

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25 January 2017 at 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Councillors Cathy Kent (Mayor), Tunde Ojetola (Deputy Mayor), 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, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Clifford Holloway, Victoria Holloway, Deborah Huelin, Roy Jones, Tom Kelly, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Bukky Okunade, Terry Piccolo, Jane Potheary, David Potter, Joycelyn Redsell, Sue Sammons, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Pauline Tolson, Aaron Watkins and Kevin Wheeler

**Apologies:** Councillors Tim Aker, Garry Hague, John Kent, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice and Michael Stone

**In attendance:** Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive  
Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment and Place  
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health  
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT  
David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer  
Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services  
Ian Wake, Director of Public Health  
Karen Wheeler, Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service  
Matthew Boulter, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

### **92. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 30 November 2016 were approved as a correct record.

### **93. Items of Urgent Business**

The Mayor informed the Council that she had received one application for an urgent question on Gloriana Limited from Councillor Spillman and had indicated to Councillor Spillman that I cannot accept his question as being urgent for the special circumstances required in the legislation to justify a lack of public notice because:

1. There had been insufficient grounds justifying urgency, Councillor Spillman had modified his question (which was modified to preserve a fair hearing of an application at Planning Committee) and his modified question can reasonably await the next hearing of Council in February;
2. The Mayor informed Councillor Spillman that a Portfolio Holder Report / Update on the company would be brought to Full Council in March;
3. Councillor Spillman also queried whether as a point of order he could record his disagreement with my decision. I have advised him that his wish to merely record his personal disagreement with my decision was not a valid point of order as there was no identified breach of rule;
4. By going into this detail I have however perhaps satisfied his desire to have his position being noted in the minutes.

#### **94. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Gledhill declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Item 10: Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2016 as he was the Chair of the Patients Participation Group of the SAI Surgery in Tilbury.

Councillor Collins declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Item 14 – Member Question 6 as he had grown up on the Bata Estate at East Tilbury and also his cousin was the Chair of the Barter Resource and Reminisce Centre.

#### **95. 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 reminded Members that the International Holocaust Memorial Day would be held on the 27 January 2017 at the High View Avenue Memorial Gardens in Grays and encouraged all members to attend.

The Mayor stated that the Charity Blue Light Ball would be held on the 3 March 2017 at the Civic Hall in Grays to help support our fire fighters and tickets could be purchased directly from her.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, stated that he looked forward to responding to Councillor Spillman's question on Gloriana and its Governance in February.

The Leader gave Members the following updates:

Clean it, Cut it, Fill it had received an increase of 40 per cent in Government Funding for pot holes and although there will never be a pot hole free Thurrock it had been encouraging that a further grant from Government may

help to detect hot holes earlier by placing cameras on the front of bin lorries to identify where the pot holes were and areas that are likely to need attention.

There had been 548 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for littering and dog fouling. The Leader stated that the message was getting through and residents were becoming more aware.

The scheme appeared to be working well in the town centres but the next stage would be to address side streets.

A significant grant of £459,000 had been received to help with eight specially adopted houses for younger people with learning difficulties. This was nearly half a million pounds to help those most vulnerable to get through the care system.

3000 tonnes of salt had been scattered on the roads in preparation for the cold weather conditions and this would continue to be done as directed by the weather.

Councillor Gledhill moved onto the subject of the Thameside Complex. Councillor Gledhill stated that press reports had reported that the Thameside Theatre could potentially close before an alternative venue had been found.

Councillor Gledhill made clear that the service provided at the Thameside Complex cost the tax payer in the region of one million pounds per year. He stated that no one would expect the museum or the public library to make money but what tax payers would expect was for the Council to provide those services cost effectively so that residents got value for money and provided a service required for a 21st century Thurrock. Councillor Gledhill stated that he would expect a theatre to at least break even. He had never sugar-coated the fact that he believed this and he never would. Councillor Gledhill continued to state that there were some performances at the theatre that made a considerable amount of money, being enjoyed by thousands of residents but others only had a handful in the audience, sometimes less than ten per cent of the capacity.

