

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

Annual Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **24 May 2017**

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

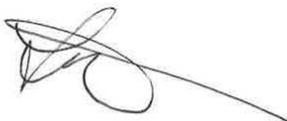
Membership of the Council:

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
Deborah Huelin
Roy Jones
Tom Kelly
John Kent
Martin Kerin
Steve Liddiard
Brian Little
Susan Little
Sue MacPherson
Ben Maney
Bukky Okunade

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



Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive

Agenda published on: 16 May 2017

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

	Page
1 Apologies for absence	
2 Minutes	9 - 36
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 29 March 2017.	
3 To elect and install the Mayor for the municipal year 2017/18	
4 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.	
5 To elect and install the Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2017/18	
6 Declaration of Interests	
To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
7 Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council	
8 Committees and their Terms of Reference	37 - 40
9 Allocation of Committee seats and Committee appointments	41 - 50
10 Appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels	51 - 54
11 Schedule of Meetings 2017/18	55 - 70
12 Schedule of Elections and Order of Retirement of Councillors	71 - 76

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

Provisional Future Dates of Council:

28 June 2017, 26 July 2017, 27 September 2017, 25 October 2017, 29 November 2017, 31 January 2018, 28 February 2018 (Budget) and 30 May 2018 (Annual Council)

Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

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

Recording of meetings

This meeting may be recorded for transmission and publication on the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be recorded.

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If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

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The council welcomes the filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings as a means of reporting on its proceedings because it helps to make the council more transparent and accountable to its local communities.

If you wish to film or photograph the proceedings of a meeting and have any special requirements or are intending to bring in large equipment please contact the Communications Team at CommunicationsTeam@thurrock.gov.uk before the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will then be consulted and their agreement sought to any specific request made.

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

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- You should connect to TBC-CIVIC
- Enter the password **Thurrock** to connect to/join the Wi-Fi network.
- A Terms & Conditions page should appear and you have to accept these before you can begin using Wi-Fi. Some devices require you to access your browser to bring up the Terms & Conditions page, which you must accept.

The ICT department can offer support for council owned devices only.

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

How to view this agenda on a tablet device



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Members of the Council should ensure that their device is sufficiently charged, although a limited number of charging points will be available in Members Services.

To view any “exempt” information that may be included on the agenda for this meeting, Councillors should:

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

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non- pecuniary

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



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

PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

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

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|----|--|----------------------------|
| 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.

May 1917

DATE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	WARD	RANK	SERVICE	DIED
03-May	HIBBIN	PERCY ARTHUR	19	G	PTE	ESSEX – 2	FRANCE
03-May	ELLIS	JACK ROBERT	19	CSM	PTE	ESSEX – 2	FRANCE
03-May	PALMER	ERNEST	23	S.OCK	PTE	ESSEX – 13	FRANCE
03-May	PAVITT	JAMES	37	S.OCK	PTE	ESSEX – 2	FRANCE
03-May	COLLINS	CHARLES THOMAS	28	W/TH	SGT	MIDDLESEX – 12	FRANCE
04-May	GROUT	FREDERICK JAMES	21	G	PTE	ESSEX – 3	MEDITER'EAN
08-May	SPANTON	RICHARD WILLIAM	21	L/TH	PTE	ESSEX – 9	FRANCE
09-May	WILLIS	SAMUEL	34	S.OCK	PTE	WEST KENT – 1	FRANCE
10-May	KEEGAN	HAROLD CHARLES VERNON	21	TIL	FITTER	RFA	FRANCE
27-May	PAYNE	GEORGE	21	G	PTE	BEDFORD – 3	HOME
30-May	BANKS	JAMES EDMUND	23	SLH	PTE	ESSEX YEOMANRY	HOME
30-May	STYLES	ALFRED EDWARD	23	SLH	PTE	R/FUS – 7	FRANCE

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 29 March 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors 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, Garry Hague, James Halden (*arrived 7.04pm*), Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Victoria Holloway, Deborah Huelin, 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 (*arrived 8.20pm*), Sue Sammons, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Michael Stone, Pauline Tolson, Aaron Watkins and Kevin Wheeler

Apologies: Councillors Robert Gledhill and Clifford Holloway

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

The Mayor invited Father Bryan O'Shea to lead those present in prayer and a one minute's silence was held as a mark of respect to reflect the recent tragedies that had taken place in London.

132. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 22 February 2017 were approved as a correct record.

133. Items of Urgent Business

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

134. Declaration of Interests

Councillor S Little declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Item 17 – Update on Motions resolved at Council during the previous year - as she was the Chair of the Orsett Branch of Barnardo's.

Councillor B Little declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Item 18 – Motion submitted by Councillor Duffin as he is a substitute member on the Planning Committee.

135. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor and the Leader of the Council

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

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Hebb, announced that Councillor Gledhill, Leader of the Council, would not be in attendance tonight due to ill health. As Deputy Leader he would stand in and made a brief statement on the recent attacks on London last week and that Thurrock would continue to stand united and that British people would stand firm. Prayers would go out to those who were lost, to their friends and family and he acknowledged the extraordinary courage and bravery undertaken by the Public Servants, the Police, emergency services and officials during the event.

The Deputy Leader stated that the Leader of the Council, along with other Essex Council Leaders and the Police Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst, met last week to discuss a new protocol on dealing with unauthorised encampments. Although Thurrock had their own processes it was good that links had been made with other authorities to ensure coordination and consistency. This protocol would enable Members and the Public to see what was happening at each individual encampment.

The Council was informed that the Leader of the Council had visited new homes at the St Chad's site in Tilbury where the first stage of homes being ready to let in a matter of weeks with the remainder later in 2017.

Officers had prepared a schedule of repairs and replacements for play equipment in Thurrock's Parks for the new season.

The Residents' Survey had informed the Council that green open spaces and places for children to play was vital and demonstrated that the Survey had worked.

Councillor Hebb reminded Members of the presentation that would be held in the Council Chambers on 30 March, informing Members and residents of the change in day of 80 per cent of waste collections throughout the borough.

Councillor Hebb stated that the Prime Minister had today invoked Article 50 with the United Kingdom formally withdrawing from the European Union.

136. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from Members of the Public.

Councillor B Rice stated that questions had been submitted but had been rejected on grounds of repetition.

137. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors

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

Councillor Potheary presented a petition on behalf of residents of Seabrooke Rise and Six High Rise Flats on the proposed new service charges.

Councillor Aker presented a petition on behalf of residents for the removal of double yellow line road markings proposed for various locations on the Persimmon Homes Village at the Aveley Development.

138. Petitions Update Report

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

139. 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.

140. Review of Budget Setting Procedure at Full Council on 22 February 2017

Councillor Hebb introduced the report that reviewed the budget setting procedure that had been adopted at February Council and considered the options for reviewing the process going forward.

A Peer Review had been commissioned to look into the way that budgets were set within Thurrock. The Peer Review had been designed to show how the Council operated last year and feedback would be received. The Review may also identify processes that were already seen as best practice.

Councillor J Kent accepted the legal opinion of the Monitoring Officer but that the majority of Members had voted against the budget envelopes for a number of different reasons. Councillor Kent stated his reason for voting against this was that insufficient monies had been allocated to adult social care. Councillor Kent stated that it was regrettable that Cabinet had gone along with the letter of the law rather than with the spirit of what the Council

wanted to do and if Cabinet continued along that route it would not be long before the majority of Members would decide on a committee system.

Councillor Duffin stated that the report had missed the points raised by Members during the debate in February and that the reports were not worth the paper they had been printed on and until these issues had been fixed the politics of Thurrock would not function properly.

Councillor S Little stated that the number of Agency Workers had been reduced since the Conservatives had come into Administration which had also been acknowledged in the Eastern Region and the service had in turn had become cost effective with a better outcome for youngsters.

Councillor Halden stated that in this financial year £4.5million extra would be spent on adult social care. It had become clear that it had not mattered how much money went into a system, how much tax was paid or how much cash was thrown at a problem the need was to ensure that the right people were using the right services available at the right times. The Administration had invested more money into adult social services to address those problems.

Councillor Spillman stated that there was a lot of “will” within the Chambers to go forward together and that the committee system should be looked into to ensure that residents’ voices were heard.

Councillor B Rice stated that the report was a budget item and should not be used for political gains at the expense of local residents who required social care. Councillor S Little confirmed that she was referring to Children Social Care Agency Workers where the number had been halved since she had become Portfolio Holder.

Councillor B Little stated that the Peer Review was to look at how processes were managed and how to avoid recommendations not being approved. Councillor B Little suggested that if Members wished to make proposals on how the Administration worked as a Council they should be part of the process and attend joint meetings such as the spending reviews.

Councillor Okunade stated that Councillor S Little should not claim credit for everything but to come to Council and assure Members that she was running a safe service.

Councillor Huelin stated that services had been improved and had kept the budget balanced. The Administration was focused on what residents wanted and spending the budget wisely.

Councillor MacPherson welcomed the report but stated that there was no place in the future for committee systems.

Councillors Snell and Coxshall both agreed that the Peer Review should be undertaken.

The Mayor invited the Chamber to vote on the recommendation.

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

RESOLVED

That the Council note the advice of the Monitoring Officer set out in Section 2 of the report.

141. Thurrock Design Guide: Draft Residential Alterations and Extensions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Councillor Coxshall introduced the report and stated this document was the first of a series of documents being produced by the Council to supplement the newly adopted Thurrock Design Guide. The purpose of the Draft Residential Alterations and Extensions Supplementary Planning Document was to provide detailed guidance to planning officers, applicants and agents on how to appropriately alter and extend individual residential dwellings in Thurrock.

