

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

Annual Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **23 May 2018**

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

Membership of the Council:

Tunde Ojetola (Mayor)
Michael Stone (Deputy Mayor)

Qaisar Abbas
Tim Aker
Abbie Akinbohun
John Allen
Alex Anderson
James Baker
Clare Baldwin
Russell Cherry
Colin Churchman
Gary Collins
Mark Coxshall
Jack Duffin
Tony Fish
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
Steve Liddiard
Susan Little
Sue MacPherson
Ben Maney
Bukky Okunade

Terry Piccolo
Jane Potheary
David Potter
Joycelyn Redsell
Barbara Rice
Gerard Rice
Elizabeth Rigby
Sue Sammons
Angela Sheridan
Sue Shinnick
Peter Smith
Luke Spillman
Pauline Tolson
Aaron Watkins
Lynn Worrall



Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive

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 2018/19	
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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

PROVISIONAL Dates of Council:

27 June 2018, 25 July 2018, 26 September 2018, 31 October 2018, 28 November 2018, 30 January 2019, 27 February 2019 (Budget), 20 March 2019

Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

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

Recording of meetings

This meeting will be recorded with the audio recording being published on the Council's website. The meeting will also be filmed and live streamed. Members of the public not wishing to be filmed the Mayor will give them the opportunity to leave the chamber. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be recorded.

Members of the public not wishing any speech or address to be recorded for publication to the Internet should contact Democratic Services to discuss any concerns.

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

Guidelines on filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings

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.

The Chair of the meeting may terminate or suspend filming, photography, recording and use of social media if any of these activities, in their opinion, are disrupting proceedings at the meeting.

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

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

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.

How to view this agenda on a tablet device



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

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

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

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non- pecuniary

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



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

PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

No speech may exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Mayor [Rule 19.8], except for the proposer of any motion who shall have 5 minutes to move that motion (except on a motion to amend where the 3 minute time shall apply) [Rule 19.8(a)]			
All Motions will follow Section A and then either Section B or C			
A.	A1 Motion is moved 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 Council held on 28 February 2018 at 7.00 pm

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

Apologies: Councillors Tim Aker, Russell Cherry, Tony Fish, Victoria Holloway and Sue Sammons

In attendance: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health
David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance
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.

The Mayor invited Pastor Akin Laosun to lead those present in Prayer.

118. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 31 January 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Councillor C Baker stated that his question to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner had not reflected what his question was. Democratic Services will update the minutes to say the following:

“It seems in Thurrock we have more and more drug crime and violent crime than ever before would you say it maybe something to do with more and more London people moving into the borough in which case does the met link up with Essex police to try and resolve these crimes that we have to face.”

119. Items of Urgent Business

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

120. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

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

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

The Mayor welcomed Members to the second Full Council meeting of the year and that despite being at the end of February we had woken up to a lovely snowy day.

February marked the occasion of the Chinese New Year, the year of the dog, which a number of Thurrock residents had celebrated and the Mayor congratulated everyone involved.

The Thurrock's 13th Civic Awards were held in February with over 100 nominations for nine awards, it had showed that Thurrock residents went out of their way to help others. The Mayor congratulated all the nominees, the winners and the joint organising team of Members and Officers.

The Mayor stated that Contact the Elderly were working to reduce loneliness for Thurrock elderly residents and planned to open their 8th group shortly. With Friends of Blackshots had successfully obtained a grant for funding benches on Blackshots field so that residents could watch the sports being played.

The Mayor also stated that Thurrock Mind, Stanford, Corringham and Tilbury First Responders and One Community Development Trust had been nominated for the Queens Award for Voluntary Services.

The Mayor was proud to state that this month the Mayor's parlour had been decorated by the photography work of four students from Gateway Academy. The Mayor stated that the work was of top quality and was sure that Members would be impressed when they saw it. That the school had asked Members for comments about the quality of the work and hoped Members would not mind taking time to fill in the comments book. The Mayor also thanked Gabi Randyte, Jo Mclean, Precious Daniel and David Ojetola of Gateway Academy and Lisa Anderson of Well House Art Gallery for the display.

February also marked 100 years of women suffrage. It was a hard fought battle, using all means to entrench equality in the law. In reality, it had taken 10 more years before all women above the age of 21 had the right to vote. So finally, tolerance and equity of treatment, at least at the ballot box, was won.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, updated Members on what Thurrock Council had been undertaking over the past few days to keep the borough moving in the adverse weather. That approximately 226 miles of highway had been gritted with the first priority being major routes such as the A13 and bus routes. Those secondary routes such as those at significant risk and high usage were also gritted. That in the adverse weather primary routes had also received grit runs, up to three times a day in some cases. Those crews were deployed on Tuesday throughout the day with the snow plan being activated at 6.30am today.

Residents that cleared their own pathways would not face prosecution as long as the snow was cleared away safely and that it had not caused a hazard.

The Leader stated that he would be attending the Association of South Essex Local Authorities to discuss Thurrock proposals for Government and would update Group Leader and bring item back to the next Council meeting.

122. Questions from Members of the Public

The Mayor informed Members that no questions had been accepted for the meeting.

123. 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.

124. Petitions Update Report

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

Councillor Duffin question why Councillors Kerin, Jones, Maney and Gerrish were listed as portfolio holders in the report. Councillor Gledhill stated that this was an administrative error and would be corrected by democratic services.

Councillor Gerrish stated that he had received an update today from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner on Petition 505 and would update Members further following on from the Council meeting.

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

The Mayor enquired whether Group Leaders wished for any changes to be made to the appointments previously made to Committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels.

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

Councillor Snell, Leader of the Thurrock Independents, informed the Chamber he had no changes to make.

Councillor Gerrish, Leader of the Labour Group, informed the Chamber that he wished to make the following changes:

For Councillor Kerin to become a substitute Member on the General Services Committee.

For Councillors G Rice to replace Councillor C Holloway on the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Councillor Kerin be appointed as substitute member on the General Services Committee.**
- 2. That Councillor C Holloway be replaced by Councillor G Rice on the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

126. Annual Pay Policy Statement 2018/19

Councillor Huelin, Portfolio Holder for Performance and 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 Snell stated that the report had been presented through the Comprehensive Spending Review and would agree to the recommendations.

Councillor Duffin questioned why Members could not vote on recommendation 1.1 and questioned whether the Comprehensive Spending Review was a committee of Council. Councillor Duffin stated that therefore all Members should be invited to sit on the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Councillor Huelin stated that Council had voted previously to using an independent market research company to set the pay rises fairly.

Councillor Spillman questioned had any progress been made for senior managers to be on fixed term contracts to reduce any pay offs in local Government in Essex.

Councillor Huelin would seek advice on Councillor Spillman's question and update him outside the meeting.

