

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

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **13 July 2017**

Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL

Membership:

Councillors Roy Jones (Chair), Cathy Kent (Vice-Chair), Russell Cherry, Gary Collins, Terry Piccolo and Michael Stone

Substitutes:

Councillors John Allen, Oliver Gerrish, Garry Hague, Ben Maney, David Potter and Gerard Rice

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Minutes	5 - 8
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11 May 2017.	
3. Items of Urgent Business	
To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
4. Declaration of Interests	
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6. **Fire Service - Presentation Only**
7. **Fly Tipping of Alleys - Public Health Enforcement** **11 - 16**
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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Agenda published on: **5 July 2017**

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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non- pecuniary

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



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

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 May 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Oliver Gerrish (Chair), Russell Cherry (Vice-Chair), Gary Collins and Roy Jones

Apologies: Councillors Terry Piccolo and Michael Stone

In attendance: Julie Rogers, Head of Environment and Chair of Thurrock CSP
Beau Stanford-Francis, Contracts & Business Development Manager
Charlotte Raper, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website. Members were reminded that the meeting fell within the period of Purdah and as such debate should be undertaken in an appropriate fashion.

33. Minutes

The minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9 February 2017 were approved as a correct record.

34. Items of Urgent Business

Councillor Collins highlighted a traveller incursion in Stanford-le-Hope and requested an update on the situation. The Chair advised Members that, following guidance from Officers, a briefing note would be circulated outside the meeting.

35. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

36. Contracted Environmental Enforcement Services

The Contracts & Business Development Manager presented the report which followed the pilot scheme for Environmental Enforcement Services introduced in December 2016. The pilot scheme had provided Officers with a level of understanding and there were plans to increase the scope of services, and introduce initiatives to ensure increased payment given the importance of at least maintaining cost-neutrality, if not offering a slight surplus to re-invest.

The Chair strongly welcomed the proposals, highlighting that the Committee had taken a great interest in the matter and were united in their desire to push

forward. He asked if there was any data around where Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were being issued, it was understood that there would be a concentration on Grays town centre but was interested to learn about the rest of the borough too. The Committee was informed that each FPN issued included the ward and a breakdown of that data could be circulated to Members after the meeting. At present the enforcement team was not fully staffed and so Grays town centre was always manned and the remaining staff would rotate elsewhere in the borough. The new contract required full staffing levels and contractors would be penalised for failing to meet that standard. The Chair stressed the importance of the full force being felt throughout Thurrock.

The Chair also sought clarity around the structure of the contract, as presented on page 16 of the report. The Contracts & Business Development Manager explained that the estimated cost per ticket was based upon the pilot scheme and could change dependent upon the successful contractor.. The contract would be based on a recovery/reward basis. The Council would pay for tickets issued and income would return through the contractor. The Council would incur a loss for individuals who did not pay and would seek to prosecute accordingly. The payment rate was currently 64%, which offered a small surplus to reinvest in prosecutions. It was expected that the number of tickets issued would remain the same and the payment rate would stay the same or increase slightly as a result of publication and prosecutions. The contract would remain viable and possible return an increased surplus due to increased FPN values. The Chair outlined the need for Members and Officers to have a degree of oversight and control moving forward as the model offered a range from a loss of £30,000 to a net profit of £20,000.

Members were assured that there would be monthly contract meetings to monitor how payment rates were fluctuating and staff rotations could be amended accordingly. There was also a 3 month break clause in the contract so it was possible to exit if issues arose. It would not be possible to control repayment rate but Officers hoped to influence it through publication, prosecution and ensuring all tickets issued were issued correctly. The Head of Environment added that there were examples of similar schemes being successful, with one Council remaining cost neutral 7 years in, which should offer Members assurance.

Councillor Jones agreed the scheme was much needed. He asked how many enforcement officers had been active within the pilot, and what avenues were intended for publication. Members heard that the scheme had begun with 1 team leader, 1 administrator and 4 enforcement officers. Since then the team leader and 2 enforcement officers had left but 4 more were currently being trained. It was hoped that a longer term contract would ease problems retaining staff as there would be greater security. At present there were no specific details around publication, the request was for Members to agree the principal and then officers would approach local media outlets.

Councillor Collins expressed his appreciation for the work undertaken so far. He sought clarification around maximum penalty values and whether they

would automatically be raised or whether there would be debate each time. The recommendation sought approval for FPNs to be raised automatically to meet Government-set maximum values if they increased.

Councillor Collins referred to the Contract & Business Development Manager's earlier comments around obtaining payments from individuals aged 16-18 and asked whether parents could be made responsible if young people could not pay. It was felt that 16 was an appropriate age to set the minimum, however as it would be a criminal offence and not a civil matter the fine was against the offender and not their family.

Councillor Collins noted the 3 month break clause and enquired as to whether or not there would be a penalty for exiting the contract early. Members were assured that the current 3 month no fault clause would be carried into the contract, and similarly if the contractor were to breach the terms of the contract it was also possible for the Council to terminate the contract without fault. The contract would be monitored on a monthly basis.

