

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
30 November 2016

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


Membership of the Council:

Cathy Kent (Mayor)
Tunde Ojetola (Deputy Mayor)

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

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

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



Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive

Agenda published on: 22 November 2016

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

	Page
1 Apologies for absence	
2 Minutes	9 - 34
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 26 October 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	35 - 36
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	37 - 40
9 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels	
The Council are asked to agree any changes to the appointments made to committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels, as requested by Group Leaders.	

- 10 Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's & Adult Social Care 41 - 52**
- 11 Report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration 53 - 66**
- 12 Questions from Members 67 - 70**

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

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

Name of Committee	Date
Planning Transport & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13 September 2016
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	15 September 2016
Standards and Audit Committee	29 September 2016

- 15 Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year 71 - 78**
- 16 Motion submitted by Councillor Duffin 79 - 80**
- 17 Motion submitted by Councillor Gerrish 81 - 82**

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:

25 January 2017, 22 February 2017, 29 March 2017, 24 May 2017 (Annual Council)

Information for members of the public and councillors

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

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non- pecuniary

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



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

PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Create a great place for learning and opportunity

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

2. Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity

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

3. Build pride, responsibility and respect

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

4. Improve health and well-being

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

5. Promote and protect our clean and green environment

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

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100 Years in Memoriam

Remembering Thurrock's Fallen of World War One

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

November 1916

DATE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	WARD	RANK	SERVICE	DIED
02-Nov	WEALD	GEORGE	24	SLH	GUNNER	RA	HOME
12-Nov	RUMBLE	HERBERT WILLIAM	36	AVE	PTE	MIDDLESEX – 17	FRANCE
13-Nov	POLLEY	WILLIAM HENRY	27	G	PTE	MIDDLESEX – 17	FRANCE
13-Nov	SMITH	PERCY WILIAM	23	G	PTE	MIDDLESEX – 17	FRANCE
13-Nov	SMITH	LEONARD	23	L/TH	AB. SEA	RND- NELSON	FRANCE
17-Nov	MORRIS	EDGAR	18	ORS	PIONEER	RE	FRANCE
18-Nov	GILDERSLEEVE	ARCHIBALD	19	MUCK	PTE	BUFFS – 7	FRANCE
20-Nov	CLAYDEN	JAMES	34	STIFF	PTE	MGC	FRANCE
25-Nov	HARRINGTON	PERCY	29	G	PTE	R/FUS – 3	GREECE
29-Nov	SMITH	HERBERT STANLEY	28	G	PTE	SUSSEX – 9	FRANCE
30-Nov	HUDSON	THOMAS	33	G	SGT	RFA	FRANCE

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26 October 2016 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Cathy Kent (Mayor), Tunde Ojetola (Deputy Mayor), John Allen, Chris Baker, James Baker, Jan Baker, Russell Cherry, Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Tony Fish, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Clifford Holloway, Roy Jones, Tom Kelly, John Kent, Steve Liddiard, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Bukky Okunade, Terry Piccolo, Jane Potheary, David Potter, Joycelyn Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Deborah Stewart, Pauline Tolson and Aaron Watkins

Apologies: Councillors Tim Aker, Clare Baldwin, Leslie Gamester, Garry Hague, Victoria Holloway, Martin Kerin, Sue Sammons and Michael Stone and Kevin Wheeler

In attendance: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment and Place
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation
Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services
Karen Wheeler, Head of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service
Paul Field, Senior Corporate Governance Lawyer
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.

60. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 28 September 2016 were approved as a correct record.

Councillor J Kent referred the Mayor to Item 52 – Questions from Members and asked for an explanation as to why written responses had not been provided for unheard questions from September Council. The Chief Executive agreed to investigate and responses will be sent to Members in due course.

Councillor Cherry requested that the following paragraph be added to Item 58 – Motion submitted by Councillor Jones:

“Councillor Cherry stated that residents could also contact Essex Police via email which would then free up the 101 telephone service and emphasised how important it was that residents knew and used this service”.

61. Items of Urgent Business

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

62. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

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

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

The Mayor congratulated Thurrock Marching Brass who won the 2016 Cadet Class British Championships that had been held at the Telford Football Club on 1 October 2016.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, gave Members the following updates:

- Discussions had taken place with Highways England to discuss the closure of the lay-bys on the A1089 and A13. Following this meeting two lay-bys had been coned off with the rest being done by the end of this weekend. This had only been managed with the constant pressure from the Council and residents.
- The coning off of these lay-bys will stop the most terrible practice of fly tipping in Thurrock.
- A Netting Programme had been agreed with Highways England and Essex Police that any vehicles carrying waste through the borough should be netted. Local businesses that operate these types of vehicles will be made aware of the penalties.
- Work at Junction 30/31 on the A13 should be completed by the end of November 2016 which would free up the Lakeside Traffic.
- 47,000 results of the Lower Thames Crossing consultation had been requested to ensure that Thurrock Council had the same information that the Highways England and Ministers had to ensure that Thurrock was on the same level of knowledge and understanding to engage with them.
- Clean It, Cut It, Fill It Pilot will be completed at the end of October where the service will be appraised on how to take the service forward and thanked all those involved.
- Spoken recently to local residents from Little Thurrock who stated that the borough was so much cleaner.
- Councillor Gledhill thanked all Officers, Staff and those personally responsible who have contributed to this pilot.

- It was unanimously agreed at Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to endorse enforcements on those dropping litter and blighting the borough with rubbish. This would be the final warning, either pay the fine or face the magistrate's court.
- To undertake a Housing Service Review to look at policy changes for the 10,000 families in the borough to focus on repairs and upgrades. The first stage of the review will take up to 4 to 6 months to complete and will be addressed at the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee before any policy changes are implemented.

64. 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.

65. 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.

66. 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.

67. Revised Political Balance

This report requested 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.

The Mayor stated that since the report was published, recommendation 1.3 had been removed as Group Leaders had agreed to the proposed manual adjustments as set out below:

- Labour to lose 2 seats across committees
- Conservative to gain 1 set across the committees
- UKIP to gain 1 seat across committees

Councillor J Kent stated that Labour will give one seat on Planning Committee to the Conservative Group and that the Member leaving this committee would be Councillor J Kent. One seat on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be given to the UKIP Group and the Member leaving this committee would be Councillor Kerin. Councillor Kerin will then become the substitute member on Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor J Kent will become the substitute member on the Planning Committee.

The Mayor called a vote on recommendations 1.1 and 1.2 and Members agreed.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the political balance and allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.**
- 2. Council note the manual adjustment requirements outlined in 2.3 and agree those adjustments proposed by group leaders at the meeting.**

68. 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 changes:

- For Councillor Hague to become a substitute member on the General Services Committee.
- For Councillor Hebb to replace Councillor Hague on the General Services Committee.
- For Councillor Coxshall to become a member on the General Services Committee.
- For Councillor Churchman to become a substitute member on the General Services Committee.
- For Councillor Ojetola to replace Councillor MacPherson on the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- For Councillor Kelly to replace Councillor MacPherson as substitute on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- For Councillor Hague to become a substitute member on the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- For Councillor Kelly to replace Councillor S Little on the Corporate Parenting Committee.
- For Councillor Churchman to replace Councillor Gledhill on the Licensing Committee.
- For Councillor Churchman to become a member on the Planning Committee.
- For Councillor Collins to replace Councillor MacPherson as a substitute member on the Planning Transport Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- For Councillor Collins to replace Councillor Piccolo as member of the Standards and Audit Committee.
- For Councillor Piccolo to replace Councillor Collins as substitute member of the Standards and Audit Committee.

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

- For Councillor Snell to become a member on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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

69. Report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Central Services

Councillor Stewart presented the report and firstly thanked the Director, Heads of Service and Officers for their support, focus and dedication throughout the year to ensure that a good quality service had been delivered to Thurrock residents and to look at the tasks ahead.

Councillor Stewart highlighted the following areas of her report:

The Serco transition was a huge undertaking for staff and had been recognised by a national award from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development for Best Employee Relations Initiative 2016 and a Customer Contact Association Version 6 accreditation. This multi-functional front line team had been trained to cover a wide range of service issues and staff should be very proud of themselves.

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

Targets will no longer be categorised using KPI performance Red, Amber or Green (RAG status) instead there will be a simplified Achieved or Failed indicator.

That a 'deep clean' had started to reform the complaints system by removing the concern stage and all complaints will be dealt with swiftly. Officers would embrace complaints, learn from them and put measures in place to try and not make the same mistakes again. The Council will be more open and transparent and that reports will now be presented to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee before going to Cabinet so cross party discussions can take place and issues raised before the Portfolio Holders consider any reports.

Residents of Thurrock deserved the best service the Council can provide and the administration were listening and will offer better services which were fit for residents' needs.

Councillor Piccolo thanked Councillor Stewart for her report and asked whether the changes in the KPI performance indicators would show that there were greater numbers of failed KPIs. Councillor Stewart stated that it may

look like more have failed but this was not the case as the indicators only showed current in-year progress and more targets would be met as the year progressed.

Councillor Spillman stated that having had experience of submitting complaints he was amazed that complaints could get to stage 3 without any complainant interview taking place and asked the Portfolio Holder if the department would consider a formal interview or consent from the complainant to be more involved to ensure scrutiny was taking place. Councillor Stewart stated she was unsure if this could be achieved for all cases due to legal and data protection issues but she would seek guidance from the Director and would report back to Councillor Spillman.

Councillor Gerrish thanked the Portfolio Holder for her report and asked when she expected the agency staff spend to be lowered. Councillor Stewart stated very soon and highlighted that the Conservative administration has had only four months to work at this issue whereas Labour had 6 years and 7 months to resolve it. The Conservative administration would tackle this issue as best they can.

Councillor Collins asked the Portfolio Holder when the last residents survey was carried out. Councillor Stewart stated that she did not know but knew that one had not been done under the previous administration, so more than 7 years ago.

70. Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Legal

Councillor Hebb presented the report and stated there were three key aspects to the report which were Revenue, Reform and Relay and Respond.

With regards to Revenue, the Conservative administration had made it clear that this was a pro-revenue authority and had to be inventive about earning more. The Council needed to become smarter by offering the same service with less money. The Clean It Cut it Fill It initiative was the medicine this borough needed but to undertake these initiatives the Council had to save more from what was already taking place or earn more. The Pro-Revenue Growth Plan complimented the Council Spending Review.

The Legal Team were the gold star holders for being commercial and earning money for the organisation for services such as Clean It Cut It and Fill It. Nearly £700,000 will be earned in Legal this year for a service which costs £757,000 with potential to earn more. The Counter Fraud Team were already trading services as well.

Councillor Hebb stated that heads are turning to Thurrock and this was the place to go and come to, his message to councils along the South Essex Estuary and into London was that Thurrock was open and welcoming to trading services.

The Administration pledged to take the question of electoral reform to the heart of the Thurrock community where the General Services Committee will shortly have sight of the consultation questions and the supplementary document which will support residents in making an informed decision on how the 49 members are elected. Councillor Hebb confirmed that a hard copy of the consultation and supplementary document will go out to residents with the council tax demand reminder letters.

Relay and Response – The direction of travel for the communications team was to ensure that the heads of the outside investors and neighbours turn to Thurrock for the great things that happen here. Cabinet will ensure that the communications team have the freedom to talk to people as people and use social media to talk and engage with people outside of office hours.

Next month a new Council monthly e-newsletter will be introduced and coordinated by the communications team, which will be campaign-led enabling the communication of key priority messages and future events to which residents can sign up for.

Councillor Hebb thanked all the team members in his directorate and stated that the Plan will be formative in the Council and as we grow at home and across borders.

Councillor Snell thanked the Portfolio Holder for his report and stated that it demonstrated a positive way forward but to ensure that investments were not hidden away but were open to democratic scrutiny.

Councillor Hebb stated that clear investigation work was an undertaking of the Section 151 Officer and as part of the Council Spending Review Process. Councillor Hebb confirmed that the investment programme will continue to be discussed at these review meetings.