Councillor Hebb reiterated that the Comprehensive Spending Review was a briefing group that received papers presented by the Directors Board. That

the Members of the Comprehensive Spending Review made no decisions and it was not a committee of the Council. Councillor Hebb would welcome any new Members.

Councillor Gledhill had concerns that Members could not change the report and stated that Members could seek the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officers understanding of what was required for this report.

Councillor Gledhill stated his agreement to all the recommendations and that Members should focus on the positives of the report. Councillor Gledhill stated how important it was to keep managerial staff and would not agree to fixed term contracts at Thurrock.

Councillor Coxshall supported this statement and used an example of fixed term contracts at the Thames Gateway Corporation which demonstrated the challenges of fixed term contracts for managerial staff.

Councillor Huelin summed up by thanking Members for comments and that the recommendations made sense and demonstrated that staff were valued within the Council.

At 7.23pm, Councillor James Baker left the Council Chamber.

The Mayor called a vote on the recommendations.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations, whereupon the Mayor declared the recommendations carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2018/19 was agreed in line with the Council's obligations under the Localism Act 2011, the Single Status Agreement and the recommendations by the independent market assessment.**
- 2. That agreement to remove pay points 1 to 4, with pay point 5 becoming the lowest council pay point, set at the UK Living Wage rate of £8.75 ph from 1st April 2018.**
- 3. That agreement to pay apprentices the National Minimum/Living Wage appropriate to their age from the start of employment, starting at £4.20 ph for those under 18 from 1st April 2018.**

127. Thurrock Regeneration Limited (TRL)

Councillor Gledhill, Leader of the Council, presented the report that set out the ambitious and exciting vision for the development of new homes in Thurrock through the Council owned company, Thurrock Regeneration Ltd (TRL). The paper proposed a significant up-scaling of the role of TRL and sought the

agreement from Council to provide the necessary finance for TRL to deliver 1,000 homes in the next five years, 35% of which would be affordable and available for residents on the Council's housing needs register. That the approach would enable the Council to directly support the delivery of high quality new homes.

Councillor Snell thanked the Leader for the report and agreed that the Thurrock Regeneration Limited was a good scheme but questioned was it ambitious enough and had consideration been given to off-site construction that would allow for more affordable homes.

Councillor Gerrish stated that he would be voting in favour of the recommendations but had one big caveat. That providing affordable houses in Thurrock was affordable to Thurrock residents. That the ambition and approach of the Council should be to explore the best options for Thurrock residents.

Councillor Duffin had concerns that recommendation 1.3 could be open to legal challenge and questioned why local business were not being offered to make bids.

Councillor Spillman stated his support for the recommendations but questioned had the report been ambitious enough for possible future expansion and asked for reassurances that this was a reality and not just aspirations of the administration.

Councillor Kerin welcomed the report but had concerns over the affordability for Thurrock residents on average wages and asked what guarantee that the homes would form part of the Council Stock and would become Council houses for those residents in need.

Councillor Redsell stated that this was a brilliant scheme and would be voting in favour.

Councillor Halden stated that the report was exciting and explained to Members that Gloriana had not worked due to the scheme being delivered late and over budget. That a housing release stock of 1000 new homes would be in place with Thurrock Regeneration Limited and the expertise would grow as the projects got bigger.

Councillor B Rice welcomed and commended the scheme but stated that investments were needed for the benefit of Thurrock residents. That the St Chad site was not affordable housing for the average paid resident and looked forward to seeing the third truly affordable homes in Thurrock.

Councillor Coxshall stated that regeneration on brown fill sites was awkward to build on and that the Council should take advantage of Thurrock Regeneration Limited to build on these sites compared to those private companies who do not want to. That Thurrock Regeneration Limited has a long term commitment and that land could be released immediately. That the

report demonstrated a very strong message that the administration would build high quality Council homes.

Councillor Hebb stated that this was the second report presented this evening that was good news for the residents of Thurrock. Those residents were proud to live in the borough and want their families to remain close by in the future. That the Council continually builds good quality homes in the borough and brown fill sites could be used to do this.

Councillor G Rice stated his support for the scheme but highlighted realistic affordable rent would be between £600 to £800 per month. That it was pleasing that Council houses were being built for those residents that want to live in the borough but cannot currently afford to do so.

Councillor Gledhill replied to Members questions.

That the use of off-site construction would be a good process going forward to free up sites.

That affordability of new homes was subjective and that Thurrock Regeneration Limited would need to build this criterion into their business models. The price of affordable housing was subject to a market test.

That the selling of land would stop land banking.

The Mayor called a vote on the recommendations.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations, whereupon the Mayor declared the recommendations carried.

RESOLVED:

That Council:

- 1. Financially commits to supporting Thurrock Regeneration Ltd (TRL) in its objective of delivering 1,000 new homes in the Borough by the end of 2022/23;**
- 2. That this support be made available on the basis that the conditions set out in the report are met and the governance procedures are followed;**
- 3. Agree that any general fund sites designated for release by the Council for housing be offered to TRL in the first instance;**
- 4. In line with the investment principles agreed by Council on 25 October 2017, the Director of Finance and IT be delegated the authority to enter into site specific funding agreements with TRL; and**

5. **Asks the Board of TRL to formally consider the Council's offer.**

128. Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19

Councillor Hebb, Portfolio Holder for Finance, stated the Treasury Management Strategy was a critical component of the way Thurrock Council managed cash-flow. This was linked to the Council's ambitions of becoming a more commercially focused borough; one where sensible transactions are completed which created revenue returns that could be allocated to spending on the services for Thurrock residents.

Councillor Snell stated that the final report had been presented at the Comprehensive Spending Review and agreed with the recommendations although stated the report could have been more ambitious on the investment strategy.

Councillor Gledhill stated that investment strategy would go forward as a budget item.

Councillor Gledhill referred to an error on Page 85 of the report. That the figure for Prudential Indicators for External Debt 2018/19 Estimate total should have read 937,121 instead of 936,121.

Councillor Hebb recommended that the report go to the vote.

The Mayor called a vote on the recommendations.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations, whereupon the Mayor declared the recommendations carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

1. **Approved the Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19 including approval of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2018/19.**
2. **Approved the adoption of the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix 1.**
3. **Noted the revised 2017/18 and 2018/19 Treasury Management projections as set out in paragraph 2.35.**

129. 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.