The Chair was pleased to see the proposals brought before the Committee and that action was being taken to tackle the blight on the borough.

The Chair moved to amend recommendation 1.1 and Members agreed to add the following:

"That the Committee recommends to Cabinet that the award of the contract could be subject to the three following tests;

- i) That the enforcement activities will be across the entire borough according to need,
- ii) That the contract is structured in such a way to not expose the Authority to undue financial risk, and
- iii) That an adequate break clause or other means of exiting the contract be included in the agreement".

RESOLVED:

The Committee made the following recommendations to Cabinet:

- 1) To delegate authority for the tender and subsequent award of a contract for enforcement services on a payment by results basis to the Corporate Director of Environment and Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment for a period of up to 4 years, to the aggregate value of approximately £960,000.**

The Committee recommends to Cabinet that the award of the contract could be subject to the three following tests;

- i) That the enforcement activities will be across the entire borough according to need,**

- ii) That the contract is structured in such a way to not expose the Authority to undue financial risk, and
 - iii) That an adequate break clause or other means of exiting the contract be included in the agreement.
- 2) To remove early repayment discounts for fixed penalty notices issued for environmental crime offences as detailed in 4.3.
 - 3) To set the value of fixed penalty notices to the maximum permissible amount for environmental crime offences as detailed in 4.3.

The meeting finished at 7.24 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

4.	CLEANER, GREENER AND SAFER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
Appointed by: Council under section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000	Number of Elected Members: Six, of whom none shall be a Cabinet Member	
Chair and Vice-Chair appointed by: Council	Political Proportionality: The elected Members shall be appointed in accordance with Political Proportionality	
Quorum: Three elected Members	Co-opted Members to be appointed by Council: None appointed	
Functions determined by Council:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crime and Disorder Partnerships under the Police and Justice Act 2006 2. Waste and recycling 3. Community safety 4. Environmental protection and management of the environment 5. Consumer protection and trading standards 6. Licensing 7. Animal welfare 8. Prevent duties 9. Parks, open spaces and cemeteries 10. Libraries, museums and community facilities; 11. Sports development; 		
Functions determined by Statute		
<p>All the powers of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. This Committee is also the designated Committee under section 19 Police and Justice Act 2006.</p>		

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13 July 2017		ITEM: 7
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Fly Tipping of Alleys – Public Health Enforcement		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Yes	
Report of: Gavin Dennett – Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager		
Accountable Head of Service: Andy Millard – Assistant Director of Planning and Growth		
Accountable Director: Steve Cox – Corporate Director of Environment and Place		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Over recent months a number of incidents of fly tipping or unauthorised rubbish disposal in alleys have been reported to the Council. This is often unsightly and in some cases can present a risk to public health.

There is no policy on the approach that should be taken by council officers to resolve these service requests.

At the meeting of 28 June 2017 the Council passed a motion calling on the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny committee to conduct a full review of fly tipping in private alleys in order to:

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

The purpose of this report is to agree the terms and timescale for this review, having regard to broader legal and financial implications.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 Members note the motion and agree the terms and timescale of the review.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Incidents of fly tipping or unauthorised rubbish disposal in alleys are generating requests for service from the Council.
- 2.2 The de facto position is that where alleys are in Council ownership these are cleared by the Council's Environment Service. Where the alleys or other similar spaces are not in Council ownership it is not the Council's responsibility to clear accumulations. The responsibility for clearance in these cases passes to the owner of the land. Where no owner exists the responsibility can be transferred to the occupiers of adjacent properties. The power for councils require adjacent property occupiers to clean alleys is provided by the Public Health Act 1936. The Council has no defined policy governing its application of the Public Health Act provisions or procedures for arranging clearance in such cases.

The principal options available to the Council for dealing with rubbish in alleys are:

1. The Council requires residents to collectively clear the rubbish or pay for its removal and undertake appropriate enforcement action where notices are not complied with. This option would entail action/cost on the part of residents of properties around effected alleys and could attract criticism from the residents concerned who might feel unjustifiably penalised (notably, if they were not directly responsible for the accumulations). There are also charging and legislative issues that would need to be considered as part of the review.
2. The Environment Service undertake the discretionary clearance of rubbish in alleys at the Council's expense. This option would impose costs on the Council's Environment Service as they would have to collect and dispose of fly tipped material or other rubbish reported at these locations. There is no current budget for this work.
- 3 No action is taken by the Council to clear rubbish from these locations and no enforcement action is taken. This option could give rise to alleys becoming a risk to public health and or unsightly to residents who use them and live in the vicinity. As such it could draw criticism of inaction by the Council.

There may be further options and the Review Panel should consider any identified and recommend them in its findings if appropriate.

- 2.3 There is no policy in place to guide officers in dealing with service requests relating to fly tipped private alleys. This gives rise to the risk of inconsistent responses to these service requests.
- 2.4 There is no budget allocation to support work on fly tips in private alleys, either for discretionary clearance or by enforcement.