The space was also used by community groups, religious groups, high house productions, the council, local dance groups. Unfortunately it still sat empty for one third of the year. Councillor Gledhill stated that he was not an expert in theatre production and was fairly sure that no other elected member was either. Councillor Gledhill stated that earlier in his administration he had agreed for an outside company to be appointed to review what was provided at the theatre now and what could be done to improve its future financial viability and what needed to be provided in the future.

Councillor Gledhill made it clear that he had sat on two separate committees and expressed his views on them that the theatre provision would remain in Grays to support a sustainable night time economy and that a new provision to replace and improve what the borough had should be built as part of the Grays Regeneration Programme. This was known by other members who had

sat on that committee and it was a public document. Councillor Gledhill had received a number of enquiries on this subject and had consistently made it known what he had said and what his belief was. The Thameside would not be closed until a replacement was agreed.

Councillor Gledhill said he would respond to the one aspect that had not been covered in the letter from the leader of the Labour Group. Councillor Gledhill stated that the only opposition leader that had actually taken the time to ask his intentions did not react to inaccurate press reports. Councillor Gledhill used the term theatre provision not theatre because he did not want to anticipate the outcome of any external work being undertaken on behalf of the Council which may as example come back with a recommendation for a multi-use space to maximise its use. He for one did not want to limit the possibilities for all the performing arts and community groups in Thurrock for the future. Councillor Gledhill however gave again his word that the term theatre provision and not theatre did not mean that the Council were going to assign this theatre solely to a college, an auditorium or a church hall in the middle of nowhere. Councillor Gledhill continued that the Grays Regeneration Plan had the theatre provision on it and consideration for its location in Grays would form part of that review and before any final location was identified it would come back to members as you would expect and he could not make it any clearer that Thameside would not close until there was a new theatre provision.

#### **96. 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.

#### **97. 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.

Councillor Duffin made reference to a petition he had submitted regarding insufficient parking and requested an update. Democratic Services would follow this up and inform Councillor Duffin.

#### **98. 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.

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

There were no changes to the appointments previously made to Committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels.

## 100. Annual Report of The Director of Public Health 2016

Councillor Halden presented the report that made a series of recommendations in terms of improving the quality of Primary Care in Thurrock, improving the quality of long term condition management and strengthening the local health and social care workforce.

The Annual Public Health Report had played an important part in public health practice ever since the early days of medical officers of health. Councillor Halden stated they still remain an important vehicle for informing local people about the health of their community.

Councillor Halden referred Members to the Public Health Report that had been set out in seven sections with each one demonstrating the following eight key issues:

1. Increasing and unsustainable levels of demand on the local health and care system.
2. Practice-level variation in outcomes and an indication of patterns.
3. How a revised Primary Care staffing model could address demand.
4. Key influences on non-elective admissions and inappropriate Accident and Emergency attendances.
5. Estimates of future activity if no changes are made to provision.
6. How activity in different parts of the system links to cost.
7. What was cost effective in terms of prevention/shifting demand.
8. The need for a "System Wide" response across organisational budgets to solve financial and operational sustainability.

Councillor Halden stated that:

- 83 per cent of all Accident and Emergency attendances needed no medical investigation or treatment.
- 27 per cent of these attendances were conveyed to Accident and Emergency by ambulance.
- Four Hubs would replace the closure of the Grays Walk In Centre and that meetings with the project manager from the Clinical Commissioning Group had taken place to get these hubs underway.
- The General Practitioners Plan had been passed.
- Thurrock would not tolerate poor health care.
- Back tracking should be undertaken to pin point ailments that had not been treated appropriately.
- A 0-19 Wellbeing Model had been introduced.
- Working with schools and introducing the education of health matters.
- Looking at generation issues and poor health.

Finally, Councillor Halden thanked Ian Wake, Director of Public Health, and his team for all their hard work.

Councillor V Holloway, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, echoed Councillor Halden's comments on the thanks and

praise to Ian Wake and his team for the efforts made. Councillor Holloway asked whether the closure of the Walk In Centre had put extra pressure onto general practitioners. Councillor Halden stated the four hubs were active and appointments were available during the week and weekends. These were being delivered by the Clinical Commissioning Group and that better pathways would result in better quality of care.

