

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 June 2017**

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

Membership of the Council:

Tunde Ojetola (Mayor)
Michael Stone (Deputy Mayor)

Tim Aker
John Allen
Chris Baker
James Baker
Jan Baker
Clare Baldwin
Russell Cherry
Colin Churchman
Gary Collins
Mark Coxshall
Jack Duffin
Tony Fish
Leslie Gamester
Oliver Gerrish
Robert Gledhill
Garry Hague

James Halden
Graham Hamilton
Shane Hebb
Clifford Holloway
Victoria Holloway
Deborah Huelin
Roy Jones
Tom Kelly
Cathy Kent
John Kent
Martin Kerin
Steve Liddiard
Brian Little
Susan Little
Sue MacPherson
Ben Maney

Bukky Okunade
Terry Piccolo
Jane Potheary
David Potter
Joycelyn Redsell
Barbara Rice
Gerard Rice
Sue Sammons
Angela Sheridan
Peter Smith
Graham Snell
Luke Spillman
Pauline Tolson
Aaron Watkins
Kevin Wheeler



Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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1 Apologies for absence	
2 Minutes	9 - 22
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 24 May 2017.	
3 Items of Urgent Business	
To receive additional items that the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
4 Declaration of Interests	
To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
5 Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council	
6 Questions from Members of the Public	23 - 24
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
7 Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors	
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2(Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
8 Petitions Update Report	25 - 28
9 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels	
The Council are asked to agree any changes to the appointments made to committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels, as requested by Group Leaders.	

10	Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2016-17	29 - 56
11	Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing	57 - 80
12	Report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health	81 - 104
13	Questions from Members	105 - 106

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

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

Name of Committee	Date
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2 February 2017
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	7 December 2016
Planning Committee	23 February 2017
General Services Committee	7 December 2016
Cleaner Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9 February 2017
Planning Committee	20 April 2017

16	Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year	107 - 110
17	Motion submitted by Councillor Gerrish	111 - 112
18	Motion submitted by Councillor V Holloway	113 - 114
19	Motion submitted by Councillor Spillman	115 - 116

Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Future Dates of Council:

26 July 2017, 28 September 2016, 26 October 2016, 30 November 2016, 25 January 2017, 22 February 2017 (Budget), 29 March 2017, 24 May 2017 (Annual Council)

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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.

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

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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.

June 1917

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

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 May 2017 at 7.00 pm

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

Apologies: Councillors John Allen, Russell Cherry, Martin Kerin and Kevin Wheeler

In attendance: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
Sharon Bayliss, Director of Commercial Services
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT
Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment and Place
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation
David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer
Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services
Fiona Taylor, Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Karen Wheeler, Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service
Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

The Mayor invited Father Bryan O'Shea to lead those present in prayer and a one minute's silence was held as a mark of respect to reflect the recent tragedies that had taken place in Manchester.

Councillor C Kent, the Mayor of Thurrock, took the Chair for Minute Nos. 1 and 2. Following the election of the new Mayor of Thurrock, Councillor Ojetola took the Chair for the remainder of the business.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 29 March 2017 were approved as a correct record.

2. To elect and install the Mayor for the municipal year 2017/18

Nominations were invited for the election of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2017-18.

It was proposed by Councillor Gledhill, and seconded by Councillor Hebb, that Councillor Ojetola be elected Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2017-18.

The Mayor declared that Councillor Ojetola had been duly elected as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2017-18.

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

The Mayor thanked Councillor C Kent for all the hard work that she had done over the last 12 months and how generous she had been in sharing the mayoral roles with him.

The new elected Mayor, Councillor Ojetola, made a short speech thanking the Council for the honour of being elected as the Mayor of Thurrock and thanked all Councillors, his wife Bunmi Ojetola, his sister Femi Otukoya and her husband Dr Ken Otukoya. Councillor Ojetola's plans over the next 12 months would be to promote Thurrock and promote the work of the "Unsung Heroes" who undertake charitable work. Councillor Ojetola hoped that this would be a busy but an exceedingly rewarding year ahead.

The Mayor presented Councillor C Kent and her Consort, Councillor Liddiard, with their past Mayor's badge and past consort's badge.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to the out-going Mayor, Councillor C Kent, for the impact she had made on Thurrock in her time as Mayor, with her dignity and respect for all. Councillor C Kent had been a fantastic Mayor but would now have more time to spend with her family and on her Councillor duties. The Leader advised Councillor Ojetola not to try and fit into the previous Mayor's shoes but to be himself.

Councillor Snell thanked Councillor C Kent for her enthusiasm as Mayor and stated she had been a fantastic Mayor. Councillor Snell congratulated Councillor Ojetola as Mayor and stated it was about time and that he was the right man for the job.

Councillor Gerrish stated that Councillor C Kent deserved the thanks that she had received for all her hard work that she had undertaken in the borough.

Councillor Gerrish welcomed Councillor Ojetola as Mayor who would bring enthusiasm, energy and have the respect of residents of the borough.

Councillor C Kent thanked Members for their kind words and stating that it had been a great honour to be Mayor of Thurrock Council. She gave thanks to everyone in the Council Chamber and to everyone that she had the privilege of working with over the last 12 months.

Councillor C Kent stated that she had attended over 250 events and had been humbled to meet thousands of amazing Thurrock residents. Monies had been raised for her three charities: Thurrock Community Chest, The Fire Fighters Charity and The Epilepsy Action Group and thanked all for the support and contributions received.

Councillor C Kent thanked Father Bryan O'Shea, her consort Councillor Liddiard, Member Services, her Chauffeur Luke Hammond and to her husband and children.

Councillor C Kent wished Councillor Ojetola a successful year and gave him three pieces of advice. Be Yourself. Make Time for your family. Keep some humour within the Chamber to which she handed Councillor Ojetola a set of red and yellow warning cards to be used in the Council Chamber.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ojetola be duly elected as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2017-18.

3. Items of Urgent Business

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

4. To elect and install the Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2017/18

Nominations were invited for the election of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2017-18.

It was proposed by Councillor Gerrish, and seconded by Councillor G Rice, that Councillor Stone be appointed Deputy Mayor of Thurrock for 2017-18.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Spillman, that Councillor Sheridan be appointed Deputy Mayor of Thurrock for 2017-18.

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Stone to be the next Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2017-18.

The Mayor declared that Councillor Stone had been duly elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough and Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2017-18.

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

Councillor Stone then made a short speech to accept the honour of being appointed as Deputy Mayor.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Stone be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough and Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2017-18.

5. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

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

Firstly the Mayor invited all those present to reflect and remember Thurrock's fallen during World War One and stated that a memorial plaque had been placed in the Council Chamber in memory of those Councillors who had passed away whilst in service to the borough.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that Bunmi Ojetola had agreed to be his Consort. Bunmi Ojetola was asked to step forward and receive the Consort's Chain.

The Mayor confirmed that the Deputy Mayor Consort would be his wife, Julie Stone. Julie Stone was asked to step forward and receive the Consort's Chain.

The Mayor announced that his charities for the Mayoral Year would be Thurrock Community Chest and Contact the Elderly (Thurrock).

Furthermore, the Mayor announced that his Mayoral Chaplains would be Reverend Canon Darren Barlow and Reverend Akin Laosun.

The Mayor also made reference to Bishop Paul and Pastor Joyce Fadeyi and stated that details of a planned Thanksgiving Service would follow.

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

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to the appointment of Councillor Ojetola as the new Mayor of Thurrock and to Councillor Stone as the new Deputy Mayor of Thurrock.

The Leader congratulated Councillor Gerrish on becoming the Leader of the Labour Group.

Members were asked to remember former Councillor Barry Lawrence who tragically died earlier this year and how he would be a great loss to Thurrock.

The Leader informed members that no changes would be made to Cabinet appointments.

Members were reminded that whilst the Council was in the Purdah period the use of Council facilities or staff which could be perceived as political was prohibited.

The Leader stated that he had met with the Police Crime Commissioner and confirmed that the Government had taken the decision to increase the national threat level to critical until further notice with no specific threats to Thurrock. There would be an increased police presence at key infrastructure locations and that police presence in Thurrock would be increased to protect and reassure residents. The Leader urged residents to remain calm but vigilant and to report anything suspicious.

7. Committees and their Terms of Reference

The Leader of the Council introduced the report that requested Council to formally establish the committees it considered necessary to fulfil the functions in the ensuing municipal year.

Members agreed to note the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committees listed in paragraph 3.2 of the report be established for the 2017-18 municipal year, with their terms of reference being those set out in Chapter 4 of the Constitution.**
- 2. That the Committees listed in paragraph 3.4 of the report be established for the 2017-18 municipal year, with their terms of reference being those set out in Chapter 5 of the Constitution.**

8. Allocation of Committee seats and Committee appointments

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

The nominations made to Committees for the municipal year 2017-18, together with the nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, were set out in a booklet tabled for Members.

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report, which requested the Council to confirm the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on

committees and also to appoint the nominations made by political groups to committees.

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

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

The results of each vote are set out below:

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Okunade over Councillor Sheridan to be Chair.

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Snell to be Vice Chair.

Therefore Councillor Okunade was appointed Chair and Councillor Snell was appointed Vice Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Jones over Councillor C Kent to be Chair.

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor C Kent over Councillor Cherry to be Vice Chair

Therefore Councillor Jones was appointed Chair and Councillor C Kent was appointed Vice Chair of the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Gamester to be Vice Chair.

Therefore Councillor Gerrish was appointed Chair and Councillor Gamester was appointed Vice Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Corporate Parenting Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor MacPherson over Councillor Okunade to be Chair.

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Okunade over Councillor Gamester to be Vice Chair .

Therefore Councillor MacPherson was appointed Chair and Councillor Okunade was appointed Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

General Services

Members voted unanimously in favour of Councillor Gledhill as Chair and Councillor Snell as Vice Chair of the General Services Committee.

Health and Wellbeing Board

Members noted Councillor Halden, Portfolio Holder for Education and Health, as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Snell over Councillor V Holloway to be Chair.

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor V Holloway over Councillor Sheridan to be Vice Chair.

Therefore Councillor Snell was appointed Chair and Councillor V Holloway was appointed Vice Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

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

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

Licensing Committee

Members voted unanimously in favour of Councillor Maney as Chair of the Licensing Committee.

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Jones over Councillor Stone to be Vice Chair.

Therefore Councillor Maney was appointed Chair and Councillor Jones was appointed Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee.

Planning Committee

Members voted unanimously in favour of Councillor Kelly as Chair of the Planning Committee.

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Liddiard over Councillor Jones to be Vice Chair.

Therefore Councillor Kelly was appointed Chair and Councillor Liddiard was appointed Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.

Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Allen to be Vice Chair.

Therefore Councillor B Rice was appointed Chair and Councillor Allen was appointed Vice Chair of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Standards and Audit Committee

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

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

Therefore Councillor Hamilton was appointed Chair and Councillor Fish was appointed Vice Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.**
- 2. That the nominations of the political groups to seats on committees be approved, as set out in Appendix 2.**
- 3. That in accordance with Committee Procedure 13.2, "Participation of Appointed Members", all Elected Members be required to**

undertake an enhanced DBS check and those Members appointed to the following committees are expected to undertake the DBS check within 2 months of taking up their seats:

- Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Standards and Audit Committee
- Corporate Parenting Committee

4. That the non-voting co-opted members of the Planning Committee, the Standards and Audit Committee, the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee be appointed, as set out in Appendix 2.

5. That the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees be appointed as set out below:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Okunade	Councillor Snell
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Jones	Councillor C Kent
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Gerrish	Councillor Gamester
Corporate Parenting	Councillor MacPherson	Councillor Okunade
General Services	Councillor Gledhill	Councillor Snell
Health and Wellbeing Board* *The Chair will be the Portfolio Holder for Education and Health and shall be appointed by the Council	Councillor Halden	-
Health and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny	Councillor Snell	Councillor V Holloway

Committee		
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Spillman	Councillor G Rice
Licensing Committee	Councillor Maney	Councillor Jones
Planning Committee	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Liddiard
Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor B Rice	Councillor Allen
Standards and Audit Committee	Councillor Hamilton	Councillor Fish

9. Appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report in respect of the appointments required to be made to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels.

Councillor Gledhill stated that he would like to make two changes to the nomination booklet:

On the Essex Fire Authority replace Councillor MacPherson with Councillor Watkins.

On the Local Government Association to withdraw Councillor Ojetola's nomination.

Members were also informed that the Adoption Panel and Fostering Panel had now merged and would be known as the Adoption and Fostering Panel.

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

The results of each vote are set out below:

Campaign to Protect Rural Essex

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor G Rice over Councillor C Baker.

Therefore Councillor G Rice was appointed the representative of the Council on the Campaign to Protect Rural Essex.

Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee

No further nominations were received for the two vacant positions on the Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee. Councillor Gledhill will be the representative of the Council on the Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee.

Coalhouse Fort Project

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor C Kent over Councillor Jones.

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

East Thurrock Community Association

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Piccolo over Councillor Duffin.

Therefore Councillor Piccolo was appointed the representative of the Council on the East Thurrock Community Association.

Essex Fire Authority

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor C Kent over Councillor Jones.

Therefore Councillor C Kent was appointed the second representative of the Council on the Essex Fire Authority.

Essex Police and Crime Panel

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Redsell over Councillor Jones.

Therefore Councillor Redsell was appointed the representative of the Council on the Essex Police and Crime Panel.

South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Fish over Councillor Snell.

Therefore Councillor Fish was appointed the representative of the Council on the South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

Thurrock Play Network

No nominations were received for the vacant positions on the Thurrock Play Network Committee.

Civic Awards Panel

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Redsell over Councillors Liddiard and Snell.

Therefore Councillor Redsell was appointed the fourth representative of the Council on the Civic Awards Panel.

Adoption and Fostering Panel

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor S Little over Councillor Jones.

Therefore Councillor S Little was appointed the representative of the Council on the Adoption and Fostering Panel.

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

RESOLVED:

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

10. Schedule of Meetings 2017/18

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report. A copy of the schedule of meetings for 2017-18 was included in the Agenda at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members agreed to note the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Meetings for 2017-18 be approved.

11. Schedule of Elections and Order of Retirement of Councillors

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report which informed the Council of the schedule of elections to be held between 2018 and 2021.

Members agreed to note the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

That the schedule of elections from 2018 to 2020 and order of retirement of Councillors be noted.

The meeting finished at 8.10 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

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

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There are two questions from members of the public.

1. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill, in the light of the horrific fire which destroyed a residential block in London, can you assure Thurrock residents living in similar high rise buildings they are safe in their homes?

2. From Mr Brown to Councillor Tolson

Can the Portfolio Holder for Environment please justify the sum being charged to residents of Salisbury and Kent Roads who are now being held personally responsible for rubbish left by fly-tippers.

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Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 28 June 2017

Petition No.	Description	Presented (date)	Portfolio Holder	Status Full copies of the responses may be obtained from Democratic Services
486	The parking facilities are of grave concern to the residence of Dalroy Close. This drop drive being proposed for number 23 will cause massive problems for the residence to Dalroy Close, when the person in question doesn't even live at the property of number 23 and hasn't lived there for more than 10years, this is so selfish, inconsiderate and thoughtless causing inconvenience to others, others that need that space if they have young children, if they are elderly or registered disabled, and most importantly the emergency services, which have used that space previously.	6 January 2017	Cllr B Little	The vehicle crossing meets all the conditions set out in Council policy and therefore there is no reason to refuse it and has approval to proceed. The Lead Petitioner has been informed.
487	Objection to double yellow lines (no waiting at any time) Access Road 36-72 Lodge Lane, Grays	21 February 2017	Cllr B Little	Following receipt of all the comments and objections regarding the implementation of the double yellow lines in Lodge Lane a Delegated Decision Report will be submitted to the Portfolio holder to consider all the reasons for implementing the scheme including comments from those who have submitted the service request and all the objections to the scheme.
488	Serious concerns about the level of caretaking services on the Grays South Estate	22 February 2017	Cllr Gledhill	Although some adjustments have been made by housing management to individual task allocations on the estate, this has not resulted in a reduction in service.

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

Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 28 June 2017

				<p>In summary, three caretakers in Grays were identified as having smaller rounds than some of their colleagues elsewhere, and were allocated some additional duties elsewhere (less than two floors a day each). Staff `downtime` has been reduced, but we are confident the level of service at Seabrooke Rise has been maintained. Cover arrangements are in place for staff absences and the Team Leader carries out a daily overall check in every block. No complaints from tenants have been received since the changes were made on January 16th</p> <p>Caretaking duties on the Echoes have been assigned to other staff in the service, and there is no impact on tenants in Seabrooke Rise.</p> <p>If tenants have particular concerns these can be raised with Estate Services staff on-site or with the Tenancy Services team who will look at any perceived problems with the service.</p>
489	Conservative's proposed £15 per week charge for all sheltered housing tenants in Thurrock	22 February 2017	Cllr Gledhill	The Council has just completed an extensive consultation exercise on the proposal to extend service charges. The results of the consultation and a final decision will be taken at the June Cabinet.
490	Object to the tory-led Thurrock Council's proposal to introduce and extend service charges of up to £405 a year for all Council tenants. We call on the Tories' to abandon these unfair and unaffordable charges.	30 March 2017	Cllr Gledhill	The consultation on the proposed changes has now been completed and a final report on the way forward for both general housing and sheltered housing charges will be going to the June Cabinet.