Thank you Mr Mayor

This is the second Conservative budget I have delivered and how much has changed in those two years. As you know in 2016 we inherited a budget with a £4m pressure, a budget with no street cleaners, no environmental enforcement officers, little or no equipment to cut the grass, no coherent assets list, no plans to make our assets work for our residents and worse than a letter saying there was absolutely no money left we had a so called graph of doom which was rolled out on every single occasion to show how bad things were going to become. In 2016 we started to reverse this poor administration of these public services, putting council tax payer's money back to where they wanted to see it, back into the services what they expected the council to provide. That was cleaning the streets, cutting the grass and filling the potholes. And of course all the other services that we provide. Looking after the elderly, young and most vulnerable, supply educational support, regeneration of the borough, collecting council tax the list goes on and on. At the end of last year we closed the year with a small surplus which increased the reserves, we made headway onto the 6 years of neglect this borough had suffered with our clean it cut it fill campaign, we set a budget that we were told would not be deliverable. During the year we set investment principles which were agreed by every councillor here this evening to ensure openness when we made large investments and in doing so we achieved something that every single member outside of the conservative group said we would not, we balanced the budget at year end. Not only did we balance the budget we put £5.5million extra into reserves but because of our investment strategy we also had a surplus, a one off surplus, of £2.3million. Not money taken from the hard pressed tax payer but money we had got from our ability to invest wisely and get income from those investments. A surplus this year being used to improve the ability of our grounds maintenance team to do their job throughout the year, extra money for road surfacing and more importantly more money, and new money going into tackling anti-social behaviour across our borough. So in 22 months what we have done we have turned that ridiculous graph of doom upside down into the graph of BOOM. As I would hope every member in this room would know we are a unitary authority so we have responsibility for services both County Councils and District Councils supply combined. However, we still manage to do this with the lowest Council Tax in Essex, the third lowest of all unitary authorities like Thurrock and indeed one of the lowest in the Country. Now this had been managed by on or just below inflation increases from 2004 to 2011 including a very small cut in 2011, subsidised increases from Government from 2012 to 2016 and then below the threshold of 2% increases ever since. This is something that I will refer to later. Services such as Grangewaters, Grays beach Café and the Thameside Theatre are all forecasted to break even rather than costing the Taxpayer hundreds and thousands of pounds a year. Frankly any party could say they were saving these services by throwing tax payers money at them, but only the Conservatives have made them financially viable thereby making the services save themselves and this is something we should all recognise. We also turned round the frankly disgusting cuts on the citizen advice bureau and I am glad to report that I was told today that the citizen advice bureau

were awarded another £50,000 for the next three years to carry out this vital work and would like to thank all councillors and indeed other members of the community who were there yesterday unfortunately I was unable to be there as I was here dealing with other matters.

So now I am going to move to the detail of this year's budget:

Unlike other councils who have gone to their electors asking for significant increases through a referendum in the past, and failed, or like many other councils doing this year who are asking for the maximum 2.99% council tax this budget is only asking for only 1.99% that's for council tax on its own nothing to do with the adult social care precept. Now there are a number for reasons for this.

Following last year's recommendation across party overview and scrutiny committee we will be increasing the Adult Social Care precept by 3%. Something agreed by them. Something I believe I think we all agreed last year as we put the budget forward as well. This will bring the council up the maximum permissible increase in this new charge of 6%. So unless legislation changes next year this will be the last we will see of this particular increase. We must remember that this money is ring-fenced and goes to pay for the care of adults and other older persons in our borough who are vulnerable and this equates to an average of £3.25 per month on the average Band D property. Now as we go through the report we will notice that not many people pay the average Band D because of the different types of discount and indeed our borough is made up dominantly of Band C so will be less than that £3.25.

The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner will be asking for an average of an extra £1 per month to help fund an extra 140 police officers across Essex.

Last year we put through overview and scrutiny and through cabinet a medium term financial strategy that only assumed an increase of 1.99% for the next few years. As we have worked to that principle all year round and we have put in £8.4 million of investment money this year I see no particular reason to change that. So if you look at the combination of increases in adult social care the increase from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for those extra police officers that are much needed we feel that 1.99% is the amount that we should be asking.

Now for a number of years I have sat here as a councillor at this point and listened to the list of services that are going to be cut or subject to efficiencies or whatever you wish to call them at the time, however I am going to start with the services we will be investing extra money into:

Environment to reinforce the clean it cut it initiative

We have put million and million pounds, it being capital or it being million pound of direct funding each year to ensure that it is moving forward indeed a one off surplus also helped that with extra resources.

Children's Social Care to help manage the increase in pressures

One of the things I am sure that Councillor Little will attest to we have finally got a bit more of a control on the spending in this area and she is continuing to work to make sure that it comes into budget year on year. Unlike we have seen in previous years where it just seemed to go up, up and up.

Adult Social Care

The 3% ring fenced increase will mean an extra £1.9 million of money in to this vital area and that is without the extra grants amounting to £400,000 coming from Government this year.

Now to the list of services that will not be cut:

Street Cleaning

We put 10 new rounds on in 2016 and we will not be cutting them and indeed we are already discussing as a cabinet how we may increase that number. It being on a temporary or on a permanent basis.

Bin Collections

Let me make it very clear - we will be keeping weekly bin collections. There was only ever been one attempt to decrease this and that was under the previous administration. That was successfully fought and I do thank Councillor Kent at the time for withdrawing it on the night so to make sure we keep the weekly bin collections. We will continue to so whilst in administration.

Pothole Filling

We certainly won't be cutting that, over the past 22 months this administration, if you excuse the pun, have poured millions of pounds into potholes and resurfacing the roads in this borough and will continue to do so. With the weather we have recently will increase the number of potholes so we know as soon as it starts to clear up will have another hefty job in front of us but guess what we are up for that and we have the money to help in advance.

Libraries

There will be no change to our current library provision. Something we are also accused of that is something that they will cut, libraries, it is not happening.

To be honest I could carry on like this all night but pretty much everything else this council has been doing will be protected by what is effectively below inflation Council Tax increase and on the council tax increase itself and more importantly good wise financial investments, that plus making the Council more commercial and achieving service reviews that will continue to drive efficiencies throughout the system.

However we must remember that Council Spending Review process and the investment strategy, something we all signed up to here, makes clear that we will continue to review our services to ensure that they are efficient, they are cost effective and more importantly still required. But unlike probably every other local authority in the country any reduction in funding that is listed here tonight on any service will be on the grounds that we are looking for efficiencies they are not masquerading as cuts they will just be part of those that we chose to make more efficient. That will continue for the next couple of years and I am sure my cabinet member for finance will touch on that later. Page 123 does outline where some of those efficiencies will be made and if you look at that you will see no service cuts, clearly efficiencies that are there clearly need to happen.

I have and will continue to mention these one off surpluses in the budget, these are as the title suggests one off. They exist in one year only and are then rolled into the budget for future income. Those investments will need to be replaced with others as we go through the life of those investments and therefore any extra windfalls will come again as a one off capital receipts.

Now moving to the Capital Program - As with every other Council we have an ongoing capital program with some significant schemes that will span a number of years, these are outlined more in the report. But just to touch on them:

- A13 Widening
- Purfleet Regeneration – I understand the planning application went in this week
- Grays Underpass
- New Waste Fleet – to ensure our waste lorries are to up to date and efficient
- New Education Facilities

That is just to name a few.

