

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 **29  
November 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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<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>9 - 44</b>
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 25 October 2017.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Items of Urgent Business</b>	
	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.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>	
	To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Questions from Members of the Public</b>	<b>45 - 46</b>
	In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors</b>	
	In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2(Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Petitions Update Report</b>	<b>47 - 50</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels</b>	
	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 Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment 51 - 66**
- 11 Questions from Members 67 - 70**

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

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

Name of Committee	Date
General Services Committee	24 August 2017
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	17 October 2017
Planning Committee	28 September 2017
Licensing Sub-Committee	30 August 2017
Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	12 September 2017
General Services Committee	23 October 2017
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	7 September 2017

- 14 Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year 71 - 74**
- 15 Motion submitted by Councillor J Kent 75 - 76**
- 16 Motion submitted by Councillor Snell 77 - 78**
- 17 Motion submitted by Councillor Jones 79 - 80**

**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](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

**Future Dates of Council:**

31 January 2018, 28 February 2018 (Budget) and 30 May 2018 (Annual)

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## **Information for members of the public and councillors**

### **Access to Information and Meetings**

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

### **Recording of meetings**

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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](mailto:CommunicationsTeam@thurrock.gov.uk) before the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will then be consulted and their agreement sought to any specific request made.

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

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

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

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

## Evacuation Procedures

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

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

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

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



# DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

## Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

### Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

### Non- pecuniary

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



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

## PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

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

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

- |           |    |  |                            |
|-----------|----|--|----------------------------|
| <b>A.</b> | 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>B.</b>		<b>C.</b>	
<b>IF there is an AMENDMENT (please see Rule 19.23)</b>		<b>If NOT amended i.e. original motion</b>	
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	<b>THEN</b> debate on <b>the subject</b> .	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 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

### November 1917

DATE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	WARD	RANK	SERVICE	DIED
03-Nov	ROWE	HARRY	27	G	PTE	ESSEX - 4	ISRAEL
03-Nov	BAYFORD	WILLIAM PETER	26	G	PTE	NORTHANTS - 1/4	EGYPT
10-Nov	TEDMAN	WALTER	26	G	CPL	WARWICKS - 14	FRANCE
11-Nov	KNOWLES	HERBERT EDWARD	19	CORR	PTE	NORTHANTS - 6	BELGIUM
14-Nov	O'NEILL	WILLIAM TERENCE	21	TIL	PTE	ESSEX - 4	EGYPT
19-Nov	GREENAWAY	GEORGE EDWARD	37	SLH	PTE	SOUTH STAFFS - 8	BELGIUM
20-Nov	PETTENGILL	FRANK CURNOCK	38	G	PTE	WARWICKS - 1	FRANCE
20-Nov	CRABB	THOMAS	38	ORS	PTE	ESSEX - 9	FRANCE
20-Nov	ORR	ROBERT SHERLOCK	27	ORS	PTE	R/FUS - 9	FRANCE
21-Nov	CATCHPOLE	WILLIAM GEORGE	26	TIL	PTE	ESSEX - 1	FRANCE
22-Nov	LORD	SIDNEY GEORGE	26	G	RFMN	R. IRISH RIF. - 10	FRANCE
23-Nov	PRATT	LEONARD	31	G	PTE	ESSEX - 11	FRANCE
24-Nov	LETHBY	ERNEST	30	G	PTE	MIDDLESEX - 11	FRANCE
24-Nov	GALLEY	FREDERICK THOMAS	34	W/TH	SGT	MIDDLESEX - 21	FRANCE
24-Nov	DAVEY	RONALD THOMAS	31	L/TH	PTE	LONDON - 14	FRANCE

25-Nov	KEMP	SIDNEY JOHN	28	G	PTE	ESSEX - 4	ISRAEL
27-Nov	THORPE	REGINALD WALTER	24	G	L/SGT	NORTHANTS - 1/4	ISRAEL
27-Nov	GILBEY	PERCY	21	S.OCK	AB. SEA	ROYAL NAVY	NORTH SEA
28-Nov	COLLINS	PERCY JOHN	21	G	PTE	LONDON - 2/20	ISRAEL
30-Nov	WEBSTER	AARON	29	SLH	PTE	EAST SURREY - 7	FRANCE
30-Nov	THEEDOM	JOHN FREDERICK	23	AVE & HOH	PTE	MGC	FRANCE
30-Nov	BAKER	PERCY EDWARD	26	TIL	PTE	ESSEX - 13	FRANCE
30-Nov	VAUGHAN	GEORGE	33	W/TH	PTE	ESSEX - 1	FRANCE

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25 October 2017 at 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Councillors Tunde Ojetola (Mayor), John Allen, Clare Baldwin, Russell Cherry, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Tony Fish, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, 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, Bukky Okunade (*arrived 7.02pm*), Terry Piccolo, Jane Potheary, David Potter, Joycelyn Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Pauline Tolson and Aaron Watkins (*arrived 7.58pm*)

**Apologies:** Councillors Michael Stone (Deputy Mayor), Tim Aker, Chris Baker, James Baker, Jan Baker, Colin Churchman, Garry Hague, Martin Kerin, Sue Sammons, Angela Sheridan 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  
Karen Wheeler, Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service  
Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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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 Reverend Canon Darren Barlow to lead those present in Prayer and a one minute's silence was held as a mark of respect to reflect the recent passing away of former Councillor Ken Barrett.

### 64. Minutes

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on the 27 September 2017 were approved as a correct record.

The Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 27 September 2017 were approved as a correct record. Councillor Duffin questioned why on Page 71 of Appendix A to the Council Minutes, Question 8, had the Members of the Public been attributed for the disruption rather than Members and asked whether this was an opportunity for the Conservative Members to apologise to the Public.

**65. Items of Urgent Business**

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

**66. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor C Kent declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to Motion 1 as she worked in a school in Thurrock.

Councillor Cherry declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to Motion 2 as he worked for the 101 Police Service.

**67. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council**

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

The Mayor invited Members and members of the public to the "Best of Thurrock Variety Night" which would take place on the 16 November that promised to be a good display of the best of Thurrock.

The Mayor thanked the Thurrock artists for beautifying the Mayor's parlour with their work which featured this month the work of Skylark Collective; he thanked the Well House Gallery for the display.

October had been universally marked as Black History Month, an occasion to mark the strength of community in diversity with 2017 marking 30 years of the United Kingdom celebrating the event. The Mayor attended the Black History Month reception at No 10 Downing Street and stated that it had been good to see the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and Ministers mix with a wide variety of people representing the diversity of the United Kingdom.

Thurrock schools had celebrated the event with a memorable occasion at Thameside Library where parents, teachers and children from all backgrounds celebrated. In a show of cooperation, six schools had worked together in conjunction with Learning Workz to mark the occasion.

Councillor Bukky Okunade would like to invite Members to the "Ankara" event on Friday and for Members to contact her directly for tickets.

That the Thurrock Civic Awards 2018 was now open for nominations and the Mayor encouraged everyone to nominate someone who deserved to be



recognised for the good that they did in the community and that nominations could be made online via the Council's website until Monday 27 November with the winners being announced at the Awards Dinner in February.

The Mayor invited Councillor S Little to announce the launch of Give a Gift at Christmas. Councillor S Little stated that following the huge success last year the Give a Gift would run again this year starting on the 21 November until the 21 December and encouraged all Members, Officers and members of the public to donate some of their free time.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, updated Members on the following:

Councillor Gledhill echoed the tribute made by Reverend Barlow to former Councillor Ken Barrett who had been an excellent Councillor, who had been extremely dedicated to helping residents and he would be sorely missed.

An update on Clean It, Cut It, Fill It showed that since April 2017, over 1000 tonnes of rubbish had been collected, 9200 acres of grass had been cut and 4100 potholes had been filled.

That the pilot of the Potholer Spotter had received an award at the Highways Awards for Best Use of New Technology and that Thurrock Council had been asked to speak at a national conference following Thurrock being recognised as the most improved local authority in highways maintenance by the National Highways and Transport Network.

Thurrock also received the Society for IT Professionals in the Public Sector 2017 Award for Citizen Engagement.

Lisa Holliday had been shortlisted for the Newly Qualified Adult Social Worker of the Year and the National Social Award.

Councillor Gledhill confirmed that the Fly Tipping in Alleyways Consultation was now open and available on the web-site until the 27 November.

That the expansion and improvement to Corringham Primary School will be made to support plans to increase their intake by 210 pupils.

The Council will continue to crackdown on business waste, unlicensed home and counterfeit tobacco and that 2800 fixed penalty notices had been issued since December 2016. Councillor Gledhill encouraged residents to stop dropping rubbish on the floor and to put it in the bin.

Councillor Gledhill stated that both the external cladding surveys and the comprehensive fire risk assessments have been completed and that the assessments had now moved onto the sheltered housing accommodation with all low rise blocks to follow. The fire risk notices and bulletins had been issued to all tower block residents but urged residents to have an emergency exit plan in place in the unlikely event of a fire.

**68. Questions from Members of the Public**

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be viewed under the relevant meeting date at <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock> and are attached at Appendix A at these minutes.

**69. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors**

The Mayor informed Members that in accordance with the Council's petition scheme no notices of petitions had been received.

**70. Petitions Update Report**

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

**71. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels**

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

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

Councillor Snell, Leader of the UKIP Group, informed the Council Chamber he had no further changes to make.

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

For Councillor Fish to replace Councillor Stone on the Licensing Committee.

For Councillor Baldwin to replace Councillor Stone on the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That Councillor Fish be appointed as member of the Licensing Committee.**
- 2. That Councillor Baldwin be appointed as member of the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

**72. Debate of a Petition containing over 1500 verified signatures - Kings Street Car Park, Stanford Le Hope**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that a petition had been submitted to Full Council titled 'King Street Car Park in Stanford Le Hope' and that as the petition had reached the threshold of 1,500 verified signatures, it had qualified to be debated by the Council.

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

The Mayor invited Councillor Piccolo, the Lead Petitioner to speak on the petition.

Councillor Piccolo stated that the limited free parking had a detrimental effect on shops in Stanford Le Hope in comparison to the 450 free parking spaces available in Corringham. That with modern day living people used cars to go shopping and that the air quality and pollution levels had increased with cars sitting idling waiting for a space. That this was the time for Thurrock Council to put right for the future because if the lack of parking in Stanford Le Hope was not sorted it will shortly not be open for business.

Councillor Piccolo suggested 3 options:

- Owners of the car park charge commuters in exchange for some free car parking spaces
- Clean the car park in exchange for some free car parking spaces
- Make a compulsory purchase order

Councillor Piccolo urged all Members to support to reinstate free parking back into Stanford Le Hope.

Councillor Jones stated his full support with the report as parking in Stanford Le Hope had been a bone of contention with residents and that the current owners had not acted appropriately.

Councillor Gerrish thanked residents and the ward Councillors for the petition and the good work undertaken. That all Members should stand united to bring effective benefits to the residents and shops in Stanford Le Hope. Councillor Gerrish asked for continued updates on this petition through the Petitions Update Report.

Councillor Hebb stated that the plans were flawed from the beginning and had pushed shoppers away from Stanford Le Hope. That the Council had tried to have discussions with the current owner but the Council now had to move forward and bring shoppers back to Stanford Le Hope. Councillor Hebb suggested 3 options:

- Shopper Scheme – spend so much in a shop and get your parking paid for
- Launch a review of single yellow lines
- Apply for a local land charge

Councillor Hebb stated that this decision had to be a cross party one that would ensure Stanford Le Hope become a restored town once again.

Councillor Gledhill stated from a personal view the planning laws were out of date and restrictions should be put in place for applications being resubmitted. Councillor Gledhill stated that a review would be brought forward to address the single yellow lines.

Councillor Halden stated that the business model for Stanford Le Hope was based on the need to support local people, support convenience stores and support customer parking so that these local services could be used. Councillor Halden stated that the review should be launched with action points that would help small businesses, shop owners and residents.

Councillor Tolson had concerns that if the present owners had not dealt efficiently with fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour how it would manage with any private prosecutions due to an incident or injury of a resident.

Councillor B Little showed his frustrations that the Council were readdressing issues that he was initially against when the application was first presented to the Planning Committee. Councillor B Little stated that a review of the Stanford Le Hope town centre, particularly the single yellow lines that would give the opportunity for cars to be parked elsewhere, would be undertaken. Although this may alleviate some of the problems it may not fix them all.

The Mayor thanked Members for the cross party debate and decision and thanked all residents who had signed the petition and that the Portfolio Holder for Highways and the Leader would now put forward a review.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the petition was considered by Full Council.**

### **73. Investment and Treasury Management Strategy**

Councillor Hebb presented the report that sought Members approval of the investment strategy approach and the subsequent related amendments to the Treasury Management Indicators that was based on 6 key principles which was presented to Cabinet on the 11 October 2017. Councillor Hebb stated it was important to remember that Thurrock Council had the third lowest net budget of all English Unitary Authorities, whilst having to deliver a large suite of services. That it was vital that front line services and other statutory services were not affected and investment had to be made. That a review will be undertaken of all Council services with becoming self-sufficient by 2020.

Councillor Duffin thanked and congratulated Councillor Hebb and Officers for the work undertaken and the direction that the Council was going. Councillor Duffin stated that some other Councils had already reached self-sufficiency and hoped Thurrock would be there in the future.

