

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

Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **28 October 2015**

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

Membership of the Council:

Sue Gray (Mayor)
Cathy Kent (Deputy Mayor)

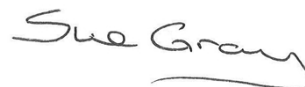
Tim Aker
Chris Baker
James Baker
Jan Baker
Clare Baldwin
Russell Cherry
Colin Churchman
Mark Coxshall
Leslie Gamester
Oliver Gerrish
Robert Gledhill
Yash Gupta (MBE)
Graham Hamilton
Garry Hague
James Halden
Shane Hebb

Terence Hipsey
Clifford Holloway
Victoria Holloway
Barry Johnson
Roy Jones
Tom Kelly
John Kent
Martin Kerin
Charlie Key
Steve Liddiard
Brian Little
Susan Little
Sue MacPherson
Ben Maney
Tunde Ojetola
Bukky Okunade

Barry Palmer
Jane Potheary
Robert Ray
Joycelyn Redsell
Barbara Rice
Gerard Rice
Andrew Roast
Peter Smith
Graham Snell
Richard Speight
Deborah Stewart
Michael Stone
Pauline Tolson
Kevin Wheeler
Lynn Worrall



Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive



Councillor Sue Gray
Mayor of Thurrock

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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3 Items of Urgent Business	
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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.	
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In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2(Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
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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.	
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In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

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

Name of Committee	Date
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	14 July 2015
Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	29 July 2015
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25 June 2015
Standards and Audit Committee	16 July 2015
Licensing Sub-Committee	1 September 2015
Licensing Committee	7 July 2015
Planning Committee	3 September 2015
Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 July 2015
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Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	15 September 2015

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

Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Future Dates of Council:

25 November 2015, 27 January 2016, 24 February 2016, 23 March 2016. 25 May 2016 (Annual Council)

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Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

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

Recording of meetings

This meeting may be recorded for transmission and publication on the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be recorded.

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

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The council welcomes the filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings as a means of reporting on its proceedings because it helps to make the council more transparent and accountable to its local communities.

If you wish to film or photograph the proceedings of a meeting and have any special requirements or are intending to bring in large equipment please contact the Communications Team at CommunicationsTeam@thurrock.gov.uk before the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will then be consulted and their agreement sought to any specific request made.

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

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

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

Thurrock Council Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available throughout the Civic Offices. You can access Wi-Fi on your device by simply turning on the Wi-Fi on your laptop, Smartphone or tablet.

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

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

Evacuation Procedures

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

How to view this agenda on a tablet device



You can view the agenda on your [iPad](#), [Android Device](#) or [Blackberry Playbook](#) with the free modern.gov app.

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

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

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

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non- pecuniary

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



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

PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

No speech may exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Mayor [Rule 19.8], except for the proposer of any motion who shall have 5 minutes to move that motion (except on a motion to amend where the 3 minute time shall apply) [Rule 19.8(a)]

All Motions will follow Section A and then either Section B or C

- | | | | |
|-----------|----|--|----------------------------|
| A. | A1 | Motion is moved | [Rule 19.2] |
| | A2 | Mover speaks | [Rule 19.8(a) (5 minutes)] |
| | A3 | Seconded | [Rule 19.2] |
| | A4 | Secunder speaks or reserves right to speak | [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 the subject .	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		

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

To achieve our vision, we have identified five strategic priorities:

1. Create a great place for learning and opportunity

- Ensure that every place of learning is rated “Good” or better
- Raise levels of aspiration and attainment so that residents can take advantage of local job opportunities
- Support families to give children the best possible start in life

2. Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity

- Promote Thurrock and encourage inward investment to enable and sustain growth
- Support business and develop the local skilled workforce they require
- Work with partners to secure improved infrastructure and built environment

3. Build pride, responsibility and respect

- Create welcoming, safe, and resilient communities which value fairness
- Work in partnership with communities to help them take responsibility for shaping their quality of life
- Empower residents through choice and independence to improve their health and well-being

4. Improve health and well-being

- Ensure people stay healthy longer, adding years to life and life to years
- Reduce inequalities in health and well-being and safeguard the most vulnerable people with timely intervention and care accessed closer to home
- Enhance quality of life through improved housing, employment and opportunity

5. Promote and protect our clean and green environment

- Enhance access to Thurrock's river frontage, cultural assets and leisure opportunities
- Promote Thurrock's natural environment and biodiversity
- Inspire high quality design and standards in our buildings and public space

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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.

October 1915

DATE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	WARD	RANK	SERVICE	DIED
01-Oct	LEEKES	ARTHUR ERNEST	22	TIL	PTE	CHESHIRE - 2	FRANCE
04-Oct	SKILTON	VICTOR ALBERT	20	G & AVE	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
04-Oct	PAYNE	ERNEST VICTOR	17	STIFF	PTE	ESSEX - 1	TURKEY
05-Oct	POLLEY	FREDERICK CHARLES	25	G	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
05-Oct	STANTON	WILLIAM	21	TIL	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
10-Oct	JARVIS	GEORGE STANWAY	32	BUL	PTE	R/FUS - 3	FRANCE
11-Oct	TWIN	ALBERT STEPHEN	25	G	L/CPL	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
12-Oct	GOMER	CYRIL ERNEST	22	G	PTE	GREN. GDS - 2	FRANCE
13-Oct	BROOK	FRED	18	G	L/CPL	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
13-Oct	KENNEDY	WILLIAM	25	G	L/CPL	LOND. SCOTTISH - 14TH	FRANCE
13-Oct	LINZELL	JOHN	19	G	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
13-Oct	POUTNEY	GEORGE	24	G	PTE	BUFFS - 6	FRANCE
13-Oct	TWEEDIE-SMITH	ALAN MORTON	21	MUCK	2/LT	WEST SURREY - 1	FRANCE
13-Oct	ASPLIN	ERNEST EDWARD VAUGHAN	35	TIL	PTE	BUFFS - 6	FRANCE
13-Oct	POTTER	SYDNEY DANIEL	26	W/TH	PTE	BUFFS - 6	FRANCE
15-Oct	STONE	WALTER HENRY	40	TIL	CORP L	BUFFS - 6	FRANCE

17-Oct	HAXELL	BERTIE	20	SLH	PTE	R/FUS - 2	GIBRALTAR
18-Oct	SMITH	WILLIAM THOMAS	UK	G & SLH	PTE	R/FUS. - 12	BELGIUM
18-Oct	RICHARDSON	HENRY HAROLD	UK	AVE & S.COK	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
18-Oct	GATHERCOLE	BERTIE	23	PUR	PIONEER	RE	BELGIUM
19-Oct	MUSTOE	GEORGE	29	TIL	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
20-Oct	FRENCH	WILLIAM HENRY	22	W/TH	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
20-Oct	OATS	ALBERT JAMES	25	L/TH	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
21-Oct	MILLS	MICHAEL DANIEL	23	TIL	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23 September 2015 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Sue Gray (Mayor), Cathy Kent (Deputy Mayor), Tim Aker, Chris Baker, James Baker, Jan Baker, Clare Baldwin, Russell Cherry, Colin Churchman, Mark Coxshall, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Yash Gupta (MBE), Graham Hamilton, Garry Hague, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Terence Hipsey, Clifford Holloway, Victoria Holloway, Barry Johnson, Roy Jones, Tom Kelly, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Charlie Key, Steve Liddiard, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Bukky Okunade, Jane Potheary, Robert Ray, Joycelyn Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Andrew Roast, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Richard Speight, Deborah Stewart, Pauline Tolson, Kevin Wheeler and Lynn Worrall

Apologies: Councillors Barry Palmer and Michael Stone

In attendance: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
David Bull, Director of Planning and Transportation
Steve Cox, Assistant Chief Executive
Carmel Littleton, Director of Children's Services
Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning
Kathryn Adedeji, Head of Housing - Investment and Development
Mike Heath, Head of Environment
Jackie Hinchliffe, Head of HR, OD & Transformation
Karen Wheeler, Head of Strategy & Communications
David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer
Matthew Boulter, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Kenna-Victoria Martin, 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.

62. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council, held on 26 August 2015, were approved as a correct record.

Councillor MacPherson informed the Chamber that at the July meeting she had requested an update from Councillor Okunade on Children in Care; she had not received anything.

63. Items of Urgent Business

The Mayor addressed the Chamber advising that she had agreed to the consideration of an item of urgent business, which related to the result of the by-election in West Thurrock & South Stifford. All Members were informed that a copy of the report by the Chief Executive was e-mailed to all Members prior to the meeting and has been circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Gledhill welcomed Councillor C. Holloway to the Chamber.

Councillor C. Holloway took the opportunity to thank everyone who supported him through the election; he continued by thanking his fellow candidates.

RESOLVED:

That the result of the West Thurrock & South Stifford by-election, held on 10 September 2015, be noted.

64. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Hipsey declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10, 'Debate of a petition containing over 1500 verified signatures – Save Corringham Greenbelt,' as he was the Chair of the Planning Committee and to be able to hear the application with an open mind, to be clear and transparent he would be removing himself from the Council Chamber.

Councillor G.Rice declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10, 'Debate of a petition containing over 1500 verified signatures – Save Corringham Greenbelt, as he was a Member of the Planning Committee and to be able to hear the application with an open mind he would be removing himself from the Council Chamber.

Councillor Ojetola declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10, 'Debate of a petition containing over 1500 verified signatures – Save Corringham Greenbelt, as he was a Member of the Planning Committee and to be able to hear the application with an open mind he would be removing himself from the Council Chamber. He continued to declare a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 11 in that he was the Ward Member.

Councillor Johnson declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10, 'Debate of a petition containing over 1500 verified signatures – Save Corringham Greenbelt, as he was a Substitute Member of the Planning Committee, he notified Members that he be removing himself from the debate however, he would not leave the Council Chamber.

Councillor C. Baker declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10, 'Debate of a petition containing over 1500 verified signatures – Save Corringham Greenbelt, as he was a Member of the Planning Committee and to be able to hear the application with an open mind he would be removing himself from the Council Chamber.

Councillor Liddiard declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10 as he was a Member of the Planning Committee and to be able to hear the application with an open mind he would be removing himself from the Council Chamber.

Councillor Wheeler declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10 as he was a Member of the Planning Committee and to be able to hear the application with an open mind he would be removing himself from the Council Chamber.

Councillor MacPherson declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 11, 'Enterprise Units,' as she was a Trustee of High House Production Park.