Councillor Snell also echoed Councillor Halden's comments on the thanks and praise to Ian Wake and his team for the efforts made. Councillor Snell asked what plans would be in place to tackle the £18 million deficit. Councillor Halden stated there was no baseline and that the deficit was driven by pressure and that the deficit would not go down until the primary care network had been addressed and fixed.

Councillor Okunade asked for an update on the lack of general practitioners in Tilbury. Councillor Halden stated that with the structure of the Hubs this should attract younger general practitioners into the area. That business plans would be drawn up for Tilbury and that Councillor Halden had plans to make frequent visits to oversee these.

Councillor Gerrish thanked the Public Health Team for the good work undertaken and stated his concern on the inappropriate conveyances as reported under avoidable Accident and Emergency attendances and how this may risk the health of younger children. Councillor Halden stated that the appropriate intervention was in place to deal with all patients that only required treatment or most minor treatments/investigations and that Accident and Emergency should be used solely for accidents or emergency and to use the ambulance service if you are unable to get there yourself.

Councillor Spillman requested an update on general practitioner appointment times in Aveley as this was still bad and that a large number of social housing in Aveley had mould and damp to contend with which had resulted in an increase in respiratory conditions being identified. Councillor Halden stated that improving the case finding and clinical management of these conditions and investing in Primary Prevention initiatives to assist people to improve lifestyle behaviour was likely to have a positive impact on reducing these conditions. Councillor Halden stated that any specific issues that Councillor Spillman had in his ward he would be happy to pick up outside the meeting.

Councillor Collins asked if there were any existing general practitioners willing to work out of hours. Councillor Halden stated yes and that a number of general practitioners were hard working. Particularly Collins Health who were outreaching to other surgeries and encouraging more groups to participate.

Councillor Gledhill stated that education played a vital part in health and encouraged all members to undertake their general practitioners MOT.

Councillor Potheary stated that it was an impressive report but stated it may have been useful if an analysis on the impact of the closure of the Grays Walk In Centre had on Basildon Hospital. Councillor Potheary requested a

definition of Out-of-Hours. Councillor Halden stated that Basildon Hospital was under immense pressure even when the Walk In Centre had been open in Grays High Street and that the Council had to move to the hub model. Out-of-Hours was based on the timetables and contracts signed by general practitioners and that these contracts would reflect the services required.

Councillor Hebb stated that education and communication was vital and that residents should be aware of the available pathways. Councillor Hebb recommended that correct pathways would be published as part of the Thurrock News monthly email.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the Members note and support the contents and recommendations made in the report and support its publication.**
- 2. That the Members note the political leadership being undertaken by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Health across the local Health and Social Care system and through our local Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) to deliver the report's recommendations. These include:**
  - Delivery of a new model of Primary Care to address under-doctoring and capacity issues.**
  - Mechanisms to case find and diagnose patients with long term conditions.**
  - Significant improvement of the management of long term conditions in Primary Care including the implementation a GP Long Term Conditions Management Scorecard.**
  - Recommendations to reduce inappropriate A&E attendances and avoidable A&E admissions.**
  - Recommendations to reduce delayed transferred of care from the NHS to Adult Social Care.**
- 3. That the Members note that the recommendations from the Annual Public Health Report were being incorporated within a "Principles Document" to form a "Thurrock Ask" from NHS England.**
- 4. That the Members note the re-procurement of a new Integrated Healthy Lifestyles Service with a stronger focus on young people's health in order to break generational health inequalities.**
- 5. That the Members note that the Health and Wellbeing Board is now acting as the Primary Delivery Arm for implementing the recommendations within this report, and the objectives within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.**

**101. Local Council Tax Scheme**

Councillor Hebb presented the report and stated that the current Local Council Tax Support scheme was implemented on 1 April 2016 and that Thurrock Council agreed its current scheme through a public consultation exercise informed by cross party Members working groups. The resulting scheme was agreed by both Cabinet and Council.

Councillor Hebb continued to state that the proposed design of the scheme for 2017/18 was built on the existing scheme and the proposed changes aligned with central government changes to the Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Regulations. These changes incentivised people to seek employment whilst also simplifying the administration of the scheme. Consideration of the proposed changes was undertaken with other Essex authorities.

