

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

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **24 January 2023**

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL.

Membership:

Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Gary Byrne (Vice-Chair), Daniel Chukwu, Sara Muldowney, Maureen Pearce and Elizabeth Rigby

Substitutes:

Councillors Alex Anderson, Paul Arnold, John Kent, Steve Liddiard and Graham Snell

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Minutes	5 - 14
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8 November 2022.	
3. Items of Urgent Business	
To receive additional items that the Chair 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. To agree any relevant briefing notes submitted to the Committee.	
4. Declaration of Interests	
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Exclusion of the Public and Press

Members are asked to consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

7. Council Funded Police Officers Options Paper

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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Agenda published on: **16 January 2023**

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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.

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8 November 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Gary Byrne (Vice-Chair), Daniel Chukwu, Sara Muldowney, Maureen Pearce and Paul Arnold (Substitute) (substitute for Elizabeth Rigby)

Apologies: Councillor Elizabeth Rigby, Emergency Planning Manager

In attendance:

Jahur Ali, Recreation and Leisure Manager
Peter Bond
Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager
Gavin Dennett, Strategic Lead - Public Protection
Terry Fisher, Essex Police
Daren Spring, Assistant Director – Street Scene & Leisure
Vincent Taylor, Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services
Rhiannon Whiteley, 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.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 8 September held on the 11th October 2022 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

2. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

3. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

4. Overview of Responsibilities of Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sports and Leisure - Verbal Update

The Chair decided that item 8 should be heard first.

Councillor Jefferies invited the Committee to ask him questions.

The Chair requested an update regarding brown bin collections.

Councillor Jefferies responded that due to actions of the protestors, roads were closed around the depot and therefore lorries could not get in or out. They are therefore currently two days behind with collections as on Monday and Tuesday the brown bins couldn't be collected. The service will be working on Saturday to make up for this and therefore for those whose bins weren't collected on Monday and Tuesday their bins will be collected by Saturday. Councillor Jefferies also confirmed that they have had some success in recruiting loaders and drivers but at the same time others are still leaving. He assured the Committee they are doing work at the depot on retaining workers.

The Chair queried if other Councils were having the same difficulties.

Councillor Jefferies confirmed that other Councils were also experiencing recruitment difficulties.

Councillor Muldowney queried if any contingency plans were in place as the protestors are continuing to target the depot.

Councillor Jefferies explained that they have no other site in the borough and they have to rely on the Police to deal with the protestors.

The Recreation and Leisure Services Manager joined the meeting at 19.06

Councillor M Coxshall joined the meeting at 19.08

Councillor Jefferies stated that bins will always be missed for a variety of reasons (blocked access, staff shortages, lorry breakdowns) and they are reviewing the whole process for reporting missed bins so residents can report it easily, obtain a reason as to why it wasn't collected and receive an answer as to when it will be collected.

Councillor Byrne raised that whenever he reports a missed bin the reason given for this is always blocked access.

Councillor Jefferies responded that the system can take photos and he is determined to improve it so this is done.

Councillor Arnold explained that the communication to residents needs to be better as they won't know to put their bins back out to be collected once they have been missed.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure confirmed that they are doing a lot of work with the Communications team and information is on the website. He confirmed they are asking people to keep their brown bins out until Saturday if their bins were missed on Monday and Tuesday. He highlighted that he understood this was not convenient for residents.

Councillor Muldowney agreed with Councillor Arnold that a lot of the bad feeling and frustration expressed by residents could be solved with better communication.

Councillor Jefferies stated that the information was on the website, Facebook and Twitter. He agreed communications can always be improved.

Councillor Byrne stated that he had not had the same problems with missed bins with trade waste. He queried why this was the case and if there was anything that could be learnt from that team.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure explained that they are a much smaller team with just two vehicles. It was therefore easier to manage and resource this team.

Councillor Arnold queried that now the bird nesting season is over will work start on trees.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure confirmed that the team would normally start the winter maintenance programme once the grass cutting season has come to an end. However, he commented that they are cutting the grass later in the year and also starting to cut it earlier. The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure confirmed that all the trees in the Borough have been surveyed and graded and the team will work over a 5 year period to make sure the maintenance on those trees is carried out.

