

Thurrock - An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future

Annual Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **22 May 2019**

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

Membership of the Council:

Terry Piccolo (Deputy Mayor)

Qaisar Abbas
Abbie Akinbohun
John Allen
Alex Anderson
Chris Baker
Gary Byrne
Daniel Chukwu
Colin Churchman
Gary Collins
Mark Coxshall
Jack Duffin
Tony Fish
Mike Fletcher
Oliver Gerrish
Robert Gledhill
Garry Hague

James Halden
Shane Hebb
Victoria Holloway
Deborah Huelin
Andrew Jefferies
Barry Johnson
Tom Kelly
Cathy Kent
John Kent
Martin Kerin
Angela Lawrence
Steve Liddiard
Susan Little
Sue MacPherson
Ben Maney
Fraser Massey

Allen Mayes
Sara Muldowney
Bukky Okunade
Jane Pothecarry
David Potter
Shane Ralph
Joycelyn Redsell
Gerard Rice
Elizabeth Rigby
Sue Sammons
Sue Shinnick
Jennifer Smith
Luke Spillman
David Van Day
Aaron Watkins
Lynn Worrall



Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive

Agenda published on: 14 May 2019

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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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 2019/20	
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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Future Dates of Council:

19 June 2019, 24 July 2019, 18 September 2019, 23 October 2019, 27 November 2019, 29 January 2020, 26 February 2020 (Budget)

Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

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

Recording of meetings

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

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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.

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

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

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

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Evacuation Procedures

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

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

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

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

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non-pecuniary

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



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

PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

No speech may exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Mayor [Rule 19.8], except for the proposer of any motion who shall have 5 minutes to move that motion (except on a motion to amend where the 3 minute time shall apply) [Rule 19.8(a)]			
All Motions will follow Section A and then either Section B or C			
A.	A1 Motion is moved A2 Mover speaks A3 Seconded A4 Secunder speaks or reserves right to speak	[Rule 19.2] [Rule 19.8(a) (5 minutes)] [Rule 19.2] [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 <u>the subject</u>.	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.		

Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future.

1. **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
 - High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
 - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
 - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

2. **Place** – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
 - Roads, houses and public spaces that connect people and places
 - Clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
 - Fewer public buildings with better services

3. **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations
 - Attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy
 - Vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all
 - Commercial, entrepreneurial and connected public services

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget Council held on 27 February 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Barbara Rice (Mayor), Terry Piccolo (Deputy Mayor), Qaisar Abbas, Abbie Akinbohun, John Allen, Alex Anderson, Russell Cherry, Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Tony Fish (*arrived 7.13pm*), Mike Fletcher, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Victoria Holloway, Deborah Huelin, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Angela Lawrence, Steve Liddiard, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Bukky Okunade, Jane Potheary, David Potter, Joycelyn Redsell, Gerard Rice (*arrived 7.03pm*), Elizabeth Rigby, Sue Sammons, Sue Shinnick, Peter Smith, Luke Spillman, Pauline Tolson, Aaron Watkins and Lynn Worrall

Apologies: Councillors James Baker and Clare Baldwin

In attendance: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation
David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance
Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services
Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways
Karen Wheeler, Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service
Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring 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.

106. Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 30 January 2019 were approved as a correct record.

107. Items of Urgent Business

No items of urgent business were received.

108. Declaration of Interests

No declaration of interests were received.

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

The Mayor reminded Members of the Giving for Thurrock Day, a day for communities, charities and for the good causes in Thurrock which would take place on Friday 29 March 2019. The Mayor stated a donation box had been placed in the Chamber for any welcomed donations.

The Mayor, on behalf of Members of the Chamber, thanked those retiring Members for their service to Thurrock and wished those up for re-election well in the May elections.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, updated Members on the Great British Spring Clean which would take place between the 22 March and the 23 April 2019. An opportunity for local groups to run clean-up events in their area to keep the community clean with the Council supplying equipment and organising the pick-up of rubbish bags. The Leader thanked Mr Harrington, residents and Councillor Cherry for an organised event that took place in Little Thurrock at the weekend.

The Leader would be contacting Connect Plus and Highways England in regards to the laybys on the A1089 to insist that these are maintained and tidied up as Thurrock residents deserved better.

The Leader stated the part of the A13 in Thurrock would be cleaned as part of the Great British Spring Clean.

The Leader moved onto Regeneration and referred to the New River Retail Project and plans for the Grays Shopping Centre which had been purchased last year for £20m and showed that the borough was attracting investors.

The Leader gave a quick update on Clean It Cut It Fill It:

2085 potholes had been filed
1130 acres of grass had been cut
1739 fly-tips had been cleared
3150 tonnes of waste collected
3338 fixed penalty notices had been issued

Finally, the Leader thanked all retiring members for their service to Thurrock who included Councillors Smith, Hamilton, Cherry, Coxshall, Huelin, Baker, Pothecary, Kelly, C Kent, Jefferies, Churchman, Hebb, Gamester, Tolson, Baldwin and Holloway.

Those Members had worked hard in their 4 years of service, and 1 year of service for Councillor Jefferies, to make Thurrock a better place.

Councillor J Kent echoed the Leader's comments and stated that it was not the time a Member served but what that Member had achieved in that time. Members had made a real contribution to the Council and to residents. Councillor J Kent stated that all retiring Members would be missed but looked forward to the battles ahead leading up to the May elections and wished all candidates well.

Councillor Spillman echoed the Leader's comments and stated it had been a pleasure to meet those Members up for election. That friendships had been made at committees and hoped that those candidates up for re-election were successful.

110. Questions from Members of the Public

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be viewed under the relevant meeting date at <http://democracy.thurrock.go.uk/thurrock> and are attached at Appendix 1 at these minutes.

111. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors

The Mayor informed Members that in accordance with the Council's petition scheme no notices of petition had been received.

112. Petitions Update Report

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

Councillor Watkins provided an update to Petition 519 "Air Quality and Pollution Review in Tilbury". The Steering Group had met in November 2018 and would continue to apply the appropriate pressure on the Environment Agency and would also continue to work with residents to ensure that the dust issues go away. Councillor Watkins agreed to report back and keep Members updated.

113. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels

The Mayor enquired whether Group Leaders wished for any changes to be made to the appointments previous made by Committees and Outside Bodies, statutory and other panels.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, informed the chamber that he had no changes to make.

Councillor J Kent, Leader of the Labour Group, informed the chamber that he had no changes to make.

Councillor Spillman, Leader of the Thurrock Independence Group, informed the chamber that he had no changes to make.

114. Annual Pay Policy Statement 2019/20

Councillor Collins, Portfolio Holder for Central Services, presented the report which sought the approval of the Council's Annual Pay Policy Statement. That Thurrock's statement included a pay policy for all categories of employees which reflected the existing employment terms and conditions.

Councillor J Kent stated the Labour Group support to the recommendation.

Councillor Spillman stated he had concerns on how changes to bandings could affect staff's pay and questioned how many staff would be affected, how many staff would benefit and how many staff's salaries would stay the same following the band changes.

Councillor Collins stated that the Pay Policy had the agreement of all interested parties who all stated the policy to be agreeable and acceptable and that further information would be sent to Councillor Spillman.

Councillor Collin's summed up by stating that nobody would lose with many members of staff and apprentices gaining from the change. Councillor Collins stated it was a good policy that had the support of all trade unions and urged members to vote in favour.

The Mayor called a vote on this item to which Members voted unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2019/20 is agreed in line with the Council's obligations under the Localism Act 2011, the Single Status Agreement, the recommendations by the independent market assessment and the output of the pay review project (as agreed by General Services Committee on the 8 October 2018).

115. Capital Strategy 2019/20

Councillor Hebb, Portfolio Holder for Finance, presented the report that set out the strategic framework underpinning capital expenditure and the associated financing at the Council. The report also included the Treasury Management Strategy which had been previously considered in isolation up to 2018/19 which was also linked to the Council's ambitions of becoming a more commercially focused borough; one where sensible transactions were completed which created revenue returns that could then be allocated to spending on the services for Thurrock residents.

A sheet had been tabled for this item which reflected changes to Pages 65 and 66 of the agenda. This sheet can be found as a supplementary item on-line.

Councillor J Kent stated the Labour Group support to the recommendations.

Councillor Spillman stated the Thurrock Independent Group support to the recommendations.

The Mayor called a vote on this item to which Members voted unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

- 1. Approved the Capital Strategy for 2019/20 including approval of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement for 2019/20; and**
- 2. Approved the adoption of the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix 1; and**
- 3. Noted the revised 2018/19 and 2019/20 Treasury Management projections as set out in Annex 1 paragraph 2.32.**

116. General Fund Budget Proposals

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, to introduce the budget and advised that he had 20 minutes to do so.

Councillor Gledhill

Stated that 33 months ago the Conservatives took control of the Council after 6 years of a Labour administration, as I have outlined before we were told there was not enough taxpayers money coming in to supply basic services like street cleaning, grass cutting and pothole filling. A budget where the reserves had not been reviewed for six years despite rhetoric to the contrary. A budget where the graph of doom reigned supreme leaving a Council that was frankly dying of death of a thousand cuts to meet a political message rather than getting on with job of supplying public services.

In those 33 months we have seen external pressures put strain on the ever decreasing taxpayers funded income from Government which we have faced head on and tabled within budget. Indeed as a Council we receive £3.3m less in direct support than in 2016 yet despite this the only service cuts have been those agreed in those years' budgets.