Councillor Redsell stated that consideration should be given to properties not being overlooked and looked forward to seeing the consultation.

The Mayor invited the Chamber to vote on the recommendation.

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

RESOLVED

That the Council approve the Thurrock Design Guide: Draft Residential Alterations and Extensions Supplementary Planning Document (Appendix A) for public consultation.

142. Report of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

Councillor B Little, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transportation, presented his first Portfolio Holder report and updated Members on the following items:

- Thurrock had achieved Band 2 Level of the Department of Transport incentive funding initiative.
- A £5million cycling infrastructure project had advanced to the construction phase.
- The Stanford Le Hope, A13 widening had progressed to the design and build phase.
- The Pot Hole Spotter, a new initiative to Thurrock with no costs involved.
- Awaiting a decision on Lower Thames Crossing.
- How signage was used.

- A Thurrock Road User Group Forum had been formed.
- The Permit System was in place to look how road works were undertaken.
- Looking at the general look and usage of roads in the borough.
- Looking at the Air Quality Strategy and how education of residents' behaviour could be addressed.

Councillor B Little thanked all Officers, Forums and Overview and Scrutiny Members for their hard work and dedication.

Councillor B Rice thanked the Portfolio Holder for his report and commended the Air Quality Strategy that had been put in place previously and the measures in place to reduce air pollution. Councillor B Rice asked the Portfolio Holder for reassurance that all 1500 bollards in Thurrock would be cleaned. Councillor B Little stated that the cleaning-up of Thurrock's road network was being undertaken as an Administration to make Thurrock a place to be proud to live in.

Councillor Snell stated that the report was encouraging and would be interested in it returning in the next municipal year. Councillor Snell asked the Portfolio Holder whether any discussions had taken place on using the River Thames as a means of transporting goods to take the strain off roads. Councillor B Little stated that the use of ferry companies had been looked into and discussions had taken place with Paramount as a possible means of using this as a transport network going up to London and back again but confirmed that currently no further discussions were taking place.

Councillor J Kent asked the Portfolio Holder what progress had been made with the Lower Thames Crossing consultation with Highways England on the joint work instigated by Thurrock Council with the Department of Transport and Highway England on the effect of pollution from vehicles on the health of residents and had the least worst option been identified yet. Councillor B Little stated that he could not comment as had no information to hand but would find out and report back to Members.

Councillor Smith stated that residents had reported pot holes reappearing after being repaired. Councillor B Little stated that the jet patching was only permanent for 95 per cent of holes filled but had provided the protection required during bad weather. Any incidents should be reported to the Portfolio Holder or Officers and that a dossier was being prepared to look at how different methods could be used in the future.

Councillor Duffin asked the Portfolio Holder for an update on the Lower Thames Crossing nationally and asked if he would consider resigning if the Lower Thames Crossing was approved. Councillor B Little stated that he had no intentions of resigning and that as Portfolio Holder he was doing a good job and was doing all that was possible, taking into account that any option of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing would fall across his Orsett Ward.

Councillor Gerrish asked the Portfolio Holder what enhancements to the London Road weight limit had been made. Councillor B Little stated that a

review of Heavy Good Vehicle routes, including London Road, had been undertaken with Officers but did not know the outcome. This information would be sent to Members once known.

Councillor B Little thanked Members for their comments and believed that the Council was moving forward in a professional manner, being mindful of residents views and abiding by the rules.

143. Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing

The Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing was deferred to a later meeting.

144. Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that questions 1 and 3 would be responded to by the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Member who submitted question 2 would receive a written response. There had been 10 questions received to Cabinet Members. Those not heard would either receive a written response or have the option to withdraw and resubmit.

Councillor Coxshall called a Point of Order at 8.11pm stating that caution should be given on the confidentiality of individuals referred to in Member's responses.

Councillor Potheary requested a written response.

Councillor James Baker withdrew his question and would resubmit.

Councillor Gerrish requested a written response.

Councillor Cherry withdrew his question and would resubmit.

Councillor Collins requested a written response.

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

Councillor Spillman called Point of Order at 8.35pm stating that more time should be given to debate over Member Questions. The Mayor stated that the Constitution allowed 30 minutes for Member Questions and this time had been allocated.

145. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies

Councillor G Rice, as a representative on the Regional Flood Defence Committee, updated Members on a report of the Tilbury Dual Function Lock Gate Project.

- The Environment Agency were working with the Port of Tilbury on a £14million project to replace the existing flood defence barrier with a new dual function lock gate at the Port of Tilbury in Essex. The new lock gate structure would be owned, operated and maintained by Port of Tilbury.
- The existing Tilbury Barrier was coming to the end of its design life and over the last few years' maintenance on the barrier had prolonged its life. The Barrier was likely to need major refurbishment in the next five years with a new barrier costing in the region of £40million.
- The Port of Tilbury was looking to replace their existing lock gates and work had been undertaken with the Port to design a new gate that would also act as a flood defence. This new defence would be owned, operated and maintained by the Port.
- The joint project would cost considerably less than a new barrier saving both time and resources which could then be channelled to other worthy projects.
- The Environment Agency were about to start the procurement process. European Union Public Procurement Directives required public bodies to issue a Call for Competition for our European Union contracts in the Official Journal of the European Union when construction works were over £4.35million. Following advertisement and tender evaluation, the appointment of a Contractor was due to take place early summer 2017.
- A legal agreement had been signed by both parties and the proposed timetable indicated completion of the project in 2019/20.

146. Minutes of Committees

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

147. 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.

Councillor S Little provided the following update to a Motion submitted at 26 October 2016 Full Council.

“This Council condemns in the strongest possible terms, the horrific practice of Female Genital Mutilation and will support all health, welfare, civil and criminal enforcement services to eradicate it from our Thurrock and the rest of the World.” Councillor S Little was pleased to announce that she had managed to agree a commitment from Barnardo's to continue funding the specialist Female Genital Mutilation worker in MASH for a further three months. During this time the national Female Genital Mutilation centre would prepare and submit a substantial business plan for funding to cover a further 18 months additional funding. The post had proved invaluable in identifying those children at risk and ensuring that they were protected from this brutal act and would continue to hold these services to account and ensure they remain vigilant.

Councillor Coxshall requested an Officer update on a Motion submitted at 23 September 2015 Full Council.

“This Council calls for those Councillors who passed away during their service as a member of Thurrock Council (since the turn of the new century) to be commemorated in the Council Chamber for their work and contributions to the community of Thurrock.”

Councillor J Kent requested an Officer update on a Motion submitted at 28 September 2016 Full Council.

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

Councillor Watkins requested an Officer update on a Motion submitted at 25 January 2017 Full Council.

“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 Ojetola provided the following update to a Motion submitted at 22 July 2015 Full Council.

“Radicalisation of youths seems to be quite rampant; doing nothing is not an option as parents are losing their children to extremism. We call on Thurrock Council to create a member led committee to co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to tackle the threat of extremism and radicalisation in line with our Duty to Prevent”. Councillor Ojetola confirmed that finally a Committee had been formed and met in March 2017 and encouraged all members from all sides to attend as this should be seen as important especially after the recent events in London.

The Mayor informed Members that responses would be received through email.

148. Motion submitted by Councillor Duffin

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

Council requests that Standards and Audit Committee investigate bringing in guidance to Group Leaders, that once a Group Member has served one year on the Planning Committee, they only consider re-nominating the same Group Member to Planning Committee after a period of three years has expired, as this will bring a circulation of expertise, skills and objectivity from other Members of the Council that may contribute to the work of the Committee. At the same time Council also write to the government requesting they introduce legislation so that such a circulation of Members can be made mandatory.

Councillor Duffin introduced the Motion and stated that Planning Committees around the Country had a horrendous reputation with members of the public quoting unreasonable behaviour undertaken by such Planning Committee members. Whilst Councillor Duffin believed there was no such behaviour evident within Thurrock Council it was important that all should be vigilant and to do everything in our power to prevent such instances. Councillor Duffin hoped that all Members, united, would ensure that Thurrock Council remained transparent and be as open as possible especially those Members on the Planning Committee.

Councillor Kelly, as Chair of the Planning Committee, stated that he would not be supporting this Motion based mainly on the Monitoring Officer's implications as set out in the agenda. Councillor Kelly stated he had no concerns, the committee was in a good strong position which had produced the right results even under appeal and Members were politically balanced and passionate about their role.

Councillor Spillman stated that in other authorities, Planning Committee Members were seen as corrupt and that every effort had to be made to prevent this happening in Thurrock.

Councillor Piccolo stated that Planning Committee Members were knowledgeable of the committees they sat on, with genuine interest that served the borough best. Changing Members each year would affect those applications which were deferred across municipal years due to lack of determination and could possibly be used by applicants as a loophole to get their applications reheard.

Councillor Hebb stated that the spirit of the Motion was to ensure that the intention and conduct of Members was absolute but the method of the Motion was flawed. Introducing a new system meant the Council would have to rewrite Council processes rather than holding an individual to account. The General Services Committee would shortly be reviewing the first proposal of the Member Accountability Paper which would arguably achieve the same desired outcome.

Councillor Halden believed Councillor Duffin was referring to "Term Limits" which would be enforced by the voters and give them the ultimate option of term limiting a member and was not sure what the Motion sought to do.