Councillor Arnold asked if information could go on to the website about when this work is going to be carried out as he often gets calls about trees from residents.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure confirmed that he would speak to the web team although they may only be able to specify the area that they will be working in as opposed to confirming the particular work that will be carried out.

Councillor Byrne queried whether single use plastic was being used in the building as he noted there were single use plastic cups by the water machine.

Councillor Jefferies confirmed there is a policy to reduce the use of single use plastic in the Civic Offices.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure responded that he would speak to facilities about this.

5. Essex Police - Verbal Update

Inspector Fisher of Essex Police commented that the visibility of police officers had been raised at the last meeting and in response to that he wanted to provide more information about what Police officers are doing when they aren't out on patrol. He explained that officers responsibilities included managing hate crime, attendances at court, arresting suspects, observing people in custody or at the hospital, preparing files for the CPS, attending community forums, attending safeguarding meetings, policing local protests, dealing with low level drugs, gangs and warrants. He explained the list was not exhaustive and he could go on. Inspector Fisher assured the Committee, the officers are very busy and that they want to be out on the beat.

Inspector Fisher updated the Committee that the off- road nuisance vehicles team launched about 6 weeks ago and stated that they have had quite a lot of success already. The target was to issue 30 Section 59 warnings by the end of the year and they have already issued 71 to date. The aim is to reach 100.

Inspector Fisher updated the committee on Operation Raptor and the injunctions issued for Grays town centre. He explained that the main 5 elders of the group have been charged and interim orders have been granted against 8 juvenile members and they will be in court again in December for the court to decide whether to grant full injunctions. They are also confident that they are going to serve a further 8 adult injunctions hopefully by December and that this will be the beginning of the end of an emerging gang.

Regarding Chadwell St Mary and the fire in the children's park, Inspector Fisher outlined that from some of the pop-up events and coffee with cops residents have expressed concern about crime and anti-social behaviour and in response to this operation Reggie commenced which involved additional patrols to address this and to try and increase community confidence. For Thurrock anti-social behaviour is down 52.4%. A lot of ASB was around off and on road nuisance vehicles and operation Ceasar and Operation Irish Lions has probably had an impact on this. Violence is down and burglary is also down 7%.

The Chair commented that Operation Ceasar is definitely working as she doesn't think she has had any complaints about bikes in the last 6 weeks. The Chair stated that the Police were doing a brilliant job in bringing the motorcycle problem under control.

Councillor Arnold queried whether the number of hours on patrol is recorded.

Inspector Fisher responded that this is different depending on which type of Police team you are looking at. For the town centre team where it is an important part of their role to be visible and engaging with businesses and the community their hours on patrol are recorded. For other teams it is not necessarily the best use of their time. In modern policing there are so many other strands to keeping the community safe aside from being on patrol. Inspector Fisher invited Councillor Arnold to come out on patrol with one of the police teams.

Councillor Arnold responded that he would love to take Inspector Fisher up on his offer. He commented that residents look for the visual police presence and clearly there is a lot going on behind the scenes.

Councillor Byrne referred to seeing on social media that Manor Way is still being used as a race track.

Inspector Fisher responded that car cruises are still happening and this has been a long term issue in Thurrock. From intelligence it seems that the significant meets containing lots of cars are focussed on the west of Thurrock and Lakeside. Operation Irish lions is dealing with this and they know that when they disrupt them they often head over to the manor way. Inspector Fisher confirmed his teams are often in the area between 2am and 4 am in the morning when this activity tends to happen and they are trying to keep the roads safe. Inspector Fisher encouraged residents to report places and times they see this happening and vehicle registration numbers as the more intelligence the police have the better.

Councillor Redsell raised the issue of e-scooters.

Inspector Fisher confirmed the Government are still conducting trials of e-scooters being legalised and the trial has been extended. He was clear that some members of the public are very supportive of them and some think they are dangerous. Inspector Fisher confirmed he hoped to receive clear guidance from the Government soon in relation to e-scooters.

Councillor Muldowney highlighted that lots of trees have been vandalised on Orsett Heath and the council have told her to advise residents to report vandalism to the police, she queried if this was correct.

Inspector Fisher confirmed it did depend on the act. However, an ongoing crime series even if not criminal damage is still something that is anti-social and the police can target and deal with it.

Councillor Muldowney queried if the town centre police team are funded by the council tax rises.

