

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

Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **27 June 2018**

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


Membership of the Council:

Barbara Rice (Mayor)
Terry Piccolo (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
Jane Potheary
David Potter
Joycelyn Redsell
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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1	Apologies for absence	
2	Minutes	9 - 20
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 23 May 2018.	
3	Items of Urgent Business	
	To receive additional items that the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
4	Declaration of Interests	
	To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
5	Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council	
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	In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
7	Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors	
	In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2(Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
8	Petitions Update Report	23 - 24
9	Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels	
	The Council are asked to agree any changes to the appointments made to committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels, as requested by Group Leaders.	

10	Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2017/18	25 - 52
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In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

14	Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies	
15	Minutes of Committees	

Name of Committee	Date
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 March 2018
Corporate Parenting Committee	7 March 2018
Planning Committee	26 April 2018
Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	22 February 2018
Planning Transport Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	16 January 2018
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	12 March 2018
Lower Thames Crossing	23 April 2018

16	Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year	77 - 84
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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Future Dates of Council:

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

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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.

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

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

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Evacuation Procedures

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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.

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- 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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100 Years in Memoriam

Remembering Thurrock's Fallen of World War One

Each month during the centenary period of the First World War, Thurrock Council will pay tribute to the 834 local residents known to have lost their lives due to causes associated with the war and their service. At each meeting of Council until November 2018, the 100th anniversary of signing of the Armistice with Germany, a Roll of Honour will be published with the agenda detailing the casualties from that month 100 years ago to commemorate the sacrifice made by Thurrock residents.

June 1918

DATE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	WARD	RANK	SERVICE	DIED
02-Jun	SAVILLE	JOSEPH	38	S.OCK	GUNNER	RFA	IRAQ
04-Jun	BARKER	WILLIAM WALTER	30	G	DRIVER	RFA	HOME
05-Jun	SMITH	ERNEST CECIL	19	TIL	GUNNER	RFA	BELGIUM
07-Jun	DOBSON	JOHN ARTHUR EDWARD	24	SLH	2/LT	RFC	BELGIUM
15-Jun	ABBOTT	ALONZO THOMAS	30	G	SAPPER	RE	FRANCE
15-Jun	BUTLER	ARTHUR THOMAS	31	TIL	FMN	MERC MARINE	CHANNEL
17-Jun	ATTWATER	HARRY	32	SLH	PTE	SUSSEX - 13	BELGIUM
22-Jun	WIGGINS	ALBERT ALEXANDER	19	G	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
23-Jun	EVANS	THOMAS	60	L/TH	BOILER	MERC MARINE	IND'N OCEAN
27-Jun	CLARKE	ARTHUR FREDERICK	29	G & W/TH	RFMN	R IRISH RIF 10	BELGIUM
28-Jun	CHAPMAN	ERNEST	27	S.OCK	PTE	ESSEX - 11	BELGIUM
28-Jun	CRABB	ARTHUR ERIC	22	STIFF	CPL	ESSEX - 11	FRANCE

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Council held on 23 May 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors 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 (*arrived 7.07pm*), 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 and Lynn Worrall

In attendance: Tunde Ojetola, Retiring Mayor
Mike Stone, Retiring Deputy Mayor
Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation
David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance
Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services
Karen Wheeler, Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service
Kerry Thomas, Chief Executive Business Manager
Detlev Munster, Assistant Director, Property & Development
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.

Tunde Ojetola, the Mayor of Thurrock, took the Chair for Minute Nos. 1, 2 and 3. Following the election of the new Mayor of Thurrock, Councillor B Rice took the Chair for the remainder of the business.

The Mayor invited Reverend Canon Darren Barlow to lead those present in prayer.

139. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 28 February 2018 were approved as a correct record.

140. To elect and install the Mayor for the municipal year 2018/19

Nominations were invited for the election of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

It was proposed by Councillor Gerrish, and seconded by Councillor G Rice, that Councillor B Rice be elected Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

The Mayor declared that Councillor B Rice had been duly elected as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

Councillor B Rice signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and also received the chains of office.

The new elected Mayor, Councillor B Rice, made a short speech thanking the Council for the privilege and honour of being elected as the Mayor of Thurrock and thanked all Councillors for their support. Councillor B Rice stated that Thurrock residents deserved to see Councillors conducting the business of Thurrock Council in a fair and equitable manner, with dignity and respect and would be firm but fair in her role as Mayor when conducting Full Council meetings.

The Mayor presented Tunde Ojetola and his Consort, Bunmi Ojetola, with their past Mayor's and past consort's badge.

Councillor Gledhill stated it was a shame to see any Mayor or Councillor leave and thanked Tunde Ojetola for his services as a Councillor and congratulated him on having had such a fantastic year as Mayor. Councillor Gledhill wished Tunde Ojetola well and hoped that he would now enjoy some free time.

Councillor Gerrish echoed the Leaders comments and stated that Tunde Ojetola as his time as Mayor had attended a large amount of events, that he had championed lots of young people, was admired and was passionate about the role and should proudly take those positive memories away with him.

Councillor Spillman thanked Tunde Ojetola for being kind, courteous and helpful as his time as Mayor and that he would not be surprised to him back in the chamber soon.

Councillor Redsell thanked Tunde Ojetola for the hard work undertaken as his time as Mayor and that this was appreciated by all.

Councillor MacPherson thanked Tunde Ojetola for being kind and caring and that he would be missed as a Councillor.

Tunde Ojetola thanked Members for their kind words and support. That he had enjoyed his time representing the borough of Thurrock and that the Council had one common purpose which was Thurrock residents.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor B Rice be duly elected as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

141. Items of Urgent Business

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

142. To elect and install the Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2018/19

Nominations were invited for the election of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

It was proposed by Councillor Gledhill and seconded by Councillor Churchman that Councillor Piccolo be appointed Deputy Mayor of Thurrock for 2018-19.

It was proposed by Councillor Spillman and seconded by Councillor Duffin that Councillor Aker be appointed Deputy Mayor of Thurrock for 2018-19.

The Mayor called a vote on the nominations made.

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Piccolo to be the next Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2018-19.

Councillor Piccolo signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and also received the chains of office.

Councillor Piccolo then made a short speech to accept the honour of being appointed as Deputy Mayor and thanked Members for their support.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Piccolo be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough and Vice-Chair of the Council for the municipal year 2018-19.

143. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

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

Firstly the Mayor invited all those present to reflect and remember Thurrock's fallen during World War One.

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank Michael Stone for his role as Deputy Mayor and wished him well.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that Councillor G Rice had agreed to be her Consort. Councillor G Rice was asked to step forward and receive the Consort's Chain.

The Mayor confirmed that the Deputy Mayor Consort would be Joan Piccolo. Joan Piccolo was asked to step forward and receive the Consort's Chain.

The Mayor announced that her charities for the Mayoral Year would be the Thurrock Branch of the RNLI, GIFT and the Community Chest.

Furthermore, the Mayor announced that her Mayoral Chaplain would be Reverend Canon Darren Barlow.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Gledhill to make any announcements he wished to make as Leader of the Council.

The Leader announced that he had received earlier today the news that former Councillor John Everett had sadly passed away and sent condolences to his family.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to the appointment of Councillor B Rice as the new Mayor of Thurrock and to Councillor Piccolo as the new Deputy Mayor of Thurrock. Councillor Gledhill also welcomed back new members to the chamber.

The Leader of the Council then informed Members of the changes to the appointments he had made to Cabinet, together with the details of their respective portfolios.

Councillor Gledhill	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour
Councillor Hebb	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance
Councillor Collins	Portfolio Holder for Central Services
Councillor Coxshall	Portfolio Holder for Regeneration
Councillor Halden	Portfolio Holder for Education and Health
Councillor Huelin	Portfolio Holder for Communities
Councillor Johnson	Portfolio Holder for Housing
Councillor Little	Portfolio Holder for Children and Adult Social Care
Councillor Watkins	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways

The Mayor requested that a one minute's silence was held as a mark of respect to former Councillor John Everett who had sadly passed away.

145. Committees and their Terms of Reference

The Leader of the Council presented the report and proposed the recommendations as printed in the report.

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

RESOLVED:

- 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.**
- 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.**

146. Allocation of Committee seats and Committee appointments

The Mayor informed Members that the nominations of Group Leaders to the places allocated on committees, and the nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of committees had been received.

The nominations made to Committees for the municipal year 2018-19, together with the nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, were set out in a booklet tabled for Members.

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report, which requested the Council to confirm the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees and also to appoint the nominations made by political groups to committees.

In addition, the report also requested the Council to appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Councillor Gledhill stated that the Conservative Party would not be nominating Chair or Vice Chairs on overview and scrutiny committees therefore these positions were open for the opposition parties to fill.

Councillor Gledhill stated that the 3 extra unallocated seats gained by the Conservative Party as part of the manual adjustment be allocated to Thurrock Independents. If these seats were not accepted, Councillor Gledhill stated that he would announce the allocated members to those 3 seats at the June Full Council.

Councillor Gledhill stated that he would like to make 3 changes to the nomination booklet.

On the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee replace Councillor Collins with Councillor Hague.

On the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee replace Councillor Collins with Councillor Maney.

On the Licensing Committee replace Councillor Collins with Councillor Maney as the nomination for Chair.

Councillor Gerrish stated that he would like to make 1 change to the nomination booklet.

On the Corporate Parenting Committee withdraw Councillor Liddiard as the nomination for Vice Chair.

Councillor Spillman stated he had no changes to make to the nomination booklet and that the Thurrock Independents would not be accepting the 3 unallocated seats.

The Mayor then called for a separate vote to be undertaken in respect of each of the contested nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees.

The results of each vote are set out below:

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Gerrish over Councillor Duffin to be Chair.

Therefore Councillor Gerrish was appointed Chair and by default Councillor Duffin was appointed Vice Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor G Rice over Councillor Spillman to be Chair.

Therefore Councillor G Rice was appointed Chair and by default Councillor Spillman was appointed Vice Chair of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Kerin over Councillor Smith to be Chair.

Therefore Councillor Kerin was appointed Chair and by default Councillor Smith was appointed Vice Chair of the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Standards and Audit Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Fish over Councillor Cherry to be Chair.

Therefore Councillor Fish was appointed Chair and by default Councillor Cherry was appointed Vice Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. **That the allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.**
2. **That the nominations of the political groups to seats on committees be approved, as set out in Appendix 2.**
3. **That the non-voting co-opted members of the Planning Committee, the Standards and Audit Committee, the Health and Wellbeing 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.**
4. **That the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees be appointed as set out below:**

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor J Kent	Councillor Potter
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Worrall	Councillor Sheridan
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Gerrish	Councillor Duffin
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Holloway	Councillor Allen
Housing Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor G Rice	Councillor Spillman

Committee		
Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Kerin	Councillor Smith
Corporate Parenting	Councillor Redsell	Councillor Hamilton
General Services	Councillor Gledhill	Councillor Gerrish
Health and Wellbeing Board	Councillor Halden	-
Licensing Committee	Councillor Maney	Councillor Fish
Planning Committee	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Liddiard
Standards and Audit Committee	Councillor Fish	Councillor Cherry

147. Appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels

The nominations of the political groups to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels were detailed in the supplementary booklet tabled for Members.

The Leader presented the report in respect of the appointments required to be made to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels.

The Mayor called for a separate vote to be undertaken in respect of each of the contested nominations for appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels.

Councillor Gledhill stated he would like to withdraw his nomination from the Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee. Therefore this appointment was no longer contested.

Councillor Gerrish stated that he would like to make 2 changes to the nomination booklet.

On the Impulse Leisure to withdraw Councillor Liddiard's nomination.

On the Thurrock Sports Council to withdraw Councillor Liddiard's nomination. Therefore this appointment was no longer contested.

Councillor B Rice stated she would like to withdraw her nomination from the Campaign to Protect Rural Essex. Therefore this appointment was no longer contested.

The results of each vote are set out below:

Coalhouse Fort Project

The result of the vote: Councillor C Kent (16), Councillor Watkins (20), Councillor Sammons (12). With Councillor Sammons receiving the least number of votes a further vote was undertaken. The majority of the chamber then voted in favour of Councillor Watkins over Councillor C Kent.