Councillor Coxshall stated that the Planning Committee was a quasi-judicial committee that required experience and training. The continued change in Membership would not work and that any allegations of corruption should be reported to the Monitoring Officer or the Police immediately.

Councillor J Kent stated that the Planning Committee had come a long way since an external review had been undertaken some 8 years ago. The Planning Committee had put in place all the recommendations of that review except for the live streaming of meetings. The Committee was conducted

openly and honestly and corruption did not exist in Thurrock so therefore he would be voting against this Motion.

Councillor Wheeler felt that being Vice Chair of the Planning Committee he was now committed to that Committee and had developed relevant skills to be effective on the committee as a result.

Councillor B Little stated he had been involved with Planning over the last six years which had worked in a very uniformed and regimented function where parties had worked jointly together.

Councillor Snell stated that as a result of the work being undertaken by UKIP it was public perception that the Thurrock Planning Committee was corrupt and had been asked to do something to investigate, hence the Motion being presented tonight. Previous history of decisions made on the Planning Committee may still remain a concern with some residents. Councillor Snell suggested that a shadow team could undertake some form of training over a period of the year in readiness to become a member on the Planning Committee the following year.

Councillor Duffin thanked Members for their comments and hoped that future training could be made available for other Members in the future.

Councillor Duffin requested that a requisition vote be undertaken.

The Mayor called a requisition vote on Councillor Duffin's Motion.

Upon being put to the vote the following members voted in favour: Councillors Aker, Allen, C Baker, James Baker, J Baker, Cherry, Duffin, Gamester, Jones, Potter, Sammons, Sheridan, Smith, Snell and Spillman (15)

The following members voted against: Councillors Baldwin, Churchman, Collins, Coxshall, Fish, Gerrish, Hague, Halden, Hebb, V Holloway, Huelin, Kelly, C Kent, J Kent, Kerin, Liddiard, B Little, S Little, Maney, MacPherson, Ojetola, Okunade, Piccolo, Potheary, Redsell, B Rice, G Rice, Stone, Tolson and Watkins (30)

The following members voted to abstain: Councillors Hamilton and Wheeler (2)

The Mayor declared the Motion Lost.

149. Motion submitted by Councillor Hebb

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

Thurrock Council resolves to thank HM The Queen, for her selflessness and grace as monarch of the United Kingdom for 65 years, and it thanks her for her years of dedicated public service and advocacy of our great nation. In the

spirit in which HM The Queen has herself taken with the Sapphire Jubilee, this council also seeks to recognise the memory of our former monarch George VI, for his unwavering patriotism during our nation's darkest hours. This council therefore resolves to rename a suitable park within the borough to be identified after public consultation - to the George VI Memorial Park in honour of the former King and his years of service to our country.

Councillor Hebb introduced the Motion and stated that with Thurrock's long heritage in support of the Monarchy it would be Thurrock's appreciation to the Queen to rename a park in the name of George VI Memorial Park and that a public consultation would be undertaken to gauge the views of residents.

Councillor Collins, as seconder of the Motion, stated that he would whole heartedly be supporting the Motion and that it was an honour that the Queen had recognised her father rather than herself which would also remind residents what a great King he was.

At 9.15pm the Mayor requested that standing orders be suspended to provide time to hear and debate the remaining items from Members. Councillor J Kent suggested raising standing orders until 10.00pm.

The Mayor called a vote on raising standing orders until 10.00pm.

Members voted in Favour - 22

Members voted Against - 23

Members Abstain - 0

The Mayor declared that Full Council would finish at 9.30pm.

Councillor Cherry stated that the Motion was fantastic but questioned whether the name would be confusing with the existing King George V field at Blackshots.

Councillor G Rice supported the Motion and would be proud if Orsett Heath in Chadwell took the new name of George VI Memorial Park.

Councillor S Little supported the Motion but stated that caution would need to be given on the change of use from a Heath to a Park due to future planning implications.

Councillor Duffin stated that the change of name to a park should not be forced on residents and all should have a say.

Councillor Allen stated that he believed existing parks should not be renamed but to introduce a new park.

Councillor Coxshall stated that this was a great Motion and would be proud of Orsett Heath being renamed.

Councillors Snell and Jones supported the Motion with Councillor Hamilton stating that a public consultation would give residents the choice.

Councillor Watkins supported the Motion and commented that he looked forward to the consultation.

Councillor Halden suggested that Committee Rooms in the Civic Offices could be renamed in recognition of former prime ministers.

Councillor J Kent called a Point of Order at 9.24pm to close the debate.

The Mayor called a vote on the Point of Order.

Following a majority in favour, the Mayor declared the Point of Order carried.

Councillor Hebb summed up by thanking Members for their comments and stated that the consultation would list all the current Thurrock parks, any proposed new parks and give residents the option not to change the name of any of them.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

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

150. Motion submitted by Councillor B Rice

The Motion, as printed in the Agenda was proposed by Councillor B Rice and seconded by Councillor Potheary. The Motion read as follows:

Council note consultation has begun on a £15 per week service charge on sheltered homes. This Council believes this is an unfair charge against some of our most vulnerable residents. Council calls on Cabinet to scrap this unfair proposal.

Councillor B Rice presented the Motion on behalf of residents who felt that their voices were not being heard in the Chamber and stated that all residents should have the right to speak. She felt that some members sought to prolong prior debate to reach the guillotine of the meeting.

Councillor Potheary, as seconder of the Motion, did not wish to speak and requested the Motion went to the vote.

Councillor B Rice requested that a requisition vote be undertaken.

The Mayor called a requisition vote on Councillor Rice's Motion.

Upon being put to the vote the following members voted in favour: Councillors Aker, Allen, C Baker, James Baker, J Baker, Baldwin, Cherry, Duffin, Fish, Gamester, Gerrish, Hamilton, V Holloway, Jones, C Kent, J Kent, Kerin,

Liddiard, Okunade, Potheary, Potter, B Rice, G Rice, Sammons, Sheridan, Smith, Snell, Spillman, Stone and Wheeler (30).

The following members voted against: Councillors Churchman, Collins, Coxshall, Hague, Halden, Hebb, Huelin, Kelly, B Little, S Little, MacPherson, Ojetola, Piccolo, Redsell, Tolson and Watkins (16)

The Mayor declared the Motion Carried.

Councillor Kerin left the Chambers at 9.31pm.

Councillor Gerrish called a Point of Order at 9.32pm stating that not all Members in the Chambers had been present when the recorded vote had taken place and asked whether the vote needed to be revisited. The Mayor confirmed the voting had been undertaken in accordance with procedures.

Councillor Tolson left the Chambers at 9.33pm.

Councillor Hebb on behalf of Members of the Chamber thanked Councillors C Kent and Ojetola for their term as Mayor and Deputy Mayor and looked forward to seeing them at Annual Council.

The meeting finished at 9.34 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**

Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 29 March 2017

Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.

There were no questions from members of the public.

Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 29 March 2017

Item 14 – 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.

Those questions not heard would receive a written response or have the option to resubmit at a later Council meeting.

1. FROM COUNCILLOR JONES TO COUNCILLOR HEBB

Does the Deputy Leader agree that this Council would not have been able to set a balanced budget without the recent 4.98% rise in council tax?

MAYOR

Thank you. Councillor Hebb.

COUNCILLOR HEBB

Thank you, Madam Mayor and thank you, Councillor Jones. Blunt answer is no, I don't. There is a legal requirement, that's why I don't believe in it. We have no choice, we have no choice. We have to set a balanced budget or all 49 of us, are legally accountable so no, whether it would be 2%, 1%, 5% it would have been balanced.

Now, just to get a few points of clarity, the 3% is an increase directly into our adult social care service. That was not part of any book balancing exercise, that's part of our invest to prevent plan which is being funded, not to mention by the extra £2.8million which the Council has been afforded by the national Government in the Spring Budget by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Moving onto the increase of the General Fund Budget of 1.98%, it was not needed to fund a gap. We inherited the same budget that was set this time last year, we brought it into balance and we don't need to raise taxes to do that; but what we did need to do is listen to what our residents were asking. Our residents were sick to the back teeth of a dirty, dirty Thurrock. That's why we've ploughed £1million directly into 'Clean it, Cut it, Fill it', price of a pint of milk, that is getting 'Clean it, Cut it, Fill it' 365 days a year. So, that is where we are, Councillor Jones, so no is the answer.

MAYOR

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

COUNCILLOR JONES

Yes thank you, Madam Mayor. We all want a clean borough, so I've got no problem about the £1million that you mentioned for the 'Clean it, Cut it'. It's just that the Leader stated in the local press that the increase in Council Tax will be for delivering improvements to Thurrock when clearly, we all know that because of this Conservative Government's continued cuts to Councils, the monies raised by the Council Tax rise is to help fund the basic services. All I'm asking for is that the residents know the truth; I mean, you mentioned the

extra monies obviously for the 'Clean it, Cut it', we know that was identified in the General Fund Budget, you mentioned the lorries that are going to be needed for the refuse collection, well that's in the Capital Programme, I just say just tell the truth. If you feel that your Government's cuts are right in what they're doing then tell the residents. Thank you.

MAYOR

Councillor Hebb.

COUNCILLOR HEBB

I shall tell the public the truth, this Administration will not preside over another 6 years of neglect of our borough. You will never see this Conservative Administration, and for all the rhetoric we hear tonight about Committee Systems and Lord knows what else, have it be known in public this Conservative Administration have, and will continue to, fund 'Clean it, Cut it, Fill it' through a modest price of a pint of milk a week. We believe that that's achievable, we believe that that's something people can afford and most importantly we believe it's what people want.