- 2.5 The cost of clearance of private alleys, if this were to be arranged by the Council under the Public Health Act provisions would be made up of two main elements. The cost of the clearance and disposal via the Council's Environment Service or a contractor and the administration costs associated with the Council undertaking this work. The costs of clearance and disposal in a particular case would be divided between the liable property occupiers. The administration costs would be calculated based on the activity undertaken by officers to arrange for the clearance and recover costs. This is based on the time taken and the hourly rate of the staff involved. An illustrative example of the costs calculation is provided at appendix 1. These costs would be added to individual invoices to each liable property occupier.

3. Proposed Review Timescale

- 3.1 13 July 2017 – Committee members consider and agree the scope of the review and appoint a panel and leader from the committee to conduct the review.

July 2017 – The lead member agrees with the panel what evidence they require and what consultation is needed to inform the review's findings.

August 2017 – The panel take evidence from officers and other relevant parties to inform the findings of the review.

September 2017 – The panel undertakes consultation with relevant parties to get a range of views on the proposed policy options to be recommended.

Early October 2017 – The lead member drafts the report of the panel findings for committee and agrees the report with panel members.

12 October 2017 – Review reports back to the meeting of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Council requires a policy to guide the actions of officers tasked with addressing fly tipping in alleys. This will ensure a consistent approach is taken to resolving these matters.

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

- 5.1 The review process will give councillors the opportunity to consult on policy in this area.

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

- 6.1 To be considered as part of the review.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Management Accountant (Environment and Place)

Financial implications of the policy developed to address fly tipping in private alleys will need to be considered as part of the policy development process.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Deputy Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer

The Council is under no legal obligation to remove waste on private land. The Council has the power or discretion to help even if no charge or reimbursement is sought if there is a clear and rational reason or protocol to justify that response. The Council also has powers to require landowners to clear waste from their land and has powers to enter land and clear it, and may seek reimbursement for our costs.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

A community impact assessment will be prepared in conjunction with any policy decision to inform the impact on groups with protected characteristics including vulnerable residents.

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

None identified.

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

- Council motion.

9. Appendices to the report

- None

Report Author:

Gavin Dennett

Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager

Planning and Growth

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13 July 2017	ITEM: 8
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: No
Report of: Julie Rogers, Chair of Community Safety Partnership	
Accountable Head of Service: Julie Rogers, Head of Environment	
Accountable Director: Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment and Place	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

Performance:

All crime in Thurrock increased by 4.9% for the year 2016/17 when compared against the previous year with 13,058¹ crimes committed. Provisional data² for Thurrock indicates that Thurrock has a lower crime rate per 1,000 residents than our comparator community safety partnerships.

There were 5,442 incidents of Anti-social Behaviour in Thurrock in 2016/17 reported to Essex Police; a decrease of 2.9%, 165 fewer incidents, than in the previous year.

Priorities:

The Partnership Plan for 2016/17 identified 3 priorities from the partnership's Strategic Assessment. This allows us to develop and plan our activities to address the priorities outlined in the assessment whilst providing value for money, and an 'intelligence led' approach to community safety.

The priorities for 2016/2017 were:

- 1. Reduce Youth offending and re-offending of adults & young people**
This will address volume crimes of domestic burglary and violent crime
- 2. To reduce harm to and safeguard vulnerable victims** from: Domestic abuse; Sexual offences including rape; Child sexual exploitation; Gang Related Violence; Hate crime; Anti-social behaviour; Cyber bullying; Honour

¹ . These are preliminary Essex Police statistics and not yet confirmed by the Home Office

² IQuanta provisional data before it is finalised and published by the Office for National Statistics

based abuse and Serious Organised Crime encompassing Modern day slavery & Fraud where victims are vulnerable

3. Violent extremism: Delivering the Governments counter terrorism strategy – Prevent locally.

There is one change to our priorities for 2017/18: Serious Organised Crime encompassing Modern day slavery and Human trafficking to reflect the changes to this agenda nationally.

Police and Crime Plan:

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) within the 2016 Police and Crime Plan has set out 7 focus areas:

- More local, visible and accessible policing
- Crack down on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Break the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reverse the trend in serious violence
- Tackle gangs and organised crime
- Protect children and vulnerable people
- Improve safety on our roads

These priorities are reflected in our own local priorities.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for the year 2016/17.

1.2 That Overview and Scrutiny committee support the 3 priorities of the Community Safety Partnership for the year 2017/18, which are:

- 1. Reduce Youth offending and re-offending of adults & young people to address volume crimes of violent crime, both with and without injury and Domestic burglary.**
- 2. To reduce harm to and safeguard vulnerable victims from: Domestic abuse, Sexual offences including rape, Child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSE), Gang related violence, Hate crime, Anti-social behaviour, Cyber bullying, Honour based abuse i.e. forced marriage and female genital mutilation and Serious Organised Crime in relation to Modern day slavery & Human Trafficking.**
- 3. Violent extremism (Prevent agenda).**

1.3 That Overview and Scrutiny committee note the links that have been made to support delivery of the PCC's Priorities.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This purpose of this report is to:

- i) Update the committee on the of delivery of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) priorities for 2016/17;
- ii) Highlight the priorities and actions to deliver the priorities in 2017/18 based on the findings of the strategic assessment of 2016;

2.2 The priorities for 2016/17 focused on those more "hidden" crimes which often go unreported but have a huge impact on vulnerable victims and lead to long term health and well-being concerns and ultimately can result in safeguarding procedures.