But to become more efficient we also need to spend money to save money and on page 112 you will see the breakdown regarding spending on service reviews, digital improvements, property improvements not just at the council offices but places like libraries etc.

And now moving on to the actual new capital projects

We have the new litter bins – which I am sure Councillor Watkins will cover that later.

Drainage and gully improvements across the borough to help those who experience flooding, flooding that eventually leads to damaged roads to help bring that to an end.

£150 million to help improve our war memorials and their surroundings. As we rapidly approach the 100 year commemoration of the end of the First World War what could be more fitting than to show our respect that we will never forget by putting one-off money into this project to ensure that for the next 100 years we will still never forget.

There will be new care facilities in Ockendon.

We have our integrated medical centres which again my portfolio holder for health will mention those.

And we will be rebuilding the library in East Tilbury – something that has been vitally missed since the dreadful events there which had led to the closure temporarily.

There are also our aspirational and future projects which as we can see from the table at appendix 7 with a wide range of projects that will help improve Thurrock be it improvements to our commerciality, our cultural offer, older persons units, our health provision, our energy use or in deed our sports provision at Blackshots. All of these are aspirational some of them are happening as we speak.

I will touch on the dedicated school grants whilst we are able to agree this item here there is very little influence the Members have over it. The allocation is dealt with by democratically by the schools forum the total is set by a formula. This again unfortunately has been overspent but oddly enough it is not unusual for local authorities around the country and the over spends caused by the previous year's commitments and that are directly recoverable from the grant before it is allocated to schools.

Now before we go onto discussions let me reiterate some of the issues that I have raised and those that were raised last year that failed to materialise. Elected member after elected member from opposition parties stood up that the Conservatives were not deliver the services improvements that we had proposed, the challenge we accepted, we raised to and we delivered as promised. The Conservatives will bankrupt the council well far from it. Our reserves have been increased by 40% we are investing millions of pounds into services stripped down by the previous administration and at the end of this financial year have one off surplus to invest back into services. For the next financial year we have a surplus of £2.5 million. Not money taken from the tax payer as mentioned but money earned from wise investment. Now I understand there is an amendment proposed which is on the table, which is 1.3.1 which has been submitted this afternoon. Whilst I am slightly disappointed that it was put in at the eleventh hour despite everyone attending this Comprehensive Spending Review process I am not going to play politics with this I actually think these are very good suggestions and I will be accepting this as a recommendation to be voted on as we go through. But we need to make it very, very clear this windfall cannot be allocated here tonight. The suggestions as they have been put forward or need to be discussed at cabinet formally and put money into services that will call on it year on year

will not be viable and are not covered by the constraints. Cabinet is currently looking at investing some of this money, as we have had discussions ourselves, in our high street with a viable high street investment fund. We all know how vital these are to our residents as the improvements to them will make them more attractive to customers and give a wide range, increase the range of shops. This is a clear sign that this council believes that one of the signs of a great communities is a well-used local town centre and the only way we are going to that is to help them improve. Also this investment fund will be open to every single area and not exclude places like Tilbury as the last one was. Everyone who's in the town centre will be able to bid into this fund once and if it is approved.

Further to the anti-social behaviour funding we are also looking to improve the capabilities of CCTV as well as the associated improvements to helping, investigating, responding and preventing the scourge of fly tipping across the borough which has kind of been captured in some of the suggestions as well as the money for mental health improvements and further protection. However, as said, it would be a matter for cabinet to make the final decision on that and until that time the money remains unspent and unallocated.

I know I have 20 minutes for this and I did not intend to take the entire 20 minutes for this, I am sure the leader of the opposition is desperate to speak on this as are my cabinet members and indeed probably members across the chamber. With that, Mister Mayor, I propose the budget as outlined in the report, item 13.

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

Councillor Snell

Thank you Mister Mayor. I would like to begin by saying that the budget we are being asked to approve tonight hasn't just appeared out of thin air. Through the Comprehensive Spending Review process, all three Group leaders and deputies have had the opportunity on a regular monthly basis to discuss the various options available to us and to have our say on the direction of travel for this Council's finances. Whilst it is true that there have been similar budget discussions in previous years, the Comprehensive Spending Review for this year has been comprehensive and informative and I would like to thank both the officers and the administration for their engagement. Thank you very much.

Setting a balanced and robust budget isn't easy. Against a backdrop of significant cuts in Government funding this Council is tasked with carrying out all of its duties, statutory or otherwise, with far less money than in the past. However, with the officers now taking a much more commercial approach than before, and having made some prudent choices, the administration are presenting a budget that is, for the next few years at least (and subject to no major, unforeseen upheavals) in surplus. With that, in my opinion, should be applauded. Nevertheless, we also have to deal with the unintended

consequences of Government policies that have a substantial impact on the budget and about which we can do very little. The cuts to adult social care have been particularly damaging and brought the funding for those services to the very edge, our residents are being asked to pay an extra 3% on their Council tax to cover that funding gap. Likewise, cuts to the Police service have seen significant rises of crime in Thurrock as the number of Police men and women have been reduced and the stations out of which they operate closed; yet our residents are being asked for an extra 7.62% on the police precept.

These things are important. We in this chamber are well aware which portions of our resident's Council tax bills are decided here but the people of Thurrock see it as one bill, one amount that they have to pay and, this year, this amount is rising considerably yet again.

With all that said the fact remains that we do support the 3% Adult Social Care precept. It's a little harder to accept the 1.99% Council tax rise. Whilst we in Thurrock Independents approve of the Council being able to generate a budget in surplus, we firmly believe that such surpluses should be used to reduce Council tax bills. However, we can also see the need to put more money into initiatives like Clean It, Cut It, Fill It and others. We do want that to continue as it is a good initiative which goes some way to making the borough a cleaner and more pleasant place to live. We would very much like to see a bolder, longer term approach to commercial investments in the future with the aim of ensuring solid, stable Council finances as well as the afore-mentioned reduction in Council tax bills.

I would like to reiterate as well how valuable a process the Comprehensive Spending Review is. It is important. It has to be right that all Groups have their opportunity to influence the budget, to agree where we can agree and to make our objections where we can't. I hope this now carries on as a regular exercise, and participated in by all Groups, for many years to come and I take Councillor Gledhill point quite rightly we did in did not vote for last year's budget, we did indeed have our reservations and the budget was fine. We were proved wrong. And it is only fair that we acknowledge that so this year we have looked at it, been through the process and I guess you could always pick things that you are not too fond of or some little things you might do a little bit differently but on the whole I think the budget is a good one, it seems favourable to us and we are happy to approve it. Thank you.

At 8.23pm the meeting was stopped by the Mayor to allow him to confirm procedure with Officers.

At 8.24pm the meeting was reconvened by the Mayor.

The Mayor stated that the Leader had accepted the amendment recommendation 1.3.1 to which Members agreed that this should become a substantive recommendation.