Councillor Gerrish supported the measures presented this evening and that it was important that the Council used sound measurements and treasury management to bolster up the Council's finances. That Members would need reassurances to ensure there was adequate control over the exposure of risk and that the performance and risk are regularly audited by the Committee and the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure details can be reviewed.

Councillor B Rice thanked Councillor Hebb for the report and asked for clarification on the estimated increase on page 93 of Appendix 1, A3 of £10.48 in 2019/20 and to point out the error on page 95 of Appendix 1, D1 total for 2017/18 should have read £989,321.

Councillor J Kent stated that flexibility was important to cover for any opportunities that may arise and could Councillor Hebb confirm whether the Council Tax would go up by 5% in 2019/20.

Councillor Gledhill thanked Councillor Hebb for the report and stated that it was vital that the Council received monies and relied on grants from Government, otherwise the Council would fail. Councillor Gledhill would be supporting and endorsing the recommendations.

Councillor Hebb thanked Councillor Duffin for his kind words and for the recognition.

Councillor Hebb stated that there would be no impact on Council Tax or the Housing Revenue Account.

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

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Council agreed the revised Treasury Management Indicators as set out in the Appendix 1.**
- 2. That the Council agreed that cash investment decisions that fall under a capital definition be treated as capital expenditure and the Treasury Management Indicators amended as necessary.**

### **74. Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's and Adult Social Care**

Councillor S Little, Cabinet Member for Children's and Adult Social Care, introduced the report and stated how pleased she was to be presenting her second report as Portfolio Holder. Councillor S Little publicly thanked all officers for their continued support and all the hard work and effort put in.

Councillor S Little updated Members firstly on the following Adult Social Care services:

Thurrock First – Now based at the Thurrock Hospital and had brought staff from all three providers to work together under one service.

Shared Lives – Where adults with complex long term needs can live in a family setting in the community and hoped to have 5 placements by April 2018.

Local Co-ordinators – Continued feedback received from residents across the borough on what excellent work had been carried out by the local co-ordinators.

Chichester Close - in November 2016 the Council, with the support of the Clinical Commissioning Group, was awarded approximately £500k from the Housing and Technology for People with Learning Disabilities Local Authority Capital Fund to develop 8 homes for young people with learning disabilities who may otherwise have to live in residential care outside the Borough.

Councillor S Little stated that significant progress in Thurrock Children's Social Care Services had been made over the past year with the service continuing to make improvements following the 2016 Ofsted Inspection and on its way to outstanding.

That Thurrock families deserved the best and that Councillor S Little was passionate to ensure that Thurrock Council delivered the best possible services to vulnerable children and their families.

The number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children had dropped considerably to 35 following the work undertaken with colleagues in the Eastern Region authorities to establish a transfer protocol.

That a further 20 applications from potential new foster carers had been received and commended the good service undertaken by the Youth Offending Service.

Councillor Snell thanked the Portfolio Holder for her report and commended her on the good work that had come out of such a large portfolio. Councillor Snell requested further information on the Home from Hospital Initiative and asked whether the processes in place for domiciliary care were robust enough. Councillor S Little stated that problems with domiciliary care had been inherited from the previous administration and that some services had to be taken back in-house. That a new initiative was planned to be introduced on the basis of what people actually want and that panel would consist of 2 residents who already received domiciliary care.

Councillor Gerrish questioned the overspend in Children's Social Care and how confident the portfolio was in delivering the services. Councillor S Little stated that the service was £1,885 million overspent but Members must understand the challenges and the complex cases with children in care and that it was a statutory duty of the Council to look after them. Reductions elsewhere in budgets had been made such as the cost of agency staff.

Councillor Okunade thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and asked what the Portfolio's retention strategy was. Councillor S Little stated that her strategy was to keep people happy in a stable environment with a good network of staff and employing more staff as required.

Councillor Spillman stated his concern on those social workers working with the homelessness families with children rather than with looked after children and that changes should be made to the Social Act to ensure that these cases are dealt with by the homelessness team and he would support this as his role of Chair to the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor S Little stated that this was being looked into and to be assured as a duty of care this was being addressed.

Councillor S Little summed up by thanking all in Adult and Children's Social Care for all the fabulous work undertaken.

## **75. Report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration**

Councillor Coxshall, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, introduced the report and was delighted to be doing so on behalf of residents and businesses in Thurrock.

Councillor Coxshall updated Members on the following:

That 80% of working age residents were in employment which was up by 6.4% on the same period last year which was a fantastic result.

That the Tilbury Masterplan had been launched based on what residents want.

Development on the Integrated Medical Centre on Civic Square had continued.

That a £10.8 million grant from the Local Growth Fund (Round 3) to complete the funding package for a new foot crossing under the rail line in High Street in Grays with a new public square and shops, had been secured.

Purfleet Centre will deliver new homes and a new town centre in Spring 2018 and a new health centre by 2020.

That consultation continued with stakeholders on the Local Plan and that the forums met regularly.

Councillor Snell stated that there were lots in the report that had to be commended and that residents of Thurrock need to be reminded that all the regeneration was right and proper. That there may be a fear that regeneration was going too far and how much green belt would actually be left. Councillor Snell asked what regeneration work would be planned for old estates.

Councillor Coxshall stated that at this time the Council were not in a position to confirm what green belt would be used.

Councillor Gerrish welcomed the progress made but that the biggest decisions would need to be made by the Council were on the Local Plan. Councillor Gerrish asked the Portfolio Holder for reassurance that all public consultations would be listened to and that all parties would be given the opportunity to comment and contribute to the plans going forward. Councillor Coxshall stated that he would give his guarantee that consultations would take place and that engagement would continue on the Local Plan right up to the voting of Stage 2.

Due to the time of debate running out Councillor Coxshall would provide written responses to the following questions:

Councillor B Rice stated that the Portfolio Holder did not realise that the uncertainty of the amount of planned regeneration will impact on residents of Thurrock. Councillor B Rice asked the Portfolio Holder whether all Tilbury and Chadwell residents, regardless of what general practitioner they use now, would be able to access the services offered at the new Integrated Medical Centre in Tilbury.

Councillor Duffin questioned what work had the Portfolio Holder and the Council done to lower the target of 32,000 homes set by the Government.

Councillor Baldwin asked the Portfolio Holder to reassure community groups and charities that as part of the regeneration of Civic Square that they would not find themselves homeless or be forced to close will be met as part of the overall plan.

Councillor J Kent stated that there were challenges ahead and asked the Portfolio Holder how these challenges and opportunities would be addressed following Brexit.

Councillor G Rice asked the Portfolio Holder about the east face slip road into Lakeside from the A13.

Councillor Spillman stated that the potential of 32,000 new homes was a fantasy and that this process should be undertaken in a fair way and that these homes should be built for the residents of Thurrock, not of London.

Councillor Jones stated his concern with the Local Plan and that the number of houses had increased and with this increase in population how would the existing infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, cope.

Councillor Smith requested that the new partnerships in the Purfleet Regeneration engage with the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee so that consideration can be given.

## **76. Questions from Members**



The Mayor informed the Chamber that 4 questions to the Leader of the Council had been received and 2 questions to Cabinet Members.

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

*At 9.14pm, the Mayor moved a motion to suspend Council Procedure Rule 11.1 to allow the meeting to continue beyond the 2.5 hour time limit until 10.00pm. The majority of Members indicated their agreement to the proposal.*

#### **77. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies**

Councillor G Rice attended an Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood Defence Committee where it been announced that a new £14 million flood defence gate would be commissioned and built in 2018/19 with the existing barrier in place until the new flood defence gate had been built and that this was very good news for Tilbury.

#### **78. Minutes of Committees**

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

#### **79. Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year**

Members received an information report updating the progress in respect of Motions received at Council over the last year.

#### **80. Motion received from Councillor Gerrish**

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

*Thurrock Council supports the National Joint Council (NJC) pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of the Council and school workers calls for the immediate end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector.*

*Thurrock Council therefore resolves to:*

- *Write immediately to the LGA asking it to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review;*
- *Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting NJC pay claim and seeking the additional resources needed to fund a decent pay rise and pay spine review;*
- *Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review.*

Councillor Gerrish presented the Motion and stated that most workers in Local Government and Schools had their pay determined by the National Joint

Council for local government services who saw their pay freeze from 2010-2013 and only 1% pay increase annually since then. With inflation making the cost of living more expensive, pay had dropped by approximately 20%. Councillor Gerrish continued that it was not fair that Thurrock Council employees who delivered crucial services see their pay eroded year after year. Councillor Gerrish believed that hard work should be rewarded with fair pay and that Thurrock Council should set a good example of this. It was also noted that Thurrock Council could not meet the increases in pay asked for on their own and that Government should halt the cuts to Local Government and adequately fund employees pay. Councillor Gerrish was proud to support the Pay-Up Campaign and the work that had been done on the pay cap.

Councillor J Kent echoed Councillor Gerrish's comments that recognised a need for pay restraints. This was not backed by a proper pay rise and consideration had to be given to those people that do those jobs and that it was about time they got a good pay rise and this was what they deserved.

Councillor Snell stated his support for the Motion and stated that it was about fairness and it was about time people got what they deserved.

Councillor Gledhill would not be supporting the Motion in this form but wanted to make it clear that it was about time pay restrictions on public serving staff are removed. The fact was that the Council was losing employees to the private sector due to more financial benefits. Councillor Gledhill stated that pay increases came from tax payers and that this Motion was asking for an unrealistic 5% increase. That an Annual Pay Policy report was presented at February 2017 Full Council identifying the 1% pay increase with no comments made by Members.

Councillor Coxshall stated that he would not be supporting the Motion as the budget required to be sound and in credit before it was looked at as to what could be done. Councillor Coxshall agreed that the restraint should be removed in areas of need and in the areas where people are leaving.

Councillor Cherry stated his support for the Motion but with some reluctance. Councillor Cherry agreed that it should be fair across the board and that it clearly was not. That the massive divorce bill paid to the European Union, money spent towards the HS2 and money spent on Foreign Aid could be put towards wages and good causes in the country.

Councillor Spillman would be supporting the Motion but stated that Labour had to take their share of the blame for some of the restraints set.

Councillor G Rice stated his support for the Motion and could understand the anger of those affected and that the Motion deserved the right and proper support.

Councillor Halden stated that it was not a matter about deserve verses not deserved as all Members agree that front line workers deserved a good wage.

Councillor Halden stated that if wages were forced up, and money was not available in the public purse this would then force taxes up.

Councillor Fish stated that the Government were out of touch with public perception and would be fully supporting the Motion.

Councillor Gerrish thanked Members for their debate and it was time that Theresa May now listened.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

Upon being put to the vote, 22 Members voted in favour of the Motion with 2 Members against and 13 Members abstaining whereupon the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

#### **81. Motion received from Councillor Jones**

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

*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.*

Councillor Jones presented the Motion and stated no response had been received from the Secretary of State from a letter sent one year ago and that the 101 Police Service had not improved in this time. That residents still continued to complain about the service and the lack of poor response.

Councillor Gledhill confirmed his agreement with the Motion and stated that each month he would continue to chase the Secretary of State for a response as this needed to happen now.

Councillor Snell spoke in favour of the Motion and requested the Motion go straight to vote.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

Following a clear majority in favour, the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

*Subject to Council Procedure Rules, Chapter 2, Part 2, Rule 11.3 the following 2 motions are deemed formally moved and seconded and would be put to the vote by the Mayor without Debate.*

#### **82. Motion received from Councillor J Kent**

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

*Thurrock Council believes the, so called, "dementia tax" is unfair and would be damaging to many older residents of Thurrock. The Council calls on the care minister, Jackie Doyle-Price, to rule out forcing older people to pay for their care with their home.*

Councillor J Kent presented the Motion and stated it was the Government's plans to revive the "dementia tax" and that the Conservative Social Care Minister, Jackie Doyle-Price, had recently stated that people with homes should not see this as an asset to give to their offspring. Councillor J Kent stated that dementia tax was not the answer and had caused upset and had been unsettled that this item was now back on the agenda and stated that people with dementia should not be forced to pay for care with their homes and should not be part of the reform.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

Upon being put to the vote, 22 Members voted in favour of the Motion with 13 Members against, whereupon the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

### **83. Motion received from Councillor Gerrish**

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

*Thurrock Council calls on the Government to provide the necessary resources and rule changes which would allow councils to build additional council housing at a scale proportional to need, in particular removing the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap. Council resolves to:*

- *Write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor and DCLG setting out our concerns and seeking urgent action to enable the building of council housing at necessary volumes.*
- *Write to Thurrock's MPs seeking all possible Parliamentary support.*
- *Request that the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider whether there are any additional local opportunities to increase our supply of new council houses in Thurrock.*

Councillor Gerrish presented the Motion and stated that the average waiting time for a council house now stood at 14 years and that the Revenue Account be relaxed to allow Councils to build more council houses based on need. That the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee could take up a review on this to consider additional local opportunity and Councillor Gerrish stated that it should be a right and not a privilege for residents to have access to affordable council housing.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

Following a clear majority in favour, the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

**The meeting finished at 10.08 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](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)**

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## **Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 25 October 2017**

### **Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.**

8 questions were submitted from members of the public. 1 question was withdrawn by the member of public himself.