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

Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 28 June 2017

491	Concerned citizens urge our leaders to act now to push for the removal of these Double Yellow Line Road markings on specific parts of the Phase 1 build at Persimmon Homes site Village@Aveley and for engagement in dialogue between the residents and the relevant authorities in a fair and detailed consultation.	30 March 2017	Cllr B Little	The yellow line road markings have been reviewed, and residents are being consulted on the proposed changes.
492	Road(s) known as Kersbrooke Way, Elmstead Close and Fernside Close located in Thurrock, Essex, do hereby petition Thurrock Council, and make known our objection and constant dissatisfaction to the current use and constant noise of the garages off Kersbrooke Way, which are currently being used for purposes outside of the planning agreement and existing deeds. We call on Thurrock Council and the owners of the garages to ask for something to be done.	13 April 2017	Cllr S MacPherson	The enforcement case on this site was closed on 25 April 2017 with no further action required. The garages are privately owned and went up for auction on the 24 May 2017. The tenants were required to vacate the garages on the 7 May 2017.

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28 June 2017	ITEM: 10
Council	
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key
Report of: Fiona Taylor, Director of Law and Governance	
Accountable Head of Service: Fiona Taylor, Director of Law and Governance	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

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

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17 be noted.**

2. Introduction and Background

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

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

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

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

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

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The report outlines the positive work that has been undertaken during 2016/2017 and is being referred to Council for review in order for Members to comment on the overall Overview and Scrutiny function of Thurrock Council.

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

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

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

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

6.1 The positive impact of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny committees for 2016/2017, in allowing residents to participate in decision making and tackling key issues of local concern, is clearly documented in the annual report.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

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

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Monitoring Officer & Deputy Head of Law & Governance

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

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

The Overview and Scrutiny function recognises the importance and role of diversity and equality issues. All work in 2016/17 sought to include sections of the community relevant to the issues being investigated. Members made every effort to engage and consult Thurrock residents when required.

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

None.

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

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

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

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17

Report Author:

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

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Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report

2016-2017

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What is Overview & Scrutiny?

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

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

Work Programme

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

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

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

Committees

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

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

Membership

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

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

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

The decision making process

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

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

Overview and Scrutiny Online

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

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

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

Getting in Touch

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

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

Email: scrutiny.team@thurrock.gov.uk

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

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

This year the Committee continued to build strong links with Youth Cabinet, with two Youth Cabinet Members attending meetings to give young people a voice on matters affecting children and young people in Thurrock.

The Committee started the year reviewing the Children's Centre Service. Members heard that officers were hoping to identify the most effective way of delivering a sustainable Children's Centre service by 2017. Members received numerous updates throughout the year and in December officers informed the committee that the review had only just been completed with numerous meetings being held across the borough to gain residents' views.

Members continued to consider and monitor the learning points relating to Serious Case Reviews. In July members received an update from the Serious Case Review entitled 'Megan' and in December learnt of the 'James' Serious Case Review. Members were keen to ensure that updates of all cases were presented to the Committee and related bodies were held to account. Members noted the Action Plan which would be monitored by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and its associated audit group and that partners would be asked to supply evidence to prove that work had been done and improvements had been made.

The Committee scrutinised the Ofsted Inspection Action Plan which highlighted updates on 16 recommendations made by Ofsted in relation to the practice improvements that were required in Thurrock schools. It was discussed that the new Ofsted Framework had raised the bar for services and Thurrock would continue to improve and review the progress made.

In October 2016 the committee was pleased to learn there had been a significant improvement in provisional results at GCSE level and primary schools in Thurrock. Members recognised that performance was a reflection of the positive learning environment created by Thurrock schools, their teachers, parents and carers as well as the Council's education team. The committee in a letter to all schools expressed its thanks for this important achievement.

In December 2016 Members received a report which highlighted the key strategic, and partnership developments that related to Child Sexual Exploitation. It was stated that a data analyst post for Thurrock would be created to work closely with the Police on child sexual exploitation, missing children and trafficking. The Committee also oversaw preparations for a consultation that would be delivered in partnership between Thurrock, SERICC and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board with victims of child sexual exploitation.

My year as Chair of Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been marked by particular emphasis on the Post-Ofsted Improvement Plan which has been a standing item on the agenda throughout the year. The recommendations of the 2016 Ofsted inspection were unceasingly reviewed by the committee, along with the robust action plan put in place to address the areas which require improvement.

As chair, I had the opportunity of developing an excellent rapport with councillors that constituted the committee as well as our co-opted members. It was pleasing for me to work with members who demonstrate the principles of collaboration when it comes to discharging our full remit - the work programme items and reports resulted in clear and focused undertakings of review and scrutiny process, adding great value to the good work of officers within the Children's Services directorate.

The Committee has also successfully deliberated and scrutinised many key issues over the year, including, 0-19 Wellbeing Model, Review of Children Centre Services, serious case review update actions from Megan, the serious case review report on James, school capital programme, and educational attainments.

In December 2016, we considered the academic report for children Looked-After. Although assured of a really positive direction, the committee is committed to ensuring all children have the opportunity to maximise their potential, and feeling there is always a room for improvement, led the committee to agree that a review of the virtual school which supports children in the council's care takes place. Our utmost aim is to ensure all Thurrock children get the best education and support, including those that are attending school outside of the borough.

Aside from the scrutiny committee membership, I have had instances of sharing information and encouraging participation of all 49 members of the council on important matters, such as the national funding formula proposal, and our commitments as corporate parents to the education, health and wellbeing of our looked-after children.

I must not forget to mention that during the year, the Committee and democratic services officers were pleased to receive Solihull councillors and officers to Thurrock for the purpose of understanding how our Children's Overview and Scrutiny works. Solihull Officer, Mala Mistry said that their members found it invaluable to have the opportunity to meet with us to understand how scrutiny works in Thurrock. She also added that they felt it was a worthwhile visit as they have learnt such a lot during the visit.

I would like to express my appreciation to the members on the committee for a well-structured approach embraced in scrutiny, to co-opted members for their full participation, and officers of the council and schools for great work done for our young people on education side, the social care team for supporting our children in the council's care, and the senior democratic officer for efficient facilitation of the committee



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

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny

One of the key issues scrutinised by the Committee over the past year was environmental enforcement in Thurrock. Members were notified of the number of service requests received between 1 April 2015 and 28 March 2016 for potential environmental enforcement, which had totalled 3699. The types of offences included:

- ❖ Fly-Tipping
- ❖ Littering
- ❖ Abandoned Vehicles
- ❖ Waste Carrier Offences
- ❖ Fly-Posting
- ❖ Dog Fouling
- ❖ Littering From Vehicles
- ❖ Graffiti

In addition the Committee discussed the use of Community Protection Notices, what they entailed and what they had or could achieve. It was explained that Local Authorities could use a notice against any anti-social behaviour. Failure to comply would result in a fixed penalty notice and failure to pay would result in court proceedings. Members helped challenge and develop plans to introduce a Community Protection Notice to combat drinking in Grays high street.

Members maintained a watching brief on fly-tipping in the borough, as concerns continued to be raised.

High on the Committee's agenda was unauthorised traveller encampments, including the Trap Races which took place on the last weekend in July 2016 in Stanford le Hope. Members took into account the Council's response and recommendations in order to reduce the likelihood of a reoccurrence.

The Chair invited the Chief Superintendent representing Essex Police to the extraordinary meeting held in September, where Members were given the opportunity to discuss the event and the learning points of the outcome. The Committee tested and subsequently agreed the new protocol which had been put in place between Essex Police and Thurrock Council regarding unauthorised traveller encampments.

Members also investigated the the flooding at Grays Beach over the summer months in 2016, during which it was acknowledged that action had been taken by Anglian Water. However, Members sought assurance that a recurrence of flooding at the site was unlikely. The Committee was assured that there were sufficient safeguards including secondary and tertiary fail safes now in place.

A key topic of conversation for the Committee was the Administration's 'Clean it, Cut it and Fill it' scheme. The scheme began in June 2017 and aimed to tackle cleanliness, pot holes and green spaces all over the borough. Throughout the year the Committee continued to put forward suggestions and recommendations on the

pilot scheme and the Portfolio Holder for Environment attended the committee to discuss such suggestions with the Committee.

It has been an important year for the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

As a key area of focus for the Council, my committee has been active on the improvements needed to Thurrock's environment. We have made recommendations on tougher environmental enforcement measures and on the Administration's "Clean it, cut it, fill it agenda". Action on litter and the cleanliness of Thurrock has been a key issue for the year, and I am grateful to the Portfolio Holder for attending the committee to take direct questions on her plans.

We have reviewed a wide number of issues, from the fly-tipping epidemic to illegal trap racing in Thurrock and the flooding of Grays Beach. We have worked successfully as a cross-party committee to seek much-needed improvements for the environment in Thurrock.

It has been particularly inspiring to hear from those with a real passion to improve Thurrock, such as the Clive Webster and Thames 21 Presentation.

My thanks go out to all that have participated in the work of the committee this year, and I hope that the committee will continue to drive forward the environment agenda next year.



Councillor Oliver Gerrish
Chair of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

The Committee started the year looking at the Corporate Performance Report and its new assessment system which differed from the previous Red, Amber, Green (RAG) coding. Members ensured the new system would be as effective as its predecessor. The report also reviewed which Councils would make up the benchmarking group with Thurrock and what data would be used in the process.

Members took this opportunity to engage with Officers and ensure the Council pushed for higher targets. Members investigated the proposed changes and options to the Local Council Tax Scheme. They noted the scheme would build upon the existing scheme and align with central Government changes to the Housing Benefit and Universal Credit regulations. The Committee looked at the six proposed changes to the existing scheme and while offering their opinions, sought to ensure that additional clarification was provided for Members when making the final decision at Full Council.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee took a keen interest in consultations and their response rates throughout the year. At their meeting in March 2017 Members looked at a list of all the consultations from 2016 which included:

- ❖ Grays Town Centre Consultation
- ❖ Local Plan Issues and Options - Big Questions
- ❖ Thurrock Residents Survey
- ❖ Annual Local Council Tax Support Scheme Consultation 2017/18
- ❖ Fixed Term Tenancies
- ❖ Cycle Plans
- ❖ Air Quality Strategy Details |Air Quality Strategy

Members sought clarity as to how many consultations were the result of requests from Committees and how many were Officer-led as well as how much they were used in the decision making process. The Committee discovered there were some consultations which were a statutory duty. The Council had a responsibility to conduct consultations where there was likely to be a service change, and some ongoing feedback was used to make minor service improvements on a day to day basis. Other consultations were the result of Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations and steers from Portfolio Holders.

During discussions throughout the year on different occasions Members expressed their concerns at the low number of responses to consultations undertaken by the Council and suggested ways to improve this including when residents were visiting the Council they could be asked if they would be happy to undertake a survey or be part of a consultation.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee looked at a number of important issues this year, making many recommendations to Officers, Cabinet and Full Council.

The Committee was particularly concerned with the cost-effectiveness and statistical relevance of consultations undertaken by the Council and scrutinised at length proposals to amend the Local Council Tax Scheme.

We have reviewed key subjects such as Council Strategy, Policy and performance. We worked successfully together as a cross-party platform to influence recommendations made to Cabinet in residents' best interests.

I would like to thank all the Officers for their hard work over the year to facilitate the Committee and my fellow Councillors on the Committee for the constructive contributions made to the scrutiny process.



Councillor John Kent
Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny

The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee is one of the busiest Committees and one which scrutinises topics of local interest. One of the topics Members have been involved in was the proposed move of the Positron Emission Tomography – Computer Tomography Scanner (PET-CT) from the Basildon Hospital to the Southend Hospital.

The PET(CT) is a scanner used to support the diagnosis of cancer. In the 2016-17 year a proposal was put forward by the providers of the PET(CT) scanner to move it to Southend Hospital,

Members of the Committee formally resolved that they did not support the decision made by NHS England to move the PET(CT) scanner away from Basildon Hospital and would be referring the matter to full Council with a view to referring the decision to the Secretary of State. The Chair received a response from the Secretary of State seeking additional information,, which was subsequently collated and supplied by officers.

In June 2016 the Committee examined Public Health Grants, during which Members endorsed the recommended course of action to ensure that when further planned cuts were made to the Public Grant in 2017/18, the best opportunities for fulfilling all statutory functions and improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Thurrock were taken.

The Committee were notified of a new initiative “Living Well in Thurrock”, whose integrated vision with the Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group was to support people to achieve fulfilled lives. The initiative highlighted the importance of preventing, reducing and delaying need for health and care services.

The Director of Public Health presented his Annual Report at the November committee which made a series of recommendations in terms of improving the quality of Primary Care in Thurrock, improving the quality of long term condition management and strengthening the local health and social care workforce. Members questioned the 101 and 999 services, the services offered by general practitioners, the usage of the ambulance service and how residents could be encouraged to exercise more. Going forward the Annual Report would be presented to the key members of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Throughout the year the Committee have continued to focus on the current situation of Domiciliary Care in Thurrock and how the effects of the current challenges on the service were being addressed. The Committee had been informed that the situation was extremely serious in Thurrock.

Members were briefed on the new direction of travel for Domiciliary Care and how this will support people at home and how the new approach will form an integral part of the second phase of Building Positive Futures, Living Well in Thurrock. It provided an update on the progression of the Living Well at Home Project and how the current crisis had impacted the delivery and implementation of the pilot.

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

- ❖ Thurrock NHS Clinical Commissioning Group;
- ❖ Thurrock Council and North East London Fountain Trust;
- ❖ Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions;
- ❖ HealthWatch
- ❖ Thurrock Coalition

At their last meeting in March 2017, the Committee discussed Learning Disability Health Checks and how the service had been turned around since the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had taken over the administration of this service and were praised by Members for the work undertaken.

This year the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee looked at a wide range of topics and made a number of recommendations to Officers, Cabinet, Full Council, NHS England and Government.

The Committee were concerned about the decision by NHS England on its relocation of the PET(CT) Scanner and took the serious decision to refer our concerns to the Secretary of State. We heard updates and plans regarding the Success Regime, ensured our strong feelings on the direction and decisions proposed were heard by those drafting plans and made sure the committee would be scrutinising developments regularly. The Committee also heard about the excellent progress to ensure learning disability health checks are carried out by GPs. Ensuring some of the most vulnerable in Thurrock have access to health care is extremely important and it's wonderful to see the work that continues to make this work well.

In a time where national cuts to funding are having a devastating effect on health and social care services which local authorities can provide, Thurrock Council's Officers were able to present the Committee with a number of innovative and exciting projects - Thurrock First and Integrated Living Centres. These projects highlight the ground breaking ideas and the hard work Thurrock Council's Officers conduct every day to place Thurrock ahead of the curve and its residents at the heart of its work.

Thank you to Officers and Democratic Services for all their hard work and to fellow Councillors on the Committee for their dedication and constructive contributions.



Councillor Victoria Holloway
Chair of Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee have continued to keep up-to-date with Government policy, including the impact of the Housing and Planning and Welfare Reform Bill on Thurrock and in turn its effect on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The key issue for the Committee was the suggestion of changes to Service Charges for those residents living in Sheltered Accommodation. Members first scrutinised the matter in December 2016, where the Committee requested additional information in order to scrutinise the topic further and felt guidance from the Government White Paper, soon to be published, was important in considering this item.

Members further inspected the HRA Business Plan and Budgets in February 2017 where it was explained that the HRA had been redeveloped based on the Government's proposed changes. . During discussions Members explored concerns that the vulnerable residents living in Sheltered Housing would be paying additional costs for services.

Members also received an update from the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Working Group. The aim of the Working Group was to make recommendations that would further improve tenant satisfaction which included:

- ❖ Review of tenants rating the service as "fair" in satisfaction surveys;
- ❖ Implementation of quality pledge ID Cards for Mears operatives that provide the name, photo and trade that each operative is qualified in and;
- ❖ Undertaking the customer surveys and to presenting feedback to Housing Overview and Scrutiny annually.

Members discussed the Repairs Satisfaction which reported that 86.4% of tenants rated the service as good or excellent. Officers confirmed that in June 2016 following a satisfaction survey, 86% of Thurrock residents rated the service good or excellent.

The Committee deliberated over the change in Fixed Term Secure Tenancies which had been prompted by a change in legislation. The report outlined that lifetime tenancies could no longer be issued and so a new tenancy was to be created.

Members commented that they felt a ten year tenancy was the right way to proceed, as a way for Thurrock to reduce its housing waiting list. It was mentioned this would be the a to free up housing stock by allowing people to move on it if they wanted to and allow other families access to safe and secure property.

It has been a pleasure to Chair the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee in what has been a busy and challenging year. A key issue was the release of the Government White Paper which seeks to fix the housing market. We welcomed good initiatives from the Government to help first-time buyers get on the housing ladder and to increase security for private tenants against “rogue” landlords.

Members have encouraged social housing, particularly through the Gloriana Project which has developed 128 homes for rent in Tilbury, including a provision of 22 properties for Social Housing.

The Committee has scrutinised heavily proposals to alter charges for residents in sheltered housing and communal blocks, hoping to get the best deal for Thurrock residents.