There were six proposed changes to the existing scheme which were outlined in the report.

A consultation had been undertaken on the proposed scheme which was open to all residents and was promoted via Councillor channels including social media. The proposed system was also considered by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 22 November 2016 and agreed to support options 2, 4 and 6 but not options 1, 3 and 5 due to the financial impact on claimants.

The report was also considered by Cabinet on 11 January 2017 and considered the comments of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Okunade commented on the low number of responses to Proposed Change 1.

Councillor Spillman commented that the consultation needed to be sorted out and welcomed the proposed money for the Citizen Advice Bureau. Councillor Spillman stated that this proposed money would not be enough and further cuts would have to be made. Councillor Spillman asked that this continued to be looked at.

Councillor Kerin thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and declared that he would not be supporting Proposed Change 1 as it appeared the books were being balanced on the people who can afford it the least. Proposed Change 3 was based on self-employed and the concern around residents not knowing what work they will have and Proposed Change 5 with concerns over the Council's view of the ideal size of Thurrock families and equally with the conditions.

Councillor Jones thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and welcomed the recommendations but would not be supporting recommendations 1.1 and 1.3. Councillor Jones stated that the language in the consultation should be in lay-man's terms and be more engaging.



Councillor Potheary stated that she had reservations on recommendations 1.1, 1.3 and 1.5 as these may drive more people to the Citizen Advice Bureau and make the situation worse.

Councillor Duffin stated that it was no wonder nobody wanted to comment on the consultation with the options on the table.

Councillor Gledhill stated that the number of responses received to the consultation was not good enough. This was a statutory requirement and had to ensure that open and honest consultations took place. Councillor Gledhill will raise with the communications team to ensure that this happens next year.

Councillor Halden stated that if schemes were put forward to support groups like the Citizen Advice Bureau as Councillor Hebb had taken into account with the Benefit Bill. Members should be more mindful of the budgets and how these can be spent.

Councillor Piccolo stated that Councillor Hebb had done the right thing by saying that any money gained had the opportunity to go to the Citizen Advice Bureau. An organisation which often helped people not to reach that situation where they would be dependent on benefits or direct them to benefits they were unaware of.

Councillor Snell stated that the poorest society should not be penalised as some people can just not afford these proposed increases.

Councillor Hebb replied to the above questions:

Councillor Hebb agreed that consultations on whatever subject are hard to crack and agreed to look at future consultations in far more detail.

He noted that Councillor Duffin had requested a paper at Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding methodology and consultations. A good cross party piece of work could be undertaken with this.

Confirmed that it was a national move to put a line between the amount of children that one can have before excessive amount of benefits are claimed and one that Councillor Hebb supported.

Thanked Councillor Spillman for the recognition of what was being done for the Citizen Advice Bureau. Agreed that £50,000 would not fix or solve it but would give them a platform to go away to survive to thrive.

Councillor Hebb stated that members should never judge or presume anything of any member in the Chamber.

Councillor Kerin was informed that a Reform was due called the Universal Credit Reform package that would be the solution to his concern.

Terminology and methodology in the consultation was based around national government direction and should be addressed in the paper for Councillor Duffin.

Councillor Hebb summed up by stating there was only one option to try and save the Citizen Advice Bureau and this was being offered tonight.

The Mayor explained that Council were asked to vote on the recommendations individually.

The Mayor invited the Chamber to vote on recommendation 1.1 as printed in the report the result of which was

For	:	17
Against	:	26
Abstain	:	0

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.1 lost.

The Mayor invited the Chamber to vote on recommendation 1.2 as printed in the report the result of which Members voted unanimously in favour. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.2 carried.

The Mayor invited the Chamber to vote on recommendation 1.3 as printed in the report the result of which was

For	:	17
Against	:	26
Abstain	:	0

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.3 lost.

The Mayor invited the Chamber to vote on recommendation 1.4 as printed in the report the result of which Members voted unanimously in favour. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.4 carried.

The Mayor invited the Chamber to vote on recommendation 1.5 as printed in the report the result of which was

For	:	32
Against	:	11
Abstain	:	0

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.5 carried.