#### **1. From Mrs Imamzade to Councillor Halden**

Can you tell us how far you have gone with the agreement and plans for the new Integrated Medical Centre in Tilbury. We desperately need this to improve the very poor health outcomes for Tilbury and Chadwell residents?

**Mayor**

Councillor Halden

**Councillor Halden**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I'm delighted to say this space will be in the ground next year. I remember several years ago, I think it was 2015, when I was an opposition Member sat on the Health Scrutiny Committee, we took the GP estate plan. I remember writing to the Chair of CCG (Clinical Commission Group) after that saying can we actually speed up and move to implementation. Obviously I was disappointed when I had gone, when the Leader gave me this Cabinet position to find there were no capital plans in place. There were no designs in place, there was literally nothing. There was just a concept but we said we was going to get started, we had. July this year, I took the plan to Cabinet that was approved to a) agree the principle at the Council where I'll just force the issue and take direct control and build it ourselves. And secondly, that we would appoint a design team and we went out to tender that team and we formally appointed them in September this year. So now we have the design team in place. That's also in addition to the extra work we done in the area, that Councillor Coxshall has done with the Tilbury Town master plan to make sure that we're not just plonking a new medical centre in the middle of Tilbury. That we are looking at how that can lend itself to the wider regeneration of the area. Obviously, a slight health warning to this, once we begin the process of building the medical centre, this is still dependent on NHS procurement, NHS England. For all Members who have tried to work with the NHS before, are not the speediest folks in the world. However, we've had lots of preliminary conversations with them, they've been intimately involved in the process and the NHS is very supportive in what we are trying to do in Tilbury, the CCG are fully signed up to the idea, so yes, the space will be in the ground next year and we are chugging forward. I'm very pleased to be able to say that.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Mrs Imamzade, do you have a supplementary question?

## **Mrs Imamzade**

Thank you Councillor Halden. We know that Jackie Doyle-Price is in favour of closing Orsett Hospital, are you? *(Mayor advises Mrs Imamzade that her supplementary question will not be accepted as it does not relate to the initial question. He leaves it up to the Portfolio Holder to decide whether to answer the question or not).*

## **Councillor Halden**

I'm aware I have a question about Orsett Hospital this evening from the Labour candidate for Stifford Clays. I will come onto Orsett Hospital later. What I would say, is that one of the things that perplexes me, well actually, presses me about Members opposite, I've announced that I will spend between £15 - £20 million in Tilbury building a modern medical centre that will be one of the biggest investments that the people of Tilbury has ever had for their medical services. It breaks years and years of log jam and what's more, it's not just about the quantity of services, it's about the quality. We passed my GP standards plan last year to ensure that the people of Tilbury don't just get new facilities. The existing GP facilities are held to account and forced to improve and if they are not treating the people of Tilbury in the way that they deserve, we have got a clear plan in place to help those GPs improve. It does confuse me that we can announce we're improving quality, we're spending a tremendous amount in Tilbury, we're going to start building these medical centres next year and the Party opposite finds or attempts to find a way to attack me. I do salute the inventiveness that takes because that's quite a stretch in terms of such a good news story for the people of Tilbury into an assault. I admit, I don't have that creativity, if I did, I'd probably be an author.

## **2. From Mr Jackson to Councillor B Little**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Transport provide a high level transport plan that supports 32,000 new homes within the borough of Thurrock that does not add additional burden to the 17 air quality management areas already identified in 2016?

## **Mayor**

Councillor B Little

## **Councillor B Little**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Mr Jackson for your question. The Council is currently reviewing its Local Plan. As that Plan progresses and preferred locations for new development eventually become identified, infrastructure plans to assist in the proper delivery of that growth will be progressed in parallel that will include transportation needs related to specific locations where growth is agreed, as well as Borough wide transport needs. The Local Plan will be subject to a full environmental impact assessment which will address a wide range of issues, including air quality. We are not at



that stage in the process as yet, but I can assure you that the need to undertake this work is fully recognised.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Mr Jackson, do you have a supplementary question?

**Mr Jackson**

Thank you Councillor Little. Just a quick supplementary question. Will the Portfolio Holder for Transport support trams in future transport needs?

**Councillor B Little**

Thank you Mr Mayor. Thank you for your supplementary question. I will look at reviewing the need and support, anything that will help this borough in the future but it needs to be something engineered in a meaningful way.

**3. From Ms Blake to Councillor Gledhill**

Where does the Leader of the Council propose to build 32,000 new homes in Thurrock?

**Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Ms Blake for your question. You will have to excuse a bit of the pre-waffle but it is important. The future growth of the Borough is a very important issue for all residents and businesses. Housing development is an integral part of that growth not least to provide new houses to meet the considerable needs of demographic growth and change in the Borough. A significant part of that growth is driven by existing residents and businesses. Since the original regional assembly imposed 18,500 homes on us in 2001, Thurrock has been very successful in creating the jobs that were put in at the same time. Unfortunately, we've not been as successful with the new homes. The way that we currently create new homes is to assess it in relation to the amount of the growth that we have through business growth. Now, when we get to the point where we have 32,000 homes, we then need to go through a local plan stage to dictate what type of properties they will be, propose where they will go, go through consultations with residents and through Members of course. We are not quite at that second stage yet.

The location of those new houses will be determined through the Local Plan which will be shaped through several stages of public consultation. The first stage of consultation took place in February 2016. The second stage which is called Issues and Options will be considered by Council soon before going to consultation. There will be a further two consultations before it is submitted in

2019. Now, all three groups have already had one look at the proposals. I've asked for a lot more information, the very second we have that and we're in a position to move to announce that, we will do at Full Council.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Ms Blake, do you have a supplementary question?

**Ms Blake**

Thank you Councillor Gledhill. Will it be beneficial with the building plan for these houses if the Lower Thames Crossing is approved and opens up the green belt land?

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you for your question. It makes absolutely no odds. The requirement for the 32000 homes comes from the growth we already have and already planned irrespective to whether the Lower Thames Crossing, which every single Member in this Chamber still remains in objection to, happens.

*The Mayor asks Councillor Gledhill to clarify Group Leaders have had sight of the last consultation for the new homes. Councillor Gledhill believes this was done through each individual party group meeting.*

**4. From Mr Towlson to Councillor B Little**

Further to my question to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Councillor B Little on the 27 September 2017 and on reading the Thurrock Transport Strategy for the period of 2013 to 2026 what reassurance can the Council supply to disprove my belief that it will fail to deliver on the 'Health and Well-being' and 'Protecting the Green Environment' aspects of the Strategy due to possible further massive road expansions, the requirement of further housing and as it has also been claimed by the Portfolio Holder for Education and Health "that there was only so much the Council could do on their own"?

**Mayor**

Councillor B Little

**Councillor B Little**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Mr Towlson for your question. The council is committed to promoting Health and Wellbeing and Protecting the Green Environment as part of a programme of sustainable managed growth. The forthcoming Issues and Options 2 consultation on the Local Plan will consider all aspects of infrastructure development within the borough and their cumulative impact on the environment and this will inform the proposed adoption draft for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate. With regard to

significant road expansions, the council continues its opposition to a possible Lower Thames Crossing through Thurrock as mentioned previously. As we are all aware this scheme is being developed and promoted by Highways England and that the council is a statutory consultee. The council has established the multi stakeholder Lower Thames Crossing Task Force to ensure full and transparent scrutiny of all environmental impacts associated with this project and will actively engage with the development consent order process to ensure as far as possible that adverse impacts are fully mitigated.

It is true that the council will not have the definitive say on whether Lower Thames Crossing and other infrastructure of national significance is allowed to be delivered in Thurrock. However, by ensuring that council stakeholders are fully sighted on all relevant environmental impact evidence, provide challenge where necessary, and are empowered to fight to ensure that adverse impacts are mitigated in line with global best practice, we will do everything within our power to support the aims set out in the 2013-2026 Thurrock Transport Strategy.

### **Mayor**

Thank you. Mr Towlson, do you have a supplementary question?

### **Mr Towlson**

Yes I do Mr Mayor. As a Thurrock resident and Chair of a local community forum, I would like to congratulate Thurrock Council on receiving a recent award for an innovative action of fitting cameras to refuse collection vehicles. A simple idea but costly. Can I please request that we now stop undertaking surveys, monitoring, analysing, discussing, meeting etc., which has been going on for many years and just take some action on our well known concerns? Let's show the rest of the UK that Thurrock does act and not be seen as thinking, I quote, 'thinking we may take action at some time Council'. I will consider an answer is not sufficient at this stage.

### **Councillor B Little**

I believe I wasn't asked to answer but I will do. Thank you Mr Mayor, thank you Mr Towlson for your supplementary question. What I would like to say is that, as an authority and the reasons that we receive awards for doing things is that we do them in a way which is based on getting information, getting data, presenting a case and getting funding delivered to us sometimes, not from a begging bowl because we're desperate but because we need things to happen in a certain way. We can only do that by progressively putting together information that supports our requests and that information can come from something that has been asked of us to have a look at, like pothole spotting for instance. It can come from us going into the new level from two to three of H Met which is the new highway maintenance efficiency programme. If we don't do these things, we are penalised by government which is right because they're giving us the money to do some repairs and do things in a

professional way. If we don't present the evidence in a professional way, we won't be able to get that money. Not only that, we will start to lose funds.

**5. From Mrs Pegley to Councillor Coxshall**

At the last public Council meeting it was stated that 32,000 homes were to be built in Thurrock, can the Council tell me please where is the land situated to build these houses?

**Mayor**

Councillor Coxshall

**Councillor Coxshall**

As the answer was just given, the future growth of the Borough is a very important issue to all of us here who live, work, including people who run businesses in Thurrock. The next stage is called Issues and Options 2 which you've just heard and will be presented to Council very shortly ahead of the consultation. I hope that this plan receives cross party endorsement as just for the purpose of the consultation to make sure we hear from residents across the Borough. Throughout this wide consultation, which will underpin the local plan, in its broad locations for where the new housing growth can be located will be brought forward at that time.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Mrs Pegley, do you have a supplementary question?

**Mrs Pegley**

Can the Council provide guarantees that these properties are intended for the people of Thurrock and not just to meet the demand of the overspill from London?

**Councillor Coxshall**

If the 32000 house document has been out there for a little while now, just before the summer. In that, it breaks down where this number is coming from and how we've arrived at the 32000 houses and how many houses, 1300 or so per year for the 20 years. That comes out from really, 75% of that is houses in this Borough. There's 11% really for inward because we've had 70,000 jobs, predicted growth in jobs, people are going to get inward migration to this Borough. That's a positive, that 11%, because it's really important to us. We've done such a good job that people want to come and live in Thurrock. Now, I'm not going to stop people doing that because I'm proud of this Borough and want to make sure this Borough is and now it's been a beacon of growth. So we can't stop job growth, I don't want to stop job growth. And then there's another interesting fact that I heard today. We're the last big housing expansion that built Ockendon in the 50s from when Harold

Mcmillan was a Housing Minister then he went on to the Prime Minister, we're now building hundreds , thousands of houses per year. This is a big undertaking to take across the country and Thurrock's got to play its part in this next big housing expansion. But 60 years ago when that was built, 2.5% of people lived on their own. Now, the current people, that is now at 12.5%, live in separate lives. That's a massive strain as well of that 75% on our living circle. We live separate lives now, that means there's a 15 – 20% extra houses we're going to need, just to support the new way people live. So, we can't just stop and get off, we've got to think about this and that is why the consultation is critical. We've got to move forward and actually got to have a sensible conversation on where we want these.

*Councillor Gledhill requested that the order of the last two questions were adjusted to wait for Councillor Watkins arrival.*

## **6. From Mrs Watson to Councillor Halden**

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm from his correspondence with health partners what the process and timetable will be for consultations on the future of Orsett Hospital?

**Mayor**

Councillor Halden

**Councillor Halden**

Thank you Mr Mayor, thank you Mrs Watson for your question. The consultation will launch this year. As I've said in answer to the previous question, NHS England are good at many things, speediness is not one of them. They've decided they want to roll several consultations across the country, all into one period. The stipulations we demand as a council is we want a clear 12 week consultation period. We don't want a short consultation, we want a good consultation where people can respond. We also want a very clear dedicated Orsett consultation so people don't have to wade through all other things to find the Orsett section and unless my directives correct me, these are the stipulations. Now the process itself, Basildon and Thurrock University Hospital own Orsett Hospital so they are, essentially, the people who are asking to consult. The consultation is prepared in conjunction with the Clinical Commissioning Groups because obviously they are the people who commission the services out of Orsett hospital. From there, it goes to a third stage still, once a consultation has been written, NHS England have to sign off that they believe is sufficient and robust conversation and the clinical centre get involved to satisfy themselves that clinical issues are actually easily being explained to the public. And in the fourth stage still, HealthWatch which is an independent third party advocacy body and our Health & Wellbeing Overview Scrutiny Committee, are both statutory consultees, totally independent from the process. They will both get their opportunity to comment both on what is being proposed but also they will be able to comment on the robustness of the consultation itself. So, it's really a very full process as I have

said many times in the past as Portfolio Holder for Health. We work very hard with Basildon Hospital and with all partners, NFELT, EPUT, whoever the new mental health arm used to be called, SEPT, CCG and other partners to solicit the assurances that no clinical services will leave Thurrock. If changes were to take place at Orsett, no services will leave Orsett Hospital until brand new modern facilities are built for those services to go into. Those are the assurance that we've been given and those are the assurances that we are still working to. Of course, I'm happy to answer any supplementary you may have.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Mrs Watson, do you have a supplementary question?