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

Council Gledhill

Thank you Mister Mayor. I certainly won't be taking 10 minutes. I would like to thank Councillor Snell for possible the nicest reply to any budget that has been proposed in the 11 years that I have stood in this chamber and I have been proposing them or fighting against them. It just shows that politics in Thurrock is starting to realise that whilst this is important we do need to be making these decisions wisely. As those kind words about Comprehensive Spending Review are most gratefully accepted it is the right thing to do with everyone involved with everyone around the table and may long this continue. You did mention about there being less money, actually there is less money for us to spend actually the money is coming from a different source now rather than just straight from the tax payer via the Government and I am going to touch on that same thing again. You mentioned the obvious 3% increase in adult social care and indeed the increase for the police crime commissioner for the extra police officers. Whilst I do not have any control over the last one we have control over 3%. Of course if that 3% wasn't coming from here, if it was coming straight from Government where would it come from? There is no such thing as Government money. It is tax payer money. And by us raising this locally we know that money is going to be spent locally so rather than it going straight into the coffers, that's no disrespect to the Mayor and his day time job, whilst it goes off to the revenue to be distributed around the country at least we know that 3% tax increase will be spent locally. Where you also said about using the one off services to reduce the council tax whilst again that sounds commendable to do what we have to remember is just that for general increases for the borough is £2.7 million this year. So if that increase carries on year on year that means we will have to find an extra £5.5 million next year and £8.25 million the year after. None of our services would eat into that and indeed once we put the services towards reducing council tax we will have to find that excess. So on top of that £8.25 million if we use £1 million a year over the next couple of years it will mean that we end back up where we started at the beginning of this administration with a £10 million gap to find. I'm sorry that is just not going to happen certainly not on my watch. But I certainly understand where you are coming from and I think it is the right thing to raise here. As I said this is probably the nicest response to the budget I have ever experienced whilst in opposition or as leader so with that Mister Mayor, obviously go back to the remainder of the report.

The proposed amendment to add a new Motion 1.3.1 read as follows:

In respect of the projected revenue surplus for 2018/19, Council calls on Cabinet to make the following one-off allocations for 2018/19:

- a) £100,000 additional funding for Adult Social Care in 2018/19;
- b) £50,000 to Thurrock Citizens Advice Bureau;
- c) £450,000 to pilot a quick-response team to tackle fly-tipping across Thurrock;

- d) £300,000 to enable further target-hardening schemes to prevent site incursions;
- e) £250,000 to fund evidence-gathering to robustly challenge the requirement for 32,000 additional houses through the Local Plan process;

Councillor Gerrish, as Leader of the Labour Group, highlighted the shortcomings of the proposed budget. That the budget was weak with the introduction in the rise of council tax and that it was not ambitious enough on resident's priorities. There were very few steps forward for Thurrock residents and that the amendment to the recommendations addressed such key issues. That the biggest complaint received from residents was the state of the borough with too much litter on the streets. That the pilot of a quick response team would enable action to be undertaken quicker and work alongside the Enforcement Team. That to prevent further site incursions onto unprotected land more target hardening schemes would need to be introduced. That the funding details for the proposed 32,000 additional houses should be scrutinised more and build homes based on that evidence.

Councillor Spillman stated that Members should congratulate themselves for working well together and getting the borough to where it was today. But stressed that the tax burden on residents over the last 2 years had not been done lightly and had affected the poorest people in the borough.

Councillor Halden stated that the borough was now a better place than it was 2 years ago, that the Council now had a 4 year balanced budget, expansions made to schools and medical centres and Clean It Cut it Fill It making the borough better. With the Council taking less tax than was legally required and those residents deserved an optimistic approach with decent relationships with Members.

Councillor G Rice stated that those local families already struggling were being penalised on the tax increase and that the Council should be looking into investments to build up bigger surpluses and taxes should be funded nationally spread across a wide range.

Councillor Coxshall stated he was pleased with the budget and the Council had made some proud achievements with the reserves up by 40%. That Thurrock was a growing area with the new proposed 32,000 new homes being built.

Councillor B Rice stated that in reality the council tax increase would affect working class residents. That the budget had some good points but the increase in council tax was one step too far.

Councillor Huelin stated that investments had been made which had secured the future of the Council for the next 4 years, with 60% of Key Performance Indicators being met and that performance of the Council was evident with the administration working alongside Members and Office staff.

Councillor Redsell stated that a lot of hard work had gone into setting the budget.

Councillor B Little stated that data had been prepared and used as evidence to fund the Council for the future and that organisation was important for the future. That the Community Assets Scheme was close to being finalised where land and buildings would be owned or managed by community organisations.

Councillor Hebb stated that the proposed amendment should have come out of the Comprehensive Spending Review rather than at this late hour. That the third of the members up for election in May will return for their next electoral term to have the books balanced for the next 4 years. Councillor Hebb stated that self-sufficiency was on its way and that the ambition of all would be to have good schools, transport, good road scheme, green spaces, medical facilities and residential homes. Councillor Hebb commended the budget and thanked his team for the hard work undertaken.

Councillor Potheary stated that a lot of the projects mentioned had started under the Labour Government such as Gloriana and the end of the SERCO contract. That the dedicated school grant should be kept in mind and what was being challenged.

Councillor C Holloway stated that the proposals should be of a Council and not an Investment Bank. That there was a social divide in the borough and that the proposals would not be agreed on by all residents.

Councillor Kerin stated that recommendation 1.3.1 was a result of Labour listening to residents. Some residents of the borough could not afford the proposed council tax increase and had nothing to look forward to.

Councillor Watkins stated he was proud of the administration and what had been achieved. That the Council had reinvested money back into the environment and given services a new lease of life. That the budget had been set to protect services and provide a vision for Thurrock residents.

Councillor S Little stated the budget was inspirational and had provided adult social care a twenty-first century provision that had been recognised by the Government. This was achieved by listening to residents and ensuring that money was spent in Thurrock.

Councillor Maney stated that budget was sound and it had been a weak attack from the Labour Leader. Councillor Maney confirmed that street cleaning was improving on a much harder test and being monitored by Keep Britain Tidy.

Councillor Duffin stated he would abstain on recommendation 1.3 to agree a 1.99% council tax increase and asked Councillor Gerrish to set out what his proposed plans would be to reduce this figure.

Councillor Gledhill stated that Group Leaders had agreed the rise in council tax and that this would not appear next year. That recommendation 1.3.1 had been accepted and voted on as a substantive recommendation. Councillor Gledhill compared services, such as the Citizen Advice Bureau, and stated that under Labour administration there would be no budget.

Councillor Gledhill stated that taxes had to be paid for locally and not nationally as suggested. With the budget balanced for the next 4 years.

Councillor Gledhill proposed that the budget is moved as outlined to the vote.

At 9.14pm the meeting was stopped by the Mayor to seek procedural advice from Officers.