The Mayor invited the Chamber to vote on recommendation 1.6 as printed in the report the result of which Members voted unanimously in favour. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.6 carried.

The Mayor invited the Chamber to vote on recommendation 1.7 as printed in the report the result of which Members voted unanimously in favour. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.7 carried.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Council supported proposed change 2.**
- 2. That the Council supported proposed change 4.**
- 3. That the Council supported proposed change 5.**
- 4. That the Council supported proposed change 6.**
- 5. That the Council supported proposed change 7.**

### **102. Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment**

Councillor Tolson presented the report and stated that she was proud to be the Portfolio Holder for Environment and how this was unique in the Council by providing the following core services to residents in the Borough:

- Waste collection and disposal
- Environmental Enforcement
- Street Cleaning
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Operational aspects of Highway Repair and Maintenance
- Fleet Management and Maintenance

Councillor Tolson gave an overview of these services to Members.

Councillor Tolson encouraged members to report any incidents through the App Service - Thurrock Report It.

Councillor Tolson thanked the Officers for all their hard work and that the way forward was together.

Councillor Gerrish thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and asked that to ensure all residents take advantage of the investments of Clean It, Cut It, Fill It, what was being done in West Thurrock. Councillor Tolson stated that the whole borough had received a deep clean and that Councillor Gerrish should report any issues in his ward if he thought they needed to be addressed.

Councillor Maney asked for reassurance from the Portfolio Holder that getting grass cut would not result in the same situation as with the former administration where residents had to cut grass on Council land. Councillor Tolson stated that grass cutting equipment had to be repaired at a great expense and further equipment had to be hired for the three agency staff to undertake grass cutting on major routes.

Councillor Watkins asked the Portfolio Holder if a consultation on the Street Cleaning Barrier had taken place. Councillor Tolson stated that under the former administration no consultation had taken place.

Councillor Smith asked the Portfolio Holder what action was being taken with fly tipping in back alleys. Councillor Tolson stated that double efforts to spot these fly tippers had to be done due to the number of enforcement officers being reduced by the former administration from 12 to 2. Councillor Tolson stated that the Council would not pay for the removal of any fly tipping that was on private land or un-adopted pathways.

Councillor Jones stated that it was a good report and that Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been involved. Councillor Jones stated that all residents wanted a clean borough and to ensure that the £1 million allocated to the Clean It, Cut It, Fill It had been costed by the Section 151 Officer. Councillor Jones was pleased with the sweep system for bin collections and that the weekly bin collections remain in place.

Councillor Tolson summed up by stating she was proud to be the Portfolio Holder for Environment and had worked hard in the time that her appointment had started. There had been frustrations at the beginning but with the passion and with great officer support she was able to do Thurrock proud.

### **103. Report of the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods**

Councillor MacPherson stated she had pleasure in presenting the report tonight and stated that the report had been created in recognition of the impact of the services covered in supporting how we reshape the community living in Thurrock. Councillor MacPherson stated that she was passionate about building strong communities where people choose to live connected, healthy lives with access to a range of cultural and leisure activities for all ages.

Councillor MacPherson stated that she was proud to be the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and how this was unique in the Council by providing the following core services to residents in the Borough:

- Community Development and Equalities
- Community Environment Development Fund
- Sports and Leisure
- Community Hubs
- Libraries
- Volunteering
- World War One Commemorative
- Culture, Age and Heritage
- Equalities
- Public Protection
- Community Safety Partnership

Councillor MacPherson gave an overview of these services to Members.

Councillor Gerrish questioned if the review in hand would be right for the future. Councillor MacPherson agreed to bring this item back to Members when the budget had been finalised.

Councillor Okunade thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and commented that the Community Hub in Tilbury had been remarkably successful but it was important that partial independent advice services were delivered at all hubs and asked when this support would be available at the Tilbury Hub. Councillor MacPherson stated that it was important that the community hubs were providing what residents need. The aim was to get best practice at all of the hubs so that the Council/Thurrock end up with a place those residents can go to and get the advice they need.

Councillor Potheary requested that feedback from previous consultation be incorporated into the current review being undertaken.