MAYOR

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

COUNCILLOR JONES

Yes I do, Madam Mayor. I don't think you understand what I'm trying to say. I've got nothing against the million pounds for the 'Cut it and Clean it' you keep on going on about the Cut it and Clean it, I agree, we do need to keep the borough clean. All I'm saying is where you're raising the funds in Council Tax to pay for this stuff, or is this supposed to be extra? Deputy Leader, would you agree that, because of the continued cuts to the Council from central Government, it will be expected that Thurrock residents will have to pick up the shortfall of monies via Council Tax rises and charges? Thank you.

COUNCILLOR HEBB

Councillor Jones, I think it's not me that doesn't understand. Pennies don't fall from Heaven, as one wonderful woman once said, they're made here on Earth. You may stand and laud and praise 'Clean it, Cut it, Fill it' but how are we going to pay for it? There are years of neglect of the public finances by a Labour Government of 13 years, we are having to deal with that to make sure my daughter's generation doesn't suffer any more. So going back to your point around supporting 'Clean it, Cut it, Fill it', that's great but no pun intended you need to put your money where your mouth is and support what we're doing.

MAYOR

Thank you.

2. FROM COUNCILLOR SPILLMAN TO COUNCILLOR HEBB

I am of the understanding that families with dependent children who Thurrock Council does not have a duty to house under homelessness legislation are referred to children's social services. Can the Deputy Leader explain what

action is then taken to house these families and prevent children being taken into care?

MAYOR

Councillor Hebb.

Councillor Hebb

Thank you, Madam Mayor and thank you, Councillor Spillman. I agree to respond to this question because of the nature of the question, something I think Councillor Gerrish probably understands.

First of all, your question isn't particularly specific, but that's rightly so. It wouldn't be appropriate to bring a case you might have at hand to this public forum. That's something Councillor Barbara Rice said earlier, we shouldn't be lauding things in public that don't have a place in public. The stance of this Council is very clear; as much as prudently possible we want to keep everyone who's local, local. There are sensitive cases where sometimes it is necessitated for people to move further away, domestic violence is one of those circumstances. I have no idea whether that's what you're talking about this evening, I don't really want to know what you're talking about this evening, but that's the general thrust of why we would possibly move someone outside of the borough, very, very rarely. It's a delicate balance to ensure that we do what's right. But, our policy is clear; when and wherever we can we will house local people local.

MAYOR

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

COUNCILLOR SPILLMAN

Yeah I do. Thank you very much for that, Shane. I have some reassuring news, actually this evening, I requested some stats and it said that there hadn't been over the last year anyone housed a significant distance, and this is for people that are intentionally homeless or there's no housing duty but there's no risk of harm so they have to be housed, these are people that *could* be housed in Thurrock but that hasn't happened, they've only been housed a short distance away. So, it would appear I've caught this right at the start and I saw a case where someone had been told that they needed to move to a privately-rented home in Durham, I think most Members would agree that that's not acceptable and I'd just like reassurances that this Administration will look at that as a matter of urgency and make sure that this was an Officer-led decision and not a policy of this Council.

COUNCILLOR HEBB

Thanks Councillor Spillman, and thanks for as much clarity as I think you're probably able to give in the circumstances. The policy is as I've already outlined. You know, the gentleman raises an excellent point. We will obviously look at said case and I think if we go back to some of the problems in the way they manifest the truth of the matter is we probably need more houses here in Thurrock to house vulnerable people and people that are

aspirational, want to move out of Mum and Dad's house, get their own place and all that good stuff, we've all been there. And that's part of the plan. We need to get a decent Local Plan in place, which is something that Councillor Coxshall alluded to earlier and make sure that people in Thurrock have a home in Thurrock should they decide to stay here. Hopefully that's of some reassurance to you.

MAYOR

Councillor Spillman, do you have a second supplementary question?

COUNCILLOR SPILLMAN

Yes, very briefly, in a very hypothetical situation, can we have assurances that this Administration condemns a practice where a resident in temporary housing is told that she is going to be evicted very shortly unless she takes a privately-rented property off of a list of about 9 or 10 homes in the North East of England?

COUNCILLOR HEBB

It really, honestly and you must empathise with this, it does depend on the circumstances. Well, I am not arrogant enough to make claim that I have any idea what that, the person that you refer to, what her circumstances are. I'm not arrogant enough to do that. But what I am dogmatic enough to do is make sure that perhaps you, I, my Leader, get together, look at this particular case and I can give you a very blunt answer, how's that?

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

1. FROM COUNCILLOR J KENT TO COUNCILLOR COXSHALL

Is the Portfolio Holder satisfied with the progress being made in delivering our plans for the regeneration of Purfleet?

MAYOR

Councillor Coxshall.

COUNCILLOR COXSHALL

Thank you, thank you. That's a very helpful question actually because I'm sorry to say that no, I'm not satisfied. We, I believe for all united across this chamber, the regeneration of Purfleet is a key priority and over the last 10 years we've been talking about the regeneration, and over the last 3 years since PCRL (Purfleet Centre Regeneration Ltd.) won the bid, since they won the bid. Into January 2016 my predecessor, Councillor Speight, said, and we can all agree with him the development is now signed off by all parties, over 2016 we will see planning applications coming through. Clearly, that hasn't happened. We all signed up to that and it is disappointing to see no planning application still today, let alone a planning approval.

When I became the Portfolio Holder I asked PCRL how they're progressing and whether they're on track considering the Conservative-led Government in

January 2015 gave £5million to speed this up. I am then surprised also by the lack of engagement of external stakeholders from the last few years considering how important the train station is, and the crossing. I'm advised that PCRL have only had cursory meetings with Network Rail until August last year. I understand they did not meet the Port of London until late last year and as for businesses in Purfleet they still have never met Esso, which are abutting them and Ensign bus company which are in Purfleet, their depot but they have, in fact, had numerous meetings with the Environment Agency but still haven't taken on their plans for what they wish to do in Purfleet in their considerations. Considering PCRL, an urban catalyst, have been development partners since February 2014 it's very disappointing.

In view of the slow rate of progress last year, Councillor Halden and myself pushed, and succeeded in getting a new Harris secondary school to be delivered outside and built outside their control, of PCRL I mean, and back into a private contraction between Thurrock Council and the department. We are now confident by the end of the year, by the end of 2019 that school will be built, and open for children, by the end of 2019. Clearly, the big part of this Purfleet Regeneration is the proposals for the film and TV studios, one of the reasons why I think they won the bid, but now looking at the Mayor of London, is supporting a new development of a film studio in the Dagenham site, in Dagenham. I've asked for a business plan to be produced as speedily as possible, which has now given a guarantee that it'll be here, from PCRL, by May 2017 so we can see if the studios are viable, on this viable Green Belt, Brown Field, site. I don't want to see the loss of green spaces, or Green Belt, across Thurrock developed before this Brown Field site is used, and it can't be left there for many years because Purfleet is a major Brown Field site and I want it started as soon as possible to deliver the 2,400 homes and I want to, let me understand you, I'm determined to do this, do whatever I can to make sure this happens.

MAYOR

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

COUNCILLOR KENT

I'm grateful for that response; I was kind of hoping that the Portfolio Holder would be able to give me some kind of reassurance that all was really well but clearly not. So, I have to ask the question which is: what does he believe the core reason is for a lack of a planning application? He alluded to discussions with the Environment Agency, and I take it that he's referring there to Thames Estuary 2100 which are the plans for a new Thames barrier. My understanding is they're looking to locate the new Thames barrier at Purfleet and wish to take land out of the Purfleet Regeneration Plan. Is that right, and does the Portfolio Holder think that that is having a major bearing on the lack of a planning application?

COUNCILLOR COXSHALL

There is a bearing on that but sadly that's not the most important thing; it's the stakeholder engagement and how they're building the sites and it's delays before that happened and it was a surprise so I think they're working quite

well with that item it's just two or three times there's been suggestions. I think, I believe they suggested to, they had a conversation in August last year about the position of where the Thames Barrier is in 2070 and it just shows poor stakeholder engagement that we've got to that stage. I don't think that's the delay that we're seeing at the moment, I just think it's a long, laborious process of where we need to get urban catalysts here, and I do need all Members' support to make sure that there's engagement here and good questioning to make sure that development partner works with us to deliver that, because that's our only alternative.

MAYOR

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

COUNCILLOR KENT

Yeah, again I'm grateful for that and I think this is one of those issues that we are absolutely united, all parties in the Chamber, I think that the Portfolio Holder said that this has been a desire in Purfleet for 10 years, I mean I go back further than that, I go back probably 20 years or more when we first did what was known in those days as 'Planning for real' down in Purfleet people there told us that this is the kind of thing they wanted to see so it's been a long time in the making. Given that we all want to see this happen, what can we usefully do, working together, to put some pressure on the prospective developers to get this across the line? Should we be asking in the new municipal year for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be calling Urban Catalyst to the Committee? What can we usefully do to make sure that this is delivered?