Inspector Fisher confirmed he wouldn't have the information, but it could probably be requested from the PFCC (Police Fire Crime Commissioner).

Councillor Byrne highlighted that the location of coffee with cops in the library was not the best location to reach a wide range of people. He suggested that the vape shop gets people of all ages coming in and they would be willing to offer their shop as a venue for coffee with the cops.

Inspector Fisher confirmed the purpose of coffee with the cops is about engagement with the community and the more people they can reach the better. He agreed it is something that could be explored.

Inspector Fisher and Michelle Cunningham left the meeting at 20.24

6. Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy 2023/24

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure presented the report to the Committee, he confirmed it covered the fees and charges for all services in the remit of this Committee.

The Chair queried whether all bowls clubs are paying the same.

The Recreation and Leisure manager confirmed the fees and charges for bowls are the same for all. There may be a difference in the price if they lease the building. He confirmed that most of the bowls clubs in Thurrock are now self-managed and pay a £1 peppercorn rent to the Council as they maintain the bowls greens themselves.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene confirmed the Council are trying to regulate the use of Thurrock's Parks and open spaces. Fitness companies or personal trainers can register for a license to use the parks and open spaces and in return the Council will help them with social media and promoting their business.

The Recreation and Leisure manager raised that the challenge Thurrock has is they don't have enough pitches. On grass you can only play for 8 hours a week to protect the grass. There are no flood lights for evening play. 3G pitches allow for more hours of play.

Councillor Muldowney commented that the Council are supposed to be encouraging people to be more active yet they are imposing rises above inflation for those who do use the facilities in a cost of living crisis. Councillor Muldowney raised that the fees and charges for bowls for over 60's has gone up 20%. Councillor Muldowney also noted the goal posts have been removed.

The Recreation and Leisure Manager confirmed that none of the bowls teams pay this as they are almost all self-managed however they do still need to include the figure in the spreadsheet. Previously, the bowls clubs paid the fees and charges and the Council maintained the bowls green. This wasn't cost effective for the Council therefore the Bowls clubs decided to take this over. He also confirmed that on football sites when goal posts are left out there is a lot of damage so they have to remove them to stop this. If they made a surplus they could keep the goal posts out and re-seed the area around the goal post. He also confirmed that Thurrock Council's fees and charges are lower than other boroughs. If clubs book using the seasonal rate they get around 3 games free. Clubs want the pitches to be high quality and this takes time and investment. The pitches are oversubscribed. He also confirmed that a recent Sport England Active Life survey has shown a 0.5% increase in the borough of people who are active. Thurrock has previously been one of the most inactive boroughs in Essex. If Thurrock had more sites, physical activity of residents could increase.

Councillor Byrne responded that most personal trainers have 4 clients who they charge around £5 a session for, therefore they are only earning around £20 for an hour and may not be able to afford the license fee.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure clarified that individuals can exercise in the park for free however, if people are charging others for training this would be different. The fees allow for a one year subscription.

Councillor Arnold stated there is a difference where small businesses are using parks and open spaces for free. He queried if the increases are more about cost recovery than profit and if there is a surplus he asked what happens to it.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure confirmed the main goal is cost recovery. They would like to increase the quality of outdoor sports for residents to encourage them to do more. For those who the licenses will apply to, the money recovered will go into improving facilities.

Councillor Muldowney queried in relation to the recommendation 1.2 whether they are anticipating the Director Delegated Authority will be needed?

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure responded that it was difficult to say however it is in there in case it is needed.

Councillor Muldowney confirmed that she is not in favour of any prices above inflation.

The Chair queried the wording of recommendation 1.2.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure confirmed he would take this back for the wording to be looked at.

Councillor Muldowney confirmed she also did not agree to recommendation 1.1 and requested a vote on both recommendations.

Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the revised fees, including those no longer applicable; and comment on the proposals currently being considered within the remit of this committee.

In relation to recommendation 1.1 Councillor Byrne, Councillor Muldowney and Councillor Chukwu did not agree. Councillor Redsell, Councillor Arnold and Councillor Pearce agreed with the recommendation.

1.2 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note that director delegated authority will be sought

via Cabinet to allow fees and charges to be varied within a financial year in response to legal and regulatory requirements.

In relation to recommendation 1.2 all members of the Committee confirmed they did not agree with the recommendation.