The highest number of unaccompanied asylum seekers reduced to near maximum assumed level but now on the way up.

Vital equipment and staff replaced at a cost of £13.5m over both the capital and revenue budgets to replace that was either sold, unserviceable or released from service to ensure our streets are cleaner, our bins collected weekly and our parks and green spaces cut and cleared to be useable by all.

I remember at my first budget speech after only 9 months being elected leader I brought you the outcome of the same cash envelope that Labour and the then UKIP Councillors had agreed. Had we stuck to that budget we would have seen no street cleaners, no grass cutting ability, massive over spends in children's and adult social care, other non-statutory services costing the taxpayer money month in month out and so on. But instead, I brought you all the good news. Nearly £1/2 million extra in reserves, kept weekly bin collections, street cleaners removing tonnes of rubbish and a small surplus of £44 thousand, Oh boy how much has that changed.

We also promised in that budget: £1m increase in the environment department to continue clean it cut it fill it, £420 thousand in reserves, £1.3m investment in play equipment for our parks, £8.75m extra for new refuse and environmental support vehicles ensuring weekly bin collections, up to £2.6m redeveloping the civic amenity site.

Leap towards a year and not only did we deliver that but we exceeded it.

£3m into reserves, a one off budget surplus of £2.3m and a promise of the same year on year for the term of the MTFs, assigned £250k to tackle ABS which as I outlined in my portfolio holders report last month has delivered results, replaced the bin lorries and plant fleet, assigned more money to challenge the Lower Thames Crossing Proposals and to help with the local plan consultation.

This December with the one off surplus of 2018/19 we have set aside nearly a £1m for extra police over 3 years, £1/2m for mental health summit and support, £1/2m to help the Dedicated Schools grant for the higher needs unit, £1m for our kerb it campaign to protect and improve the public green spaces across Thurrock.

Again I have to make clear these one off surpluses are not something we can use for day to day running of the Council. So I could not for instance say I am putting an extra £250,000 into adult social care packages, supplying more staff for schools or three extra bin rounds. All this would do is put a pressure on the Council tax payer when these surpluses dwindle out in future years.

Equally making sweeping announcements and making massive spending commitments on surpluses that are not in the bank is dangerous. Yes we can outline what we would like to do but Conservative prudence would say that the approach of waiting for the money to be in the bank is better. Equally we do not know what pressure in year may need support to deliver the long term investment strategy. Just imagine if Thurrock Regeneration Limited hits similar problems to the St Chads scheme and needs extra support. Having committed the one off surplus money to other projects would in this example put at risk this long term income stream having a massive impact on the MTFs.

Finally we must remember it is in the gift of Cabinet, not full Council to allocate these surpluses so whilst I would be easy for me to mention possible projects like improving our CCTV capability tonight it will not be until Cabinet next December can any certainty to those plans be finalised. Equally we could decide that instead of lots of small one off spends we undertake one big project over a few years that would have a massive impact on the borough.

Now to the bit that annoys me the most, envelope setting. I have said it before and will say it again; I do not believe setting budget envelopes is setting a budget. A budget is not just an amount on a vague heading it should be outlining what you will be delivering for that amount.

However legislation is very clear only the Cabinet have the power to decide exactly where the money is spent so I will only refer to the envelope at page 98 paragraph 5.5.

However you will see in Appendix 3 an outline of the indicative budget for all areas. So where are the cuts I hear you ask? Well there are no cuts in this budget again only efficiency savings.

Let me take some time to make the clear distinction between cuts and the efficiency savings we have implemented. A cut is where you take service and reduce the spend in that area and remove part or all of the service as a good example the street cleaning service being slashed to next to nothing in 2015/16. An efficiency saving is where you remodel a service, make improvements to the efficiency or model of supply and the resulting savings are taken from that budget as example Councillor Halden remodelling of the children centres, moving some of them away from fixed buildings and supplying those service direct has saved £400,000 an seen a 25% increase in residents receiving the service.

It would be wrong for any public body not to look to being more efficient, to look at different models or models of delivering services, to supply the statutory requirements not just carry on doing what we have done in the past because that is what we have always done. As example by transforming the way we deal with adoptions and bringing them in house gives us better outcomes and a saving despite increasing the overall staff budget. Doing this across children's service as you will see on page 97 at 5.3 there are identified savings of nearly £3m but we have only allocated £800,000 reduction with the remaining £2m gives the budget more resilience and an increase of available funding in that department.

So yet again despite the amount of tax payers money allocated to us by central Government being reduced by 7.3% and no cuts, we are proposing a below the maximum Council tax increase as we did last year, not just below, WAY below.

So as I am sure you have all read we are proposing a zero % increase in the Council's portion of Council Tax this year. Why is that, well I think that is clear.

A balanced budget for not only this year but for the four future years. Not only a balanced budget but as mentioned a budget with one off surpluses year on year. Asking Thurrock residents for more money this year from their pockets when we have achieved this would be wrong, very wrong. We could have asked for a further 2.99% which is about £38 per year on a band D property but when we demonstrate that we do not need this increase why should we.

So that means this year nearly every copper coin our residents will see in Council tax increase will go towards coppers on the beat. Something no other Council in Essex can boast.

So yet again I have demonstrated that instead of spending time bemoaning that the Government is not giving Councils the money they want to spend, that we got on making efficiencies and raising the money ourselves through an investment and commerciality strategy that is delivered.

That we are determined to review every service to drive out every efficiency and commercial possibility to protect services to residents,

This shows that this administration is committed to supplying the services residents want like street cleaning, pothole filling, weekly bin collections, protecting verges, tackling anti-social behaviour, support those with mental health issues.

Not only supporting our residents but supporting the NHS by already investing £31m into designing and initial stages of delivering new integrated medical centre in Tilbury as a start on the four across the borough.

Putting in high quality bids to Government and SELEP and working closely with our MPs whilst applying for grants from growth and regeneration brings in vast amounts of capital to help improve infrastructure long overdue in Thurrock. You will see from appendix 7 page 129 £46.5m from Government for the long overdue East Facing Slips from Lakeside for an investment of 1/10th of that from Thurrock Council for example.

You will also note a significant difference in the potential capital spend for the Thameside. These upper and lower estimates are based on the two possibilities of just a refurbishment of the current provision all the way up to having to build a whole new theatre provision. We will of course await the long overdue options for this in the coming financial year.

So in conclusion, I am seeking approval from Council to set a zero % increase in Council Tax, an overall spending envelope of £111.69m from the Council Tax General Fund.

And £10.3m of additional capital for Major Schemes, £22.5m operational capital requirements with a further £5-30m over three years from improvement to the Thameside dependent on the finally agreed model of improvement or replacement.

The Mayor then invited the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor J Kent, to respond and advised that he had 15 minutes to do so.

Councillor J Kent

Thank you Madam Mayor and I can promise that I won't take anything like 15 minutes.

Can I start by welcoming, genuinely, much of the budget we have before us this evening. The idea of using borrowing and some of the money we have put away to make sensible investments with one of the previous Labour administrations. In fact, if we look at investments that we made such as investing money with CTLA that has now reached £10 million since we started. Other investments have raised roughly £3 million since we started. If we look at Labour's policy of debt restructuring, that has now amounted to £30 million worth of savings, but if I had gone into reserves or helped to prop up services, so I am not going to be in any way churlish at saying that I am glad that the current administration has continued with that policy.

I am also glad to see that Council Tax here is recommended to be frozen having battered people with a 10% increase in Council Tax over 2 years. People deserve a break. Now, I would just remind everybody that during the last Labour administration, we froze Council Tax three times and actually managed to reduce it once. There is a caveat – Councillor Gledhill finds that amusing, you'll remember it Rob –

Mayor

Councillors, can you please give Councillor John Kent the opportunity to present his report as we have done the same for Councillor Gledhill. Thank you.

Councillor J Kent

Madam Mayor, you're too protective, I took that as being supportive, not anything else. I promise you. There is a caveat with the Council Tax freeze and the same as any sensible Member of this Chamber this evening, I read the section 151 of the Officer's report very closely before I decided whether or not I could support the Council Tax freeze and he is very, very clear that this is pretty near the boat. That this is a kind of fine judgement call that it does rely on those savings – sorry, those efficiencies being delivered, as yet, unidentified but they have to be delivered. And Members and Officers have to be on their mettle to make sure that it happens. So I think we all need to be quite clear on that.

Councillor Gledhill was quite right, of course, when he said one of the things we would all like to discuss and would all like to make decisions on tonight is what we do with a surplus. That won't happen until December but what I would like to do is just to say, what a Labour's administration priority would be with that surplus and the first would be around homelessness.

We know that in this financial year so far, there are now in excess of 800 families that have come to this Council in fear of losing their homes. We know, because we get it in our casework, we get it in our surgeries; we are housing Thurrock residents in caravans on Canvey Island; as far as Maidstone, Kettering. We are sending dozens of families down to Southend. Madam Mayor, I think that is a scandal that has to stop. And I think that the bulk of the surplus that we have, some within the region of £2.5 to £3 million should be used in buying properties in Borough for Thurrock's homeless.

I then come to fuel poverty. Madam Mayor, we have seen in the last couple of weeks EDF Energy, EON, Npower, British Gas; all announced that they're putting the gas and electricity tariffs up by 10%. Fuel poverty in Thurrock is a real issue. I believe we should be putting forward a pot of money in the region of £750,000 as a one-off pot to help deal with the effects of fuel poverty here in Thurrock.