The Partnership also continues to recognise 2 issues which are considered high risk but have insufficient information to fully understand the threat and the subsequent actions required. These are modern day slavery and child sexual exploitation.

The Partnership continue to raise awareness about these priorities and develop action plans to address. The Community Safety Partnership Board has agreed that these priorities should remain as is for the year 2017/18. The strategic assessment is based on the risk matrix, which considers varying factors such as public concern, seriousness, harm and cost, and has been used to validate and support these priorities continuing.

In addition the TCSP has a statutory duty for re-offending and all partners need to prioritise through the integrated offender management scheme those causing most harm to the community that we live in.

2.3 Reduce Re-offending

To support this priority Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will:

- Work with partners to have robust Integrated Offender Management scheme in Thurrock and develop action plan
- Ensure the cohort has priority offenders on it including young people
- Have robust performance monitoring and access to data to identify criminogenic need
- Prevention Advice and Support Services will use and utilise established services to support families, where ASB and offending behaviour has been identified.
- Promote access to restorative justice project
- Continue to develop young people at risk programme to deter young people from offending

2.3.1 Reduce Harm to and Safeguard Vulnerable Victims

To support this priority Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will:

Violence Against Women and Girls

- Develop a new VAWG strategy and action plan in response to National guidelines
- Analyse results of risk avert in our pilot secondary schools and refer promote to other schools
- Continue to work with safeguarding housing team to provide support for all victims of domestic abuse, including standard and medium risk
- Increase awareness raising amongst elderly community on domestic and sexual abuse
- Deliver preventative education programmes for learning disabled in regards to sexual abuse
- Raise awareness of honour based abuse to professionals

Anti-social behaviour

- High risk victims shared with multi agency partners through locality action groups to enable safeguarding and victim focused outcomes
- Communicate with residents though you said we did to promote work to address ASB
- Promote use of ASB case reviews
- Implement Public Spaces Protection Order in Grays

Hate crime

- High risk victims shared with multi agency partners through locality action groups to enable safeguarding and victim focused outcomes
- CSP analyst to provide quarterly problem profiles to identify scale of problem and develop ongoing responses
- Build, pride, responsibility and respect within communities, through hosting Tilbury festival
- Continue to promote the hate crime ambassador role and promote hate incident reporting centres through “stop it now” project
- Engage with communities through the Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police

Gang related Violence

- Conduct analytical review of drugs market
- Implement gangline project in Thurrock
- Monitor risk of acid attacks
- Increase awareness of gang related violence and links to CSE and missing persons across departments and agencies
- Raise awareness of “cuckooing” amongst vulnerable communities

Child Sexual Exploitation

- Ensure CSE embedded within gang related violence work
- Work with licensing to increase awareness amongst taxi providers and licensed premises
- Host joint conference with LSCB to raise awareness

Modern day Slavery

- Work with anti-slavery partnership coordinator to tackle in partnership
- Roll out “stop the trafficking” training to front line professionals

2.3.2 PREVENT Violent Extremism

To support this priority Thurrock Community Safety Partnership will:

- Continue to raise awareness with the community and professionals and links to safeguarding
- Follow Channel processes and ensure fit for purpose
- Update our action plan in line with the latest local profile

2.4 The Community Safety Equality Impact Assessment has highlighted:

1. There is a need to focus on the vulnerable within our communities as they are at greater risk of serious harm
2. Older people are at greater risk of distraction burglary and rogue traders
3. Young people are at greater risk of sexual exploitation, cyber bullying, & gang related violence.
4. There is an under reporting of hate crime within the disabled, transgender, and sexual orientation communities
5. Learning disabled are at risk of being “cuckooed” in relation to gang violence
6. Females are more likely to be a victim of domestic abuse
7. There is a gap around information with regards to same sex domestic abuse victims.
8. Hot spot areas are Grays Riverside, South Ockendon and Tilbury Riverside and St Chads.

The structure of the partnership is in line with the priorities to ensure coordinated activity and will be further reviewed as we work with Essex police to develop our community safety partnership hub.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The recommendations are based on the following information with regards to crime:

Summary of crime performance for 1/4/16 to 31/3/17

Crime	Total crimes	No. change	% change
Burglary in dwelling	727	+ 28	+ 4%
Racially / Religiously aggravated	192	+ 54	+ 39%
Robbery	144	+ 28	+24%
Sexual offences	243	- 5	- 2%
Vehicle offences	1833	+ 146	+8.7%
Violence against the person	3266	+ 231	+ 7.6%

- 3.2 In the wake of Brexit and the Paris terror attacks we saw a marked increase in reported hate crime locally. This has not currently been replicated following the recent terrorist attacks in England.