Councillor Snell also stated that although social media was good some elderly residents do not have the use of IT and should not be forgotten. Councillor Hebb stated that the front line customer service strategy will ensure that no one was neglected.

Councillor Redsell reiterated that elderly residents should not be forgotten and asked for reassurance from the Portfolio Holder that this would be the case. Councillor Hebb undertook this re-assurance and stated that no-body should be made to feel isolated or segregated.

Councillor Duffin asked the Portfolio Holder if more can be done to use Facebook as a useful tool to engage with residents on social media. Councillor Hebb stated that it was his understanding that Facebook, Twitter and Linked-In would be used to engage with residents on social media.

71. Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chambers that no 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.

The Mayor requested that standing order be suspended by 10 minutes to provide more time to hear and debate the remaining questions. Members voted against this and the Mayor announced that time according to the constitution had run out.

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

72. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies

Councillor G Rice updated Members on a report from the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee and was happy to announce that the £12 million flood barrier had the legal agreements signed off and the scheme was now progressing. This was welcome news to the residents of Thurrock which will not only protect the Tilbury Port but also the residents of Tilbury.

Councillor Ojetola updated Members on a report on Impulse Leisure with the key points:

- Councillor Ojetola welcomed Councillor Redsell to the Board
- The Leader had taken an interest in the on-going issues and had asked for monthly updates
- Look forward to working with the new Portfolio Holder, Councillor MacPherson
- £1.2 million repair work will be undertaken to the park and in the reception areas at Belhus Park
- Impulse Leisure had improved in its position
- Evidence shows that residents are swimming more
- Jimmy Carr shows have been a complete sell out
- Reduction in staff income

Councillor Ojetola will forward the report to Democratic Services for distribution.

73. Minutes of Committees

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

74. 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.

Councillor Redsell requested an update to a Motion regarding the prevention of the use of motorbikes and similar vehicles on our green spaces as this continued to be a problem and affects all residents in the borough.

75. Motion submitted by Councillor Collins

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

This administration condemns in the strongest possible terms, the barbaric practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and will support all health, welfare, civil and criminal enforcement services to eradicate it from Thurrock and the rest of the World.

Councillor Collins introduced the Motion and in doing so explained that he had raised this Motion on the request of a local resident in his ward and found it incredible that in the 21st Century this barbaric act was still being practiced since it was outlawed in the United Kingdom in September 1985. Councillor Collins had a Crown Prosecution Service document on FGM if any member would like to read about some case studies.

Councillor Collins stated that there were four reasons for raising this Motion:

1. Highlight this shameful practice and expose to scrutiny and condemnation.
2. Commend all the good work that had already taken place by our Local Council Agencies.
3. Draw the line of this evil activity in Thurrock.
4. Drawback FGM out of Thurrock and to inspire others in the UK and in the rest of the world to eradicate this evil practice.

Councillors Collins stated that not one single successful prosecution had taken place and would support all to eradicate this practice in Thurrock, the country and in the world and urged all councillors to vote for this Motion.

Councillor MacPherson stated that FGM was child abuse and this horrific act was being done on children as young as 4 years of age. Parents were undertaking this act in secrecy and as part of their tradition and culture. Councillor MacPherson highlighted some signs that a child was a potential FGM victim, such as children talking about a religious ceremony, the child being tearful or stressful or belonging to a community known for FGM practice. Councillor MacPherson stated that this illegal activity would not be tolerated and anyone caught could face up to 14 years in prison.

Councillor Snell thanked Councillor Collins for the report and stated that FGM had no place in this Country and that parents of victims and the backstreet practitioners who carried out these operations should be brought to justice and prosecuted with the full force of the law. Although a complex issue which cannot be dealt with by law alone with FGM deeply embedded into the culture

of many countries in Africa, Middle East and Asia there was no evidence that FGM formed part of any religion requirement. Stating that FGM cannot continue with the Council doing everything possible to educate those of the true horror.

Councillor Snell proposed an FGM Awareness Week to raise awareness amongst all councillors, charities and the community.

Councillor Gledhill thanked Councillors Collins, MacPherson and Snell for their comments and stated the Council need to make sure those affected in the community have the support to maintain a family life. Councillor Gledhill also seconded Councillor Snell's suggestion for a FGM Awareness Week in Thurrock to make more people aware and understand how barbaric FGM was.

Councillor Okunade thanked Councillor Collins for the motion and reiterated that this was a difficult issue which had been raised before at Council. Councillor Okunade would support the Motion and was aware of charities already in Thurrock supporting residents and would suggest they are involved in the FGM Awareness Week.

Councillor Potheary welcomed the Motion and pointed out that a FGM strategy had commenced in 2008 and would like to thank those for the work undertaken so far.

Councillor Ojetola's concern with the Motion was that it may push FGM perpetrators and victims underground and may put younger persons at risk. The key would be to educate all especially those hard to reach of the health hazards.

Councillor Collins summed up by stating that FGM was foul practice and we should eradicate it.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

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

The meeting finished at 8.31pm.

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 – 26 October 2016

Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.

One question was submitted from 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.

Mayor

Unfortunately Mr Abbott is unable to attend tonight but I believe Councillor Little would like to respond verbally to the question tonight, am I right there?

Councillor B Little

Thank you, Madam Mayor. I'd like to wish Mr Abbott all the best in his problem that he's had today. I am sure I, and I'm sure all Councillors, share your views about the misery caused by congestion happening all too often in our Borough. Since I became Cabinet Member, Thurrock has established a dedicated highways network management team and appointed a Network Manager to help us manage our own road network better and provide a dedicated point of contact for improved joint working with partners. During office hours we have real-time monitoring of congestion on Thurrock's roads. We've engaged with partners to agree diversionary routes and protocols for variable messages on approach routes to the Crossing. I've also established a congestion task force which includes representatives from Highways England, Essex Police, Essex County Council and business. The Task Force has already delivered some quick wins; Highways England have added Thurrock Council to the list of organisations who are automatically contacted when there is an incident on the Crossing and we now get advanced warning of weather conditions which might lead to the closure of the bridge. Highways England have also committed resources to develop plans to link up Highways England's traffic management system with Thurrock Council and Essex County Council's control room in Chelmsford. They have promised portable variable message signs for Thurrock to help local traffic avoid a congested area. Thurrock has also commissioned experts to identify what investments are needed in traffic signals and junctions on Thurrock's own network to improve traffic flows; this work will form the basis of future bids for local growth funding. On 6 October Thurrock hosted a multi-agency 'Cold Debrief' in this Council Chamber to look at events arising from the last major incident on the Crossing and identify ways to reduce the impact of incidents and their knock-on effect in Thurrock and Essex. A number of areas for improvement were identified ranging from better access protocols for vehicles

needed to repair road damage, to improve traffic management when contraflow plans are implemented in the Tunnel. The Council, including myself, meet regularly with Highways England's Director of Operations; we also have raised congestion issues with the Department of Transport, and are lobbying for changes to legislation to allow camera enforcement at box junctions which is currently only allowed in London. A full update on initiatives being taken forward by the congestion task force will be presented to Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its January meeting. Thank you.

Item 13 – 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 Spillman to Councillor MacPherson

If the council does not extend its transition funding to Thurrock Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) I believe that there may be a risk that it will close its doors in April 2017. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm whether the Council's transition funding will cease in April 2017?

Mayor

Councillor Macpherson?

Councillor MacPherson

Thank you very much, that's certainly not a problem, I understand why you've changed that. The Council's fully aware of the funding pressures that the CAB are going to be experiencing in April 2015, both myself and the Leader, Councillor Gledhill, have had meetings with both the Chair and the Manager of CAB to monitor the performance against the existing funding agreement. We're keen to explore what the CAB can do, how it can support the residents of Thurrock and this will help us then be informed with regards to what opportunities there are but at this stage of discussions it's too early to say exactly what's going to be happening. We're more than happy as these discussions progress to have a chat with you and let you know what's going to happen.

Mayor

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

Councillor Spillman

Yeah and I must declare some interest, 'cause I don't know if most people are probably aware but I worked for the Citizen's Advice Bureau for many years. If the decision is made that the Council will not extend this funding, can the Portfolio Member commit to a proper impact study being put before this Council to look into the effect it's going to have on access to advice, the effect it's going to have on the money that the Citizen's Advice brings in, the effect it's going to have on other charities as well because the rent they pay could

affect CVS as well, the effect it's going to have on the skills that people learn when they're going into the advice sector, and the effect it's going to have on civil society in general in Thurrock?

Councillor MacPherson

Thank you very much. I can't give any assurances of a full impact assessment done on it because that's actually not something that is completely within our power as you, working at the CAB, would probably already be aware. The transition fund was approved to support the CAB to become a local incorporated organisation that could develop a stronger opportunity for those people within Thurrock, we need to make sure that every opportunity that the people of Thurrock need can be given; so if it is the CAB that needs to do that then we need to make sure that that's something that we do look at. But a full impact, I'm not quite sure how that would benefit, we're not the only financial supporters of the CAB as you're aware, there are other people so by looking at an overall if we withdraw our funding that isn't the be all and end all. People can't rely on the Council 100% to just have our funding, it doesn't work like that. If you go back 15 years yes, people were wholly reliant on the Council for that funding, but now they run their organisations as a business; they look at other funding, look at other ways of getting money in, look at what services the CAB can provide to the Council. They've got to look outwards, as they are doing, and which are the conversations that the Leader and I are having. Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor Spillman, do you wish to ask a second supplementary?

Councillor Spillman

I really do welcome that you're looking into spinning out possible services, contracting out stuff, that you're exploring these options. I must say, I mean I do know the financial situation there very well and the Chamber needs to be in no doubt, if the Council removes funding it will close, there's no two ways about it. If we remove funding, the Citizens Advice Bureau will close. Now, Southend Council provide funding to their Citizen's Advice Bureau, Basildon Council provide funding to their Citizen's Advice Bureau, Castle Point provide funding to their Citizen's Advice Bureau I think we'd be a bit of a shambles really if in a Unitary Authority we can't even support an advice service that's got such a proud track record of delivering. You know, the reason why the Citizen's Advice Bureau has been here for so long is that the model works, and so I would hope that you would look very closely before you make a decision that in 5 years' time we'll be sitting here and we'll be thinking...

Mayor

Councillor, can you ask a question please?

Councillor MacPherson

Of course we will look closely, but in February 2015 when we were discussing the financial envelopes and things like this, Councillor Gledhill said “if we agree the finances of 2015, this could look at reducing the funding that is going to the CAB” that’s why this side of the Chamber refused to agree to what Councillor Kent put forward. However UKIP, and it was a requisition vote, all agreed the funding envelopes and in those funding envelopes were to reduce the funding for the CAB. Councillor Gledhill brought it to everybody’s attention, look at the minutes of February 2015 and you will see that UKIP agreed to cut that, the Conservatives did not. Thank you.

2. From Councillor Smith to Councillor MacPherson

Yeah thank you, Madam Mayor. 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?

Mayor

Councillor MacPherson?

Councillor MacPherson

Thank you very much. I’m aware that the Aveley Village Community Forum is in the process of making staff redundant and closing its offers to residents, including the Youth Service. This is because external funding has come to an end. Officers have worked with the forum for some time to understand its current position and to consider any appropriate support. The loss of the service is, of course, regrettable especially when community led and supported by a wider network of volunteers and families who add value to the whole of the community. We will of course continue to work with the management committee, Ward Councillors and residents to explore opportunities for the future, but can I just add that the Aveley Village Community Forum is actually a strong forum and it’s not the forum that’s closing. I know Councillor is fully aware of that, but just for the publicity outside, the forum’s still going okay? So I don’t want people to think that Aveley now hasn’t got a forum, it has. Thank you.

Mayor

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

Councillor Smith

Yeah, thank you for the reply. Yeah, if you could just answer my first question, and really I was asking about the Council and the mitigation of these losses. What are you going to do about that?

Councillor MacPherson

This is a business which unfortunately the Council is not in the process of actually mitigating any business losses; otherwise we'd be setting ourselves up for a huge fall if we started mitigating all business losses. It's a huge, huge regret that there will be services lost but if somebody has set up a business and unfortunately the level of funding identified as required to keep the service open until bids came in wasn't there, it's not a sustainable business. This Council is not in the habit of sustaining businesses that are doing a loss.