Councillor Jefferies left the meeting at 21.10

7. Annual Status Report on Air Quality in Thurrock

The Air Quality Officer presented the report to the Committee. He confirmed the Council had a statutory obligation to produce an annual statement on air quality and that there had been a general improvement seen in air quality across the board in Thurrock.

The Chair queried if COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) sites give off emissions.

The Strategic Lead of Public Protection confirmed that the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) and Environment agency regulate them. The Council however does have involvement from an emergency planning perspective but COMAH emissions fall outside of local air quality management.

The Chair commented that we needed to get cars off the road in order to reduce air pollution and that's unlikely to happen.

The Strategic Lead of Public Protection confirmed that their role was to offer advice to the highways team for example about removing obstructions that may cause air pollution or advice to the planning team regarding building a school playground next to a highly polluting road. He agreed they couldn't just close the A13 and commented that there are other solutions such as improved vehicle design which can also assist with pollution.

Councillor Muldowney thanked the Air Quality officer for the report. She confirmed that residents are concerned about air pollution. She raised the issue of PM2.5 and that recent research about this fine particulate matter has confirmed that it can have a significant impact on health. She queried why the 2021 figures are described as estimated on page 76.

The Air Quality officer confirmed they don't have PM2.5 monitoring in all of the stations and they estimate off the PM10 levels. He confirmed they are monitoring it at two sites in Stanford-Le-Hope and Tilbury and they have recently put a new monitor at the Grays monitoring station but they will not get the data from it until next year or possibly the year after.

Councillor Muldowney asked the Air Quality Officer about the new levels for PM2.5 that the Government are supposed to be bringing in.

The Air Quality Officer confirmed that the Government has not confirmed the new levels yet and that the decision has been delayed.

Councillor Muldowney stated that she was concerned the levels of PM2.5 are above the levels the World Health Organisation recommend as low risk to health.

Councillor Muldowney queried if there is any work being completed regarding the impact of the Lower Thames Crossing on air pollution in the borough.

The Strategic Lead of Public Protection confirmed they have 4 fixed stations and 69 monitoring points which is considerably more than most neighbouring boroughs. They are also commissioning some air quality modelling which will provide a map of more detailed data on air quality. He confirmed they are likely to be called upon to give comments on the proposed Lower Thames Crossing route when they finalise it and they should be able to estimate from traffic use figures the impact of the Lower Thames Crossing route on the surrounding areas. It is likely there will be potential reductions in West Thurrock and Purfleet and at the Dartford crossing as the Lower Thames Crossing might reduce the traffic flow in these areas but increases will be expected in the immediate area of the Lower Thames Crossing.

At 21.28 the Committee agreed to raise Standing Orders so the meeting could continue beyond 9.30pm

Councillor Chukwu stated that Thurrock was previously described as one of the most polluted areas in the country, he queried if this narrative has now changed.

The Air Quality Officer confirmed that it was quite a positive picture now. There is a varied picture across the borough and the only site not compliant was on the London Road in Purfleet.

The chair suggested more trees could be the solution.

The Air Quality Officer clarified that the answer is more complicated than that as trees can have detrimental effect by reducing the dispersing effect wind has.

RESOLVED

1.1 That the report be noted.

8. Work Programme

Councillor Muldowney requested that the Waste Services report for the next meeting in January 2023 is a written report and not verbal

The meeting finished at 9.37 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**

24 January 2023	ITEM: 5
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
Single Use Plastic Policy Implementation	
Wards and communities affected: N/a	Key Decision: Non-Key
Report of: Susan Reddick - Strategic Lead Waste	
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring - Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure	
Accountable Director: Julie Nelder – Acting Director Public Realm	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report will suggest an approach whereby all services are reminded to find viable alternatives to SUPs which are both less harmful to the environment and cost effective.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 To agree the approach across the Council to implement to eliminate where possible SUP's from Thurrock Council

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 A policy was approved at the Cabinet meeting 9th Feb 2022 to eliminate, where possible, SUPs from Thurrock Council

<https://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=129&MID=5957#A115084>

2.2 This plan will suggest an approach whereby all services are reminded to find viable alternatives to SUPs which are both less harmful to the environment and cost effective. A key challenge for the plan is to balance both coordination and execution effort and cost against rigor and thoroughness. Although the title of the policy is the removal of SUPs from council properties, the policy also extends to events on council land, educating public and supporting schools with regard to eliminating SUPs.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Option 1

3.2.1 Implement a framework whereby all services undertake a review of SUPs used in their area and commit to dates when alternatives will be used. The responses can then be consolidated into a Thurrock SUP plan and updated monthly by each area. This approach would require suitable project governance across Thurrock Council to ensure the assurances are delivered against.

