing control measures against an otherwise legal activity they would not prioritise enforcement of any control measures imposed by a potential PSPO at this time.</p> <p>Should further evidence alter the Police position with regard to the prioritisation of enforcement resources for legal high work they will update the Council and liaise with the relevant council department to consult on a PSPO for this purpose.</p>	Gavin Dennett
23/09/15	Cllr Worrall	<p>Thurrock Council are concerned over implications for tenants and housing stock of the Conservative government's Emergency Budget's housing measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Benefit withdrawn for 18–21 year olds; • Housing Benefit/ Local Housing Allowance (LHA) frozen for five years; • Tax Credits and Housing Benefit/LHA include only first two children in households born after April 2017; • Market rents charged in social housing where incomes are £30,000, additional rent receipts go to Treasury not Housing 	<p>A paper is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 11th November on the principles the council may adopt for mitigating detrimental impact that these proposals may otherwise have on our existing affordable housing building programme. This is set to be followed by a report to Housing O&S with the results of the more detailed impact assessments that are currently being undertaken.</p> <p>In addition the Council is in the process responding to recent formal consultations issued in respect of the 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</p>	Steve Cox

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 26 October 2016

		<p>Revenue Account or Council.</p> <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>	Thurrock Residents.	
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 commemorated in the Council Chamber for their work and contributions to the community of Thurrock.	Research has been undertaken to identify around ten councillors who have passed away while still serving on the council since 1998. Officers are now looking into the various options for designing a suitable memorial.	Fiona Taylor
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>	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	Rory Patterson

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 26 October 2016

		<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>previous years and is already playing a full part in offering support.</p> <p>Departments across the council are looking in details at how refugees subject to the new resettlement scheme can be accommodated successfully in the borough and the funding available from government to achieve this. Early details of government funding for the scheme have been released and these are informing departmental plans. A letter has been sent to the Home Secretary requesting that support is evenly sought across local authorities to avoid disproportionate costs falling to the taxpayer.</p>	
28/10/15	Cllr Redsell	<p>We call on Thurrock Council to take action with its partners to help prevent the use of motorbikes and similar vehicles on our green spaces.</p>	<p>The Council work closely with Essex police to address this problem across the Borough. There are posters advising residents against this anti-social behaviour and requesting that they report such illegal use to either the Police or crimestoppers; which have been displayed in all housing communal areas.</p> <p>Specific concerns are brought to the multi-agency community safety partnership Local Action Groups for discussion and attention. This has led to a section 59 notice being served at Blackshots and a subsequent reported reduction in nuisance vehicles.</p> <p>The Police will continue to deal with such reported nuisance with support as required from their partners.</p>	Steve Cox
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</p>	<p>Letter to Treasury, DfE and Thurrock 2 MP's sent out.</p>	Rory Patterson

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 26 October 2016

		for the continuation of Universal Free School Meals as well as to our two members of parliament to make them aware of our concerns.		
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 Thurrock to set out our concerns about the detrimental impact of police cuts on Thurrock residents and community safety, and ask them to lobby for better funding for Essex Police.</p>	Letters sent to both MPs	Steve Cox
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.	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	Steve Cox

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 26 October 2016

			<p>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 26th 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>	
25/11/15	Cllr Halden	<p>Thurrock Council adopts the official position of being pro grammar school and desires that Thurrock 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>Local authority officers met with the Regional Schools Commissioner representative on 14.1.15 to explore opportunities for grammar schools to open an annexe in Thurrock. Exploratory discussions will be held over the coming weeks with local grammar schools.</p>	Rory Patterson
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>	Steve Cox

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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> <p>Update : c2c have committed to the roll-out of contactless payment across Thurrock as part of their new franchise agreement. This will be undertaken within the next two years and will require the collaboration of Transport for London (TfL). The Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways has written to TfL, urging them to progress the matter as quickly as possible. C2c are committed to expediting implementation as far as they are able. They are scheduled to attend PTR O & S on the 8th November to report progress on this and other service-related matters.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Objecting to these proposals through the Essex Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS) public consultation - and urges residents to do the same. b) Raising these concerns with the two members of parliament to enlist their support c) Urging the EFRS to consider expanding the level 	<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>	Steve Cox / Karen Wheeler

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		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.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	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.	Steve Cox
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 to the front line, such as the ongoing work to bring the blue light services together.	Letter sent by Steve Cox to the Home Secretary.	Steve Cox

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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.	
27/7/2016	Cllr Hebb	Thurrock Council calls upon the government to introduce legislation to provide for a right of "Recall" of local government councillors, alongside Thurrock Council also exploring the possibilities to introduce its own local recall scheme.	The methodology and detail of the public consultation to be discussed at Governance Group and reviewed and agreed by General Services Committee on behalf of Full Council.	David Lawson
28/09/2016	Cllr Aker	Thurrock Council calls on the government to make unauthorised traveller pitches and unauthorised events a criminal offence	Officers are consulting with Legal on the wording of a letter to government calling for a specific offence of pulling caravans on to land without the owner's prior permission.	Steve Cox
28/09/2016	Cllr Jones	We call on Thurrock Council to write to the Secretary of State to express many residents' views that in its present state the police service contact number 101 is not fit for purpose.	A letter has been sent to the Secretary of State advising of the motion of Thurrock Council and inviting a response.	Gavin Dennett
28/09/2016	Cllr Duffin	That Thurrock Council support the inclusion in the annual Council Tax mail out of details of changes to Council funding by government in the last 5 years and an indication of planned changes in the next 3 years, including in graph format. This would be an effective way to let residents of Thurrock understand the financial pressures the Council has faced over this period and those due to be addressed.	This information will be collated in the new year once the latest grant announcements have been published to inform the future years aspect.	Sean Clark
28/09/2016	Cllr J Kent	Thurrock Council is extremely concerned that much of Grays Beach Park was not open for residents to enjoy for so much of the summer. Council requests that the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and	Cleaner, Greener, Safer, Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this at its meeting of 11 October 2016 and set out the terms for an investigation that will be reporting back to Cleaner, Greener, Safer, Overview	Steve Cox

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		Scrutiny Committee (or / and the relevant director) investigate these issues including inviting evidence from Anglian Water, relevant council officers and members before reporting back to the Full Council as soon as reasonably practical about the reasons and responsibilities for so much of Grays Beach Park not being open to residents over the summer period.	and Scrutiny Committee on 6 December 2016.	
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Motions Submitted to Council

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

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor Collins

This Council condemns in the strongest possible terms, the horrific practice of Female Genital Mutilation and will support all health, welfare, civil and criminal enforcement services to eradicate it from our Thurrock and the rest of the World.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

The notice of Motion relates to a matter which affects the Authority' or the Authority' area and relates to a matter in respect of which the Authority has a relevant function.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this motion.

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

Yes

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