Mayor

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

Councillor Smith

Yeah, yeah. I guess it might be my ham-fisted question but it's about the loss of important services, particularly youth services and child services, these are obviously going to go by the axe. Really, again, if I could just ask are Council going to do anything to mitigate? Is there anything, do you have a plan that might accommodate this or help us out with some of our services that we're losing?

Councillor MacPherson

With regards to services we're losing, if you're referring to the youth service and things like this unfortunately it's not a statutory service. We can't put money into a service that is losing money by a private business, I don't know how many more times. I understand that there are services for the youth and things like that but there are other services that the youth can be involved with. You know, if a play centre closed we wouldn't then be looking at providing more play centres for children, it's a business, we can't prop them up. Sorry.

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.

Mayor

Councillor Tolson, would you please answer the question?

Councillor Tolson

Yes, thank you very much Councillor Cherry. Just for clarity I have received confirmation that the clear up of the fly-tipping there, the clean-up costs actually came to £561, so I think you're adding that £561 into the £6000 for target hardening. So, yes I agree with you, we would like to target harden areas in our borough, we can't make it impregnable, if we target hardened everywhere it may be that travellers that decided to make incursions would then criminally damage property which again is then something we can use under power of Section 61.

Mayor

Councillor Cherry, do you wish to ask a supplementary question?

Councillor Cherry

I mentioned the sum of £6000 because when I enquired of the Council how much it cost us that's the figure I was actually given, that may or may not include other money that was spent to deal with the eviction, I don't know. That was the figure I was given. What ideas do you have, what plans have you made to target harden the known public areas that Travellers use, and other public land that will become an alternative option, and what advice will you be giving to private land owners to prevent crime on their land?

Councillor Tolson

Thank you very much. Well, where possible and where practicable we would like to target harden, with to date, the actual up-to-date figure is we've spent about £35,000 in the Borough in target hardening, so far. Working with private land owners, actually we've got a land owner in the Homesteads that's actually had a massive fly-tip in that area, it's about working with them again because whilst the farmer is happy to put some large pieces of agricultural equipment in a proactive manner to stop access to fly-tippers, the actual resident there is not willing to because he runs a business, so you have to really be dealing with people on their merits and whether they're running a business and how much access they want. It could happen anywhere, it could be that we make the whole borough impregnable and still an incursion may willingly come along and damage, but if any Ward Councillors have any difficulties in their area please contact me and we'll have a look at that site too. But we're target hardening the hotspots so I think we're doing very well actually we've spent £35,000 this year.

Mayor

Councillor Cherry, do you wish to ask a second supplementary?

Councillor Cherry

You say you spent £35,000 but I personally can't see where that money's been spent. I asked you what ideas you've got, what plans you've got, you talked for quite a period of time but you didn't actually give me any information. What are we going to see happen? Are we going to see definite target hardening that people notice or do we have to sit back and wait for the next 2017 caravan invasion of Thurrock or are you actually going to do something about it that we can actually see being done? Thank you.

Councillor Tolson

Well, a lot of our green and open spaces around the Borough are supposed to be attractive amenity sites for our residents in the Borough, not caged in areas. We want it attractive and, as I've said, where there's repeated issues we have target hardened and we have to assess them individually and I think you're overlooking that we've come so far this year in the way that we interact with the Police and the issuing of Section 61, and the communication on that occasion in Stanford-le-Hope was fantastic. And when we went to CGS (*Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee*) you said that a local supermarket there, which was a chain, didn't report the pilferage etc. it's not just our problem, it's everybody's problem in the Borough and if a superstore chooses not to report pilferage in their store, it may not affect a chain but it would affect a sole trader because it would affect their profits. So, it's everybody being communicating, communicating to Councillors. We're all going in the same direction, we can't make Thurrock impregnable, it's gone up not only in Thurrock, incursions, but across Essex and also you'll recall that Sean O'Callaghan said the Traveller Community do like Thurrock because it's an access way into London, it's not far away it's half an hour, so I think you're underestimating what we have actually...yes.

Councillor Cherry

Well I haven't seen it, £35,000...

Mayor

Can we get on, please Councillor? (*continued heckling*) Can we come to Order please? I have asked for answers to be brief and questions and that doesn't appear to be happening very much. Can we go on to Question four from Councillor Potheary.

4. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Halden

I promise I'll be briefer, Madam Mayor. So, my question is for Councillor Halden and I'd like to ask the question now:

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?

Mayor

Councillor Halden

Councillor Halden

Thank you, Madam Mayor. What the Prime Minister was referring to was the issue of parity. For a great deal of time issues like Social Care, Hospital deficits, they've always taken a more prominent role in discussions about health services and there has been the issue of mental health never actually seeming to have the same status as some of the other issues. That's why the NHS some time ago now launched the Parity Document to try to bring that in line. I think it's a wider social injustice in terms of the fact that mental health still, in the 21st Century, has a stigma attached to it; there's still people who don't want to talk about mental health, do not want to admit that they have a mental health issue. In general terms, what the Administration is doing, our drive to improve standards amongst GPs that will improve reporting pathways. Obviously our statutory mental health services are held by SEPT, the vast majority of referrals come via GP so as we improve GP services, improve access, that will improve mental health access but in general terms I've visited both the SEPT facilities in the Borough, at the Community Hospital and at Grays Hall, I know my colleague Councillor MacPherson has visited Mind as Cabinet Member for Communities and we will be taking the third goal of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which is around mental and emotional health through the next Health and Wellbeing Board, after myself and the Director have finalised the policies that will be going through. So that's in generality what we're doing, but if Councillor Potheary has a more specific supplementary I'm happy to try and answer.

Councillor Potheary

Thank you very much, Councillor Halden. Yes, my question is, is that clearly the Council does fund certain mental health services; can the Portfolio Holder guarantee that funding for mental health services in Thurrock will be maintained under his watch?

Councillor Halden

Thank you, Councillor Potheary. We don't fund a few, we fund a lot of mental health services. As I've already said, SEPT carry out our statutory care, Thurrock Council also funds Mind, Thurrock Council in conjunction with the CCG (*Clinical Commissioning Group*) have put together Inclusion Thurrock, Public Health is currently piloting, in conjunction with the CCG, a depression pilot to see how that can be used. What I would say specifically about the issue of maintaining, we need to look at services anew. One of the things I'm proud about with the new healthy lifestyle service that we put in place is the obligation for it to engage with schools; helping young people in terms of alcohol, obesity issues, smoking, these will help root out emotional issues that we see through adolescence that do become mental health issues

later. So it's about seeing services anew and seeing how we can head off those mental health issues before they can arise, it's smarter, more coordinated services.

Mayor

Councillor Potheary, do you have a second supplementary?

Councillor Potheary

So just to clarify, you won't make that guarantee?

Councillor Halden

Well, Councillor Potheary wants me to guarantee that the funding level will stay precisely the same regardless of the way the services are shaped, the way that services are delivered, the way that services are accessed. That's an irresponsible guarantee to give; I will give you the guarantee we will improve GP pathways, we will improve a wraparound service for young people which will ensure that the problems of today don't become disasters of tomorrow. We will improve access with a more coordinated integrated healthcare system in the Borough, I will give you that guarantee. We are building a better, stronger service. Will I arbitrarily tell you that a certain pound sign will be put next to it, no, only a moron would do that.

Mayor

Councillor Potheary, could you read out Question five?

5. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor B Little

Certainly, so my question is to Councillor Little apparently, which is: 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?

Councillor B Little

Thank you for the question, Councillor Potheary. I'm in discussion with Councillor Gledhill in his capacity as Portfolio Holder for Housing to explore the possibility of converting the delivery area at the front of Butler House to provide additional off-street parking. Any proposal would be subject to capital funding being allocated to the scheme.

Mayor

Councillor, do you have a supplementary question?

Councillor Potheary

That's really interesting to hear Councillor, and do we have a kind of timeframe on when we expect a decision might be made on that?

Councillor B Little

Not currently, no.

Mayor

Do you have a second supplementary question? Okay, thank you. Councillor Gerard Rice, would you please read out your question?

6. From Councillor G Rice to Councillor Tolson

Yes, Madam Mayor. What actions are the Council taking to bring fly tipping in Chadwell under control?

Councillor Tolson

Thank you very much, Councillor Rice. Well, as you may or may not know fly-tipping is going up in Thurrock. It's been going in an upward trend for quite a while now, not just in Thurrock, across the Borough. Chadwell, you ask specifically about that because you are a Chadwell Councillor, but some of the measures we put in place not only will help Chadwell but they help the Borough as well, we need to think about the whole of the Borough. So, we've brought in duty of care business waste contracts because it is found that some businesses actually fly-tip in our borough and they haven't got a duty of care waste contract in place. We're also going forward with a capital bid for CCTV because where we used to have 12 enforcement officers that were deployable for environmental crime we now only have 2, something you voted in February '15. That's not enough officers, actually.

Mayor

Councillor Rice, do you have a supplementary question?

Councillor G Rice

The reason for the question is really to seek out from the Portfolio Holder, we have a problem in Lee Road and recently we had round the back of Lee Road there was a lorry just happened to dump asbestos. It's very near young children and when I did get on to the Council I must admit they cleared it pretty quickly but what I want to know is what action we're going to take on the access to this back road where we do already have a couple of poles which we put into the ground. Every time the Council put them in someone removes them and I want to know what other action we can take to prevent illegal fly-tipping in this area because I'm getting phone calls from residents on a regular basis and when asbestos is dumped it's rather concerning because you have young children and you know what young kids are like they pick

things up, throw them up in the air and they don't realise the danger and this is why I'm seeking some assurance this evening.

Mayor

Councillor Tolson?

Councillor Tolson

Yeah, I'm not sure whether back access, is it a back access, is it private or is it public but I'll still continue to answer the question. With asbestos obviously there's a safety implication for residents. If it were fly-tipping in the back access that's not public we wouldn't remove it. Probably if it was private, it was asbestos, we may because we've got the Community safety to think of. Some Councillors have actually said to me you know, we thought this fly-tipping might get collected a bit quicker, well two years ago it may well have done because we had 60 more staff, 30 in street services, 30 in parks but as I said we're being very proactive. Asbestos would have gone up the priority to get collected more quickly, we're putting the capital bid forward for CCTV and again this is a community problem so if residents have got the time and they're able to get details, registrations, video footage, mobile phone footage, send it to Councillors without putting themselves in danger, if not contact your Councillor and see if we can get down there, because what we really want is prosecutions and you might find...

Mayor

Can we please, please can we make our answers brief? We've gone over time and we've still got questions left and if we can't have brief answers then that's going to make this a very long meeting, 'cause I've got nothing else to do this evening regardless of whether you have. So can we please make, I've asked this every time I've been in this chair, can we make our answers brief please? Thank you.

Councillor Rice, do you have a second supplementary? Okay, can we go to Question 7? Sorry, before we do that I have to, legally, ask if you'd like to suspend standing orders for 10 minutes just so we can finish these questions. Okay can we have a vote then? All those in favour of suspending it for 10 minutes to finish the questions please raise your hands? Okay, those against? Okay, so unfortunately we've gone out of time which... I don't know why people are sniggering, I think it's very, very, I'm just very disappointed in the behaviour of this Chamber this evening, Councillor Coxshall. (*Heckling*) Well I did ask for answers and questions to be brief and they haven't been, haven't done so. So, hopefully by next meeting we would have got the message.

Councillor Tolson

Can I make a Point of Order, Madam Mayor?

Mayor

What Point of Order's that, Councillor?

Councillor Tolson

You ask that questions be short, Councillor Rice's question wasn't short, it was elongated. Before now when people have acted badly you've allowed them to do so when talking to me, but you know it's obvious...

Mayor

Councillor, your answer, Councillor! Councillor! If you don't like what I'm going to say you're quite free to leave the Chamber, or you could be escorted out, but your answer wasn't short and sweet either so don't start making accusations across this Chamber. We will now move on to the next item on the agenda.