My thanks go to all the officers who worked to bring reports and support the committee, and my fellow Councillors who were committed to the Scrutiny process.



Councillor Gerard Rice
Chair of Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny

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

Members continued to work closely with different partners and received continuous updates and presentations from c2c. At the March meeting the Head of Communications at c2c rail informed the Committee that:

- ❖ 1,600 more Thurrock station passengers now got a seat compared to September 2016;
- ❖ 85 per cent of Thurrock passengers were now seated despite the increase of 5.6 per cent of Thurrock passengers in the last six months;
- ❖ c2c trains are less crowded at their busiest periods;
- ❖ c2c punctuality was better now than last autumn.

During discussions the Committee heard that the latest passenger satisfaction survey undertaken by Transport Focus on 30,000 c2c passengers published an 87% of overall passenger satisfaction with key crowding metrics being scored the best results for last three years.

Members challenged the c2c representative questioning why the new trains had not been allocated to the Thurrock network. It was explained that c2c had been clear throughout that the new trains would not be coming into Thurrock and that the trains were designed for longer distance journeys. This had freed up more carriages for Thurrock which were standard 15 year old carriages.

It was queried that the report did not seem to reflect the feedback received from passengers. The representative from c2c explained that c2c had not become complacent. It had addressed the issues and improvements had been made compared to this time last year, which tackled overcrowding.

The Committee invited the Director and associates to the January meeting to discuss the expansion of the Port of Tilbury. Members were notified that the Port of Tilbury was a leading multi-purpose Port which was 130 years old. In the last 20 years the tonnage going through the port had doubled and was confident that this would continue to grow based on the increased cargo throughput and the proposed increase in space on the Port.

It was explained this was a major regeneration project and the investment of several millions of pounds had been contributed to expand the Port and contribute to the future economy growth to Thurrock. Members were reassured the Port would continue to engage with the Council, Partnerships and residents to ensure the expansion related to the community and that all would benefit.

The Committee raised concerns that the air quality in Tilbury was one of the worst in the country and that the health of Thurrock residents should be a vital part of this redevelopment. The Chair stated that regeneration was welcome but sought

reassurance that improvement to the cruise terminal frontage and the river frontage would also be part of the redevelopment.

Members congratulated Officers for the 'Grays South, delivering the pedestrian Underpass project' and for securing the monies required to complete it. Officers presented the Committee with the good news in early 2017, explaining the project aimed to transform Grays town centre, creating public squares and an underpass to replace the pedestrian level Crossing in Grays High Street together with the development of modern retail and residential units.

Officers confirmed that the Council continued to work closely with Network Rail to develop the proposals and support the project through design and their approvals process. Members were informed that, the Council received notification that its bid for £10.8 million from the Local Growth Fund had been successful and that the Council would receive the full payment requested to complete the funding package to deliver this project.

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

The Committee this year had scrutinised the maintenance and capital programmes for highways an essential function for the smooth running of both traffic and ensuring potholes were filled.

Air pollution continued to be a huge concern for Thurrock residents and the Committee have ensured the air quality and health strategy is up to the job.

The regeneration of Grays has been discussed and planned for, in particular the Grays South underpass which had attracted funding.

The Port of Tilbury expansion providing jobs and wealth generation for the Borough was presented by The Port of Tilbury at Overview and Scrutiny.

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



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

Budget Overview and Scrutiny

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

Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed proposals for income generation, particularly around trade waste revenue and sought to ensure that savings would not result in a loss of services around ground maintenance. Members also scrutinised proposed increased performance charges at the Thameside Theatre, requesting further discussion from Cabinet to ensure the best course of action.

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted and agreed to the proposed fees and charges on school improvements, early years education and children, Grangewaters, learning and skills and school meals.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed the aspirational approach suggested for the Capital Programme. Members expressed concern around high-level investments, particularly those linked with the Gloriana Scheme, being included within the scheme of delegations.

The Committee supported a 3% increase in the adult social care precept. Members were cautious around proposed reductions to face-to-face services for residents within the Council building and staff reductions as a result of service reviews. The Committee pushed to ensure that the current Thameside Theatre complex would not close until a replacement had been delivered.

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny

The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the proposed fees and charges on the relevant service income targets such as day care, extra care, blue badges, meals on wheels and community development.

Housing Overview and Scrutiny

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the Fees and Charges report presented at the February meeting. Members scrutinised the possibility of reductions in services as there was a budget gap which could not be closed through recommendations.

Planning, Transport & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny

To ensure the delivery of the income targets for 2017/18, the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed and agreed the proposed fees and charges for parking, highways maintenance, highways and transportation, development and building controls, large charges and the hire of commercial halls in Thurrock.

Overview and Scrutiny Reviews

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

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

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

Below are a number of past reviews undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Committees:

- ❖ Thameside Complex Review Panel (Completed 2015-2016)
- ❖ Supporting Pathways into Work for Young People (Completed 2015-2016)
- ❖ Community Transport Review (2014-2015)
- ❖ Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Match Funding Review (2013-2014)
- ❖ Fairness in Thurrock Review (2013-2014)

There were no Task and Finish Groups convened this year.

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

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

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

During 2016-2017 three Call-Ins were submitted as detailed below:

Twenty-First Century Wellbeing Services for Children and Young People

In October 2016 Cabinet deliberated a report which outlined a modern children's centre provision, which would integrate specialist health, education and social care services, so that holistic wrap around care could be provided for children and young people within the borough.

Following this meeting, three elected Members called in the recommendations of the Cabinet report 'Twenty-First Century Wellbeing Services for Children and Young People' (decision 01104384), in their capacity as three non-executive Members.

The call-in was taken through the validation process which is outlined in the Constitution was deemed invalid for the following reasons:

- The grounds for the call-in based on 10.4 (a) – due regard to individuals and communities served by Thurrock Borough Council – cannot be upheld due to the presence of a decision to consult the public on the proposals where there is an opportunity to have views expressed.
- In accordance with Rule 10.11 (i) the report has already been subject to a scrutiny meeting where the issue of children's centre closures could have

reasonably been explored and alternatives models of delivery discussed for inclusion in the Cabinet Report recommendations.

Procurement of Healthy Lifestyle Services

In October 2016 Cabinet were presented with a report which outlined a new focus for early years by diverting resources to help prevent the rise of poor lifestyles in school children which Cabinet Member were advised both were a financial burden to the health system, and greatly limited healthy lives.

Following this meeting, three elected Members called in the recommendations of the Cabinet report 'Procurement of the Healthy Lifestyle Service' (decision 01104386), in their capacity as three non-executive Members.

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

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

Communications Strategy 2017/20

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

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

The call-in was taken through the validation process which is outlined in the Constitution and deemed valid. It will now progress to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2017/2018.

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28 June 2017	ITEM: 11
Council	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing	
Report of: Councillor Rob Gledhill, Portfolio Holder for Housing	
This report is Public	

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Housing service and sets out the main challenges and opportunities facing the Council in its diverse housing identities as:
 - social landlord and asset-holder,
 - provider of statutory homelessness, housing advice and private sector housing services,
 - strategic housing provider/enabler, and
 - ‘place-shaper’ with regard to housing supply and regeneration.

- 1.2 The report summarises the performance of the service in the financial year just ending, describes the organisational and cultural change in progress within the service, and sets out the framework of the housing review which is now underway.

- 1.3 The review aims to capture Thurrock’s housing ambitions for the next five years, and to set clear strategic goals for delivery. It will also use both the Council’s seven established design principles and a special focus on identifying community-based solutions wherever possible to arrive at a revised service structure. This will enable the service to deliver the Council’s vision for housing while also achieving efficiencies and maximising value for money for both the Housing Revenue Account and the General Fund.

- 1.4 We will all have been shocked to see the devastation caused by the fire at Grenfell Tower on Wednesday 14th June.

We have taken a number of immediate actions in Thurrock – a letter with the most up to date advice from the Fire Service was delivered to all residents in all of our tower blocks on Friday 16th June and this was accompanied with a door knock to speak to and re-assure those residents we were able to contact; residents and tenants meetings have also been organised; a help number was circulated to all tenants; all Cllrs have received an update and briefing from the Head of Housing; within 24 hours we reviewed all of our Fire Safety requirements and I am pleased to say we were Green on all of these. I will report verbally to the Chamber on other actions we have taken on the night of full Council.

2. Service Overview

- 2.1 The Housing service provides a wide range of statutory and landlord services, and utilises the majority of Housing Revenue Account resources as well as some smaller General Fund budgets. The service has a key role in directly delivering nine of the Council's Key Performance Indicators, and accounts for a high proportion of the Council's interactions with residents, especially in relation to the very long-term and intensive relationship with customers bound up with the Council's role as a landlord.
- 2.2 The service also works very closely with colleagues in the Council's Environment and Place Directorate, which includes the Regeneration and Planning teams. In order to ensure clear strategic oversight and effective joint working a new Housing Investment and Regeneration Group has been established, comprising senior managers from both Directorates along with senior Finance staff. The next section of this report focuses on the teams within the Housing Service.
- 2.3 As a service Housing is responsible for the following key functions:
- Caretaking and Estate services (a range of caretaking services are currently in place, with differential charges reflecting the level of service provided – there are also a large number of blocks where no service is currently provided).
 - Tenancy services – housing management for our 9,000 tenants including tenancy audits, low-level Anti-Social Behaviour cases, succession, recharges, etc.
 - Void re-servicing – arranging viewings, inspecting works, ensuring properties are fit to re-let.
 - Rent collection / financial inclusion (assistance with debt and personal budgeting).
 - Repairs and planned maintenance across the Council's residential assets.
 - CCTV – monitoring and maintaining 350 cameras across the borough and dealing with 650 reported incidents p.a.
 - Domestic abuse and hate crime.
 - Anti-Social Behaviour – cases escalated to Level 2 where statutory enforcement is appropriate.
 - Private sector housing service – mediation and enforcement between private landlords and their tenants.
 - Capital programmes – including Transforming Homes (see below).
 - Responsive repairs – 34,000 repairs p.a. carried out through Mears Ltd.
 - Leaseholder services (shared service with LB Barking and Dagenham for 830 leaseholders in Right to Buy properties).
 - Resident engagement – consultation events, capacity-building for Tenants and Residents Associations, etc.
 - Housing register and allocations (currently 8,000 households on the housing register).

- Housing options and homelessness prevention.
- Homelessness assessment and reviews.
- Temporary accommodation for homeless households (also tenants displaced by emergencies/disrepair, and placements for other services including Adult Social Care).
- Quality Assurance and Resident Liaison for tenants.
- Management / rent collection / community liaison for official travellers' sites.

- 2.4 The service also includes a Business Improvement team contributing to special projects such as 'Housing First' – a scheme providing intensive support to a cohort of tenants with severe mental and/or physical health issues, and the new proposed Keyworker scheme to assist crucial professionals in Education, Social Services and the NHS to live and work in the borough
- 2.5 The current staffing structure is an interim configuration following a number of prior re-organisations at senior level in particular. The housing review will incorporate a thorough review of the current structure to achieve efficiencies wherever possible and to group staff in the most effective way to deliver the service's objectives, with the customer at the centre of the service model.

3. Housing New Build and Regeneration

- 3.1 In addition to the housing management service the Council's housing development and new-build functions are carried out as part of the Property and Development function in the Environment and Place Directorate. This enables a close link to be made between housing development and the Council's wider work on regeneration, place shaping and strategic planning.

4. Performance in 2016/17

- 4.1 The last financial year was one of significant change in the Housing Service. A senior management re-organisation was carried out to build on the incorporation of the Housing service into the Adults, Housing and Health Directorate, and the new permanent Head of Service took up his post in November 2016 after a period of interim leadership at that level. The number of changes in recent years has had predictable effects on the cohesion of the staff group and contributed to some cultural issues which are being addressed to create a more cohesive service.
- 4.2 Performance in some key areas remained strong as reflected in the end-of-year performance data. As shown in Appendix A targets have been or almost met for the key housing management measures of rent collection at 99%, maintained from 97% in 2015/16, and void turnaround times, which were slightly below target at an average of 34.7 days, an improvement on the 2015/16 figure of 36 days.

- 4.3 As at March 1st there were 105 void properties in the process of being re-let, a void rate of just over 1%, with 2 further properties classed as long-term voids due to the level of works needed to make them lettable, one of which is in use as a decant property. As a result of tight management in this area, overall estimated void loss for the year was £29,000, or approximately 0.008% of the gross rent debit figure, and this along with the high level of rent collection has helped to continue to balance the operational budget.
- 4.4 The Rents team also worked effectively with 650 tenants to help them sustain their tenancies through budgeting support, brokering repayment agreements to reduce arrears, etc. Where tenants do not bring their rent accounts in line despite our efforts, we reserve the right to evict – a total of 48 secure tenants were evicted during the year for rent arrears, with a further 12 evicted for other tenancy breaches (anti-social behavior, etc.) In 12 further cases introductory tenancies were converted into secure tenancies, and properties recovered, due to arrears and/or other tenancy breaches during the introductory period.
- 4.5 Contract management of the major repairs and refurbishment contracts was challenged and tightened throughout the year, and has had a strong focus in recent months. The projected overspend on the reactive repairs contract with Mears Ltd. has reduced considerably following a tight focus on those repairs classified as 'exclusions' (and therefore paid at an individuated rate rather than through the standard 'price per property' which is the basis of the contract. The final deficit for this budget line was £408k, reduced from a £900k forecast in the middle of the financial year (as shown below mitigation elsewhere in the HRA means that a surplus was achieved overall).
- 4.6 Of particular note is the increase in reported customer satisfaction with Mears Ltd., which showed a year-on-year improvement of 15%, from 78% in March 2016 to 93% in January 2017. Detailed analysis of the satisfaction data provided through an independent survey shows that in most specific areas there have been significant improvements in customers' feedback, especially in relation to communications and keeping appointments.
- 4.7 The Transforming Homes programme progressed well throughout 2016/17, with one of the two partner companies working in the final months on properties formerly scheduled for 2017/18. A total of 1,115 homes were completed in the year under the Programme, bringing the overall total to 6,500 which is 65% of the total stock. Customer satisfaction ratings for the programme are also high with an anticipated final figure for the year of 85% against a target of 80%. There are some variations in this data between the two contractors for the programme, and work is in hand to improve the performance of the lower-performing company.

- 4.8 While the mainstream spend on kitchens and bathrooms for the programme is being managed within the annual budget of £10m, there have been a high number of voids arising outside the programme time frames which require significant extra capital investment to bring them to a lettable standard. There have also been a number of exceptional properties which required structural interventions over and above the Transforming Homes specification. For these reasons a forecast overspend position was reported earlier in the year, but this was addressed through efficiencies elsewhere, closer budget monitoring and some accounting adjustments to bring the budget into balance at year end.
- 4.9 In other areas of the service the end-of-year performance figures give some cause for concern. The number of households in temporary accommodation rose significantly, from 87 in March 2016 to 133 at year end. Homelessness prevention is also running well below target, with a clear impact on the number of cases accepted as homeless and the temporary accommodation numbers. The number of garages not in use is also above target.
- 4.10 Intensive work is underway to achieve a stronger focus on homelessness prevention and to procure private sector tenancies wherever possible for those with an agreed housing need. The increase in these indicators in Thurrock is consistent with regional and national trends, but our aspiration is to contain the financial and opportunity costs of homelessness as far as possible in this context.
- 4.11 Appendix A shows the full scorecard of performance indicators across the service for 2016-17, divided into
- a) Council Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and
 - b) Local Performance Indicators (LPIs) monitored within the Adults, Housing and Health Directorate.
- 4.12 Of the 9 KPIs 7 were either achieved and show as green on the dashboard, or are 'tracker' indicators where no target is set (shown with no colour). Both overall tenant satisfaction and void turnaround times fell narrowly below target and are shown as red.
- 4.13 Of the 36 Local Performance Indicators, 11 (30%) were below target at the end of the year, in most cases by a small margin. The table below provides some contextual commentary for each of these. A number of indicators for repairs were well above target, such as the average time to complete a routine repair, where Mears achieved an outturn performance of 9 days against a target of 20. The company has agreed to the setting of new, more challenging targets for 2017/18 in order to continue to drive performance in an upwards direction.