Violence Against the Person has seen a rise across the force. This is attributed in part to the inclusion of malicious communications in this category and increased efficiency in the recording of these crimes following review.

- 3.3 Trend analysis, which formed part of the research to develop these delivery plans, confirmed that whilst reported levels of ASB continue to fall, reported crime is increasing, particularly the categories of violence against the person; vehicle offences; and robbery, however we performed well in comparison to Essex.

District	% change in Crime	District	% change in Crime
Harlow	-0.5%	Basildon	8.0%
Malden	3.5%	Castlepoint	9.3%
Rochford	4.1%	Tendring	13.7%
Thurrock	4.9%	Epping	15.8%
Colchester	5.0%	Chelmsford	16.4%
Southend	5.5%	Brentwood	16.7%
Braintree	7.2%	Uttlesford	21.5%

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership remains committed, through its members, to working with the PCC to develop and implement innovative programmes to tackle crime, keep our communities safe and improve support for victims. This will need to be undertaken against continuing challenges to funding and resourcing within our partner organisations.

Each of our Priorities is supported by action plans to drive activity, progress of which will be carefully monitored by the partnership

- 4.2 Whilst developing individual action plans on hidden harms impacting young people; specifically gang related violence; CSE; on line safety; and Prevent it is important to recognise that there is a common theme in that the young people impacted by these crimes, sometimes as offenders, are themselves vulnerable due to a variety of factors including substance misuse; school exclusion; going missing from home; and exposure to domestic abuse.
- 4.3 Whilst much progress has been already made, the Partnership is determined to continue to raise awareness and encourage the reporting of hate crime and is working with Essex Police and Victim Support to re-energise the “stop the hate” project through hate crime ambassadors and incident reporting centres.

4.4 Our multi-agency groups, set up to tackle operational issues around crime, offenders and anti-social behaviour continue to deliver improvements in community safety for our residents, in particular our most vulnerable through close working with adult safeguarding teams.

4.5 Similarly, emphasis will continue to be given to raising awareness of violence against women and girls with the development of a new VAWG strategy and action plan to deliver it.

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

5.1 The strategic assessment in identifying the 3 priorities took into account community concerns highlighted in the Thurrock Council resident's survey 2016 and the partnership will take action to address the concerns raised over groups hanging around on street corners, people using and dealing drugs and being drunk or rowdy in public places.

5.2 The priorities and delivery plan were signed off by all partners within the Community Safety Partnership

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

6.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's strategic objective to: Build pride, responsibility and respect

6.2 The CSP action plan links closely to and supports delivery of Essex's domestic abuse commissioning strategy 2015-2020

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Corporate Finance

The CSP has a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner of £24,976, a reduction of 30% on last year, and an £18,347 contribution from Thurrock Council.

These funds have all been allocated to support delivery of the priorities

There are no financial implications from this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Adam Rulewski**
Litigation and Prosecutions Barrister

By s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Local Authorities are under a duty to prevent crime and disorder in their area. This report supports that objective.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

Our Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been refreshed following the strategic assessment and identified the following:

1. There is a need to focus on the vulnerable within our communities as they are at greater risk of serious harm.
2. Older people are at greater risk of distraction burglary and rogue traders.
3. Young people are at greater risk of sexual exploitation, cyber bullying, & serious youth violence.
4. There is an under reporting of hate crime within the disabled, transgender, and sexual orientation communities.
5. Learning disabled are At risk of being “cuckooed” in relation to gang violence.
6. Females are more likely to be a victim of domestic abuse.
7. There is a gap around information with regards to same sex domestic abuse victims.
8. Hot spot areas are Grays Riverside, South Ockendon and Tilbury Riverside and St Chads.

This has been taken into consideration within our delivery plans.

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

This report will help the Partnership ensure that it is delivering on its commitments to Section 17

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

- Partnership Strategic assessment 2016
- Partnership Delivery Plan
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership>
- Police and Crime Plan www.essex.pcc.police.uk/priorities-for-essex/police-and-crime-plan/

9. Appendices to the report

None – see links above

Report Author:

Michelle Cunningham
Community Safety Partnership Manager
Environment

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13 July 2017	ITEM: 9
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Clean it, Cut it Update	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: None
Report of: Daren Spring, Frontline Service Delivery Manager	
Accountable Head of Service: Julie Rogers, Head of Environment	
Accountable Director: Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment and Place	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 To note performance in relation to the Clean it, Cut it elements of the Clean it, Cut it, Fill it programme since last reporting in October 2016.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Resident Survey 2016 identified the following levels of satisfaction in relation to the services provided by the Cut it, Clean it elements.

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither	Don't Know
Grounds Maintenance Service	50%	28%	19%	2%
Parks, Playgrounds, Open Spaces	46%	28%	23%	4%
Street Cleaning	45%	35%	19%	1%

This report provides an update on the progress of the 'Clean it, Cut it' elements, an overview of the current status and outlines service aspirations for the future which seek to address and improve perceptions of street cleanliness, grounds maintenance and parks, playgrounds and open spaces.