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There are 8 questions from the members of the public.

1. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Gledhill

As Leader of the Council have you any plans to make this a special Christmas for the unaccompanied child refugees currently residing in the Borough?

2. From Paul Vaughan to Councillor Tolson

What action is the Council undertaking in conjunction with the Developers (Barrett David Wilson) and Essex Police to prevent the access onto the Golf Course and the Stanford Park Housing Development in Stanford le Hope from being used for illegal quad and motor cross biking activities every weekend which is causing extreme distress to residents of that development?

3. From Francis Wilson to Councillor Gledhill

From the Highways England proposed motorway junction A13/C3, how far on most days, in meters, will the constantly emitted plume of harmful diesel air pollution spread in the prevailing southwesterly winds under a sinking inversion?

4. From Lee Watson to Councillor Halden

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm whether the staff at the Children's Centres, which are proposed to close subject to consultation, be re-deployed or are they the efficiency saving.

5. From George Abbott to Councillor MacPherson

On 17 March 2016 the council provided a list of 17 reasons why the council were opposed to any new crossings in Thurrock, since that release what further studies have been done specifically relating to point J copied below. As the borough is already suffering some of the worst air pollution in the UK, what work has been taken by the councils own environmental team to investigate the impacts further crossings would have on the health and wellbeing of current and future Thurrock residents ready to present to Highways England and government officials.

(J) The environmental harm caused by the scheme has not been fully assessed or quantified, including the impacts on health and local amenity and this may not be out-weighed by any economic or transport benefits - clearly further work is required on air quality and public health

before the Government makes a decision. It must be given weight alongside economic and transport benefits.

6. From Qaisar Abbas to Councillor Halden

With a high number of young families, why does the Portfolio Holder believe that there is no need for a Children's Centre on Chafford Hundred, considering the current proposals being consulted on?

7. From Neetu Jurek to Councillor Halden

It is proposed subject to consultation that the Aveley Children Centre will be closed. If so, which of the activities currently available will still be available to local parents and which will not?

8. From David Hann to Councillor Halden

What is the Portfolio Holder's message to families with young children in Stanford le Hope who will no longer have access to a local Children's Centre if the proposed changes, subject to consultation, are adopted?

Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 30 November 2016

Petition No.	Description	Presented by (and date)	Portfolio Holder	Status Full copies of the responses may be obtained from Democratic Services
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 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.</p> <p>Update 14/11/2016: All locks have been fitted and tenants issued with keys. This will be piloted for 6 months at which time we will consult back with tenants.</p>
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	29/06/2016	Cllr Tolson	There has been communication between a number of people (within and external to the Council) regarding matters relating to the occupation of 11, 13 and 15 Derwent Parade for a number of years. Matthew Essex, Legal

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

Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 30 November 2016

	<p>residents of South Ockendon</p>		<p>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> <p>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.</p>
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Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 30 November 2016

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	<p>This request will be included in the Stanford Le Hope Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) review for inclusion into next year's Highways Capital Programme.</p> <p>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.</p>
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 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.	30/08/2016	Cllr B Little	<p>A response is currently being prepared by Officers. An update will be presented at the November full council.</p> <p>Update – November 2016 - The Council's position is to oppose any new crossing through Thurrock. Highways England's consultation earlier this year proposed a number of alternative routes for a crossing. We are currently awaiting a Ministerial Announcement on the next steps. If the scheme is to be taken forward, the most likely scenario is that the Minister will indicate a preferred route for detailed design. There has</p>

Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 30 November 2016

				been nothing to suggest that there is a possibility that the Minister will instruct Highways England to revisit the Route Options Evaluation stage of the project (where Option A, Route 14 was ruled out).
483	This is a petition from the residents of Southend Road and Golding Crescent to Thurrock Council for Speed Cameras to be installed in Southend Road before the Golding Crescent turning following yet another serious accident on 28 July 2016. A mini roundabout or speed humps would only make the situation worse. Speed cameras would be a massive deterrent.	17/08/2016	Cllr B Little	We will be undertaking speed surveys on the length of Southend Road to obtain evidence of speeding on this route, to compare with the Personal injury Statistics. If a trend is identified, a scheme will be investigated for inclusion in next year's Capital programme.

30 November 2016	ITEM: 10
Council	
Cabinet Member Report – CHILDREN’S AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE	
Report of: Councillor Sue Little	
This report is public.	

1. Introduction

This is my first report to Council as Portfolio Holder for Children’s and Adult Social Care and I have taken the time to focus on both areas in some detail. In the short time since becoming Portfolio Holder, I have taken the time to get to know both departments. I have been able to see for myself the highlights but also the challenges that make our ability to deliver care to those who need it increasingly difficult. I will use my report to reflect on what I have seen and importantly, the work being carried out to address the challenges so those who need it can continue to have access to high quality safe services.

2. Adult Social Care

2.1 Context

The challenges faced by Adult Social Care nationally are well documented. These include:

- An ageing population – with people living for more years but with a greater number of years in poorer health;
- Increased complexity of cases for both older people and working age adults;
- Insufficient capacity within the NHS – including GP services and acute care;
- An extremely fragile provider market – particularly domiciliary care;
- A health and care system established to react rather than prevent; and
- Difficulty recruiting and retaining social care staff – in particular carers.

The recent Care Quality Commission ‘State of Care’ report published in October states:

“The fragility of the adult social care market and the pressure on primary care services are now beginning to impact both on the people who rely on these services and on the performance of secondary care. The evidence suggests we may be approaching a tipping point.”

2.2 So what do the challenges mean for us locally?

We have historically responded well to the challenges we face to keep people safe and to ensure that they are able to access and receive good services but we are finding it increasing difficult to manage demand. The impact this is having locally includes:

2.2.1 Delayed Transfer of Care – we have always been very proud of our low ‘Delayed Transfer of Care’ record. A ‘delayed transfer’ is when a person cannot leave a health setting

(mostly a hospital bed) when they are ready to do so because adult social care is not able to respond. Due to a combination of increased demand for care and lack of care staff, we now have a number of people at any one time waiting for care. This also has an impact on local NHS capacity.

2.2.2 Provider Market – over the last year, two of our domiciliary care providers have for different reasons failed meaning that the Department has had to take over 1600 of hours of care a week back in-house. This in itself has created a number of problems and led to an extremely stretched in-house service. The provider market challenge is not limited to domiciliary care. There are now times when beds in a residential setting are at full capacity. There's much we have done over the years to try to stabilise the market, but it is extremely fragile.

2.2.3 Recruitment and Retention – we have significant difficulties in recruiting carers. We compete with the retail industry which always compounds the difficulties we face locally and means we have to use a variety of innovative approaches to attract carers to work in Thurrock. We previously had similar difficulties recruiting and retaining social work staff. I will talk more about how we overcame these difficulties in my 'responding to the challenge' section of this report.

2.2.4 Population health – the challenges faced by Adult Social Care are as a result of a number of complex factors, but the health and wellbeing of the population of the Borough has a direct link to our demand pressures. Doing everything we can across the Council and with our partners to support people to be as healthy and fulfilled as possible through life will help to prevent, reduce and delay the need for care and support services. Our recently refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy is designed to do this.

2.2.5 Health and Care System – Adult Social Care is part of a wider health and care 'system'. Each part of the system has interdependencies with other parts of the system. The fact therefore that GP services are lacking in parts of the Borough both in terms of quality and under-doctoring will have a direct impact on demand for Adult Social Care as will the Hospital being at full capacity and more often than not being at 'black alert'. We must respond to the challenges we face as a system if we want to be successful, and we are working closely with NHS partners to look at alternative solutions and system redesign.

2.3 Responding to the challenge

Whilst I don't wish to use my report to scaremonger, it is right that I use it to outline the difficulties we face and highlight our response. I have seen many positive examples of how we are responding to the difficulties I've outlined since May, and I want to use the rest of my report to focus on those examples and to outline the plans we have in place.

As I have already demonstrated, the challenges facing Adult Social Care are extremely complex. As such, we have established a transformation programme. This allows us to use the resource we have available to best effect. Our transformation programme is called 'Living Well in Thurrock' and builds on work started under our 'Building Positive Futures' programme 2012 - 2016. The Programme recognises the needs for a partnership approach and includes other departments within the Council – e.g. Housing and Planning, and also external to the Council – e.g. Voluntary Sector and the NHS.

Our Programme consists of three elements:

- Stronger Communities;
- Built Environment; and
- Adult Social Care and Health infrastructure.

I won't go in to each and every element of the Programme as that would stray in to the remit of other Portfolio Holders, but I will highlight the elements particular to Adult Social Care.

2.3.1 Stronger Communities

We know that if we want to reduce and offset demand for Adult Social Care we need to think differently. We need to be able to provide solutions that enable an individual to meet their outcomes. Solutions are not necessarily services, but a combination of options both formal and informal which best suit the individual and can help to ensure that person has choice and feels in control.

Stronger Communities is all about providing capacity by using the strengths of communities and individuals. This isn't about replacing services, but finding good alternatives and recognising that services are not always the right response. Our approach to developing stronger communities is being taken forward with the Voluntary Sector through the Stronger Together partnership but also includes the Clinical Commissioning Group and representatives from other Council departments – e.g. Children's Services, Community Development.

Our Stronger Communities approach includes the **Local Area Coordination** service. Initially starting with three Local Area Coordinators (LACs), the service now has nine LACs providing coverage across the Borough. I've heard some extremely positive stories about people who have been helped. Those people have been reconnected with their communities and as a result, are less likely to need our services. We have a number of examples where this has happened. A recently commissioned Social Return on Investment report concluded that Thurrock's LAC service could have a £4.88m impact based on £4 for every £1 of social value invested.

More recently, we have been developing **Micro Enterprises**. With five already up and running, micro enterprises are an opportunity for people to set up a small local services that can offer people they support they need to live the life they want to live. Our initiative is directed at helping people who need some extra help – maybe because they are older, disabled or have a long-term health condition. It builds on the skills people have to offer and can also provide an opportunity for people who would have otherwise struggled to find work. Enabling people to get a bit of extra help to retain their independence can help to prevent the decline in health and wellbeing that can often lead to those individuals requiring a service.

The final initiative I want to talk about under the Stronger Communities heading is **Shared Lives**. Shared Lives is an approach that enables adults with complex needs to live in a family setting as opposed to a formal setting – which would ordinarily be a residential home. Shared Lives works by recruiting families and individuals who are prepared to have an adult needing support living with them. The approach not only improves outcomes for individuals in a Shared Lives placement, but also helps to grow the capacity needed to meet the growing demand of this particular cohort. Residential placements are often extremely limited meaning that people can be placed out of the Borough away from their families in very high cost placements. We have just (November) appointed a provider, Ategi, to run our Shared Lives scheme.

2.3.2 Built Environment

We know that how we shape the place we live in has a significant impact on our health and wellbeing. We also know that if we want to manage and reduce the demand for adult social care or provide alternatives to it, we need to influence the built environment so that it can respond accordingly.

Started under our earlier programme 'Building Positive Futures', Living Well in Thurrock continues this work in partnership with Housing, Planning and Regeneration. I want to highlight a few examples below.

Specialised Housing – we recognise that we need to provide additional capacity for adults with specialist needs – particularly for children in receipt of children's social care who will transit in to adult social care. Demand is increasing and we must provide alternatives to high cost residential placements – which can cost up to £7,000 per week for the most complex cases. We have been successful in securing Government funding to provide supported living accommodation within the Borough (Medina Road). We will be working with the existing provider to transform their building. This will provide five adults who would have previously had to be cared for in a residential placement with alternative accommodation. This will not only better meet the outcomes of those five individuals, but will make an impact on the Department's budget. We will continue to bid for funding so that we can provide further capacity in the future and submitted another bid to fund a similar scheme at the end of October.