Councillor Kelly declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10 as he was the Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee and to be able to hear the application with an open mind he would be removing himself from the Council Chamber.

Councillor J. Kent declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 11, 'Enterprise Units,' as he was a Trustee of High House Production Park.

Councillor Coxshall declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 11, 'Enterprise Units,' as he lived in close proximity of the site and that he would be staying the Council Chamber.

Councillor Gledhill declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 10 as he was a Substitute Member of the Planning Committee, he notified Members that he be removing himself from the debate however, he would not leave the Council Chamber.

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

Before the Mayor began her announcements she asked all present to take a moment and remember the fallen Thurrock service personnel during World War One, the names of whom she read aloud to the Chamber.

The Mayor notified the Chamber that since then last meeting she had spent time with a World War Two Bomber pilot on his 90th birthday and had the pleasure of opening a small memorial garden in Peartree close, South Ockendon. The Mayor thanked ex-Councillor Mr Charlie Curtis for his help and involvement with the Veolia Cleanaway Trust, Thurrock Garden Centre and Thurrock Council Ground Staff for their work on the memorial garden.

The Mayor announced that at the National Housing Design awards held at the London School of Economics in July, the St. Chad's scheme was the 2015 Project Winner for architect Bell Phillips Architects, developer Gloriana (Thurrock Council), contractor Willmott Dixon Housing and planning authority Thurrock Council.

The mayor congratulated Councilor Worrall, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Council Officers for their work, in addition to our partners, for winning this prize.

Finally, the Mayor welcomed Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive and newly elected Councillor Cliff Holloway to the Chamber this evening. She also thanked Mike Heath for all his work with the Council, as she understood that his role was to be changing.

The Leader of the Council had no announcements to address.

66. Questions from Members of the Public

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be viewed on Mod.Gov at <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock>, and are attached at Appendix A to these minutes.

67. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors

The Mayor informed Members that in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the requisite notice had been given by one member of the public and two Councillors who wished to present a petition at the meeting.

Councillor Aker presented a petition on behalf of residents of Stanford Gardens, Aveley which called on the Council to investigate the noise and pollution caused by a Persimmon Development called 'The Village' on the Aveley By-Pass.

Ms Gel presented a petition on behalf of residents of Argent Street, Grays which called on the Council to relook at the future of the flats, namely Davall, Greenwood and Bulter House.

Councillor Redsell presented a petition on behalf of 334 residents of Blackshots and Woodview, Grays which called on the Council to take notice of the use of motorbikes and similar vehicles on open green spaces.

68. Petitions Update Report

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

Councillor Stewart addressed the Chamber, informing Members that she would be writing to the Leader of the Council regarding Petition 466 the 374 Bus service through Fobbing. She continued by explaining that she would be asking the Leader for help in providing emergency transport for those residents living in Fobbing.

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

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

The Leader of the Council informed the Chamber that he wished to make the following changes:

- for Councillor C. Holloway to be appointed as a member of the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Potheary.
- for Councillor Liddiard to join the Standards and Audit Committee

The Leader of the Conservative Group informed the Chamber that he wished to make the following change:

- for Councillor Halden to be appointed as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

It was confirmed by the Leader of the UKIP Group that no changes to appointments were to be made.

Councillor Churchman confirmed that Councillor Palmer would remain on the Planning Committee and he would be appointed to the Licensing Committee. He continued by enquiring whether he would be allowed to substitute for Councillor Palmer on the Planning Committee, to which it was clarified that as the Independent Councillors were not a political group they were not permitted to nominate a substitute on the Committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Councillor C. Holloway be appointed as a member of the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Potheary.**
- 2. That Councillor Liddiard be appointed as a member of the Standards and Audit Committee.**
- 3. That Councillor Halden be appointed as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 4. That Councillor Churchman be appointed as a member of the Licensing Committee.**

70. Debate of a Petition containing over 1500 verified signatures - Save Corringham Green Belt

At 7.35 pm Councillors Hipsey, Kelly, C. Baker, B. Little, Liddiard, Ojetola, G. Rice and Wheeler left the Council Chamber.

The Mayor informed the Chamber that a petition had been submitted to Development Management titled 'Save Corringham Greenbelt – we the undersigned object to any development on green belt land' and that as the petition had reached the threshold of 1,500 verified signatures, it had qualified to be debated by the Council.

Members were informed that the signatures had been checked and verified by Democratic Services using the electoral register.

The Mayor invited Mr. Kabul Sandu, the Lead Petitioner to speak on the petition.

During his address to the Chamber, Mr Sandu requested that the Council recommend and urge the Planning Committee to reject the applications in the Corringham greenbelt for the following reasons:

- In addition to the petition, 600 people had emailed the Planning Department with their objections; with many dismissing point by point the case from the developer;
- That the land had been identified as green belt land and that the national framework policy stated that local authorities should avoid inappropriate building on green belt land;
- The infrastructure would be unable to sustain an increase in local population and overcrowding would affect the whole community, increase in traffic would have a negative impact on the boroughs highway network and local hospitals and doctors surgeries would experience an increase in pressure on their services which would lead to delays in waiting times;
- An increase in population in the area would worsen the parking in the local area and also impact on the current lack of emergency services in place, i.e. police station;
- The figures that the developer had taken into account were from a 2008 survey; meaning that the numbers were out of date.

Members welcomed the opportunity to debate the petition and congratulated local residents for their efforts, noting that this was the second time a petition on the subject had been debated by the Council.

Councillor Tolson commented that she had enquired with National Rail as to the possibility of a rail station as part of the development and had been informed that this was not the case. She continued to inform the Chamber that the government had provided funding to update Stanford Le Hope Station and the only recent new rail stations within the area were West Ham and Chafford Hundred.

Councillor Speight stated that the application was within the Green Belt and felt that without very special circumstances applications on Green Belt land were not to be approved. He continued to explain that the development would impact on Southend Road with the amount of congestion created. He further urged residents to get involved with the consultation for the Local Plan.

Councillor Halden congratulated the lead petitioner for presenting a petition to the Council for the second time and commented that although the application may be the right thing for the business sector, it was not for local residents or the people of Corringham.

Council Roast informed Members that he was firmly against the proposed development of 750 dwellings which was to be located on Green Belt land and observed that the hard work of Mr Sandu and the Save Corringham Green Belt team also highlighted that residents did not want the development and that they should be listened to.

Councillor Jones voiced concern over the increase of population in the area, as doctor surgeries could barely cope and Basildon Hospital was near to breaking point.

Councillor J. Kent, Leader of the Council, reminded Members that the decision was that of the Planning Committee and that the development was not part of a Core Strategy. He explained that if the planning decision was referred to the Secretary of State he hoped that they would listen to residents' concerns.

Councillor Stewart stated that Members had to listen to the residents as they were voted in as Elected Members by them. She further reported that if residents did not want the development the first time the application was submitted they also did not want it now.

Councillor S. Little was concerned of the impact on vehicle movements within the area and felt the planning application, alongside the development of the port, would be disastrous.

RESOLVED:

That the Petition be referred to the Planning Committee and be taken into consideration when the Planning Committee is called upon to determine the relevant planning application, reference number 15/00205/OUT.

At 7.58 pm Councillors Hipsey, Kelly, C. Baker, B. Little, Liddiard, Ojetola, G. Rice and Wheeler re-entered the Council Chamber.

71. Enterprise Units Report

Councillor Richard Speight, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, introduced the report and informed Members that Thurrock was undergoing transformational change with one of most exciting Growth Programmes in the Country.

In introducing the report the Cabinet Member highlighted the following key points:

- The Business Centres had two complementary objectives, the first being to offer high quality business space for local businesses and the other to allow the Regeneration team to generate an income to assist with meeting saving targets;
- There were already two business centres open in Tilbury, the Riverside Business Centre and the Old Post Office in Grays, both of which were popular with local businesses and each had waiting lists;
- The refurbishment of the Grays Magistrates Court was expected to complete in October 2015, which had created a great deal of interest with local businesses.

The Portfolio Holder further advised Members that the Council was looking to expand business units into the High House Production Park and was seeking Council approval along with £1.5 million of the Capital Programme to invest in business units as part of the development for the National College at the High House Production Park. He reported that this would be funded through borrowing and was expected to generate healthy revenue back to the Council, which was set out within the report.

Councillor Gledhill welcomed the report stating that it was good that the Council was investing in people. He further commented that this was the right thing to do, as to make money the Council had to invest money.

Councillor Coxshall enquired as to whether it would just be creative industries, similar to High House Production Park.

The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration responded by stating that he could not guarantee it, however it would make sense.

RESOLVED:

That Full Council:

- 1. Note progress made with the Enterprise Units programme and the positive impact this will have on supporting business growth and job creation in the borough as well as supporting the Council's savings programme.**
- 2. Approve an addition of £1.5m to the Council's capital programme for investment in Council owned commercial enterprise units as part of the National College building at High House Production Park.**
- 3. Grant in principle approval to underwrite up to £150,000 of the fundraising target for the National College project. Final approval to be subject to a report to Cabinet.**

72. Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor B. Rice, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, introduced the report and, in doing so, highlighted some of the key achievements and successes of the Portfolio despite the challenging budget savings, which included:

- Adult Social Care was the largest part of the Portfolio, which amounted to 40% of the General Fund, however spending had been continuously refused over the last few years;
- People were living for longer, this meant that the number of people living with Dementia were also increasing between 5-10% per annum;
- The Rapid Response and Assessment Team (RRAS) had seen an increase in demand for the service since 2012, including over 300 referrals received each month;
- The RRAS had expanded and now included COPD and dementia expertise. The team continued to perform beyond expectation with less than 2% of service users being admitted to Hospital;
- The Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee were looking into GPs Practices with the NHS to help improve the services offered to residents.

Members questioned the Cabinet Member and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Ojetola commented that he submitted a motion in 2013 with regards to GP's (General Practitioners) in Chafford Hundred, and requested an update.

The Cabinet Member explained that a meeting had been held with NHS England with regards to GP surgeries across the borough; however they had to work on a priority basis.

- Councillor Halden enquired if, following the Cabinet Member's reference to issues with GP practices, she agreed that there needed to be a way to 'weed out' the poor services being offered to residents.

The Cabinet Member informed Councillor Halden the CQC investigated GP practices if they were not providing an acceptable service. She reported that a national scheme was also in place.

- Councillor Baldwin queried as to why it took up to 10 weeks to see an Occupational Therapist.