- 2..2. In recognition of the reduced standards in street cleanliness and frequency of grass cutting and litter picking a three-month pilot to improve these areas was introduced in August 2016 under the banner of 'Clean it, Cut it'. Additional funding of £340k was agreed in year to fund Clean it, Cut it. Initially £150k to fund a 3 month pilot and then a further £190k to extend to the end of the financial year. Agreement for the programme to continue has resulted in an increase to the mainstream budget from 2017/18. Capital allocations as per paragraph 3.16 are within the capital programme. A service-based approach has been re-introduced, with a supervisor for each service area: Street Cleansing, Parks and Green Spaces and Major Routes Grass Cutting.
- 2.3 An additional twenty-five agency staff were recruited to support delivery of the pilot, working alongside permanent existing team members. It was necessary in the early stages to train and performance manage the poor performing staff which took a few weeks to embed before the new arrangements were fully effective. As the pilot and extended pilot scheme were successful a decision to continue the programme beyond 16/17 was taken. With this in mind we have now recruited all of these agency staff into permanent positions, along with thirteen vacant positions that we were holding (a total of 38 FTE). During 2013/14 the total number of FTE for the Street Services section was 202.7 FTE, with the additional 38 FTE's, Street Services currently have a total of 155 FTE's this includes 8 vacancies that we are holding for the possible introduction of apprentices.
- 2.4 Supervisors originally responsible for geographical areas of the borough are now responsible for service streams; Street Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance and Parks and Green spaces.
- 2.5 We are currently recruiting into the vacant Senior Area Supervisor to directly manage these Supervisors, a post which has been vacant for 16 months, impacting on the work of the Frontline Service Delivery Manager and Strategy, Projects & Operations Manager.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 **Clean it** - The standard of street cleanliness is regularly monitored and measured through a series of site inspections that cover a number of land types. The inspections are undertaken in 3 tranches; each covers a number of wards and land types and comprises 300 sites. The inspections are carried out in accordance with a well established methodology that is based on a series of pictorial references that enable the assessor to grade a 50m transect of the area. The figure reported is the proportion of sites that fall below an acceptable level. The inspections are a snap shot in time. As the same methodology has been used by Councils across the country for a number of years, the results can be used for trend analysis within our Borough and benchmarked.

The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) target for littering is 4, with the 16/17 performance falling short of the KPI by 0.45. For Graffiti the KPI target is 2,

with the 16/17 performance exceeding the KPI by 0.45.

For the past 6 years the inspections have been carried out by Council Officers who are not members of the Street Cleansing Team. From 2017-18 inspections will be carried out by Keep Britain Tidy Inspectors, offering an independent and nationally recognised criteria and assessment. This change in methodology will result in the scores reported in 2017-18 being higher than the figures seen previously, due to the differing criteria and standards used.

3.2 The cleaning of roads throughout the borough is predominately carried out by two large and two medium size mechanical sweepers. Under area-based working, teams were only able to litter pick areas on an 'as required' basis. This also restricted the amount of time that could be spent litter picking high profile areas, such as Grays Town Centre, as well the other main retail, or high footfall, areas of the borough. The re-introduction of barrow beats has allowed for a more concentrated level of cleaning within specific recognised 'hot spot' areas. The additional 'Clean it, Cut it' funding has allowed for eleven additional barrow beats in the following areas:

- An additional round in Grays Town Centre (this allows the Town Centre to be covered from 6am – 6pm, Monday – Friday)
- Northern area of Grays
- Central area of Grays
- East area of Grays
- Outer area of Tilbury
- East Tilbury
- Stanford area
- Homesteads area
- Aveley area
- Northern area of South Ockendon
- Additional major routes team member

The introduction of the additional barrow beat in the Grays Town Centre, along with the trial of an electric operated litter vacuum and mechanical sweeper, meant that the standard of cleaning was rapidly improved. Due to the improved level of cleansing the litter vacuum became less effective and was returned. The electric sweeper is still being used in Grays Town centre. The level of cleanliness was also raised by the enforcement activity that has taken place by Kingdom, issuing over 1490 FPN's in the borough since the beginning of December 2016. This joint approach has assisted in maintaining a consistent level of cleansing in the Town Centre.

3.3 It had taken a number of months to fully realise the benefit of introducing the remainder of the additional barrow beats, although on an anecdotal basis feedback suggests an improved level of street cleanliness has been recognised. Throughout the duration of the extended pilot scheme 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.