At 9.15pm the meeting was reconvened by the Mayor.

Councillor Gledhill sought clarification whether recommendations 1.7 to 1.12 should be non-recorded. The Mayor confirmed that these recommendations would be recorded.

The Mayor explained that a non-recorded vote would take place on recommendation 1.1.

A non-recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.1.:

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.1 to be carried.

The Mayor explained that a recorded vote would take place on recommendation 1.2.

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

For : Councillors John Allen, Chris Baker, Jan Baker, Clare Baldwin, Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Cliff Holloway, Deborah Huelin, Roy Jones, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Bukky Okunade, Terry Piccolo, Jane Potheary, David Potter, Joy Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerald Rice, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Michael Stone, Pauline Tolson and Aaron Watkins (42)

Against : (0)

Abstain : (0)

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.2 to be carried.

The Mayor explained that a recorded vote would take place on recommendation 1.3.

A recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.3 the result of which was:

For : Councillors Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Deborah Huelin, Tom Kelly, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Terry Piccolo, Joy Redsell, Pauline Tolson and Aaron Watkins (18)

Against : Councillors Claire Baldwin, Oliver Gerrish, Cliff Holloway, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Bukky Okunade, Jane Potheary, Barbara Rice, Gerald Rice and Michael Stone (12)

Abstain : Councillors John Allen, Chris Baker, Jan Baker, Jack Duffin, Leslie Gamester, Graham Hamilton, Roy Jones, David Potter, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell and Luke Spillman (12)

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.3 to be carried.

The Mayor explained that a non-recorded vote would take place on amendment recommendation 1.3.1.

Councillor Gerrish made a Point of Order requesting that 1.3.1 be a requisition vote.

A recorded vote took place on amendment recommendation 1.3.1 the result of which was:

For : Councillors Claire Baldwin, Oliver Gerrish, Cliff Holloway, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Bukky Okunade, Jane Potheary, Barbara Rice, Gerald Rice and Michael Stone (12)

Against : (0)

Abstain : Councillors John Allen, Chris Baker, Jan Baker, Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Leslie Gamester, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Deborah Huelin, Roy Jones, Tom Kelly, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Terry Piccolo, David Potter, Joy Redsell, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Pauline Tolson and Aaron Watkins (30)

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.3.1 to be carried and become a substantive recommendation.

The Mayor explained that a non-recorded vote would take place on recommendation 1.4.

A non-recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.4.

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.4 to be carried.

The Mayor explained that a non-recorded vote would take place on recommendation 1.5.

A non-recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.5.

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.5 to be carried.

The Mayor explained that a non-recorded vote would take place on recommendation 1.6.

A non-recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.6.

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.6 to be carried.

Finally, the Mayor explained that a recorded en-bloc vote would take place on recommendations 1.7 to 1.12 the result of which was:

For : Councillors John Allen, Chris Baker, Jan Baker, Clare Baldwin, Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Cliff Holloway, Deborah Huelin, Roy Jones, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Bukky Okunade, Terry Piccolo, Jane Potheary, David Potter, Joy Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerald Rice, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Michael Stone, Pauline Tolson and Aaron Watkins (42)

Against : (0)

Abstain : (0)

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendations 1.7 to 1.12 to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

- 1.1 Considers and acknowledges 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;**
- 1.2 Agree to a 3% council tax increase in respect of Adult Social Care;**
- 1.3 Agree to a 1.99% council tax increase in support of the general budget;**
- 1.3.1 In respect of the projected revenue surplus for 2018/19, Council calls on Cabinet to make the following one-off allocations for 2018/19:**

- (a) £100,000 additional funding for Adult Social Care in 2018/19;
 - (b) £50,000 to Thurrock Citizens Advice Bureau;
 - (c) £450,000 to pilot a quick-response team to tackle fly-tipping across Thurrock;
 - (d) £300,000 to enable further target-hardening schemes to prevent site incursions;
 - (e) £250,000 to fund evidence-gathering to robustly challenge the requirement for 32,000 additional houses through the Local Plan process.
- 1.4 Approve the Dedicated Schools Grant as set out in section 8 and Appendix 5;
- 1.5 Approve 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 8;
- 1.6 Delegate 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.
- 1.7 Calculate that the council tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/19 is £65,407,870 as set out in the table at paragraph 5.8 of this report.
- 1.8 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- (a) £402,469,412 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £337,061,542 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £65,407,870 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 50,790), 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.

1.9 To note 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.

1.10 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 2018/19 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

**2018/19 COUNCIL TAX FOR THURROCK PURPOSES EXCLUDING ESSEX
FIRE AUTHORITY AND ESSEX POLICE AUTHORITY**

Amounts for the Valuation Bands for 2018/19							
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

1.11 That it be noted that for the year 2018/19 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 2018/19							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
112.68	131.46	150.24	169.02	206.58	244.14	281.70	338.04

1.12 That it be noted that for the year 2018/19 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 2018/19							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
46.92	54.74	62.56	70.38	86.02	101.66	117.30	140.76

**2018/19 COUNCIL TAX (INCLUDING FIRE AND POLICE AUTHORITY
PRECEPTS)**

Amounts for the Valuation Bands for 2018/19							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
1,018.14	1,187.83	1,357.52	1,527.21	1,866.59	2,205.97	2,545.35	3,054.42

130. Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that four questions to the Leader had been received and six 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 part of question 1 and answer can be found at Appendix A to these minutes.

At 9.30pm the Mayor called the close of the Full Council meeting having not received any motions to suspend Standing Orders beyond the 2.5 hour time limit.

Councillor Spillman withdrew his question and would resubmit.

Councillor Pothecary requested a written response.

Councillor Redsell requested a written response.

Councillor Duffin withdrew his question and would resubmit.

Councillor B Rice requested a written response.

Councillor Maney requested a written response.

Councillor G Rice requested a written response.

Councillor Gerrish withdrew his question and would resubmit.

Councillor Redsell requested a written response.

Councillor Duffin questioned the Mayor why he had not suspended Standing Orders to continue beyond the 2.5 hour time limit as he had previously done at Full Council meetings he had chaired. Councillor Ojetola stated that this was a Budget Council and that no Member had requested to suspend standing orders.

131. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies

This item fell due to time limit of meeting being met.

132. Minutes of Committees

This item fell due to time limit of meeting being met.

133. Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year

This item fell due to time limit of meeting being met.

134. Motion submitted by Councillor Spillman

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

That Thurrock Council seeks as part of the nationally prescribed process of bringing forward our Local Plan as positively and quickly as possible and using all available legislation, to ensure that sufficient homes of the right type and tenure are delivered to meet the local needs of our communities. And that such an approach should also inform all new developments, especially Thurrock Regeneration Limited projects.