3.2.2 Option 2

3.2.3 Implement a procurement process to ensure that the policy is considered at the point of procurement for new procurements and a review is carried out for live contracts.

3.2.4 For existing Council Office contracts, review the contracts regarding the policy and seek where possible to ensure compliance

3.2.5 Develop a communications plan to support the plan delivery and to publicise the initiative

3.2.6 Develop an approach for supporting schools and events on council land

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 Option 2 is recommended as this option will be less labour intensive and will be implemented as part of the day-to-day process of procurement, rather than as a separate project.

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

5.1 Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny

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

6.1 This will allow us to support the roll out of the Single Use Plastic Policy which will allow us to reduce our reliance on SUP's, which also supports the Government's 2018 25 Year Environment Plan.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**

Senior Management Accountant

The council continues to experience significant revenue budget pressures and exceptional wider financial risks and, as a result, a section 114 notice was issued on 19th December 2022. There are no direct finance implications arising from this report

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke**
Corporate Governance Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer

The Environmental Protection (Plastic Straws, Cotton Buds and Stirrers) (England) Regulations 2020 bans businesses in England (except for exempt users) supplying certain single-use plastics, including straws, cotton swabs, and coffee stirrers to end users. The Regulations make it an offense to supply single-use plastic stirrers to end users. The Regulations are enforced by local authorities. Adoption of the recommendation in the report by a Cabinet decision would demonstrate that the Council is leading by example in taking action to reduce the use of single plastics in Council Offices and work practices.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

There are no direct diversity or equality implications arising from this update report

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children

NA

8. Background papers used in preparing the report

- 8.1 Single Use Plastic Policy
<https://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MID=5957#A115084>

9. Appendices to the report

- 9.1 Single Use Plastic Policy

<https://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MID=5957#A115084>

Report Author:

Susan Reddick

Strategic Lead - Waste Services, Public Realm

24 January 2023		ITEM: 6
Cleaner Greener Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Waste Service Update Report		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Susan Reddick – Strategic Lead – Waste		
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring – Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure		
Accountable Director: Julie Nelder – Acting Director Public Realm		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the waste service.

With the target date for the introduction of the new waste collection service in September 2023. This report outlines the work that is being carried out to make improvements to service delivery in readiness for the implementation of the new collection service.

A waste improvement plan has also been produced and work has started on its implementation. This report considers some of the themes of the improvements and provides the committee with an update on progress.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 It is recommended that Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Central Government published its Waste, our Resources: A strategy for England in December 2018. It identified a number of proposals designed to drive up recycling performance. The proposals include: -

- Improve recycling rates by ensuring a consistent set of dry recyclable materials is collected from all households and businesses.

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfill by ensuring that every householder and appropriate businesses have a weekly separate food waste collection, subject to consultation.
- Improve urban recycling rates, working with business and local authorities.
- Improve working arrangements and performance between local authorities.

2.2 The National Strategy has several statutory implications for the Council that means implementing some changes to the way that we collect and dispose of our waste. Although these are yet to be fully finalised, they include: -

- Provide our residents with separate food waste collections by 2023.
- Vastly improve our recycling rate to work towards the 2035 National Recycling Target of 65%.
- Reduce the amount of municipal waste to landfill by 10%.
- Ensure that our dry recycling collections are consistent with Government's requirements and ensure that we are running a cost-effective collections system.

2.3 Following consideration of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the October 2020 meeting, in November 2020, Cabinet agreed the Municipal Waste Strategy for Thurrock and agreed to progress with the following collection regime: -

- Alternate Weekly Refuse Collection
- Weekly Recycling Collection
- Alternate Weekly Garden Waste Collection
- Weekly Food Waste Collection

Additionally, Cabinet agreed: -

- That Thurrock Council lead by example and act to reduce and where possible eliminate, single use plastics. A separate update will be presented to CGS O&S on single use plastic.