Therefore Councillor Watkins was appointed the representative of the Council on the Coalhouse Fort Project.

Police Fire and Crime Panel

The result of the vote: Councillor Okunade (16), Councillor Anderson (20), Councillor Smith (12). With Councillor Smith receiving the least number of votes a further vote was undertaken. The majority of the chamber then voted in favour of Councillor Anderson over Councillor Okunade.

Therefore Councillor Anderson was appointed the representative of the Council on the Police Fire and Crime Panel.

Impulse Leisure

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Hague over Councillor Smith.

Therefore Councillor Hague was appointed the representative of the Council on the Impulse Leisure.

Open Door (Thurrock)

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Churchman over Councillor Worrall.

Therefore Councillor Churchman was appointed the representative of the Council on the Open Door (Thurrock).

The Mayor advised that following the changes detailed above there were no longer any contested appointments to the nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels. Members voted unanimously in favour of the nominations made, thereupon the Mayor declared these to be carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the uncontested nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels as circulated during the meeting, be approved.**

2. **That the contested nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels as voted and agreed upon during the meeting, be approved.**
3. **That in accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 13.2 “Participation of Appointed Members” all Elected Members be required to undertake a DBS within 2 months of taking up their role.**

148. Schedule of Meetings 2018/19

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report. A copy of the schedule of meetings for 2018-2019 was included in the Agenda at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Gerrish stated that the Labour Group Meetings would now be held on the Monday preceding Full Council.

Councillor Gerrish also stated that September Full Council date conflicted with the Labour Conference. The Leader replied saying this matter would be looked into.

Members agreed to note the recommendation.

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Meetings for 2018-19 be approved.

149. Schedule of Elections and Order of Retirement of Councillors

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report which informed the Council of the schedule of elections to be held between 2019 and 2022.

Members agreed to note the recommendation.

RESOLVED:

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

The meeting finished at 7.59 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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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There are 3 questions from members of the public.

1. From Mr Atkins to Councillor Johnson

I understand as part of the Council's housing allocation process Thurrock Council uses NowMedical to assess tenants who may have an extra medical need. Can you let me know how this private contractor can override professional medical consultants and GPs reports who may see their patients on a more frequent basis?

2. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Gledhill

The Leader of the Thurrock Independents Party has recently made public six tests he insists must be met by the Conservative Administration running Thurrock Council regarding the building of 32,000 new homes in Thurrock. In the first of the six tests he says he expects the Council to negotiate with the Government to attempt to reduce the figure substantially. He also says other Councils across the country have already secured massive reductions so far. Councillor Gledhill are you inclined to meet with Councillor Spillman's expectations?

3. From Mr Healy to Councillor Halden

There has been much disquiet in the local media recently over the proposed transfer of council land currently leased by Thurrock Rugby Club to South West Essex community Education Trust for a much needed secondary school. When and with whom at Thurrock Rugby Club did Thurrock Council consult on this matter please?

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Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 27 June 2018

Petition No.	Description	Presented (date)	Presented by Member	Status Full copies of the responses may be obtained from Democratic Services
505	Residents of Thurrock call on the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner to urgently reconsider the level of police resources in Thurrock, the lack of which we believe has fuelled an increase in crime and Antisocial Behaviour.	31 January 2018	Cllr Gerrish	The petition was handed to the PFCC on 31 January.
506	Residents call on Thurrock Council to resurface the section of roadway in Long Lane between Fairway in Stifford Clays and Cherrydown in Little Thurrock, Blackshots. The road has seen increasing traffic volumes in recent years.	31 January 2018	Cllr Maney	<p>Long Lane is currently scheduled to be resurfaced in April. Due to the size of the area works will take place in three tranches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 4th April to Saturday 7 April. Resurface the western section (between Fairway and Blackshots Lane). • Sunday 8 April resurfacing the Long Lane junction with Blackshots Lane. • Monday 9 April resurface between Blackshots Lane and Cherry Down. <p>June Update - This has been completed.</p>

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27 June 2018	ITEM: 10
Council	
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key
Report of: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law and Governance	
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law and Governance	
Accountable Director: Sean Clark, Corporate Director of Finance and IT	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

This report introduces the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report which in accordance with the Council's Constitution, should be presented to the Council.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18 be noted.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Each year an Annual Report is produced detailing the work of the six Overview and Scrutiny committees and their main achievements for that municipal year. The report is designed to inform residents of this work in an accessible and engaging format.

2.2 The last municipal year has seen Overview and Scrutiny tackle a wide range of topics, with Members leading on issues that have come to the fore both through their own research but also by understanding the issues that have arisen in the community and those that are the Council's priorities or are subject to Cabinet decisions.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 It is hoped that the format of the Annual Report will highlight to residents how the Overview and Scrutiny committees have picked relevant community issues and how Members undertook work to form recommendations that positively affected these issues.

3.2 The report will be published on the Council's website and key community groups and participants from last year's work will be made aware of its publication directly.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The report outlines the positive work that has been undertaken during 2017/18 and is being referred to Council for review in order for Members to comment on the overall Overview and Scrutiny function of Thurrock Council.

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

5.1 In accordance with Chapter 4, Part 1, Rule 7.1 of the Constitution, the annual report is submitted to Council for their consideration and comment.

5.2 Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Members have been consulted on the contents of the report.

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

6.1 The positive impact of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny committees for 2017/18, in allowing residents to participate in decision making and tackling key issues of local concern, is clearly documented in the annual report.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report. If any recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for adoption by the Council have financial implications they are identified separately in each report.

7.2 Legal

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

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report but it is good practice to produce an annual report reviewing Overview and Scrutiny activity.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Strategic Lead, Community Development & Equalities

The Overview and Scrutiny function recognises the importance and role of diversity and equality issues. All work in 2017/18 sought to include sections of the community relevant to the issues being investigated. Members made every effort to engage and consult Thurrock residents when required.

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):

- Agenda, Reports and Minutes of meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Task and Finish Reviews, available from:

<http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock/>

9. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

Report Author:

Kenna-Victoria Healey
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Legal and Democratic Services

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Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report

2017-2018

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What is Overview & Scrutiny?

In general terms, Overview and Scrutiny is the process whereby Councillors investigate, scrutinise and oversee the work of the Council. More specifically Overview and Scrutiny pays particular attention to:

- ❖ The decisions made by Cabinet, Council and officers in relation to Council policy or key decisions.
- ❖ The activities carried out by the Council and other bodies (such as the National Health Service (NHS)).
- ❖ The performance of the Council in relation to its targets and objectives.

Work Programme

The work programme for Thurrock's Overview and Scrutiny is created by a combination of:

- ❖ What Councillors feel are important topics (this is gathered from their work in their wards and activities across the whole of the Council).
- ❖ Members of the public highlighting issues for debate, either through Call-Ins or through consultation.
- ❖ Requests by Thurrock's Cabinet for Overview and Scrutiny to undertake "pre-decision scrutiny" prior to policies being taken to Cabinet for consideration and decision. Council officers are requesting Overview and Scrutiny to investigate and consider certain issues on their behalf.

The agendas and associated reports of each Committee can be accessed by the following link: <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/>

Committees

At Thurrock, the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function is carried out by six committees, which each have a specific remit:

- ❖ Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ❖ Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ❖ Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ❖ Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ❖ Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ❖ Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership

The membership of Thurrock's Overview and Scrutiny Committees is made up of Councillors drawn from all the political parties of the Council. The Overview and Scrutiny function enables Councillors who are not members of the Cabinet (also known as the Executive) to have an active role in the decision-making process of the Council.

Thurrock has a number of non-Councillors sitting on Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Children's Services Committee has two parent-governors as well as a diocesan representative from the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches respectively. There are also two co-opted members on the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and one co-opted member on the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee representing health and housing interests across the borough.

In addition, sub-committees or panels may also be formed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to undertake specific tasks, such as a review, the membership of which is decided alongside the remit of the review.

The decision making process

In Thurrock, Overview and Scrutiny plays a key role in adding value to the Council's decision-making process. It also reviews the existing practices of the Council and makes recommendations to Cabinet to enhance and improve service provision.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees meet in an informal atmosphere and engage with people who can help with their work and provide evidence for their reviews. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Committees and at the discretion of the Chair may even be able to take part.

Overview and Scrutiny Online

Overview and Scrutiny has a dedicated section on Thurrock Council's website and can be found at (www.thurrock.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny/overview-and-scrutiny-committees).

Thurrock Council's website provides the most up-to-date information on Overview and Scrutiny in Thurrock. Participation from the public is actively encouraged and promoted online.

A number of documents are available and easily accessible, including our Overview and Scrutiny annual reports. Reports, agendas and minutes from each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting are also available electronically from Thurrock's website.

Getting in Touch

The Overview and Scrutiny process at Thurrock is managed by our Democratic Services Team. The Team is located within Legal Services. Democratic Services manage the Council's decision making process and services a wide range of Council decision making bodies including the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet, Planning Committee, Licensing Committee as well as full Council.

If you have any queries about this report or the Overview and Scrutiny process, or if you are interested in participating, please feel free to contact us.

Email: scrutiny.team@thurrock.gov.uk

Address: Overview and Scrutiny Team, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays
Essex RM17 6SL

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

The Committee started off the year with a focus on engaging more foster carers into the service within Thurrock which had been raised during the 'Children Looked After Placement Commissioning' report in July 2017. Members had taken the opportunity to suggest using local community forums to reach more carers. The service intended to work as locally as possible starting with in-house foster carers. The recruitment of foster carers was a reoccurring theme within the Committee.

Throughout the year, Children's Services continued to update the Committee on the Ofsted Inspection Action Plan which had seen improvements in staff levels and had increased the retention of permanent staff and foster carers. This had reduced the use of agency workers which had been an issue previously and was improving the stability of the workforce. A recruitment drive had also been set up to bring in more foster carers within the local area.

From the updates provided by the Youth Cabinet who have continued to attend meetings regularly, it was clear their work and commitment in giving young people a voice had become stronger. The fourth Annual Youth Conference in December 2017 had seen higher numbers of attendance of around 100 young people with many participating in two main debates – one of which had been on the teaching of life skills aka Curriculum for Life.

In the October 2017 meeting, the Committee had focused on the 'Peer Review Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Support across the Local Area' report. Children's Services had created a high level action plan with a timeline to ensure more support services could be accessed by children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The service would be working in partnership with Parent Carer Forums and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators to achieve targets within the plan.

There had been a strong focus on the 'Pilot Development of Head Start Housing for Care Leavers and Vulnerable Young People' report brought to the Committee in December 2017. The report gave an overview of the Head Start Housing for Care Leavers scheme which had been developed to provide support to young people leaving care. Young care leavers would be supported through a 24 month plan which would look at housing accommodation and other issues such as managing finances and further education. This has helped to prepare young care leavers for life after being in care. The Committee had welcomed the scheme which had also seen departments working together to ensure no young care leavers would slip through the net and continue to provide support where necessary thereafter.

December 2017's meeting also saw the Committee focusing on the report of 'A Sustainable Children's Social Care System for the Future: Annual Public Health Report 2017'. This report highlighted on the creation of a sustainable children's social care system to meet demands and pressures from the growing population. Strategic recommendations had been made in the report and Members had felt the report was detailed.

The Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB) informed the Committee that the framework was due to change following the implementation of new legislation in April 2018 – Children and Social Work Act 2017. Under this legislation, safeguarding boards would not exist and would be incorporated into a new framework instead. A detailed report would be brought to the Committee at a later date.

Chairing the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee this year has again given me the opportunity to work with highly committed councillors and co-opted members, dedicated youth cabinet leaders, and accountable senior officers assigned to ensure best outcomes are achieved for children and young people in Thurrock.

During the 2017-18 municipal year, Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to monitor and scrutinise the implementation of action plans. Specifically we looked at the Post Ofsted Inspection, and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Peer Review, plus the progress of transferring SEN Statements to Education Health and Care Plans.