'Red' performance indicators as at March 2017

Local Performance Indicator	Target	March 2017 figure	Commentary
Satisfaction with Anti-Social Behaviour casework	67%	64%	Case closure process and feedback to tenants to be reviewed
Properties recovered through investigations	60	10	Referral process under review – new protocol drafted for agreement with Fraud team
Complaints received	650	894	'Concerns' category no longer in use – estimated level without this change would be 600 for whole year
Customer slips received/closed (Homeless)	95%	93%	Methodology under review
Households in temporary accommodation	70	133	Increased demand due to private evictions (quarterly 'loss of assured shorthold tenancy' figure increased from 22 to 49 (123%) between Sept. 2015 and Sept. 2016)
Private rented properties sourced	70	45	Challenging local market, limited access – incentives to landlords to be reviewed
Downsize moves achieved	70	56	Reduced movement in stock – impact of removal of spare room subsidy minimal – incentives to tenants to be reviewed
Garages made void/available to let	750	498	Full review in progress, matching exercise underway to tackle backlog

Average turnaround for adaptations	75%	73%	Performance now on track with 93% achieved in quarter 4
Tenancy audits completed	33% of properties	25%	Revised targets agreed, to be included in PDRs for all housing officers
Customer slips addressed within target (QA team)	95%	92%	Performance now on track with 98% achieved in quarter 4

- 4.14 The suite of local indicators has been reviewed to ensure that in 2017/18 a robust set of trackers and 'stretch' targets is in place, and a new dashboard has been introduced to ensure that the most appropriate measure are the subject of high-level monitoring, and also that all teams in the service are represented by at least one indicator. The new dashboard with figures for April 2017 is also shown below (financial data and some other information was unavailable as this report was written)
- 4.15 During 2016/17 the service has also moved further towards full use of the Northgate housing database – the modules included in Phase One are fully operational (Rents, Repairs, Customer Services/Anti-Social Behaviour, Homelessness) and the Asset Management module (known sometimes as 'Codeman') is currently being installed. There has been some slippage in the delivery of the fully integrated system, and negotiations will take place with Northgate to ensure that project costs are contained. It is planned that the Phase Two modules, including Allocations and Temporary Accommodation, will be going live in the first half of 2017/18.
- 4.16 The system incorporates Business Objects, a management information tool which will be used to improve the quality and timeliness of performance data across the service, and drive improvements both in the quality of the data and in the responsiveness of the service to our customers.

5. Housing development – new-build and regeneration

New build programme

- 5.1 The Housing Revenue Account new build programme will deliver in total 118 new Council homes for rent. The properties will be a mix of houses, low rise flats and bungalows. The total budget for the programme including design and survey fees, project management costs and

construction costs is £30.7m. Rents are being set at 70% of local market rents under the Affordable Rent regime.

5.2 In order to reduce annual costs on the HRA for the new schemes it is proposed to utilise Right to Buy Receipts which would otherwise potentially need to be paid to the government along with interest at 4% above the base rate. Sufficient unallocated receipts of £9.8 million have been identified to make this adjustment and ensure the financial and reputational risks of returning unspent RTB proceeds are avoided. As a result of this the Council has also been able to return to the Homes and Communities Agency a grant of £0.5m for new development which would have made only a small contribution to the schemes.

5.3 Individual schemes are listed below. In every case the units will be let through the HRA. Each scheme has also been subject to a full review by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, and re-designed as appropriate to fulfill the Commission's recommendations.

5.4 Echoes, Seabrooke Rise, Grays

This development of 53 flats adjacent to the Seabrooke Rise estate was completed and let in 2016-17 following a delay of 3 months – the total cost of the development was £13.6m, a gross average unit cost of £250k for each property.

5.5 Tops Club, Argent Street, Grays

The Tops Club scheme will provide 29 units of 1, 2, 3 bed flats and maisonettes together with an enhanced playground for residents. The scheme gained planning permission in January 2017 and preparations are well underway to commence procurement of a building contractor.

5.6 Claudian Way, Chadwell

This is a 53-unit scheme consisting of a mix of bungalows, houses and low rise flats. The scheme has been the subject of extensive local consultation. A planning application has now been submitted and is awaiting a committee date. Procurement of a building contractor will commence immediately post planning approval is obtained.

5.7 Calcutta Road, Tilbury (HRA)

Final design requirements are being addressed following a recent CABE review for this development of 35 flats for people approaching retirement and beyond. The scheme accords with the 'HAPPI' principles ('Housing our Ageing Population – Panel for Innovation') which will ensure good design appropriate to the age group. A planning application will be submitted soon and the programme anticipates start on site in October 2017, subject to planning approval, with first

completions expected in March 2019.

5.8 Local Housing Company - overview

The principle focus of the local housing company Gloriana Thurrock Ltd (GTL) is to support the achievement of the Council's wider regeneration goals through the delivery of specific housing schemes which support the economic development of the Borough. The company is continuing to look at development opportunities and options with a view to bringing forward a pipeline of developments for consideration. The Board meets bi-monthly, with general meetings for shareholders also being held twice a year. The next shareholder's meeting will be in June 2017.

5.9 St Chads, Tilbury

This development will deliver 128 new homes a mix of 2, 3, and 4 bed houses. Construction has continued through 2016/17. The first 37 units were handed over on 31st March 2017. The remainder of the site will be completed through a phased approach until August 2017. The scheme will include at least 20% affordable housing (26 units). The St Chads' development supports the regeneration of Tilbury and has recently been recognised in the industry by winning a design award and a 'considerate contractor' award.

The Council will continue to appraise sites that it wishes to bring forward for development and consider the local housing company as one its potential delivery channels for each scheme.

5.10 Gloriana - Council Motion

GTL welcomed the recent Council motion and the continued scrutiny of its activities, business planning and funding requirements by Council, including producing an annual report and quarterly reports to its shareholders forming part of the General Services Committee. GTL has worked closely with the Council to formalise how this will be implemented at the next Gloriana Board meeting and ahead of a report to the next general meeting of GTL Shareholders. GTL also welcomes the reassurance provided in the motion with regard to Members of the Council which also form part of the Planning Committee.

6. External strategic issues

- 6.1 The service will be impacted by a number of ongoing trends in future years not least the changes to Thurrock's demographic profile and changes in the housing market which reflect the borough's growing attractiveness to current residents of London in particular. The recent South Essex Housing Market Trends survey showed house prices and private rents in Thurrock both rising above the average for the sub-region, and Thurrock with the second-highest gap (after Rochford) between average market rent levels and Local Housing Allowance

rates. This creates a challenging context in which to prevent homelessness and source affordable properties for residents in housing need.

- 6.2 In terms of national housing policy two major developments should also be noted. The recent Housing White Paper set out the government's analysis of the current 'broken' housing market, and includes extensive consultation on changes to the planning framework to unlock the potential for more homes, including 'family friendly tenancies' at lower rents and with longer minimum terms than the standard private lets into which increasing numbers of families are moving. The paper also re-states the principle that Green Belt development should be considered only as a 'last resort', and expresses support for a range of emerging initiatives from local housing companies (such as Gloriana Ltd. in Thurrock) and modular housing schemes.
- 6.3 The White Paper also confirmed the government's enthusiasm for the Homelessness Reduction Act, a private member's bill introduced by Mr. Bob Blackman, MP for Harrow, which has now received Royal Assent. Although extra funding for councils has also been announced for the first 2 years from enactment, likely to be in April 2018, this legislation will present real challenges in providing a better service to single homeless people in particular, and strengthening the statutory position of all households threatened with homelessness, in effect turning homelessness prevention from a good practice principle into a legal requirement.

7. Housing review – progress to date

- 7.1 The housing review began during 2016, following a commitment by the administration to address some issues which were clearly a major concern of residents.
- 7.2 In the early months of the year special attention was paid to repairs performance, homelessness and housing options, and the operation of introductory tenancies. Concerns about the responsiveness of both the Council and its contractors to reactive repairs have clearly abated in recent months, although are still issues to be addressed around both the quality of repairs and - to a reducing degree as outlined – the customer experience of tenants reporting repairs.
- 7.3 A new interim management structure was introduced in Housing Solutions to address both concerns around under-performance and the perception of an overly strict 'gatekeeping' approach to homelessness. Progress has been made under both headings, but more progress is needed to instil a true prevention ethos and to improve the timeliness and quality of decisions. This will be an area of early focus in the housing review and proposals will be formulated by the end of July 2017 to implement the required actions.

- 7.4 In relation to introductory tenancies, changes were made in order to vest key decisions in the Rents team, This has led to a more consistent and sensitive practice in this area, and as with the other two 'burning issues' above there has been a clear improvement in the perception of the service on this issue.
- 7.5 Another area of urgent focus has been complaints about damp and mould, which are the biggest single cause of concern among tenants and their representatives. A new approach to tackling these concerns has already begun through the appointment of a specialist Damp and Mould Surveyor, working alongside a dedicated Resident Liaison Officer, to arrive at the right balance, property by property, between treatments, structural works, and recommendations to tenants on how certain housekeeping choices can mitigate the problem.
- 7.6 This balance will vary from case to case, but this focused project will provide us with some clear principles which can be used in conjunction with the survey data (and other data now being collated) to inform a consistent and effective approach to this remaining 'burning issue'. The project's findings will be mainstreamed into both the surveyors' team and the RLO function. Management recognises the urgency of this issue as there are damaging perceptions about the Council's approach to this issue which must be confronted and changed as soon as possible.

8. Stock Condition Survey

- 8.1 In the context of reviewing both the financial position of the HRA and the intelligence available to inform future repairs and maintenance programmes, a decision was also taken to undertake a Stock Condition Survey. This exercise is now underway with surveys in progress across the stock.
- 8.2 The survey will run until the summer and involves 30% overall of the stock, broken down into categories (house, flat, garage, etc.) and by property type. The surveys involve a comprehensive inspection of every rooms inside each selected property, including all bedrooms and loft areas. Information will be collected on heating and electrical systems, elements related to damp and mould, adaptations, and other property attributes forming part of an overall assessment of the stock.
- 8.3 Externally, the surveys will cover such items as roofs (including communal roofs), brickwork, guttering and windows. The comprehensive paper survey will be complemented by measurements and photograph, all of which can now be uploaded onto the Asset Management module in the Northgate system (including through interfaces with the document management system Objective) to form a permanent record of the condition of the properties at the time of the survey.
- 8.4 Once completed this will provide a critical mass of accurate current data

(and valid extrapolations therefrom) which will be of great value in informing decisions about the priorities for future repairs and maintenance programmes.

9. Housing review – early priorities

- 9.1 Further analysis of the service's current culture and performance has identified a number of other areas where a 'quick win' approach could be applied. The quality of response to members' enquiries and complaints has been an area of strong focus, and performance has improved in both respects, with positive feedback recently given by one tenant in particular who had raised major concerns on behalf of other residents. Budget monitoring has also improved, as shown in positive changes to financial forecasts, and the management team has started to collaborate more effectively and to drive an ethos of continuous improvement down to their individual teams.
- 9.2 Building on a comprehensive review of the housing service in the context of the Council's housing ambitions is appropriate, especially in light of the continuing challenge to financial resources through the rent reduction in particular, and the movements in national policy outlined in section above.
- 9.3 The overarching purpose of the review is to establish a fresh housing 'vision' for Thurrock, expressed through both a refreshed 'mission statement' and a series of discrete service offers for the range of customers relying on the service, and to move to a re-configured service that is designed to meet these objectives while realising maximum value from both the HRA and GF allocations to the service.
- 9.4 In the context of the above local and national changes, it is clear that Thurrock's housing services need to change to keep pace with developments and to make best use of all our housing resources.
- 9.5 Supply-and-demand modelling is essential to arrive at a robust and flexible data-set showing the likely needs of Thurrock's residents for the next five years against the expected pipeline of properties of all types. A small working group will be convened for this purpose at a very early stage of the formal review.
- 9.6 The contribution of Gloriana Ltd. to meeting housing need in the borough can be assessed in the round as part of this exercise. The White Paper's endorsement of local delivery models of this kind is clearly welcome in the Thurrock context, although the comments in the paper around the Right to Buy being included in such models will also need careful evaluation.
- 9.7 The relatively low level of Housing Association activity in Thurrock Council is of concern when considering the limited number of newly built Council homes which can realistically be delivered in the short to

medium term. Work is underway to strengthen the Council's dialogue with the Registered Provider community and to involve them in the solutions to Thurrock's housing challenges, whether as developers per se, through leasing/management arrangements for Gloriana , or even as temporary accommodation providers (as recommended in Professor Julie Rugg's report on the cost of temporary accommodation commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2015)

- 9.8 The Council's regeneration ambitions are also clearly relevant to the vision for housing which will emerge from the review, and meetings are scheduled to revisit the assumptions and choices already made and to confirm the direction of travel for the coming years. The Housing and Investment group is well—placed to pull together the various strands needed to work in concert to deliver viable regeneration schemes on key estates in the borough.
- 9.9 The council needs to urgently consider the viability for the borough of some alternative housing products which have emerged in recent years. Modular housing in particular has a role to play in delivering more housing within shorter timescales and with a degree of flexibility not available through traditional on-site construction. Once again a clear endorsement in the White Paper provides a useful confirmation that such initiatives are seen nationally as part of the solution to some of the seemingly intractable issues around increasing the supply of housing. There is also scope to assess the potential of alternative models including Community Land Trust and Self-Build schemes in order to promote a more mixed economy of housing in the borough. Each of these options is strongly promoted in the White Paper as means of diversifying and increasing the supply of housing and in particular affordable housing.
- 9.10 Given the increased demand likely to be generated by the Homelessness Reduction Act when enacted in April 2018 or soon afterwards, it is also prudent as part of this strategic exercise to map actual and potential trends for homelessness and temporary accommodation, and carry out a 'first principles' review of the current approach to temporary accommodation. This is based mainly on using relatively high numbers of units in the Council's own stock as well as one large dedicated hostel, with the combined number of units available now proving insufficient to meet the newly increased demand for temporary accommodation.
- 9.11 A further objective of the review is to establish a constructive relationship with the private rented sector. It could be argued that the service currently is too focused on enforcement at the expense of working with as many landlords and agents as possible as partners in meeting housing need. A number of companies not currently working on a large scale in the region have expressed in interest in meeting Thurrock managers to explore options for the future, and the

ideas in the White Paper around 'family-friendly tenancies' may play directly into this dialogue.

- 9.12 The Housing service has played a key role thus far in developing the 'hub' model as a way of delivering services differently and, more ambitiously, moving towards a model of collaboration between the council and the community which reduces the delivery of statutory services as a perceived solution to a particular issue. Between July and October 2016 volunteers in 4 of the 6 current hubs dealt with a total of 847 housing/homelessness enquiries.
- 9.13 To the extent that this already diverts demand away from the 'front line' of the Civic Offices it is welcome, but the potential for tenants and other residents to be further empowered in relation to housing is something the review will explore as a central theme alongside the seven design principles already in scope. A Local Area Coordinator with a previous background in housing has been partly co-opted onto the review team to provide this perspective when current processes and policies are being reviewed.
- 9.14 As an early outcome of the review the service has adopted a new 'mission statement' for housing to capture our ambitions for the next five years. Based on the challenges and opportunities summarised above this overarching vision is as follows;

Meeting Thurrock's housing challenges.

We will increase the range of housing options and products available to our residents. We will work with our communities to help them find their own housing solutions wherever possible. We will deliver excellent responsive services to all our tenants and leaseholders and to all residents with a housing need'

10. Housing review – timeline

- 10.1 The review is being carried out as part of the corporate service review programme, and is the most ambitious of the current set of reviews in terms of scope.
- 10.2 Appendix C - 'Meeting Thurrock's Housing Challenges' – summarises the objectives of the review and indicates in broad terms the approach being taken. A review team has been established which includes a balance of managers and specialist staff from within the service itself and staff from the corporate reviews team, including a 'critical friend' from the Strategy, Communications and Customer Services team. The review process will create the organisational focus needed to address the various and complex issues summarised above.
- 10.3 All staff in Housing are contributing directly to the review. A series of all-staff meetings were held in April setting out the timeline and principles of

the review, with discussions beginning at that point about what staff see as the main challenges and opportunities presented by the process. Staff in these sessions were also asked to articulate what they believe are the 'burning issues' of their customers so that wherever possible these could be addressed as quick wins.

10.4 A staff awayday is taking place on June 21st which will focus on the contribution individuals and teams can make to achieve our objectives. We are refreshing the Housing Workforce Group so that it can contribute meaningfully to the review and the development of the service.

10.5 The breadth of the review and the complexity of some of the areas it will cover mean that the full timeline – including implementing all recommendations - runs until the end of 2017-18.

10.6 Within that overall period certain elements can be completed as early priorities, including;

- The supply and demand modelling which will inform many of the other strands of the review
- Refreshing the approach to homelessness prevention and statutory homelessness
- Reviewing the repairs policy to create a more consistent and comprehensive document which strikes the right balance between tenants' rights and expectations and the Council's interests as a landlord
- Reviewing the allocations policy to arrive at the right policy for the future, placing a greater emphasis on homelessness prevention, community contribution and an efficient approach to lettings (e.g. potentially moving to a 'rolling' bidding system rather than a limited bidding cycle, and using the findings of the Stock Condition Survey to set the right priorities for planned maintenance and refurbishment programmes.

10.7 The 'deep dive' phase of the review is now well underway, and members of the review team are investigating a number of areas of the service to map current processes and challenge established practice. This phase will conclude in September and will be followed by some weeks of 'solutions modelling', looking at potential changes to the shape and activities of the service, before the final phase begins in January, moving towards formal change proposals and an action plan to deliver our future objectives. Throughout this period quick wins will be identified and implemented wherever possible, rather than deferred until the formal conclusion of the review.