The Cabinet Member reported that nationally there was a shortage of Occupational Therapists as there were not enough people within the profession and the degree took 4 years to complete.

- Councillor Worrall asked the Cabinet Member to comment on the doctor's surgeries in Tilbury.

The Cabinet Member informed the Chamber that there was to be a public meeting which Councillor Worrall would be invited to as a Ward Councillor, along with the CQC and Adult Social Care officers.

- Councillor Gledhill thanked the Cabinet Member for her report and congratulated her on the success of the RRAS.
The Cabinet Member thanked Councillor Gledhill and confirmed that she had been working with the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Councillor V. Holloway asked for clarification on the demand on services, given the circumstances with the Mental Health Welfare.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that there had been more demand on all services with most being under pressure. She continued that the service was not poor however it was not brilliant either; it was a challenging climate.

The Cabinet Member summed up the report by informing the Chamber that Ian Wake had been appointed as Director and praised the good work and dedication of the departments she worked with.

73. Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that one question had been submitted to the Leader and a further three questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

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

74. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies

Councillor Ojetola provided an update on the work of the Standard Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) which was now fully constituted. He advised that they continued to encourage and support Thurrock schools with their syllabus.

A report from Councillor Gupta regarding Thurrock Arts Council was also tabled at the meeting.

75. Minutes of Committees

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

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

Members received an information report updating them on progress in respect of Motions resolved at Council over the past year.

Councillor Kelly addressed the Chamber informing Members that in regard to his Motion submitted on 10th September 2014, money had been secured and an update would be brought to Members at the next meeting.

Councillor Tolson queried that with regards to her Motion concerning Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, as to whether it could be clarified as to which letters were sent out and to whom.

Councillor Gledhill provided an update to his Motion submitted on 10th September 2014 and advised that he had met with senior officers and members of the public protection team who were now awaiting agreement from Cabinet.

77. Motion submitted by Councillor Halden

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

“Legal highs are quickly becoming a social disaster, from both the point of view of being harmful as substances, but also giving a very incorrect impression of the dangers of substance abuse, especially amongst younger people.

We instruct Council to expedite the process and public consultation for Public Space Protection Orders to be implemented on a Borough wide basis to tackle the issue of legal highs with the relevant O&S committee monitoring its effectiveness.

In addition we instruct the constitution working group to consider how to best exercise and delegate all of our streamlined public protection powers that come from the 2014 Crime and Disorder act to be accessible to all members.”

Councillor Halden introduced the motion, and in doing so explained that the reasoning behind his Motion followed a clean-up day with Councillor Hebb and having spoken to Members, discovered it was a problem in many Wards; particular by schools. He continued to explain that he didn't like the idea of 'banding' and a Public Protection Order was not a band, as it did not affect consenting adults within their own homes; this was to keep it away from impressionable young people.

Members were advised that that Crime and Disorder Act 2014 had streamlined Public Protection powers for the use of Local Authorities, meaning that there were tools which could be used in conjunction with the Police.

Councillor Halden informed the Chamber that Councillor Hebb had written to the Police District Commander who explained that Thurrock did not have a crime wave which meant that this would impact on current resources; they did however confirm that they would work the Council to tackle the problem.

Councillor Potheary proposed an amendment to the Motion and this was seconded by Councillor Kent. The amendment read as follows:

To replace the second paragraph with the following;

“We instruct Council to consult with Essex Police on the most effective way of tackling the use of legal highs in public spaces, including Public Space Protection Orders, with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitoring the outcome.”

Councillor Potheary introduced her amendment, and in doing so welcomed Councillor Halden’s Motion, she notified Members that she understood the drugs were sold online and not within Thurrock. She continued that the Constitution Working Group should look at the issue and that Public Space Protection Orders will only work if the Police support it and currently they didn’t have the resources.

Councillor Cherry commented that Public Space Protection Orders had to be dealt with by the Police; he continued to state that 300 police officers had been lost from Essex Police.

Councillor Gledhill welcomed the substantive Motion, advising that Police had collected 100 canisters from Lodge Lane in Grays, he suggested that the Council could look into seek residents to involved with the clean-up.

Councillor J. Kent, Leader of the Council remarked that the canisters of Nitrous Oxide were a problem within all Wards of the Borough. He stated that although it was a tool that could be used by the Police; they hadn’t asked for it furthermore it would result in resources and expenditure that wasn’t available.

Councillor Key welcomed the substantive Motion, expressing that something needed to be done and suggested that perhaps people needed to be going into schools speak with young people.

Councillor Hebb addressed the Chamber and in doing so, stated that Civic Leadership should be taken in this case to engage with the Police. He agreed that the issue was Borough wide; however just because someone was legal didn’t make it right.

At 9.15 pm the Mayor Suspended Standing Orders until 10.00 pm.

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

Councillor Halden explained that he was disappointed that the amendment had been agreed and that during his discussions with Essex Police they had agreed to work with the Council in a similar way as they dealt with test purchases.

RESOLVED:

Legal highs are quickly becoming a social disaster, from both the point of view of being harmful as substances, but also giving a very incorrect impression of the dangers of substance abuse, especially amongst younger people.

We instruct Council to consult with Essex Police on the most effective way of tackling the use of legal highs in public spaces, including Public Space Protection Orders, with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitoring the outcome.

In addition we instruct the constitution working group to consider how to best exercise and delegate all of our streamlined public protection powers that come from the 2014 Crime and Disorder act to be accessible to all members.

78. Motion submitted by Councillor Worrall

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

“Thurrock Council are concerned over implications for tenants and housing stock of the Conservative government's Emergency Budget's housing measures:

- *Housing Benefit withdrawn for 18–21 year olds;*
- *Housing Benefit/ Local Housing Allowance (LHA) frozen for five years;*
- *Tax Credits and Housing Benefit/LHA include only first two children in households born after April 2017;*
- *Market rents charged in social housing where incomes are £30,000, additional rent receipts go to Treasury not Housing Revenue Account or Council.*

The impact will increase poverty, homelessness and numbers at risk of being homeless, amongst young and very low income families.

For individual tenants who have faced significant above inflation rent increases and falling incomes over the last few years, the Budget proposal to cut social sector rents by 1% for the next four years will be welcome.

That a 1% rent cut will mean loss of rental income to Housing Revenue Account of £18.75 million by 2019/2020, that loss will have significant

consequences for Council's plans to build new homes, maintain and refurbish existing stock of homes.

The Council resolves to write to the two MPs for Thurrock to lay out concerns and to highlight the impact on Thurrock residents of these measures in Westminster.”

Councillor Worrall introduced the motion, and in doing so she expressed that she felt that this was an attack on young people who wanted to move out of the family home and be independent.

She continued to explain that the impact of the Governments' Emergency Budget Housing measures would increase poverty, homelessness and the 1% rent cut would mean loss to the Housing Revenue Account of 18.75 Million by 2019/2020.

Councillor Snell commented that he did not agree with the first part of the Motion, as he felt that young people should go out and work for a living; however he did agree with the second half and for that reason he would be supporting the Motion.

Councillor J. Kent felt that if housing benefit was withdrawn from 18-21 year olds this would prevent them from gaining independence and moving away from home. He further explained that it was all well and good people getting better employment and better homes, however with the suggested cuts repairs this would take longer to achieve.

Councillor Gledhill stated that he would not be supporting the Motion and agreed with the sentiments raised by Councillor Snell. He further observed that it was not a case of continually spending, however it important to spend wisely.

Councillor Kerin stated that he supported the Motion. He advised Members that he felt the situation would enable a cap on ambition and success for young people and would take away the incentive for promotion.

The result of the recorded vote in respect of Councillor Worrall's Motion was as follows:

Votes in Favour of the Motion:

Councillors Sue Gray (Mayor), Cathy Kent (Deputy Mayor), Tim Aker, Chris Baker, James Baker, Jan Baker, Clare Baldwin, Colin Churchman, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Yash Gupta (MBE), Graham Hamilton, Terry Hipse, Cliff Holloway, Victoria Holloway, Roy Jones, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Bukky Okunade, Jane Pothecary, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Richard Speight, Kevin Wheeler and Lynn Worrall
(28)

Votes against the Motion:

Councillors Mark Coxshall, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Charlie Key, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Robert Ray, Joy Redsell, Andrew Roast, Deborah Stewart and Pauline Tolson **(18)**

Abstentions:

Councillor Russell Cherry **(1)**

RESOLVED:

Thurrock Council are concerned over implications for tenants and housing stock of the Conservative government's Emergency Budget's housing measures:

- **Housing Benefit withdrawn for 18–21 year olds;**
- **Housing Benefit/ Local Housing Allowance (LHA) frozen for five years;**
- **Tax Credits and Housing Benefit/LHA include only first two children in households born after April 2017;**
- **Market rents charged in social housing where incomes are £30,000, additional rent receipts go to Treasury not Housing Revenue Account or Council.**

The impact will increase poverty, homelessness and numbers at risk of being homeless, amongst young and very low income families.

For individual tenants who have faced significant above inflation rent increases and falling incomes over the last few years, the Budget proposal to cut social sector rents by 1% for the next four years will be welcome.

That a 1% rent cut will mean loss of rental income to Housing Revenue Account of £18.75 million by 2019/2020, that loss will have significant consequences for Council's plans to build new homes, maintain and refurbish existing stock of homes.

The Council resolves to write to the two MPs for Thurrock to lay out concerns and to highlight the impact on Thurrock residents of these measures in Westminster.

79. Motion submitted by Councillor Ray

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

“This Council calls for those Councillors who passed away during their service as a member of Thurrock Council (since the turn of the new century) to be commemorated in the Council Chamber for their work and contributions to the community of Thurrock.”

Councillor Ray introduced the motion, and in doing so explained that within the Council Chamber there were former Mayor’s, Leaders and Chief Executives on roll. He further advised that he would like to remember those Elected Members who had passed away while in service since the year 2000.

Councillor Gledhill welcomed the Motion and suggested that Elected Members who have had 20-25 years’ service should also be recognised.

Councillor Snell indicated his support for the Motion.

Councillor Coxshall expressed that he supported the Motion; he further proposed that officers should also be respected.

Councillor J. Kent welcomed the Motion and recommended that Elected Members who passed away since 1998 be commemorated, as this was the date when Thurrock became a Unitary Authority.

RESOLVED:

This Council calls for those Councillors who passed away during their service as a member of Thurrock Council (since the turn of the new century) to be commemorated in the Council Chamber for their work and contributions to the community of Thurrock.

