

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 April 2017 at 7.00 pm

The deadline for call-ins is Wednesday 19 April 2017.

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**Present:** Councillors Robert Gledhill (Chair), Shane Hebb (Deputy Chair), Mark Coxshall, James Halden, Deborah Huelin, Sue MacPherson and Pauline Tolson

**Apologies:** Councillors Brian Little and Susan Little

**In attendance:** Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive  
Sharon Bayliss, Director of Commercial Services  
Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment and Place  
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT  
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health  
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation  
Karen Wheeler, Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service  
David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer  
Kenna-Victoria Martin, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

#### **117. Minutes**

The Minutes of Cabinet, held on 8 March 2017, were approved as a correct record.

#### **118. Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

#### **119. Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **120. Statements by the Leader**

The Leader addressed Portfolio Holders and in doing so, advised the new bin round collections would start on the 8 May 2017, he urged all residents to take note of the new days which would be communicated by letter and social media.

He further advised Members the £1.2 million, 3 year parks program had started which would see capital investment in many of Thurrock's play and park areas.

Councillor Gledhill commented that £819,000 from HCA had been secured to support improvements to council housing for residents and identify where new housing could be built. In addition, £481,000 had been pledged to support Thurrock repair its roads. The Leader informed Cabinet the new money had been received from the National Productivity Fund.

It was remarked that Thurrock Council had been working alongside Barratts and Essex Police to install nuisance biker signage in the east of the borough following complaints from residents. The signs would work as the first official warning, meaning the police could then take enforcement action as soon as the offence was committed.

The Leader highlighted the Councils Trading Standards and Fraud Teams had been working hard with successful prosecutions for retailers selling dangerous products with somebody admitting two charges of engaging in misleading practices under the Consumer Protection and Unfair Trading regulations.

It was announced that Thurrock had entered a relationship with Hyperoptic, the UK's leading Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) broadband provider focused on partnering with Councils to support their digital inclusion initiatives.

Councillor Gledhill explained Hyperoptic would initially be offering its services available to 1,700 tenants across 12 of the Councils Social Housing developments. The relationship was completely at the choice of the tenant and provided low cost and affordable solution to high-speed broadband services.

The Leader further announced that at 1.36pm on Tuesday 28 March 2017 the Council had issued its 1000 Fixed Penalty Ticket for littering in Thurrock.

Finally the Leader stated the Council had agreed to write to James Berry, Member of Parliament for Kingston and Surbiton, to ask that Thurrock be excluded from continuing to fund the Lea Valley Park. He continued to explain the park was 35 miles away, the same distance away as Hyde Park, yet the Council had to fund the park nearly 40% of its own budget for country parks here in Thurrock.

#### **121. Petitions submitted by Members of the Public**

There were no petitions submitted.

#### **122. Questions from Non-Executive Members**

The Leader of the Council advised that no questions had been submitted from Non-Executive Members.

**123. Matters Referred to the Cabinet for Consideration by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Leader of the Council informed Members that no matters had been referred to the Cabinet by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**130. Communication Strategy 2017/20 (Decision 01104421)**

Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal Services introduced the report, notifying Cabinet that the council was a £0.5billion business. He stated that the strategy was to make it clear how the council would engage with the media and vice versa.

He continued by stating residents did not have time to search for information, so it was important for it to be easy to find. Councillor Hebb commented that it was important to become self-service but also put the council out for business.

Councillor Coxshall welcomed the report, stating it was long overdue.

The Leader commented on the excellent work undertaken by officers to produce a wide ranging document to promote Thurrock.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To agree the proposed Communication Strategy 2017-20 as the principle policy document for engagement with residents via all communication and media platforms.**

**The meeting finished at 8.20pm**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

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