Homes for people as they grow older – we are actively working with Housing, Planning and Regeneration colleagues to develop attractive housing options for people as they grow older. We recognise that people often live in unsuitable housing which can exacerbate health and care needs, but that they are often reluctant to move due to poor alternatives. We have recently completed a HAPPI standard housing scheme in Derry Avenue, South Ockendon (Bruyn's Court) which is designed to provide good accommodation for people as they grow older and we are now working with Housing colleagues to commence another scheme in Calcutta Road, Tilbury. Housing colleagues are also establishing attractive downsizing schemes. We will continue to work closely with our colleagues to influence development across the Borough as a means of reducing and managing Adult Social Care demand.

Integrated Healthy Living Centres – I am all too keenly aware of the poor GP service offer in some areas of the Borough. We are working alongside Thurrock's Clinical Commissioning Group to develop Integrated Healthy Living Centres in four areas of the Borough that will bring a range of services – including primary care services – together. The offer will depend upon what the local area requires, but will look to include some services currently provided in hospital and also non-health and care services. Healthy Living Centres will ensure that people get the right support and also get coordinated support.

Intermediate Care – I have had the pleasure of visiting our in-house residential care home Collins House. I'm very impressed by what we offer and the quality of the care given to residents. I'm also very supportive of plans to increase intermediate care capacity. This means that people can move out of Hospital to a different setting where they can be properly assessed before either going home or going to an appropriate residential setting. We are developing options to increase capacity, and this includes expanding the current Collins House site. Further work is being carried out to explore the feasibility of such an expansion, but I am extremely keen that we develop and deliver a solution that I feel is very much needed.

2.3.3 Adult Social Care (and Health) Infrastructure

As I have already said, we need to change our approach to how we meet outcomes and this means 'reimagining' how provide health and care services. The Care Act 2014 was very clear about the shift to meeting outcomes rather than needs, and the need for a focus on preventing, reducing and delaying the need for health and social care. I've started to demonstrate through examples under Stronger Communities and Built Environment just how broad our approach is. Whilst we provide alternatives to adult social care, we know that we will always have residents who require an adult social care service. The following looks at what we are doing to reshape services – including how we are working more closely with health partners.

Integrated working – there are significant interdependencies between health and social care. A significant proportion of our social care users will also be users of health services in the community, including mental health services. With this in mind, we have made great strides to work jointly with health colleagues where it is beneficial to do so. This has included the creation of and recent agreement to extend a joint **Director of Integrated Care** across Adult Social Care Fieldwork and Community Health provider NELFT (Tania Sitch) alongside the continued development of the integrated **Rapid Response and Assessment Service (RRAS)**.

Continuing on the theme of integrated working, we're developing a **Single Point of Access (SPA)** which will be the first point of access for Adult Social Care, Mental Health, and Community Health. The service is due to 'go live' in early 2017 and will not only reduce duplication but aim to give users of more than one service a more coordinated response. We're also working closely with health colleagues to develop integrated community teams that will support the Integrated Healthy Living Centres once delivered. This provides the opportunity for teams across community health, mental health and social care to come together and work more seamlessly – this will be of particular benefit for those service users who are users of multiple services and agencies across health and social care.

We have opportunities to further develop a more integrated approach across adult social care and health through our **Better Care Fund** which is now in its second year.

Living Well @ Home – we've been working to find alternative ways to provide care. I've already mentioned the pressures on domiciliary care providers and in response we've been looking at developing a pilot approach which aims to combine formal domiciliary care alongside less formal community-based approaches – dependent upon what is available in the community and the nature of the outcomes the individual wishes to achieve. We're working with a couple of our domiciliary care providers on this approach and will undertake an evaluation once the pilot has been completed. This approach could reduce the amount of formal care required.

Social work practice – I mentioned earlier that recruitment and retention was a significant challenge to our ability to provide Adult Social Care. We have adopted a number of measures designed to secure a permanent and high quality workforce. The measures put in place are working well – for example we had less than 5% turnover of social work staff during the last year. Some of the measures we've put in place include the creation of a principal social worker post, adopting a co-production approach to recruitment, and growing our own through the development of Newly Qualified Social Workers.

Demand for social work remains high with 334 complex cases held by one team alone. The Department currently has 3293 individuals in receipt of a commissioned adult social care service. Additional pressure on social work teams has been created by a court ruling on

Deprivation of Liberty, and also increased referrals to the Safeguarding Team.

Social work practice has had to adapt as a result of the implementation of the Care Act 2014. The Care Act 2014 brought with it requirements for assessments to be outcome focused rather than needs focused. We were already working on implementing this approach prior to the Act, but we've done more to revise our approach and undertake regular case audits to ensure the right decisions are being made. An outcomes-based approach allows social workers to look at a range of options depending upon what's important to the individual being assessed. This means a formal service response is not always the only response considered. It's a real cultural change for both social workers and recipients of care.

2.4 Adult Social Care Financial Information:

Sub Service	15/ 16 Outturn (000s)	16/17 Revised Budget (000s)	16/17 Forecast (000s)	Variance (000s)	Mitigation (000s)	Final Outturn variance (000s)
Appointee and Receivership	95	98	117	19	0	19
Appointee and Receivership Total	95	98	117	19	0	19
Blue Badges	(9)	(19)	(9)	10	0	10
Commissioning Team	290	395	370	(25)	0	(25)
Health Watch	164	124	124	0	0	0
Meals on Wheels	65	178	127	(51)	0	(51)
Service Management & Support	(436)	316	271	(45)	(20)	(65)
Special Equipment	78	79	44	(35)	0	(35)
Supporting People	1,137	914	879	(35)	0	(35)
Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions	1,618	1,381	1,381	0	0	0
Voluntary Sector Contracts	644	512	502	(10)	0	(10)
External Commissioning Total	3,551	3,880	3,689	(191)	(20)	(211)
External Purchasing - Learning Disabilities	9,734	9,801	9,666	(135)	0	(135)
External Purchasing - Mental Health Team	2,616	2,716	3,082	366	(100)	266
External Purchasing - Older People	5,161	4,831	4,853	22	0	22
External Purchasing - Physical Disabilities	2,630	2,698	2,742	44	0	44
External Placements Total	20,141	20,046	20,343	297	(100)	197
Business Administration	107	361	348	(13)	(10)	(23)
Collins House Residential Home	754	638	649	11	0	11
Community Mental Health Team	789	841	823	(18)	0	(18)
Community Solutions	129	453	453	0	(20)	(20)
Core Fieldwork	1,606	1,784	1,748	(36)	(30)	(66)
Customer Finance	124	404	397	(7)	(15)	(22)
Day Care Services	809	736	757	21	0	21
Extra Care Housing	707	545	576	31	0	31
Hospital Team	494	336	336	0	0	0
Joint Reablement Team & Thurrock Care at	496	1,102	1,453	351	0	351

Home						
Local Area Co-ordinators	25	131	124	(7)	0	(7)
Older People's Mental Health	195	246	216	(30)	0	(30)
Provider Service Management & Support	468	549	488	(61)	0	(61)
Provider Services Total	6,703	8,126	8,368	242	(75)	167
Grand Total	30,490	32,150	32,517	367	(195)	172

Whilst we did not overspend, the budget was extremely challenging during 2015-16. We have delivered over £1m of efficiencies during 2016-17, and although the Adult Social Care precept provided additional resources, these were absorbed by pressures created by the introduction of the National Living Wage.

We pay well below the recommended hourly rate for home care and our rates are the lowest in the Eastern Region. With 1600 hours a week of home care already handed back to the department and a real risk of more providers reaching financial instability, pressures on Adult Social Care finances are only going to increase. This compounded by additional National Living Wage increases make delivering a balanced budget increasingly difficult – over 70% of Councils in England are overspending on their Adult Social Care budget this year alone (ADASS annual budget report).

There are in-year pressures of 369k identified at month 6. These are largely attributable to the high cost of external placements for people with mental health issues and the delivery of domiciliary home care.

Senior management have identified actions to mitigate this pressure of 194k through the freeze on all non-essential front line staff, review of mental health care packages, freeze on non-salary related supplies & services purchases, reassessment of client contributions towards care packages and further negotiations with the CCG re Continuing Health Care funding.

It is estimated that ASC will overspend by 172k for 2016-17 my officers are looking at further ways to get this down to zero.

3. Children's Social Care

I have considerable experience and knowledge of children's social care services, have chaired the Corporate Parenting Committee and am a member of the Fostering Panel. I understand the strengths and vulnerabilities of the service well and I am passionate about ensuring that we deliver the best possible services to vulnerable children and their families.

3.1 Context

The recent National Audit Office Report published in October 2016 found that: "The actions taken by the Department for Education since 2010 to improve the quality of help and protection services delivered by local authorities for children have not yet resulted in services being of good enough quality".

Thurrock Children's Social Care Services were inspected by Ofsted under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) between 22.2.16 and 17.3.16. Services to children, young people and their families were judged to 'Require Improvement'. The inspectors stated in their report 'children and young people were found to be safe in Thurrock during this inspection, with none identified who were at immediate risk of significant harm without plans and services being in place to reduce these risks and meet their needs.'

3.2 What does this mean for us locally?

3.2.1 Ofsted Inspection

Some of the Ofsted findings were disappointing and I remain committed to working with officers to improve the quality of social work practice and improve outcomes for our most vulnerable children. Some key areas of concern highlighted in the report were:

- The instability of the social care workforce. The service was dependent on a high proportion of agency social workers, although it was acknowledged that a range of creative ideas had been implemented to improve recruitment and the vacancy rate had reduced;
- The service for children looked after was inconsistent and too many children became looked after on an emergency basis;
- More needed to be done to increase the number of local in-house foster carers as too many children and young people were placed out of the borough;
- Management oversight needed to be improved and frontline staff had to be effectively supervised to improve the quality of practice; and
- The organisation's use of management information and quality assurance was poor and this impedes improvement.

Key areas of strength (positive practice developments) noted within the inspection included:

- Child Sexual Exploitation being well understood and addressed across the service
- Effective cross party political scrutiny and the keys contributions of the Corporate Parenting and Overview and Scrutiny Committees to service development.
- Reduction in the number of days taken for children to be placed for adoption, with the time taken from court approval to placement being below the England average.
- Support and intervention for teenagers, particularly young people's feedback on how well supported they felt by their aftercare workers.
- The work of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and within this the partnership with Barnardo's National Centre of Excellence in relation to Female Genital Mutilation.

The service is well placed to drive the improvements needed to deliver a good service to vulnerable children and young people in the community. To address the areas of concern and build on the positive areas of practice the Corporate Director of Children's Services has established an improvement board to oversee the implementation of the action plan, which was approved by Ofsted on 31 August. In addition to this I have set up an additional meeting with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Health to provide oversight and challenge to this and other improvement plans in Children and Adults Social Care and Health.

The National Audit Office Report identified the high demand and costs associated with children's social care services nationally. In Thurrock this has resulted in high number of contacts and referrals. This in turn has resulted in increasing numbers of children with a child protection plan and a higher care population. The latter has been driven by an unprecedented rise in the number of refugee children entering the country and presenting themselves to children's social care. I will address this particular issue later in my report.

3.2.2 Demand Management

We know that we will need to work more effectively with partner agencies to reduce demand and intervene earlier with families. To this end an organisation known as iMPower was commissioned by the Council to review the provision of children's social care in terms of demand and costs. Over 3 months from May 2016, the team undertook a detailed analysis of the service to identify areas of opportunity for managing demand more effectively and then develop an implementation programme. The review identified that the service was responding appropriately to the current levels of demand. However the review identified that a significant proportion of the demand was avoidable if services could be organised more effectively, to focus on prevention. Some of the issues arising from the work included:

- High proportion of assessments which led to no further action and need therefore to work with partners to appropriately respond to needs and risks at the right levels of intervention;
- High levels of spending on Independent Fostering Agency placements, too many of which were out of the authority;
- Current demand leading to high levels of agency staff to meet demand and achieve safe caseloads. Caseloads in some areas of the service remain too high and work is ongoing to reduce these;
- Too many children in care when with more targeted and effective early intervention by all agencies, family breakdown could be prevented.

The increase in unaccompanied asylum seeking children has had a significant impact on the number of children in our care which currently stands at 353 compared to 285 in 2015. In addition there are 285 children with a child protection plan, which is high relative to regional comparators. This has put tremendous pressure on the budget and social work caseloads.