Some of the key items the scrutiny committee deliberated upon during the year included;

- ❖ Children Social Care Performance
- ❖ Adoption and Permanency
- ❖ Children Missing Education
- ❖ School Performance
- ❖ Provision for children at risk of permanent exclusion or who have been permanently excluded
- ❖ Head Start Housing for care leavers & vulnerable young people

The committee also received presentations and updates on Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service, Children Social Care Development Plan 2018-19, and Annual Complaints and Representations Report 2016-2017. I would like to mention that regular updates were received from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Our February 2018 meeting welcomed the attendance of David Archibald, the LSCB Independent Chair who gave an overview of the LSCB’s Annual Report 2016–17, outlining the effectiveness of safeguarding in Thurrock.

The committee appreciated that the 2017 Annual Public Health Report, titled “A Sustainable Children’s Social Care System for the Future” has its central focus on how the council could make our social care system more sustainable and effective. The overview and scrutiny committee discussed and commended the report to be a good reference document for officers and all councillors.

I feel that it has been a successful year, and I would like to thank and appreciate my colleague councillors, co-opted members of the committee, Education, Social Care and other council officers, including the democratic services officers who have ably supported the work of Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Bukky Okunade
Chair of Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny

Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Towers in London, a representative from the Essex Fire Service attended committee and reported on what reassurances were being given and how fears were being alleviated for those Thurrock residents living in tower blocks and the work being undertaken to make residents more aware of the emergency procedures. Members were happy with the work being undertaken and appreciated the efforts of the Essex Fire Service and the Community Safety Teams.

A Fly-Tipping of Alleyways Review Panel had been set up in July 2017 with a member from the Cleaner Greener and Safer Committee being nominated as a panel member. The Review focused on the fly-tipping and unauthorised rubbish disposal in private alleyways where no policy was currently in place. A Public Consultation commenced and the feedback and contributions from this was presented to Members at the February 2018 committee, where they recommended to Cabinet the following policy approach for dealing with the issue of fly-tipping in private alleyways:

- ❖ *That the Council launch a communications campaign to raise awareness of the responsibilities of all parties in relation to the clearance of alleys and providing information to facilitate resident organisation of and participation in community initiatives to combat fly tipped alleys.*

A report and proposed plans were presented and agreed by Members on the future development of the Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre with a permit based system for site access for commercial waste and vehicles towing trailers being implemented at the recycling centre.

As part of Clean It, Cut It, Fill It a Public Bin Review was undertaken that focused on the location of public litter bins throughout the borough that resulted in new Dual Process Litter Bins and 10 Big Belly Bins being purchased and installed in prime locations within the borough. The committee heard that the Waste Service Route Optimisation was successfully introduced in May 2017 which had impacted on 79% of residents across the borough.

The Air Quality and Health Strategy report framed the authority's approach to improving the air quality and reducing air pollution exposure to safe levels across the borough. As part of the strategy reducing poor air quality would be covered by promoting public transport, working closely with schools to promote walking and cycling, landscaping and tree planning programmes and promoting a heavy goods vehicle management scheme.

Members agreed the Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy for 2018/19 that related to the charges within the remit of the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Firstly it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as chairman for the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny committee this past year. I have been involved with this committee since being elected and have served as chairman on two occasions.

Secondly I would like to thank all the committee members and officers for all their hard work and input on all the agendas that this very important committee has covered over the past year.

This committee is very important in that it covers many areas that affect the residents of Thurrock, from Anti Social Behaviour, Fly-Tipping, Food Standards, Fees and Charges, Air Quality and of course Waste Collections.

The first item on the July agenda was a report on Thurrock Community Partnership for the year 2016-17. This report gives data on all areas of crime in the borough. The report wanted to convey its three main priorities for the year 2017-18, which are to Reduce Youth Offending and re-offending, to reduce harm to and safeguard vulnerable victims from Domestic abuse, Sexual offences and Violent Extremism. This is a very important subject and members scrutinised the report thoroughly.

This was followed by a report on the Clean It, Cut It update which led into a very important subject that was causing much alarm to many residents of Thurrock which is Fly-tipping in alleyways. It was decided to set up a review panel to consider ideas on the subject and report back at a later date to the committee.

Another item the committee was involved with was a report and update in regards Thurrock Councils requirement to produce an annual plan in accordance with the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Food Law Enforcement. The team reported that the inspection programme for 2016-2017 had been 100% completed, together with inspecting all their overdue premises from the previous year.

At Octobers 2017 Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting members were presented with an update on the Air Quality and Strategy,. It was stated that the overall strategic aim of the Air Quality and Health Strategy is to improve air quality and to reduce the health impacts of air pollution in the borough. The meeting then had an update on the Linford Household waste and Recycling Centre-Future Site Redevelopment which led into a Public Bin review update.

In November we held an extraordinary meeting. This was because an independent survey undertaken in June suggested that there was a significant degree of commercial waste abuse on-site which was jeopardising the site's environmental permit, exacerbating capacity issues and creating significant avoidable waste disposal cost. The recommendations to members were to implement a permit based systems for site access for Commercial vehicles.

At December's committee we were presented with another very important item which was the Strategy to Tackle Violence against Women and Girls in Thurrock, 2017-20. Thurrock Council has been an active member of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board, originally set up and chaired by the then Police and Crime Commissioner. Thurrock's Community Safety Partnership has a long history of tackling domestic, sexual violence and abuse. A very important discussion was had by Members. Also December's meeting was the subject of Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy and the Waste Service Route Optimising. Fees and Charges cover many services to the residents of the borough from sports fields to burials and memorials. The Waste Service Route Optimisation was about changes to the waste collection service. On the 8 May 2017, the optimisation of the waste collection operation was implemented. This included moving to a West to East sweep across the borough and rebalancing routes and operational capacity.

The last meeting of the Cleaner Greener & Safer committee was the report back for review regarding Fly-Tipping in alleyways. This was not an easy fix. If rubbish is left on council property then the council has a responsibility to clear the rubbish but if the rubbish is left on private land then this is not the case. Many options and ideas were put forward by members in the review process. Recommendations put forward to Members were to be recommended to Cabinet:

That the Council launch a communications campaign to raise awareness of the responsibilities of all parties in relation to the clearance of alleys and providing information to facilitate resident organisation of and participation in community initiatives to combat fly-tipped alleys.

That in instances where fly-tipping in alley ways was identified, officers would follow the following sequential approach:

- ❖ *Signposting of concerned residents to the Community Environment Development Fund, to assist in target hardening or other measures such as gating to reduce the incidence of fly-tipping in alleyways.*
- ❖ *Formally request that the occupiers of adjacent premises clear up their alleyway if concerns about non-hazardous alleyway accumulations persist.*
- ❖ *Offer a paid service to clean up alleyway accumulations on a cost recovery basis where the steps above do not result in the fly-tipping being removed.*

As you can see from the report it has been a very busy year for Cleaner Greener and Safer committee members and officers. Once again many thanks.

Councillor Roy Jones

Chair of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

The Committee started the year by continuing to look at the Corporate Performance Report. Members received many reports throughout the year and took this opportunity to engage with Officers to ensure the Council pushed for higher targets.

Members were presented with a report to establish a Task and Finish Group in relation to Public Participation at Council Meetings, it was commented there was high scope for Members of the Public to be more involved in the meetings held by the Council. The Chair thought this was a good opportunity to improve public participation at Council meetings.

The Committee suggested that should a Task and Finish Group be formed then the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be on the Membership and pass Mayors be invited to the meetings as they Chaired Full Council meetings and these had the highest public attendance. During Members discussions it was raised as to whether it would be better to call a meeting of the Constitution Working Group to complete the review into Public Participation as they were able to report directly to Full Council. Following advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer, the Committee decided it would be best for the Constitution Working Group to investigate public participation at council meetings.

Thurrock's Voluntary Sector Corporate Grants Programme was discussed at the Committees November meeting, which had been established and was recognised as a source of funding for key strategic voluntary sector partners supporting communities in Thurrock.

Also at their November meeting Members were notified the current Local Council Tax Support scheme had been agreed through a public consultation exercise informed by cross party working groups, with the resulting scheme being agreed by both Cabinet and the Council.

The Single Equality Scheme and Corporate Equality Framework 2018/22 allowed Members the opportunity to discuss issues, which were not only on a local level but also on a national level. They were advised the Equality Act 2010 had replaced a number of Equality Legislations into one act to cover 9 characteristics which included:

- ❖ Age
- ❖ Disability
- ❖ Gender Reassignment
- ❖ Marriage and Civil Partnerships
- ❖ Pregnancy & Maternity
- ❖ Race
- ❖ Religion & Belief

It has been a very interesting year for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. We have continued to monitor the council's Key Performance Indicators and overall budget progress, while also delving into the detail of some of the council's core functions.

In June the committee heard the call-in of the council's communication strategy. There had been concerns raised that the proposed approach to dealing with the press was overly restrictive. After a somewhat lengthy process with contributions from across the political spectrum and from members of the local press, an alternative approach was proposed by officers and accepted by the majority of committee. Ultimately the changes were accepted by Cabinet and I believe this is a positive example of how scrutiny can influence the direction of the council.

The Committee also debated the establishment of a Task and Finish group in relation to improving public participation at meetings, with the aim of improving the accessibility of council processes to residents. Ultimately the committee decided to refer the review to the Constitution Working Group.

Later in the year, members received updates on the budget setting process and made a number of suggestions, including that it was crucial to have a published 5-year view of our medium term financial strategy in order to make the right long-term decisions on the council's finances. This was also accepted by Cabinet and presented to Council in February.

It has therefore been a successful year of constructive scrutiny for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with a number of cross-party recommendations made and accepted, with the aim of improving accountability at Thurrock Council.

*Councillor Oliver Gerrish
Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered and made recommendations on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan with regards to the Mid and South Essex Success Regime. This plan proposed major radical changes in health and care across the Mid and South Essex for the next five years. The aim of the plan was to help people stay well for longer, join services together, provide more care closer to people and to prevent people having to go into hospital. With the redesign of the three main hospitals (Basildon, Chelmsford and Southend) to meet the rising demands. Members agreed to join a Joint Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Essex and Southend Councils where substantive discussions would take place jointly with NHS England.

The Integrated Medical Centre Delivery Plan was presented to Members who agreed that the first stage of the process was the delivery of the Tilbury and Chadwell Integrated Medical Centre. Members had concerns over the intention to close Orsett Hospital and sought reassurances and commitment that the services offered at Orsett Hospital would not be moved to Basildon Hospital until such time as the Integrated Medical Centres were up and running.

Members agreed to the proposal to procure an Integrated Sexual Health Service for 2018-2023 as further savings could be identified following the majority of these services now being commissioned by the North East London Foundation Trust.

A report on the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Dementia Strategy for 2017-2021 was presented by the Director of Commissioning of the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, on the visions and priorities of the work being undertaken between people living with dementia and their carers. Members agreed to endorse this strategy with the agreement that a Local Thurrock Implementation Plan was developed to deliver the dementia strategy in Thurrock.

'The Long Term Conditions Profile Card' report was presented to Members that had been created by the Healthcare Public Health Improvement Team to respond to the high levels of variation within primary care across Thurrock that focused on individual needs, available resources and the overall quality of services. Members agreed that this was a fantastic tool that would help general practitioner surgeries to provide a better service for patients.

'The Annual Complaints and Representation' report was presented with Members being given the opportunity to discuss the complaints and compliments received. The Chair of the committee thanked Officers for the report and stated that complaints could lead to a better service and lessons could be learnt to ensure that the service improved year on year.

Members agreed that the proposed development of a new model of residential care for older people in Thurrock which would be fit for the 21st Century was an encouraging, exciting and interesting report and recommended and supported the decision to develop this facility on the Whiteacre and Dilkes Wood Sites.

The Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group presented a report on Primary Care Updates that summarised the key developments in primary care in Thurrock and provided an overview of the development of the Integrated Medical Centres.