80. Motion submitted by Councillor Redsell

Councillor Redsell withdrew her Motion and asked that it be resubmitted for the next meeting.

81. Motion submitted by Councillor Halden

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

“The current crisis with refugees has led to calls for national and local governments to act in support. The chamber agrees with this.

Thurrock resolves to play its part to aid refugees and will make this position known to the Home Office.

We instruct the council to be ready with clear plans for service support from housing, social care, to public protection.

While we welcome the notion of using international aid funding to help with costs, we of course understand local pressures we are already under and

therefore council will make representations to the Home Secretary that support must be evenly sought across local authorities to avoid disproportionate costs being applied to the taxpayer”

Councillor Halden introduced the motion, and in doing so he explained that if communities worked together it would send a strong message and the current crisis would be manageable if all Council’s around the County undertook similar action. He continued by stating that the Council should work together with the Home Office and supports its residents.

Councillor Ojetola welcomed the Motion and advised the Chamber that he would be supporting the Motion.

The result of the recorded vote in respect of Councillor Halden’s Motion was as follows:

Votes in Favour of the Motion:

Councillors Mark Coxshall, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Victoria Holloway, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Martin Kerin, Charlie Key, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Bukky Okunade, Joy Redsell, Andrew Roast, Richard Speight, Deborah Stewart and Pauline Tolson **(22)**

Votes against the Motion:

Councillors Tim Aker, Chris Baker, James Baker, Jan Baker, Clare Baldwin, Russell Cherry, Leslie Gamester, Graham Hamilton, Terry Hipsey, Cliff Holloway, Roy Jones, John Kent, Steve Liddiard, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Kevin Wheeler and Lynn Worrall **(19)**

Abstentions:

Councillors Colin Churchman, Yash Gupta, Jane Potheary, Robert Ray, Cathy Kent and Sue Gray **(6)**

RESOLVED:

The current crisis with refugees has led to calls for national and local governments to act in support. The chamber agrees with this.

Thurrock resolves to play its part to aid refugees and will make this position known to the Home Office.

We instruct the council to be ready with clear plans for service support from housing, social care, to public protection.

While we welcome the notion of using international aid funding to help with costs, we of course understand local pressures we are already under and therefore council will make representations to the Home

Secretary that support must be evenly sought across local authorities to avoid disproportionate costs being applied to the taxpayer

The meeting finished at 10.04 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**

Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 23 September 2015

Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public

One question was submitted from a member of the public.

1. From Mr Perrin to Councillor J. Kent

During the Sky News televised final debate, featuring the candidates for the Leadership of the Labour Party, Yvette Cooper stated Local Government Councils should accept refugees. If you agree with her would you give some indication as to how many refugees Thurrock Council considers it would be capable of assimilating into the Borough?

Mayor

Councillor Kent?

Councillor Kent

Madam Mayor. I think there are very few people who having seen the pictures of the body of Aylan Kurdi the young Syrian boy washed up on a beach that wouldn't have been deeply moved and residents have been quick to offer support including offers of accommodation for Syrian refugees. I think the situation has moved on somewhat since the question was submitted, as the Prime Minister has announced that up to 20,000 Syrian refugees, directly from the region, will be accepted into the United Kingdom over the next five years and the Government has taken the lead in coordinating the operation. I have to say Madam Mayor that the job of coordination has not been handled at all well. We still don't know exactly how the scheme will operate and councils up and down the country in a cross party consensus are pressing the government through the local government association for clarity around a number of issues that need to be urgently resolved. In particular the need for a firm commitment that councils re-settling refugees will receive full financial support. Government so far is suggesting that the foreign aid budget will be used to pay those costs for the first year with no commitment for future years. And if we take the current arrangements for unaccompanied children seeking asylum where we are reimbursed of 75% of the costs, not including social care costs so closer to 60%. I have to say that it is difficult to see how we can successfully assimilate any number of refugees.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Kent. Mr Perrin, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

Mr Perrin

Thank you Madam Mayor. Yes I do actually. Thank Councillor Kent. The refugee problem has become a highly emotive especially when the plight of children is so been graphically illustrated the government says that the UK will accept 20,000 refugees over the next four years ie. 5,000 a year. There are 433 councils in the UK, divide 5,000 by 433 you get a figure of 11 or 12 ie. a total of 48 refugees per council. That number of refugees may be considered manageable. But it is unlikely that refugees will be distributed in such an equitable manner. I doubt councils such as Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea will welcome refugees and Thurrock will probably be looking to accept 100 or more, most of them in the first year. Bearing in mind the problems Thurrock residents already face, such as 6,000 homeless. Do you accept that a soft heart needs to be balanced with a hard head and every effort should be made to avoid exacerbating the problem? Generosity and care for others are admiral qualities and easily dispensed when it is at the expense of someone else. It is as distressing for a Thurrock resident to be homeless as it is for a refugee from another country. Will you give assurance that no resident from Thurrock will suffer further hardship or deprivation as a consequence of this council's response to the issue of refugees coming into the borough? And they need to receive equal priority alongside those of refugees or for that matter economic migrants from the EU.

Mayor

Thank you Mr Perrin. Councillor Kent do you wish to answer that supplementary.

Councillor Kent

Thank you Madam Mayor. We are used to Mr Perrin coming month in month out but I think he really should learn to listen to the answer and not just read the supplementary question that he had prepared. I think I have been quite clear that it is very difficult to see how we could successfully simulate any refugees from Syria and I think the comment about hearts and heads is right we need to look at this with our responsibilities to residents of Thurrock. There is a motion on this issue later this evening and I am sure the debate there will be illuminated.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Kent. Thank you Mr Perrin.

Item 13 – Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that one question had been submitted to the Leader and a further three questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER

1. From Councillor Snell

With reference to the comments made in the local press by the interim Chief Executive, will Thurrock be 'doing its bit' and housing Syrian refugees?

This question was withdrawn at the meeting by Councillor Snell.

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

1. From Councillor Redsell

The majority of parking outside schools is done responsibly. Having had many yellow lines placed outside of schools, and parents still park(ing) illegally and irresponsibly in side roads and around the school. How do you envisage the pilot scheme allowing teachers to take on parking enforcement will tackle and solve the problem?

Mayor

Councillor Potheary. Please respond.

Councillor Potheary

Thank you Madam Mayor. I am hoping Councillor Redsell that after the wait you will be happy with the responses.

Ok. As to terms of parking, from September the school gate enforcement pilot at Tilbury Pioneer Academy will give appropriately trained and equipped members of the school community the power to issue fix penalty notices to motorists flouting parking restrictions outside schools. Up and till now the school enforcement had to be undertaken by Thurrock small team of enforcement officers who had to spread their resources across all the schools in the borough. I hope that the daily enforcement, the new pilot scheme will provide, will provide an effective deterrent and hopefully in the future based on the pilot we should hopefully be able to roll out to further schools.

Mayor

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

Councillor Redsell

Thank you Madam Mayor. Thank you for that answer. The pilot scheme at the moment only includes five schools how long before all schools will be included also why only one secondary school has joined in with the first pilot scheme. Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor Potheary

Councillor Potheary

Ok, so I think I did say this in my question. But I am aware of why you might have thought it was involving five schools. So, we invited all schools in the borough to take part in the trial, Tilbury Pioneer was the only school in a position at the time to commit the necessary time and effort. Should the trial prove a successful we do hope that others schools will take up the opportunity at a later date. Personally it is something that I would like to see at every school but obviously we have to work with the schools on that to show them that there is a real benefit to the school as well as the local community.

Mayor

Councillor Redsell, do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

Councillor Redsell

Thank you for that. Just a short one. I know the time only started in September and if any tickets were issued, I don't expect you to have the answer to night, but if you could let us know how it is going. Thank you.

2. From Councillor Redsell

The unlawful grazing of horses on council land including some children's play areas and also in many other parts of Thurrock. Can you inform the chamber what if any revenue this brings to Thurrock Council or if not, what action is been taken to stop this?

Mayor

Councillor Potheary

Councillor Potheary

Sorry. Thank you Madam Mayor. Thank you Councillor Redsell for her question. So, Thurrock Council does receive a small amount of income from granting grazing licences on some of its land but that's legal grazing. So because your question is about unauthorised grazing I would like to inform the chamber that where the council is aware of this happening on its land and

where there is a health and safety or financial risk the owners of the horses are requested to remove them. If the owner is not known a notice is displayed in the area stating that the horses must be removed. Until recently there has not been the need to take these further steps. In recent weeks however there have been increasing incidents particularly on housing and highways land. This has been especially problematic in Tilbury and Councillor Worrall has fought really hard on this issue to find a solution. Consequently notices will be served and specialist contractor engaged to enforce this set of notices. This will hopefully act as a deterrent to others and give the message loud and clear that horses should not be left to graze on verges and in our parks.

Mayor

Councillor Redsell do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

Councillor Redsell

Thank you Madam Mayor. You have already answered my second supplementary so can I go onto my third. Thank you. I was just going to ask about Children's Park but you have already covered this. As we as a council are we following up the chipping and passporting of horses in the borough and are any of the horses that are not chipping or passported on council land.

Councillor Potheary

I do not know the exact details of that but I can get back to you with that.

Mayor

Councillor Redsell. No.

3. From Councillor Aker

Thank you very much Madam Mayor. Can the Cabinet Member for Housing tell me how many council houses were bought under 'right to buy' every year from 2010 to the current day?

Mayor

Councillor Worrall

Councillor Worrall

Thank you Councillor Aker and I can indeed tell you that in 2010/11, 10 brought; 2011/12, 21; 2012/13, 46; 2013/14, 88; 2014/15, 68. And this year 2015/16 as of 7 September 35; 268 in the last five years.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Worrall.

Councillor Aker do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

Councillor Aker

I do, thank you Madam Mayor. Is Councillor Worrall who gave comment to 'Your Thurrock' on the 12 June 2015 where she said she struggles with the 'Right to Buy' which for decades took homes and money out of a system designed to help those most in need, the same Lyn Worrall who this year in these Land Registry documents brought a property in Kelvin Road, Tilbury using the Right to Buy?