Councillor Spillman introduced the Motion by stating that the legislation process should take priority and push the legal boundaries when Thurrock Council brought forward the Local Plan and Regeneration Projects within the Council.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the Motion whereupon the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

135. Motion submitted by Councillor Duffin

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

Thurrock Council resolves to increase its investment portfolio with the ambition to reduce General Fund Council Tax.

Councillor Duffin stated that Thurrock Council should work to increase the investment portfolio to reduce the general fund council tax if the financial position was viable. That the Council had the power to reduce the cost of living for residents in Thurrock by working together to make these reductions to council tax an ambitious goal.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the Motion whereupon the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

136. Motion submitted by Councillor Aker

Councillor Aker withdrew his Motion prior to the start of the meeting.

137. Motion submitted by Councillor Snell

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

Thurrock Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care as well as NHS England setting out a detailed case supporting

the need for a new hospital in Thurrock to help address the future needs of the borough.

Councillor Snell stating the Motion was not a judgement on whether Orsett Hospital should close or not but to start conversations now on the proposal of a new hospital in Thurrock in the next 10 to 15 years by writing to the Secretary of State and NHS England to identify a site for such a new hospital.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted in minority in favour of the Motion whereupon the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

138. Motion submitted by Councillor Jones

The Motion, as printed in the Agenda was proposed by Councillor Jones. The Motion read as follows:

Thurrock faces an environmental crisis if it does not balance the economic growth of the Borough with the increasing risks to our resident's health and our environment. Therefore Thurrock Council requests the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to convene a fact finding meeting, the results of which can be reported to the relevant decision making bodies of the council. The meeting will:

- (1) *Analyse current and future risk to Thurrock's environment.*
- (2) *Develop concrete policy proposals.*

Councillor Jones introduced the Motion by stating that air pollution was a worry to residents with Thurrock being in the top 6 worse areas in the country. With future planned infrastructures such as the expansion of DP World, Tilbury Docks, Tilbury Power Plant, Purfleet Regeneration, Integrated Medical Centres and the future development of 32,000 new homes into Thurrock. Residents deserved a better place to live and not have to endure worrying environmental issues.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the Motion whereupon the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

The Mayor wished the Leader a happy 50th birthday.

The meeting finished at 9.43 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**

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Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 28 February 2018

Item 14 – Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 4 question had been received to the Leader of the Council and 6 questions had been received to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee had been received.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Spillman to Councillor Gledhill

Does the portfolio holder agree that efficiency and efficacy appear to be absent considerations within Thurrock Council's current approach to the replacement of blown and faulty windows in council homes?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Mr Mayor and indeed thank you Councillor Spillman for your question.

What you are talking about here are two different issues, it's very important to distinguish between blown windows and those that are broken, damaged or in urgent need of repair. Any window with a faulty security feature such as hinges, locks or indeed broken glass can be reported as a standard repair and dealt with as such by the timescales in the contract, which is a maximum of 24 hours for an emergency repair.

As you know the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently received details of the improvements made within this key service to our tenants, with improvements in performance this year to date being 97% for repairs within target, emergency repairs at 99% for those done within target time, appointments kept 97% of those and tenant satisfaction 92% and also the fallout from that a deduction in complaints.

So it's quite clearly being done and being adhered to quite well. Now turning to blown windows these are also sub categorised in two categories. 1. Where visibility seriously effected and 2. Where the impact is marginal.

In the first case where glazing is permanently faulty where there is not visibility, these can be dealt with as a responsive repair. In the second case they are likely to be included in the batch programme. However like all repair work it is currently being reviewed and we're are looking to move away from this somewhat reactive approach as we always find people are left far too long and we really shouldn't be waiting till there is a critical mass, we should just be getting on with the job.

As always if any particular case which you have a cause for concern please feel free to see me before the meeting and I'm quite happy to give you an update on the individual case or as we have this evening our general response time.

Mayor

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

Councillor Spillman

I've seen a number of cases including one recently which is just ridiculous. You've got a series of windows which are all blown and the contactor comes round says that *yes they are all blown they all need replacing* but he then says his budget only allows for him to replace two of these windows even though they are part of a two three piece set.

Now this is why I talk about efficiency and efficacy. Don't you think it's a ridiculous situation where that's occurring and its occurring on a semi regular basis and I think it is quite standard now that, that sort of ridiculous decision making is going on due to you know they batch programme being just you know not fit for purpose.

How are we going to deal with that not just in a few years' time, how are we going to deal with that ridiculous situation now?

Mayor

I'm sorry Leader of the Council before you come to this you will note that the time is now 9.30pm that is the official end time of the meeting there was no motion asking for this to be extended so we are now at the end of the meeting.

I will now ask Members who have already got questions do you want to withdraw your question or do you want an answer in writing.

23 May 2018	ITEM: 8
Annual Council	
Committees and their Terms of Reference	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law and 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 2018-19 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 2018-19 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 2018-19 municipal year in order to facilitate the efficient discharge of its functions and that their terms of reference be those contained within 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 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

23 May 2018	ITEM: 9
Annual Council	
Allocation of Committee seats and Committee appointments	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law and 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, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 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 Following the elections in May 2018 the following political balance applies:

Group	Councillors	%
Labour	17	34.69%
Conservative	20	40.82%
Thurrock Independents	12	24.49%
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 28 seats
- Conservative 33 seats
- Thurrock Ind. 20 seats

- 3.5 Each of the political groups are only entitled to their proportion of seats.
- 3.6 In order to ascertain the number of seats to be allocated to political groups on each committee, the following calculation is required to be undertaken:

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

- 3.7 After applying the above calculation to each of the committees that have been established at Agenda Item 8, 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 | 40.82 / 100 x 6 = | 2.45 = | 2 seat(s) |
| • TI | 24.49 / 100 x 6 = | 1.47 = | 1 seat(s) |

NOTE: A manual adjustment will provide the remaining seat for each of these committees to be allocated to the respective party (see 3.9 below).

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

- Lab $34.69 / 100 \times 7 = 2.43 = 2 \text{ seat(s)}$
- Con $40.82 / 100 \times 7 = 2.86 = 3 \text{ seat(s)}$
- TI $24.49 / 100 \times 7 = 1.71 = 2 \text{ seat(s)}$

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

- Lab $34.69 / 100 \times 8 = 2.78 = 3 \text{ seat(s)}$
- Con $40.82 / 100 \times 8 = 3.27 = 3 \text{ seat(s)}$
- TI $24.49 / 100 \times 8 = 1.96 = 2 \text{ seat(s)}$

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

- Lab $34.69 / 100 \times 9 = 3.12 = 3 \text{ seat(s)}$
- Con $40.82 / 100 \times 9 = 3.67 = 4 \text{ seat(s)}$
- TI $24.49 / 100 \times 9 = 2.20 = 2 \text{ seat(s)}$

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

- Lab $34.69 / 100 \times 15 = 5.20 = 5 \text{ seat(s)}$
- Con $40.82 / 100 \times 15 = 6.12 = 6 \text{ seat(s)}$
- TI $24.49 / 100 \times 15 = 3.67 = 4 \text{ seat(s)}$

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

3.9 From the figures set out in **Appendix 1**, the manual adjustments required are:

- The Conservatives require 3 additional seats across the 6 member committees.
- The Thurrock Independents require 3 additional seats across the 6 member committees.
- Labour require 1 additional seat across the 6 member committees.