And thirdly Madam Mayor, we also see in surgeries, we all get the same issues coming to us time and time again. One of the issues that we get more than any is on the cleanliness of the Borough on those bits of unregistered land. It's back alleyways where the Council says we will not clear them, it's not our land. We have a surplus that will allow us to put some money to one side to do what residents want us to do and to clear that rubbish for them so I would suggest we put somewhere in the region of £250,000 to one side for that purpose.

Finally, I come back to the police. I cannot be hypocritical; I've stood here and bemoaned the lack of police. The administration has taken some action, has taken some money out of that surplus as a one-off to fund extra police. I support that; I'll support it being taken out of next year's surplus as well and the next year after. The difficulty though is that, you carry on funding it as a one-off, it becomes, to all intents and purposes, part of a mainstream service. I think the challenge is, for this Council to decide whether it actually wants to permanently find mainstream funding for an element of policing or whether it wants to continue to do it as a one-off. I don't think it's a debate for this evening but I'll put it out there. We need some clarity; we need to make a decision on it.

So, in closing, Madam Mayor, this is a budget but I hope the debate will be brief, I hope the debate will be collegiate in supporting the Council Tax freeze and therefore, supporting everything that follows from it.

The Mayor invited Councillor Gledhill to respond to Councillor J Kent and advised that he had 10 minutes to do so.

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Madam Mayor and I will not be taking the full 10 minutes. I will, as Councillor Kent suggested, be keeping this brief as I hope everyone else does too.

I welcome your welcoming Councillor Kent. It is always good to see we do get it right and hopefully, this whole budget will be passed this evening and I welcome your support on that. Not so much correct, but bring attention to everyone that the full story about the 10% increase, cannot forget that 6% of that was for adult social care. 6% of that is going to our most vulnerable in our society that we need to support. And we're going to hear a bit later on from Councillor Duffin in relation to his motion – which I will be supporting – about how Government changes its mind. So where we've always said oh Government this, paper this, Government this, paper this; this come out of central, ordinary taxation, that's really great but let's face it, Government will change its mind when it feels like it. And other mandarin will come up with a better idea and it will be put forward, it will be floated, it will go through consultation and end up with winners and losers. Sometimes Thurrock wins, sometimes they lose.

Now I'll move to the increase of 0% that under your previous administration, again, you forget to mention, they were propped up by extra support from central Government so the taxpayer paid it through the backdoor. And I think the one reduction we were talking about, was actually forced by one of your Members and it was a pittance of pennies. Oh yes, sorry, two reductions. I forgot the reduction that we forced upon you after you wanting to cut the bin collections to fortnightly. Councillor Hague, who was Leader at the time, quite rightly led for a quarter of a percent reduction. How could we ever forget that.

But moving onto the one you said on funding's. I'm sure it won't come across as a surprise that actually; a lot of the things you've mentioned are things we all agree across the Chamber. The homelessness support, shipping people out the Borough, I've had, not only residents been a victim of this, had no alternative to house them within the Borough. It isn't right, it isn't fair on them and it does cause problems. But equally, those people that have come from other Boroughs when their homelessness period support is up, that Borough needs to have them taken back to wherever they may have come from, invariably in London.

But I do support what you're saying, it wouldn't be right to buy properties that already exist. Should we build new properties specifically for homelessness support? My personal view is the second rather than the former. But ultimately, the outcome will probably be the same.

Yet fuel poverty. We also, as you can fully appreciate, have these enquiries from our residents. There is something that we are doing about it. I cannot actually tell you tonight because it's in the final stages of hopefully, agreement. But it is a different way so whilst I understand where your sentiments are coming from. Councillor Kent, it's not something specifically that we could probably accommodate but I'm not saying that we wouldn't do so if necessary.

Now we move onto this issue of back alleyways. Now you say this is unregistered land invariably and I know what this is like being a former

property owner myself, and the alleyway at the back is part of your deed and it says that you're responsible for x proportion of this with exception of x, y and z and various other little caveats. So invariably, these, and I say invariably, not all the time, are part of residents' properties. They just don't form part of the boundary access, the fences to the rear. If we clean it once, we're going to end up cleaning it every time which is not what we should be doing because this gets on to your last point. Should we put this into regular income and regular expenditure? I think not, far from it. I think what we should be doing is making very clear to all residents that they have a responsibility to look after their own back alleyways and it's their responsibilities to get it cleared up. However, where it is unregistered and we're not sure, then we do need to take action so again, there may well be some scope to accommodate some of the idea as we go through in December.

Also, agree in principle what you say about the policing, should we be having a discussion about having this continual support for part of the Council Tax that we ask residents for. We already do that through the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners pre-set and I think that's the way we should continue to do it. This is a 3 year project and the point of having a 3 year project is to see will it make a difference. But should it continue? If not, then we can disband that group. The police have a full understanding that it's only a 3 year contract. But if we feel that at the end of that, we are getting much, much more benefit than just the cash that we are paying for it, then that's the time we should be having that discussion. I don't mean 5 minutes to a 3 year end period, I mean, having a meaningful discussion and a meaningful vote long before.

So with that Madam Mayor, I do hope that the rest of the Chamber agree with the budget and agree with it accordingly.

The Mayor asked Members for any questions.

Councillor Duffin welcomed the zero % Council tax but stated his disappointed on how this had got there and needed to go further. Councillor Duffin suggested an amendment to Recommendation 1.2 "Agree to a 0% general fund Council tax increase". Members agreed to this amendment.

Councillor Cherry question how the surplus was spent and that further funding was required for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and mentioned that the scheme had been relaunched in Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary. That the scheme was to build up community spirit and to help prevent crime. Councillor Cherry stated that the Neighbourhood Watch Chair, Roger Passfield, had received additional funding of £1000 which was not sufficient to enable road signs and window stickers to be purchased.

Councillor Collins congratulated Councillor Hebb on the budget.

Councillor Gerrish stated he was pleased with the Council tax freeze but the budget was all "smoke and mirrors" where residents may be tricked into forgetting all previous budget increases. Councillor Gerrish agreed on the

Council tax freeze but stated the Council could not go on borrowing money tomorrow to pay for today with no plans to meet the gap in the deficit. The Administration and the Council needed to tackle the approaches currently being undertaken.

Councillor Huelin stated the Administration had balanced the books and had allowed spending on vital services such as the development fund for Tilbury, libraries, bus routes, new schools and Clean It Cut It Fill It. Councillor Huelin continued to thank all Officers that had helped to achieve this.

Councillor Spillman stated that the cost of living was increasing and that those costs were being piled onto residents. Councillor Spillman had concerns on retail outlets outside of the Lakeside Retail Park, on the efficiency savings for Children's Services and Looked After Children, the reduction to agency staff in the Council, temporary accommodation issues need to be addressed and to stop moving homeless Thurrock residents out of the borough as this could be seen as social cleansing.

Councillor Allen questioned why the Council had not invested in purchasing Grays Town Centre when it had been up for sale and stated the Council should be looking at investments to earn the Council more money.

Councillor C Kent commented on street services and how residents would like to see more action taken on fly-tipping in alley-ways and was disappointed with the proposed plan and asked the Leader to reconsider and to look at each case individually.

Councillor Potheary stated that the priorities should be what residents want and that the Council had been failing expectations. That tackling of fly-tipping in alley-ways and in communal areas had to be addressed. The Council should be spending more on homes to house homeless residents. Councillor Potheary stated that there was no reference to how congestion and air pollution would be tackled and that Thurrock residents deserved better.

Councillor Redsell applauded the Neighbourhood Watch work that Councillor Cherry was undertaking but Councillors should not come to the Council for everything and it was about Councillors raising money similar to the work being undertaken by the Friends of Blackshots.

Councillor G Rice stated his support for the budget but stated action had to be taken on homelessness and welcomed the money spent on police following the reduction of 22,000 police in 2010 and understood that residents were turning to the Neighbourhood Watch schemes as police were no longer walking the streets.

Councillor Halden stated Members should be proud of the balanced budget which had changed the culture of the Council. Councillor Halden referred to the regeneration and investment into the borough, the Clean It Cut It Fill It initiative, mental health, extra police, and injunctions against gangs,

improvements to the community hospital, the integrated medical centre programme and the next generation Council housing initiative.

Councillor Watkins stated this was his third budget Council and it was vital for all Members to have their individual views. The Council had continued to see investments such as fly-tipping, roads, potholes, enforcement officers, weekly bin collections, bus services and investments into new schemes such as mental health and police officers.

Councillor Hebb stated the Thurrock Council economy was strong with the Administration committed to doing things differently by embarking on a long term self-sufficiency objective. The success of which ensured that services used by residents would be protected for 4 years. The Budget Review Panel had been replaced with the Council Spending Review, initiated more savings for the rainy day fund, moved to top down cuts and bottom up service review. Councillor Hebb made references to other Authorities that were not in the same position as Thurrock with them looking to see what Thurrock had been doing differently.

Councillor Coxshall stated that the homelessness issue would be addressed in the next stage of the Local Plan where conversations would take place on where new homes should be built. Councillor Coxshall encouraged all Members to work together on this and have honest conversations so this could be delivered as one voice.