COUNCILLOR COXSHALL

I'm hoping to, obviously as I said the business plan for the film studios is really important in May this year, so hopefully we get to see that and make sure, and I really do want, when it comes...It was disappointing because we did go to Overview and Scrutiny before December last year and we saw it, and we saw some lines, drawings, but we've just got to get some better force to make sure that partner, delivery partner, gets that planning application in this year and gets building so that we don't, as I say, that we don't want any more developers across our wards using the excuse of not delivering Purfleet's 2,400 and that 70 acres of business land there and we end up losing more Green Belt across our areas because we can't get this through over the hurdles. So yes, if it does go to it, I'll be more than welcoming if it goes to Overview and Scrutiny and if the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny brings that back when it comes there. Hopefully there'll be a Cabinet paper for a planning application coming to us as soon as possible with a pre-application and I can see that and hopefully I can share that with everyone else. But I think everyone in this area wants to make it, get this over the road to make sure we get a good Local Plan and 2,400 homes built as quick as possible now, because the people of Purfleet want it and deserve it. I moved there in 20--, 10 years ago or so, and it was the reason why we moved there, because it was such an exciting development and I think it's been too long in Purfleet for this development.

MAYOR

Thank you. Councillor Sammons, would you please read out your question as set out on the agenda, please?

2. FROM COUNCILLOR SAMMONS TO COUNCILLOR HALDEN

Could the Portfolio Holder clarify what are the proposals to replacing the Children's Services that have been withdrawn in East Tilbury, Linford and West Tilbury?

MAYOR

Councillor Halden, could you please respond.

COUNCILLOR HALDEN

Thank you, Madam Mayor. As I outlined when I was questioned comprehensively on the subject last year, services are not being withdrawn from East Tilbury, what you are losing in East Tilbury is the rent of a very expensive space in a private children's centre, which I believe is the one you'll see next to East Tilbury Primary School. That is what is being withdrawn. What is being put in its place, as opposed to the current 0-5 model for children is a 0-19 model, integrated with health services to ensure that there's a single point of access that serves not just the child but the wider elements around that child. So that is still in place for all of your constituents. What is going to happen is, for the existing, for the sites that we have preserved as Children's Centres themselves, outreach will be run from those sites. As I explained when we had this debate after I approved this through Cabinet last year, we cannot just keep serving the current 75% of children who interact with these services. We need to reach past the 75% and we need to get to the other children. If people aren't going to come to the centres then the services need to go to them, that is why we are moving to outreach it will be done from existing services, from existing centres and from other educational establishments but things have not been withdrawn in your ward. We are saving money on extremely expensive and rather small space in a private nursery.

MAYOR

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

COUNCILLOR SAMMONS

So you're suggesting that the services are going to their homes, now? If they want something for their children they can call somebody who will come out, because obviously the people in East Tilbury, Linford and West Tilbury they can't actually walk to Stanford, Chadwell, they are very much reliant on public transport which we have a bus service every 1hr30, and 3 hourly of a weekend.

MAYOR

Councillor Halden.

COUNCILLOR HALDEN

Thank you, Madam Mayor. Well, what I said to Councillor Sammons is it entirely depends on who the child is and what the service is that they require. If they require support with good educational early years development, well that would probably be done in a better setting like a school. If they require health visiting, for example, that may well be done in the home, so it's difficult to answer her question. What I will say is, if she has got a particular constituent that she's concerned about contact myself and my Director and we can get a comprehensive answer for that individual. What I would say is that these services do need to be run more from existing educational establishments, and as I announced at the last Full Council, this Administration is going to make at a minimum £1.4million available immediately for the expansion of East Tilbury Primary which will help increase the educational capacity in her ward, for her constituents.

MAYOR

Thank you. Councillor Sammons, do you wish to you ask a second supplementary? Okay, thank you.

3. FROM COUNCILLOR POTHECARY TO COUNCILLOR MACPHERSON

In recent months I have been contacted by a number of residents expressing their concerns about safety in Church Path, Grays. On behalf of my residents, I made a request for CCTV to be installed. This was turned down. Will the Portfolio Holder please explain the reasoning for her department's decision and whether there is any option to review the previous position?

MAYOR

Councillor MacPherson.

COUNCILLOR MACPHERSON

Thank you, Madam Mayor, and thank you for your question. No, actually I don't mean that, because when it comes to residents' safety I don't think a question should be brought to Full Council, I think I should be able to deal with it before then. My Officers, if they've made a decision with regards to not installing CCTV come to me before Full Council; I want our residents to be safe.

I am aware that this pathway did have trouble with CCTV, overhanging trees, but that's not an excuse. I will get my Officers to re-look at this and see how we can make your residents feel safe. Thank you.

MAYOR

Thank you. Councillor Pothe Cary, do you have a supplementary?

COUNCILLOR POTHECARY

Yes, I do. It's sort of changed a little now but yes. I'd like to thank the Portfolio Holder for engaging with me on this and I'd like to thank her for committing to review that decision. I am slightly disturbed by the idea that we're not allowed to ask questions anymore at Full Council, this is kind of what Full Council is for. So, just to note that I'm slightly disturbed on the kind

of clamping down on Democracy that seems to be going on, but you know, we'll leave that to one side. So, could I just get a sort of timeframe for when we can have a kind of answer for that, please?

COUNCILLOR MACPHERSON

Of course you can. Perhaps I ought to make myself a bit clearer, if it's something to do with residents' safety I would rather know about it quicker rather than it being left until Full Council, that's all I was saying. I was certainly not putting a quash on democracy or anything like that, I'd rather we had an open dialogue if you had blockages. I haven't got a timescale, but what I will do I will speak to my Officers tomorrow and I will email you to let you know what that timescale will be, but please let me give you my assurances it will be sooner rather than later.

MAYOR

Councillor, do you have a second supplementary?

COUNCILLOR POTHECARY

I'm okay, thanks.

MAYOR

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

4. FROM COUNCILLOR DUFFIN TO COUNCILLOR HEBB

So far how many people have responded to the £3,000 consultation on how often we hold local elections in Thurrock?

MAYOR

Councillor Hebb.

COUNCILLOR HEBB

Thank you, Madam Mayor and thank you, Councillor Duffin, for your question. The Conservative Administration proposed and have led a democratic exercise, putting the question of how 49 Councillors who represent the constituents of Thurrock are elected, by the constituents of Thurrock. This was to be achieved in a budget of £3000 or under and when I checked last week we had 357 responses. My team are on track to deliver the consultation exercise within the budget window and I look forward to having a level and comprehensive review when the consultation closes in 2 days' time.

MAYOR

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

COUNCILLOR DUFFIN

Thank you. When I checked today the recorded amount of responses on the Council website listed that 409 people had responded. This is less than a quarter of 1%. Considering Members in here no doubt filled it in multiple times it is likely a much smaller sample than that. I'm not mentioning any names! In terms of direct democracy the 5% threshold is widely regarded as the figure you should be aiming to reach. Does the Portfolio Holder agree

with me that anything below that figure is incredibly disappointing and unrepresentative of the Thurrock population, ruling this a completely flawed consultation?

COUNCILLOR HEBB

Councillor Duffin, you raise a very good point and I've got to be honest, the principle effect this exercise is all underpinned on democratic responses by our constituents. The mandate for change will be assessed but I am very hung up, and I think you'll agree – sympathise with what I'm about to say, I am exceptionally, personally hung up on making sure that there is enough of a proportionate response to warrant said change before proposing it. I think it's far too premature to say what the output of the consultation is, Madam Mayor, but I don't want him going away thinking you know that there's any appetite to disregard democracy. You know, this Council has held a consultation, it has listened; it will continue to listen 'til Friday. It will pause, it will consider, it will propose depending on what the public will is, but it will cost the project. Now, we've heard a number of things tonight across this Chamber, Madam Mayor, about other constitutional changes, now we only have to look East towards Basildon to know about the constitutional changes that have been brought forward there, uncosted, unbudgeted, unsupported, no democratic input from residents of the community. Madam Mayor, I can give a cast iron assurance that this Administration will never invoke a constitutional change on residents of Thurrock without the residents of Thurrock putting a very big rubber stamp on it first.

MAYOR

Thank you. Councillor Duffin do you have a second supplementary?

COUNCILLOR DUFFIN

Why has the Council pushed for a figure of £3,000? We keep hearing that you have lots of residents' email; a free email to all these residents should have easily reached the 5% threshold if residents actually wanted to change the voting system. This exercise has proved that consultation is a completely flawed way to gather data and no doubt the Thames Crossing one we saw will see residents ignored in favour of what the Government, or Leadership want. Does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that we should shelve all voluntary consultations and replace them with a postal ballot to all residents when a local issue achieves a 5% calling for a referendum? That way we stop needless consultations on things residents don't want and we actually get their true opinions, rather than 409 people?

COUNCILLOR HEBB

Thank you, Councillor Duffin. I do not believe that we should do democracy on the cheap and £3000 in the grand scheme of things equates to, my fag-packet maths, 0.0019% of the General Fund. If I whack on the HRA budget with that it goes down to 0.0008% of the Council's spending. Do I think £3000 is too high a figure? No, I don't think we should do democracy on the cheap. The question around referendums, very good question, referenda as someone keeps correcting me, it's a very good question; and it is one I deliberated on for a considerable amount of time. It would cost £200,000 to

facilitate a referendum on a local issue. You've got to do a referendum, you can't do a postal...you can't have this hybridized system, you either do a referendum or a consultation, it's very binary, very binary, the legal advice is very clear. I do not believe in doing democracy on the cheap and while I have ideologically, and personally, believed in a change of the electoral system here in Thurrock I would not spend £200,000, a fifth of our "Clean it, Cut it, Fill it" budget, on driving an ideological agenda. I simply will not, and will not ever, do it. I think that's all, Madam Mayor.

MAYOR

Thank you.

5. FROM COUNCILLOR SPILLMAN TO COUNCILLOR HEBB

Over the last few weeks your administration has brought forward and supported a budget that has increased council tax, changed tax support schemes and could potentially increase other housing service charges. Would you agree that your administration is now the party of high taxation in Thurrock?