11. Financial summary – General Fund

11.1 The Housing service currently has a General Fund allocation totaling £661k and divided into 3 components; Homelessness, Private Sector Housing and Travellers. The individual allocations and outturn positions for 2016/17 are shown below. As a result of rent receipts from travellers' sites slightly exceeding net expenditure on homelessness and private sector housing, a balanced outturn was achieved for the overall GF budget;

	Full Year Budget	Forecast Outturn (based on Month 11)	Variance from Budget	
			£000	%
	£000	£000	£000	%
Homelessness	484	608	124	26%
Private Sector Housing	297	128	(169)	(57%)
Travellers	(120)	(79)	40	(33%)
Total	661	661	(4)	(1%)

11.2 It should be noted that homelessness and temporary accommodation is potentially an area of financial volatility, as supplier rates for privately owned temporary accommodation can be difficult to control, This is increasingly true in Thurrock, where London boroughs have increased their 'out-of-borough' placements. We are now accessing data through London Councils which show these placements to be higher in number than 33 which were formally notified to us during the year. Work is underway to improve the compliance of London authorities with the statutory requirement to provide information to Thurrock as a 'receiving' borough.

Where placements are identified which have not been the subject of a formal notification as required, the portfolio holder will be writing to his counterparts as Leader and Housing portfolio holder in the boroughs concerned to remind them of their statutory obligations. As noted above changes to homelessness legislation are approaching and this is likely to increase the pressure on the Homelessness budget, at least in the short term.

12. Financial Summary – Housing Revenue Account

12.1 The HRA revenue budgets controlled by the service are summarised below. A potential overspend position forecast in the earlier months of 2016/17 was averted, as tighter monitoring and control of spend was introduced. In particular, the upward trend in expenditure on responsive repairs under the Mears contract was reversed.

As shown above this was achieved without any reduction in customer satisfaction, which increased during the same period.

- 12.2 As a result of this and other measures to contain expenditure in a number of areas, those individual overspends which did occur were more than offset by efficiencies elsewhere. With rents exceeding all operational and repairs costs, an overall surplus position of £309k was achieved at year-end as shown below, enabling HRA general reserves to be increased commensurately.

	Full Year Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance from Budget	
	£000	£000	£000	%
Repairs and Maintenance	12,602	13,010	408	3%
Housing Operations	11,263	10,491	(772)	(7%)
Financing and Recharges	24,018	24,719	701	3%
Rent and Income	(48,426)	(48,554)	(128)	(0.3%)
Development	543	25	(518)	(95%)
Total	0	(309)	(309)	

- 12.3 In relation to Transforming Homes, pressures on the relevant capital budgets arose due to the average cost of bringing void properties up to standard, as well as some 'outlier' properties which required exceptional levels of capital spend under the programme. Effective budget management in the later quarters mitigated the position so that as at year-end there was a positive variance of 168k (1.68%) against the budget of £10m.
- 12.4 The HRA budget for new-build development is held in the Environment and Place Directorate – there was an overall underspend for the year of £3.7 million due to delays in commencement, which has been carried over into this year so that schemes are funded as they are delivered.
- 12.5 The figures below summarise significant movements in the HRA for 2017/18.

HRA 2017/18 - budget movement summary

Loss of income - 1% rent reduction	710
Budget Savings/Increased Income	
Service Charges	(67)
Garage Rents	(34)
Heating	(1)
Leaseholder Service Charges	(221)
Total Budget Savings/Increased Income	(323)

Budget Pressures/Inflation	
Salaries and Pay Award	80
Contractual Uplift on Repairs	170
Increased Recharges to the GF	180
Total Budget Pressures/Inflation	430
Net Rental Loss	817
Interest Charge	100
Revenue Movement	917
Movement In Capital Resources	(2,067)
Contribution to Reserves	1,150
Net HRA Position 2017/18	0

13. Summary

- 13.1 The Housing service has a key role to play in delivering for Thurrock residents the borough they wish to see. In 2016/17 performance overall remained strong in a context of increasing demand and organizational change. Effective financial management is in place and the service is working more cohesively across its wide operational remit to deliver improved services.
- 13.2 Building on improvements already made, and linking them to a wider strategic analysis of the future of housing in the borough, the housing review will deliver further service improvements throughout 2017/18. The Stock Condition Survey and the supply and demand modelling both now in progress will provide a robust data-set to inform decisions about future service delivery.
- 13.3 In the second half of the year the review will also establish the broad strategic mission for housing in the medium term which enables services and residents, working together, to respond to Thurrock's housing challenges.

APPENDIX A – 2017/18 Performance Indicators

PI	Performance Indicators	Freq	Target	2016-17
CPI Corporate Performance Indicators				
HCP0010	HRA Budget Variance	Monthly	0.0%	
HCP0020	GF Budget Variance	Monthly	0.0%	
HCP0030	% of invoices, handled by Housing, paid within 30 days	Monthly	TBC	
HCP0040	% of service income generation target met	Monthly		
HCP0050	Number of Complaints Received	Monthly	TBC	894
HCP0060	% of Complaints Upheld	Monthly	TBC	41%
HCP0070	Average Days Sickness Absence Per FTE Per Annum	Monthly	9	10.02
HCP0080	% staff turnover within year - rolling year average	Monthly		
HCP0090	% sickness within service which is long term	Monthly		
HCP0100	% absence within service which is stress related	Monthly		
KPI Key Performance Indicators				
HKP0010	% General Satisfaction of Tenants With Neighbourhoods / Services Provided by Housing	Monthly	75.00%	70.97%
HKP0020	Number of Homes Transformed as Part of The Transforming Homes Programme	Monthly	1,000	1,115
HKP0030	% of Repairs Completed Within target	Monthly	97.00%	98.30%
HKP0040	% Rent Collected	Monthly	98.0%	99.0%
HKP0050	Average Time to Turnaround / Re-let Voids (in days)	Monthly	30.0	34.7
HKP0060	Number of Private Tenants Whose Homes Have Been Improved as a Direct Result of Enforcement Action	Monthly	530	636
LPI Local Performance Indicators				
HLP0010	Number of Households Assisted to Downsize	Monthly	50	56
HLP0020	CORE Data Submitted	Monthly	100%	
HLP0030	Average Days Taken to Provide Shortlist	Monthly	3	
HLP0040	Satisfaction of New Tenants With The Sign-up Process	Monthly	75.0%	76.0%
HLP0050	Average Days Taken to Complete Letting After Keys Returned by Contractors	Monthly	4.00	
HLP0060	Level of Void Loss (£) - Dwellings	Monthly	£700,000	£445,777
HLP0070	Level of Void Loss (£) - Garages	Monthly	£250,000	£249,678
HLP0080	Average Number of Days Taken to Complete a Technical Survey	Monthly	5.0	5.5
HLP0090	% Cost Savings Realised as a Result of Inspections	Monthly	20%	
HLP0100	% of Tenants on Estates Represented by TRAs	Monthly	50%	
HLP0110	Tenant Satisfaction With Responsive Repairs	Monthly	90%	91%
HLP0120	% of Gas Service Checks Carried out Within Statutory Timescale	Monthly	100%	100%
HLP0130	Percentage of calls substantively responded to within 2 working days	Monthly	95%	
HLP0140	Number of projects due, delivered on time and on budget in the period	Monthly	90%	
HLP0150	Properties Recovered as a Result of Joint Action With Corporate Fraud	Monthly	30	17
HLP0160	Number of CCTV Incidents Resulting in Enforcement Action	Monthly	300	
HLP0170	Tenant Satisfaction With ASB Service	Monthly	65%	64%
HLP0180	Submission of all Statutory Returns by Deadline Date	Monthly	100%	
HLP0190	% of Caretaking Visits Completed on Schedule	Monthly	95%	
HLP0200	Tenant Satisfaction with Grounds Maintenance	Monthly	90%	

HLP0210	Number of Households in Temporary Accommodation	Monthly	125	133
HLP0220	Properties Sourced in The Private Sector as Preventions / PRSO Discharge	Monthly	120	45
HLP0230	Number of Families in B&B For More Than Six Weeks at Last Day of Month	Monthly	0	
HLP0240	Number of Homelessness Preventions	Monthly	350	396
HLP0250	% Rent Collected - Travellers	Monthly	98%	
HLP0260	Tenant Satisfaction With Transforming Homes	Monthly	80%	84%
HLP0270	% of Transforming Homes Contractors' Workforce Who Are Thurrock Residents	Monthly	40%	
HLP0280	% of Transforming Homes Contractors' Suppliers Based in Thurrock	Monthly	40%	
HLP0290	% of RTB Applications Processed in Target Timeframe	Monthly	100%	
HLP0300	Leaseholder Satisfaction	Monthly	55%	
TRK	Tracker Items			
HTR0010	Number of applicants on Housing Register; Bandings 1-3, 4,5	Monthly	Tracker	7,954
HTR0020	Number of mutual exchanges completed in the period	Monthly	Tracker	
HTR0030	Number of new social lettings	Monthly	Tracker	
HTR0040	Number of Households at Risk of Homelessness Approaching the Council For Assistance	Monthly	Tracker	2,285
HTR0050	Number of Homeless Cases Accepted	Monthly	Tracker	287
HTR0060	Outcome of Damp and Mould Inspections A - Housekeeping Advice Given B - Treatment C - Works	Monthly	Tracker	
HTR0070	Reported Households placed in Thurrock Borough Council by other Local Authorities	Monthly	Tracker	183
HTR0080	Number of ASB cases resolved without formal action	Monthly	Tracker	
HTR0090	Number of cases where formal ASB action has been taken	Monthly	Tracker	
HTR0100	Number of DA cases where formal enforcement action has been required	Monthly	Tracker	
HTR0110	Number of tenants evicted	Monthly	Tracker	60
HTR0120	Tenants provided with support and assistance to retain homes	Monthly	Tracker	652

□

Appendix B – 2016/17 Outturn Indicators

Performance Indicators	Freq	Target	2015-16	YTD
Key Performance Indicators				
General satisfaction among tenants	M	72.00%	70.00%	71.84%
% Rent collection (BVPI 66a)	M	99.00%	99.64%	99.00%
Households at risk of homelessness approaching the Council for assistance	M	Monitor	2,944	2285
Number of homeless preventions	M	Monitor	741	396
Number of homeless cases accepted	M	Monitor	222	287
% of repairs completed within target	M	85.00%	95.00%	98.30%
Number of homes transformed	M	65%	5,838	65%
Average days to turn around voids (BVPI212)	M	33	36	34.7
Number of private residents whose homes have been improved as a result of direct enforcement action (Hazards Removed)	M	450	442	636
Local Performance Indicators				
Satisfaction of new residents with the take-on process	M	75%	71%	75%
Satisfaction with Transforming Homes	M	80%	84%	84%
Satisfaction with Repairs	M	80%	86%	91%
Satisfaction with ASB	M	67%	62%	64%
Reported Households placed in TBC by other LAs	M	Monitor	67	183
Number of households in TA	M	70	87	133
Properties sourced in the private sector	M	70	53	45
No of homelessness applications	M	Monitor	389	537
No applicants on Housing Register	M	Monitor	–	7,954
Number of households successfully assisted to downsize	M	70	75	56
Level of void loss - Dwellings	M	As per Finance	Not set	£37,148
Level of void loss- Garages	M	£200,000		£249,678
Garages available for letting (and voids)	M	Monitor	471	607
Average turn around for Council Homes adaptation (requests to completion)	Q	75.00%	80.00%	73.00%
Gas servicing	M	100%	100%	100%
Average no of days taken to complete an emergency repair	M	1.00		0.13
Average no of days taken to complete a non-urgent repair	M	20.00		9.01
Average no of days taken to complete a technical survey	M	5.00	6.8 in March 16	5.08
No of repairs undertaken	M	Monitor	3190 in March 16	34,056
Healthier & Safer homes (Well homes)* satisfaction	Q	85%		100%

Tenancy audits completed	M	33%	14%	25%
Number of residents engagement events	M	60	New	Unknown
Number of tenants at risk of eviction (including evictions)	M	50	271 (59)	60
Number of New ASB Cases (level 2 & 3)	M	Monitor		347
ASB Case open (& closed)	M	110	143	N/A
Access to services [% Customer Slips received and closed]	M	95.00%		92.89%
Level of sickness	M	8	8.71	TBC
No. of complaints upheld	M	Monitor	590	359
% Complaints upheld	M		59%	41%
Complaints received (All)	M	650	816	894
Properties recovered (fraud)	M	60	45	17
Tenants provided with support and assistance (Welfare)	M	Monitor	699	652
Number of Incidents recorded on CCTV, reported to Police	M	Monitor		527
MP & Members enquires	M	Monitor	1,956	1,806
Number of RTB Applications	M	Monitor	224	236
% of Customer Slips addressed within target (QA team)	M	95%		92.15%

Appendix C - Housing Review - *'Meeting Thurrock's Housing Challenge'*

Thurrock is growing and becoming a location of choice for more people. There are high levels of employment, and house prices and rents are growing as the buoyant housing market reflects the borough's upward direction of travel.

The housing review will position the borough to respond to these welcome developments while ensuring that current tenants and other residents in housing need receive improved housing services tailored to their circumstances, and benefit from the opportunities coming to the borough.

With a general needs housing stock of 10,000 including a substantial portfolio of sheltered housing, and a range of growth and development opportunities, Thurrock is well-placed to maintain and develop good housing services and to explore new models of delivery to respond to the dynamic changes in the borough.

The review will establish a new vision for housing in Thurrock based on the following;

- The right priorities for Housing Revenue Account expenditure for the long term
- The right set of ambitions for regeneration and development
- The right partnerships to increase the supply of affordable housing
- The right balance between general needs housing and supported and specialist schemes
- A constructive relationship with the growing private rented sector
- Tenancy services that enhance the quality of life for tenants and leaseholders
- The right allocations policy to make best use of our housing stock
- Services that respond to housing challenges before crisis point and prevent homelessness wherever possible
- An approach that devolves responsibility to communities wherever possible, and helps them to resolve their own housing issues

To put the customer – and his/her individual housing circumstances – at the centre of the review, and the service in the future, we will develop a set of clear offers to each group of customers – i.e. current tenants and leaseholders, private tenants, other residents in housing need, etc. – as well as a refreshed external offer to developers and other partners (taking into the Housing White Paper and the available regeneration options)

With the strategic priorities and the service offers in place, we will review all our key policies and processes to ensure we emerge with the right services to deliver them.

The review will also incorporate Thurrock's seven design principles (Customer and Demand Management, Processes, Property and Assets, Digital/ICT, Commercial and Procurement) and the review team will include both Housing staff and members of the corporate Service Review team to make sure the service moves forward in full alignment with Thurrock's future operating model.

All managers and staff in Housing have opportunities to input directly into the review, along with key partners from across the Council and a full range of external stakeholders.

The review will be conducted across the next twelve months, working to milestones based on the above (Vision and objectives / Customer and stakeholder offers / Review of key policies and processes / Change proposals and implementation) and reporting in March 2018, by which point some `quick wins' will have been implemented and actions under various headings will already be underway. .

For further information contact John Knight, Head of Housing, or Dawn Shepherd, Housing Strategy Manager.

28 June 2017	ITEM: 12
Council	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health	
Report of: Councillor James Halden, Cabinet Member for Education and Health	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

I am honoured to present my annual report regarding the Education Department and the Health Department. It has been a year of immense challenge and progress.

When I presented my annual report to the chamber in July 2016, I did so having inherited a number of challenges, such as having almost twice the amount of primary school places compared to secondary school places for children to progress into, one of the most under doctored populations in the nation with some exceptionally poor examples of care, and services that had been simply maintained opposed to having been reformed.

Today I can report that we will have suitable levels of placements for the new academic year, that we have passed a plan for GP standards and action is taking place to address patient outcomes, and that we have reformed services such as children centres to save significant sums of money while serving more children.

This time last year, I outlined the three key elements which would be actioned by myself and my team of officers, and I can provide updates and reaffirm these elements today;

- 1) We would show leadership to directly address issues. For example, we set up a lobby team to work with our family of schools to bring investment to Thurrock. The greatest achievement of this was winning the funding for the construction for 3 new schools (one special needs, and two secondaries).
- 2) We would raise expectations and ambitions in Thurrock. Too many people have simply put up with poor primary care, but now we have passed a GP standards plan to bring partners together with powerful data to help drive forward improvements. This is one of the most comprehensive approaches being actioned in local government.
- 3) We will break inter-generational issues. It is clear poor educational outcomes begin poor health outcomes, that is why we have merged health and early education services to create a 0-19 children centre model to ensure children get the right care regardless of how and where they enter the system, opposed to

the old and limited 0-5 model where there was limited health functions and referrals would need to be made to separate teams.

The next step is to take a renewed focus on delivery. When I took office, I was dismayed to find that the Purfleet free school delivery was at risk due to the slow regeneration project there, and that the mooted four integrated health hubs still were a great distance away from the planning phase. Robust action has been required and the free school has been saved and a business plan for new medical facilities will be presented to Cabinet in July.

Delivery is now the fourth key focus of my team with my school lobby unit now overseeing capital plans and a new primary care delivery arm in place across our health partnership.

It should also be pointed out that the two departments are contributing to the wider council priorities such as “clean it, cut it, fill it” by not only coming in on budget, but by making significant savings under the fold mantra of “fewer buildings but better services”.

This has been an intense year and I publically thank my Senior Officials for their loyalty, skill, dedication, patience, and, at times, good humour.

Health Brief

Standards plan : Our biggest ever initiative to improve standards in Primary Care

In my last Annual Report to full council, I gave a firm commitment to drive up standards in Primary Care. I inherited a situation where our GP surgeries were both under-doctored and where variation in clinical quality was unacceptable with the majority of GP practices who had been inspected by the Care Quality Commission being rated as either “inadequate” or “required improvement”.