Councillor Worrall reiterated that no libraries had been closed under the Labour Administration. Councillor Worrall commented on Orsett Church providing clothes and feeding the homeless, the increase number of MHO for younger people and the conditions that young mothers had to live in was shameful. The Council needed to go further and tackle the waiting list of 800 homeless families. A change of plan was required as it was not sustainable to send Thurrock residents out of the borough. The Council were not taking full advantage of the Thurrock Regeneration Limited which appeared to be doing nothing. The Council should be building Council homes, buying homes and questioned what was stopping the Council from doing this. Councillor Worrall also welcomed the increase of funds to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour but this was not sufficient.

Councillor Akinbohun questioned whether the cause of anti-social behaviour and crime in Chafford Hundred could be down to the number of refugees and to the lack of benefits that they received.

Councillor Fish agreed that more had to be done on homelessness and quickly so that those residents could be better housed.

Councillor Gledhill briefing provided updates to Member questions.

Councillor Cherry – A payment of £1000 had been given to the Neighbourhood Watch scheme this was compared to the £800 provided by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Gerrish – No smoke and mirror just clear on what is being delivered and the improvements being made.

Councillor Spillman - Children’s Services only a third of the allocated budget had been applied with an agreement on temporary housing being looked at on how this would be delivered.

Councillor Allen – Return of investments – the Council had decided not to invest in Grays Town Centre and had decided to invest elsewhere.

Councillor C Kent – This was taxpayers money and should not be wished away.

Councillor Rice – The number of Police was 3000 in November and would increase to 3200 in the next financial year.

A non-recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.1. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.1 to be carried.

A recorded vote took place on the amended recommendation 1.2 the result of which was:

For : Councillors Abbas, Akinbohun, Allen, Anderson, Cherry, Churchman, Collins, Coxshall, Duffin, Fish, Fletcher, Gamester, Gerrish, Gledhill, Hague, Halden, Hamilton, Hebb, Holloway, Huelin, Jefferies, Johnson, Kelly, C Kent, J Kent, Kerin, Lawrence, Liddiard, Little, MacPherson, Maney, Okunade, Piccolo, Potheary, Potter, Redsell, B Rice, G Rice, Rigby, Sammons, Shinnick, Smith, Spillman, Tolson, Watkins, Worrall (46)

Against : (0)

Abstain : (0)

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.2 to be carried.

A non-recorded vote took place on recommendations 1.3 and 1.4. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendations 1.3 and 1.4 to be carried.

Finally, a recorded en-bloc vote would take place on recommendations 1.5 to 1.10 the result of which was:

For : Councillors Abbas, Akinbohun, Allen, Anderson, Cherry, Churchman, Collins, Coxshall, Duffin, Fish, Fletcher, Gamester, Gerrish, Gledhill, Hague, Halden, Hamilton, Hebb, Holloway, Huelin, Jefferies, Johnson, Kelly, C Kent, J Kent, Kerin, Lawrence, Liddiard, Little, MacPherson, Maney, Okunade, Piccolo, Potheary, Potter, Redsell, B Rice, G Rice, Rigby, Sammons, Shinnick, Smith, Spillman, Tolson, Watkins, Worrall (46)

Against : (0)

Abstain : (0)

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendations 1.5 to 1.10 to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

- 1. Considered and acknowledged the Section 151 Officer's (Director of Finance and IT's) S25 report on the robustness of the proposed budget, the adequacy of the Council's reserves and the Reserves Strategy as set out in Appendix 1, including the conditions upon which the following recommendations are made;**
- 2. Agreed to a 0% general fund council tax increase;**
- 3. Approved the new General Fund capital proposals, including the allocation for feasibility work on future and aspirational proposals, as set out in section 10 and Appendix 7;**
- 4. Delegated to Cabinet the ability to agree schemes (a) where it can be evidenced that there is a spend to save opportunity or (b) that use any unbudgeted contributions from third parties, including those by way of grants or developers' contributions, and these be deemed as part of the capital programme.**

Statutory Council Tax Resolution

(Members should note that these recommendations are a result of the previous recommendations above and can be agreed as written or as amended by any changes agreed to those above).

- 5. Calculated that the council tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019/20 is £66,062,077 as set out in the table at paragraph 5.8 of this report.**
- 6. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:**
 - (a) £428,070,964 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act.**
 - (b) £362,008,887 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.**
 - (c) £66,062,077 being the amount by which the aggregate at 1.8(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 1.8(b) above,**

calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).

- (d) £1,287.81 being the amount at 1.8(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (Council Tax Base of 51,298), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £0 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - (f) £1,287.81 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by Item T, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
7. Noted that the Police Authority and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the tables below.
8. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of council tax for 2019/20 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

**2019/20 COUNCIL TAX FOR THURROCK PURPOSES EXCLUDING ESSEX
FIRE AUTHORITY AND ESSEX POLICE AUTHORITY**

Amounts for the Valuation Bands for 2019/20							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
858.54	1,001.63	1,144.72	1,287.81	1,573.99	1,860.17	2,146.35	2,575.62

9. That it be noted that for the year 2019/20 Essex Police Authority has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council for each of the categories of dwellings as follows:

Amounts for the Valuation Bands for 2019/20							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
128.64	150.08	171.52	192.96	235.84	278.72	321.60	385.92

10. That it be noted that for the year 2019/20 Essex Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council for each of the categories of dwellings as follows (waiting on formal confirmation):

Amounts for the Valuation Bands for 2019/20							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
48.30	56.35	64.40	72.45	88.55	104.65	120.75	144.90

2019/20 COUNCIL TAX (INCLUDING FIRE AND POLICE AUTHORITY PRECEPTS)

Amounts for the Valuation Bands for 2019/20							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
1,035.48	1,208.06	1,380.64	1,553.22	1,898.38	2,243.54	2,588.70	3,106.44

117. Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 5 questions to the Leader had been received and 8 questions to Cabinet Members. Those not heard would either receive a written response or have the option to withdraw and resubmit.

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

At 8.59pm Councillors MacPherson and Tolson left the Council Chamber.

At 9.06pm the mayor called time on this item.

Councillor Redsell requested question to be resubmitted.

Councillor Cherry requested a written response.

Councillor Worrall requested a written response.

Councillor J Kent requested a written response.

Councillor Akinbohun requested a written response.

Councillor Smith requested a written response.

Councillor Allen requested question to be resubmitted..

118. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies

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

119. Minutes of Committees

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

120. 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.

121. Motion submitted by Councillor Holloway

The Motion was withdrawn by Councillor Holloway prior to the meeting.

122. Motion submitted by Councillor Duffin

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

Thurrock Council will write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling on the Government to reverse its policy of placing Authorities who do not increase Council Tax to the maximum level at a financial disadvantage by assuming such a notional increase have been made when calculating the amount of business rates they will be allowed to retain.

Councillor Duffin introduced the Motion by stating that those Authorities that did not increase Council Tax to a maximum level were being punished by the Government and recommend the Council to call on the Government to stop this practice.

Councillor Gledhill stated that it was a good motion and the policy should be reversed to ensure that those Authorities that do well on finances should not be penalised.

Councillor Duffin stated that Thurrock was already below the notional level and that with any further cuts and punishments from the Government would make it harder for the Council to deliver.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

Upon being put to the vote members agreed unanimously, whereupon the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

The meeting finished at 9.12 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 – 27 February 2019

Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public

There was 1 question from members of the public.

1. From Mr Jones to Councillor Watkins

In September 2017 as ward Councillor for Stanford East and Corringham Town Centre I handed in a petition and spoke on behalf of residents regards the poor condition of the road surface in Gordon Road Corringham between Springhouse Road and the Sorrels. Could the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways please supply an update on this issue?

Mayor

Councillor Watkins, please respond.

Councillor Watkins

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Mr Jones for your question.

Speaking on people who are coming to the end of their tenure this year, it's good to see you back in the Chamber this evening as well. And I think it's also right to say that I do remember you delivering that petition and I think actually that some things do go a bit unnoticed sometimes if it weren't for some former Councillors will do after tenure is up because they still have a vested interest in the area and I think Corringham residents are lucky to know that you're still standing up for them today.

I can confirm that as part of the additional money that Thurrock Council got from the Government which is part of the budget 2018, a series of work are being done across the Borough. Just to name a couple of those roads, you've seen Brentwood Road which has already been done, in Chadwell, Romford Road, Ship Lane to name a few across the entire Borough are getting some work done. I can confirm that Gordon Road, in that particular section, will be done this year as well.

Mayor

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

Mr Jones

Yes please Madam Mayor. Thanks very much Councillor Watkins for your reply.

I know for a fact that the residents on Gordon Road will be greatly relieved because this is a major bus route; it's a major HGV delivery route to the town

centre so they'll be very welcome of this. Could you tell us when these works may start and if there are other works to be done in and around Corringham?

Mayor

Councillor Watkins.

Councillor Watkins

Thank you very much Madam Mayor, thank you Mr Jones for your supplementary.

I can confirm that works will be taking place around the third week of March of this year on Gordon Road. And I can confirm that yes, there is further work to be done in and around the Corringham, Stanford area from the Government funding for this year. To name a couple there, you've got High Road in Fobbing, sections all across Southend Road will also be done and the Manorway. And also, where we're going into 2019/2020 years part of Capital Plan moving forward, there'll be further work taking place, not just in Corringham and Stanford but across the Borough as well.

Mayor

Thank you Mr Jones.