Members of the Committee have continued to work closely with partners such as:

- ❖ Thurrock NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
- ❖ Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- ❖ HealthWatch
- ❖ Thurrock Coalition

It's been a busy and challenging year on the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). I would like to thank everybody that's served on the committee for their hard work and valuable contribution to the many issues we had looked at and scrutinised on behalf of the residents of Thurrock. I would also like to thank the officers for their hard work and particularly the clarity of their reports which have made our jobs on scrutiny that much easier! It would be remiss of me to not also acknowledge the valuable contributions of Healthwatch, Thurrock CCG and NHS England.

Perhaps our biggest task this year has been to take a close look at the plans for the re-configuration of health services and hospital provision put forward by the Mid and South Essex Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP). We have maintained a critical stance on these proposals and have at all times sought to ensure the best outcomes for Thurrock. This work is ongoing and will no doubt continue to be scrutinised by the HOSC Committee in the coming year.

Also this year, we have looked at podiatry services for the elderly, a new dementia strategy hoping to ensure people cope better and live longer with that condition. We have looked at a new model of residential care for our elderly and infirm and we have seen how Long Term Condition Profile Cards are helping our Primary Care providers become more effective and efficient at meeting their patient's needs. Healthcare in Thurrock is evolving. In the future many more services will be provided much closer to where our residents live and work and the HOSC will be there every step of the way to ensure the best outcomes for our great borough.

Councillor Graham Snell
Chair of Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The key focus for the Committee this year had been the Grounds Maintenance Service Charge (GMSC) which had been proposed as a service charge of £5 per week to certain council tenants receiving grounds maintenance within the proximity of their rented properties. This charge had been brought forward from the previous municipal year but in this municipal year, the charge had been suspended. This charge was discussed at the Committee again in October 2017 through the 'HRA Service Charges Update' report and when the full review came back in December 2017, the Committee took the opportunity to fully scrutinise the report.

A range of options had been provided in the 'Grounds Maintenance Charge Review' which included:

- ❖ Proceeding with a suspended standard charge for all selected tenants.
- ❖ Introducing a standard charge for all tenants.
- ❖ Withdrawing the charge in full.
- ❖ Implementing a lower standard charge for the same selected tenants.
- ❖ Introducing a variegated charge.
- ❖ Charging tenants in certain types of property.
- ❖ Lowering the standard charge for fewer selected tenants.
- ❖ A phased introduction of the charge.

Members had been concerned about a scenario in which the charge would be withdrawn and services lost. If the charge was to be withdrawn, grounds maintenance services would continue and the costs would be met from a 'basic rents pool' of money. Following a thorough scrutiny of the options provided in the 'Grounds Maintenance Charge Review' report, the majority of the Members had voted for the charge to be withdrawn in full. With these recommendations, the report would be taken to Cabinet for a decision to be made on the GMC.

The 'Stock Condition Survey' report was also brought to the Committee in December 2017. Upon inspection of the survey results, the Committee discussed the small percentage of damp and mould issues and how the service department was managing this with tenants. Officers explained a leaflet would be produced to help guide tenants on the management of damp and mould. From the survey, the focus would be to improve energy efficiency with the highest priority to be the repairs and replacements of boilers and poor electrics.

Data from the survey was also significant in setting budgets and planning future investments within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This was used for the report of 'HRA – Business Plan and Budgets 2018 /19 – 2048'. Officers had announced additional funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) would be made available for councils to bid which Thurrock would use to complement other funds if successful.

Another item high on the Committee's agenda was reducing homelessness which was also in line with central government's Homelessness Reduction Act, due to

come into force in April 2018. What was significant about this new legislation was that it would give councils a stronger role in prevention of homelessness. The service department was looking into the option of modular homes as standardised accommodation options which could help to deliver more homes quickly.

This year has been a very busy year for the Housing Overview And Scrutiny Committee.

The year started on an extremely sober note. The catastrophic disaster at Grenfell brought the safety of Thurrock's tower blocks into sharp focus. An immediate review was conducted and presented to the committee.

The proposal of new grounds maintenance charges on general needs tenants provoked a significant backlash from tenants. I am glad that the issue was brought back to committee and that the administration agreed with our recommendations and the charge was abandoned. However the service charges for older existing tenants in sheltered housing were not referred back to the committee and are now being charged by the council.

New legislation regarding homelessness has also been considered in detail by the committee. I am hopeful that this legislation may greatly improve the service people seeking help receive. However, no matter how much the process improves, it will not solve the fundamental housing crisis in the borough. We simply do not have enough housing that is affordable to many Thurrock residents.

Councillor Luke Spillman

Chair of Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny

The Planning, Transport and Regeneration Committee have had an interesting year and considered a significant number of high profile regeneration developments that are set to stimulate Thurrock's local economy for years to come.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration was invited to the Committee to discuss the Integrated Medical Centre (IMC) Delivery Plan. Members highlighted the problem Thurrock faced around retention of GPs and urged for one of the IMCs to be designated as a GP training practice to encourage trainee GPs into the borough where they might settle, to the betterment of Thurrock. The Committee queried whether the new IMCs would include a Minor Injuries unit. While it would be unlikely that all 4 would facilitate Minor Injuries units 1 or 2 would. The unit(s) would be commissioned and delivered by the NHS and therefore it was too early to advise which site(s) would be selected. The proposal, which would be very important for the health and wellbeing of residents, was welcomed.

The Committee discussed progress within planning development, in terms of Thurrock's new Design Guide for residential alterations and extensions. This document offered no changes to the existing policy but was rather a supporting document, which provided a greater level of detail and would therefore strengthen the Council's hand if refused applications were appealed. The Design Guide sought to stimulate imaginative design within a diverse borough. Members also recommended that Cabinet agree to in-year amendments to Planning Fees, following Government approval for Planning Authorities to introduce a 20% increase in planning charges, which would lead to an estimated increase in revenue of £180,000 which would be vital to strengthen and grow departments.

Members scrutinised plans for regeneration within Tilbury, Grays and Purfleet. The masterplans would allow developers to see what the Council intended for regeneration within the Borough. Whilst there was clear support for these much needed projects, a recurring concern was that of traffic and congestion; these would directly impact air pollution and therefore the health and wellbeing of local residents. Members also recommended that Cabinet approve the 'in principle' use of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process to help signify that the Purfleet Regeneration Scheme was serious, and maintain momentum.

The Planning, Transport and Regeneration Committee considered updates to the Local Plan, particularly in terms of the target figure of 32,000 additional homes to be built in the borough. Sequential tests had been undertaken. 6500 homes could be built within existing urban areas, which left around 26,000 to be developed elsewhere. Thurrock was a major regeneration area but also a 65% Green Belt Borough. The loss of Green Belt land would only equate to roughly 6% and Thurrock would remain a principally Green Belt Authority.

Updates regarding the Aveley Community Hub were also presented to the Committee. Members stressed the importance of ensuring the community was engaged and their requests met through the consultation process. Aveley was one of

the areas of deprivation and health inequality within the borough and therefore the project should seek to look after public health as much as possible through the services and activities provided, even down to thoughtful, healthy choices within the café.

The Committee continued its work with C2C, welcoming input towards the personal safety of passengers. It was also noted that there were problems across the borough with parking around rail stations and the question was raised as to whether C2C had plans to increase parking facilities around stations where possible. C2C planned to increase their existing car park facilities in the first instance, by decking car parks and adding more spaces. Moving forward C2C hoped to do more with parking facilities for both cars and cycles.

The Coalhouse Fort Conservation Management Plan was welcomed, as Coalhouse Fort was a treasure in Thurrock and it would be useful to have it fully open to members of the Public. Coalhouse Fort was of great historical significance and heritage was of great importance to the borough.

The Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee took a keen interest in the work of the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force, given the huge impact the scheme would have on the borough if approved. It was queried whether it would be possible to influence the proposed Lower Thames Crossing route if the Local Plan were at an advanced stage with areas for development highlighted. This was the very reason that the Local Plan had been delayed to allow for updates regarding the proposals, as the Council could not plan in isolation. The relationship between growth and accessibility was intrinsic. Members agreed it was good to see the work of the Task Force progressing. It was noted that additional funds of £380,000 had been granted by Cabinet to manage the necessary work regarding the Lower Thames Crossing. Officers would work with the Task Force to shape what needed to be done, however Members were reminded that Highways England were responsible for the scheme, not Thurrock Council and therefore it was paramount that the Council could react quickly. The Task Force would provide a steer at each meeting once data had been received from Highways England.

It has been my pleasure to Chair the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee. At a time of unprecedented regeneration and growth within Thurrock it is especially important that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was as effective as possible. I would like to thank all of the committee Members and especially Councillor John Allen who has done a great job as my Vice Chair.

The Committee this year scrutinised the Integrated Medical Centre Delivery Plan, which will be of the utmost importance for the health and wellbeing of residents throughout the borough.

The regeneration of Purfleet, Grays and Tilbury has been discussed with particular focus on recurring areas of concern such as congestion and air quality.

Updates to the Local Plan and the introduction of Thurrock's new Design Guide for residential alterations and extensions were also considered, to stimulate creative design within the borough, and work towards the Government target for additional homes.

The Committee also took a keen interest in the work of the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force, given the unrivalled scale of the scheme and the impact it would have upon the borough if approved.

I have mentioned just a few of the projects and plans that have come through the Committee in the last year, it is of the utmost importance to have a strong Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure the residents of Thurrock are represented, and the best possible outcomes are achieved.

Councillor Barbara Rice
Chair of Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Budget Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Members were keen to scrutinise the budget to ensure that the Council was on target to achieve significant budget savings and to identify if further value for money and efficiencies could be realised. Members were keen to ensure that Thurrock was doing all it could to ensure value for money and ascertain any new income streams whilst protecting services that were important to local people.

Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed proposals for additional income generation and agreed the proposed fees and charges, particularly around Waste Collection Authorities.

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted and agreed to the proposed fees and charges including Grangewaters and nursery provisions.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed the aspirational approach suggested for the Capital Programme. Members sought assurances that individual schemes underwent an appropriate degree of scrutiny.

The Committee supported a 3% increase in the adult social care precept. Members were enquired as to an alternative plan, should Council opt against the 2.99% increase. Committee Members were advised there was currently a £4million deficit which assumed no further financial pressures, the additional increase would reduce the deficit by one third, and proposals to bridge this gap could only come through increased income or reduced expenditure.

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny

The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy for 2018/19 that related to the charges within the remit of the health and wellbeing overview and scrutiny committee.

Housing Overview and Scrutiny

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy report presented at the December meeting. Members scrutinised the rent increase on traveller sites and waste removal from such sites across the borough.

Planning, Transport & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny

To ensure the delivery of the income targets for 2017/18, the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed and agreed the proposed fees and charges within the remit of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration services.

Overview and Scrutiny Reviews

Overview and Scrutiny Committees can establish Scrutiny Review Panels to investigate in-depth issues which have come to their attention.

Therefore a Task and Finish Group may be established by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider a specific piece of work and make recommendations to its parent committee or directly to the Cabinet. The number of Members of the Task and Finish Group and its terms of reference must be specified when it is established.

An Overview and Scrutiny Committee may establish Working Groups to consider a specific piece of work or look into a particular issue in more detail outside of the formal meeting of the Committee. Any such Working Group will comprise of members of the Committee, working informally with Officers or other Members and reporting their findings back to the Committee.

Although there were no Task and Finish Groups convened this year, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee called on the Constitution Working Group to review public participation within Committee meetings.

Constitution Working Group

This Group was set up in October 2017 to review public participation within Committee meetings and looked at the following:

- Question submission deadlines and how aware the public was of these;
- How accessible and detailed information on the Council's website was in regards to democracy; and
- How the public could become more involved in the democratic process of the Council.

Benchmarking of similar councils to Thurrock Council had been provided to Members to give them an idea of how other councils operated in terms of the points above. The data had shown that there were no big differences and that Thurrock Council was doing well compared to other councils.

Members had discussed in length on current rules within the Constitution and recommended some changes which would help the public to understand the democratic process better. These changes would be presented to Council in the next municipal year of 2018-19.