- 3.4 The introduction of this new 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.
- 3.5 An added benefit of this approach is that residents can see the additional level of service, and are able to relate to a 'recognised' barrow beat sweeper, providing an opportunity to engage with them. Once litter levels in the areas that the barrow beat sweepers are improved, there can be more focus on manually sweeping the back lines and channels of the pavements which will result in an even higher level of cleanliness and reduction in detritus.
- 3.6 The Street Cleansing team were supportive of the recent Great British Spring Clean event (March 2017), where community groups across the borough carried out litter picking, some groups disposed of their own litter collected, however the Street Cleansing team supported in the collecting of 313 bags of litter with a total weight of 1400kg during the event.
- 3.7. A capital bid was submitted and agreed by Cabinet in March 2017, to purchase ten big belly bins to be strategically placed across the borough. The big belly bins have a built in compactor along with a system that sends an email to confirm that the bin is full. This system is solar powered and therefore does not require electricity to operate, the bins are currently on order and we anticipate rolling these out in the next 6-8 weeks. The bins will be trialled over a range of sites, which will include lay-by's and parks where we are receiving reports of overflow. The team is currently reviewing complaints/reports and consulting with the crews to establish the most challenging areas to ensure the bins are located to maximum effect.
- 3.8 Increased cleaning of the Council maintained section of the A13 has taken place, from 3 to 4 times per year. This additional litter pick will enhance the appearance of the A13 from A1089 through to the Five Bells interchange. During the last quarter of 16/17 scheduled works was enhanced to include the centre reservation, both side verges, cleaning of street furniture and signage. This quarter's scheduled work started on 19th June and ran for six nights.

There has been continuous dialogue between the Environment Department and Connect Plus, Highways England's contractor, responsible for cleaning the A13 from Wennington through to and including the A1089. Highways England's section of the A13 is regularly below standard and these discussions have attempted to address this. More recently a letter escalating ongoing concerns has been sent to the CEO of Connect Plus.

- 3.9 One of the challenges, not factored in to our resource levels for Clean it, Cut it, is the increasing number of fly tips. There has been an increase in fly tips

collected over the past six months, some of which have been industrial sized. We have on occasion engaged a contractor to assist with the removal due to the specialist content of the waste. We are currently monitoring the number of fly tips and working alongside partners, including the Police and the Environment Agency. Partnership work is also being undertaken alongside other local authorities, Farmers and Private Land owner groups. This includes multi-agency operations with the police patrolling and stopping suspect vehicles.

- 3.10 **Cut it** - Prior to the introduction of the 'Clean it, Cut it' pilot two tractor mounted grass cutting units were used to cut the majority of the parks and green spaces across the borough at a frequency of every 4 to 5 weeks. The grass areas which were not accessible to the tractor units were cut by the area teams every six weeks or so, along with litter picking and bin emptying at these sites. The Parks and Green spaces team have removed 12233 bags of litter and bin waste. This equates to 94.503 ton of general litter, 9.600 ton of which was fly tipping.

The team have maintained 74 sites and since October they have carried out winter pruning maintenance to 29 sites, 31.990 ton of green waste was removed as result of this work. The remaining sites have been added to a programme and will be completed over the coming winter periods.

- 3.11 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 old unreliable units, improving operational efficiency. March Cabinet gave authority to procure new plant and fleet vehicles, which will improve reliability and maximise operational efficiency. The procurement of the plant is complete, we expect the replacement plant to be delivered in August. Once the stage 2 award has been signed off we expect to take delivery of the fleet vehicles from January 2018.
- 3.12 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, emptying bins and inspection of the play sites to be completed on a weekly basis.
- 3.13 A review has commenced of the parks and green spaces, initial work has brought parks and green spaces to an operational standard, for the start of the season.
- 3.14 **Proposed Future Approach** - A training programme is being developed for the permanent grounds maintenance team to reintroduce the horticultural skills removed from the service in previous years, this will provide an improved standard of maintenance. Recent training for the Street Cleansing

team has taken place, which has been designed to enable the Street Cleansing teams to identify enforceable evidence when attending a fly tip. This will increase resilience and maximise staff resources, the team will call an Enforcement Officer when evidence is present, for a full and thorough investigation, prior to clearance. This approach ensures no time is wasted by Enforcement Officers carrying out checks for every fly tip that has been reported, when the majority have no evidence present.

- 3.15 The service has recently carried out a procurement exercise resulting in the purchase of the Bartec system. A previous version of the system has been used in the waste service and the decision to prioritise grounds will enable a review/refresh of GIS data and introduction of electronic scheduling. This will enable ground operatives to report issues, while out and about, and provide a live system for the call centre and depot staff to receive updates throughout the working day. This will also enable the service to upload finance data, produce a bill of quantities and facilitate costing models for future income generating work.
- 3.16 The council has agreed to an improvement programme to promote greater use and enjoyment of the parks and open spaces and encourage positive activity. 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 been reviewing the approach to prioritising 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 will receive investment in 17/18. (Please see Appendix 1, A and B for further details and scope)

- 3.17 The Environment Service will continue to explore creative and innovative ways to continue to enhance and improve the service delivery in the most effective way.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 This report provides Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the positive work taking place in relation to the 'Clean it, Cut it' element of the Cut it, Clean it, Fill it' programme.