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

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

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

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Council is required to make the required appointments to those committees that have been established to facilitate the efficient discharge of its functions, as set out in Agenda Item 8.

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**
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

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

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

None.

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

None.

9. **Appendices to the report**

There are the following appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Allocation of seats.

Appendix 2 – Nominations of political groups to seats on Committees (to be circulated at the meeting).

Appendix 3 – Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (to be circulated at the meeting).

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Legal and Democratic Services

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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			20		17		0		12		0	49
Overall proportionality			0.408163265	40.82%	0.346938776	34.69%	0	0.00%	0.244897959	24.49%		
Total strict entitlement			33.06122449		28.10204082		0		19.83673469			
Total rounded entitlement			33		28		0		20		81	0
Children's O&S		6	2.45	2	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.47	1	5	1
Cleaner & Greener O&S		6	2.45	2	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.47	1	5	1
Corporate O&S		6	2.45	2	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.47	1	5	1
Health O&S		6	2.45	2	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.47	1	5	1
Housing O&S		6	2.45	2	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.47	1	5	1
Planning, Transport & Regeneration O&S		6	2.45	2	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.47	1	5	1
Planning		9	3.67	4	3.12	3	0.00	0	2.20	2	9	0
Licensing		15	6.12	6	5.20	5	0.00	0	3.67	4	15	0
General Services		7	2.86	3	2.43	2	0.00	0	1.71	2	7	0
Corporate Parenting		8	3.27	3	2.78	3	0.00	0	1.96	2	8	0
Standards & Audit		6	2.45	2	2.08	2	0.00	0	1.47	1	5	1
Total seats		81		30		27		0		17	74	7
Adjustments				3		1		0		3		

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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23 May 2018	ITEM: 10
Annual Council	
Appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law and 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 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

23 May 2018	ITEM: 11
Annual Council	
Schedule of Meetings 2018-19	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law and 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 8 for the 2018-19 municipal year.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Calendar of Meetings for 2018-19 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 2018-19 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 only partially been included in the schedule of ordinary meetings. In particular, this applies to the General Services Committee.

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

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

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

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Council is required to approve the schedule of ordinary meetings for 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 2018-19.

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Legal & Democratic Services

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May 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Conservative Group Thurrock Independents Group	22 Labour Group	23 Annual Council – 7.00pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5 Corporate O & S – 7.00pm	6 Corporate Parenting – 7.00pm	7 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	8 Health & Wellbeing Board, 10.30am- 1.00pm	9	10
11 Cleaner, Greener & Safer O & S – 7.00pm Conservative Group	12 Planning, Transport, Regeneration O & S – 7.00pm	13 Cabinet – 7.00pm	14 Health & Wellbeing O & S – 7.00pm	15	16	17
18 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	19	20 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	21	22	23	24
25 Conservative Group Thurrock Independents Group	26 Labour Group	27 Full Council – 7.00pm	28 Housing O & S – 7.00pm	29	30	

July 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3 LGA Conference Children's Services O & S – 7.00pm	4 LGA Conference Licensing Committee – 7.00pm	5 LGA Conference Cleaner, Greener & Safer O & S – 7.00pm	6	7	8
9 Conservative Group	10	11 Cabinet – 7.00pm	12 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	13	14	15
16 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	17 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	18 SACRE – 6.00pm	19 Standards & Audit – 7.00pm	20 Health & Wellbeing Board, 10.30am- 1.00pm	21	22
23 Conservative Group Thurrock Independents Group	24 Labour Group	25 Full Council – 7.00pm	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2018

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

September 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4 Corporate O & S – 7.00pm	5 Corporate Parenting – 7.00pm	6 Health & Wellbeing O & S – 7.00pm	7	8	9
10 Conservative Group	11 Planning, Transport, Regeneration O & S – 7.00pm	12 Cabinet – 7.00pm	13 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	14	15	16
17 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force – 6.00pm	18	19 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	20	21 Health & Wellbeing Board, 10.30am- 1.00pm	22	23
24 Labour Conference Conservative Group Thurrock Independents Group	25 Labour Conference Labour Group	26 Labour Conference Full Council – 7.00pm	27 Standards & Audit Committee – 7.00pm	28	29	30

October 2018

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

November 2018

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

December 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4 Children's Services O & S – 7.00pm	5	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 Standards & Audit Committee – 7.00pm	14	15	16
17	18	19 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2019

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

February 2019

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

March 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4 General Services Committee – 6.00pm Conservative Group	5 Corporate O & S – 7.00pm	6 Corporate Parenting – 7.00pm	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 Standards & Audit Committee – 7.00pm	15	16	17
18 Conservative Group Thurrock Independents Group	19 Labour Group	20 Full Council – 7.00pm (provisional)	21 Planning Committee – 7.00pm	22	23	24
25	26	27 Licensing Sub Committee – 7.00pm	28	29	30	31

April 2019

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

23 May 2018	ITEM: 12
Annual Council	
Schedule of Elections and Order of Retirement of Councillors	
Wards and communities affected: None	Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law and 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 2019 and 2022 and also sets out the order of retirement of Councillors.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the schedule of elections from 2019 to 2022 and order of retirement of Councillors be noted.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This report advises Council of the schedule of elections from 2019 to 2022, 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 The order of retirement of Councillors is set out in **Appendix 1** to this report.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

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

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

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

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

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

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **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	2019	2020	2021	2022
Aveley & Uplands	Smith (TI)	Spillman (TI)	No election	Aker (TI)
Belhus	Hamilton (TI)	Sheridan (TI)		Fletcher (L)
Chadwell St Mary	Cherry (TI)	G Rice (L)		B Rice (L)
Chafford & North Stifford	Coxshall (C)	Hague (C)		No election
Corringham & Fobbing	Huelin (C)	Watkins (C)		No election
East Tilbury	Baker (TI)	Sammons (TI)		No election
Grays Riverside	Pothecary (L)	Fish (L)		Kerin (L)
Grays Thurrock	C Kent (L)	J Kent (L)		Worrall (L)
Little Thurrock Blackshots	No election	Redsell (C)		Maney (C)
Little Thurrock Rectory	Kelly (C)	No election		Gledhill (C)
Ockendon	Jefferies (C)	Potter (TI)		Shinnick (L)
Orsett	No election	Little (C)		Johnson (C)
South Chafford	No election	MacPherson (C)		Akinbohun (L)
Stanford East & Corringham Town	Churchman (C)	Duffin (TI)		Anderson (C)

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