MAYOR

Councillor Hebb.

COUNCILLOR HEBB

Councillor Spillman, I actually pride myself on being part of a party which is so low tax. I believe in a party which believes in people climbing the ladder, keeping more of what they earn in their own pocket rather than giving it to Government to forcibly and socially distribute it in a way the Government sees fit. The tax threshold under the Conservative Government has gone up from circa £6,000 to £11,500. Now, I'm not going to comment on anyone's background but I can say from personal experience what a difference that would have made to life's circumstances for me many years ago, when I was in that situation. The other thing is it's a damn site more helpful than a 10p tax rate which was levied against low-income earners many years ago; one of the very reasons I will never vote Labour to this day. So no, I do take issue with being called a high-tax party.

Locally Thurrock Borough Council is a low-tax Council, the lowest in Essex, and it continues to be thanks to two gentlemen called David Cameron and Eric Pickles who froze rates for the hardest years that our generation have known and experienced; something that was embraced by the then-Labour Administration. I am personally governed, if you can pay for it yourself then you should pay for it yourself; other people shouldn't be doing it on your behalf. I don't believe in dependency on benefits, I believe that as the economy improves we should be in a position where we look at if who can pay can pay and we'll do the various consultations from there. So no, I utterly, utterly disagree with the statement that the Conservatives are a high-tax party in Thurrock.

MAYOR

Councillor Spillman, do you wish to ask a supplementary?

COUNCILLOR SPILLMAN

Yeah, I always imagined you to be a bit of a Boy George fan boy, to be honest. You know I always thought that George Osborne, Gideon Osborne was your spiritual hero, so it does surprise me when I see all these tax rises. You seem to have metamorphosized into some sort of tax and spend kazam. Is this a genuine epiphany or is it... 'cause last year you didn't want to raise taxes on those benches, I remember you abstaining, or even voting against certain raises in Council Tax. I just wanted to know is it an epiphany and if not what's changed over the last year?

COUNCILLOR HEBB

What's changed? A 5% Council Tax increase means 3%, another £1.2-million whatever it is-millions going straight into adult social care. That's what's changed. You can call it a tax, you can call it a levy, you call it what you like. We're calling it raising money, putting it into adult social services. So no, I utterly disagree. I'm not an overly Gideon fan, if you want to call it that. I do respect everything he achieved. That man and many others managed to navigate the economy from a very dire place, we're in a much better place for it now and as we head into Brexit I believe we'll be even better.

MAYOR

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

COUNCILLOR SPILLMAN

You obviously appreciate what he achieved a bit more than the new Prime Minister. What I will say is that, do you foresee, I mean you're going to be setting a budget again next year, do you foresee another 5% Council Tax increase or are we going to get more than that?

COUNCILLOR HEBB

Joking aside, that's a very good question. So when I took the finance brief, as you'll know, one of the first things I did is I wanted to make sure that our rainy day fund was maintained at a correct level; that activity was done. We then needed to set the budget, that activity is done. This year, sorry, from May onwards, we will be instigating Service Reviews over 3 years. The reason why is because we need to understand that if what we're spending on services now is what is necessary to deliver what is statutorily required of us, and what we would believe as a Council, going back to our three party narrative from earlier, is required. Only when we know and have determined the base in spending against each service that we have to, and want to spend, only then will we know whether a Council Tax increase is possible. That piece of work starts from next year as part of the Council Spending Review; so hopefully that clarifies any uncertainty. I think this fencing duel will go on for some time, don't you?

MAYOR

Thank you. Right Councillors, we've run out of time. I'm going to ask the Councillors whose questions we haven't reached if they would like to resubmit

them or accept a written answer, but if you resubmit it won't be until the June 2017 Council Meeting.

24 May 2017	ITEM: 8
Annual Council	
Committees and their Terms of Reference	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Head of Service: David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is public.	

Executive Summary

This report requests the Council to formally establish those committees it considers necessary to fulfil its functions in the ensuing municipal year, in accordance with the requirements of both legislation and the Council's Constitution.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committees listed in paragraph 3.2 of the report be established for the 2017-18 municipal year, with their terms of reference being those set out in Chapter 4 of the Constitution.**
- 1.2 That the Committees listed in paragraph 3.4 of the report be established for the 2017-18 municipal year, with their terms of reference being those set out in Chapter 5 of the Constitution.**

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Council must establish:

- (a) At least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (b) A committee under the Licensing Act 2003;
- (c) A Health and Wellbeing Board.

and may establish other committees.

2.2 Chapters 4 and 5 of the Constitution contain information regarding the committees that have been established, together with their specific terms of reference.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The Council is requested to formally establish those committees considered necessary to fulfil the functions of the Authority during the forthcoming municipal year, in accordance with the requirements of both legislation and the Constitution.

Overview and Scrutiny:

3.2 The Constitution currently makes provision for six Overview and Scrutiny committees, as follows.

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

3.3 The terms of reference for each of the six committees mentioned in paragraph 3.2 above are set out in Chapter 4, Part 2 of the Constitution.

Committees and sub-committees of the Council:

3.4 Provision has been made within the Constitution for the following committees of the Council:

- Planning Committee;
- Licensing Committee (and a Licensing Sub-committee);
- General Services Committee;
- Standards and Audit Committee;
- Corporate Parenting Committee;
- Health and Wellbeing Board.

3.5 The terms of reference of each committee mentioned in paragraph 3.4 above are set out in Chapter 5 of the Constitution.

Changes to the number of committees or terms of reference:

3.6 Any changes to the number of committees, or their terms of reference, will have to be reflected in the Constitution and therefore will require the approval of the Council.

3.7 Should the Council seek to establish or discontinue a committee that is currently included within the Constitution, it would be necessary to calculate the allocation of seats on committees to political groups. This too would require the approval of the Council, as would any nominations to committees

that may be made as a result. Any significant changes to be made to the Constitution should first be considered by Governance Group.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Council is recommended to establish the committees detailed in this report for the 2017-18 municipal year in order to facilitate the efficient discharge of its functions and that their terms of reference be those contained with the Constitution.

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

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

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

- 6.1 Establishing those committees it considers necessary to fulfil its functions, in accordance with the requirements of both legislation and the Constitution, should enable the Council to discharge those functions in a timely, open and transparent manner for the benefit of the residents of the Borough.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Management Accountant

The cost of servicing these committees will be met through the existing budgets. The yearly cost of an overview and scrutiny committee is £7,791 for the allowances for the Chair and Vice-Chair plus additional costs for senior officer time attending the meetings and preparing reports.

7.2 Legal

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

These are set out in the body of the report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

There are no diversity implications noted in this report.

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

None.

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

- None.

9. **Appendices to the report**

- There are no appendices to this report.

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Legal & Democratic Services

24 May 2017	ITEM: 9
Annual Council	
Allocation of Committee seats and Committee appointments	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Head of Service: David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is public.	

Executive Summary

This report requests the Council to confirm the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees and to appoint the nominations of political groups to committees. The report also requests the Council to appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of certain committees.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.
- 1.2 That the nominations of the political groups to seats on committees be approved, as set out in Appendix 2 (to be tabled when nominations are received).
- 1.3 That the non-voting co-opted members of the Planning Committee, the Standards and Audit Committee, the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee be appointed, as set out in Appendix 2.
- 1.4 That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees be appointed, as set out in Appendix 3 (to be tabled when nominations are received).

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Political Groups on the Council are formed in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 when two or more councillors notify the Chief Executive, as Proper Officer, of their wish to be treated as a group.
- 2.2 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 imposes a duty on the local authority at the annual meeting, or as soon as possible after it, to review the allocation of seats on the committees of the Council between the political groups. The Council may carry out such a review and any other time and may do so if requested by a political group.
- 2.3 The following principles apply to the allocation of seats:
 - (a) That not all the seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) That the majority of seats on each committee are allocated to a particular group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - (c) That, subject to (a) and (b), when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council, must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership;
and
 - (d) Subject to (a) to (c), that the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.
- 2.4 Sub-committees, with the exception of the Licensing Sub-Committee, are also governed by the political balance rules, but it is not necessary to add up all the sub-committee seats and then allocate them in proportion. As far as this is practicable, the allocation of seats on each sub-committee should reflect the proportional representation of the political groups on the Council.
- 2.5 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that, once the Council has determined the allocation of committee places between the political groups, the Council must then appoint the nominees of the political groups to the committees.
- 2.6 Any non-aligned members are to be appointed to available seats on committees by the Council.
- 2.7 The Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board are not required to be proportional and so are outside of the political balance calculation.
- 2.8 The Leader of the Council appoints the Cabinet and, in accordance with the Terms of Reference, will also make nominations to the 5 places available on the Health and Wellbeing Board, with the latter to be agreed by the Council.

2.9 It is open to the Council when carrying out a review to adopt some arrangement other than that prescribed by the Act and the Regulations. Notice of such a proposal would have to be given in the Summons, and a decision would need to be made with no one voting against it. The remainder of this report therefore assumes that the Council will not want an alternative arrangement to that prescribed by law.