**Mrs Watson**

We know the MPs are in favour of closing Orsett Hospital but Orsett at the moment is working full capacity with the consultants at Basildon and with clinics holding their surgeries there. How confident are you that following the closure of Orsett Hospital that the three walk-in hubs that you are proposing will meet the needs of the Thurrock residents?

**Councillor Halden**

Thank you Mr Mayor. First of all, it's going to be four brand new medical centres, not three for a start. Secondly, as I've already said, that, as I've said in the past, what you need to remember about Orsett Hospital is that there are no overnight beds. The last tour I had around Orsett Hospital, they showed me all the empty rooms, they showed me the huge amount of space that was used for storage. I might be wrong but I've got a figure off the top of my head which is about 46% of Orsett Hospital is not used for anything clinical. So when people talk about Orsett Hospital, it's misnomer, there are no overnight beds, vast majority of the site is not even used. To bring the site up to modern standards would be in the region of £10 million so I'm not in favour of constantly protecting a building that is out of date. What I'm in favour of is protecting the clinical offer in this Borough and I'm very clear in the Cabinet Holder responsible for health. We have got a deal, it is signed. No Thurrock clinical services will leave Thurrock. Nothing will change at Orsett until new facilities are built. So literally, the consultation, we are talking about consulting over a building. I am confident that all the health partners, not the Council, all the health partners, the CCG, the mental health hub, NFELT, they are signed up to the same principle that I signed in May of this year. All clinical services staying in the Borough, no changes happening until brand new modern buildings are fit and ready to accommodate those services. This is a good new story for the Borough and what I would finally say, and this is an important point, that I've already answered one question this evening when supplementary automatically set wage into a Member of Parliament for Thurrock. Your supplementary did the same thing. I'm aware you're the Labour candidate for Stifford Clays, I don't wish you luck but I do wish you well. I know it's a stressful experience standing for election for the first time.

What I would say is, and I caution my Labour colleagues opposite, before you launch your 'Save Orsett Hospital' campaign, no clinical services are under threat. Tens of millions of pounds we used to build new buildings for those services to go in so before you launch a campaign that is based on lies, I would just remind you that lies are very, very easily beaten by the truth. And I do caution you all.

## **7. From Mrs Parker to Councillor Watkins**

Can I ask the Council, if they will be tagging bins again which for whatever reason were not collected? It appears this is currently not happening, and it can help residents understand why bins were not collected.

*Councillor Gledhill provided a response on behalf of Councillor Watkins.*

### **Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill

### **Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Mrs Parker for your question. I apologise that refuse collection isn't my strongest point. I get it done every week, it's not magic it happens and I'm grateful we are doing exceptionally well in doing so. The short answer is yes. It will take some time to get these tags organised. Councillor Watkins can talk at length about the education process we need to put in place, certainly for recycling residents know what we can and can't recycle, what needs to go in each bin. I think it's for every 11kg each household saves; we end up with £35,000 worth of savings. So getting that right every single time is important. Every contaminated load costs the council tax payer money, it costs us time and of course means we don't start reaching our targets for recycling. So as I say, yes is the short answer. It will take a number of months to get these organised to make sure unlike the last time, they remain stuck to bins and not wash off in the rain. And those are tagged on a weekly basis to identify why they are wrong and why their bins haven't been collected. It's very clear and a record is kept so if there are repeat offenders, they can be contacted direct by the waste department to explain what they should and shouldn't be doing in relation to their waste.

### **Mayor**

Thank you. Mrs Parker, do you have a supplementary question?

### **Mrs Parker**

Thank you Mr Gledhill. I would like as well to ask a question. Is it possible that there could be more street bins made available in every ward, some as well in Stifford Road near the schools? Which I hope will keep the area looking cleaner.

## **Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Mrs Parker for your supplementary question. Yes we are currently going through a bin review. We are installing a number of trial, different types of bins and as I have cracked the same joke before, I'll crack it again, we are using big belly bins which I have absolutely nothing to do with. It is a style of bin from a company, nothing to do with me. This is a bin that will compress rubbish up to three times smaller than what we currently get. It's smart enough to actually let the Council know when it's ready to collect. Putting these bins obviously around the street in the Borough will help to collect more waste and spend less time in picking it up. That will free up the current bins we have to put in strategic places where we do see the accumulation of rubbish. This will obviously be tied in with further enforcement as I have said, 2800 tickets issued so far since December last year. It's a carrot stick approach, we'll put the bins there, if you don't use them, you'll get a ticket. But yes, it is part of the bin review.

## **Item 14 – Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 4 questions had been received to the Leader of the Council and 2 questions had been received to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee had been received.

### **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **1. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Gledhill**

Will the Leader be apologising to all residents affected by the confusion and chaos surrounding the 'Grass Tax' implementation?

#### **Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill

#### **Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor, I will try to keep this short Councillor Gerrish. I apologise my answer may answer some of the supplementary so I do apologise in advance. The short answer is no. I made the position perfectly clear at the last full Council, the Grounds Maintenance service charge has been temporarily suspended and all tenants affected have been written to explaining this. Housing Scrutiny Committee will be overseeing a fundamental review on both the principle of a charge and how it might be fairly implemented. I understand Scrutiny had a useful discussion on the matter at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October. The review will report back to the next Housing Scrutiny meeting in December and I look forward to hearing their recommendations.



**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Gerrish, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Gerrish**

Thank you Mr Mayor. Yes. The particular element of confusion and chaos that I was referring to was around the fact that some residents seem to have still been billed. It's obviously a concern to me that many residents having been told that they wouldn't need to pay and those that payments would be suspended but none the less, they see some money coming out of their account. Could I ask what questions did the Leader ask Officers about the ability of the Council to adequately halt the payments including direct debit payments and what advice was he given? Thank you.

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Gerrish for your questions. As you eluded to those effected were mainly on the BACs system including those on direct debits. I was fully aware both professionally and advisable Officers that you require ten days in which to cancel a request of payment from anyone under the system. Which meant that those on those payment methods for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> following month would be charged and their accounts accordingly adjusted for their next instalment whenever that would be. That still remains the case. If that isn't the case, I would like residents or indeed yourself, to contact me to take this up with Officers. There is a scheme within the direct debit authority that should the person that takes the money via that system has done it incorrectly, I believe they can claim a £10 compensation accordingly.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Gerrish, do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

**Councillor Gerrish**

Thank you Mr Mayor, thank you Councillor Gledhill. If he is, in that case, or if he was in full awareness of the fact surrounding the inability to cancel that charge, does he think that perhaps on reflection if you've made that clear to residents when you gave your statement last month?

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor, thank you Councillor Gerrish. If I did admit it, I do apologise for that specifically. I would apologise individually to any resident who has had that money and weren't fully aware that that was the case. Also, my understanding was that part of the letters would have outlined this. Again, if that wasn't the case, I profusely apologise again on that particular part.

**2. From Councillor Jones to Councillor Gledhill**

Would the Leader insist that members of Grays police station attend this year's remembrance service at Grays memorial and stop the traffic for the minutes silence out of respect for all service personnel that have served and lost their lives fighting for Great Britain in many conflicts over the years.

**Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Jones for your question. Firstly, I have to make clear that Essex Police have been in attendance to lay wreaths every remembrance service. I've attended since being elected and did indeed before. I have spoken to Essex Police on this matter and can confirm that the Deputy Chief Constable BJ Harrington and the District Commander Richard Baxter, will both be in attendance and will lay wreaths at this service. In addition there will be a representative from Thurrock Community Policing Team laying wreaths across all services in Thurrock. You must remember that Essex Police lost 76 of their officers during the wars and of course, it is close to their heart. Now moving onto the traffic control, I'm told Essex Police wrote to the Council in 2015 outlining they will no longer be supplying officers with road closures and it will be the event organisers to deal with this. As such, our Parking Services Team will be on standby for this service. Attendance in the service appears to be increasing, something to be pulled year on year so we have to make sure our residents are safe at all times. That's without, obviously, showing the due respect that everyone should be showing on that special day and special time. I can confirm that following last year's service, I've asked the Council to cordon off the loading bays, the parking bays on the southside carriageway going from the memorial itself on Orsett Road to Cart Lane. This will better allow the Mayor to take the salute from the parade as it leads off Thameside complex. I'm please to say that officers will be there from 8 o' clock onwards and would ask the shops that they tell their customers not to park up. Equally, the barriers on the High Street will be closed and there will be a minimum of three enforcement officers on site to deal with the process. Hopefully, that will ensure a peaceful and adequate parade.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Jones, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Jones**

Thank you Mr Mayor, thank you Leader. I wasn't having a go at the police, I know that they've got lots to do with the restrictive number they've got, I know they've got lots to do. Basically, I attended a memorial on the 17<sup>th</sup> of

September this year, with the Mayor. I was very embarrassed with the going ons there. There were no police, once again, the road wasn't stopped. We had many distinguished guests there that day, veterans, we had three lots of air cadets – Basildon, Grays, Stanford, and at times, I felt it was embarrassing. I didn't think this was the way that Thurrock should portray itself. So thank you, that you know, someone's going to be closing it.

**Councillor Gledhill**

Just very quickly. Councillor Jones, just to be fair, I know you wasn't having a go either at not having the police attending or not laying a wreath, you know they do it every year. I wasn't at that particular service, I was out of the Borough on that day, I've heard some of the horror stories and yes, that's not the standard that I would hope to happen at Thurrock whenever. Obviously, I'll be dealing with the highways team to ensure that they co-ordinate with all the exterior groups within the Borough that deal with these types of parades to ensure this doesn't happen in the future. As an aside, we're also going to make sure the trees are properly cropped this year so our Union flag doesn't get tied up as it's lowered at the memorial.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Jones, do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

**Councillor Jones**

No, Mr Mayor.

*Members agreed to suspend standing orders to 10pm to finish the meeting.*

**3. From Councillor B Rice to Councillor Gledhill**

Does the Portfolio Holder for Housing agree with me that it is only with the go ahead for the New Thames Crossing that he will uphold his commitment to 32000 new homes in Thurrock?

**Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Rice for your question. To be honest, I read the first nine words and thought the answer was going to be no anyway. Surprising enough, I was right. No, I do not agree with you that the 32000 homes is dependent on the Lower Thames Crossing. I believe this has already been answered once this evening from a very insightful question from a member of the public and I don't intend to take up too much of Members' time reiterating what I've just said.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor B Rice, do you have a supplementary question?

**Councillor B Rice**

I do and I'm really pleased about the Portfolio Holder's answer which is he doesn't agree and I think that's absolutely great and so will the residents of Thurrock who don't want another crossing in Thurrock. We will look forward to the plan coming forward to this Council with no reference points to junctions on or off the proposed new crossing and no settlements based on this premise. So thank you very much Mr Mayor.

**Councillor Gledhill**

It's a statement and I'm not going to take up time so thank you very much Mr Mayor. But there is an agreement there Councillor Rice.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor B Rice, do you have second supplementary question?

**Councillor B Rice**

No.

**4. From Councillor Pothecary to Councillor Gledhill**

Would the Portfolio Holder for Housing commit to reviewing the new caretaking arrangements for the six High Rise blocks in Grays as residents remain unhappy with the level of service provided?

**Mayor**

Councillor Gledhill

**Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor and I do apologise, this answer is actually going to be a long one for a good reason. No is the short answer. This is the long one, this week, both the Assistant Director and I made one of our regular estate visits across the whole of Seabrook Rise. We visited every high rise block selecting floors at random and checked the stairwells and open spaces surrounding them as well. During the visits, we spoke to a number of residents including a former member of the caretaker staff, all who said they were happy with the caretaking service they paid for. I'm not saying the blocks were completely litter free but what little litter etc., that we did find was clearly no more than about 24 hours old. On checking the housing records, there have only been two complaints about the caretaking service from residents, none from elected

Members and nothing flagged up as a cause for concern by the Housing Management Team. I would like to make clear, there's been no reductions in the service provided following the recent changes to include the echoes following Councillor Allen's petition. But what we did find from our inspections and speaking to residents was that they were not happy with some of the stairwells being used for smoking, drinking alcohol, toilets or indeed drug taking. This, we will be reviewing.

We will also be writing to remind all tenants that they cannot store anything outside in the communal areas or leave large bags of rubbish for the caretakers to remove. These are clear recommendations from the fire service for their own safety but equally, it does not help the view of the neighbours and visitors when they themselves visit the hallways or indeed, our council staff operating to keep the areas clear. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my personal thanks to the caretakers who work on six high rise blocks – Samantha, Michael, Martin and Scott and to their previous and current Team Leaders – Rob and Paul, who were absolutely great on our inspection. They are doing really great work and are not backwards and coming forward with suggestions on how they work, how their work could be made easier and where problems exist, how they could actively encourage people to make that change. So, instead of keeping these issues bottled up and waiting until Full Council to bring them, perhaps take a leaf out of their book, speak to me, speak to the Officers and don't delay in these things. Because the longer they delay, the more that it festers. Thank you Mr Mayor.