The project has now entered the implementation phase where a number of strands are being pursued in more depth. The work is designed to change the operating model and the behaviour of partner agencies so that demand is reduced. The Corporate Director provides me with regular updates on progress with implementation as this is a key aspect of our work to reduce costs over the next three years.

3.2.3 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

The last 3 years has seen an unprecedented rise in the number of refugee children arriving in Thurrock and entering care. These children usually enter the UK at Dover often in the back of lorry and are subsequently dropped off at Thurrock services on the M25. Alternatively young people have entered the UK via the Ports at Purfleet and Tilbury. As they present themselves in Thurrock they automatically become the responsibility of the authority. The Home Office has sent out guidance suggesting that local authorities should be able to accept a number of refugee's equivalent to 0.07% of their overall child population. In Thurrock's case, this should be 28 children. However, we are currently supporting over 100 children which is over 3 times the threshold.

I have worked with officers to lobby The Home Office and other local authorities in the Eastern Region to ensure that there is a more equitable distribution of these vulnerable young people. The Home Office has developed a Transfer Protocol to ensure that there is an equal and proportionate distribution of refugees between local authorities. The national transfer protocol is being implemented in the Eastern Region from 1 November. We have also negotiated some transfers outside of the protocol with some authorities willing to accept young people from Thurrock. The LGA (Eastern Region) is helping to co-ordinate our response to the crisis, and has been liaising directly with the Home Office about the need for more placements in the area. It has been acknowledged that some authorities, including Thurrock, Central Bedfordshire, Bedford and Peterborough have now reached or exceeded the 0.07% threshold and are not currently in a position to provide support. We are also currently working with our Eastern Region colleagues to transfer children from Thurrock to those authorities that have spare capacity.

I am pleased that we have been able to negotiate the implementation of the transfer protocol with the Eastern Region group of authorities to ensure wider participation in assisting the plight of this vulnerable group of children. The transfer process has already started with a view to formal implementation across the region on 1 November. We have already seen a slight reduction in the number of UASC from 103 to 96 and I will be monitoring this area closely with officers over the coming weeks and months.

3.2.4 Youth Offending Service

Thurrock has one of the smallest Youth Offending Services (YOS) in the country, but provides good value for money and achieves a lower reoffending rate than the national, regional and family averages. The YOS is continually improving and developing to respond to new challenges and opportunities. It responds quickly to changes in local circumstances and developments in youth crime. It has formed an effective partnership with the Police and has risen to the challenge of emerging gang issues in the borough which are spreading out from London. I have ensured that the service continues to have the resources it needs to deliver a safe and effective service for young people in trouble in the Thurrock.

3.2.5 Troubled Families

The national Troubled Families programme focusses on families with worklessness, poor school attendance and anti-social behaviour. Each family is allocated a lead professional to co-ordinate services and improve outcomes against the performance targets. Thurrock was successful in phase 1 of the programme and an early adopter of phase 2. While there has been national criticism of the programme, I am proud of what we have achieved in Thurrock as the team remains dedicated to turning the lives around of some of the most vulnerable families. Families have told us that they like the programme and it has made a real practical difference to their lives. The Ofsted inspection of children's services judged the Troubled Families Service in Thurrock to be successful and praised the fact that a worker was based in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and that the programme focussed on families with children in need and children on a child protection plan.

3.2.6 Safeguarding Children Board

The Board has continued to be proactive in the community, raising awareness on safeguarding. The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in Thurrock was inspected by Ofsted in February 2016 and judged to be good. It is effective and innovative, and has a clear understanding of the key safeguarding priorities across partner agencies. There is ownership of safeguarding across all partners, who are positively engaged support children, young people and

their families. The board is chaired well by an influential chair who both supports and challenges partners, and accountability is high, and a high degree of challenge and scrutiny. Child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and 'Prevent' duty have a high profile, with key leads from relevant agencies working effectively with the board. The 'Walk on line' roadshows were felt to be outstanding, ensuring that over 10,000 schoolchildren received interactive safeguarding workshops of a high quality. The children most at risk of going missing, sexual exploitation, gang involvement and online exploitation were given comprehensive multi-agency consideration.

The board has been effective at listening to the range of experiences for children, young people and their families. The take-up of multi-agency training offered is good, and participants and partners speak positively about the benefits. The current chair will be stepping down from this role in December and I would like to thank him for his drive and commitment to ensuring that all children work together to safeguard children in Thurrock.

3.3 The Challenge Ahead

I remain committed to ensuring that we deliver effective and high quality provision for our most vulnerable children and families and will work with officers to ensure that we continue to drive improvements in the service and manage the demand pressures. I would like to thank our foster carers and staff for their hard work and dedication.

I am under no illusions that we are facing a tough agenda, but we will continue to explore new ways of working and encourage innovation in the workforce to rise to the challenge.

3.4 Children's Social Care Financial Information

Sub service	15-16 Outturn (000s)	16/17 Revised Budget (000s)	Forecast (000s)	Variance (000s)
Social Care - Service Managers	605	431	469	37
Troubled Families	184	(15)	(13)	2
Emergency Duty Team	364	383	409	26
Care and Targeted Outcomes (CATO) Management & Emergency Total	1,152	800	864	65
Early Offer of Help	931	405	406	1
Legal Proceedings	553	595	728	133
Permanency Team	417	407	492	84
Through Care Team 1	684	425	551	68
Through Care Team 2	578	578	512	(66)
Aftercare	494	745	833	134
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children's Team	2,099	1,260	1,263	15
Children & Families Total	5,756	4,415	4,785	370
Disabled Children	1,711	1,668	1,667	(1)
Sunshine Centre	303	348	310	(39)
Family Group Conference Team	125	122	129	7

Disabled Children Total	2,139	2,138	2,105	(33)
Thurrock Access to Resources Panel	62	7	136	129
Child and Family Assessment Team & MASH	1,514	1,096	1,446	350
Family Support Team West	529	358	481	123
Family Support Team North East	445	406	575	169
Family Support Team Central	392	365	505	140
Family Support Team South East	574	376	497	120
Specialist Practitioners	113	137	114	(23)
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	343	399	319	(80)
Family Support Total	3,973	3,145	4,073	929
Child and Family Consultation Service	56	58	60	3
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Grant	159	263	191	(72)
Placements Marketing and Recruitment	13	47	38	(8)
External Purchasing	8,900	4,392	9,157	4,765
Adoption & Permanence	1,595	1,680	1,791	112
Fostering Team	2,175	2,299	2,363	64
Therapeutic Foster Care	1,097	1,106	838	(267)
Foster Care Assessment & Rec Team	312	350	325	(25)
Oaktree Resource Centre	208	259	161	(99)
Contact Service	38	94	235	141
Placement Support Total	14,553	10,546	15,160	4,614
Safeguarding. Child Protection & Quality Assurance	426	377	439	62
Quality Assurance Child Protection Conferencing	513	352	451	100
Safeguarding and Child Protection & Local Authority Designated Officer Total	939	728	890	162
Targeted And Adolescents Team	524	388	328	(60)
Youth Offending Service	248	355	232	(123)
Accommodation - Young People	163	73	43	(31)
Youth Offending Service and Adolescent Services Total	935	816	603	(213)
Grand total	29,447	22,588	28,482	5,894

30 November 2016	ITEM:11
Council	
Cabinet Member Report – REGENERATION	
Report of: Councillor Mark Coxshall	
This report is public.	

1.0 Introduction and Overview

I am delighted to introduce this report as Portfolio Holder for Regeneration at a time when the growth programme is delivering real opportunities for all Thurrock residents.

The growth programme in Thurrock continues to be one of the largest and most exciting opportunities in the country. Thurrock's reputation as a place full of opportunity has helped attract a number of large scale regeneration projects including The Port of Tilbury, DP World London Gateway, the expansions of Lakeside and the Purfleet Regeneration. These projects in turn have created significant numbers of jobs with the opening of Amazon and UPS facilities in 2017 present further opportunities. In addition to these large scale projects we have also focussed on smaller but nevertheless significant projects for local people such as expanding our small business accommodation offer in the borough, helping local people to find work and improving our town centres.

Good progress has been made in a number of areas as the programme continues to move from plans to deliverables. In particle an agreement of the masterplan for Grays and development appraisals for a number of sites which would generate a positive return to contribute towards delivery of the underpass and a new theatre.

Beyond Thurrock's boundaries we have led the coordination of growth and investment planning across the wider South Essex area and continue to play an important part in the work of SELEP (South East Local Enterprise Partnership). In addition, we have taken the lead in shaping strategic planning discussions in South Essex.

Employment rates remain strong and in the last 12 months to June 2016 (the latest published figures) 72.7% of working age residents were in employment. Unemployment in the same 12 month period was at 4.9% down from 6.6% in the preceding 12 months. With Amazon and UPS both due to open in 2017 with the creation of over 2,000 new jobs the outlook remains very positive.

Development activity in Thurrock remains strong reflecting the growing

confidence of developers and investors in the Borough, not least due to the way in which the Planning and Regeneration services pro-actively and positively conduct their business. This puts us in an enviable position to secure lasting change, to address some of the infrastructure issues in the borough and to create opportunities for local residents.

2.0 Progress in the Growth Hubs

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

2.1 Tilbury

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

A masterplan for the Civic Square and the wider area has been developed, consulted on and now agreed for implementation. The centrepiece of the masterplan is the development of a flagship primary care centre (Integrated Healthy Living Centre) along with associated public realm improvements which will help realise the vision for the Civic Square as the heart of the community and a space resident can be proud of.

As part of the port of Tilbury's work on Port expansion, a wider masterplan is being drawn up with the aim of ensuring that this expansion brings wider benefit to the local community.

Working with colleagues in Thurrock CCG and other NHS partners work is underway to establish the facilities and spatial requirements of the Integrated Healthy Living Centre and to inform further development of the business case. In the meantime the Tilbury Community Hub has formally opened in the Civic Square, providing a resource where local people can get information and guidance from trained volunteers, support services can be delivered and ICT accessed.

Elsewhere in Tilbury the Council is working towards the extension of the Tilbury Riverside Business Centre as part of the Enterprise Units programme. The programme aims to increase the number of small business units available in the borough to support jobs and growth. Building on the success of the Tilbury Riverside Business Centre proposals to extend will provide an additional 20 workshop units. Design work has been completed and the building contract will be tendered shortly.

Our housing company Gloriana is well underway with the delivery of 128 new market homes on a formerly vacant site at St Chads Tilbury, with the first homes being complete early in January 2017, and completion of the whole site by summer 2017. Work is progressing to finalise plans for a 36 unit 'HAPPI' (Housing our Ageing Population: Panel for Innovation) scheme for older residents through the Housing Revenue Account which on completion would help manage the demand for Social Care by reducing or delaying the need for care services.

The Port of Tilbury and associated industries continue to create jobs for local people. NFT Distribution Ltd. opened in March 2016 creating 700 jobs. A number of these jobs remain to be filled and the Council is leading a taskforce including

Job Centre Plus and South Essex College to help the company recruit local people for their workforce. In August 2016 an announcement was made that a new Amazon Fulfilment Centre was to be opened at the London Logistics Park. The Centre, due to open in September 2017, will create up to 1500 permanent jobs. Work is already underway to construct the facility and Thurrock residents have been successful in securing a number of roles. As recruitment is not yet complete final figures cannot be reported but will be available soon. The construction has also created a number of apprenticeship opportunities and the Council is working with McLaren to fill these. Work will shortly begin with Amazon to look at recruitment of their workforce for the fulfilment centre.

To help local people enter and remain in the workforce and local businesses to develop and grow the Council has worked with the local community and stakeholders to apply for funding from the Community Led Local Development programme which is funded through the European Union Structural Funds. There are a number of stages to the application process including the development of a strategy outlining use of the funding which has recently been approved by the managing authorities. The next stage in the process will be submission of bids for funds which are required by 31st January. If successful the programme could bring c.£3m additional funding to the area to support skills, jobs and business support activity in Tilbury over five years.