Political proportionality

2.10 The political balance of the Council can be calculated by using the simple formula below (to two decimal places):

$$\frac{\text{No. of Group Members} \times 100}{49}$$

2.11 As there were no elections in May 2017 the following political balance remains:

Group	Councillors	%
Conservative	18	36.73%
Labour	14	28.57%
UKIP	17	34.70%
Total	49	100

2.12 The calculation to determine the strict entitlement of political groups to seats on committees is as follows:

$$\frac{\% \text{ from Table 1}}{100} \times \text{Total No. of seats available (81 seats)}$$

2.13 Those members who are not members of political groups have no legal entitlement to an allocation of seats on committees. However, the political groups are entitled to their proportion of seats and once their entitlement has been reached, the remaining seats may be filled by members not belonging to a political group. Such Members are classed as being non-aligned.

2.14 The LGA Independent Group has taken the view that in the true spirit of the Act, that morally or democratically, non-aligned councillors are entitled to fair representation. Groups are not entitled to have more than their share and thus they cannot exclude councillors that are not grouped i.e. single party councillors or non-aligned Independent councillors. For example in an authority of 49 councillors with one non-grouped councillor, the council must make 1/49 of the places available.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The number of seats on committees that are available to be allocated amongst the political groups represented on the Council is 81.

3.2 Each of the political groups (formed when 2 or more councillors notify the Chief Executive, as Proper Officer, of their wish to be treated as a group) are entitled to a certain number of seats on committees. This is based upon their percentage representation on the Council as a whole, as detailed in Table 1 at paragraph 2.11 above.

3.3 The calculation to determine the entitlement of political groups to seats on committees is as follows:

$$\frac{\% \text{ from Table 1}}{100} \times \text{Total No. of seats available (81 seats)}$$

3.4 After undertaking the above calculation for each of the political groups represented on the Council, the entitlement to seats is as follows:

- Conservative 30 seats
- Labour 23 seats
- UKIP 28 seats

3.5 Each of the political groups are only entitled to their proportion of seats.

3.6 In order to ascertain the number of seats to be allocated to political groups on each committee, the following calculation is required to be undertaken:

$$\frac{\% \text{ from Table 1}}{100} \times \text{No. of committee places available}$$

3.7 After applying the above calculation to each of the committees that have been established at Agenda Item 9, the following results can be seen:

(a) 6 member committee – applies to all **Overview & Scrutiny committees and the Standards & Audit Committee**

- Con 36.73 / 100 x 6 = 2.20 = **2 seat(s)**
- Lab 28.57 / 100 x 6 = 1.71 = **2 seat(s)**
- UKIP 34.70 / 100 x 6 = 2.08 = **2 seat(s)**

(b) 7 member committee – applies to the **General Services Committee**

- Con 36.73 / 100 x 7 = 2.57 = **3 seat(s)**
- Lab 28.57 / 100 x 7 = 2.00 = **2 seat(s)**
- UKIP 34.70 / 100 x 7 = 2.43 = **2 seat(s)**

(c) 8 member committee – applies to the **Corporate Parenting Committee**

• Con	36.73 / 100 x 8 =	2.94 =	3 seat(s)
• Lab	28.57 / 100 x 8 =	2.29 =	2 seat(s)
• UKIP	34.70 / 100 x 8 =	2.78 =	3 seat(s)

(d) 9 member committee – applies to the **Planning Committee**

• Con	36.73 / 100 x 9 =	3.31 =	3 seat(s)
• Lab	28.57 / 100 x 9 =	2.57 =	3 seat(s)
• UKIP	34.70 / 100 x 9 =	3.12 =	3 seat(s)

(e) 15 member committee – applies to the **Licensing Committee**

• Con	36.73 / 100 x 15 =	5.51 =	6 seat(s)
• Lab	28.57 / 100 x 15 =	4.29 =	4 seat(s)
• UKIP	34.70 / 100 x 15 =	5.20 =	5 seat(s)

3.8 **Appendix 1** shows a rounded allocation of seats to each political group. This is then required to be manually adjusted to ensure that the number of seats allocated to a particular political group matches and does not exceed their entitlement.

3.9 From the figures set out in **Appendix 1**, manual adjustments are required. During the 2016-17 municipal year manual adjustments were agreed between group leaders at Governance Group. These adjustments were:

- The Conservative Group gained one extra seat on Planning Committee.
- The UKIP Group gained one extra seat on Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

These agreed adjustments have been carried over into this municipal year with the consent of the group leaders.

3.10 Group Leaders have been consulted in respect of the calculations set out at **Appendix 1**, together with the manual adjustments that are required in order to ensure that seats on committees are correctly allocated to each of the political groups.

3.11 Group Leaders have also been requested to provide nominations to the places on committees to which their respective groups are entitled.

3.12 The nominations of political groups to seats on committees and the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of committees will be circulated at the meeting.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Council is required to make the required appointments to those committees that have been established to facilitate the efficient discharge of its functions, as set out in Agenda Item 9.

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

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

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

- 6.1 Appointing members to those committees established at Agenda Item 9, in accordance with the political balance of the Council and associated allocation of seats on committees, will enable the Council to properly discharge its functions.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Management Accountant

The cost of servicing these committees will be met through the existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

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

These are set out in the body of the report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

The Council is under a statutory duty to ensure that equality and diversity is a key part of the decision making process of the Council. Therefore, attention is drawn to the importance of ensuring that appointments to committees are

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

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

None.

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

- None.

9. **Appendices to the report**

There are the following appendices to this report:

- **Appendix 1** – Allocation of seats
- **Appendix 2** – Nominations of political groups to seats on Committees (to be circulated at the meeting)
- **Appendix 3** – Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (to be circulated at the meeting)

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Legal and Democratic Services

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Thurrock Council												APPENDIX 1		
No-Majority Proportionality														
Party Group												Ungrouped / Seats to allocate		Total
Number of members												0		49
Overall proportionality														
Total strict entitlement														
Total rounded entitlement												81		0
Committee	Size of Committee	Strict entitlement	Rounded Entitlement	Total Rounded Entitlement										
Children's O&S	6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0			
Cleaner & Greener O&S	6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0			
Corporate O&S	6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0			
Health O&S	6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0			
Housing O&S	6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0			
Planning, Transport & Regeneration O&S	6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0			
Planning	9	3.31	3	2.57	3	0.00	0	3.12	3	9	0			
Licensing	15	5.51	6	4.29	4	0.00	0	5.20	5	15	0			
General Services	7	2.57	3	2.00	2	0.00	0	2.43	2	7	0			
Corporate Parenting	8	2.94	3	2.29	2	0.00	0	2.78	3	8	0			
Standards & Audit	6	2.20	2	1.71	2	0.00	0	2.08	2	6	0			
Total seats	81		29		25		0		27	81	0			
Adjustments			1		-2		0		1					

Notes:

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

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24 May 2017	ITEM: 10
Annual Council	
Appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Head of Service: David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is public.	

Executive Summary

This report requests the Council to consider the nominations made by Group Leaders to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels for those appointments that are to be made by Full Council.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels be approved (to be tabled when nominations are received).

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Both the Full Council and the Cabinet have powers to appoint Members, officers and others to serve on Outside Bodies in a variety of capacities.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Nominations have been sought from Group Leaders for the appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels that are required to be made by the Council.

3.2 Those nominations will be tabled when nominations have been received from Group Leaders.

3.3 In accordance with the Participation of Appointed Members Committee Procedure Rule 13.2 of the Council's Constitution, it is a requirement for all Members to be enhanced DBS checked.

3.4 For certain outside bodies, statutory and other panels, it is considered to be a requirement that those Members appointed should be DBS checked before they take up their role. This position is considered to be best practice and will specifically apply to the following, however such DBS checks will be captured under 3.3. as detailed above:

- Adoption Panel
- Fostering Panel

Voting on appointments

3.5 The Constitution contains a procedure to be followed if there are more people nominated for any position(s) than there are position(s) to be filled (Chapter 2, part 2, Rule 20.9) and this will be applied in the event of any places on Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels being contested.

3.6 If there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of the required number of people, then the name of the person with the least number of votes will be taken off the list and a new vote taken. The process will continue until there is a majority of votes for one person.

3.7 Where there is an equality of votes for a person to continue in the appointment process, a vote shall be taken between those candidates having an equality of votes to determine which candidate shall continue in the appointment process.

Changes to appointments made

3.8 Any changes to the appointments made will require the approval of the appointing body, be this Full Council or Cabinet.

Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

3.9 There is an expectation that Members appointed to represent the Council on Outside Bodies will report back to the Council at least annually.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The Council should ensure that it continues to nominate representatives to sit on Outside Bodies, Statutory and other Panels so that its interests can be properly represented, together with those of the wider community.

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

5.1 In the course of seeking nominations, consultation has been undertaken with the Leaders of each of the political groups represented on the Council.

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

6.1 It is important for the Council to nominate to such bodies in order to ensure that it continues to represent the interests of both the Authority and the wider community.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Management Accountant

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7.2 Legal

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

It is important that Members are correctly appointed, through the relevant Council meeting, to ensure they are indemnified in certain circumstances.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

The Council is under a statutory duty to ensure that equality and diversity is a key part of the decision making process of the Council. Therefore attention is drawn to the importance of ensuring that appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels are underpinned by appropriate training on the statutory equality framework.

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

None.

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

- None.

9. Appendices to the report

- **Appendix 1** – The nominations of political groups to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels will be circulated at the meeting.

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Legal & Democratic Services

24 May 2017	ITEM: 11
Annual Council	
Schedule of Meetings 2017/18	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Head of Service: David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is public.	

Executive Summary

This report requests the agreement of the Council to the schedule of ordinary meetings of the Council, Cabinet and those committees that have been established at Agenda Item 9 for the 2017-18 municipal year.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Calendar of Meetings for 2017-18 be approved.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Constitution requires the Council, at its annual meeting, to agree the schedule of ordinary meetings for the coming municipal year.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 A schedule of ordinary meetings for 2017-18 has been prepared and is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.