I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made over the last 12 months in addressing this key health issue, working hand in hand with a great team within the CCG.

Firstly I have established a Primary Care Improvement and Delivery Group to act as a delivery arm to drive up local standards and to deliver our first ever GP Standards Plan I passed through cabinet in October. Chaired by myself and comprised of Chief Officers of Thurrock Council, NHS Thurrock CCG and Thurrock Healthwatch, the group has two key overarching aims:

1. To act as a joint strategic working group between Council and CCG Chief/Senior Officers and The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Health, with regard

to improving clinical capacity and standards within Primary Care in Thurrock and address clinical variation

2. To improve integration between Primary and Community Care and other elements of the Health and Social Care System

This group is overseeing an innovative set of initiatives that have and will continue to deliver improvement in local health services. I have set out some examples below:

Two new Healthcare Public Health Programme Managers have been jointly appointed by the Council's Public Health Team and NHS Thurrock CCG, to work directly with GP practices within a new Primary Care Development Team based within the CCG. This new Primary Care Development team works closely with our GPs to embed best clinical practice within their surgeries. As a result of close joint working with NHS Thurrock CCG, of those recently inspected we now have 69% of GP practices rated by the Care Quality Commission as "Good".

As our population ages, a greater number of our residents are living with long term health conditions such as high blood pressure, COPD and heart disease. Improving the clinical care provided by our GPs to residents with long term conditions remains one of my top priorities. In order to improve the care our local GPs provide to residents with long term health conditions (LTCs) Public Health staff have created a tool to support the development of personalised action plans for Thurrock GP practices. The LTC profile card is a visual overview of each practice, focusing on the LTC diagnosis and management while also including some metrics relating to emergency hospital admission rates for each GP practice population. An additional feature of the tool is the comment box, in which an action plan will be developed jointly by the Practice Manager, Lead GP and Healthcare Public Health manager. Individual profiles have been developed for every GP practice in Thurrock, and Public Health staff are currently beginning a programme of GP practice visits to agree tailored improvement plans with each surgery, based on their profile card results.

For a better understanding of the current situation and possible need of support, practices are compared against a personalised benchmark group. The benchmark group consists of 20 practices from across England which matches the population size, deprivation index and age distribution of the practice. By comparing practices to practices similar to them, we can identify those indicators which stand out as being particularly high or low and also account for any underlying characteristics of the registered population. This provides us with the opportunity to direct our resources towards the area with the highest need and make the maximum impact.

All the important stakeholders have been engaged in the development of the Profile Card and we received remarkably positive feedback from them. Moreover, Thurrock CCG has been promoting the tool for its beneficial impact on demand

management, Public Health England have recognised it as an example of best practice and wish to a similar approach rolled out regionally, and GPs have expressed eagerness to see it and use it in their practice.

My previous Annual Report also highlighted the serious health issue of Learning Disability Health Checks. Historically, delivery of these essential annual checks to some of the most vulnerable residents in our borough has been low, with fewer than 25% of people with learning disabilities receiving a check. Over the past year, Thurrock has adopted a different model, with NHS Thurrock CCG taking over commissioning responsibility for the checks from NHS England, and our Primary Care Development Team performance managing GPs on this programme. I am pleased to report that in 2016/17, as a result of these new arrangements and the efforts of the CCG and other key stakeholders including Thurrock Healthwatch and Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions, over 70% of people with Learning Disabilities in our Borough received a health check. I believe this to be another excellent example of how strong leadership and focused effort at a local level can deliver results and reduce health inequalities.

Reforming and expanding our assisted technology offer

The use of Telecare and Assistive Technology, such as emergency panic alarms for frail residents falling, is a key Council priority in regards to preventive measures to help older residents stay healthier for longer in their own homes and is reflected within *For Thurrock in Thurrock* – our joint Health and Social Care commissioning strategy with NHS Thurrock CCG. Positive use of Telecare and Assistive Technology promotes independence and supports the Care Act 2014's direction of reducing and delaying the need for care and support.

A review has been carried out of the services delivered by Careline which has resulted in the decommissioning of the pull cord alarm system within our sheltered housing and general needs housing. These pull cord systems will be replaced by dispersed alarms where required which is an alarm system that is contained within a small box utilising a plug socket. The review has also highlighted the need to upgrade the current Careline monitoring system developing a new and enhanced Telecare and Assistive Technology service.

Finally to support positive use of the service Careline, Assistive Technology and Telecare services they will be free of charge to the service user. This is only possible due to sound management of the finances.

This massively supports our preventative agenda. Currently there are 3883 users of alarms and these shall become free across the board from July 1st.

Creation of new Integrated Medical Centres

I was dismayed to discover, upon taking office, that the mooted construction of new “healthy living hubs” had progressed little past rhetoric. No planning applications or business plans were ready. However with other proposed changes in the local health landscape, we saw an opportunity. Basildon Hospital have made it clear that they want to consult on the future of the Orsett Hospital on the grounds that a centralised and old building is not the best way to deliver care in the modern world. We made it clear that we were not content to simply be a passenger on this journey and that historically having not delivered on these hubs gave us an opportunity to bring primary, community and acute care together.

Under my instruction, Chief Council Officers have developed a Memorandum of Understanding between Basildon Hospital, North East London NHS Foundation Trust, Essex Partnership University NHS Trust, NHS Thurrock CCG and Thurrock Council, signed by Chief Officers in all organisations and myself, which sets out our collective intention, subject to the outcome of any formal consultation, to retain clinical services currently provided at Orsett Hospital within Thurrock, and move them closer to our residents by migrating them into four Integrated Medical Centres before any changes take place at Orsett hospital.

This includes an agreement by Thurrock CCG to retain a minor injuries unit within the Borough, and provides an exciting opportunity to deliver better, more integrated health and care, closer to where are residents live. Development of the four new Integrated Medical Centres is now progressing at pace, with a team of consultants appointed both by the Council and NHS CCG to undertake the detailed health and business planning work required to make this concept a reality. I am expecting a full business case to be brought to Cabinet for approval by the end of 2017.

Improving Standards Across our local NHS and Adult Social Care system.

Although vitally important, Primary Care is one of a number of key health services that constitute our local health and care system, and as such my focus over the last 12 months has been broader than simply GP practices.

In November 2016 the Director of Public Health produced a report that considered all elements of our local health and social care system, and made a series of detailed recommendations on how efficiency and sustainability of the entire system could be improved, both through the programme of Primary Care development set out above, but also through integrating services and bringing care closer to our residents. As a result of this work, our three NHS Foundation Trusts are collaborating with the council’s Social Care and Public Health teams, NHS Thurrock CCG and local GPs to pilot an “Accountable Care Partnership” in the locality of Tilbury and Chadwell St. Mary’s. This will include a substantially expanded mixed skill Primary Care workforce and a single partnership responsible for the health and care needs of the entire population of four wards in Thurrock. It has been recognised as a model of best practice regionally and

will finally end the fragmentation of the way health and care services have been historically provided, wrapping integrated care around our residents and ensuring that they can access the health and care service they need, when they need it.

Over the last 12 months, I have led a series of strategic initiatives to increase the resilience of our local health and care system, cooperating with other stakeholders across our Sustainability and Transformation Plan footprint of Mid and South Essex where sensible to do so, but also retaining the sovereignty of our local Health and Wellbeing Board as the overarching body for local decision making on health and wellbeing:

- Through robust negotiation with NHS England, I have resolved the historical issue of the status of the Accountable Officer of NHS Thurrock CCG, who has now been appointed into a substantive, permanent post.
- I have led the agreement of a 'key principles' agreement, signed by all three chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Boards of Southend on Sea, Essex and myself, setting out the relationship between the wider STP and local commissioning arrangements for health. This will ensure that local government talks with a united and powerful voice, however the emergence of a new "joint committee" between all the CCG in South Essex, at the direction of NHS England, risks this new body growing and crowding out local determination and reverting back into an old style and centralised PCT. This must be and is being vigorously opposed.

In addition the Public Health Team has led re-procurement of drug and alcohol treatment services, and healthy lifestyle services. The new drug and alcohol treatment contract has been awarded to *"Inclusion Thurrock"*. As stated previously, this provider has been running Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services in Thurrock for the last 12 months during which they have demonstrated a strong track record in driving up standards, improving access, reducing waiting times, improving recovery rates and partnership working with other NHS providers. The award of the drug and alcohol treatment contract to Inclusion Thurrock is now delivering a seamless service for residents with a 'dual diagnosis' of both mental ill-health and drug/alcohol addiction; health issues that often go hand in hand. In addition the re-procurement has delivered efficiency savings of over £100K on the previous contract, whilst delivering better outcomes for our residents.

Education Brief

Thurrock Local Authority plays a key role in driving ambition at individual school level and across the borough to sustain improvements in school provision. The council is uniquely positioned to influence the development of schools across the authority by applying its knowledge of regeneration programmes and pupil place planning.

Success of Free Schools and School Expansion – The Lobby Unit

When I became the Cabinet Member I made it clear that we would show leadership and lead the fight with school partners to attract investment to Thurrock. To this end I put my senior officers to work on making the case for the Thurrock family of schools as a new lobby unit.

For months, myself and my team visited dozens of schools and education partners and helped to encourage their ambitions to grow. We took their bids and backed them up with our support and provided vital data and other resources in a submission to DfE.

Under the Wave 12 Free School scheme, Thurrock has been awarded 2 new secondary schools and one additional special school. This will mean over £60million being invested in Thurrock over the next few years to build three brand new schools.

Under my leadership officers have worked closely with our Academies and the Regional Schools Commissioner to make a strong case for Thurrock Schools. We have used both our influence and strategic knowledge to secure the best deal for the children of Thurrock who need to go to the best schools. We currently have 17,000 pupils in our primary provision with only 9,500 places in the secondary sector. This new announcement is extremely welcome as pupil's transition from Year 6.

Officers will now look to support the orderly construction of these new institutions as well as looking to the next opportunities to attract investment.

Our plan is to build big to provide parents with a real choice; not only does choice breed healthy competition but we will also ensure that family lives are not burdened with a placement crisis as we saw in Chafford a few years ago.

The latest Pupil Place Planning document 2017-2020 has been well received by schools and academies. We have successfully accurately projected pupil need in the borough which enables and gives confidence to our schools and partners who use this document to plan free schools, school expansions and bulge years and to prepare for future years school provision of places.

The previous schools capital programme has now been completed, which delivered 3 expansions, all have been delivered to a high standard and praised by the end users and offer our children a high quality working environment in which to carry out their studies.

A number of meetings have taken place with our MATs and Primary schools to identify opportunities to work with them in partnership to grow the provision of school places in the best schools so that the children of Thurrock are given a good offer of a place in our good and outstanding schools.

The council is investing £7million into the Schools Capital Programme 2017/28 as agreed by Cabinet to meet the increasing demand for primary school places as well as secondary school places. Feasibility studies, which will identify options for expansion in one secondary and one primary, are well underway.

A Thurrock Grammar School

This administration wishes to bid for a grammar school for Thurrock young people. We anticipate an opportunity will arise with the release of Wave 13 in the Free Schools Programme. I anticipate the Secretary of State will issue further guidance on the eligibility for applications for grammar school places. This should create opportunities for young people from disadvantaged communities to make application for grammar school places in Thurrock. I am proud that Thurrock has been acknowledged multiple times in the national press for our ambitions in this regard.

Working with a range of supporters, we have already identified a partner, a admissions criteria that will be slanted towards the disadvantaged, and land to accommodate this build. When further clarity is released on the lifting of the ban on new selective schools, Thurrock will be more than ready to proceed.

Meetings are currently happening regarding this work, and I will have further such meetings in September 2017.

Strengthening our core further education offer with bold new partnerships

Palmers College was once our main beacon college however it has struggled since the proliferation of other 6th forms to find its unique place within the market. We want to help improve outcomes and ensure we are preparing our students with the skills to meet the demands in the current and future job markets.

Using our leadership role, we brokered a number of conversations to look to a partner who could increase capacity and resilience. Seevic College has come forward and is now moving towards a full merger.

After months of work and at our request, they signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the council outlining their shared ambition to return Palmers to a great STEM institution and the council outlined its full support to helping them achieve this. This will ensure that Palmers is on path to excel as our premier academic institution once again.

This is a bold new partnership where the council is playing a full part to fight for higher standards and not just allow other to get on with the job because they are not under the statutory control of the LA.

Securing our Youth Offer - Inspire

Cabinet made the decision in March 2017 for our carers and skills offer, “Inspire” to have a clear remit of ‘Growing a business within a business’. This is for a simple reason, we value our ability to support students progress from education into work. By giving it the flexibility to commercialise itself, it can generate its own revenue to further invest in Thurrock as a result of its very marketable successes based on the service goals. Cuts are not required if you reform a service so it’s own positive work generates revenue.

Over the next three years Inspire will be working to develop services that aim to achieve the following:-

- NEETs to go below 1.5%
- Care Leavers into EET 75%
- Every 16 year old has access to impartial careers advice
- Grangewaters – a 5% increase in bookings for the site
- Youth Employment Initiative to deliver to the contract specification
- To continue to seek commercial opportunities to increase our market share of youth related activities across the Opportunity South Essex College
- High Achieving students have access to programmes that can support them into Russell Group Universities and grammar schools
- Unknowns re continue to remain in the top 5% of the country

- To support schools and other partners shape their working based on the demands we see in the employment market
- To lead on the work with partners to support pathways into employment e.g. work undertaken with the Local Enterprise Partnership
- Raising the aspiration of students to not just settle for easily accessed employment opportunities, but stretch to fulfil their potential
- To work with our alternative provision market to ensure we support the reintegration of young people into the mainstream education / employment

The following outlines some key achievements this academic year:

Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

The NEET figure has continued to decrease from 3.6% in April 2016 to 2.7% in 2017 compared with our statistical neighbours in East of England of 3.2% and England 3%.

Inspire Thurrock Careers, as a traded service, has continued to provide award winning career advice to secondary and primary establishments within Thurrock and has generated additional income expanding that service outside of Thurrock in both Basildon and Brentwood.

Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre

It has broken even for the first time ever! This has been an exciting a challenging year for our outdoor education offer. After a number of years where the provision did not achieve its full cost recovery status – I am pleased to report that this year the centre has made a small profit. Staff's commitment to working in creative ways has ensured that we keep a provision that will meet some of our ambitious targets in relation to health for example reducing the levels of obesity and supporting older people with dementia.

Learning & Skills

We continue to work with local employers around the recruitment of local staff, we recognise that the regeneration agenda in Thurrock is a fantastic opportunity for our residents and as such we have developed a consortium of learning support to provide practical support with the recruitment of staff – working in partnership with our economic development and skills team.

Our joint work with health has focussed on creating pathways for learning; these include joint work with the Director of Public Health to encourage Higher Education providers to support our clear strategic objective around recruiting more medical professionals into Thurrock. We are working with local schools to identify young people who have registered an interest in the medical profession and will run a number of summer

schools to enable young people to gain a greater understanding of careers in the medical profession.

Shaping the role of the local authority education department

All councils have been asked to consider the persistent variation that exists across our school system and the role the local authority should play in raising educational standards for all children and young people.

We have published a draft vision for the future document to the Thurrock Education Alliance which was well received, with a completed document to be presented to council later in the year.

As an education service we continue to place high value on:

- knowing our schools and academies well; challenging leaders about rates of pupil progress;
- supporting governors to recruit the best leaders;
- creating opportunities for schools/academies to provide support and challenge to each other;
- identifying risks early so that we can work with schools and academies to address issues quickly;
- ensuring that all schools and academies are using data smartly to drive focused initiatives and promoting the highest expectations within communities for children's well-being and educational aspirations.
- Being our schools advocates within the DFE and EFA to attract resources
- Growing our strategic leadership function to help strong schools expand so every child in the borough has access to the tools to fulfil their potential

Thurrock Local Authority continues to play a key role in supporting ambition at individual school level and across the borough to sustain improvements in school provision.

Current performance

Thurrock has made significant strides in improving provision for all children and young people across the borough. Using the latest Ofsted data almost 96% of our schools and academies are judged good or better. We have two special schools which are both outstanding. In partnership with our Multi Academy Trusts (MAT's) we have built up a strong relationship with the Regional Schools Commissioner and have recently been awarded three new secondary schools and another special school.

Thurrock Education Alliance (TEA)

Excellent progress has been made in developing the strong partnership work between schools, academies and the local authority. Through my chairmanship this body has helped to ensure that schools, academies and early year's providers are working closely with the local authority to create a strong and shared vision to reach excellence everywhere.

Underpinning the approach to ensure improvement, the principle that there is a wealth of expertise across our schools and settings that can be encouraged to support others in their improvement. Some primary schools and academies have put in place plans to share their expertise in groups called Triads supported by regional senior HMI, Tim Bristow, sharing areas of expertise and collaborating on areas for development. HMI have also praised the council for supporting their schools/academies in developing sector-led improvement and reiterated the importance of reviewing the shared vision developed in Thurrock on a regular basis. In my first meeting as Chairman, we agreed further funding for advanced teacher training.

I announced at my first meeting of the TEA that my team will revisit the original education commission questions to consider how much progress has been made and what the next step is as we continue to define our role. Progress has been made but a vital part of political leadership is to forge forward and not allow success today to mean a slowness of pace tomorrow.