Unfortunately, Mr Perrin is unwell this evening and cannot attend and would like to pass his apologies onto to Councillor Hebb. And indeed, we send our good wishes from the Chamber to Mr Perrin. And the Chief Executive has already sent out best wishes to him, thank you for that.

Item 15 – Questions from Members

QUESTION TIME

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

There was 5 question to the Leader and 8 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

1. From Councillor Maney to Councillor Gledhill

Last year we saw some disturbing headlines that highlighted how street drinkers were dishonouring our war dead by drinking around Grays war memorial and generally behaving in an unacceptable manner. Can the Leader outline what action has/will be taken in order to help prevent this from happening again?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill.

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor Maney for your question. I, like the vast majority of residents, were sickened to see those in Thurrock who fell, dishonoured by a mindless few who clearly have no respect for those who fought and died to give them the freedom to do what they were doing. As you know, for the 100 year anniversary First World War, this administration set aside £150,000 to clean up and enhance the memorials across the Borough and I maintain that part of Grays has been cleaned from top to bottom to become something befitting the fallen.

So to have people use it as a toilet; as a place to pass out from too much drinking; or even to use it as an improper seating area to consume can after can; and to abuse town centre users have to stop. So we took a two pronged approach to tackle this. We erected fencing around the war memorial flower beds to deter anyone using it as an impromptu seating or sleeping area. The fencing not only aids as a physical deterrence but also improves the overall look of the war memorial.

As you know, the designated public place order that it was that former Councillor Charlie Key fought so hard for in Grays was put in place by this Council but from the day it was introduced, it was pretty much ignored. To be honest, it was viewed as a pointless exercise by residents and the police had to focus on more serious crimes. We, as a Council, did nothing. This led to

many residents saying they wouldn't go into Grays after 10am for fear of being abused or harassed by those clearly drunk in the High Street.

However, after two years of putting resources in to tackle this and litter issues through a much tougher approach, the new Public Protection Order Zone seems to be working much better. Environment Enforcement Officers have been working in partnership with Essex Police to enforce the PSPO in the Grays town centre, this has resulted in a number of street drinkers who are identified to take appropriate action to remove them and offers of help given to improve their lives. Ad-hoc street drinkers can still be seen from time to time and I'm sure as the weather improves, we may see a slow return of some of them but both the police, enforcement officers have the powers to move them on quickly, to issue fines and eventually for banning orders to put in place as of last year.

We cannot forget, Grays is our Borough capital, we have massive investment programme, public and private money going into Grays and we wish to attract more and more developers, retailers to improve the High Street as Councillor Spillman pointed out earlier and unless we make sure Grays is as safe and as clean as possible, this will not happen.

Mayor

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

Councillor Maney

Thank you Madam Mayor, I do. I am, like most members, I am sure hearted by that response. Street drinking has been a problem in Grays for a very long time and more recently there has been some focus on those who sell alcohol directly to street drinkers many of them are intoxicated when they buy the alcohol. I wonder if the Leader could give an update on what the council is doing to tackle this.

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill

Yes thank you Madam Mayor. Thank you Councillor Maney for your second question. Last year there was an idea that alcohol was being sold to street drinkers was being sold by irresponsible retailers in or around the High Street. On investigation this appeared may not have actually been the case it appears that the individual was buying this as a third party and selling it to them direct. Obviously number one this is clear breach of licensing rules but also just making the whole of that area much more susceptible to street drinkers no doubt making profit for themselves at the expense of every other tax payer. But what we have also introduced obviously as a Council is this it is the responsible retailer's pack that will be given out to all new retailers that will

be selling either alcohol or any other restricted items and contains various posters like Think 25, don't buy sell cigarettes or alcohol to under 18s. This gives the retailers the ability to instantly set up shop and be responsible retailers. I understand that the person who had been identified has now moved away so hopefully that this will not be a problem going into this municipal year.

Mayor

Councillor Maney do you wish to pose a second supplementary question.

Councillor Maney

Thank you Madam Mayor, I will briefly if I might. The Leader touched on regeneration in Grays and really in posing this question a wider issue of Grays and the decline of the town featured in my mind having been re-elected last year and having been a councillor for Grays seat many times again it comes up on the door step that local people regard the town hasn't seen its best days. The Leader as I have said mentioned regeneration and I welcome that but reality is that although the Council is formulated a regeneration plan and with the Governments supporting millions of pounds will likely be spent in the town unless we do get outside investments that will really count for little in the long terms but I wonder if the Leader could just expand on a bit more on what his administration is doing to bring in outside investment.

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill. Can I remind you that I did ask for questions to be brief and answers to be brief so that as many people that have taken the time to put questions forward can have their questions answered. Thank you very much.

Councillor Gledhill

It will be brief Madam Mayor as I have mentioned in my opening speech we have got the owners of the shopping mall looking to invest in Thurrock, we ourselves and Government £40m for the new underpass, walk through whichever way you wish to call it, new council offices to join the place from the college all the way through to the renewed court house. We need to bring in investments by showing and leading by example and that is something that we are doing with the regeneration of Grays. We have heard it time and time again even since before I was a councillor that Grays is good, Grays is bad. Grays needs to be better change and that is what we are aiming for. Thank you Madam Mayor.

2. From Councillor Cherry to Councillor Gledhill

Already we have had travellers arriving at the Haven in Chadwell St Mary, there are many other such historically used sites in Chadwell and across the Borough. I know what we can do after they arrive but what is being physically

done to prevent such land incursions this year 2019 and what preparations are being put in?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Madam Mayor. Since taking this administration we have been working hard through target hardening to reduce these incursions that includes putting in fencing, height restrictions, new padlock systems, raised kerbs or indeed bunding. We have improved securing the locks on the gates with steel covers as we all know they seem to miraculously get cut just hours before these incursions happen. We cannot obviously do that everywhere so we have as you can imagine looked at the most visited areas for one of a better term and we are putting in place a number of physical measures to stop this from happening. I do have a list of those but do not want to give those out in public for obvious reasons but quite gladly share these with you after the meeting or indeed next week. As an idea £128,600 across the borough last year with a further £77,000 being spent next 6 weeks on target hardening alone. On the flip side of that we are also still pursuing our high court injunction unfortunately the London Borough of Bromley had to adjourn their case following further submissions from others and that was supposed to be heard on the 28 February and that has been delayed again but once this has been heard and the outcome is known we will use our injunction which is I understand already to go just using the time now for further information to make that even stronger and the very second that we can we will put that through the high court.

Mayor

Councillor Cherry do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

Councillor Cherry

Yes Madam Mayor. Thank you for that, that is quite satisfying really because I have been working with the council officers to improve Chadwell St Mary and a lot of work has been done there but in Chadwell Hill there is still rotten knee high rails that could easily be broken if you sat on them quite hard so if that could be looked at. The same with Thames Drive and I have noticed that there is still a broken tree line in Blackshots field where we had a massive incursion and I have seen tyre marks going through there recently. So that is still open and I suggest perhaps that could be looked at. But then I would also like to be able to approach every councillor on their wards and ask them directly about their wards and how their wards can be further improved in regards to this particular subject before we have any further more incursions. Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Madam Mayor. As I have said I can't go into any specific detail in public but you may gather from me pointing that out that some of these are already being thought about and will be addressed. We did actually ask all members through the injunction process to give us the experiences they have had and I know a lot of members had taken part in that to which we are grateful and hopefully that will make an impact when comes to getting the injunction and yes if the time needs to ask all members again so I shall take that on board and make sure that happens. I would actually ask of course that it is not just members but see this as residents and the very second they see this is to call 101 and report it. That's elected members or residents. Call the police and give the information. It makes it much easier for them to use their powers to remove people within hours sometimes within 24 hours rather than the week to 10 days as it can take us under the section 77.

Mayor

Councillor Cherry do you wish to pose a secondary supplementary question.

Councillor Cherry

Yes a very brief one. I am glad you said you are going to consult my fellow councillors regards this and residents but being a resident of Little Thurrock ward, your own ward sir, I have got a site there that I would like to discuss with yourself or with officers about target hardening. So perhaps I will make some contact quite quickly. Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Madam Mayor. Actually Little Thurrock is one of the few wards that have escaped incursions because there are not many places that they can park up and have a fairly good idea where you are talking about and I have already approached officers in relation to that one. Sure so if this is somewhere different we can have that discussion. The bigger problem that we have in Little Thurrock is people buying land building on it without permission and also being travellers which we are dealing with through planning. Thank you Madam Mayor.

3. From Councillor Liddiard to Councillor Gledhill

What can be done to remove the travellers in Fort Road next to Anglian waste treatment site? They have been there for over one year despite several complaints into Council.

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Madam Mayor. Apologies for this I have a very very late amendment to this which I have had to type up. The issue is more complex and one normal land ownership issue. It appeared originally that the land in question the unauthorised encampment had taken place on had been looked after by a man paid by the Tilbury Commoners. Tilbury Commoners describe themselves as a statutory body with a jurisdiction of containing 148 acres of land in question. This has been presented to council with an unusual position as Tilbury Commoners did give us permission to move the travellers off that land after discussions. However it would appear when we have gone to serve the section 77 notice to ask them to move on that there may a land ownership issue that needs to be resolved. Once that has been resolved there is the intention of serving the section 77 notice by the Essex County Traveller Unit. It does appear as we fear as it passes onto somebody else's land then we will be advising the owner that they need to step forward and move these on.