Mayor

Councillor Worrall

Councillor Worrall

I am quite happy to answer that. Councillor Aker, yes I have brought My Right to Buy. I have used my Right to Buy. I have lived in Thurrock all of my life. I have lived in Tilbury all of my life. For 25 years I was a council tenant, I did 9 years in a council flat, I moved into a house and then I moved once more, still in Tilbury, still in the community that I represent. And because I am an elected councillor in the town that I grew up there was no reason that the Right to Buy scheme should exclude me to buy my house. I work full time, as well as being a councillor and I want the same securities for me and my two children that every other resident has in Thurrock, and that we strive to give every other resident. So with all due respects Councillor Aker you are the last person in this chamber that I feel that I have to take moral advice from. Thank you.

Mayor

Now, Now. Councillor Aker do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

Councillor Aker

I do, thank you, I do. I can understand your comments there, but do you not see the hypocrisy and the people who will be watching this, that it is all well and good campaigning and saying one thing against right to buy and then doing another thing entirely in private. Surely as the Portfolio Member for housing there should be some consistency on this and not saying one thing and doing another.

Councillor Worrall

Thank your Councillor Aker. And here in Thurrock I am glad to see now we are building houses for when we are selling houses and by 2020 we would have built another 1000 houses using the receipts from right to buy. Firmly efficient houses being built for Thurrock residents. So I don't see that I

personally should not buy my right to buy. When everyone else has a right to your right to buy, every other council tenant has a right to buy. We are building good houses for our residents.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Worrall.

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There is 1 question from a member of the public.

1. From Mr Perrin to Councillor J. Kent

“At the September meeting Motion 3, submitted by Cllr Ray, was passed unanimously. The motion calls for this Council to commemorate Councillors who pass away during their time in office, in recognition for their work and contributions to the community of Thurrock. Has any decision been made as to how such Councillors will be commemorated?”

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Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 28 October 2015

Petition No.	Description	Presented by (and date)	Portfolio Holder	Status Full copies of the responses may be obtained from Democratic Services
459	This Petition is the Thurrock Council to take action to make an indoor shopping centre in our local area South Ockendon. We want it to be built in the free space around the station area.	22/06/2015*	Cllr Speight	<p>South Ockendon is an area that the Council is focussing on through a number of initiatives such as the development of the Community Hub and delivery of high quality housing. We recognise that Derwent Parade has declined over the years and now has a number of units vacant, but this decline is symptomatic of a lack of demand for retail floorspace in the area which makes it unlikely that a private sector developer could be secured to deliver a new covered shopping centre in this location.</p> <p>The development of South Ockendon over the next 20 years is, like the rest of the Borough, being considered through the development of the Local Plan. It may be that, in putting the plan together, further retail demand is identified which might encourage the provision of more retail space but this would require significant growth in the local residential population and, even then, consideration would need to be given to increasing provision in Derwent Parade over providing a wholly new facility.</p>

Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 28 October 2015

460	Save Corringham Green Belt. We the undersigned object to the proposed development on Green Belt land comprising of up to 750 dwellings to the North East of Corringham which has been submitted under planning reference number 15/00205/OUT.	17/07/2015*	Cllr Speight	<p>The petition exceeded the threshold of 1500 verified signatures, and in accordance with Chapter 1, Part 2, Article 3 of the Constitution qualified to be debated by full Council.</p> <p>The lead petitioner has been invited to present the petition at the 23 September 2015 meeting of Council and it is recommended that the petition be referred to the Planning department in order to be considered as part of the decision making process for the decision in question.</p>
461	We the undersigned residents of Crest Ave & Manor Way, petition the Council to request that double yellow lines are placed in Manor Way & that either double yellow lines or parking time restrictions & NOT parking permits are placed within Crest Ave.	01/07/2015*	Cllr J Potheary	<p>A service request has been raised for this matter to be investigated. All service requests received are scored and prioritised for consideration for inclusion in the works delivery programme.</p> <p>We will carry out an on-site investigation to determine the feasibility of this proposal, new lengths of Waiting Restrictions require a Traffic Regulation Order to be drafted and are then subject to a Statutory Public Consultation period.</p> <p>Subject to successful feasibility and prioritisation, we will be in a position to carry out a Public Consultation on this proposal by the beginning of October 2015.</p>

* indicates petitions handed in at the Civic Offices or e-petitions - not presented at Council

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462	Residents from Parkside are asking for one way system between Kind Edward Drive and Woodview	22/07/2015	Cllr J Potheary	<p>A service request has been raised for this matter to be investigated. All service requests received are scored and prioritised for consideration for inclusion in the works delivery programme.</p> <p>The concern for the residents is vehicles from Stanford Road and the roads off King Edward Drive shortcutting through Parkside to get to Old Dock Approach Road, leading to the request for a one way working along Parkside. The direction for the one way working would be from Woodview towards King Edward Drive.</p> <p>We will carry out on-site investigations to determine the feasibility of the proposal. A new one –way system will need a Traffic Regulation Order to be drafted and be subject to a Statutory Consultation period. Subject to successful feasibility and prioritisation, we will be in a position to carry out a Public Consultation on this proposal by the beginning of October 2015.</p>
463	We the undersigned call on Thurrock Council to immediately review the service it provides to the residents of Chafford Hundred particularly with regards to the environment, public protection, road safety, and traffic.	22/07/2015	Cllr J Potheary	<p>The council has finite resources which are being reduced annually through reductions in the revenue support grant it receives from government cover all services. The Environment team is just one area where the council has been forced to reduce the services it provides. Chafford Hundred receives the same level of cleansing, litter-picking and grass cutting/verge maintenance</p>

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			<p>as all other areas of the borough where the service is supported by the council's General Fund. Having seen the impact of the cuts on the budget for the Environment Services and in order to try to mitigate the reductions in the workforce cabinet this year identified funding for an additional 12 operatives to work on the environment across the borough during the main growing season.</p> <p>The council as Highway Authority reviews its highway services annually when it allocates funding for improvements and maintenance. In addition the highway network is regularly inspected for defects. All of these traffic duties - highway, road safety, and others - are delivered in accordance with the Highways Act and other statutory responsibilities. The service is managed on a Thurrock-wide basis and the work is prioritised on the basis of safety, maintaining the highway, and providing targeted improvements.</p> <p>On public protection, see https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/news/community-safety-and-crime/man-fined-for-allowing-dog-to-foul, but the council again carries out enforcement activity based on demand and the availability of evidence. The council does not have area-specific policies; the same teams and criteria are applied borough wide. Should specific enforcement queries be raised with the council these can be</p>
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Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 28 October 2015

				answered on a case-by-case basis by the most appropriate officer and you will need to contact us with your question in order that it can be directed appropriately.
464	<p>Petition received by the Council from residents in opposition to the proposed Parish Council on the Frost Estate.</p> <p>There is no denying that some roads of the Frost Estate have fallen into a very poor state of dis-repair. In particular the cross roads on the junction of Central Avenue and Gifford's Cross Avenue.</p> <p>While the majority of residents want to see this area brought up to an acceptable condition and maintain the character of the estate, there is a split in the opinion that a Parish Council is the correct way to address this issue.</p> <p>We the undersigned want to identify an alternative solution to the Parish Council that has (as a result of the public meeting on the 15/06/2015) highlighted many issues including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road repair is not historically within a Parish Council's responsibility. 2. No confirmed precept costs 	12/08/2015*	Cllr J Potheary	This petition was considered by Members as part of the decision making process regarding the Frost Estate Parish Council at the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 28 August 2015.

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	3. Precept costs linked to Council Tax banding – not equal across the estate!			
465	Petition received by the Council from residents in respect of the nuisance of silver birch trees at The Close, Grays	08/08/2015	Cllr G Rice	<p>The Council has responded to comments regarding the Silver Birch trees in this area in the past and after complaints about the potential safety of the tree by a local resident, the tree was inspected by an independent arboriculturalist and he reported in March 2014. A copy of the report was provided to the resident which showed that the tree was in good health and should have maintenance on a less frequent basis. The trees in this area are Silver Birches which are widely used as street trees both in Thurrock and across the country due to their strength and suitability in an urban environment.</p> <p>There are many hundreds of similar trees across the borough and to remove these particular trees which are in good health would set an unwarranted precedent. Street trees are an important feature across the urban environment breaking up the monotony of buildings, providing shelter for birds and insect life and through photosynthesis removing carbon dioxide from the air and re oxygenating the atmosphere.</p> <p>The reasons put forward to remove these trees have now changed from the original</p>

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				<p>complaint but do not offer any new compelling reason for the destruction of the greening of the local environment.</p> <p>Further update 15/10/15</p> <p>Mike Heath Head of Environmental Services had agreed with the Resident Mr Cavanagh who sent the petition that if Mr Cavanagh pays £300 for a replacement tree, the mature silver birch beside his bungalow will be removed and replanted with the replacement tree this will all be during the dormant season. Mike and Mr Cavanagh have spoken on the phone.</p>
466	A Petition to Thurrock Borough Council by residents to reinstate the 374 bus route service.	9/9/2015	Cllr O Gerrish	<p>Residents of Fobbing or Corringham and other visitors, who relied on the 374 bus route that previously ran along High Road, Fobbing urge Thurrock Borough Council to commit to reinstating this much valued public transport service.</p> <p>The deadline to respond to the lead petitioner is 9 October 2015.</p> <p>There are six communities within Thurrock that require financial support for a bus service to be provided. A number of options for April 2015 were considered. Faced with a diminishing budget it was extremely disappointing that we could not seek to provide a bus service that met the needs of all residents. Both Amber Coaches and First</p>

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				<p>Essex buses were prepared to put on a limited service for Fobbing but not on a commercial basis. Therefore the financial implications for the authority exceeded the bus budget available and difficult decisions had to be made. As part of ongoing concerns from residents and ward members this issue was taken to Overview & Scrutiny for Planning & Transportation on both the 29th July 2015 and 16th September 2015. It was agreed that a further review was required in order to try and encourage bus operators to offer commercial services through Fobbing. We have approached commercial operators who are not willing to divert existing services through Fobbing. We are continuing to try to find ways of delivering bus services for all of our communities; however, the budget position for 2016/17 requires further reduction to bus subsidies.</p>
467	<p>Petition to save our homes being pulled down: Butler, Davall and Greenwood.</p>	<p>23/09/15 at Council</p>	<p>Cllr Worrall</p>	<p>At the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 October 2014 (decision 01104415) it was resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet not to award decant status to three Grays high rises – Butler, Davall and Greenwood House, but instead to note that continued consultation should take place with residents to include detailed design on alternative home provision to ensure residents are given a clear unambiguous set of choices. 2. Cabinet to agree that officers consider