2.4 Several projects have been completed to ensure the delivery of the new collection service these include;

- The procurement and delivery of a new fleet of vehicles
- The procurement of a contract to process food waste as a separate waste stream
- The procurement of a contract to process green waste
- The procurement of internal and external kitchen caddies for every house, this will include the delivery of these caddies from Sept 2023
- The development of a communications plan for the roll out of the service

- A vehicle naming competition engaging with schools has recently completed and the winning names have been identified so that they can be put onto the vehicles

2.5 We are now focusing on routing the work for the new service. We will ensure that these routes are robust and fully serviceable, that all work can be completed and will make certain that the appropriate resources are in place to deliver the new service.

2.6 In support of these changes and following an internal review, a waste service improvement board was formed to improve service delivery to ensure that we are in a position to implement change,

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The waste improvement plan has six main themes and whilst improvement will always be continuous, we have made significant improvements in each area which are listed below.

1. Service improvement

- We are improving internal processes and have implemented 'champions' for different categories of work to ensure that we have 'expert's in each area that the team can go to for support.

2. Work force engagement

- We have developed a workforce engagement & communications plan and we are also in the process of developing a skills gap and training plan for all staff.
- We have issued new uniform including shorts and hat for the summer months. New routes are in place, and we have engaged and communicated with the crews about this
- Recruitment days have been held to bring on agency staff and by 1st Feb 19 agency loaders will be taken on permanently, and we are holding further recruitment days to increase this number

3. Vehicle process and policy compliance

- Our fleet team have recently been externally audited and the outcome was positive and did not identify any areas of improvement required.

4. Customer satisfaction

- We are improving the management and auditing of complaints

5. Health & Safety

- A Health & Safety 'champion' has been identified; and is helping to strengthen our H&S framework for the service.

6. Being digitally efficient

- New digital systems have been developed to create an auditable and more efficient service

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 This report is for information, to update the panel on the progress of the improvements to the service and the development of the new service in September 2023

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

5.1 A Cross Party Waste Working Group was formed in August 2019 with the key objective of reviewing the requirements of the Government's waste strategy paper and how the Borough will be able to meet those requirements. All options were consulted upon via a public consultation.

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

6.1 The Council has a statutory requirement to collect refuse and recycling from residents of the borough and the waste strategy will shade the way that this is carried out in the future.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

There are no financial implications linked to this update report. "The council continues to experience significant revenue budget pressures and exceptional wider financial risks and, as a result, a section 114 notice was issued on 19th December 2022. There are no direct finance implications arising from this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Kevin Molloy**
Principal Solicitor

There are no legal implications linked to this update report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

There are no direct diversity or equality implications arising from this update report.

9. Appendices to the report

N/A

Report Author:

Daren Spring

Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure, Public Realm

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**Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme
2022/23**

Dates of Meetings: 14 June 2022, 8 September 2022, 8 November 2022 and 24 January 2023

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
14 June 2022		
Abandoned Trolley Cost Recovery Policy	Vince Taylor	Officers
Terms of Reference – Overview of Services - PowerPoint	Officers	Officers
Off Road Nuisance Vehicles – Verbal Update	Terry Fisher, Essex Police	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Members
8 September 2022		
Overview of responsibilities of Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sports and Leisure	Councillor Jefferies	Members
Council Funded Police Officers	Cheryl Wells	Members
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Annual Overview	Michelle Cunningham	Members
Cemetery and Burial Strategy	Daren Spring	Members
Flats Recycling Update	Marcelle Puttergill	Officers
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Members
8 November 2022		
Essex Police – Verbal Update	Terry Fisher, Essex Police	Members
Fees & Charges Report	Daren Spring	Officers

Annual Status Report on Air Quality in Thurrock	Gavin Dennett	Members
Overview of responsibilities of Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sports and Leisure	Councillor Jefferies	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Members
24 January 2023		
Single Use Plastics Update Report	Susan Reddick	Officers
Waste Service Update Report	Susan Reddick	Members
Council Funded Police Officers Options Paper	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Members

Add to 2023/24 Work Programme:

Annual report on Underage Sales – Charlotte Edwards – requested by Members
Thurrock Prevent Strategy Refresh – Michelle Cunningham – requested by Officers
Violence against Women and Girls – Michelle Cunningham – requested by Officers

Clerk: Rhiannon Whiteley
Last Updated: January 2023