Mayor

Councillor Liddiard do you have a supplementary question.

Councillor Liddiard

No thank you.

4. From Councillor Maney to Councillor Gledhill

Would the Leader explain by what means the Council monitors members' attendance so as to ensure compliance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 (vacation of office by failure to attend meetings)? Further, has the Council recently initiated any investigations or proceedings in accordance with this provision?

Mayor:

Can I just please make a note on this question that names and people cannot be identified through the question. Thank you very much. Councillor Maney.

Councillor Maney:

Would the Leader explain by what means the Council monitors members' attendance so as to ensure compliance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 (vacation of office by failure to attend meetings)? Further, has the Council recently initiated any investigations or proceedings in accordance with this provision?

Mayor:

Councillor Gledhill. Please heed my warning.

Councillor Gledhill:

Thank you very much Madam Mayor and Councillor Maney. I shall heed your warning but I need to say that this Section 85 Section 85 (1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) provides the legislation for a vacation of office if an elected Member fails to attend a meeting of the Council, or represents the Council in a wider range of meetings, through a continuous period of 6 months, without prior approval. I am not going to list what it also includes but basically it is just meetings of the Authority; sub-committee of the said Authority; Joint body; Joint board; attendance as representative of the authority at a meeting of anybody of persons. Those wider group meetings that may qualify as attendance outside the Council do not appear in the municipal diary. They cannot be readily monitored by our Mod.Gov system so if any member appears to have missed six consecutive meetings on the Mod.Gov system the Council would be required on request to submit the details of their attendance at such meetings to the proper officer. If the elected member cannot supply the evidence that they have attended a qualifying meeting after a fair procedure the proper officer would on the necessary evidence and declare the vacancy in pursuant to Section 85. Ultimately it is for members to monitor their own attendance on Mod.Gov with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 which had been explained to all members on induction and it is up to them, as I say, to monitor their own attendance. The second part of your question at the last council meeting I brought to the attention of officers that it appeared an elected member who I shall not name had not attended for six consecutive months. I repeated this to the chief executive on Thursday and as you have already made clear Madam Mayor, and indeed we have made clear in the past, the Council's corporate body does not comment on any action it may or may not be taken against an individual or an elected member. Indeed, I have been informed this would be breach of general data protection regulations however I have every confidence in the chief executive and the monitoring officer in this matter and positive that actions were taken as outlined in part 1 of my answer is that should any member appeared to have missed six consecutive meetings of the council the council would be required on request to submit details of their attendance of such meetings to the proper officer and that was carried out.

Mayor:

Thank you very much. Councillor Maney do you have a supplementary question.

Councillor Maney:

Thank you Madam Mayor, yes I do. Without naming members we do now know why there is an Aveley by-election and quite frankly I would like to share your confidence in officers. But I have to say I am astounded that it took a member to report another member's absence and in your answer you said something along the lines that if members appeared to have missed six meetings on the Mod.Gov system the council would be required on request to submit details of their attendance. That is all very well and good if it is being monitored at officer level. My question therefore is as it is wholly acceptable that members should have to monitor other member's attendance what is being done to ensure that investigations are initiated at officer level by officers and not due to the intervention of members. Because had you not intervened and had you not reported the absent councillor who won't be named lack of attendance he would still be representing the people of Aveley tonight if though he was unfit for public office and in my view that is a failure at the very highest of officer level. Thank you Madam Mayor.

Mayor:

I would like to intervene here and I am not going to allow you or Councillor Gledhill to continue with this line of questioning. I think it is totally wrong that we bring these debates into this chamber. This is a question time where we have members of the public present that won't to know about this council. If there is anything that you want to take up with officers or anything else this should be done in the privacy outside of this chamber. I am now going to continue with the questions.

5. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Gledhill

Will the Leader of the Council set out the benefits to the local community of the Conservative Administration's plans to spend £10 million on building new Council offices?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Madam Mayor. Thank you Councillor Kent for your question. Obviously I will try my best to answer the question as it is quite clearly in the public interest. It is in two parts Madam Mayor. The Grays South Regeneration Programme is an ambitious £40m plan to enhance the space around Grays rail station and create transform gateway into the borough and

the civic quarter along to the South Essex College (Grays Campus). This is something that the Conservatives were fully in support of whilst Labour ran the council and had made the original proposals for the change to the whole of Grays. As well as replacing the level crossing with a pedestrian walk through as I have been told it is called and enhances the public realm the extension to the civic offices will benefit the community by directly transforming a key site in the wider regeneration of Grays town centre which would be additional jobs including apprenticeships, training and investment to the local area. It will be providing a modern public facing community focused and fit for purpose building for the residents and visitors that come to Thurrock. Provisional for a new multiple functional space for local use and for hire by the community which includes a new café, a registry office and a ceremonial gardens for those people that wish to get married at the registry office have a much nicer vista when it comes to their photographs and enjoying one of the happiest days of their lives. There will also be an area set aside for those that come homeless waiting for temporary accommodation, to wait with dignity and to store their belongings whilst they wait. Other rooms set aside for residents to engage with services in private where needed again to maintain a level of discretion and privacy. Implementation of the civic offices extension will enable us to support the economy of the town centre and provide an inspirational and leadership of the regeneration projects in Grays. Our commitments to the investments in Grays will bring confidence and certain, certainly for the private investors and developers will bring forward their own investment projects aligned with ours. We certainly could not expect the new town owners, the Weatherspoon or indeed any other partners that investors in Grays or indeed Thurrock if we cannot set the scene ourselves. The second part of this is that I do need to make clear where the £10m comes from. This is £4.15m from the capital programme agreed in your budget in February 2015 this was on top of the £5.2m you spent refurbishing the non-public parts of this building. £400,000 allocated as a new budget by this Administration in 2018/19. £2.8m of estimated income from the sale of the post completion of the now soon to be the defunct civic offices one building which is basically that part, which will end up being cost neutral. £2.2m from other existing feasibility and business case budgets along with the money set aside for the maintenance improvements for the future of CO1 which as I say will be defunct. So in short nearly half of this had been set aside by your administration, a quarter was funding from the what will be the defunct empty building eventually. One twelfth from the additional funding from the Conservative administration and three twelfths from the existing budget which has been set aside to improve that this Council does business and maintains of the building that will no longer exist.

Mayor

Councillor John Kent to do wish to pose a supplementary question.

Councillor J Kent

Madam Mayor I am grateful for the confirmation that it is around £10m. I couldn't really from the answer the Leader gave get to the core of what he

thinks will improve life for residents. He spoke about transforming the site. What that actually means is compulsory purchasing every shop south of the railway line in Grays and demolishing them to make way for a new council offices. He spoke about a ceremonial garden we have to remember that these new offices will be built on the Mulberry Gardens, gardens dedicated in memory of the D-Day landings. He talked about, what sounded like, better management of homelessness as homeless people come into the building. I don't think we should be better managing homelessness I think we should be eradicating it Madam Mayor. And then finally he spoke about how a new registry office for things like weddings. You know, frankly Madam Mayor I think that is backwards thinking. We have plenty of places in Thurrock that are licensed or could be licensed for weddings. The authority should be looking at sign posting people to those venues rather than spending £10m in creating one of our own. So the question is Madam Mayor what is the key core clinching argument for this £10m from the Leader of the council.

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Madam Mayor. I have said it once, I have said twice and I will say it again. We need to be bringing more investment into Grays, not just this council office. What we do here is a catalyst for more many others things will hopefully happen and in deed will encourage those investors to come into Grays and Thurrock and see that the Council are doing their bit we need to match it. And it is not about eradicating homeless, it would be lovely to eradicate homeless but the reality is that homeless cases will still happen. And I am sorry they desire as much dignity as anybody else. I hate to see those poor residents sitting outside in the current reception, the reception that you did not spend any money on at all, although half a million pound had been put away for. Sorry £5m away for. Actually sitting there on display with all their goods I think that is absolutely terrible and degrading. So that would be gone. So moving people to new licensed premises to have their weddings not everybody has got that kind of money John we hear time and time again there isn't enough money in the economy, people are poor, they can't afford this, they cannot afford that, but I am sorry when it comes to their wedding day they all try and do as much as they possible can and we are doing our little bit within this by supplying a registry office that is fit for purpose and not in somewhere which is just in a building that is long overdue for regeneration in its self. So its not just about what is going to happen here that's typical close minded of Labour it is just what can we see, what can we have a go at. They do not see the bigger picture. Madam Mayor this is about the bigger picture about Grays and Grays Regeneration and not just about finishing off the job that this Labour administration when they were in charge failed to do but by putting the rest of the offices first and not our residents and we are making sure it is fit for purpose as we go into not only 2020 into 2030 2040 and for the future as we go forward. Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor John Kent to do wish to pose a second supplementary question.

Councillor J Kent

Madam Mayor if the Leader of the council is so worried about the dignity of homeless people he doesn't have to wait for new offices to be built he could spend some of the money that has been put to one side dealing with that issue now. He talked about the bigger picture I have now asked twice I haven't had the bigger picture. I've had an awful lot of management speak but I have not had a single good reason for spending £10m of capital money on building new council offices. So I ask the Leader of the council that this will he reconsider Madam Mayor and scrap these plans.