Educational Attainment and Ofsted Outcomes.

Across Thurrock 96% of all schools and academies are now judged good or better, and with both our Special Schools judged outstanding.

Quarry Hill Primary Academy is now in the top 5% of primary schools nationally for their KS2 results last summer. Under the new leadership this school has moved in two years from special measures to outstanding and has outperformed all our primary schools.

No primary schools are currently judged to be coasting and only one secondary academy is in this category, and even with this isolated example there are the clear green shoots of recovery. As part of our plans to move all schools to academy status and support them to broker MAT relationships to make them stronger and more resilient, only 10 schools are maintained, of which one is secondary.

30 Hours free early education and childcare

From September 2017 working parents of three and four-year-olds who meet the eligibility criteria are able to claim an additional 15 hours funded early education and childcare on top of the 15 hours universally available to all three and four-year-olds. The early year's team are working hard with providers to ensure there are sufficient, high quality places for all eligible children.

I have instructed officers to work on a market support plan to ensure the Thurrock market place is ready to cater of this new support to support those wishing to return to work.

Overall Performance of Thurrock Primary schools

Ofsted outcomes:

There are 52 schools in Thurrock- including 2 special schools and one alternative provision. Of the 39 primary schools, 38 are judged by Ofsted to be good or better (97%). Both special schools are judged to be outstanding. Of the 10 secondary schools, 8 are judged by Ofsted to be good or better (80%) and one currently has no judgement.

Overall 96% of schools in Thurrock are now judged to be good or outstanding. This would place Thurrock first in the East of England and 11th nationally based on May 2017 Watchsted figures.

The three teaching schools work well with the LA School Improvement Team to identify schools for which a bid for funding School to School support can be made. This year two bids were made and were successful and the teaching schools are working within those schools to improve teaching and learning.

Overall Performance of Thurrock Secondary schools

GCSE results will be released in late August 2017. Last year saw an improvement in GCSE results locally following a poor year in 2015. The number of Thurrock young people that achieved the benchmark 5 grade A*-C including English and Maths improved by 5 percentage points. There has been a continuing range of initiatives from the local authority, from academy trusts, from the three teaching schools and from the Thurrock Education Alliance (TEA) to support schools and academies across the borough.

Admissions Service

The team have had a very successful year. They have dealt with over 2200 applications for the Reception 2017 round for children starting school in September 2017, with all Thurrock children being offered a school place. Despite the high volume of applications, the percentage of 1st preference offers was a staggering 94% which is a dramatic increase from the previous year's figures.

Pupil Attendance

It has, for some time, been acknowledged that children and young people are unlikely to reach their full potential if they do not attend school regularly. I am pleased to report that data for the academic year 2016/17 shows that the improving trend in Thurrock's persistent absence levels has continued in both the Primary and Secondary sector.

Thurrock's Secondary overall absence has, for three years, been consistently better than the National Average and the overall absence in Primary Schools continues to

improve and remains only fractionally behind the National average.

Thurrock continues to support schools to reduce unauthorised leave of absence (term time holidays) and issue Penalty Notices upon request from schools. Until the Isle of Wight versus Platt case was concluded through the Supreme Court all requests for a Penalty Notice were considered on a case by case basis and yet Thurrock still issued 472 Penalty Notices for this offence. 122 notices were withdrawn but of these only 47 were withdrawn as a direct result of the case law following the original court case. 19 notices were not paid and the cases were successfully prosecuted in the Magistrates Court, the remaining 331 were paid in full.

Schools report that the use of Penalty Notices has acted as a deterrent to parents thinking about taking their children out of school during term time.

The Education Welfare Service, which monitors attendance and intervenes where necessary, continues to work closely with staff and families at schools and academies to ensure that good attendance is a top priority for all. Our expectation is that the continued improvements in primary attendance will embed good habits and attendance expectations early on and thus provide a good foundation for attendance in secondary schools.

Thurrock Trailblazer working with the Royal Opera House (ROH)

For the third year running I have commissioned the Royal Opera House to deliver Thurrock Trailblazer to the schools and academies in Thurrock in order to provide the cultural entitlement for children and young people growing up and going to school in Thurrock. Almost three years into the programme, we are delighted with the impact of the programme so far and have now committed to a further 3 years of joint working. To date, 43 of our schools have taken part in Trailblazer and currently 35 are on the programme.

I am delighted schools are continuing to take part in this programme. Trailblazer provides a unique opportunity to all Thurrock schools and academies, offering world-class arts and cultural learning programmes from some of the best arts organisations in the country, subsidised by both the Local Authority and the Royal Opera House. This programme is unprecedented across the country and is beginning to gather a national profile. Thurrock is currently second in the country for schools signed up to the Arts Council's award of Artsmark, behind only Hull (City of Culture 2017). This is a remarkable achievement and as a local authority we are very proud of this great achievement.

Statement of Educational Need and Disability

I have long been concerned that councils often simply settle for Ofsted reports to tell us if we are doing a good job. SEND issues cause great stress with families and thus I have asked for a peer review of our SEND service to see where we can improve.

We continue to have an outstanding reputation for high quality places for children and young people with SEND. Both Special Schools in the Borough are rated as Outstanding and places are in high demand with families moving into the borough to access these services. Both of these schools support pupils in mainstream schools through a well-established outreach service. In addition to the special school places, the Local Authority 11 mainstream resources bases for children with SEND have been increased in line with demand. This has included additional staffing and new building works to extend the primary aged hearing impairment base from 12 to 18 pupils and an increase in mainstream outreach services for pupils with visual impairments.

The Local authority has made good progress on the implementation of Education Health and Care Plans and the transfer of Statements of Special Educational Needs to EHC plans in line with the statutory timescales for these transfers. . The Local Authority is taking part in a SEND peer review as part of the Regional SEND peer review process in June with a focus on the area of SEN support in school. This will identify and strengthen the LA approaches to ensuring pupils with SEND but not with an EHC plan are having their needs suitably met and are making good progress.

The Local Authority has a highly regarded Educational Psychology service which provides services to children, young people and their families relating to both the statutory SEND duties of the Local Authority, additional services to vulnerable pupils such Children Looked After (CLA) and Excluded Pupils. The service also has a significant amount of commissioned activity from schools and academies to provide additional services to support the children and young people attending these schools.

The Challenge of Alternative Provision and emotional health

There are significant changes taking place within the Local Authority with regards to the delivery of support for pupils who require alternative provision (AP). Without good AP support you end up with increasing levels of suspension that seriously harms the life chances of children when issues escalate. We have found evidence of this here.

The Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) which is run by the Olive Academy Trust, was graded as inadequate. As soon as we were made aware, I approved a set of robust measures including:

- Closing the Primary PRU
- Engaging the Regional Schools Commissioner to ensure effecting monitoring of rapid improvement plans
- Looking at new ways to support children within mainstream education.

Following the Ofsted Inspection of the Alternative Provision Academy (PRU) new arrangements are being introduced to support primary aged children through close partnership working with local schools and a robust post Ofsted plan is in place through a Progress Board at the Academy.

We have worked decisively with the Academy and the Regional Schools Commissioner to ensure that the provision has a robust improvement plan and that alternative primary provision is sourced.

We are now working with schools and looking at the possible use of capital to build facilities within schools to support children, opposed to having them removed to distant institutions. This goes hand in glove with the new service goals within the Inspire Skills service and 0-19 children centre service to support children staying within the main stream setting where possible.

The above work will also feed into our new focus on mental and emotional health in schools. With our reformed children's centre offer working with a new push for AP provision in schools, we want to start a conversation about getting the earliest intervention with children to curb the use of a PRU provision.

We have launched an education enterprise fund, underneath Inspire, to help pump prime private, faith and other such small local groups as a small sparks initiative, working in schools to raise the aspiration of children and help keep them in the mainstream.

As a part of the Health and Wellbeing strategy, we will also make a major strand of our AP work based around supporting students who "struggle in silence" i.e. with issues that can be hidden because they rarely cause school exclusions such as eating disorders.

We have settled with a growing PRU as a treatment to symptoms for too long and that will now change.

Cross cutting Health and Education Initiatives

Launch of Key Worker Housing Scheme

Like many local authorities, Thurrock has recently struggled to recruit essential key public sector workers especially in light of increasing housing costs across the county.

To help address the situation, The Council has recently implemented a key worker housing scheme to assist with the recruitment of teachers, social workers, nurses and certain health workers in the borough.

The scheme, which was approved at Cabinet in April 2017, provides shared accommodation with other professionals for the first year of employment, allowing workers to share the cost of accommodation, live in a supportive atmosphere, and to build up professional contacts at an early stage of their new employment.

An initial quota of 32 spaces have been secured on the new St Chads site in Tilbury – offering shared accommodation in three and four bedroom houses. The Council is currently offering the incentive as part of its recruitment process and anticipates the initial quota being filled within the next few months.

Reform of Children's Centres

My 2016 Annual Report gave a firm commitment to address the intergenerational education and health inequalities that have existed in Thurrock for far too long, and to seek opportunities to integrate education and health services for our children and young people.

To this end, the Public Health Team and Children's Services Directorate have worked together to design a radical new way of delivering health and wellbeing services to the next generation of Thurrock residents. A new *Brighter Future's, Healthy Families* service has been procured and will go live in September of this year. This brings together a number of existing services for children aged 0 to 19 into a single integrated model of working, opposed to the old 0-5 model with separate services with education and other services within health. Simply, we will serve more children in a more comprehensive way.

It includes health visiting and school nursing services, as well as support for young and vulnerable parents and promotion of breastfeeding. The new service will be working closely with schools to help children lead active, healthy lives. By reducing duplication, co-locating staff to make better use of buildings and working in a more integrated we have saved £1.2 million pounds from budget of £5.2 million per year whilst increasing the quality of the service and providing one single point of access for children, young people and their parents.

As a result of the Children's centre restructure and redesign, parent outreach workers will be working with more families; at times these teams were only working with one family at once which was a huge waste of resource. It is too early to show impact of the changes that came into effect from 1 April 2017.

Children's Centre facilitators have a daily target of running four high quality groups per day. There are six full time facilitators who will be delivering up to 4 sessions per day, which will total 440 sessions per month. Currently, across the borough there are 356 sessions timetabled (May 2017) which is 81% of the target. As the work with Brighter Futures Prevention and Support team develops this will increase to by the Autumn term, as another 25 sessions per week are delivered by partners in public health, (midwife/ antenatal etc), as well as commissioned services (changing pathways). There are over 450 sessions/ services on offer across the whole Children Centre service. This will increase as relationships with new partners continue to be developed. The provisional un-validated data for Thurrock indicates a further rise in the percentage of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD). The performance of Thurrock pupils is 6% higher than the provisional data for England.

- The gap between the lowest and highest performing children has narrowed this year, meaning that the lowest performing 20% did better than the comparable group last year.
- Of the four LAC, 50% reached a GLD.
- 62% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium reached a GLD

There are 44 private, voluntary and independent early education and childcare settings in Thurrock with a current Ofsted judgement. 100% of these are currently rated as good or outstanding. We have 129 Ofsted registered child-minders – 99% of these are judged to be good or outstanding. This evidences the high quality guidance, advice, support and professional development provided by the early years officers who work with every early education and childcare provider to ensure the best provision for the children in Thurrock.

Joint Health and Wellbeing Board and Strategy

I have been Chair of Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Board since 2016 and it's my strong belief that the Board and Health and Wellbeing Strategy's primary purpose is to reduce health inequalities across our Borough and improve outcomes for local people. We want to make sure that people remain healthier for longer and can remain in their own homes, in their own communities for as long as possible.

We recognise that improving health and wellbeing requires action that affects all parts of people's lives. We know for example, that improved educational outcomes increases the likelihood of gaining employment which in turn will help to address child poverty in the future.

That is why our Strategy identifies five strategic goals that focus on the areas within which we can make the most difference to the health and wellbeing of the people of Thurrock.

Whilst the resources available to be spent on Thurrock people have diminished significantly over the years, I am confident that we can continue to make the resource we do have go further by increasing the number of us who stay well and by intervening at the earliest opportunity to stop people reaching crisis point. This means continuing to change the way some of our services operate and how they are focused. It also means we must utilise the strength of our communities and the individuals living in those communities as well as building alternatives to the traditional service responses. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is one of the key drivers for stimulating those changes and improving the lives of Thurrock’s residents.

Figure 1 below sets out the five goals of the strategy, and the four objectives that sit under each goal.

GOALS	1. OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL	2. HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENTS	3. BETTER EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING	4. QUALITY CARE CENTRED AROUND THE PERSON	5. HEALTHIER FOR LONGER
OBJECTIVES	1A. All children in Thurrock making good educational progress	2A. Create outdoor places that make it easy to exercise and to be active	3A. Give parents the support they need	4A. Create four integrated healthy living centres	5A. Reduce obesity
	1B. More Thurrock residents in employment, education or training	2B. Develop homes that keep people well and independent	3B. Improve children's emotional health and wellbeing	4B. When services are required, they are organised around the individual	5B. Reduce the proportion of people who smoke
	1C. Fewer teenage pregnancies in Thurrock	2C. Build strong, well-connected communities	3C. Reduce social isolation and loneliness	4C. Put people in control of their own care	5C. Significantly improve the identification and management of long term conditions
	1D. Fewer children and adults in poverty	2D. Improve air quality in Thurrock	3D. Improve the identification and treatment of depression, particularly in high risk groups	4D. Provide high quality GP and hospital care to Thurrock	5D. Prevent and treat cancer better

During the last year, The Health and Wellbeing Board has received and considered detailed action plans relating to each goal. We have also received input from Healthwatch Thurrock, who have undertaken sterling work, consulting our residents on our detailed plans for delivering each objective. We have also developed an “Outcomes Framework” with clear quantitative targets and trajectories against each goal against which we can measure success.

There is insufficient space in this report to provide a detailed update on every objective, and this will be subject to an independent end of year report on the strategy that will be presented to the HWB Board. However a few highlights of successes are provided below:

Goal 1: Opportunity for All

- We have developed strategic programmes to support the recruitment of medical students recognising the need to encourage more of our young people into medicine.

- We have developed a Youth Employment Initiative, which has won accolades from the Deputy Director of the European Union Structural Programme on youth employment following an EU audit.
- Our Inspire – Your Future Programme, through our Grangewaters facility now offers a wide range of outdoor education activities to support the our residents and we are working closely with health partners to develop further programmes to support healthy lifestyles

Goal 2: A Healthier Environment

- Much has already been done to empower local communities to be strong and inclusive. The Stronger Together partnership is a ground-breaking initiative which promotes community activities that strengthen connections between people. It also encourages people to have a greater say in what happens in their neighbourhood, taking control over the decisions that affect them. We want to build on that work to build strong, well-connected communities.
- Officers in the Public Health and Planning and Environment teams organised a joint health and planning summit last year, attracting praise from across the region. Our officers across the council continue to work in an integrated way to ensure that the regeneration of Tilbury and Purfleet capitalise on opportunities to create new physical environments that promote wellbeing, such as making it easier to walk and cycle.

Goal 3: Better emotional health and wellbeing.

- A new IAPT (Increase Access to Psychological Therapies) provider *Inclusion Thurrock* began to offer services to our residents in April 2016 and have quickly settled in Thurrock. *Inclusion Thurrock* has received huge levels of positive feedback from patients/service users as well as health and social care colleagues who work with them. *Inclusion Thurrock* are very forward thinking and have built relationships proactively with the public health team as well as various teams in the CCG, council and secondary care. Inclusion began to work with diabetes and COPD clinics run by NELFT in February 2017, as a way of finding clients who are more likely to require their services
- In October 2016, a recovery college was opened by Inclusion and this will help Thurrock residents improve their mental health, wellbeing and resilience

Goal 4: Quality Care Centred Around the Person

- We continue to work closely with our key partners in NHS Thurrock CCG and other NHS Providers to ensure health and care for our residents becomes more joined up. Hospitals are under huge pressure but much of that could be avoided if we get better at providing support at an early stage, to stop things progressing. So, instead of waiting for people to develop serious illnesses before we treat

them, we are implementing a range of services to intervene early to act at an early stage to prevent, reduce and delay the need for care and support.

- We have developed a joint strategic commissioning plan *For Thurrock in Thurrock*, with our CCG partners and are piloting an Accountable Care Partnership in Tilbury.

Goal 5: Healthier for Longer

- We refreshed our Tobacco Control strategy for Thurrock in 2016 with a focus away from chasing meaningless ‘four week smoking quit targets’ but offering stop smoking support to smokers who are truly motivated to quit. We have also shifted the focus to concentrate on groups who are at most risk and most motivated to quit including those with mental health problems and long term physical health conditions related to smoking including COPD and heart disease.
- We have also commissioned the evidence based ASSIST programme within our schools, to dissuade younger people from becoming addicted to cigarettes in the first place, and delivered a high impact enforcement operation in partnership with our Trading Standards team, that has resulted in thousands of pounds worth of illegal illicit tobacco being removed from sale in our Borough.
- Finally we have brought the ground breaking “Daily Mile” to our schools. This simple concept means that every child in the school runs one mile a day during the school day. Evidence shows this has a major impact on childhood obesity. Over 40% of our schools have already adopted the programme, with more coming on line each week.