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				<p>feedback from this consultation as part of the development of the emerging master plan for Grays Town Centre.</p> <p>3. Cabinet to note that the Council’s new build development on Seabrooke Rise will be allocated in accordance to the Council’s existing Lettings Policy and existing residents of the Seabrooke Rise high rise towers will not benefit from enhanced priority status at the current time, therefore Council explores a local lettings plan as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>4. Cabinet to note that the Council is currently reviewing the proposed Housing Development Plan and Estate Regeneration Programme in the light of the Government’s imposed reductions in rent. The Council are assessing the implications and options available to ensure that the financial parameters of the HRA are met, whilst retaining an affordable and deliverable programme of housing investment and new build development.</p>
468	Noise and pollution from ‘The Village’ building works in Aveley. Petition to complain about the activity at ‘The Village’ Persimmon building development in Aveley, numerous complaints have been made already about the noise from the work site. Work often begins before 8am, carries on after 5pm and on Sundays too. Thurrock Council has warned the site	23/09/15 at Council	Cllr G. Rice	<p>Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health monitor sites for compliance with the construction environment plan agreed as part of the original planning application.</p> <p>This plan includes provisions to control dust and noise.</p> <p>If evidence of failure to comply with the</p>

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	<p>managers about this before and have found out that work is being done outside the permitted time and, as such, there is scope for prosecution.</p> <p>Further to this, many residents in St Michael's Close and Stanford Gardens in Aveley have been unable to use their gardens owing to the failure of the workers to dampen waste rubble that is causing dust to pour into residents' gardens. Many residents have been unable to use their gardens and this is particularly affecting families with children.</p> <p>The petition seeks compensation for residents of Stanford Gardens and St Michael's Close and that something is done so we can use our gardens again and not have to put up with building noise outside of normal working hours.</p>			<p>conditions is found the builder will be contacted and the relevant changes in practice agreed or failing this regulatory action started.</p> <p>No evidence of breaches at the Village site is currently available. Residents experiencing issues resulting from this site should continue to report these to either the site or the Council on a case by case basis.</p>
469	<p>We, the undersigned residents of Blackshots, Woodside and also many other areas affected by bikes travelling at speed on pavements across main roads ending up on Blackshots Park, we have been blighted by this problem for many years. We ask that Councillors, Council and Police take notice of this problem that is escalating day by day, waiting for a traffic accident to happen.</p>	23/09/15 at Council	Cllr G. Rice	<p>Anti-social use of motorcycles and other vehicles is dealt with under section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. The Thurrock Neighbourhood Policing Team formed in July are tasked with dealing with this in Thurrock. So far this year 11 vehicles have been seized by Thurrock Police but unfortunately this is not broken down by cause or vehicle type on the relevant police computer system and so it is not possible to determine what percentage of these seizures were for section 59 at Blackshots.</p>

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				<p>The Police have advised that they have no reported injuries or road traffic collisions attributable to this activity and that over recent months complaints to them about nuisance motorbikes have reduced.</p> <p>They will continue to deal with these complaints on a case by case basis with the continued support of the Councils CCTV system and other departments as necessary.</p>
470	Petition to demolish Butler, Davall and Greenwood High Rise blocks in Grays.	14/10/15	Cllr Worrall	<p>At the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 October 2014 (decision 01104415) it was resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet not to award decant status to three Grays high rises – Butler, Davall and Greenwood House, but instead to note that continued consultation should take place with residents to include detailed design on alternative home provision to ensure residents are given a clear unambiguous set of choices. 2. Cabinet to agree that officers consider feedback from this consultation as part of the development of the emerging master plan for Grays Town Centre. 3. Cabinet to note that the Council's new build development on Seabrooke Rise will be allocated in accordance to the Council's existing Lettings Policy and existing residents of the Seabrooke Rise high rise towers will not benefit from enhanced

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				<p>priority status at the current time, therefore Council explores a local lettings plan as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>4. Cabinet to note that the Council is currently reviewing the proposed Housing Development Plan and Estate Regeneration Programme in the light of the Government's imposed reductions in rent. The Council are assessing the implications and options available to ensure that the financial parameters of the HRA are met, whilst retaining an affordable and deliverable programme of housing investment and new build development.</p>
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28 October 2015	ITEM: 10
Council	
Thurrock Healthwatch Co-Opted Member Request	
Report of: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A
Accountable Head of Service: Fiona Taylor , Head of Legal Services	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a request from Healthwatch to place a co-opted representative onto the committee to represent children's health interests. At its meeting on 15 September the committee agreed that this co-option would serve the work and interests of the committee well. In accordance with the constitution Full Council is now asked to ratify this agreement.

1. Recommendations:

- 1.1 That Council agree to amend the terms of reference for the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to include an additional non-voting Co-opted representative from Thurrock Healthwatch.**

2. Introduction and Background:

- 2.1 Healthwatch is the independent consumer champion created to gather and represent the views of the public on health services. Healthwatch have requested to be represented by a co-opted member on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and have stated that best practice guidelines identify the strengthening of links between Thurrock Healthwatch and the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 Healthwatch add that the benefits of this would be to embed the public's voice at the heart of the decision making processes on services for children and young people and to support elected members in discussions regarding key issues relating to the children's health.
- 2.3 Healthwatch emailed Democratic Services on 3 September 2015 requesting a co-opted seat on the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and this

request was debated and agreed at the subsequent committee meeting on 15 September 2015.

- 2.4 If invited a Healthwatch Co-optee will not receive remuneration for their post and will not be considered as making up the quorum of the committee or have voting rights. This will be in accordance with other non-statutory co-optees on the committee.

3 Issues, Options and Analysis of Options:

- 3.1 If Council accept the request for a co-opted member subsequent changes to the committee terms of reference and constitution will be made.

4. Reasons for Recommendation:

- 4.1 The Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that a Healthwatch Co-Opted member would be a good asset to the Committee. Members felt that Healthwatch would embed the public's voice at the heart of the decision making processes on services for children and young people.

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

- 5.1 N/A

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

- 6.1 The addition of a Healthwatch co-optee will allow another facet of community representation at overview and scrutiny which promotes public access to the democratic process and decision making.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Kay Goodacre**
Finance Manager – Children and Adults

There are no financial implications to the recommendations being made.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Principal Solicitor Children's Safeguarding

Chapter 4, Part 3, Rule 9 of the Council's Constitution enables an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to invite witnesses from outside Thurrock Council, such as residents, stakeholders and people from other parts of the public

sector to attend to give a presentation, discuss issues or answer questions. Should members wish to extend this arrangement to consider formally co-opting representation further consideration to the Constitution will need to be given.

The recommendations given in this report supports the Local Authority in meeting the duties imposed by S507B of the Education Act 1996. The section requires that the Authority must, 'so far as reasonably practicable, secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to –

- a) sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and
- b) sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.

There is statutory guidance issued under the section, referred to in the body of the text, and entitled Statutory Guidance on Positive Activities.

The Council is also under a duty imposed by s149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty to have "due regard" to:

- A The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the EqA 2010 (*section 149(1)(a)*).
- B The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it (*section 149(1)(b)*). This involves having due regard to the needs to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;

- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it (*section 149(4)*); and

- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

- Section 149(6) makes it clear that compliance with the PSED in section 149(1) may involve treating some people more favourably than others, but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under the EqA 2010 (this includes breach of an equality clause or rule or breach of a non-discrimination rule (*section 149(8)*).

- (*Section 149(3), EqA 2010.*)

- C The need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (*section 149(1)(c)*). This includes having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and to promote understanding (*section 149(5), EqA 2010*).

Age is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
**Community Development and Equalities
Manager**

The recommendations in this report strengthen diverse representation in decision making and debate with regard to health services for young people. Healthwatch represents the diverse community in the Borough and by further developing their voice through links with the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee there is opportunity to support the local authority strategy to listen to the views of children and young people.

7.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

None

Background papers used in preparing the report (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None.

Appendices to this report:

None.

Report Author:

Jessica Feeney
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Chief Executive's Office

28 October 2015	ITEM: 11
Council	
Cabinet Member Report - Environment	
Report of: Councillor Gerard Rice, Portfolio Holder for Environment	
This report is public.	

Introduction

The Environment Portfolio is unique in the Council, in that the services it represents are the only Council services that are provided to all residents in the Borough every week. Waste collections are made from every household as an active interaction and more passively the levels of street cleanliness and the state of our parks, open spaces and verges have impact on all residents and visitors to the Borough as they go about their daily business.

The core services covered by the portfolio and delivered by the Environment Directorate, are:

- Waste collection and disposal
- Street Services which incorporates street cleansing and parks and open spaces (including Country Parks, cemeteries, and sports pitches).
- Operational aspects of Highway Repair and Maintenance
- Fleet Management and Maintenance

This report has been prepared to provide an overview of those services. Details of each service are provided below with an overview of current performance against key performance indicators and benchmark comparators where possible. Some of the challenges and opportunities for the service are explored.

Service Overview:

Waste Collection and Disposal

The current Waste Collection regime has been run by an in-house team since 2010. The service provides a weekly collection of residual waste, dry recycling and kitchen and garden waste.

Thurrock currently operates six recycling and treatment contracts to manage the disposal of the various materials in the three bin system, our streets waste, and operation and disposal of landfill and compost from our civic amenity site.

The current waste treatment contract was terminated early in order to obtain best value in terms of the prices that we pay per tonne, and a new contract commenced on 7 September 2015 and runs until 31 March 2024. By tendering this contract early,

Thurrock Council will save around £800,000 per year.

All other contracts will expire between 31 March and 14 April 2017 and have no extension provisions. The overall value of these contract lots will be in the region of £3 million per annum.

Over the course of a year the collection teams empty 10 million wheeled bins, disposing of 69,000 tonnes of household waste. A key measure of success for the service is the proportion of collections made on time. In 2013/14 the team achieved on time collection of 97%, and the year to date figure for 2014/15 is 99%. The cost of the collection service per household currently stands at £1.58 per household per week, whilst disposal costs are an additional £1.75 per household per week.

The three bin system supports the Council's objectives relating to recycling and despite a dip in the recycling rate over the past two years, our performance continues in line with the National Average for English authorities with an outturn of 40% in 2014/15. The target for the current year is to achieve a recycling and re-use rate of 45%. Recycling rates are important not only for the environmental benefits, but also from a cost perspective, as the cost of disposal for recycling is significantly lower than via Energy From Waste (EFW) or landfill methods (currently £55 per tonne compared to £96 per tonne).