2.2 Purfleet

Purfleet Centre will transform Purfleet, delivering more than 2,300 new homes, a new town centre including shops, bars and restaurants, community facilities including schools, health centre and leisure facilities and a c.1million sq ft film and television studio complex on a 30 acre site.

Recently the focus has been on development of a revised planning application to be submitted this winter. The development team have been engaging with stakeholders including Council Officers and a local community design panel to inform their proposals. The development programme indicates that construction work could start with land remediation in 2017 and the first new homes could be completed by the end of 2018.

Elsewhere in Purfleet, the Council continues to support the development of High House *Production* Park. The Backstage Centre at HHPP has been designated as one of seven new National Colleges in the country and the Council has supported development of a bid for funding to build a new facility which will provide accommodation for students at HHPP and commercial units for creative businesses to locate in Purfleet. The scheme is progressing as scheduled and building works are expected to be completed in time for the start of the academic year in September 2018.

Building on the success of the first artists' studios complex at HHPP ACME, who manage the studios have been working with the Council and HHPP to develop proposals for a second building to include additional artist studios alongside additional commercial workspace for creative businesses. Feasibility studies are underway and concept design work is on-going. Partners are working together to

secure a funding package including external grant funding to support the development.

Working closely with Creative and Cultural Skills and High House Production Park the Council is leading a SELEP wide bid for £6.5m of ERDF money to grow the digital, creative and cultural sector across the South East. If successful it will place Thurrock at the centre of a SELEP-wide business support programme which encourages and promotes new business starts, helps existing businesses to grow and links HE institutions with local businesses to promote skills development and facilitate knowledge transfer. The bid has successfully completed stage 1 of the application process and a final application is due to be submitted by 30 November.

2.3 Lakeside

Lakeside Basin provides thousands of jobs for local people, generates significant business rate income and attracts millions of visitors to the Borough every year. We continue to work with landowners and businesses to ensure that the exciting vision for the future transformation and development of the area set out in the Lakeside Area Development Framework becomes a reality.

Under this vision, Lakeside's existing strategic role will be further strengthened and developed through ambitious proposals to expand and diversify the basin to provide more retail floor space alongside greatly enhanced leisure, commercial and residential uses as part of a new Regional Town Centre.

In order to translate the vision into reality the Council has been working closely in partnership with Intu to assist them in bringing forward their proposed £230m investment in new retail and leisure floor space at Lakeside. It is anticipated that revised planning applications for their two currently consented retail and leisure schemes will be considered by Committee before the end of the year.

2.4 Grays

The Council has made great strides in delivering the vision for Grays which is intended to support the growing resident, student and business communities and develop a thriving destination with a day and evening economy. Pulling together the work underway and following consultation a masterplan for Grays has been agreed as the physical incarnation of the vision, transforming Grays and opening up links to the riverfront. Following agreement of the masterplan the Council commissioned development appraisals for a number of sites which could be developed. The appraisals show a significant potential return which could be used to contribute towards the funding pot for major projects in the town centre including the underpass and a new Theatre for Thurrock.

The Council continues to work with Network Rail to prioritise the creation of a foot crossing under the railway line and is continuing to develop the funding package to enable the project to progress. An application for £10.8m of Local Growth Fund monies to contribute towards the funding package has been made.

Following Members agreement that a new theatre be created at Grays Beach the Council has commissioned work to update the market appraisals and to develop a set of operational requirements to feed into a more detailed brief for a professional design team to be appointed.

The Council owns business centres in Grays which accommodate a growing number of small businesses. Alongside the Centre for Business the Council also operates the Old Courthouse (former Magistrates Court) which was converted into a business centre by the last administration and formally opened in December 2015. There is strong demand for space at both centres and occupancy targets are being exceeded. I have asked for a review of arrangements to ensure that we are maximising income to the Council and also, once current contractual arrangements are completed, consideration of options for possible disposal.

Recognising that whilst we continue to develop larger schemes we also need to get the basics right, the Council has introduced permanent Town Centre Management resource to support the Grays Town Partnership and promote the town centre. Between January and April 2016, there was a period of consultation with town centre traders and visitors. This consultation led to the formation of the Grays Town Management Partnership (GTMP) supported by a Town Centres Co-ordinator. GTMP is a business-led organisation and is due to publish a formal business plan focussed on four priorities:

- Safe and welcome
- Community Engagement and Integration
- Improved Street Scene
- 18hr Economy

A marketing and communications working group has also been established to ensure efficient communication of all projects and initiatives. The public destination brand – Love Grays – will be formally launched in February 2017 including a website and social media for users of the town centre.

Following the success of the 2015 event, GTMP will be hosting its second Christmas lights switch on Friday 25th November 2016.

2.5 London Gateway

London Gateway Port is establishing itself as a major operator in international shipping. The first three berths (of an eventual six) are now open meaning that the port has 1250 meters of quay wall, providing three deep-water berths and more ultra-large container vessel capacity than any other port in the UK.

Whilst shipping activity clearly continues to build, the development of the logistics and distribution park remains slower than anticipated. The bulk of the jobs anticipated from London Gateway will be generated through the logistics park and, therefore, the Council remains keen to work with the port owners to secure further development and create job opportunities at all levels for local residents.

In August, UPS obtained consent to develop their London distribution centre on 18.6 hectares in the distribution park in just 17 days via the London Gateway Local Development Order. Speed of decision-making is paramount to attracting growth and investment and this case highlights the proactive and efficient approach taken by the Council's award winning Planning Service. The UPS facility will open in September 2017 with the creation of 542 jobs and the Council has formed a taskforce to help UPS to recruit their workforce and to look at improving accessibility to these jobs from across Thurrock.

2.6 Thames Enterprise Park

The Council worked with Thames Oil Port and Thames Enterprise Park to develop and agree the masterplan for the 400 acre site that placed Thurrock at the heart of the emerging Green Technology / Energy market. Demolition of the refinery began in November 2014 and clearance of refinery process units is continuing. In 2015 the site was put up for sale with strong interest from investors and the Council continues to support the sale process and to meet potential inward investors. We are hopeful that further progress will be achieved in 2017 to deliver the shared vision for the site.

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

3.0 Wider Regeneration and Economic Development

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

- Reviewing the Thurrock Economic Growth Strategy to provide a strategic focus for the work of the team. The review was completed in February 2016 and work is underway to develop an implementation plan which will see the strategy delivered.
- Building strong partnerships and playing a leading role in South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP); Thames Gateway Strategic Group; and Opportunity South Essex (OSE). Thurrock provided the lead for the OSE in developing a new Growth Strategy for South Essex providing a renewed focus for the business led partnership which serves as one of four federated boards of SELEP.
- Working with other Council departments and partners to develop a response to the call for proposals as part of the Local Growth Fund Round 3. An announcement on LGF 3 is expected after the autumn statement on 23 November. Working with partners across OSE more than £160m of Local Growth Fund support has already been secured, with nearly £100m coming to Thurrock alone.

- Introducing a new town centre management function to the Council to improve the sense of place and to realise the potential afforded by extra footfall in Grays town centre.
- Working with partners to develop a simplified and co-ordinated approach to business support and engagement through the Business Essex, Southend and Thurrock (BEST) Growth Hub. In the first 6 months of operation the hub engaged with 792 businesses and overall satisfaction from clients is very high. 80% of the businesses that responded to a recent survey were satisfied or very satisfied and 80% advised they would recommend the hub to a friend or colleague. The Hub workshop programme was very successful and over a 6 month period over 403 businesses attended. The Council also gained “Global Entrepreneurship week UK” High impact Host 2015 award for our continued efforts supporting businesses in Thurrock.
- Strengthening the relationship with our business community through two Thurrock Business Conferences; and regular meetings of the Thurrock Business Board and Network Groups facilitating a two-way discussion on a range of strategic issues.
- Successfully applied for funding to deliver an £18.5m business support programme – Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE). The programme provides support, including grants, to improve business efficiency and to bring new low carbon products and services to market. The programme officially started on 28 February 2016 and is due to complete by February 2019.
- Funding was secured from the Department for Work and Pensions to pilot a partnership project ‘Back to your Future-Thurrock’, which aims to get young and lone parents back into employment, self-employment or training. The project launched earlier this month.
- Progressed our ambition for Thurrock to become a ‘hub’ for social enterprise, with the first ‘Soup’ project taking place in September, and the second one to follow in November. The event gives budding social entrepreneurs the opportunity to share their business idea and win a sum of money to help get the idea off the ground. A ‘School for Social Entrepreneurs’ will be piloted in 2017 in partnership with a number of local community organisations including Grays Big Local.
- Strong progress has been made through the Economic Development and Skills Partnership in tackling employment and skills issues. Initiatives include:
 - The successful JobTown project ultimately secured over £2m of external resources to tackle unemployment amongst NEETs. Thurrock has now successfully led a bid for JobTown2 which will look to secure additional resources to supplement careers provision and support people into employment or, for those in work, to access better jobs.

- Building on the success of the Opportunity Thurrock careers fair a new jobs@opportunitythurrock Facebook page has been launched to provide businesses with somewhere to advertise vacancies and to raise the profile of vacancies in Thurrock communities.
- Spent £40,000 through a High Street Innovation Fund on improving the appearance of shop fronts of small businesses in local parades and high streets throughout Thurrock.
- With our Business Rates Pooling partners (London Boroughs of Havering, Barking & Dagenham and Basildon District Council) Project Quad provided specialist 1-2-1 business support to SME's looking to realise their growth potential.
- Working across Opportunity South Essex and SELEP and to secure external resources. The Council is leading or a key partner in a number of new bids for funding which will support employment programmes, provide support services to priority growth sectors and make finance available to businesses to support their growth plans.

Our efforts to date have ensured that Thurrock was able to buck the national trend and achieve significant growth. We are now strongly placed to realise further benefits and provide local communities with significant opportunities.

4.0 Strategic Planning

The Council's Strategic Planning and Growth Strategy Teams coordinate and lead on sub-regional and local planning documents and events, including but not limited to:

- Co-ordinating sub-regional technical studies such as the South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment; South Essex Strategic Retail Study and the South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment.
- Organising the South Essex Health Wellbeing and Planning Summit with colleagues in Public Health.
- Preparing a Design Strategy that will seek raise design standards and promote quality place making throughout the borough.
- Preparing a new Local Plan for the borough that will guide the development of the borough over the next 20 years.
- Developing a comprehensive evidence base to support the emerging Local Plan and to aid decision making.
- Devising interim Planning Guidance Notes on topics like Off-Site Affordable Housing Contributions to support the implementation of national policies and policies in the Core Strategy and respond to emerging planning challenges.

- Undertaking capacity building work on planning matters with members of the public through the Local Plan Residents and Youth Forums.
- Contributing to corporate plans and strategies like the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Strategic Planning Team also coordinates the Council's responses to planning consultations from other authorities and key stakeholders.

Local Plan

In February-April 2016 the Council undertook its first formal consultation on the emerging Local Plan to obtain the views of stakeholders, local businesses and the community on the key issues that the Local Plan will need to address.

During the consultation period the Council undertook a range of activities to ensure that everybody who wanted to could get involved in development of the Local Plan at an early stage. To promote effective cross-boundary working relationships with neighbouring local authorities and other prescribed bodies the Council organised a Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 1) Workshop for representatives from local authorities drawn from across Essex, London and North Kent together with statutory consultees such as Natural England to advise them of the programme and timescales for preparing the Local Plan; and to ascertain their initial views on the scope and nature of the cross-boundary issues which will need to be addressed as part of the plan-making process. In total of 70 bodies/persons provided formal responses to the consultation document. They raised 548 separate comments.

Since the end of the Issues and Options (Stage 1) consultation the Council has continued to engage key stakeholders through the creation of four discussion forums and through the use of summer roadshows. Both the Local Plan Developer Forum and the Local Plan Residents Forum now meet regularly and have been very successful in providing an effective means of engaging local businesses and the community in shaping the future development of the Local Plan. The Growth and Strategy Team will also be involved in this year's Youth Summit at High House Production Park with the aim of encouraging young people to find out a bit more about planning and get involved in shaping the future of Thurrock. Adopting more of an ongoing engagement approach to producing the Local Plan will ensure that it is prepared in an open and inclusive way and give the community an increased sense of ownership.