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Madam Mayor. Just shows you how far backwards Councillor Kent is in what we are actually doing in this office. We have already set aside a small area to improve the dignity of those that are homeless whilst they are waiting for accommodation but sometimes it is not just enough. That is outside of control of Thurrock council at the moment and hopefully as we go forward we do build new homes that will help that will improve. You asked, you have not received one reason. I have given you plenty of reasons John. Regeneration of Grays is something that you put forward under your administration that we are delivering. We are delivering that £5m that you put aside to do exactly the same kind of work but as usual let's fiddle with what we've got rather than look at the bigger picture. Well I'm sorry Madam Mayor this Conservative administration looks beyond the front doors that currently exist we look to the future and how that will improve the customer experience for those that are coming in, for those that are going to have weddings, for those that need that bit of dignity in one of the most toughest times of their lives, for those going through the happiest day of their lives equally and to ensure we are getting the regeneration that we need from outside Government and council spend that people want to spend their money, improve the high street and improve Grays for everyone.

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

1. From Councillor Redsell to Councillor Halden

Legal advice given on 13 June 2018 Cabinet report regarding the free school programme and land disposal stated that the local authority would be legally obliged to consult should it agree to dispose "open space" which includes land used for recreation. The land disposed of for the potential construction of Orsett Heath Academy in Blackshots fits this definition. Would the Portfolio Holder therefore detail what consultation the Council undertook prior to the disposal.

Mayor

Councillor Halden please respond.

Councillor Halden

Thank you Madam Mayor before disposal can be affected a 2 week consultation is required under the local Government act. The consultation on this site ran between the 12 and 25 July. A notice of consultation was placed in the 12 and 19 July of the editions of the Thurrock Gazette. Physical copies of the notices were placed at several points around and on the site on the 12 July. Letters were also written to local stake holders and the interest parties on the 14 July notifying them of the forthcoming consultation. If anyone who is concerned that they believe it may have been a quiet consultation that I would remind them that I had multiple public questions in this chamber, multiple questions from members in this chamber, 2 separate cabinet reports and a planning committee report. All in public, all in the chamber. The proof is really in the pudding that I have had multiple emails from local people, formal letters were lodged during the consultation and the press have dedicated multiple columns to this issue and as I have said in the past Madam Mayor I am extremely proud that we are delivering £70m investment to delivery 3500 new school places in this borough.

Mayor

Thank you very much. You may pose your supplementary but we might not have time to answer it.

Councillor Redsell

Thank you Madam Mayor. In light of the new Orsett Heath School being delayed for a few months can the portfolio holder verify that the children starting in September will have a place to go.

Mayor

Councillor Halden

Councillor Halden

Yes.

2. Councillor Redsell requested question to be resubmitted.
3. Councillor Cherry requested a written response.
4. Councillor Worrall requested a written response.
5. Councillor J Kent requested a written response.
6. Councillor Akinbohun requested a written response.
7. Councillor Smith requested a written response.
8. Councillor Allen requested question to be resubmitted.

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22 May 2019	ITEM: 8
Annual Council	
The Localism Act 2011 – Appointment of Independent Persons	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key
Report of: Councillor R Gledhill, Leader of the Council	
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report follows the decision of the Council on 25 May 2016, which agreed pursuant to section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 to continue the appointment of Sarah Cooper-James and Fiona Fairweather as its Independent Persons until the Annual Meeting of Council in 2019.

The Independent Persons, as required by the new governance regime under the Localism Act 2011, have now held the role for just under five years.

Having reviewed the situation, the Monitoring Officer is of the opinion to recommend that the engagement of the Independent Persons should be set to continue until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022. This will afford time to further enhance their skills and competencies.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That, for the purposes of section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council agree to continue the appointment of Sarah Cooper-James, Fiona Fairweather as its Independent Persons until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2022.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Localism Act 2011 (the “Act”) changed the arrangements for dealing with governance issues regarding the conduct of Members. It abolished the national Standards Board and required that local authorities establish their

own Code of Conduct and establish a process for dealing with allegations that members of the authority may have breached the Code of Conduct.

- 2.2 To add external input, section 28(7) of the Act required the Council to appoint at least one “independent person”, who must be consulted and their views taken into account on all complaints investigated and before a decision on any such complaint is made. The Council may consult with the independent person on other matters relating to an allegation and the Member complained about can also seek the independent person’s views.
- 2.3 The provisions of the Localism Act took effect from 1 July 2012 and at its meeting on 25 July 2012, the Council agreed a new Code of Conduct and Complaints Procedure to replace transitional arrangements. To ensure “independence”, the Independent Person is not to have links to the Council, councillors or officers.
- 2.4 The role of the independent person has since been widened under the Local Authority’s (Standing Orders) England (Amendment) Regulations 2015, which came into force on 11 May 2015. These new regulations change the localised disciplinary process in relation to the Council’s Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer statutory positions. In the case of any proposed disciplinary action against such a statutory officer, the Council is required to appoint the independent persons who have been appointed for the purposes of the Members Code of Conduct regime to the Chief Officer Appointments Committee, which makes recommendations to Full Council regarding any decision to dismiss a statutory officer.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

Review

- 3.1 Under the localism regime, the Monitoring Officer is pleased to report that the number of complaints against Members is relatively low and compares favourably with other Councils within the region. This does mean that the role of the Independent Person has not been exercised in practice. To address this, training has been provided and the opportunity to meet with other independent persons has been provided.
- 3.2 The view is that, whilst the period of tenure was set to end at the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2019, the Independent Persons have yet to reach their full potential. As the process of recruitment is complex, time consuming and expensive, it is considered the best use of resources is to invest in training and development of the existing Independent Persons. Furthermore, the option of sharing Independent Persons with neighbouring boroughs is being explored and in due course may be recommended should it prove to be advantageous to do so.

Proposed Extended Engagement of Independent Persons

3.3 For the reasons outlined above it is proposed that the Council agrees the engagement of the Independent persons be set to continue to after the Annual General Council meeting in 2022.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 To ensure statutory compliance and effective administration of any business that may engage the Members Code of Conduct.

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

5.1 It is a statutory requirement that Council is consulted and approves the appointments.

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

6.1 The appointment is a statutory requirement.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Dammy Adewole**
Management Accountant, Central Services

The allowance paid to each of the Independent Persons is met from the Members Allowance Budget.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Assistant Director of Law and Governance Services and Monitoring Officer

The statutory requirements are set out in the report and have been met. Under Section 28(8)(c)(iii) of the Localism Act 2011, this decision must be agreed by a majority of the whole number of councillors.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Price**
Community Development Officer

The previous appointments followed an open recruitment process ensuring that the recommended candidates were selected on merit.

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):

- Report to the Council to seek agreement to the appointment of Independent Persons on 25 May 2016. This report is available online at <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock/Home.aspx>
- The original recruitment documents relating to each of the Independent Persons contain personal information and as such are exempt under paragraph 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended and it is not in the public interest to disclose those documents.

9. **Appendices to the report**

- None

Report Author:

David Lawson

Monitoring Officer

Assistant Director of Law & Governance Services

22 May 2019	ITEM: 9
Annual Council	
Committees and their Terms of Reference	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance 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 2019/20 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 2019/20 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 Wellbeing 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 2019-20 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: **Dammy Adewole**
Management Accountant, Central Services

The cost of servicing these committees will be met through the existing budgets. The yearly cost of an overview and scrutiny committee is £8,119 for the allowances for the Chair and Vice-Chair (subject to change following the Independent Remuneration Panel in the summer of 2019) plus additional costs for senior officer time attending the meetings and preparing reports.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Monitoring Officer and Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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

22 May 2019	ITEM: 10
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 Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance 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 After the local election of May 2019 the following political balance exists:

Group	Councillors	%
Labour	17	34.69%
Conservative	22	44.90%
Thurrock Independents	9	18.37%
Independent	1	2.04%
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:

- Labour 17 seats
- Conservative 22 seats
- Thurrock Ind. 9 seats
- Non-aligned Member 2 seats

- 3.5 Each of the political groups and the non-aligned Member 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**

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|--------|------------------|
| • Lab | 34.69 / 100 x 6 = | 2.08 = | 2 seat(s) |
| • Con | 44.90 / 100 x 6 = | 2.69 = | 3 seat(s) |
| • TI | 18.37 / 100 x 6 = | 1.10 = | 1 seat(s) |

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

• Lab	34.69 / 100 x 7 =	2.43 =	2 seat(s)
• Con	44.90 / 100 x 7 =	3.14 =	3 seat(s)
• TI	18.37 / 100 x 7 =	1.29 =	1 seat(s)

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

• Lab	34.69 / 100 x 8 =	2.78 =	3 seat(s)
• Con	44.90 / 100 x 8 =	3.59 =	4 seat(s)
• TI	18.37 / 100 x 8 =	1.47 =	1 seat(s)

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

• Lab	34.69 / 100 x 9 =	3.12 =	3 seat(s)
• Con	44.90 / 100 x 9 =	4.04 =	4 seat(s)
• TI	18.37 / 100 x 9 =	1.65 =	2 seat(s)

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

• Lab	34.69 / 100 x 15 =	5.20 =	5 seat(s)
• Con	44.90 / 100 x 15 =	6.73 =	7 seat(s)
• TI	18.37 / 100 x 15 =	2.76 =	3 seat(s)

3.8 Non-Aligned Member - Calculations allow for the Non-aligned Member to have 2 seats. Calculations show that one of these seats will be the vacant seat on the General services Committee. The second seat will be resolved by manual adjustment.