3.2 It should be noted that some committees and sub-committees will meet on an “as and when required” basis. This is due to the nature of the business they are required to consider and, as such, they have not been included in the schedule of ordinary meetings. In particular, this applies to the General Services Committee.

3.3 Once the schedule of ordinary meetings has been approved, a notice is published 5 clear working days before the beginning of the month to which it refers and contains details of the date, time and venue of each meeting to be

held during that month. This acts as the official notice of the meeting and is published on the notice board at the front of the Civic Offices. In addition, information relating to all meetings to be held is available on the Council's website.

- 3.4 If any changes are made to the agreed schedule of meetings during the course of the year, such as a new meeting being arranged or a meeting being cancelled, further notices will be issued and information will be updated on the Council's website.
- 3.5 In exceptional circumstances, an "Extraordinary Meeting" can be called by the Proper Officer but this should be done in accordance with those provisions contained within the Constitution. In any such cases, notice of the meeting will be provided on the notice board to the front of the Civic Offices and on the Council's website.
- 3.6 In consultation with the Group Leaders, the dates of some political Group Meetings have also been included.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Council is required to approve the schedule of ordinary meetings for 2017-18 and this will ensure that arrangements can be put in place for effective and efficient decision making throughout the municipal year.

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

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Leaders of each of the political groups represented on the Council.

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

- 6.1 The Council should have a schedule of meetings in place to ensure that arrangements can be put in place for effective and efficient decision making.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

The cost of supporting the meetings contained within the Appendix to this report can be met from existing budgets.

Any increase in the number of meetings will have a direct resource implication on the officer support structure, particularly the Democratic Services team.

Officers will endeavour to ensure that costs are contained within the budgets available.

If additional resources are required then compensating savings will have to be found within the Council's budget.

7.2 Legal

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

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

There are no diversity implications noted in this report.

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

None.

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

- None

9. Appendices to the report

- **Appendix 1** – Schedule of ordinary meetings for 2017/18.

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Legal & Democratic Services

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May 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Health and Wellbeing Board 1.00pm	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Planning Committee	19	20	21
22	23	24 Annual Council	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 [Planning Committee Training]	7 Corporate Parenting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Licensing Sub-Committee	15	16	17	18
19	20 Health & Wellbeing O & S	21 Cabinet	22 Planning Committee	23	24	25
26 Conservative Group	27 Labour Group	28 UKIP Group Full Council	29 Corporate O & S	30		

July 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3	4 LGA Conference Planning, Transport & Regeneration O & S	5 LGA Conference Licensing Committee	6 LGA Conference Standards & Audit Committee	7	8	9
10	11 Children's Services O & S	12 Cabinet	13 Cleaner, Greener, Safer O & S	14	15	16
17	18 Housing O & S	19 Health and Wellbeing Board 1.00pm Licensing Sub- Committee	20 SACRE	21	22	23
24 Conservative Group	25 Labour Group	26 UKIP Group Council	27 Planning Committee	28	29	30
31						

August 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Licensing Sub Committee	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Planning Committee			

September 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Corporate Parenting	7 Health & Wellbeing O & S	8	9	10
11	12 Planning, Transport & Regeneration O & S	13 Cabinet	14	15	16	17
18	19 Corporate O & S	20 Health and Wellbeing Board 1.00pm Licensing Sub Committee	21 Standards and Audit Committee	22	23	24
25 Lab Party Conference Conservative Group	26 Lab Party Conference Labour Group	27 Lab Party Conference UKIP Group Council	28 Planning Committee	29	30	

October 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2 Cons Party Conference	3 Cons Party Conference	4 Cons Party Conference Licensing Committee	5	6	7	8
9	10 Children's Services O & S	11 Cabinet	12 Cleaner, Greener, Safer O & S	13	14	15
16	17 Housing O & S	18 Licensing Sub Committee	19 SACRE	20	21	22
23 Conservative Group	24 Labour Group	25 UKIP Group Council	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2 Planning Committee	3	4	5
6	7	8 Cabinet	9	10	11	12
13	14 Planning, Transport & Regeneration O & S	15	16 Health and Wellbeing O & S	17	18	19
20	21 Corporate O & S	22 Health & Wellbeing Board 1.30pm Licensing Sub Committee	23 Standards & Audit Committee	24	25	26
27 Conservative Group	28 Labour Group	29 UKIP Group Council	30			

December 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Corporate Parenting	7 Planning Committee	8	9	10
11	12 Children's Services O & S	13 Cabinet	14 Cleaner, Greener, Safer O & S	15	16	17
18	19 Housing O & S	20 Licensing Sub Committee	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Cabinet	11 Planning Committee	12	13	14
15	16 Planning, Transport & Regeneration O & S	17	18 Health and Wellbeing O & S	19	20	21
22	23 Corporate O & S	24 Health & Wellbeing Board 1.30pm Licensing Sub Committee	25 SACRE	26	27	28
29 Conservative Group	30 Labour Group	31 UKIP Group Council				

February 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Cabinet	8 Planning Committee	9	10	11
12	13 Children's Services O & S	14 Licensing Committee	15	16	17	18
19	20 Housing O & S	21 Licensing Sub Committee	22 Cleaner, Greener, Safer O & S	23	24	25
26 Conservative Group	27 Labour Group	28 UKIP Group Council				

March 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Standards & Audit Committee	7 Corporate Parenting	8	9	10	11
12	13 Planning, Transport & Regeneration O & S	14 Cabinet	15 Planning Committee	16	17	18
19	20 Corporate O & S	21 Licensing Sub Committee	22 Health & Wellbeing O & S	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Children's Services O & S	18	19 Cleaner, Greener, Safer O & S	20	21	22
23	24 Housing O & S	25 Licensing Sub Committee	26 Planning Committee	27	28	29
30						

24 May 2017	ITEM: 12
Annual Council	
Schedule of Elections and Order of Retirement of Councillors	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Head of Service: David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is public.	

Executive Summary

This report informs Council of the schedule of elections to be held between 2018 and 2021 and also sets out the order of retirement of Councillors.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the schedule of elections from 2018 to 2021 and order of retirement of Councillors be noted.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This report advises Council of the schedule of elections from 2018 to 2021, in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Borough of Thurrock (Electoral Changes) Order 2002.

2.2 In accordance with the Order, approximately one-third of the seats on the Council come up for election each year, with a break in the fourth year of the cycle when no elections are held.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 This report complies with the Borough of Thurrock (Electoral Changes) Order 2002.

3.2 There is currently a consultation underway which could revise this schedule into four yearly elections. If this occurs a report will be brought to council

outlining the changes and implications of such a change to the retirement of councillors.

3.3 The order of retirement of Councillors is set out in **Appendix 1** to this report.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The Council are requested to note the schedule of elections and the order of retirement of councillors.

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

5.1 No consultation has been undertaken in respect of this report.

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

6.1 The production of a schedule of elections to 2020, together with the order of retirement of Councillors, underscores the Council's commitment to both good governance and timely communication of the requirements of the Borough of Thurrock (Electoral Changes) Order 2002.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Management Accountant

The cost of administering election by thirds is built into the current budget. Any changes to this arrangement in future would require a re-profiling of budgets and would be set out in specific reports.

7.2 Legal

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

The report complies with the requirements of the Borough of Thurrock (Electoral Changes) Order 2002. There are no direct legal implications.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

There are no direct diversity implications arising from this report.

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

None.

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

- The Borough of Thurrock (Electoral Changes) Order 2002. This is available online at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2234/contents/made>

9. **Appendices to the report**

- **Appendix 1** – Order of retirement of Councillors

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Legal & Democratic Services

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Schedule of Local Elections

WARD	2018	2019	2020	2021
Aveley & Uplands	Aker (UKIP)	Smith (UKIP)	Spillman (UKIP)	No Election
Belhus	C Baker (UKIP)	Hamilton (UKIP)	Sheridan (UKIP)	
Chadwell St Mary	B Rice (L)	Cherry (UKIP)	G Rice (L)	
Chafford & North Stifford	No election	Coxshall (C)	Hague (C)	
Corringham & Fobbing	No election	Huelin (C)	Watkins (C)	
East Tilbury	No election	James Baker (UKIP)	Sammons (UKIP)	
Grays Riverside	Kerin (L)	Pothecary (L)	Fish (L)	
Grays Thurrock	Stone (L)	C Kent (L)	J Kent (L)	
Little Thurrock Blackshots	Maney (C)	No election	Redsell (C)	
Little Thurrock Rectory	Gledhill (C)	Kelly (C)	No election	
Ockendon	Jan Baker (UKIP)	Wheeler (UKIP)	Potter (UKIP)	
Orsett	B Little (C)	No election	S Little (C)	
South Chafford	Ojetola (C)	No election	MacPherson (C)	
Stanford East & Corringham Town	Jones (UKIP)	Churchman (C)	Duffin (UKIP)	
Stanford le Hope West	No election	Hebb (C)	Piccolo (C)	
Stifford Clays	Snell (UKIP)	Gamester (UKIP)	No election	
The Homesteads	Halden (C)	Tolson (C)	Collins (C)	
Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park	Okunade (L)	Baldwin (L)	No election	

Tilbury St Chads	Liddiard (L)	No election	Allen (UKIP)	
West Thurrock & South Stifford	C Holloway (L)	V Holloway (L)	Gerrish (L)	