5.0 Development Management

The Council's Development Management Service is responsible for:

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

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

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

6.0 Corporate Property

- Community Asset Transfer (CAT). The council's CAT policy was approved by cabinet in July. It sets out the Council's approach to support the VCFS to achieve sustainable community managed assets that meet local needs, maximise social value, support growth and resilience in the sector. Through its application, the policy seeks to deliver the most efficient use of publicly owned buildings and spaces in Thurrock.
- Plot A Hogg lane (0.15acres). The sale to the adjoining business R T Rates has been completed. This will allow expansion of the existing business.
- Plot B Hogg lane. Terms have been agreed for the sale of (0.22 acres) which will enable the adjoining business to expand.
- Treetops, Dell Road. The sale of this former school site to Keepmoat was completed in September and they are now on site. The development will accommodate c. 74 residential units. Working in partnership with the Lands Trust the developer will be creating a woodland path and walk for the benefit of the local community.
- Jack Lobley/Olive Academy. The construction of the replacement facilities for the PRU commenced in January and will be completed by early in the new year. This will enable the academy to relocate from their existing location, which is not fit for purpose, and free up the culver centre for redevelopment.
- Corporate landlord. The Council has agreed the principle of adopting a corporate landlord model for the management of its property assets. This will lead to the more efficient use and management and allow the council to maximise value and opportunity from its asset base. The approach is now being rolled out over time.
- Dell Road/Orsett road (1.5acres). Negotiations for the sale of this site are in progress and it is anticipated will be drawn to a conclusion fairly shortly. The site has the potential for the development of c.34 residential units.

7.0 Challenges in the Coming Year

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

The major challenge going forward will continue to be maintaining momentum in the face of competing demands.

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

a) Securing maximum benefit through external funds

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

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

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

We will continue to pursue all opportunities to secure external funding for the borough. Thurrock is leading or a major delivery partner in four applications already and we will continue to scan for opportunities to access additional funding to support priorities in the borough.

b) Leading the delivery of key projects

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

c) Progressing the development of the Local Plan

Having a clear and positive policy framework in place is critical to the delivery of the Council's wider regeneration ambitions. Over the next year, our focus will be on engaging with communities to develop a strong spatial vision for the future of the Borough that seeks to build upon the many opportunities that exist to bring investment that will accelerate the delivery of infrastructure, jobs and homes. This plan making process does, however, face a number of challenges:

- Uncertainty surrounding the location of the Lower Thames Crossing.
- Further changes to the National Planning System (starter homes, revision to CIL regulations etc.) and our need to respond and react to these changes in timely manner.
- Lack of five-year housing land supply and an increased number of speculative green belt planning applications.
- Increased need to engage with residents in the plan making process as we explore site allocations and alternative approaches to new development

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

Dealing effectively and efficiently with development proposals is vital to ensuring that Thurrock becomes a key location for investment and growth. The work of the Development Management service enables and assists in this being achieved.

Major developments expected to progress over the next 12 months and beyond include further commercial developments associated with London Gateway and the Port of Tilbury, retail and leisure developments at Lakeside and major education projects and housing developments including the new Purfleet Centre.

8.0 Financial Information:

Sub Service	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Budget To Date	Actuals To Date	Variance to Date	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance
Regeneration	891,166	891,166	519,813	849,327	329,514	891,166	0
Assets Planning and Growth	1,130,708	1,130,708	773,845	913,980	140,135	1,130,708	0
	2,776,839	2,703,204	1,576,836	1,116,749	(460,087)	2,683,204	(20,000)
Grand Total	4,798,713	4,725,078	2,870,494	2,880,056	9,562	4,705,078	(20,000)

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

Regeneration and Assets are forecasting a balanced position at year end and Planning and Growth are forecasting £20,000 underspend. This is being reported as part of the corporate budget monitoring position, and will therefore count favourably towards the Council's overall financial position.

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QUESTION TIME

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

There are 5 questions to the Leader and 9 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

1. From Councillor Jones to Councillor Gledhill

Would the Leader agree with me how disappointing it was that when attending Grays Town Centre memorial for Friday the 11th of November remembrance service that traffic was not even halted for the minutes silence.

2. From Councillor Spillman to Councillor Gledhill

Does the Portfolio Holder agree that the 1% social rent decrease has ended any hope of the council building enough homes to meet the demand of the increasing population in Thurrock?

3. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Gledhill

Considering the current consultation underway, does the Leader support the closure of Children's Centres in Thurrock?

4. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Gledhill

Could the Leader please update the chamber on progress on the 2017/18 budget. In particular, have all savings or income generating measures for 2017/18 now been identified or are we still short of target?

5. From Councillor Collins to Councillor Gledhill

Since the ban on Trap Driving on the Manorway came into force in July this year, how many Trap Drivers have been stopped and fined please?

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 Hebb

Can you advise if conversations between Thurrock Council and the Government have taken place regarding the pledge by the government that 100% of Business Rates will be kept by local authorities?

2. From Councillor G Rice to Councillor MacPherson

When will the Pyramid Centre at Orsett Heath be refurbished using the £160,000 Section 106 monies from the Thurrock Technical College Development so the 4 new football pitches can become operational for the Community?

3. From Councillor G Rice to Councillor Tolson

When will the asbestos at the garages in Oxford Avenue Chadwell be removed as children are playing near this hazardous material?

4. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Hebb

Will the Portfolio Holder explain the rationale behind the creation of the post of Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Services?

5. From Councillor B Rice to Councillor Tolson

Can the Portfolio Holder explain why are Blue, Black and Green wheelie bins being collected by the same waste truck and therefore being mixed together?

6. From Councillor B Rice to Councillor Halden

Can the Portfolio Holder tell us what progress has been made in the recruitment of much needed GPs.

7. From Councillor Spillman to Councillor Gledhill

The future of the Housing Advice and Support Service (HASS) looks very uncertain at the current time. Can the Portfolio Holder explain what impact the closure of this service would have on Thurrock?

8. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Halden

It has been reported that Thurrock schools are facing potentially devastating cuts with Thameside Primary School set to lose funding equivalent to ten teachers. What actions will the Portfolio Holder be taking to fight these cuts from central Government?

9. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Halden

How many delayed hospital discharges have there been into Thurrock since 1st June 2016?

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Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 30 November 2016

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
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> <p>Update November 2016</p> <p>Further work is ongoing by the Police in relation to this issue with Operation Sacrifice targeting unauthorised scramble biking activity.</p> <p>The Council assist where they have influence for example by installing measures to hinder the access of scrambler bikes onto its land and public rights of way.</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 for the continuation of Universal Free School Meals as well as to our two members of parliament to</p>	Letter to Treasury, DfE and Thurrock 2 MP's sent out.	Rory Patterson

Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 30 November 2016

		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 9 February 2016. Highways England's proposals were published on 26th January with a preferred option for a	Steve Cox

Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 30 November 2016

			<p>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> <p>Update – November 2016</p> <p>Since the close of the consultation, Thurrock Council has been in regular contact with Highways England's Major Projects Team. The consultation received 47,000 responses, which were passed to Ipsos MORI for analysis. On the 14th September, officers attended an information gathering meeting hosted by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority to inform a Project Assessment Review of the Route Option Consultation process. The Council has been advised that project documentation is now with the DfT and is being reviewed prior to a ministerial announcement. On 2nd November 2016, Rehman Chishti MP (Gillingham & Rainham) posed a question at Prime Minister's Questions asking when there would be an</p>	
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Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 30 November 2016

			announcement on LTC. Mrs May responded that the Secretary of State would make an announcement in due course.	
25/11/15	Cllr Halden	Thurrock Council adopts the official position of being pro grammar school and desires that Thurrock children should have access to them. The Authority should actively pursue / explore opportunities for grammar schools to expand into Thurrock via an annex.	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.	Rory Patterson
25/11/15	Cllr Stewart	That we ask Cabinet, at its next meeting, to immediately fund an alteration to the bus route to serve Fobbing over the winter months.	This has been implemented. Route 14 serves Fobbing to Basildon via Corringham and will operate until the end of the financial year.	Steve Cox
27/1/16	Cllr Hebb	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.	Discussions are ongoing between Council Officers and c2c to progress this request. 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.	Ann Osola
27/1/16	Cllr Halden	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	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.	Ian Wake

Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 30 November 2016

		PET CT Scanner (cancer services) which we view as an unsound consultation.		
27/1/16	Cllr Stone	<p>Further to the proposed cuts to the fire service across the borough of between one third and one half. This council resolves to express its concerns by:</p> <p>a) Objecting to these proposals through the Essex Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS) public consultation - and urges residents to do the same.</p> <p>b) Raising these concerns with the two members of parliament to enlist their support</p> <p>c) Urging the EFRS to consider expanding the level of fire cover in Thurrock due to the rapid increase in jobs, industry and homes.</p>	<p>The Fire Authority will be attending Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny on March 17th as part of their consultation exercise. This will give members the opportunity to raise their concerns.</p> <p>Both MPs have been written to.</p> <p>A link to the EFRS public consultation has been included on the Council's website under Have my say (consultation portal).</p>	Steve Cox / Karen Wheeler
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> <p>Update – November 2016</p> <p>C2c has taken receipt of the first of 24 new carriages</p>	Ann Osola

Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 30 November 2016

			which will add an additional 1400 extra seats on the Thameside Route. In Thurrock, the intention is to lengthen three trains in the morning peak and four trains in the evening peak. Passenger representatives have worked with c2c to develop a new timetable which will come in to operation in January 2017.	
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
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

Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 30 November 2016

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. No response has been received yet.	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 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.	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 and Scrutiny Committee on 6 December 2016.	Steve Cox
26/10/2016	Cllr Collins	This Council condemns in the strongest possible terms, the horrific practice of Female Genital Mutilation and will support all health, welfare, civil	Thurrock Council and its partners continue to robustly tackle Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and provide support for its victims. There are clear pathways in	Rory Patterson/ Andrew Carter

Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 30 November 2016

		and criminal enforcements to eradicate it from our Thurrock and the rest of the World.	place across health agencies, Children's Services and the Community Safety Partnership to identify and support those suspected to be at risk. The Council are working in partnership with the Barnardo's, National FGM Centre for Excellence to provide training, support and interventions to assist communities in eradicating FGM. Staff from the National FGM Centre is part of the Thurrock Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). In partnership with the Police, Thurrock Council will continue to pursue prosecutions for perpetrators of this abuse; supporting national and international efforts to eliminate FGM.	
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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 Duffin

This Council supports the need to reduce and eliminate fuel poverty for Thurrock residents who struggle to heat their homes. Council requests that Cabinet investigate what options, including creating a fuel poverty grant that may exist for the Council to support the community by working with residents and providers.

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:

This proposal has no immediate financial implications as it is asking for options to be considered. If passed, options will be considered by the Cabinet and the relevant financial implications assessed at that time. Any cost will have to be met from the existing budget envelopes.

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

Yes

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Motions Submitted to Council

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

Motion 2

Submitted by Councillor Gerrish

Members of Council tonight oppose the proposed closure of Children's Centres currently under consultation. They provide a vital service to all our communities. The proposed closures of Beacon (Chafford Hundred), East Tilbury, Stanford le Hope and Aveley Children's Centres will leave some communities entirely without a centre. This will have a severe and detrimental impact on local families. The Members' of Council tonight call on Cabinet to acknowledge the importance of these vital community services and to not proceed with the proposed closures.

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. The proposed reorganisation of the Children' Centres is an executive function for which responsibility lies with Cabinet. Should this Motion pass it will pass as an expression of opinion and / or request to Cabinet by Full Council. It should also be noted there is currently a public consultation around the proposals on service redesign

Section 151 Officer Comments:

The proposals are around service redesign and are expected to save £400k in 2017/18. This cost reduction has been built into the budget for next year and, if not realised, will add further pressures to the budget next year.

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

Yes

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