Financial information

Public Health Funding

Ring fenced public Health funding was introduced to local Authorities for 2014/15, with additional allocations and responsibilities coming in through 2015/16.

The grant relates to services that have transferred from the Department of Health responsibility to Local Authorities, and relate to generic strategies to improve public Health and outcomes.

Much of the Funding is currently committed to commissioned contracts with Health partnerships and there has been little influence the Authority has been able to deliver in the short term, due to the length of the contracts. There have been reductions in the total grant funding since the initial cash transfer from Health to Local Authorities, which has meant the Authority has had to rationalise services.

For 2015/16 the Outturn for Public Health is detailed below

	Expenditure £ 000's
Public Health - 2015/16	
Sexual health services - STI testing and treatment (prescribed functions)	565
Sexual health services - Contraception (prescribed functions)	565
Sexual health services - Advice, prevention and promotion (non-prescribed functions)	564
NHS health check programme (prescribed functions)	385
Health protection - Local authority role in health protection (prescribed functions)	1,282
National child measurement programme (prescribed functions)	30
Public health advice (prescribed functions)	153
Obesity - adults	51
Obesity - children	205
Substance misuse - Drug misuse - adults	528
Substance misuse - Alcohol misuse - adults	608
Substance misuse - (drugs and alcohol) - youth services	78
Smoking and tobacco - Stop smoking services and interventions	546
Children 5–19 public health programmes	1,440
Miscellaneous public health services - Children's 0–5 services (prescribed functions)	1,939
Miscellaneous public health services	1,569
TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH	10,508

Education Funding

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was introduced in 2006/07 as a 100% specific grant to fund the schools' budget.

Since 2013/14 the Grant has been split into three blocks: these are Schools Block; High Needs Block; and Early Year Block. Whilst the DSG is ring fenced the separate blocks are currently not ring fenced to each area but any movement from the Schools block would have to be agreed by the Schools' Forum.

The Original allocation of the DSG was calculated based on the 2012/13 spend and there has been no inflationary increase since then. However, during 2016/17, the Department for Education (DfE) has undertaken a base-lining exercise as the first move to a national funding formula for all schools from 2018/19.

The rebased Schools block and the Early Years block are uplifted, based on a multiple of pupil numbers and unit value, whilst there is more limited growth in the High Needs block.

Within the Schools block, the Local Authority (LA) is not permitted to increase the central expenditure beyond the levels of 2012/13 which relates to prior commitments. All other funding is delegated to schools to manage locally.

For 2017/18 the previously separately funded Education Services Grant, for funding central duties, has been transferred to the DSG. This is funding for Council retained duties for Schools and Academies and, with the agreement of the Schools forum, will be allocated to central budgets.

From 2018/19 the Schools block will be split to represent specific central expenditure and that funding will be allocated directly to schools through the National Funding Formula.

The DSG allocation is based on the October pupil count and allocations were given in December for the Schools and High Needs blocks with an indicative allocation of the Early Years block which is updated for actual pupil take up during the year.

The Basis of the October Count has caused some dilution of funding to schools as Thurrock is going through a significant period of pupil growth which means that pupils are being funded in Schools before they are funded through the DSG. This effectively means there is a top slice to all schools' funding rates to cover the increased numbers.

There has been no change to the Thurrock Formula for financing schools this year with the Schools' Forum agreeing that during a time of reducing budgets further turbulence should not be added by changing the method of distribution. Therefore budget allocations are based on the same multipliers as in 2016/17.

The allocation of funding for Special Schools and the Pupil Referral Unit is no longer included as schools funding but is included in the High Needs Block. For 2017/18 the costs of Special Educational Needs transport have been transferred from the Schools to the High Needs block to better represent the cost drivers.

The per pupil rate of Schools block DSG paid to Thurrock is £4,440.54 against an all-England average of £4,618.43. The total value of the DSG paid for 2017/18 is £145.55m (gross before Academy recoupment) made up of:

- a) Schools Block £112.57m
- b) High Needs Block £21.75m
- c) Early Years Block £11.23m

The same base rates are used to fund Academies core services and the same funding reduction will be seen in Academies in the long term, however they all have differing protection rates depending on point of transfer and the reductions may take longer to filter through the system. The government recently announced their National Funding Formula (NFF) which provides equity across all 152 local authorities so that all CYP are funded using the same formula.

The second phase of consultation has been completed with the intention of moving to a national funding formula by 2020. This will mean all Schools and Academies in the Country would be funded on the same formula basis, with only area cost adjustments. Using the most recent data Thurrock gains by £1.3 million overall, with the majority going to the secondary sector.

QUESTION TIME

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

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

1. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Gledhill

Can the Leader confirm whether he intends to proceed with the proposed increase in service charges for sheltered housing tenants?

2. From Councillor Jones to Councillor Gledhill

Could the Leader inform members and the residents of Thurrock what measures Thurrock Council will undertake to best safeguard Thurrock's tower blocks after witnessing the tragic fire at a West London tower block?

3. From Councillor Maney to Councillor Gledhill

Given the recent fire at Grenfell Tower in West London and the tragic loss of life which resulted from this, would the Leader comment on the fire safety arrangements relating to the Borough's high rise accommodation and advise how these will be reviewed? In particular, given that early speculation is that replacement cladding at Grenfell Tower could have exacerbated the spread of the blaze, would the Leader confirm that the cladding replacement works undertaken some years ago to blocks in Grays Riverside and Little Thurrock Blackshots have been re-assessed in light of the tragedy and are deemed safe?

4. From Councillor Liddiard to Councillor Gledhill

The derelict changing rooms on the Daisyfield, St. Chads Road, Tilbury, has attracted children during the day and substance abusers after dark. Although railings surround the building, it is not secure. Residents fear accidents and needle infections. Can the Portfolio Holder tell me what can be done and when?

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

1. From Councillor Cherry to Councillor Tolson

During the Great British Spring Clean I was told by all residents I met that there was a lack of strategically placed bins across the borough. I understand the Council only have 400 bins currently in use. Can the Portfolio Holder inform me if this is true and whether there are plans to introduce more bins into Thurrock?

2. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor MacPherson

In recent months I have received an increasing number of complaints about serious and ongoing antisocial and criminal behaviour underneath the Sherfield/Derby Road Bridge in Grays. This is having a serious impact on the residents of Darnley Road and users of the Crown Road car park. Will the Portfolio Holder commit to fencing off the area?

3. From Councillor Watkins to Councillor Tolson

Please can the Portfolio Holder provide an update on Clean It, Cut It, Fill It.

4. From Councillor Watkins to Councillor Tolson

Please can the Portfolio Holder provide an update on the progress of the bin change collection.

5. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Tolson

Can the Portfolio Holder explain why residents of Kent Road and Salisbury Road, in Grays, were threatened with a bill of £57.02p - and potential court action - for clearing the fly tipping at the rear of their homes?

6. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Coxshall

When does the Portfolio Holder expect the council to receive the first planning application in respect of the Purfleet Regeneration scheme?

7. From Councillor Okunade to Councillor B Little

The roads in Tilbury are in a poor condition. Can the Portfolio Holder tell us his plans to improve them?

8. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor B Little

Can the Portfolio Holder update the chamber on progress on HGV mitigation measures across the borough?

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 28 June 2017

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
27/7/2016	Cllr Hebb	Thurrock Council calls upon the government to introduce legislation to provide for a right of "Recall" of local government councillors, alongside Thurrock Council also exploring the possibilities to introduce its own local recall scheme.	General Services Committee on 3 May 2017 resolved to consult with Secretary of State on potential draft options for local scheme and whether they might usefully inform any relevant legislation by government. And to seek feedback / support from other authorities to build case for legislative change.	David Lawson
28/09/2016	Cllr Aker	Thurrock Council calls on the government to make unauthorised traveller pitches and unauthorised events a criminal offence	Officers are consulting with Legal on the wording of a letter to government calling for a specific offence of pulling caravans on to land without the owner's prior permission.	Steve Cox
28/09/2016	Cllr Jones	We call on Thurrock Council to write to the Secretary of State to express many residents' views that in its present state the police service contact number 101 is not fit for purpose.	A letter has been sent to the Secretary of State advising of the motion of Thurrock Council and inviting a response. No response has been received yet.	Gavin Dennett
28/09/2016	Cllr Duffin	That Thurrock Council support the inclusion in the annual Council Tax mail out of details of changes to Council funding by government in the last 5 years and an indication of planned changes in the next 3 years, including in graph format. This would be an effective way to let residents of Thurrock understand the financial pressures the Council has faced over this period and those due to be addressed.	This is complete.	Sean Clark
28/09/2016	Cllr J Kent	Thurrock Council is extremely concerned that much of Grays Beach Park was not open for residents to enjoy for so much of the summer. Council requests that the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or / and the relevant director) investigate these issues including inviting evidence from Anglian Water, relevant council officers and members before	Cleaner, Greener, Safer, Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this at its meeting of 11 October 2016 and set out the terms for an investigation. The outcome of the investigation was considered by Cleaner, Greener, Safer, Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 December 2016. Following a letter from officers, a reassurance has	Steve Cox

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 28 June 2017

		reporting back to the Full Council as soon as reasonably practical about the reasons and responsibilities for so much of Grays Beach Park not being open to residents over the summer period.	been received from Anglian Water that the maintenance program they have implemented is ongoing and similar problems should not reoccur.	
26/10/2016	Cllr Collins	This Council condemns in the strongest possible terms, the horrific practice of Female Genital Mutilation and will support all health, welfare, civil and criminal enforcements to eradicate it from our Thurrock and the rest of the World.	<p>Thurrock Council and its partners continue to robustly tackle Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and provide support for its victims. There are clear pathways in place across health agencies, Children’s Services and the Community Safety Partnership to identify and support those suspected to be at risk. The Council are working in partnership with the Barnardo’s, National FGM Centre for Excellence to provide training, support and interventions to assist communities in eradicating FGM. Staff from the National FGM Centre is part of the Thurrock Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). In partnership with the Police, Thurrock Council will continue to pursue prosecutions for perpetrators of this abuse; supporting national and international efforts to eliminate FGM.</p> <p>Update: Councillor S Little was pleased to announce that she had managed to agree a commitment from Barnardo’s to continue funding the specialist Female Genital Mutilation worker in MASH for a further three months. During this time the national Female Genital Mutilation centre would prepare and submit a substantial business plan for funding to cover a further 18 months additional funding. The post had proved invaluable in identifying those children at risk and ensuring that they were protected from this brutal act and would continue to hold these services to account and ensure they remain vigilant.</p>	Rory Patterson/ Andrew Carter
30/11/2016	Cllr Duffin	This Council supports the need to reduce and eliminate fuel poverty for Thurrock residents who struggle to heat their homes. Council requests that Cabinet investigate what options, including creating	Officers are considering the various opportunities and approaches and will bring a report to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the first instance.	Sean Clark

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 28 June 2017

		a fuel poverty grant that may exist for the Council to support the community by working with residents and providers.		
25/1/2017	Cllr Watkins	That Thurrock Council supports the government's position on introducing an oath to British Values, and will look into the options for creating a local one for Thurrock.	Consultation with Governance Group arranged for June 2017 and proposed report to General Service Committee, pursuant to the Committee' remit to examine potential changes to the Constitution in order to advise Full Council as to any legal or other implications.	David Lawson
22/02/17	Cllr J Kent	The Thameside Theatre is held in great affection by residents across Thurrock. Therefore the sudden announcement that the theatre is likely to close by April 2019 is causing real concern in many quarters. Council is of the collective view that the Thameside Theatre should remain open until a new civic theatre for Thurrock, situated in Grays, has opened.	Work is ongoing to review what is currently provided at the theatre and what can be done to improve its future financial viability. In parallel, work is continuing to look at options for new theatre provision in Grays in the context of work on the wider Grays masterplan. The commitment remains to theatre provision continuing in Grays to support an evening economy. The theatre will not be closed until there is a replacement.	Steve Cox
22/02/17	Cllr Snell	In order to demonstrate transparency on its policies, implementation of its policies and overall performance and further to Gloriana Limited willingness to co-operate with such scrutiny from Members, Thurrock Council believes that Gloriana Limited should: provide an Annual Report to the Council; provide regular quarterly updates to our General Services Committee, voluntarily submit to the full democratic scrutiny of Full Council and General Services Committee on the thoroughness of its Business Plan and funding requirements. This is not to seek to inappropriately discuss the specific merits of any material planning considerations or predetermine the quasi-judicial decision properly within the remit of our Planning Committee on the current part heard planning application.	The motion agreed by Council has been raised and discussed with Gloriana Thurrock Ltd (GTL). GTL welcomes the continued scrutiny of its activities, business planning and funding requirements by Council, including producing an annual report and quarterly reports to its shareholders forming part of the General Services Committee. GTL is working with the Council to formalise how this will be implemented at the next Gloriana Board meeting and ahead of a report to the next general meeting of GTL Shareholders planned for May 2017. GTL welcomes the reassurance provided in the motion with regard to Members of the Council which also form part of the Planning Committee.	Steve Cox

Item 16 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 28 June 2017

29/03/2017	Cllr Hebb	Thurrock Council resolves to thank HM The Queen, for her selflessness and grace as monarch of the United Kingdom for 65 years, and it thanks her for her years of dedicated public service and advocacy of our great nation. In the spirit in which HM The Queen has herself taken with the Sapphire Jubilee, this council also seeks to recognise the memory of our former monarch George VI, for his unwavering patriotism during our nation's darkest hours. This council therefore resolves to rename a suitable park within the borough to be identified after public consultation - to the George VI Memorial Park in honour of the former King and his years of service to our country.	A process of public consultations is being prepared in order to identify a suitable park to be renamed.	Steve Cox
29/03/2017	Cllr B Rice	Council note consultation has begun on a £15 per week service charge on sheltered homes. This Council believes this is an unfair charge against some of our most vulnerable residents. Council calls on Cabinet to scrap this unfair proposal.	The consultation on the proposed changes has now been completed and a final report on the way forward for both general housing and sheltered housing charges will be going to the June Cabinet.	Roger Harris

Motions Submitted to Council

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

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor Gerrish

Council calls on the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to conduct a full review of fly tipping in private alleys, in order to:

- Understand the scale of the issue across the borough.
- Review the impact on residents of the council's policy on fly tipping in private alleys.
- Evaluate potential policy responses, including understanding the cost to the council of taking action and exploring new, more innovative solutions.
- Make recommendations on the best approach to improving the situation.

Statement:

Despite the "clean it, cut it, fill it" programme, fly tipping continues to be a huge problem for Thurrock. This is particularly the case in private alleys across the borough, where residents are faced with unlawful dumping and a council policy which rules out clearance in the majority of cases.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

A notice of Motion must relate to a matter which affects the Authority or the Authority's Area and must relate to a matter in respect of which the Authority has a relevant function. Full Council is the parent committee of overview & scrutiny committees and can submit a request to the committee for it to consider adding the subject of the Motion to the committee's work programme.

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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Motions Submitted to Council

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

Motion 2

Submitted by Councillor V Holloway

Thurrock Council stands opposed to the closure of Orsett Hospital because of the valuable services delivered to Thurrock residents and urges that Council resist attempts to move any resources or capacity from Orsett Hospital out of Thurrock.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

A notice of Motion must relate to a matter which affects the Authority or the Authority's Area and must relate to a matter in respect of which the Authority has a relevant function. There are some topics of general interest to local residents on behalf of whom Full Council may deem itself to be a proper representative body to express an opinion. An overview and scrutiny committee or other committee discharging a relevant function in this context can and should exercise its independence from a Full Council view and Members, for example of HOSC, should take care not to express a predetermined view at Council and be prepared to maintain an open mind and weigh the individual merits of any decision it falls to them to make at a subsequent committee meeting.

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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Motions Submitted to Council

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

Motion 3

Submitted by Councillor Spillman

Thurrock Council can place families in temporary accommodation outside the borough. In cases of families with children, who are subsequently found to be intentionally homeless, the Council would not then have a statutory duty under the Children's Act to process a social care assessment for such children.

That statutory duty would instead reside with the Council in which they have been placed. This is the case no matter how long the families may have previously lived within the borough.

This Chamber calls on Thurrock Council Children Services to accept a non-statutory duty to such children whose family have been placed in temporary accommodation outside the borough.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

A notice of Motion must relate to a matter which affects the Authority or the Authority's Area and must relate to a matter in respect of which the Authority has a relevant function. This motion *calls on* Children Services, who are discharging an executive function in this matter, to consider undertaking social care assessments for children of families found to be intentionally homeless and who are not residing in the borough.

A duty to undertake such social care assessment lies with the Authority in which the child resides rather than the placement housing Authority. Therefore Thurrock Council would not be under any statutory duty to conduct assessments for non-resident children where the responsibility lies with another Authority.

This being an executive function and decision it is therefore not a decision within the remit of Full Council but Full Council can request or call on the Children Services to consider such an operational and voluntary option, although before doing so Children Services would need to give very serious consideration to any the financial or practical impact of covering another Authority duties.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

National legislation requires councils to assess vulnerable families that reside within their area. Thurrock Council's Children's Services already provide this duty of care to any family placed into Thurrock from another authority.

Should this motion be passed and actioned, it would be against national policy and could significantly increase the cost to the council.

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

Yes