Councillor Jones requested some information on the Community and Environment Development Fund for the next financial year and whether there were plans for a Community Hub in Corringham. Councillor MacPherson stated that she would come back to Members with written confirmation regarding the Community and Environmental Development Fund and also a timescale for the Corringham Hub.

Councillor Duffin asked the Portfolio Holder for a list of all Estate and Letting Agents based in Thurrock that provided free independent housing advice. Councillor MacPherson stated that any estate or letting agent in the borough could give him this information and suggested Councillor Duffin contacted them.

Councillor Spillman had concerns over the rumour of the Aveley Library closing and could the Portfolio Holder provide an update. Councillor MacPherson stated there were no definite plans to close Aveley Library at this time as a review was currently in hand.

Councillor MacPherson summed up by thanking everyone for their comments and was pleased to be in this Portfolio Holder position. Councillor MacPherson stated she had the privilege of working with partners and residents and that there were exciting times ahead.

#### **104. Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 1 question to the Leader of the Council had been received and 7 questions to Cabinet Members.

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

#### **105. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies**

The Mayor informed the Chambers that no reports had been received.

**106. Minutes of Committees**

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

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

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

*At 9.15pm the Mayor requested that standing orders be suspended to provide time to hear and debate the remaining items from members. Members voted against this.*

**108. Motion submitted by Councillor Watkins**

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

That Thurrock Council supports the government's position on introducing an oath to British Values, and will look into the options for creating a local one for Thurrock.

Councillor Watkins stated that he was proud to be presenting his first Motion and in doing so encouraged Members to back the Government's desire to see an oath of British values be introduced across those in the public service and to introduce this oath into Thurrock Council in some capacity.

Following an announcement made in December 2016 by Sajid Javid announcing a desire to have a British oath of values introduced into the public service. This would be taking a positive step forward and playing an important part in the community and leading by example. It was impossible for people to play a "positive role" in public life unless they accepted basic values like democracy and equality. The aim was not to create a government-approved one size fits all identity but have phrases such as "tolerating the views of others even if you disagree with them", as well as "believing in freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from abuse, a belief in equality, democracy and the democratic process". This oath would need to be commented and agreement on by all Members.

Councillor Watkins summed up by asking Members to take the innovative and lead by example and support his Motion.

Councillor Huelin, as seconder to the Motion, briefly stated that all Members had to do was look around the Chamber to see that Members already had values of respect, were tolerant to each other and exercised freedom of speech and democracy.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion:

For	:	21
Against	:	19
Abstain	:	3

The Mayor declared the Motion was carried.

#### **109. Motion submitted by Councillor Gerrish**

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

Thurrock Council deplores the crisis in the NHS and the impact this is having on Thurrock residents. Council calls on Cabinet to use all powers and influence to apply pressure on Government and partners to ensure a resolution.

Councillor Gerrish introduced the report and in doing so explained that there was a severe crisis within the NHS and as advocate for the people of Thurrock this should not be allowed to continue. That the Red Cross had stepped in and declared NHS was in a “humanitarian crisis” alongside Basildon Hospital being on black alert over the Christmas Period with unacceptable waiting times and operations being cancelled. Councillor Gerrish asked Members to support this Motion to put pressure on the Government and partners to ensure a resolution was put in place.

Councillor Gerrish requested that a requisition vote be undertaken.

The Mayor called a requisition vote on Councillor Gerrish’s Motion.

Upon being put to the vote the following members voted in favour: Councillors Baldwin, Duffin, Fish, Gerrish, C Holloway, V Holloway, C Kent, Kerin, Liddiard, Okunade, Potheary, Spillman and Wheeler (13).

The following members voted against: Councillors Churchman, Collins, Coxshall, Gledhill, Halden, Hamilton, Hebb, Huelin, Kelly, B Little, S Little, MacPherson, Maney, Ojetola, Piccolo, Redsell, Sammons, Tolson and Watkins (19)

The following members voted to abstain: Councillors Allen, C Baker, Jan Baker, James Baker, Cherry, Gamester, Jones, Potter, Sheridan, Smith and Snell (11)

The Mayor declared the Motion Lost.

**The meeting finished at 9.38 pm**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

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