Improvements to the Household Waste & Recycling Centre (Civic Amenity Site) at Linford have seen a wider range of materials accepted for recycling, a higher proportion of materials handled being recycled, and a reduction in the amount of trade waste illegally entering the site.

Significant changes are planned for the service in 2015/16 with the re-tendering of some disposal contracts, and the re-routing of all rounds as we move to 'sweep' collection methodology, which will optimise operational productivity across the collection team. The re-routing exercise is nearing completion, and expected to be fully implemented over the next 3 months, following a full programme of communication with residents to inform them of changes in collection days. These changes are being implemented to enable the Directorate to operate with the reduced financial envelope available due to Council-wide savings targets.

Our waste disposal operation has been impacted by major difficulties with our dry recycling (blue bin) contract arrangements, following closure of the plant used in Tilbury requiring us to source alternative facilities in Bow in east London. As well as the logistical issues associated with transporting collected waste 13 miles outside the borough, the interim disposal arrangements are significantly more expensive than our contracted rates.

Levels of contamination and poor segregation of recyclates in domestic waste bins has increased steadily in recent years, resulting in default penalties from our disposal contractors and increased disposal/treatment costs due to the much higher unit rates associated with EFW/Landfill disposal methods compared with those for recycling of waste.

These issues are currently being addressed through a programme of resident engagement, both via a range of communication initiatives and, in the worst instances,

withdrawal of recycling bins. This is helping to improve resident participation, although the full impact will only emerge as we interpret cost and tonnage results over the coming months.

A further development facing the Waste Management Service is the introduction of TEEP regulations. From January 2015 all waste collectors are required to collect paper, metal, plastic and glass separately. These conditions apply where it is:

- a) Necessary to meet the quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors; and
- b) Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable (TEEP).

A review in February 2015 demonstrated that in both necessity and technical, environmental and economic terms; the current collection system is unlikely to comply with the regulation.

Whilst it is not feasible to make any immediate changes to the collection methodology or contracts, a clear route towards compliance needs to be identified. In July 2015 the Cleaning, Greening and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee gave permission for the service to undertake an options appraisal to identify an optimum way of complying with this legislation. This work is currently underway, and results from the appraisal will be available in December 2015. The extent of the changes and associated costs are yet to be determined, however, an initial report has suggested that a change in collection methodology may prove to be more efficient and have a positive impact on the level of recycling across the Borough.

Street Services - Cleansing

In 2014/15 the standard of street cleanliness in Borough showed a further year on year improvement with levels of cleanliness significantly better than the national average performance standard. It is important to note that the improvement in cleanliness has been achieved whilst the cost of the service per head has remained amongst the lowest amongst authorities having a similar profile. The 2013/14 APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) performance indicator standings report indicates that our annual cost of street cleansing per head was £9.84; this is £0.04 lower than the previous year and £1.54 less than the comparator group average.

The full year effect of cleansing-related savings introduced during the last financial year equate to around £600,000 in 2015/16, mostly achieved by reductions in frontline capacity. Where possible, high profile areas and functions have been prioritised, but service levels and quality have inevitably been compromised across the borough.

Street Services - Parks & Open Spaces and Grounds Maintenance

Parks amenities across the borough have continued to be maintained to a high level, and the quality of play and sports facilities has been enhanced. The department continues to support the highly regarded Thurrock in Bloom event. £1.2 million was secured from Heritage Lottery and the Veolia North Thames Trust to further restore the Coalhouse Fort site, with the installation of new toilets, visitor centre and a café now completed. A proportion of the income from the café will be ring-fenced to fund future restoration work on site. An Education Officer post and a Community Development

Officer post have been grant funded for a three year period to support the work of the existing ranger.

The service is responsible for the maintenance of green spaces on Housing land. The Service Level Agreement that has now been in place for 5 years has delivered improved maintenance in housing areas, and the annual SLA charge to Housing was reduced in 2014/15 by £130,000 to reflect efficiencies achieved within the service.

Operational capacity within our Street Services functions generally was reduced in 2015/16 by around a third in order to deliver corporate savings. The budgetary impact of this within our Grounds Maintenance and Parks & Open Spaces functions equates to £990,000.

The scale of reduction across our frontline service functions meant that it was no longer effective or efficient for us to maintain discrete Cleansing and Greening teams. The restructure we have now embedded replaces distinct functional splits with multi-skilled, area-based teams. Operating in areas allows the frontline teams to respond quickly to issues as they arise as well as developing more in-depth knowledge of their respective areas and the 'hotspots' to focus on.

Operational Highways Maintenance and Repair

Although not responsible for the strategic aspects of the Highways Network, the Environment portfolio includes the service that carries out the on-street work such as maintaining footpaths, verges and sightlines, repairing potholes and winter gritting, as well as a number of minor capital projects across the borough. The team also carried out the infrastructure work for the Coastal Pathway project. The past (2014/15) winter was notable in that it was fairly mild, however our gritting operations were mobilised on 48 occasions, the last of which was as late as the end of March.

Winter Gritting crews have been retrained and are on standby for the coming winter season. Salt levels remain high, and further supplies are accessible if required. Provision of our usual high-quality response to winter conditions remains a high priority.

Our Highways team is one of the few Council services still operating within a 'client/contractor' model, with the majority of its work other than winter gritting being received as works orders from the central Highways & Transportation team. A review of the processes and procedures underpinning this arrangement identified several areas where there is scope to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of the overall function, and our 2015/16 budget reflects the £220,000 saving we could derive by improving workflow and billing arrangements and optimising inspection activities.

Some progress has been made on improving communication processes and systems, and we hope to accelerate a joint focus on other aspects of the working relationship over the coming weeks and months.

Fleet Management and Facilities

The creation of the workshop at St Clements Way has been a positive development for the department. Repair and maintenance for the Council's fleet of vehicles is now

completed in-house, reducing dependence on expensive external providers. Additionally the service has assumed responsibility for the safety inspections for Taxis and private hire vehicles in the Borough and has recently been approved as a VOSA MoT Centre.

Recent reviews of the fleet have allowed us to reduce some of our equipment levels and lower service overhead costs as a consequence.

The reduced operational and management / back office capacity now in place as a result of the budget savings and the move to an area-based frontline configuration have made it possible for us to consolidate all of our operations within our Oliver Close / St Clements site in West Thurrock. The Curzon Drive depot will be vacated as a consequence and the teams currently based there will relocate in January 2016 to the redeveloped West Thurrock site. Additional facilities at the site will include a rationalised stores building, a storage barn for equipment, and a dedicated Salt Barn, which will improve our winter maintenance effectiveness and efficiency.

Key Challenges for 2015/16:

As with many of the Services delivered by the Council the key challenge faced by the Environment Portfolio is the depth of the savings required to enable the Council to operate within budget constraints.

The reduced operational capacity necessary to deliver the scale of savings required has resulted in a lower level of service in many areas, and the team is continuing to refine proposals to minimise this impact wherever possible.

An in-depth review of internal communication methods and systems has taken place to enhance our frontline responsiveness to public and member service requests and complaints, reduce dependence on cumbersome paper-based processes, and improve the quality and effectiveness of our performance monitoring and management across our functional teams.

The Waste TEEP regulations now in force (see Waste Collection & Disposal overview) place several obligations on the Council that require us to review our waste collection and disposal processes and procedures. Compliance with the regulations may result in changes to our methodologies and give rise to further budgetary pressures.

Financially, the reduced breadth and scale of operations leaves us with very little contingency to meet unexpected pressures, for example a harsh winter. We are therefore strengthening our financial controls and financial forecasting methods to provide early warning of problems, allowing mitigating actions to be planned in advance.

Whilst we aim for continuous improvement in efficiency, the scope for significant cost reductions are limited if we are to protect service levels. A priority for the department therefore remains a focus on identifying and developing external domestic, commercial and public sector markets for our core services in order to exploit the economies of scale offered by a broader level of output and reduce the unit costs of our in-house services.

Key Service Outputs

Service Area	Function	Annual Output	Weekly Cost per Household
Waste Management	No. of domestic bin collections per year	10,210,044	Collection £1.58 Disposal £1.75
	Annual domestic tonnage collected and disposed of	72,390 tonnes	
	% of domestic bins collected on time	98.6%	
Street Cleansing	Annual cleansing miles of highways.	15,672 miles	£0.41
	Number of Litter Bins emptied	587 No.	
	Tonnage of Street Cleansing waste collected	3,136 tonnes	
Greening (incl Parks & Open Spaces, Country Parks, Burial Grounds, Outdoor Sports etc)	No. of Playgrounds maintained	71 No.	£0.73
	Overall grassed areas maintained	518 hectares	
	No. of Urban Parks maintained	72 No.	
Winter Maintenance (2014/15 season)	Tonnage of salt used	1,680 tonnes of salt used (on average 35 tonnes per run)	£0.06
	No. of Gritting runs completed	48 runs	
	Length of Gritting run	266 miles per run	
	Total miles gritted	12,768 miles	

Summary

The Environment Portfolio is operating both effectively and efficiently with no major areas of significant weakness. The strategic and operational management within the Department continues to be strong, demonstrating robust financial management and continuous improvement in the delivery of high quality services across the Borough.

Financial Information

Budget Savings 2014/15 - 2015/16

	2014/15 Savings £000	2015/16 Savings £000	Total £000
Unachieved Serco and T&Cs savings	-	219	219
Generation of Income	38	113	150
Environment Management Changes	23	116	139
Depot Relocation	50	150	200
Waste Collection & Disposal	-	1,012	1,012
Grounds Maintenance Functions	-	990	990
Street Cleansing Functions	172	416	588
Highways Team – Review Working Arrangements	55	165	220
	338	3,181	3,518

Environment - Annual Budget and Forecast Outturn

Service	Activity	Last Year Outturn	2015/16 Budget	Forecast Spend	Forecast Variance
Street Services	Highways / Emergency Response	396.1	215.3	215.3	-
	Street Cleansing Services	1,856.9	1,383.6	1,473.0	89.4
Street Services Total		2,253.1	1,598.9	1,688.3	89.4
Waste Management	Waste In-House Services	5,476.1	5,348.6	5,465.7	117.1
	Waste Contracted Services	6,490.7	5,434.1	6,576.9	1,142.8
Waste Management Total		11,966.8	10,782.7	12,042.6	1,259.9
Greening Services	Parks & Open Spaces, Grounds Maintenance etc	1,920.1	2,145.9	2,100.5	45.4cr
	Horticulture & Arboriculture	330.8	27.7	7.7	20.0cr
	Cemeteries, Allots. & Memorials	287.9	15.2	15.2	-
	Grays Beach	222.8	32.3	17.3	15.0cr
	Country Parks	308.3	269.4	269.4	-
Greening Services Total		3,069.9	2,490.4	2,410.0	80.4cr
Grand Total		17,289.8	14,872.1	16,141.0	1,268.9

Financial Implications

Approved by Mike Jones, Management Accountant, Corporate Finance

The financial table within the report demonstrates that there is a projected adverse variance within the portfolio of £1.268m. This is largely as a result of the cessation

of the dry recycling MRF contract and the decision not to charge for the garden waste facility.