Call-ins

Thurrock's Call-In process is a vital aspect of the Overview and Scrutiny function. It allows Councillors or members of the public to ask that a decision of the Cabinet not be implemented until it has been subject to scrutiny by the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A Call-In of a Cabinet decision can be requested by two elected Members who are not members of the Cabinet, a Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a voluntary group with an interest in the Borough, a local business situated in the Borough or ten residents in the Borough. The Call-In must be in writing and include reasons for the Call-In together with an alternative course of action.

The Call-In once it has been verified as legitimate and in accordance with the provisions of the Council's constitution is then referred to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. The Committee receives all the evidence relating to the issue in question and following consideration makes recommendations about whether the original decision should stand or whether Cabinet should be requested to reconsider its original decision.

During 2017-2018 two Call-Ins were submitted as detailed below:

Communications Strategy

In April 2017 Cabinet agreed a report which set out the changing landscape and context for the Council's communication activity. It proposed a strategic approach and clear principles to guide engagement with residents, partners, staff and the media and improve public perception.

Following this meeting Councillor John Kent the then Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee called in the recommendations of the Cabinet report Communications Strategy 2017/20 (Decision 01104421), in his capacity as a Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

He argued that the decision did not take the following into account; due regard for individuals and communities served by Thurrock; proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome); due consultation and a presumption in favour of openness.

An alternative proposal was put forward on the call in form to:

Withdraw the threat to not recognise or engage with outlets that don't – in the Councils view - accurately reflect the Council line. Recognise all legitimate media organisations. Put the strategy to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In June 2017 the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the comments of Councillor John Kent together with the views and comments of officers, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Shane Hebb, and a Member of the media who had enquired if he could speak at the meeting. Following a debate the Committee agreed to support the Call-In and refer back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

The Call-In was presented to Cabinet in October 2017, with Councillor Gerrish Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee commenting that Cabinet Members would be aware of the Committee's concerns, in particular that one element was not best for the Council's relationship with media colleagues.

He continued by expressing no communication strategy would be perfect, however the work undertaken by the Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service had eased Members' concerns and they therefore agreed and suggested to Cabinet the amended wording at 3.2-3.4 of the report.

The Leader of the Council commented the Call-In process demonstrated the good work that Overview and Scrutiny Committees completed and proposed to Cabinet Members that the following recommendations be agreed:

- ❖ That Cabinet note the decision made by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to refer the decision back to Cabinet.
- ❖ That Cabinet agree to the amended wording at 3.2-3.4 and reflected within the updated Communication Strategy 2017-20 at Appendix 1.

Pilot Development of Head Start Housing for Care Leavers & Vulnerable Young People

In February 2018 Cabinet were presented with a report which outlined how the Council was looking to support young people who were leaving care and other vulnerable young people with one of the key barriers they have identified, finding suitable affordable accommodation.

Following this meeting, Councillor Okunade, Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the request of Members of the Committee and called in the recommendations of the Cabinet report 'Pilot Development of Head Start Housing for Care Leavers & Vulnerable Young People' (decision 0110465), in their capacity as three non-executive Members.

The Call-In was taken through the validation process which is outlined in the Constitution and was deemed invalid for the following reason:

- ❖ Based on Rule 10.11 (i), the report had already been subject to a scrutiny meeting where the issues raised could have been reasonably discussed as part of the committee's scrutiny of the contract and arrangements.

27 June 2018	ITEM: 11
Council	
Constitutional Amendments – Public Access to Committees	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key
Report of: Matthew Boulter, Democratic and Governance Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer	
Accountable Assistant Director: David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law and Governance	
Accountable Director: Sean Clark, Director of Corporate Finance and IT	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report outlines the recommendations and observations of the Constitution Working Group regarding the procedures surrounding how members of the public interact with committees of council and participate in public council meetings.

1. Recommendation(s):

That Council:

- 1.1 Note the non-constitutional initiatives below which the Constitution Working Group has endorsed.**
- 1.2 Agree to reduce the timeframe for repeat questions being disallowed at Full Council from 12 months to 3 months.**
- 1.3 Agree to reduce the timeframe to submit a question or statement at Overview & Scrutiny Committees from 3 working days to 2.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 In August 2017, the General Services Committee requested an overview and scrutiny review be established to look at whether procedures which supported and facilitated residents participating in committees could be amended to increase participation but also to make it an even more accessible process.**

- 2.2 Following consideration of this request by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2017, it was agreed that the Constitution Working Group be convened to consider these issues instead of a review group.
- 2.3 The Constitution Working Group met in October 2017 and January 2018 to discuss a number of ideas on changing the way the public accessed committees and participated in public council meetings.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The Group noted that there were many ways the public could access decision making and were satisfied that the Petition and Call-in processes provided the public with a very good service. The issues and amendments that the Group discussed were:

3.2 Repeat Questions

The Group strongly felt the timeframe to disallow repeat questions be reduced from 12 months to 3 months. This would allow important issues to be reappraised regularly whilst protecting against frivolous submissions. The Group also supported the practice of declining repetitious questions which were submitted for the same meeting by different people. The first question would be accepted.

3.3 Deadlines for Question Submissions

The Group supported the reduction of the timeframe to submit a question or statement at Overview & Scrutiny Committees from 3 working days to 2.

The Group explored whether deadlines for questions to Full Council could be reduced to allow residents to submit questions closer to the meeting date. The Group recognised that the current deadlines allowed submissions to be properly checked and allowed time for residents to alter or amend their submissions to comply with procedures whilst maintaining an open process, namely that the questions were published in the agenda and accessible to all residents when viewing the agenda.

The Members discussed adding a new procedure which gave more structure to the Mayor's discretion in allowing urgent questions. The general view of the Group was that this discretion had always been a rule of the Full Council and need not be clarified further in the Constitution.

3.4 Website

The Group was largely satisfied with the information on the Council's website but amendments to capture all the relevant information under one title, 'Attending Council Meetings' was agreed. Also, extra information will be added to the 'Asking Questions at Council Meetings' to explain the process entirely in

an easy to understand way. It was also agreed that the question deadlines would be more easily located on the public website.

The Group noted that the Council already ran a subscription service for people who wanted to keep up to date on committees and the Webmaster was going to review this service to make it more user friendly.

3.5 Leaflet

The Group agreed a leaflet which will be sent to every member of the public submitting a question which explains the basic rules and procedures surrounding their question at the Full Council meeting.

3.6 Use of Social Media

The Group briefly touched upon the use of social media to promote the role of councillors as ward representatives and to increase visibility of committees on the medium including the opportunity to attend and participate directly. The Communications Team have put in place a new approach so that committees and associated question deadlines are promoted.

3.7 Assigning Seats at Full Council

The Group did consider whether introducing a booking system for the public seating area in the Chamber would improve engagement but through its research it discovered that such a system could potentially exclude people who could not use or were not aware of the booking system. The gallery was also rarely full and therefore a booking system would be undermined if people could simply turn up and take vacant seats.

3.8 Multiple Representations at Planning Committee

During debate it was queried whether multiple representations could be investigated for Planning Committee. It was found that Thurrock was seen as a model of best practice by external professional organisations for the way it ran its Planning Committee. Members noted that the perception of fairness in a quasi-judicial process was important to maintain.

3.9 New rule to allow Members of the Public to speak on a topic at Council

Some Members of the Group felt that residents should have the opportunity to speak on a matter that was important to them at a Full Council meeting. At their second meeting in January 2018 the group discussed this matter further and Members expressed their concern that the new rule could be open for abuse by people who would use the time for frivolous or vexatious matters. Some Members also felt that the management and monitoring of these topics would turn officers into censors, which was not their role.

4. **Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 The recommendations seek to provide informed and evidentially considered amendments to the constitution and associated practices which improve the resident's experience of engaging with committees and the decision making process.

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

5.1 None.

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

6.1 The recommendations seek to enhance the resident experience of committees and decision making and would have a positive impact on the community. This adheres to Thurrock's priorities in making decision making a fair and open process that includes all.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

The cost of printing and sending out leaflets to members of the public submitting questions will be met through the existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

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

The Constitution states that any major changes to the constitution, such as changes to the Council Procedure Rules, need to be agreed at Full Council. This report sets out the amendments that the cross party Constitution Working Group wishes the Council to consider.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

The considerations of the working group took into account ways to increase participation by residents and where possible make it easier for residents to engage in the democratic process.

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 agendas and minutes of the Constitution Working Group from 31 October 2017 and 25 January 2018. www.thurrock.gov.uk

9. **Appendices to the report**

None

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Democratic Services Manager

Legal Services

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27 June 2018	ITEM: 12
Full Council	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health	
Report of: Councillor James Halden, Cabinet Member for Education and Health	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

It is my honour, for the third time, to present my annual report regarding the state of the Education and Health Departments. It's been a remarkable 2 years and team Thurrock have achieved tremendous things.

In education, since 2016, via free school bids we helped to secure or school expansions we have approved, we are investing well over £70m to build around 3,500 good or outstanding school places.

In health, since 2016, we have worked amazingly well with the Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on schemes like the GP improvement plan, where we have gone from 2 GP surgeries being rated good to 21. We have built a wide coalition of partners who are reforming and co-locating acute and primary care with our Integrated Medical Centre scheme, with circa £80m investment from all partners.

It is time to build on these excellent foundations so that we can achieve the borough we want in the long term. This consists of three key elements:

A - Ending institutional fragmentation. For example, embedding early mental health services in schools and other health settings means we can proactively tackle issues before they cause a domino effect in our citizens lives and in the system.

B - Getting in the “building business”. We must deliver on our ambitious capital programme as it grows system capacity and choice in the education and health market. It is this choice and therefore healthy competition, that drives forward improvement.

C - A leading and permanent place in the Thames Gateway. We need to be selling the results of our skills and out-of-hospital work to ensure we shape the wider work of the Mid and South Essex Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP), rather than be shaped by it.

This is an exciting time, and between Cabinet and officers, we have the energy, vision and experience to deliver for the people we all serve.

I will now outline the strong successes achieved by the Departments and our plans for the future under the two main headings of 'Health' and 'Education'.

PART 1 - HEALTH

1. GP STANDARDS PLAN

We have launched a major programme of Primary Care development which is leading to demonstrable improvement in the health of our residents. Working closely with NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) we have recruited three Public Health Primary Care Development Managers that form part of a joint team responsible for working directly with our GP surgeries to embed best clinical practice. This has enabled us to:

- Develop a GP Standards Profile Card providing each surgery with their latest performance benchmarked against the 20 surgeries with the most similar practice population across England and enabling them to understand the areas of clinical practice in which they are performing well and where they may require some assistance to improve; and
- Provide every GP surgery team with at least one face to face visit from one of our Public Health Primary Care Development Managers to discuss their profile card and to agree a joint improvement action plan which will undoubtedly lead to improvements.

To support these visits, the Public Health Team in association with the CCG, is introducing a local 'stretched quality outcomes' contract for all of our GP surgeries which fills the funding gap (£250k is set aside for this in the Public Health Grant) to delivers additional resources to find and treat the remaining 20-30% of patients outside the existing QoF - recognising that these are often the 'hardest to reach' cohort of patients.

Investing in Primary Care in this way is a win-win situation; not only is it good for our residents' health and for our local health and care economy, it delivers significant savings in preventing more expensive hospital and social care treatment costs from avoided serious health events such as heart attacks and strokes. This can only be a good thing and has my wholehearted support.

2. ORSETT HOSPITAL (INTEGRATED MEDICAL CENTRE PHASE 1)

We have ensured the agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Thurrock Council, Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT), Basildon and Thurrock Hospital (BTUH), and our NHS Community Provider (NELFT). The MoU states very clearly that no clinical services will move out of Orsett Hospital until the 4 IMC's are up and running. Further to this, we will be keeping our out-of-hospital, diagnostic and other services in the borough, co-locating

them with primary care such as GP and other local services. This demonstrates the collaborative approach we have built in Thurrock across the health and social care system and ensures our residents continue to have the best resources available to them. The MoU will deliver quality care through the development of the four new Integrated Medical Centres, fulfilling our promise to provide support closer to home. I am the first person to state how well Orsett has served our local population over the years, but I'm clear that the future must move us beyond a focus on buildings.