### **Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Potheary, do you have a supplementary question?

### **Councillor Potheary**

Yes. Ok, so I have been in contact with Members Enquiries several times over lots of different issues so I don't know how Councillor Gledhill, you can make that claim but, never mind. Ok, so we've had blocked bin chutes, we've had blood left unwashed, we've had piles of cigarette butts in the car parks and these are things we've had photographic evidence of in some of these cases. Residents, there are still some residents who feel there is not a gold service being delivered here. And there is a discrepancy between what council office records are showing and how some residents are feeling. To what my question is, to try and move this forward in a constructive manner, is how is caretaking work evaluated, assessed and supervised and how could residents be involved more in this process?

### **Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Potheary. If our gold service, which residents pay for, isn't being delivered, then they should contact the service immediately. They shouldn't hang about and wait for next time they see a Councillor on the street, that includes myself, they shouldn't sit there and fester at home thinking nothing will ever get done. I don't like the idea of

seeing pools of blood anywhere. I don't like the cigarette butts building up. I don't like rubbish accumulating, nobody does. However, this stuff doesn't come from anywhere, some of it does come from residents, some of it from tenants. So, they need to take that active role themselves, to make sure they're putting their rubbish in the bin rather than just throwing them out and reporting to us, the anti-social behaviour that is happening in the stairwells, that is happening in the car parks and in some of the lower landings. There is a number they can contact on all of the noticeboards, there are a number of numbers they can contact immediately and I suggest that they do so. And in that way, we can take immediate action. As to how it's evaluated each day, the operators that clean the flats, have a long checklist to tick to show that's what they've done. They've seen we've just gone round to check that at random, as we've seen this week, both the Assistant Director and I will go round to see as well. But as I say, if residents are not happy with the gold service they are paying for, they must contact us straight away so we can then start taking the action. Building up a body of evidence, all that's doing is leaving a problem there that will fester and fester. Just get on and clear with the problem straight away, it will improve the service no end.

### **Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Potheary, do you have second supplementary question?

### **Councillor Potheary**

I wasn't going to but yes. Ok, so I think this is part of the problem, is that residents are reporting these things. And I think also they are feeling that if there is a caretaking service there that they are paying for, that the caretaker doesn't necessarily have to be alerted to the fact that there is a problem that should just be part of their, sort of, ongoing work. What I would ask, is I'd ask you to reconsider the question I just asked, which is how residents can be more involved. Short of reporting things because they're already doing that, but how can residents be more involved in how that service is kind of put together, how that service is assessed on a kind of broad level?

### **Councillor Gledhill**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Potheary. My apologies, I kind of see a bit more of where you're coming from there. One of the best things any tenants can do is start a tenants group. It doesn't have to be a mass tenants group covering the entire estate, it can easily be for the block or a group of landings. This is the kind of thing where they can get together, discuss the issues, come to us as a tenants section panel that they can apply to join, bring these issues forward. And again, collectively, they can see where the problems lie, collectively, they bring them to our attention and we will correct them where we possibly can. We do believe that tenant participation is the one best way to change tenant perception in any council accommodation so I strongly suggest that. I can certainly get one of our Officers to draft

something up to put on the boards and indeed, deliver to each property if necessary to show how that can be facilitated.

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

### **1. From Councillor Liddiard to Councillor Coxshall**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration please explain why Tilbury was excluded from the grant funded scheme to improve shop fronts?

#### **Councillor Coxshall**

Yes. Some of my colleagues asked did I plant this question for you. You are correct. It is excluded from the fund and I'm sorry to say that it was excluded by the Labour administration in 2013. Shame yes. It was deemed, not warranted to be part of the scheme and it was approved by Cabinet later in that year to exclude Tilbury. Both Tilbury wards. I must say, if I may ask as well, did you actually make any representation to your colleagues or the Cabinet Members at the time to actually include that? But not to worry, I noticed this and we've actually made, we've asked, we're making good on Labour's mistake again in Tilbury. And we've put a bid together and submitted it to the community led local development project to cover Tilbury riverside and Tilbury St Chads. We expect to know the answer later this month or next month at the latest. And if approved on the bid, we'll add in to the Tilbury fund and they will be able to get the shop fronts done. I have to say again, from 2010, we been saying for the Members of Parliament and all the Councillors at any level, that Tilbury needs some love and the Conservatives are going to deliver that. My answer is, any Tilbury Councillor, if they want to come over, we're the ones delivering for Tilbury for no political gain, not every day, every entire week, not just at election times.

#### **Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Liddiard, do you have a supplementary question?

#### **Councillor Liddiard**

Thank you Mr Mayor. Thank you Councillor Coxshall. So we can expect all 60 shops in Tilbury to get your support for shop front funding then, can we?

#### **Councillor Coxshall**

Absolutely. The same way as the same they can apply in Grays, Stanford, we're going to make it to Tilbury. I have no earthly idea why Tilbury was taken out of the campaign when it was under Labour administration. As I've said , I've got no idea why it wasn't, it's crazy, that one high street was excluded and that Tilbury was. I can only think it's because no one cares about Tilbury. The Conservatives love Tilbury and we're going to give some love to Tilbury.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Liddiard, do you have second supplementary question?

**Councillor Liddiard**

No, thank you Mr Mayor.

**2. From Councillor Okunade to Councillor B Little**

The ASDA roundabout in Tilbury is becoming very congested, particularly between 4.30pm and 6.00pm. Does the Portfolio Holder for Transport have any plans to tackle this?

**Councillor B Little**

Thank you Mr Mayor. Thank you Councillor Okunade for your question. The asset in question falls within the Highways England's remit, and is currently undergoing detailed scrutiny in relation to proposals for Tilbury 2 port expansion. The Council will continue to work closely with Highways England to monitor the capacity at this location.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Okunade, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Okunade**

Thank you very much for that response. My supplementary question is that the Tilbury Masterplan has been widely circulated on social media and the potential increase in road traffic has given rise to deepen concerns regarding air quality. What assurances can the cabinet member for Transport give that the air quality will be measured and what action taken if results show dangerous levels.

**Councillor B Little**

Thank you Councillor Okunade. Thank you Mr Mayor. Yes you mentioned the Tilbury Masterplan which is obviously the proposal going ahead but Tilbury 2 is within consultation period it is a development consent a national strategic area and will have consultations going on and environmental analysis being done on that as it is going forward.

**Mayor**

Thank you. Councillor Okunade, do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?



**Councillor Okunade**

I know that Part 6 of the new Masterplan for Tilbury is reconstruction. With the current issue that I mentioned I know you did say that it is Highways England but with the current issues with congestion on the roundabout. The envisaged traffic from Tilbury 2 and the slip road from the tunnel. So I am wondering what additional road building will be considered to deal with additional traffic.

**Councillor B Little**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Okunade for your second supplementary. Environmental Impact Assessments will be carried out with Tilbury 2 and with other things that are going around on the area, or possibly others stuff that is going on around in the area, and I believe that will start to generate mitigations for issues that are around and any of these potential developments that are going ahead.

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## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There are 5 questions from members of the public.

**1. From Mr Byrne to Councillor B Little**

Would the Council consider apologising to the residents of Stanford Le Hope for the ongoing issues at the King Street Car Park and the charges imposed on them and commit to a 100% guarantee of reintroducing free car parking by whatever means necessary?

**2. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Gledhill**

Councillor Gledhill, you are probably aware that there is waiting period before the first payment of "Universal Credit". In some cases this could mean some people are left without any form of income for at least six weeks. Is there anything the Council can do to help them, especially over the Christmas and New Year holiday?

**3. From Mr Fletcher to Councillor Gledhill**

Given the current uncertainty over areas like the Culver and Dilkes sites in Belhus and Ockendon, will Councillor Gledhill please reassure us that the demand for new housing will be balanced with the need for local amenities and recreational space?

**4. From Mr Strange to Councillor Gledhill**

In the light of the recent incursions by travellers on to the public parks in Ockendon. Could the portfolio holder tell me if there are any plans to secure Dilkes Park from any further incursions?

**5. From Mr Akhigbe to Councillor Watkins**

Please let me know how many public remembrance sites are maintained by the Council and how many have not been maintained in the last couple of years. Does the Council have a program of maintenance for these sites?

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## Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 29 November 2017

Petition No.	Description	Presented (date)	Portfolio Holder	Status Full copies of the responses may be obtained from Democratic Services
494	To the clearing of the alleyway between Salisbury Road and Kent Road.	28 June 2017	Cllr Tolson	Further enforcement action on the clearance of this alleyway to be considered in light of the outcome of the current review by CGS O&S. This is currently subject to consultation. The outcome of the review will be reported to the CGS O&S Committee at its December meeting.
495	Kings Street Car Park - We the undersigned request Thurrock Council to do everything in their power to secure a minimum of 2 hours free car parking in Kings Street Car park, Stanford le Hope with or without the private owner's cooperation, using whatever means necessary to achieve this.	26 July 2017	Cllr Piccolo	Discussions with the car park owners are continuing to explore options that will secure 2hrs of free parking at King Street car park.
496	Relating to the poor state of road surface in Gordon Road, Corringham.	27 September 2017	Cllr Jones	Over the last 12 months patching and pothole works have been undertaken in Gordon Road, Corringham. There are currently no intervention level defects as a result although the road surface is cosmetically poor.  Gordon Road, along with other roads in a similar condition, are currently being assessed for prioritisation for inclusion in the 2018/19 Programme. In the meantime, it will be monitored by our Highway Inspectors and should any defects occur, they will be addressed accordingly.

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

## Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 29 November 2017

497	Resident(s) of Hadfield Road, Rectory Road, Wharf Road and Fairview Avenue, Stanford-le-Hope request Thurrock Council (a) consult on the introduction of a one-way system around Hadfield and Rectory Road, and (b) introduce speed-calming measures down both roads (also looking to Fairview Avenue also).	27 September 2017	Cllr Hebb	(a) The council previously developed a proposal for a one-way system around Hadfield and Rectory Road in 2015, however, this was not supported by local stakeholders at the time. This will be included in our programme for 2018/19, and project feasibility work and consultation will be undertaken in the Q1 of 2018/19. (b) This will be included on our programme for 2018/19 with a feasibility study in Q1 of 2018/19 to determine the appropriate speed-calming measures that can be introduced.
498	Installing CCTV on a section of Seabrooke Rise.	27 September 2017	Cllr Kerin	The Housing service is considering this proposal with input from the Community Safety team. A judgement about a specific new installation will be made when all the relevant information has been assessed in full, and residents and ward members will be advised of the decision within the next two months.
499	Council's proposal to introduce and extend service charges by up to £400 per year for all tenants.	27 September 2017	Cllr Gledhill	Further to the motion agreed at the Council meeting this reconsideration will be taking place. An update report will be presented to Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 October 2017 setting out the proposed scope of the review, with a further report setting out a range of options for the Committee to consider to be presented at the December meeting, The final decision in relation to service charges will be made by Cabinet after the report has been presented to the Scrutiny Committee.

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

## Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 29 November 2017

500	Reconsider the unfair rent increase imposed on Council tenants.	27 September 2017	Cllr Jones	Further to the motion agreed at the Council meeting this reconsideration will be taking place. An update report will be presented to Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 October 2017 setting out the proposed scope of the review, with a further report setting out a range of options for the Committee to consider to be presented at the December meeting, The final decision in relation to service charges will be made by Cabinet after the report has been presented to the Scrutiny Committee.
501	Against the installation of the yellow lines outside the shop, off licence and general store on 7 Browns Cottages, High Road, North Stifford, RM16 5UH	20 October 2017	Cllr B Little	Following a site visit with Cllr Hague (on 27 October) and having given further consideration to the accidents statistics in the area, it has been decided that the proposed double yellow lines at this location will not be progressed.

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<b>29 November 2017</b>	<b>ITEM: 10</b>
<b>Council</b>	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Councillor Aaron Watkins, Portfolio Holder for Environment	
<b>This report is Public</b>	

I am very proud to be presenting to you my first annual report. It has been a true honour to be in this role and I would like to believe my excitement, passion and drive to ensure we have the best Environmental Services has been clear.

Clean It, Cut It, Fill It; I believe has been helping to make Thurrock a place we are proud to live in, setting out clear principles. It was this Administrations task to clean this borough up, invest in the department and make sure our hard-working staff had the required equipment to get the job done. This year, Keep Britain Tidy announced our first scores which were better than their minimum threshold and showed that the investment and hard work was paying off.

Today, I can report that this hard work is continuing and I would briefly like to touch on some past achievements, from the Clean It, Cut It side; Clean It, Cut It has cut over 9,000 acres of grass, we have collected over 1000 tonnes of rubbish, we have issued over 2,400 fines for littering and prosecuted over 100 people for not paying their fines. Alongside this, there has been countless investment across the Environment department. Firstly, an additional £1,000,000 was invested in the 2017/2018 budget for Clean It, Cut It, Fill It. Along with this, we purchased, 10 brand new ride on mowers and 28 new refuse vehicles to replace the existing ageing fleet. Enforcement has played a key role, and alongside the additional enforcement on the streets for those littering, we have started a programme removing un-taxed vehicles across the borough, going after those who either do not have or cannot produce trade waste documents and instructing our enforcement officers to go after those who seek to non-comply with our PSPO's. From April next year, we will also have the powers to go after those who litter from their cars.