Directors' Board and officers are actively seeking and taking action in order to mitigate these pressures in order to deliver a balanced financial position at the end of the financial year. These will be reported in more detail as part of the Shaping the Council reports to Cabinet in November.

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 is 1 question to the Leader and a further 3 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER

1. From Councillor Ray

"Would the leader agree that Thurrock is ideally placed to take full advantage from the recent announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in regards to the full retention of the business rates?"

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

1. From Councillor Hebb to Councillor Gerrish

"Please can you describe what good service looks like for you from your department, in terms of line painting across the borough?"

2. From Councillor Kerin to Councillor Potheary

"After a recent number of illegal traveller encampments across Thurrock, and particularly in our ward of Grays Riverside, can you outline the steps the Council is taking to tackle this problem?"

3. From Councillor Hebb to Councillor B. Little, as Chair of Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

"Following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Conference Statement, regarding the devolution revolution of Business Rates, what role does the Regeneration Scrutiny committee have in ensuring that Thurrock Council work in good partnership with the British Government to realise all outcomes in a favourable way".

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Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 28 October 2015

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
22/10/14	Cllr Halden	The Chamber instructs the constitution working group to carry out a governance review, in order judge the need for the committee, cabinet, mayoral, or hybrid forms of governance from May 2015 onwards.	<p>It was agreed at the meeting of Council on 22 October 2014 that an item on the Constitution Working Group be brought back to the next meeting of Council (28 January 2015) and a small budget be allocated to the group to investigate thoroughly the benefits and disadvantages of different forms of governance within similar size authorities, such as Brighton and Hove and East Cheshire.</p> <p>The CWG was constituted at Council on 28/01/15 and a budget allocated to the group.</p> <p>The first meeting of the CWG took place on 2 March 2015 and work is currently underway on the Governance Review.</p>	Fiona Taylor
28/01/15	Cllr Pearce	Along with the residents of Aveley and Uplands this council welcomes the decision by the Secretary of State to reject plans for 500 houses on the former fireman's club site in Aveley on greenbelt land.	No update required.	David Bull
28/01/15	Cllr Aker	Thurrock Council calls on the Cabinet to reject fortnightly bin collections.	At its meeting on 11 February 2015 Cabinet considered the comments of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the proposal to move to alternate weekly collections for the residual and recycling waste streams. Following receipt of the committees comments Cabinet agreed to withdraw the proposal for alternate week collections of these two waste streams within the current year's budget proposals and instructed officers to seek alternative savings from within the waste collection budget.	Mike Heath

Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 28 October 2015

25/03/15	Cllr Gledhill	We call on Thurrock Council to investigate taking similar action to Essex and Harlow Councils and apply for an injunction to help stop unauthorised traveller encampments in Thurrock.	The granting of an interim injunction in Harlow against unauthorised encampments and the future court hearing to establish whether a full injunction will eventually be granted is being closely followed to see if a similar measure would be an appropriate measure in Thurrock. This is being done both locally and through the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit, of which Thurrock is a member council. A further response will be submitted when the outcome of these court proceedings is known.	Gavin Dennett
25/03/15	Cllr Gledhill	This Council thanks all retiring elected members for their service to Thurrock.	No action required.	David Bull
22/07/15	Cllr Ojetola	Radicalisation of youths seems to be quite rampant, doing nothing is not an option as parents are losing their children to extremism. We call on Thurrock Council to create a member led committee to co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to tackle the threat of extremism and radicalisation in line with our Duty to Prevent.	A full briefing note on the background, current provision and options for greater Member involvement / panel was provided to Constitution Working Group Members in August 2015.	David Bull
23/09/15	Cllr Halden	Legal highs are quickly becoming a social disaster, from both the point of view of being harmful as substances, but also giving a very incorrect impression of the dangers of substance abuse, especially amongst younger people. We instruct Council to consult with Essex Police on the most effective way of tackling the use of legal highs in public spaces, including Public Space Protection Orders, with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitoring the outcome.	The Head of Public Protection has consulted with the Local Police Commander to determine whether the Police would support the application of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Thurrock to impose control measures on the use of legal highs. The Police have indicated that based on the evidence available to them and the practicality of enforcing control measures against an otherwise legal activity they would not prioritise enforcement of any control measures imposed by a potential PSPO at this time.	Gavin Dennett

Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 28 October 2015

		In addition we instruct the constitution working group to consider how to best exercise and delegate all of our streamlined public protection powers that come from the 2014 Crime and Disorder act to be accessible to all members.	Should further evidence alter the Police position with regard to the prioritisation of enforcement resources for legal high work they will update the Council and liaise with the relevant council department to consult on a PSPO for this purpose.	
23/09/15	Cllr Worrall	<p>Thurrock Council are concerned over implications for tenants and housing stock of the Conservative government's Emergency Budget's housing measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Benefit withdrawn for 18–21 year olds; • Housing Benefit/ Local Housing Allowance (LHA) frozen for five years; • Tax Credits and Housing Benefit/LHA include only first two children in households born after April 2017; • Market rents charged in social housing where incomes are £30,000, additional rent receipts go to Treasury not Housing Revenue Account or Council. <p>The impact will increase poverty, homelessness and numbers at risk of being homeless, amongst young and very low income families.</p> <p>For individual tenants who have faced significant above inflation rent increases and falling incomes over the last few years, the Budget proposal to cut social sector rents by 1% for the next four years will be welcome.</p> <p>That a 1% rent cut will mean loss of rental income to Housing Revenue Account of £18.75 million by 2019/2020, that loss will have significant consequences for Council's plans to build new</p>	<p>A paper is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 11th November on the principles the council may adopt for mitigating detrimental impact that these proposals may otherwise have on our existing affordable housing building programme. This is set to be followed by a report to Housing O&S with the results of the more detailed impact assessments that are currently being undertaken.</p> <p>In addition the Council is in the process responding to recent formal consultations issued in respect of the market rents proposals for all households exceeding £30,000.</p> <p>David Bull will be writing to the MPs in October with the current understanding of the proposed measures on Thurrock Residents.</p>	David Bull

Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 28 October 2015

		<p>homes, maintain and refurbish existing stock of homes.</p> <p>The Council resolves to write to the two MPs for Thurrock to lay out concerns and to highlight the impact on Thurrock residents of these measures in Westminster.</p>		
23/09/15	Cllr Ray	<p>This Council calls for those Councillors who passed away during their service as a member of Thurrock Council (since the turn of the new century) to be commemorated in the Council Chamber for their work and contributions to the community of Thurrock.</p>	<p>Research has been undertaken to identify around ten councillors who have passed away while still serving on the council since 1998. Officers are now looking into the various options for designing a suitable memorial.</p>	Fiona Taylor
23/09/15	Cllr Halden	<p>The current crisis with refugees has led to calls for national and local governments to act in support. The chamber agrees with this.</p> <p>Thurrock resolves to play its part to aid refugees and will make this position known to the Home Office.</p> <p>We instruct the council to be ready with clear plans for service support from housing, social care, to public protection.</p> <p>While we welcome the notion of using international aid funding to help with costs, we of course understand local pressures we are already under and therefore council will make representations to the Home Secretary that support must be evenly sought across local authorities to avoid disproportionate costs being applied to the taxpayer.</p>	<p>Officers have been looking at how the council currently supports refugees and those seeking asylum and how it can do so in the future. There is a well-established process for dealing with unaccompanied asylum seekers who are looked after as children in care. Thurrock has recently looked after higher numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children than in previous years and is already playing a full part in offering support.</p> <p>Departments across the council are looking in details at how refugees subject to the new resettlement scheme can be accommodated successfully in the borough and the funding available from government to achieve this. Early details of government funding for the scheme have been released and these are informing departmental plans. A letter has been sent to the Home Secretary requesting that support is evenly sought across local authorities to avoid disproportionate costs falling to the taxpayer.</p>	Carmel Littleton

Motions Submitted to Council

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

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor Redsell

"We call on Thurrock Council to take action with its partners to help prevent the use of motorbikes and similar vehicles on our green spaces."

Monitoring Officer Comments:

This motion relates to a matter which affects the authority or the authority area and is within the remit of Full Council to approve

Section 151 Officer Comments:

There are no direct financial implications from this motion although any action going forward could result in one off or ongoing costs. These would have to be considered once specific actions were identified.

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 J. Kent

“Thurrock Council is concerned at reports that government is considering scrapping Universal Free School Meals for infant school children.

We believe that such a move would be damaging to both the education and health outcomes of our young people so resolve to write to the Treasury and Department for Education to show our support for the continuation of Universal Free School Meals as well as to our two members of parliament to make them aware of our concerns.”

Monitoring Officer Comments:

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

Section 151 Officer Comments:

There are no direct financial implications from this motion.

Universal Free School Meals is currently fully covered by a grant from government. If the grant was abolished, the free meals would not be affordable to the schools or the Council.

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 Ray

“That this Council will explore ways of working with NHS partners to fully endorse and promote the importance of giving blood and signing up for organ and tissue donation in Thurrock.”

Monitoring Officer Comments:

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

Section 151 Officer Comments:

There are no financial implications arising from this motion. Any publicity or associated costs would be kept within existing budgets.

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 Potheary

“Essex Police have recently announced they plan to close two of the borough's police stations and sell off a third, as well as cut the number of PCSOs in Thurrock from 38 to just 6. After already making cuts of £40million, Essex Police is facing having to make over £60million worth of cuts by 2020 thanks to the Government. The dramatic reduction in the number of police officers and PCSOs on our streets is a big issue for our residents and has worrying implications for community safety.

The Council resolves to write to the two MPs for Thurrock to set out our concerns about the detrimental impact of police cuts on Thurrock residents and community safety, and ask them to lobby for better funding for Essex Police.”

Monitoring Officer Comments:

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

Section 151 Officer Comments:

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this motion.

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

Yes

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