3. INTEGRATED MEDICAL CENTRES (IMCs): PHASE 2

We are committed to delivering a responsive and flexible health and wellbeing system closer to where people live. This means a system that delivers the right solution at the right time and in the right place for the individual. Originally the idea of IMCs was about improving the quality and capacity of Primary Care, which is something I feel extremely passionately about. However, we recognised that the IMCs presented us with an exciting opportunity to deliver our vision right to the heart of the community to ensure what we provided and how we provided it was truly 'place-based'. We want to build on our vision so that IMCs can become centres of excellence in the community – community led and encouraging people to take greater care of their own health and well-being.

This is a truly exciting proposition and one we intend to realise. To this end, we have started work with Basildon Hospital and other partners to see how we can move more hospital and mental health services into our community, with the opportunity of new builds and improvements to current assets, such as the new residential home to be built in Ockendon, and the current Collins House in Corringham. BTUH have recently written to us outlining that they wish to work with us on this work.

4. SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PARTNERSHIPS (STPs)

The changing NHS landscape over the last few years has led to Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) existing across the whole country. These are intended to improve the planning and delivery of health and social care over a larger geographical area. In our case we are part of the Mid and South Essex STP. Whilst I accept that it makes sense for some services to be planned and organised across a larger geographical area than Thurrock – e.g. specialist services such as cancer. It is important that this enhances our local decision-making and our local services rather than takes it away. It is important that the primacy of the local Health and Well-Being Board is respected and we have benefited from having a strong local partnership with our local coterminous Thurrock CCG. Any planning or provision over a larger geographical footprint must give added value and support this local focus. We have been assured that this is the case, but we will always be on-guard against "mission creep".

Thurrock, with its work on IMC's and other initiatives, is seen as a real leader in the STP. By pressing forward with our mental health efforts and with further IMC work, we will cement our place in Mid/South Essex and ensure that we lead, and don't follow, the conversation.

5. STRONG PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Whilst the regional and sub-regional Health landscape can be frustrating, I am extremely proud of the excellent relationships we have built with our local CCG. Our strong relationship with the CCG, key health providers and the voluntary and community sector in Thurrock has enabled us to achieve an energetic and focused Health and Well-Being Board and a highly regarded Transformation Programme (in partnership with the CCG and Voluntary and Community Sector) called 'For Thurrock in Thurrock'. As a result of our strong and embedded relationships with the NHS locally, our Better Care Fund has been able to grow from strength to strength and now totals in excess of £40m. We have developed some excellent local integrated services e.g. Thurrock First our new Single Point of Contact across health and social care. We must not lose this local focus because that is how things get done and I will continue to provide my full support to ensure that our partnership across health and care goes from strength to strength.

6. MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

Poor mental health in children and young people is increasingly being recognised as a national problem. The latest evidence suggests that one in every 10 young people in our schools is living with a diagnosable mental health problem. The referral rate to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services has increased nationally by 64% over the last three years. Anecdotally, I have become aware that our local Head Teachers are reporting poor mental health of their pupils as one of the reasons behind school exclusions.

As with many public health issues, the reasons behind the rise in mental health referrals is complex and multi-factoral, but we are determined to tackle this growing problem head on and ensure the mental health of our local children and young people is promoted and protected. Our Public Health Team has recently undertaken a major piece of work to understand the extent of this issue locally, the underlying causes behind it, the published evidence base in terms of what works best to address it, and the effectiveness of the services currently in place to help tackle it. Their findings are contained in their latest Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Product on Children and Young People's Mental Health.

Building on this comprehensive piece of work, in May 2018 we organized a "Schools Based Mental Health Summit" to launch the JSNA product and start a 'big conversation' with schools, young people, health and voluntary sector partners about what else we needed to do to improve the situation. The day was a huge success with over 100 delegates attending for our local schools and other key stakeholders. We identified

some fantastic work being undertaken by some schools in this area, but also a level of fragmentation of current services.

Moving forward, this administration is committed to working with schools, health partners and the third sector to develop an integrated programme of support to improve the protective factors and reduce risk factors pertaining to young people's mental health. Over the coming year we will work to develop School Based Mental Health Improvement Teams that will build capacity within our schools to improve the mental wellbeing of young people, including developing the PHSE Curriculum, upskilling teachers and implementing evidence based programmes of work, for example to tackle bullying.

7. WORK OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

I have been Chair of Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board since July 2016. The Board is multi-agency and responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of Thurrock's 5 year Health and Wellbeing Strategy, launched in July 2016. The comprehensive strategy comprises 5 Strategic Goals that sets out action required to ensure that Thurrock people can 'add years to life and life to years'. An annual report setting out progress made against Health and Wellbeing Strategy outcomes is published each July and I'm extremely pleased with the progress made.

In addition to driving forward the Health and Wellbeing Strategy the Health and Wellbeing Board has also informed and approved Joint Strategic Needs Assessments on children's mental health, adult mental health and whole system obesity, which have informed policy direction and programme development across the entire Council and beyond.

This year, we will give focus on BTUH performance, cancer waiting times, air quality, and the ambulance service.

We have been keen to ensure that the Board provides a forum which both supports, challenges and holds partners to account. We have instigated a performance framework and have ensured that key strategic issues are debated and discussed. Over the past year, this has included the Mid and South Essex STP consultation, the Better Care Fund Plan, and the New Model of Care 'case for change' for health and care provision in Thurrock. I have also made sure that I link with my counterparts in Essex and Southend where it is important to do so – which has been vital in the case of the Mid and South Essex STP consultation. Protecting Thurrock's interests to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of our residents is my overriding priority for the work of the Board.

8. KEY WORKER HOUSING

We know that there are some significant staff shortages in key areas in the local health, social care and education economy – social workers, teachers and nursing in particular. Individual schools have come up with innovative approaches to tackle this and Basildon Hospital Trust have also identified the need to provide accommodation for their own nursing staff. I am keen that the Council plays its part in this and following discussion with the Cabinet member for Housing, officers will look at this again during 2018/19 when this administration is reviewing our Housing allocations policy.

9. SUCCESSES TO BE PROUD OF

Whilst my report has reflected a number of achievements, I do want to share a few that I'm most proud of:

- Quality of GP services: When I first became portfolio holder, there were 2 GP practices rated as 'good' by CQC. Today, there are 21.
- Careline is now a free service. We have been replacing hard-wired alarms in our Council properties with new dispersed alarms attached to a telephone landline, to provide a more efficient and reliable service. Work began in December 2017 with nearly all sheltered properties now being completed – with the remaining properties to be completed by the end of July. I am clear that technology must play a pivotal role in how we transform what we do and how we ensure people can remain as independent as possible.
- The young person's substance misuse service - another year with strong performance whilst developing the service by adding another student social worker post and enhancing the peer mentor scheme to offer accreditation. The team has a very strong reputation in the Borough, with roughly half of their activity being prevention-focussed across schools and agencies. They recently co-located a worker in the Youth Offending Service one day a week
- The adult drug and alcohol treatment service - the service is working effectively with partners and recently held a launch at which the ex-Arsenal and England football legend Tony Adams gave an impassioned keynote speech of his life off the pitch and his former battle with alcohol addiction. The service now diverts rehabilitation support into community rather than residential settings. Not only is this cheaper but it's also far more effective both in terms of cost and outcomes.

PART 2: EDUCATION

1. EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE ACROSS THURROCK

Thurrock has nearly two hundred early year's providers which include day nurseries, pre-schools and child-minders. At the time of presenting this report, almost 100% of the providers were rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted. This is as a result of a rigorous audit and improvement system delivered by our Early Years' Officers in the School Improvement Team.

I have the pleasure to confirm that the Early Years' Team have successfully rolled out the Government's new initiative to support parents in work and getting parents back to work – 30 hours funded early education and childcare for three and four-year olds. I'm extremely pleased that this has resulted in nearly 1200 children benefiting from funded places in early years settings this academic year alone. Over 650 two year olds from eligible families have benefitted from taking up a funded 15 hour early education and childcare place. These children, along with all other children who attend an early education or childcare setting or school are all being provided with a great start which will continue throughout their time in education in Thurrock. This has been and remains a clear priority for me and one that I will continue to pursue.

The results of our extremely positive work are showing dividends for Thurrock children and really providing them with the best start:

- of the 52 schools in Thurrock, 94% are rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted – including Harris Mayflower, which opened in Chafford Hundred in September 2014, then moved to a brand new school in September 2016, and was judged to be outstanding at their first inspection in the last academic year;
- 76% of children at the end of Reception year (age 5) reached a Good Level of Development (GLD) which is above the national average of 71%;
- in Year 1, 84% of children in Thurrock reached the expected standard in phonics compared to 81% of children nationally and at the end of Year two (age 7) children sat their first Standard Assessments Tasks (SATs) and 66% of them achieved the expected standard in all three subjects; reading, writing and maths;
- at the end of year 6 (age 11), nationally 61% of pupils reached the expected standard in all three subjects; reading, writing and mathematics. The validated data for 2017 shows that 61% of Thurrock children also reached the expected standard; which is a 12 percentage point increase on the previous year;
- at GCSE level, 61% of young people achieved GCSEs in English and Maths in the new grading system of 9-1. (9 being the highest and 4 being a standard pass). As this is the first year of this new grading system for English and Maths only, we are unable to make comparisons or identify trends.

Our hard work is paying off and I'm pleased to say that if recent trends continue, we should see improvements across the age ranges and phases of education.

Of course, the drive for higher school standards is a constant endeavor. We are currently looking towards a restructured team and strengthening our mock ofsted and HMI function. We hope to see launch a "year of aspiration" where we will offer full mock inspections to all of our schools and help them put in place any locally agreed improvement and reform plans.

2. INCLUSION UNITS

This year has seen some significant changes in how we support primary pupils who are permanently excluded. One of Thurrock's key strengths is its partnership with schools and we have been able to very quickly identify schools to support us in the delivery of primary inclusion units following the brave decision to end provision via the Primary Pupil Referral Unit. We have two schools offering this provision and will be looking to increase that to four in the autumn term. Our clear ambition is for the reintegration of the inclusion units into mainstream schools. We do not believe that primary aged children should be in an alternative provision for more than two terms unless there are exceptional circumstances which mean that this is the best place for the child. To support this, I have asked the Department to establish a fair protocol access panel which will focus on the placing of primary children into other mainstream primary schools.

3. BRIGHTER FUTURES – CHILDRE CENTRES

Following a significant review and re-structure of the Children's Centre service, I am pleased to announce that improvements to the service can be evidenced through the increase in the number of sessions, activities, and health services on offer to families.

This includes:

- Parent Outreach Workers increasing the numbers of families they have worked with from 282 families in 2017 to 318 families this year;
- The number of sessions delivered by Children's Centre staff increasing by 34%;
- The number of families registered with the Children's Centre Service increasing by 6% since September 2017; and
- The number of people attending sessions or services in Children's Centres increasing from 42,000 across the service in 2016 to nearly 45,000 in 2017.

In order to support the work of the Brighter Futures Prevention and Support Service, I am pleased that a number of new services have been developed for families with children up to the age of 11, and there are plans in place to train staff to develop services for families with children and young people up to the ages of 18, or 25 for a young person with SEND.

4. LOBBY UNIT - FREE SCHOOL PROGRAMME AND EXPANSIONS

Our clear ambition and commitment is to the development and expansion of Free Schools in Thurrock to meet the increasing demand for high quality school places. This steer and the support of the lobby unit we established 2 years ago has resulted in successful bids for three free schools (two secondary and one special school). Officers are now working hard to ensure the delivery of the schools.

The successful Free Schools include:

Orsett Heath Academy - mainstream, 8FE, 1,200 place secondary with a sports specialism. The new school would be part of the South West Essex Community Education Trust.

Thames Park - 6FE, 900 place secondary. The new school would be part of the Osborne Trust. A site is yet to be identified for this school and will be the subject of a separate Cabinet Report.