When I took on the role, I laid out some clear expectations that we would be working to ensure we had a service which worked for everyone in Thurrock. I instigated the Public Street Bin review for us to have the first holistic look at how we can improve the bins across the borough. I ensured we had the right number of waste vehicles available for our waste team to use every day and I was fully aware of disparities within the service on recycling and instigated a full review into how we communicate with residents. Whilst of course I am happy with the changes we are making, I am fully aware that some of the targets we should be reaching, we currently are not. At a national level waste disposal costs are increasing and now more than ever we need to encourage our residents to recycle. I am aware that for some, they may not see

the hard work which this Council has done over the past year and for some they see the same old issues every day. I am happy to announce that a series of measures will be enacted upon over the coming months to continue to transform the Environmental department, to continue the great work of Clean It, Cut It and take it to the next level, to ensure all residents can see the positive impact and changes we are making.

I would also like to mention Sport as; I do have a passion for sport and would love further engagement by the residents of our borough. Having only recently acquired the brief, I have held meetings with Impulse Leisure who continue to have a strong relationship with the Council. I would like us to be working closer with the many sports providers across this borough and I want us to have an active role in getting Thurrock residents more active.

I would like to take a moment to thank all community groups who take pride in their area and work to make it better. Along with this, I would like to thank all those who work within the Environment Team, out on the streets or in the office every day. I would also like to thank the senior team for their hard work, patience; dedication and commitment to this Council and for listening to me speak constantly.

## Key Service Outputs

Service Area	Function	Annual Output	Weekly cost per Household.
<b>Waste Management</b>	No. of domestic bin collections per year.	10,422,828	<b>Collection £1.49</b> <b>Disposal £1.81</b>
	Annual domestic tonnage collected and disposed of.	70,801 tonnes of household waste collected and disposed of in 2016-17	
	% of domestic bins collected on time.	2015-16 98.5% 2016-17 98.3% 2017-18 ytd 97.6%	
<b>Street Cleansing</b>	Annual cleansing miles of highways.	622 miles of road swept on a 3 weekly cycle.	<b>£0.50</b>
	Number of Litter Bins emptied	579 litter bins across the Borough	
	Tonnage of Street Cleansing waste collected.	In 2016-17 combined Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing teams disposed of a total of 3,457.51 tonnes of street waste. 286.3 tonnes of that was composted.	
<b>Greening</b> (incl Parks & Open Spaces, Country Parks, Burial Grounds, Outdoor Sports etc.)	No. of Playgrounds maintained.	71	<b>£0.67</b>
	Overall grassed areas maintained.	518 hectares	
	No. of Urban Parks maintained.	91	
<b>Winter Maintenance</b>	Tonnage of salt used.	30 tonnes per gritting run	<b>£0.04</b>
<b>Cemeteries</b>	Burials in 2016-17	294	
<b>Enforcement</b>	FPN's Issued (Jan-Oct 2017)	2,444	
	Prosecutions Undertaken (Jan-Oct 2017)	83	
	Abandoned Vehicles Inspected (Jan-Oct 2017)	1,623	

## Environmental Services Introduction

The Environment Portfolio is unique, in that the services it delivers are the only Council services that are provided to all residents in the Borough every week. Waste collections are made from every household as an active interaction. Less directly but no less valuable, the levels of street cleanliness and the presentation of our parks, open spaces and verges have impact on all residents and visitors to the Borough as they go about their daily business.

Our leisure services, managed by Impulse Leisure, continue to provide facilities for our residents in three key locations across the borough and in order to aid health and wellbeing, our green areas need to be inviting and encourage use and activity.

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

- **Clean It** Street Cleansing
- **Cut It** Parks and Open Spaces (including Country Parks, Playgrounds, Cemeteries and Allotments)
- **Bin It** Waste collection and disposal (including Commercial Waste)
- Household Waste and Recycling Centre
- Environmental Enforcement
- Operational aspects of Highway Repair and Maintenance
- Fleet Management and Maintenance
- Sports & Leisure

This report has been prepared to provide an overview of the projects and programmes which have been delivered in 2017/18 and outline plans for the coming year.

### 1. **‘Clean It’ - Street Cleansing, Parks and Open Space (Delivered)**

The “Clean It, Cut It, Fill It” programme was introduced during 2016/17, dedicating additional resources to enable performance of the Street Cleansing function to be improved.

Following the success of the initial pilot, members approved the continuation of this programme and committed £1m (including the ‘Fill It’ element of the programme).

The reintroduction of the barrow beats and additional cleaning has received very positive feedback from residents and community groups and anecdotal feedback suggests an improved level of street cleanliness has been recognised, this has more recently been supported by the findings of Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) in their first of three inspections this financial year. Operational changes have been made to the roads covered by the barrow beats and two additional charge-hands have been introduced to increase the standard of cleanliness across the borough, along with the reintroduction of the Major routes litter picking team. This team focus on litter picking the major routes in and out of the borough, as well as some of the rural roads which are not appropriate for barrow beats. The team’s schedule focuses on a ten working day cycle for these areas.

The reintroduction of this approach enables the service to better focus on known ‘hot spot’ areas for litter and has allowed for an increased frequency of cleaning to a minimum of every ten days, in areas where the barrow beats are situated, and a daily frequency to areas such as the Town Centre.

From this financial year street cleanliness inspections are being carried out by Keep Britain Tidy (KBT). This is a change from practise in previous years when the inspections were completed by a trained Council employee. Keep Britain Tidy are the key body responsible for the collation of data on Street Cleanliness from all Councils, for maintaining the standards and providing training. By having our inspections completed by KBT not only are we able to ensure that the results are comparable with other Councils, but any of risk bias is removed. The first tranche of inspections were completed in June 2017, the results were better than the annual target as detailed in the table below.

	Target	Tranche 1 Inspection scores
Litter	10.00	8.50
Graffiti	5.00	3.00

There were a number of land types where the scores for the first tranche were particularly good; this included main retail and commercial sites and main roads and the team will continue to seek enhancements and improvements to continually improve these areas.

The additional ‘Clean it, Cut it’ funding has enabled the introduction of an additional grass cutting schedule for a tractor mounted grass cutting unit, bringing the total to three. This allows for all grass in the parks and green spaces, which are accessible to tractors, to be cut at three weekly intervals. In addition the service has purchased two new grass cutting units to replace the aging and less reliable units, improving operational efficiency. Two teams of four operatives have been introduced to cut the grass in areas which are not accessible to tractors on a three weekly basis. The introduction of these teams has also enabled litter picking, more frequent emptying of bins and inspections of play equipment, on a weekly basis.

## **2. Vehicle Procurement (Delivered)**

Previously the new Street Services crew cab caged vehicles were 3.5 tonne. This caused the service some vehicle capacity issues, the weight of the cage and the operatives inside the vehicle meant that the pay load of the vehicle is 30kg, restricting operations and increasing time of travel, e.g. two journeys required instead of one, one to drop off staff and the other to manage equipment/waste. The new vehicles purchased (at a cost of £345k), are 4.5 tonne and have a payload of 1.5 tonne; the new vehicles provide increased reliability and flexibility to react to daily operational challenges. Ten new Kubota ride on mowers have been purchased (at a cost of £160k, including a maintenance package from the supplier), again providing increased reliability and improved service delivery.

### **3. 'Cut It' - Parks and Open Spaces Capital Works (In progress)**

An improvement programme to promote greater use and enjoyment of the parks and open spaces and encourage positive activity is underway. This programme is specifically intended to support the Council's priorities of: a) to "promote and protect our clean and green environment"; and b) the Health and Well-being Plan objective of 'creating open spaces that make it easy for residents to be active'.

To fund the required improvements the Council has allocated the provision of £500,000 for open space enhancements within the 2017/18 Capital Programme. A further £725,000 has been allocated for 2018/19 and £125,000 for 2019/20.

Officers have reviewed the approach and prioritised investment in the parks and open spaces on the basis of the following:

- Quality and value findings from the Active Place Parks and Open Space needs assessment (draft)
- Parks and Open Space public consultation
- Residents survey
- Health data
- Known operational requirements and issues
- Areas of Vandalism and Anti-Social behaviour

The highest priority parks that will receive investment in 17/18 are Dilkes, Koala, West Thurrock Memorial Ground and Bonnygate Wood. A programme of work and minor repairs continues in other parks.

As part of the ongoing improvements we will be assessing and improving accessibility in our parks and open spaces. Full engagement and consultation will take place, with active encouragement for community groups to participate in the design, promotion and well keeping of the parks. We will be asking the community to assist us with watching over the parks and reporting antisocial behaviour, the more reporting of such activity aids in the resource allocated to address such issues.

Enhancement of the website will take place, outlining the offer in each park and the equipment in place. Where there is outdoor gym equipment etc., guidance on the usage of this equipment will be available via the web, all part of encouraging people to get active.

### **4. Winter Parks Programme (Ongoing)**

A heavy pruning programme will commence in December through to March in parks, open spaces, cemeteries, verges and road sides. This work is carried out on a 3 yearly cycle, pruning in some locations may appear to be quite severe, this work is necessary for the future maintenance of these shrub areas and communication with residents will take place to assure them of regrowth in the spring.

Out of season maintenance will also be carried out on bowling greens and Cricket wickets in preparation for the start of next season.

## **5. Land Strategy (Ongoing)**

A review of the land the Environment Team maintain will take place next year and a bid for capital funding to support this activity has been submitted. The purpose of the review would be to consider high cost of maintenance versus the quality of presentation. There are small sections of land across the borough that are operationally challenging, due to their land type and locations. An example of this might be a grass roundabout at the far end of the borough which requires traffic management in place to be able to cut the grass safely. The cost of the traffic management, as well as the amount of times the team need to attend to cut the grass could be eradicated by enhancing the roundabout, potentially with themes linked to the local area. These changes would be made with a view to reducing the amount of maintenance required to the roundabout and improving/enhancing presentation to what is essentially one of our gateways into the borough.

Another example may be a single small grass verge located in a cul-du-sac which requires regular grass cutting, by changing the area into a paved area, maintenance wouldn't be required, allowing resources to be used elsewhere.

## **6. Capital Spend Winter Works (Ongoing)**

Work will be carried out during the winter on some of the pathways, improving accessibility, in our parks and open spaces. Some paths have minor potholes and cracking forming in them and these will be dug out and new paths laid. Additional seating will be added to some of the parks and open spaces in the form of benches.

## **'Bin It' - Waste Collection and Disposal (Including Commercial Waste)**

The current domestic waste collection function has been run by our in-house team since 2010 following a successful competitive tender exercise. The service provides a weekly collection of residual waste, dry recycling and kitchen and garden waste. The disposal of all waste collected is controlled through a suite of 6 external contracts. These have been in place since 2010 and cover the various strands of treatment and disposal as well as the provision of a Household Waste & Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Linford.

Over the course of the year the collection teams empty 10 million wheeled bins, disposing of 70,000 tonnes of household waste.

## **7. Route Optimisation (Ongoing)**

With effect from 8th of May 2017 completely new domestic collection rounds for all 3 streams of domestic waste were implemented. This shifted the waste collection pattern to a sweep of the Borough from east to west and provided an opportunity to ensure balanced and achievable workloads for all rounds each day of the week. The changes impacted 79% of residents in the Borough.

The route optimisation program was delivered relatively smoothly with above target performance in the first couple of months of operation. In general the new sweeping

system is working very well and is considered a success. It has been recognised that during the summer months a range of operational issues affected performance and, as with any new service implementation of this scale, there have been some teething problems which have impacted on collection rates, in particular towards the later part of the week and some communal areas. Continual monitoring is taking place and with the introduction of the new Bartec System, referred to later in this report, will improve information available to both the crews and our residents. The service continues to work hard to address any ongoing issues to improve collection rates for all our residents.

## **8. Procurement of new Waste Vehicles (Delivered)**

The existing refuse collection vehicles (RCVs), having reached the end of their economic life, are being replaced in the first quarter of 2018 following an extensive cross-department procurement project and EU-compliant tender arrangement. Twenty-eight new vehicles have been ordered (at a cost of £4.5m) incorporating the latest technical standards aimed at improving fuel economy, reliability and environmental impact. Four current RCVs recently fitted with new engines are also being retained and upgraded to provide a robust back-up to the service. This will increase the fleet by two vehicles, a total of 32, which will assist with the growth in both residential properties and Commercial Waste.

## **9. Recycling Education (Ongoing)**

Increasing recycling rates within Thurrock provides a range of benefits including lower disposal costs. A project group has been formed to identify actions that will be taken to increase the rates of reuse, recycling and composting.

Key actions include:

- Education campaign with clear targetted messaging, using data available from the new domestic collection round structure, focus key messages to address specific issues in specific areas of the borough, e.g. where recycling rates are particularly low on a given day, the targeting will advise on key household items which can be recycled.
- Renewed Waste Strategy and Policies which will enable the commencement of a campaign to tackle contamination of recycling, ensuring residents understand why bins haven't been emptied due to them containing non recyclable materials and what needs to be done to remedy this in future
- Actively working with Landlords and Managing Agents, with targeted campaigns to multi-occupancy buildings and communal properties that currently have low levels of recycling. This will include better sign posting, clear sided recycling bins for bin stores and additional support for recycling from management companies and groups.
- A review of signposting and messaging about the re-use of items through bodies such as TRUP and the Household Waste and Recycling Centre
- Messaging to schools to ensure that clear and consistent messages regarding recycling can go home with pupils.