3.9 **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 or fall short of their entitlement.

3.10 From the figures set out in **Appendix 1**, manual adjustments are required, namely that the Conservative Group need to offer up three seats to the opposition groups and non-aligned Member (each taking one seat each). The following has been negotiated:

- The Labour Group will take an additional seat on the Standards and Audit Committee.
- The Thurrock Independent Group will take an additional seat on the Corporate Parenting Committee.

- The Ungrouped Member will take an additional seat on the Licensing Committee.

- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 Group Leaders have also been requested to provide nominations to the places on committees to which their respective groups are entitled.
- 3.13 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: **Dammy Adewole**
Management Accountant, Central Services

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

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
**Assistant Director of Law and Governance and
Monitoring Officer**

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

APPENDIX 1

Thurrock Council
No-Majority
Proportionality

Party Group	Committee	Size of Committee	Conservative		Labour		No Party		Thurrock Independents		Ungrouped / Seats to allocate	Total
			Strict entitlement	Rounded Entitlement	Strict entitlement	Rounded entitlement	Strict entitlement	Rounded entitlement	Strict entitlement	Rounded entitlement		
Number of members			22		17		0		9		1	49
Overall proportionality			0.448979592	44.90%	0.346938776	34.69%	0	0.00%	0.183673469	18.37%		
Total strict entitlement			36.36734694		28.10204082		0		14.87755102			
Total rounded entitlement			36		28		0		15		79	2
Children's O&S		6	2.69	3	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.10	1	6	0
Cleaner & Greener O&S		6	2.69	3	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.10	1	6	0
Corporate O&S		6	2.69	3	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.10	1	6	0
Health O&S		6	2.69	3	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.10	1	6	0
Housing O&S		6	2.69	3	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.10	1	6	0
Planning, Transport & Regeneration O&S		6	2.69	3	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.10	1	6	0
Planning		9	4.04	4	3.12	3	0.00	0	1.65	2	9	0
Licensing		15	6.73	7	5.20	5	0.00	0	2.76	3	15	0
General Services		7	3.14	3	2.43	2	0.00	0	1.29	1	6	1
Corporate Parenting		8	3.59	4	2.78	3	0.00	0	1.47	1	8	0
Standards & Audit		6	2.69	3	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.10	1	6	0
Total seats		81		39		27		0		14	80	1
Adjustments				-3		1		0		1		

Notes:

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

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22 May 2019	ITEM: 11
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 Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance 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:

- Fostering and Adoption 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: **Dammy Adewole**
Management Accountant, Central Services

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Monitoring Officer and Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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

22 May 2019	ITEM: 12
Annual Council	
Schedule of Meetings 2019/20	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance 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 2019/20 municipal year.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Calendar of Meetings for 2019/20 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 2019/20 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.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Council is required to approve the schedule of ordinary meetings for 2018-19 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: **Dammy Adewole**
Management Accountant, Central Services

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 Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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 2019/20

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Legal & Democratic Services

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May 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Early May Bank Holiday (May Day)	7	8 Members Induction	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Annual Council – 7.00pm	23 External Training – Scrutiny	24	25	26
27 Spring Bank Holiday	28	29	30	31		

June 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3 Planning Training	4 Corporate Parenting Training Corporate Parenting Committee – 7.00pm	5 SACRE – 6.00pm Housing Services Training	6 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	7	8	9
10 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	11 Corporate O&S – 7.00pm	12 Cabinet – 7.00pm	13 Health & Wellbeing O&S – 7.00pm	14	15	16
17 Licensing Training	18 Housing O&S – 7.00pm	19 Full Council – 7.00pm	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	27	28	29	30

July 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Local Development Plan Task Force – 7.00pm	2 Children's Services O&S – 7.00pm	3 Licensing Committee – 7.00pm	4 Cleaner, Greener & Safer O&S – 7.00pm	5	6	7
8 External Training – Committee Skills	9 Planning, Transport, Regeneration O&S – 7.00pm	10 Cabinet – 7.00pm	11 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	12	13	14
15 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	16	17	18 Standards & Audit Training Standards & Audit Committee – 7.00pm	19	20	21
22	23	24 Full Council – 7.00pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm				

August 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5 Community Leadership Training #1	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	13	14	15 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	16	17	18
19	20	21 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	22	23	24	25
26 August Bank Holiday	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3 Corporate O&S – 7.00pm	4 Cabinet – 7.00pm	5 Health & Wellbeing O&S – 7.00pm	6	7	8
9 Local Development Plan Task Force – 7.00pm	10 Corporate Parenting Committee – 7.00pm	11 Community Leadership Training #2	12 Standards & Audit Committee – 7.00pm	13	14	15
16 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	17 Planning, Transport, Regeneration O&S – 7.00pm	18 Full Council – 7.00pm	19 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	20	21	22 Labour Conference
23 External Training – Raising the Bar Labour Conference	24 Labour Conference	25 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	26	27	28	29 Conservative Conference
30 Conservative Conference						

October 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 Housing O&S – 7.00pm Conservative Conference	2 Licensing Committee – 7.00pm Conservative Conference	3 Cleaner, Greener & Safer O&S – 7.00pm	4	5	6
7	8 Children’s Services O&S – 7.00pm	9 Cabinet – 7.00pm	10	11	12	13
14 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Community Leadership Training #3	22	23 Full Council – 7.00pm	24 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	25	26	27
28	29	30 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	31			

November 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4 Local Development Plan Task Force – 7.00pm	5	6 SACRE – 6.00pm	7 Health & Wellbeing O&S – 7.00pm	8	9	10
11 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	12 Planning, Transport, Regeneration O&S – 7.00pm	13 Cabinet – 7.00pm	14	15	16	17
18 Community Leadership Training #4	19 Corporate O&S – 7.00pm	20 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Full Council – 7.00pm	28 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	29	30	

December 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3 Children's Services O&S – 7.00pm	4	5 Cleaner, Greener & Safer O&S – 7.00pm	6	7	8
9 Community Leadership Training #5	10 Housing O&S – 7.00pm	11 Cabinet – 7.00pm	12	13	14	15
16 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	17	18 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	19 Standards & Audit Committee – 7.00pm	20	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7 Corporate Parenting Committee – 7.00pm	8 SACRE – 6.00pm	9 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	10	11	12
13 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	14 Corporate O&S – 7.00pm	15 Cabinet – 7.00pm	16 Health & Wellbeing O&S – 7.00pm	17	18	19
20 Local Development Plan Task Force – 7.00pm	21 Planning, Transport, Regeneration O&S – 7.00pm	22 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Full Council – 7.00pm	30	31		

February 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4 Children's Services O&S – 7.00pm	5 Licensing Committee – 7.00pm	6 Cleaner, Greener & Safer O&S – 7.00pm	7	8	9
10 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	11 Housing O&S – 7.00pm	12 Cabinet – 7.00pm	13 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	14	15	16
17	18	19 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Full Council – 7.00pm	27	28	29	

March 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3 Corporate Parenting Committee – 7.00pm	4	5 Health & Wellbeing O&S – 7.00pm	6	7	8
9 Local Development Plan Task Force – 7.00pm	10 Corporate O&S – 7.00pm	11 Cabinet – 7.00pm	12 Standards & Audit Committee – 7.00pm	13	14	15
16 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	17 Planning, Transport, Regeneration O&S – 7.00pm	18 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	19 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Good Friday	11	12
13 Easter Monday	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	21	22 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	23 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

22 May 2019	ITEM: 13
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 Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance 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 2020 and 2023 and also sets out the order of retirement of Councillors.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Schedule of Elections from 2020 to 2023 and Order of Retirement of Councillors be noted.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This report advises Council of the schedule of elections from 2020 to 2023, 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 2023, 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: **Dammy Adewole**
Management Accountant, Central Services

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 Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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	2020	2021	2022	2023
Aveley & Uplands	Spillman (TI)	No election	Van Day (C)	Churchman (C)
Belhus	Sheridan (C)		Fletcher (L)	Baker (TI)
Chadwell St Mary	Rice (L)		Muldowney (L)	Chukwu (L)
Chafford & North Stifford	Hague (C)		No election	Coxshall (C)
Corringham & Fobbing	Watkins (C)		No election	Huelin (C)
East Tilbury	Sammons (C)		No election	Massey (I)
Grays Riverside	Fish (L)		Kerin (L)	Pothecary (L)
Grays Thurrock	J Kent (L)		Worrall (L)	C Kent (L)
Little Thurrock Blackshots	Redsell (C)		Maney (C)	No election
Little Thurrock Rectory	No election		Gledhill (C)	Kelly (C)
Ockendon	Potter (TI)		Shinnick (L)	Jefferies (C)
Orsett	Little (C)		Johnson (C)	No election
South Chafford	MacPherson (C)		Akinbohun (L)	No election
Stanford East & Corringham Town	Duffin (TI)		Anderson (C)	Ralph (TI)

Stanford le Hope West	Piccolo (C)		No election	Hebb (C)
Stifford Clays	No election		Rigby (C)	Smith (TI)
The Homesteads	Collins (C)		Halden (C)	Byrne (TI)
Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park	No election		Okunade (L)	Mayes (TI)
Tilbury St Chads	Allen (TI)		Liddiard (L)	No election
West Thurrock & South Stifford	Gerrish (L)		Abbas (L)	Holloway (L)