Treetops Special Free School; special, all-through school with 140 places for pupils between the ages of 4-16 catering for Moderate Learning Difficulties and Autistic Spectrum Condition

Following successful work with the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) suitable land for the three schools has been identified and site appraisals for have been undertaken.

Our aim is that the new schools will be delivered by 2021, which will support the demand for the much needed secondary school places in the Borough.

In addition, I am pleased that the schools capital programme will see the following school expansions:

- St Clere's School is in the process of expanding by 1 FE. This will provide an additional 30 year 7 spaces and a total additional whole school capacity of 150 places. The programme of works is being phased to enable the classrooms to be ready for the Year 7 intake in September 2018.
- The Ockendon Academy has expanded by 1FE and works are due to complete this month. This will provide an additional 30 year 7 spaces and a total additional whole school capacity of 150 places.
- East Tilbury Academy is currently in the process of expanding by 1FE. This will provide an additional 30 Reception spaces and a total additional whole school capacity of 210 places. The programme of works is being phased to ensure delivery of the classrooms for September 2018.
- Corringham Primary is expanding by 1FE. This will provide an additional 30 Reception spaces and a total additional whole school capacity of 210 places. The project is currently at detailed design stage with the programme due to complete August 2019.
- In addition, we support a SIFF bid from the Gateway Pioneer school in Tilbury, and combined with our capital support, they now have circa £6m to totally rebuild one of the worse school buildings in Thurrock.

The programme will deliver the expansions in phases, the first phase being the classrooms, ensuing we have achieved our aim by meeting our statutory duty to provide pupil places.

In addition we saved the Harris Free School in Purfleet by building confidence with the ESFA that the Council could work with them to deliver this major project within timescale.

5. GRAMMAR SCHOOL

We have and remain clear that we must create ways of offering our young people the opportunity to access the broadest range of educational pathways. We have the opportunity to accelerate our ability to do so by making use of a recent government announcement of £50m to support the expansion of existing Grammar Schools targeting young people who would not normally access these opportunities. This year, we will focus on developing a formal partnership with an existing Grammar school to look at ways in which Thurrock young people can be offered this opportunity. A range of support will need to be provided to support the delivery of this ambition and the Department, with my full support, will be looking at potential funding routes to support this to happen.

6. SEND

The Department has recognised that the current capacity to deliver high quality services to families with a child with additional needs coupled with the new Educational Healthcare Plans has provided many challenges. This led us to take the opportunity to restructure our SEN department. This will be finalised in June this year with a review period in 6 months' time to ensure that we are providing high quality services across Thurrock. The service has increased management capacity and oversight to ensure that performance against the statutory timescales is improved and these vulnerable children receive an education and health care plan in a time that suits them.

In addition, we are working hard with our Post-16 providers to ensure that we create the appropriate facilities to support post-16 learners with additional needs and will continue to look at the potential for a Free School application to enable us to provide a more localised offer for those young people with social and emotional needs. We continue to seek innovative ways of supporting learners and our Supported Internship programme working in partnership with Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions and the Adult Community College has provided a range of extended work placements to enable learners to gain the skills to secure employment pathways.

7. HEADSTART HOUSING

In 2016, Children's Services and Housing developed a strategic partnership to pilot a Local Authority owned House of Multiple Occupation. The purpose of the pilot was to address some of the key barriers young people face in finding suitable accommodation, at an affordable rate, whilst receiving support to enable sustainable employment and

independent living. At full occupancy, from day one, the first HMO generated income to the Council that was reinvested in another property to create a second HMO for the pilot.

To date, I am pleased to announce that nine individuals all employed or in full time education, that had unstable living arrangements have benefitted from the accommodation. Since its inception, we have made savings of £128,785 (combination of Out of Borough Placements, supported accommodation and social housing).

In December 2017, I took a paper to Cabinet who approved the up-scaling of this programme, as Headstart Housing. The Department is working with Housing to identify or modify a further four additional properties to provide HMO accommodation for a further 12-16 young people. In doing so, we anticipate generating further cost reduction whilst ensuring that care leavers have a package of support that is provided cross directorate.

We have removed all care leavers (18-21) from council tax, with further council tax relief up to 25 in certain circumstances. This is in addition to the pastoral support we offer (careers, skills and debt). With regular visits from a joint housing and children services team, we are making sure that our school is driving positive outcomes and that we are seeing the “whole child”.

I am extremely proud of what we have been able to achieve for our young people under this initiative

8. INSPIRE YOUR FUTURE

In April 2017 I presented a paper to Cabinet who approved the position of “Inspire Your Future”. “Inspire Your Future” brings together a range of young people-related services with a clear business and commercial rationale which translates into ‘Growing a business within a business’

Cabinet agreed a three year business plan for the ongoing development of the services and outlined below give the key performance indicators and update after the first year of delivery, which I think reflects the strength and depth of the approach:

- **NEET to go below 1.5%** - NEET percentage has been reduced to 2% in 2017-2018 with Thurrock placed as 4th in the country for its combined NEET and Unknowns figure.
- **Unknown figure to be in the top 5% of the country** - The Unknown figure has been reduced to ‘0’ with the Council in 1st place in the country.
- **Care Leavers into EET 75%** - The EET figure is on the right trajectory at 70% with plans in place to further improve performance which exceeds statistical neighbours.

- **Every 16 year old has access to impartial careers advice** - Inspire Thurrock Careers have been bought into over 80% of the schools offering impartial careers advice to the Year 11s. All Thurrock young people get a September Guarantee offer for an educational place – during this process young people with an unclear educational destination are identified and supported via the Inspire Youth Hub.
- **September Guarantee 2017** - stands at 100% ensuring that every 16 year old had a place of learning reserved for them in September 2017. September Guarantee 2018 is on the same trajectory.
- **Grangewaters** - this is the first year that Grangewaters has made a small surplus of just under 2k we have an ambitious plan to grow our income over the coming years.
- **Commercial opportunities** - across Opportunity South Essex. Inspire Thurrock Careers have delivered one off sessions in Basildon schools; through the National Collaborative Outreach programme projects will be delivered to schools/colleges in Canvey and Benfleet.
- **Access to Russell group universities** - a range of inspirational assemblies, projects, hand holding sessions and parent events have been initiated to support progression of Thurrock young people into Russell group universities where appropriate and increase access to HE in Thurrock as a whole.
- **To lead on the work of partners to support pathways into employment, e.g. work undertaken with the Local Enterprise Partnership** - Ongoing work with the LEP is gaining momentum; schools have been partnered with Enterprise Advisers whose work will complement the Careers Strategy in each school. Future exciting projects on enhancing collaboration of education with business are underway.
- **To raise aspirations of students to not settle for easily accessed employment opportunities but stretch to fulfil their potential** - Inspirational summer Schools aimed at HE degree apprenticeships have been an overwhelming success in summer 2017 and will be continuing in summer 2018. During these sessions not only are new educational routes identified but encounters with employers are brokered.
- **To work with alternative provision market to ensure we support the reintegration of young people into the mainstream education/employment system** - Career advice is offered not just in the Olive Academy but in special schools, i.e. Treetops and Beacon Hill. Emphasis is placed on a positive progression into an educational destination and apprenticeship routes as they prove to be the most viable for this cohort.
- **Youth Employment Initiative On-Track Thurrock** - On Track is a Youth Employment Initiative programme for young people aged 15-29 in Thurrock. It is part funded through the European Social Fund and managed by the Department for Work and Pensions. This 2.5 year programme is a £3.2m match funded project successfully won by Thurrock Council in 2015 with key targets to be achieved by July 2018

9. YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

I'm pleased that the Youth Offending Service continues to be at the forefront of tackling the emergence of gangs in Thurrock. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Group looks at gangs, and potential exploitation of young people including trafficking. The Group meets monthly to review and track children where there are concerns, and focuses on multi-agency safety planning and disruption of activities of gangs and other groups or individuals to reduce risk. To date 8 young people have been referred to the National Crime Agency's National referral mechanism.

We continue to be proactive in tackling gang behavior, and the first Criminal Behaviour Order has been implemented on an identified Thurrock gang member. A number of identified gang members have been moved out of Thurrock through effective partnership working. An inspection by the Home Office Gang Unit last year acknowledged the extensive local knowledge of gang activity and commended our responses. The YOS performance on reoffending easily outstrips both statistical neighbour and national performance, which demonstrates the effectiveness of the interventions being deployed.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has recognised the value of the work in Thurrock and has invited Thurrock representation onto the Essex wide Youth Justice Board so that we can contribute to the fight against county lines and the drugs trade.

CONCLUSION - BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

My report has shown the depth and breadth of my portfolio and the success that has been achieved to date. I'm clear that we need to press on and maximise the opportunities available to us so that Thurrock people have the best changes – both young and old. I look forward to the year ahead and to yet another year of delivery.

APPENDIX A: 2017-18 PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT SPEND

Item	£'000s
Children and Young People's Public Health Services (inc. 0-19, Brighter Futures, Children's Centres, Early Offer of help etc.)	5,393
Sexual and reproductive health services	1,786
Drug and alcohol treatment	1,300
Department running costs (inc. staff salaries, on-costs, travel, training, consultancy, stationary, IT, telephones, postage etc.)	1,170
Local Area Coordinators	393
Thurrock Healthy Lifestyles Service	341
Corporate Re-charges	301
Public Mental Health	129
Exercise on referral	65
Accident prevention	49
Well homes and housing first	42
Adult Obesity	32
Place and Third Sector Wellbeing Commissioning	32
Healthcare Public Health and Health Intelligence	26
St. Luke's - Health information to cancer patients	15
Children and Young People's Health Survey	15
Diabetes case finding	14
Tobacco Control - trading standards	10

QUESTION TIME

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

There are 4 questions to the Leader and 8 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

1. From Councillor Cherry to Councillor Gledhill

What are you and Thurrock Council going to do about the increase in drug use, gang activity and associated anti-social behaviour in Grays Town Park and elsewhere across Thurrock?

2. From Councillor Fletcher to Councillor Gledhill

Our borough has recently seen frequent and sustained incursions by travellers on our open spaces. Redbridge has just successfully applied for a borough-wide injunction - is there any reason why Thurrock has not taken the same approach?

3. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Gledhill

Can the Leader outline his priorities for his new portfolio?

4. From Councillor Redsell to Councillor Gledhill

In the light of recent traveller incursions on Blackshots playing field, which you will be aware is a major civic site. Would the portfolio holder advise what action the council proposes in order to deter further encampments?

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

1. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Watkins

Could the Portfolio Holder provide an update on the proposed changes to Grays Town Centre traffic flow?

2. From Councillor Duffin to Councillor Holloway

Can you lay out the influence you have as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to prevent the closure of Orsett Hospital?

3. From Councillor Duffin to Councillor Hebb

While the Council has made some progress in its short term and medium term investments please can you announce how many long term investments of over 5 year the Council have made since you took over the administration?

4. From Councillor Worrall to Councillor Watkins

Following the recent media coverage on the poor upkeep of our cemeteries could the Portfolio Holder advise us what steps he has taken to put this right and what he intends to do to keep them maintained to the expected standard?

5. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Coxshall

What preparations has the council made for the potential impact of Brexit?

6. From Councillor Spillman to Councillor Johnson

Is the portfolio holder concerned that the cuts to warden services in sheltered accommodation for older people has put the welfare, and indeed lives, of older residents at risk?

7. From Councillor Spillman to Councillor Johnson

Have the council cut keep fit services from sheltered accommodation for older people?

8. From Councillor Baldwin to Councillor Coxshall

During your portfolio report last year you told this chamber that no community group would be left with nowhere to go as part of the Tilbury Civic Square regeneration. The new health facility is to be built where the Martial Academy charity has their home. Can you tell me

what provision you are planning for this much needed and well used community facility?