## **10. Public Bin Review (In progress)**

To follow on from the work that has already been carried out to improve the cleanliness of the borough, through the program of Clean It, Cut It Fill It. October's Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny committee agreed a report which provides details of a review which will be carried out on the public litter bins throughout the borough.

The review focuses on the location and style of the current litter bins, the process for installing new litter bins, the change of the current individual litter and dog fouling bins to the introduction of standard dual purpose litter bins, including where appropriate the opportunity to recycle. This process will require the Council to purchase new litter bins and a capital bid has been submitted.

## **11. Big Belly Bins Pilot (Delivered)**

Ten "Big Belly" bins have been purchased and are located at strategic locations across the borough, as follows:

- 1 bin located at the lay by opposite Sainsburys, A1306 Arterial Road, West Thurrock
- 1 bin located at the lay-by by Arena Essex, A1306 Arterial Road, West Thurrock
- 1 bin located at King George V playing field, Blackshots
- 1 bin located at Grays Beach Park
- 1 bin located by the sea wall at the end of Thames Road
- 1 bin located in Crown Road by the bus stop
- 1 bin located in Orsett Road
- 1 bin located in the lay-by in Conways Road, Orsett
- 1 bin located by the taxi office, next to Kings Street car park, Stanford le-hope
- 1 bin located in London Road Stanford le-hope opposite Runnymede Road

Litter inside the big belly bins is compacted by the bin and the bin sends an alert when it requires emptying.

The location of each of these bins has been selected to address particular site challenges and to maximise the opportunity to test their resilience and usage.

Monitoring the success of the pilot will be through analysing the data produced from the big belly bins; this will include information on the frequency of emptying the bins. There may be the need to relocate these bins if they are not getting the high usage anticipated and a further capital bid for more bins will be submitted, subject to the success of the pilot being realised.

## **12. Increased Commercial Waste Service (Delivered)**

The Commercial Waste Service offer waste collection and disposal services to businesses and organisations within Thurrock who do not qualify for a domestic collection under the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012. The service offer a wide range of collection sizes across residual waste, composting and recycling disposal methods in order to meet needs of small, medium and large businesses across the borough.

Commencing in May 2016 the Authority embarked on an ambitious drive to expand the Council's Commercial Waste offer. Revenue has grown from £190k in 2015/16 to a projected outturn of £303k in 2017/18. In addition to an increased level of income the service has taken measures to provide a wide range of smaller waste receptacles in order to support local independent businesses. This has the added benefit of reducing waste dumping and migration of Commercial Waste into the Domestic stream. Our enforcement team continue to provide advice and, where necessary, enforce inappropriate commercial waste disposal.

## **13. Procurement of new Waste Disposal Contracts (Delivered)**

The Council disposes of in excess of 78,000 tonnes of waste material generated by 66,000 households per year. To ensure that the Council's waste management requirements are met there are 6 waste contracts in place including: Energy from Waste, Landfill, Composting and Recycling. Five of the six contracts expired in 2017 and a full OJEU compliant procurement process has been undertaken to put in place new contracts that meet the required specification at the best available market rate. The new contracts are scheduled to go-live on 11/12/2017 and will run for up to 5 years.

## **14. Waste Policy & Strategy Refresh (In progress)**

The last strategy covers the period up to 2018 and so a refresh is due. The Council has an opportunity to undertake a review of the policies surrounding the collection and presentation of Waste in the borough. Updating the policy will allow for an increased emphasis on recycling and responsible waste disposal. The new Strategy will underpin the 'Clean it, Cut, It Fill it' agenda ensuring that collection, disposal and enforcement activity surrounding these services contributes to a cleaner and greener borough.

Additionally, the introduction of the new waste collection rounds (route optimisation), the development of the Environment Enforcement team and the more detailed and accurate data that should be available from the Bartec system mean that we are well placed to start to clarify some of the policies and working procedures. This started with the introduction of the new rounds and reminders to residents that bin lids need to be closed in order for the crews to safely tip the bins, and has continued with the current review and renewal of the assisted collection process.

By carrying out a full Policy and Strategy refresh the service can ensure that all aspects of the waste collection service are dovetailing effectively with other parts of

the department and providing residents with a clear and comprehensive overview of the service that they can expect to receive and the actions they need to take to support domestic collections.

#### **15. Household Waste and Recycling Centre (Delivered)**

The Council has a statutory obligation under section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act to provide residents with a facility for the disposal of bulky household waste. The Council currently operates a single site at Buckingham Hill Road in Linford. Due to the rising cost of waste disposal and the layout and condition of the site the incumbent contractor declined the opportunity to extend the site contract. With limited viable options for contracting out and a clear understanding that the site is in need of imminent redevelopment the Council was left with no option but to insource the site with effect from June 2017. Taking the site into Council control has allowed the Authority to undertake a number of interim quick wins to improve the site operations, introduce new avenues for recycling and take measures to reduce rapidly increasing waste disposal costs.

#### **16. Redevelopment of HWRC Site and Permitting (In progress)**

The current HWRC is not in keeping with modern facilities at other boroughs. The size of the site is struggling to meet current demand and will not be able to support the boroughs projected growth agenda. Proposals for redevelopment and enhancement of the site were outlined and discussed with ward members at a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September and were very positively supported by Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2017.

Since the site was bought back in house it became evident that trade waste activity was taking place, recent investigations into usage has highlighted abuse of the site and during the week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> October a number of users were cautioned as to their attendance and inappropriate disposal of waste. Having identified and acted upon this behaviour, it is imperative that stricter controls be put in place as quickly as possible, while ensuring safe working isn't compromised. A further report on permitting options was considered by Cleaner Greener Safer Overview Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Subject to Cabinet approval in December, Planning permission will be sought with a view to redevelopment within 18 months and a permitting scheme will be put in place as soon as possible early New Year.

#### **17. Environmental Enforcement (Ongoing)**

The Environmental Enforcement Team transferred from Public Protection to the Environment Service. The team are now closely aligned with the Domestic and Commercial Waste Team and also the Street Cleansing Service. Closer working relationships with the waste and cleansing service provide Enforcement Officers with the intelligence required to better address Environmental Concerns within the borough.

## **18. Enforcement Pilot (Delivered Littering, Abandoned vehicles and prosecutions)**

The Council has introduced a zero tolerance approach to Environmental Crime. Between December 2016 and October 2017 over 2,444 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for Environmental Offences, a total value of £218k in fines. In addition 100 individuals either prosecuted or listed for prosecution for Environmental Crime at both Basildon and Southend Magistrates Court, resulting in court awards of a value of £33k to date. Members approved the introduction of the maximum fines available for Enviro Crime Offences setting Fixed Penalty Notices at their top level with all early repayment discounts removed.

The Government has announced plans to ensure that from April 2018 the fine for littering will increase to £150 and new powers will be introduced to allow Council's to fine the registered keeper of vehicle for littering from that vehicle. In addition permission was sought and granted to name and shame the offenders prosecuted in court and this has been widely publicised. These new powers conferred by government and approved by members will be enforced to ensure that our streets and green spaces are respected and that those who flout the rules are held to account. As is currently the case any monies raised from enforcement will be invested back into cleaning and greening services.

In September 2017 Officers entered into a delegated authority agreement with the DVLA to obtain powers to enforce against untaxed vehicles. In the first 2 weeks of operation 39 untaxed vehicles were removed from the streets of Thurrock and the team continue to respond to reports.

The success of the Litter Enforcement pilot has led to a four year contract for a wide range of Environmental being procured. The contract is currently being evaluated with the new contract scheduled to go live on 07/12/2017.

## **19. Target Hardening (In progress)**

Capital funding was approved and is in place for the target hardening of areas subject to fly-tipping and unauthorised encampments. A programme of evaluating the measures at regularly targeted sites is ongoing and priority has been given to sites which have received the higher number of reported incidents:

To date the following works have been completed or are in progress:

- Stanford-le-Hope, Manorway. Installation of Earth Bund to prevent access to grass area.
- Corringham, Shell Field/Park Road. Installation of new heavy duty gate. Tender for install of bollards along front edge is ongoing.
- South Ockendon Bonnygate Wood. Installation of additional bollards to prevent future access following unauthorised encampment.
- South Ockendon, Buckles Lane. Installation of CCTV to prevent ongoing fly-tipping.
- Orsett Recreation Ground. Installation of heavy duty gate to prevent unauthorised access and related anti-social behaviour.

- Tilbury, Low Street. Road Closure to prevent ongoing and persistent fly-tipping.
- Grays, Kilverts Field. Out for tender - Installation of full perimeter heavy duty bollards to prevent future access following unauthorised encampments.
- Little Thurrock, Woodview Slip. Out for tender - Installation of full perimeter heavy duty bollards to prevent future access following unauthorised encampments.

The Council understand the impact these incidents have on residents and continue to look for new and innovative ways, with our partners, to be both reactive and proactive to reduce future incidents.

## **20. Operational Highways Maintenance and Repair (ongoing)**

Although not responsible for the strategic aspects of the Highways Network, the Environment portfolio includes the service that carries out the on-street work such as maintaining footpaths, verges and sightlines, repairing potholes and winter gritting. The service have procured five multi-purpose highways/ gritting vehicles and 1 dedicated fly tip removal vehicle at a cost of £1m. These vehicles will be delivered in February 2018. For the upcoming winter gritting period 3 dedicated gritting vehicles have been hired to cover the risk of inclement weather. The past 2016/17 winter was notable in that it was again relatively mild and our gritting operations were only mobilised on 41 occasions. However, we are still prepared to deal with the harshest winter conditions that may occur, deploying frontline capacity from across the Department to ensure the delivery of a high quality service to keep Thurrock's highways safe and passable.

## **21. Bartec Procurement and Implementation (Ongoing)**

In 2017 a tender process concluded that resulted in the Environmental Department procuring the Bartec Collective system for Street Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance, Domestic Waste Collection and Trade Waste. The system provides a back office scheduling and reporting tool that will ensure improved data, task allocation to each team on a daily basis and the recording of completion of those scheduled tasks. The system can integrate with both units that are installed in refuse Collection vehicles and hand-held mobile devices (such as smart phones and tablets). The implications of this for the department are significant; signalling a movement away from the paper based daily worksheets that have been issued to members of staff to digital work records. In addition to ensuring robust data enabled fact based management decision making, the schedules and completion reports will allow the service to respond to customer queries more quickly and accurately.

The implementation project is underway and has started well. It is anticipated that the system will be available to the Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing staff early in 2018, with the intention being that the Waste Collection crews will be able to use the new in-cab devices from the time that the next refuse collection vehicles are delivered.

## 22. Fleet and Facilities (Delivered)

The in-house Fleet Management team provides a flexible, crucial role to our frontline services in overseeing the procurement, servicing and maintenance of all Council-owned vehicles and plant, covering some 150 HGV and smaller trucks, vans and large plant and around 200 items of smaller plant and machinery. These fleet items are deployed across the range of Environment-delivered services including Waste Collection, Grounds Maintenance, Gritting and Street Cleansing, as well as a number of functions delivered by other Council departments, for example Social Care.

The team works closely with functional service management to ensure that the specification of vehicles and plant meets the operational requirements and that overall fleet size and configuration are optimised, minimising the need to source short term hired items and ensuring compliance with related regulations, including environmental impact, as well as delivering value-for-money.

As a licenced Testing Station, the vehicle maintenance team carries out approximately 400 MoT tests on both the in-house fleet as well as for a limited number of other customers, avoiding the service disruption and costs associated with external providers, and the team also undertakes about 320 licensing compliance checks on Thurrock's Taxi and Private Hire vehicles. These activities generate a valuable income stream of around £35,000, which helps to fund other frontline services.

The cost-effectiveness of the in-house vehicle maintenance and fleet management team and its vehicle procurement approach has been demonstrated as part of the recent EU-compliant formal tendering exercise linked to replacement of the Council's fleet of Waste Collection vehicles, which represent the majority of the activity of the Fleet team.

Specific fleet achievements over the past year include:-

- Replacement of the Waste Collection vehicle fleet .
- The majority of the Council's sub-5-tonne vehicles, street cleansing vehicles, and six large gritting/multi-purpose Lorries, including a dedicated Fly Tip response truck are also being replaced via EU-compliant tendering processes during 2017/18. The specification of the new vehicles will address services' current load capacity requirements and meet the latest environmental prescriptions and their increased reliability and improved running costs will enhance productivity and reduce budget pressures for frontline teams.
- Vacation of Curzon Drive Depot and redevelopment of Blackshots Depot - Redevelopment of the Oliver Close / St Clements site in 2016 provided the capacity to relocate the majority of office-based and frontline teams based at Curzon Drive. We have now refurbished the Blackshots depot (previously occupied by the Council's Building Maintenance contractor), and transferred the remaining Curzon-based operational team, freeing up the Curzon site for demolition. As well as providing a much smaller operational base with better links across the borough, the move will deliver financial savings relating to the servicing and maintenance of premises that are no longer meeting service needs.

### **Ongoing delivery for the Fleet team over the coming year will include:-**

- Consolidation and optimisation of the mostly-new fleet across services, reducing the incidence of supplementary hiring's, and providing operational managers with appropriate performance management information to enable fleet deployment and productivity to be monitored.
- A continued focus on improving service efficiency and frontline productivity through reduction in vehicle downtime.
- Maintaining effective levels of workshop capacity in the light of recruitment and retention pressures experienced as a result of local market conditions.

## **23. Sports & Leisure**

Work continues on developing strategies which ensure Thurrock has a future sports and leisure facilities infrastructure which meets the needs of its residents and addresses some the issues regarding the aging stock of some current facilities. These strategies will link to the local plan and encourage residents to be active by regularly taking part in sport and physical activity

The needs assessments for: indoor sports; playing pitches; and parks have previously been undertaken as part of this work. Further work is ongoing to translate this into strategy and action plans. It is anticipated to be in a position to present a final strategy to Cabinet early in the New Year for approval.

The partnership between the Council and Impulse Leisure Charitable Trust continues to flourish and the Council has this year invested £430,000 in replacing mechanical, electrical and heating and plant at Blackshots Leisure Centre.

Furthermore, the Council is investing £1.2m at Belhus Leisure Centre to replace the swimming pool roof and mechanical plant equipment. This will complement the £850,000 that Impulse Leisure has recently invested in the facility.

## **24. Financial Performance**

A considerable amount of progress has been made in reviewing the Environment Portfolio in a commercial way, identifying those discretionary services to ensure they move towards full cost recovery.

In February 2017 the Deputy Leader oversaw and guided the Thurrock Commercial Principles and the portfolio works towards delivery of the principles.

The forecast financial performance for the year is summarised below.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Budget 17/8</b>	<b>Forecast 17/18</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Greening Services	2,496	2,496	-
Multi Skilled Area Teams	397	397	-
Street Services	735	735	-
Waste Mgmt Collection	5,094	5,094	-
Waste Mgmt Disposal	6,311	6,631	320
Mgmt, Fleet & Enforcement	43	43	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,076</b>	<b>15,396</b>	<b>320</b>

Regretfully the Environment Portfolio is impacted with pressure on Waste Disposal budgets. This is not a unique problem to Thurrock it is a pressure that is seen at a national level.

As the Portfolio Holder one of my priorities will ensure that Thurrock does all it can to mitigate this risk and plans and strategies will be in place to address this national issue.

## **Summary**

The Environment Portfolio is operating both effectively and efficiently, as evidenced in the recent accreditation of ISO9001.2015. The service has delivered well against a number of key projects outlined above, as well as maintaining existing service delivery. Further work to enable route optimisation; increasing collection rates; recycling promotion/ education; fleet procurement and zero tolerance enforcement policy and pilot are areas the service needs to give focus to going forward and again key activities of planned work are outlined in the report.

Very few authorities would plan to deliver so many projects in one service; route optimisation, waste disposal contracts renewal and HWRC back in-house all in one year, but this authority did and has achieved very well and to a good standard.

The leisure part of the service is key to getting people active, the environment plays a key part in this whether activity is walking or cycling in our parks, using outdoor gym equipment or our sports pitches it is imperative that the services are provided well for our residents.



## 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 7 questions to the Leader and 9 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

**1. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Gledhill**

Back in 2016 the Leader of the Council appointed an external company to conduct a review of the Thameside Theatre. Will he give an update on their findings?

**2. From Councillor B Rice to Councillor Gledhill**

Councillor Gledhill will you support a cross party working group to investigate with officers and residents how we could raise funds to both purchase equipment for our recreational areas and maintain it thereafter?

**3. From Councillor Smith to Councillor Gledhill**

Is disrepair in council homes a factor in the appearance of black mould which is, as we know, a contributing factor to breathing difficulties experienced by many children in Thurrock?

**4. From Councillor Collins to Councillor Gledhill**

Could the Leader outline the rules affecting Officers and Members on the extent of their party political activities?

**5. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Gledhill**

Will the leader give us an update on discussions about a devolution deal for South Essex?

**6. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Gledhill**

What work has been done by the council to understand the potential impact of Universal Credit on Thurrock residents?

**7. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Gledhill**

As the Lower Thames Crossing saga continues, is the Leader satisfied with the approach and performance of Highways England?

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

### **1. From Councillor Allen to Councillor B Little**

Does Council accept the problem of vehicles parking on footpaths and pavements has become a serious issue here in our Borough?

### **2. From Councillor B Rice to Councillor Watkins**

As part of the clean-up promised by Councillor Gledhill, will you give a commitment to undertaking a full assessment of all the waste bins situated in our wards to see if we have adequate numbers and that they are where they have the most impact?

### **3. From Councillor Spillman to Councillor S Little**

Is the Children Service's aftercare team fit for purpose?

### **4. From Councillor Spillman to Councillor S Little**

Would the portfolio holder agree that only offering accommodation to the children of homeless families, where no homeless duty is owed to the family and no other welfare issues are of concern, would be inhumane, unethical and potentially place children at threat of serious harm?

### **5. From Councillor Allen to Councillor Watkins**

Councillor Watkins, following our site meeting in Tilbury last month to look at the litter and abandoned cars, could you give me an update on these car parks and could your response also include the unmaintained land that divides Sycamore Close and Albany Road?

### **6. From Councillor Snell to Councillor Hebb**

The Money Advice Trust, as part of their Stop The Knock Campaign highlighting the trend in increased use of bailiffs by local authorities, recently sent in a FOI request for information about the use of Bailiffs by this Council. Unlike most neighbouring Councils, Thurrock did not respond. Can the Portfolio Holder explain why?

### **7. From Councillor Collins to Councillor Watkins**

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm what is being done to improve recycling in Thurrock please?

### **8. From Councillor V Holloway to Councillor Huelin**

Why have volunteers in Purfleet hub been told the hub can only open and operate when paid staff are present?

**9. From Councillor Redsell to Councillor Watkins**

It was great to see officers cleaning around the war memorial at Little Thurrock just before the service. The memorial itself was still in need of a clean, can the cabinet member explain why it was not cleaned before Armistice Sunday and who organised the clean up after?

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## Item 14 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 29 November 2017

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
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 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
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.	The consultation will commence on 24 November 2017 and will run for 6 weeks. Residents are asked if they wish to name a park after the late King George VI and if so which park would they like renamed, or would they like a new park in the future to be given this title.	Julie Rogers
28/06/2017	Cllr 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understand the scale of the issue across the borough.</li> <li>- Review the impact on residents of the council's policy on fly tipping in private alleys.</li> <li>- Evaluate potential policy responses,</li> </ul>	The CGS O&S formed a member led panel at its meeting of 13 July to address the Council Motion.  The lead member updated O&S at its meeting of 12th October with a view to presenting a final report to O&S at the December meeting, prior to an O&S report to Cabinet recommending any policy adoption coming out of the review.	Steve Cox

## Item 14 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 29 November 2017

		<p>including understanding the cost to the council of taking action and exploring new, more innovative solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make recommendations on the best approach to improving the situation.</li> </ul>		
28/06/2017	Cllr Halden	<p>Thurrock Council would oppose any closure of Orsett Hospital until new and modern facilities are put in place first to ensure that clinical services are maintained and improved in Thurrock and urges that Council resist attempts to move clinical resources or capacity from Orsett Hospital out of Thurrock.</p>	<p>We are awaiting details from NHS England on when the consultation will commence but we expect it to be sometime during the Autumn. The Council, with its NHS partners, is proceeding with its plans for the four Integrated Medical Centres and is out to tender for the design team for the Tilbury IMC.</p> <p>October Update : NHS England have indicated that the consultation on the STP will start in late October / early November and include consultation on the future of Orsett Hospital. We have appointed the design team to lead on the Tilbury IMC</p> <p>November Update – We are anticipating consultation on the STP to start at the end of November. Planning work is underway on all four of the proposed Integrated medical Centres.</p>	Roger Harris
26/07/2017	Cllr C Kent	<p>This Council urges the Essex Fire Authority and the P.C.C to urgently review the crewing of all special appliances in Thurrock.</p>	<p>This motion was taken to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), following letters being sent to the PCC. A response from the PCC has now been received and circulated to the CSP and Cllr C Kent.</p>	Julie Rogers
27/09/2017	Cllr B Rice	<p>This Council calls on the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex to fully review and evaluate Police numbers in Thurrock in light of the serious nature of crimes that are we are experiencing in the Borough.</p>	<p>A letter has been sent to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner advising of the motion of Thurrock Council and inviting a response on how the issues raised would be taken forward.</p>	Julie Rogers
27/09/2017	Cllr Spillman	<p>Council calls on Cabinet to work with local arts and music groups to assist them in looking at options for</p>	<p>The Cabinet recognises the value of arts and culture in supporting our local communities and creating pride in</p>	Steve Cox

## Item 14 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 29 November 2017

		<p>establishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A not-for-profit community arts and music multi use venue open to all arts, crafts and music groups across Thurrock which will be able to secure relevant licenses that will allow the venue to be financially sustainable by raising revenue through ticketed music and performance events, and</li> <li>• A not-for-profit, open air, “Festival of Thurrock” to provide an opportunity for a wide range of artists and musicians in Thurrock to showcase their talents.</li> </ul>	<p>Thurrock. Meetings have been held with Cllr Spillman and the Portfolio Holder to discuss ways to work with local arts and heritage groups to support their work.</p> <p>Festivals do require significant resources to organise, produce and manage however the Council continues to work with groups on a range of arts activities and events and is willing to consider new financially viable ideas.</p>	
27/09/2017	Cllr B Rice	<p>Members in this Council Chamber to call on the Cabinet to re-evaluate the need for £5 per week charge for grounds maintenance to Council tenants as this will cause many residents further hardship.</p>	<p>The Grounds Maintenance service charge has been temporarily suspended pending a review. This will be reported back to Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December and Cabinet in January/February.</p>	Roger Harris
25/10/2017	Cllr Gerrish	<p>Thurrock Council supports the National Joint Council (NJC) pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of the Council and school workers calls for the immediate end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector. Thurrock Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write immediately to the LGA asking it to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review;</li> <li>• Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting NJC pay claim and seeking the additional resources needed to fund a decent pay rise and pay spine review;</li> </ul>	<p>The letters have been sent to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mark Lloyd – Chief Executive of LGA on Friday 10 November from the Council. Notification to the Trade Union’s will be through the regular Trade Union Board.</p>	Jackie Hinchliffe

## Item 14 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 29 November 2017

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review.</li> </ul>		
25/10/2017	Cllr Jones	We call on Thurrock Council to write to the Secretary of State to express many residents' views that in its present state the police service contact number 101 is not fit for purpose.	A letter has been drafted to be sent to the Secretary of State on Wednesday 8 November to express the views of residents in relation to the 101 contact number.	Julie Rogers
25/10/2017	Cllr J Kent	Thurrock Council believes the, so called, "dementia tax" is unfair and would be damaging to many older residents of Thurrock. The Council calls on the care minister, Jackie Doyle-Price, to rule out forcing older people to pay for their care with their home.	Motion has been sent to the Care Minister on Wednesday 8 November 2017.	Roger Harris
25/10/2017	Cllr Gerrish	<p>Thurrock Council calls on the Government to provide the necessary resources and rule changes which would allow councils to build additional council housing at a scale proportional to need, in particular removing the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap. Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor and DCLG setting out our concerns and seeking urgent action to enable the building of council housing at necessary volumes.</li> <li>Write to Thurrock's MPs seeking all possible Parliamentary support.</li> <li>Request that the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider whether there are any additional local opportunities to increase our supply of new council houses in Thurrock.</li> </ul>	Letters have been sent to those requested. Meeting with DCLG officers has also been arranged for 9 November 2017 and Housing Overview and Scrutiny will be considering this at its December meeting.	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 J Kent**

Care leavers who were looked after by the Council are amongst the most vulnerable groups in our community. As Corporate parents we should aim to keep young people safe and improve their life chances. Therefore Thurrock Council resolves that - to help ensure the transition from care to adult life is as smooth as possible, and to mitigate the chances of care leavers falling into debt as they begin to manage their own finances, that the executive bring forward plans and a decision to exempt care leavers from paying Council Tax up to the age of 25 from 2018/19.

### **Monitoring Officer Comments:**

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

### **Section 151 Officer Comments:**

The average cost of implementing this for each year of a care leavers' age is £17,000. This motion requests support for a period of seven years and so would result in a cost, through loss of council tax income, of £119,000.

### **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 Snell**

This Council calls on government to reject the idea of piloting the re-integration of former extremists and returning jihadists by giving them priority on housing waiting lists which this Council would oppose.

### **Statement**

The Home Office is currently reviewing its counter-terrorism strategy and it has been widely reported in the national press that this could involve certain reintegration pilots that may offer former extremists and returning jihadists public funded housing and priority on housing waiting lists.

### **Monitoring Officer Comments:**

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

### **Section 151 Officer Comments:**

There are no financial implications that arise from this motion.

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

Yes

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## **Motions Submitted to Council**

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

### **Motion 3**

**Submitted by Councillor Jones**

We call on Thurrock Council to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst, and Essex Police to ask them to outline their strategy to reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and violent attacks in Thurrock.

### **Monitoring Officer Comments:**

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

### **Section 151 Officer Comments:**

There are no financial implications arising from this motion.

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

Yes

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