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Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 27 June 2018

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
28/06/2017	Cllr Gerrish	<p>Council calls on the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to conduct a full review of fly tipping in private alleys, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the scale of the issue across the borough. • Review the impact on residents of the council's policy on fly tipping in private alleys. • Evaluate potential policy responses, including understanding the cost to the council of taking action and exploring new, more innovative solutions. • Make recommendations on the best approach to improving the situation. 	<p>The Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee formed a member-led panel at its meeting of 13 July to address the Council Motion.</p> <p>The lead member updated the committee at its meeting of 12 October with a view to presenting a final report to the committee at the December meeting, prior to a report to Cabinet recommending any policy adoption coming out of the review. This report has now been put back to the 22 February 2018 meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>June 2018 Update - The lead member presented a final report to the 22 February 2018 meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The recommendations of the CGS O&S have been included in a Cabinet report which was considered on 13th June 2018.</p>	Steve Cox
28/06/2017	Cllr Halden	<p>Thurrock Council would oppose any closure of Orsett Hospital until new and modern facilities are put in place first to ensure that clinical services are maintained and improved in Thurrock and urges that Council resist attempts to move clinical resources or capacity from Orsett Hospital out of Thurrock.</p>	<p>We are awaiting details from NHS England on when the consultation will commence but we expect it to be sometime during the Autumn. The Council, with its NHS partners, is proceeding with its plans for the four Integrated Medical Centres and is out to tender for the design team for the Tilbury IMC.</p> <p>October Update : NHS England have indicated that the consultation on the STP will start in late October / early November and include consultation on the future of Orsett Hospital. We have appointed the design team to lead on the Tilbury IMC</p> <p>November Update – We are anticipating consultation on the STP to start at the end of November. Planning</p>	Roger Harris

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			<p>work is underway on all four of the proposed Integrated medical Centres.</p> <p>January Update – Consultation process has started and runs until 9 March 2018. The matter will be considered at HOSC and the Health & Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>February Update – Essex, Southend and Thurrock have agreed to form a joint HOSC. Consultation closes on the 9 March 2018, with a final decision taken in June/ July 2018.</p> <p>June 2018 update – The CCG Joint Committee on the 4 July will make a final decision on the acute configuration exercise, which includes Orsett Hospital. The Council continues to press ahead with the development of the 4 Integrated Medical Centres with its NHS partners.</p>	
27/09/2017	Cllr B Rice	<p>This Council calls on the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex to fully review and evaluate Police numbers in Thurrock in light of the serious nature of crimes that are we are experiencing in the Borough.</p>	<p>A letter has been sent to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner advising of the motion of Thurrock Council and inviting a response on how the issues raised would be taken forward. The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner attended Full Council on 31 January 2018 and outlined that 12 officers have been allocated to Thurrock.</p>	Julie Rogers
27/09/2017	Cllr Spillman	<p>Council calls on Cabinet to work with local arts and music groups to assist them in looking at options for establishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A not-for-profit community arts and music multi use venue open to all arts, crafts and music groups across Thurrock which will be able to secure relevant licenses that will allow the venue to be financially sustainable by raising revenue through ticketed music and performance events, and 	<p>The Cabinet recognises the value of arts and culture in supporting our local communities and creating pride in Thurrock. Meetings have been held with Cllr Spillman and arts and heritage groups to discuss ways to work together to support the sector in Thurrock.</p> <p>Cllr Spillman and the local groups involved in discussions have participated in the second round of consultation on the Arts and Heritage (Cultural Economy) strategy. Feedback from the consultation is now being reviewed. A report on the strategy will be</p>	Steve Cox

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A not-for-profit, open air, "Festival of Thurrock" to provide an opportunity for a wide range of artists and musicians in Thurrock to showcase their talents. 	<p>taken to Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee in due course.</p> <p>Festivals do require significant resources to organise, produce and manage. Recent discussions with Cllr Spillman and stakeholder have suggested developing a cultural dimension to existing festivals and events may generate more interest and participation in cultural activity than one large event.</p> <p>June 2018 Update - Preparation of the Cultural Strategy is ongoing and discussions are planned with the new Portfolio Holder.</p>	
27/09/2017	Cllr B Rice	Members in this Council Chamber to call on the Cabinet to re-evaluate the need for £5 per week charge for grounds maintenance to Council tenants as this will cause many residents further hardship.	<p>The Grounds Maintenance service charge has been temporarily suspended pending a review. This will be reported back to Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December and Cabinet in January/ February.</p> <p>January Update – December Scrutiny Committee recommended that the charges are not proceeded with. The final decision will be made at February Cabinet.</p> <p>February Update – Cabinet agreed on the 7 February, not to proceed with the Grounds Maintenance service charge for 2018/19.</p>	Roger Harris
25/10/2017	Cllr Jones	We call on Thurrock Council to write to the Secretary of State to express many residents' views that in its present state the police service contact number 101 is not fit for purpose.	<p>A letter was sent to the Secretary of State on Wednesday 8 November to express the views of residents in relation to the 101 contact number.</p> <p>A response has been received advising that the handling of 101 calls is "an operational matter for the police and that this Government has protected overall police spending in real terms since the Spending Review in 2015".</p>	Julie Rogers

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			<p>"It is for elected Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables to decide how their force's resources are deployed".</p> <p>The Police and Fire Crime Commissioner attended Full Council on 31 January 2018 and covered the 101 service in his presentation.</p>	
25/10/2017	Cllr J Kent	<p>Thurrock Council believes the, so called, "dementia tax" is unfair and would be damaging to many older residents of Thurrock. The Council calls on the care minister, Jackie Doyle-Price, to rule out forcing older people to pay for their care with their home.</p>	<p>Motion has been sent to the Care Minister on Wednesday 8 November 2017 and a reply has been received.</p>	Roger Harris
25/10/2017	Cllr Gerrish	<p>Thurrock Council calls on the Government to provide the necessary resources and rule changes which would allow councils to build additional council housing at a scale proportional to need, in particular removing the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap. Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor and DCLG setting out our concerns and seeking urgent action to enable the building of council housing at necessary volumes. • Write to Thurrock's MPs seeking all possible Parliamentary support. • Request that the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider whether there are any additional local opportunities to increase our supply of new council houses in Thurrock. 	<p>Letters have been sent to those requested. Meeting with DCLG officers has also been arranged for 9 November 2017 and Housing Overview and Scrutiny will be considering this at its December meeting.</p> <p>January Update – The December Budget indicated that there will be further resources available, including allowing Councils to borrow more through the HRA. We await further details from the HDCLG.</p> <p>February Update – Discussions with DHLG officers continue and we await announcement as to how the process will operate to allow Councils to raise the HRA cap.</p> <p>June 2018 update – We are still awaiting details from MHCLG as to how the relaxing of the HRA borrowing limit will work in practice.</p>	Roger Harris
29/11/2017	Cllr J Kent	<p>Care leavers who were looked after by the Council are amongst the most vulnerable groups in our community. As Corporate parents we should aim to keep young people safe and improve their life</p>	<p>The Head Start Housing Paper to provide housing and holistic support for care leavers contains a proposal for targeted Council Tax relieve for care leavers up to the age of 21 and discretionary provision up to the age of</p>	Rory Patterson

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		<p>chances. Therefore Thurrock Council resolves that - to help ensure the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt as they begin to manage their own finances, that the executive bring forward plans in its “headstart housing paper - supporting care leavers”, which is proposed for</p> <p>December Scrutiny, includes proposals for targeted Council tax relief and for Scrutiny to make recommendations to Cabinet regarding a whole package of support for these young people and that Council now adds it’s support for an executive decision for start of the year 2018/19.</p>	<p>25. This has been consulted with Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee. This report is being presented to February Cabinet for implementation from 1 April 2018.</p>	
29/11/2017	Cllr Snell	<p>This Council calls on government to reject the idea of piloting the re-integration of former extremists and returning jihadists by giving them priority on housing waiting lists which this Council would oppose.</p>	<p>The Council will be responding to any formal consultation document in line with the terms of this motion and will be writing to the relevant government department.</p>	
29/11/2017	Cllr Jones	<p>We call on Thurrock Council to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst, and Essex Police to ask them to outline their strategy to reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and violent attacks in Thurrock.</p>	<p>A letter was sent to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst on the 19 December 2017. The letter invited Mr Hirst to outline his strategy for Essex Police to reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and violent attacks in Thurrock.</p> <p>The PCC attended full Council in January 2018.</p>	Julie Rogers
28/2/2018	Cllr Spillman	<p>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.</p>	<p>June 2018 Update - The preparation of the Thurrock Local Plan must be taken forward in full compliance with national planning policy and relevant statutory and regulatory instruments.</p> <p>As part of an evidenced approach to plan-making the Council is required by the National Planning Policy Framework to ‘use their evidence base to ensure that</p>	Steve Cox

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 27 June 2018

			<p>their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed housing needs for market housing and affordable housing' in their housing market area.</p> <p>In doing so local planning authorities are required to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes and create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities by planning for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community (such as, but not limited to, families with children, older people, people with disabilities, service families and people wishing to build their own homes.</p> <p>To achieve these objectives, the Thurrock Local Plan will identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required is required reflecting local demand and where affordable housing is needed, set policies for meeting this need.</p> <p>Thurrock Regeneration Limited will continue to work with strategic planners to ensure potential sites in Council ownership are included in the Local Plan process, ensuring a mixture of tenures and house types are considered.</p>	
28/2/2018	Cllr Duffin	Thurrock Council resolves to increase its investment portfolio with the ambition to reduce General Fund Council Tax.	June 2018 update - The council continues to consider a wide variety of investment opportunities but has regard to due diligence, risk and return.	Sean Clark
28/2/2018	Cllr Snell	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.	June 2018 update – The Council has contacted both Thurrock CCG and NHS England with details of this motion.	Roger Harris

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 27 June 2018

28/2/2018	Cllr Jones	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Analyse current and future risk to Thurrock's environment.(2) Develop concrete policy proposals.	June 2018 update - These matters will be included within the business planned for the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4 July 2018.	Steve Cox
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Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor Duffin

Thurrock Council should look into contacting all sports teams/clubs competing across the borough and ask them what support they need moving forward. Many need support with facilities and raising awareness that the Council can assist with without giving financial support.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

The Motion relates to a matter which affects the Authority or the Authority' area and for which the Authority has a relevant function.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this motion although any support identified as a result of the motion may result in a cost to the council. These would need to be considered separately in further reports.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes

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Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 2

Submitted by Councillor Aker

This Council calls on Cabinet to commit to looking at each private contract and assess whether, or not, it could be fulfilled locally and begin a process of bringing private contracts back in-house as soon as possible so that the Council can maximise the benefits for Thurrock rather than multi-national corporations.

Statement

Thurrock Council has many contracts out to private companies; in particular repairs contracts, which we feel would be better operated in-house. Rather than paying millions of pounds to companies that take the money out of the borough, we would be better off supporting local people, local businesses and the local economy.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

The Motion relates to a matter which affects the Authority or the Authority' area and for which the Authority has a relevant function.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

The council is governed by a number of contractual procedure regulations and a legal requirement to achieve value for money in its actions.

The Council Spending Review, which is looking at every service the council provides, includes a review on both procurement and the best method of delivery that includes a challenge as to whether the service should be provided in-house, externally or in partnership.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes

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Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 3

Submitted by Councillor Gerrish

Thurrock Council notes the recent consultation which included the future of Orsett Hospital. Thurrock Council further notes the overwhelming opposition of Thurrock residents to the closure of Orsett Hospital. Thurrock Council calls on Cabinet to work with health partners to seek a solution which leaves Orsett Hospital open and retains all services in Thurrock.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

The Motion relates to a matter which affects the Authority or the Authority' area and for which the Authority has a relevant function.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this motion.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes

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Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 4

Submitted by Councillor Spillman

Council requests that Planning, Transport & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider adding to its work programme at its next meeting on 4 July 2018 research into the feasibility of building 8,000 council, housing association and low-cost homes within the next five years without such buildings threatening the character of any existing settlements within the borough and to seek to explore the extent to which Thurrock Regeneration Limited could input into such a target

Monitoring Officer Comments:

This notice of motion relates to a matter which affects the authority or the authority's area and also relates to a matter in respect of which the authority has a relevant function.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

The motion as written is not clear as to whether there are any financial implications as these will depend on the scope of the research. Should any cost be identified that cannot be contained within existing budgets, agreement will need to be sought from Cabinet.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes

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