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

5.1 N/A

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

6.1 N/A

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Carl Tomlinson**
Finance Manager

Additional funding of £340k was agreed in year to fund Clean it, Cut it. Initially £150k to fund a 3 month pilot and then a further £190k to extend to the end of the financial year. As per para 2.2, the mainstream revenue budget has been increased to enable continuation of the programme. Capital allocations as per paragraph 3.16 are within the capital programme.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Deputy Head of Law and Governance

There are no Legal implications associated with this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

There are no Diversity and Equality implications associated with this report.

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

None

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

N/A

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 – Parks, Play and Open Space Improvement Plan Phase 1 - 2017/18

Appendix A and Appendix B – Overall Assessment of Need and Priorities

Report Author:

Daren Spring
Frontline Service Delivery Manager
Environment and Place

Parks, Play and Open Space Improvement Plan Phase 1. 2017/18

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The council has agreed to an improvement programme is to promote greater use and enjoyment of the parks and open spaces and encourage positive activity. 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 outdoor spaces that make it easy to exercise and be active'.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. The first phase of this project is to identify a robust methodology to establish priorities as to which parks, open spaces and play areas to make the in investment in.
- 1.4. Officers from various Departments have been reviewing the approach and developing a methodology and for prioritising investment in the parks and open spaces on the basis of the following criteria:
 - Quality and value findings from the Active Place Parks and Open Space needs assessment
 - Parks and Open Space public consultation
 - Residents survey
 - Health data
 - Known operational requirements and issues
 - Areas of Vandalism and Anti-Social behaviour
 - Health and Safety Issues
 - Physical Activity Levels (Adults)
 - Deprivation
- 1.5. A summary of the assessments criteria is shown below.

2. QUALITY AND VALUE FINDINGS OF THE DRAFT OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

- 2.1. The Open Space Assessment, which is currently in draft, was commissioned to inform the development of the Thurrock Active Place Strategy. This Strategy will help inform the future direction of sport, parks and open space provision within the borough and will form part of the Thurrock Local Plan evidence base.

- 2.2. This part of the work involved the assessment of all categories of parks and open space within the borough with the aim of determining their quality and value.
- 2.3. The Open Space Assessment set out a standardised approach to assessing the quality and value of each site.
- 2.4. The following factors were considered when establishing a site's quality:
- Physical access, e.g. public transport links, directional signposts,
 - Personal security, e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance
 - Access-social, e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths
 - Parking, e.g. availability, specific, disabled parking
 - Information signage, e.g. presence of up to date site information, notice boards
 - Equipment and facilities, e.g. assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
 - Location value, e.g. proximity of housing, other greenspace
 - Site problems, e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
 - Healthy, safe and secure, e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
 - Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g. condition of general landscape & features
 - Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g. elderly, young people
 - Site potential
- 2.5. The following factors were considered when establishing a site's value:
- Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility
 - Context of site in relation to other open spaces
 - Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area
 - Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats
 - Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
 - Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being
 - Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high profile symbols of local area
 - Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
 - Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far.

- 2.6. The assessment recognised that for different site categories not all factors were relevant and therefore the thresholds for high and low quality and value were set accordingly.
- 2.7. Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.
- 2.8. To determine whether sites are high or low quality; the results of the site assessments were colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).
- 2.9. The following summaries highlight the key results of the assessment:
- 2.10. Parks Summary

- 24 sites are classified as parks and gardens and these total over 90 hectares.
- Catchment gaps were noted to the Central Analysis Area and to the West Analysis Area. This was thought to be sufficiently served by other forms of open space; which are likely to provide similar recreation opportunities.
- Quality of parks is mixed; reflecting the range of provision identified. Low scoring sites is usually a result of poor appearance and need of new investment maintenance. There are also a number of sites lacking the ancillary facilities often expected of parks.
- High scoring sites for quality, such as Coalhouse Fort and Park and Grays Town Park, do so due to the wide range of features they contain and the excellent standard of provision.
- Coalhouse Fort and Park is the only site with Green Flag Award status.
- All sites (except four) were assessed as being of high value, with the important social interaction, health benefits, ecological value and sense of place sites offer being recognised.

2.11. Amenity Greenspace Summary

- There were 102 amenity greenspace sites in Thurrock, totalling over 189 hectares.

- Provision is centred more so in the Central Analysis Area. However, the East Analysis Area has the greatest amount of provision per 1,000 population (1.49).
- The five-minute walk time suggests a reasonable level of coverage. Although, gaps in provision were noted. These, however, were likely to be served by other forms of open space.
- Overall amenity greenspace quality is mixed. Over half of sites rate below the threshold with a handful of sites having specific issues; often due to size, access or maintenance.
- In addition to its multifunctional role, amenity greenspace makes a valuable contribution to visual aesthetics for communities – hence most sites (77%) rate above the value threshold.
- There are 19 sites rating low for quality and value. Where they cannot be improved, some may be better suited to potentially become different forms of open space.

2.12. Play Summary

- There are 64 play provision sites in Thurrock; a total of over seven hectares. Half of sites are identified as containing a form of casual or piece of equipment aimed at older ages.
- The West Analysis Area has a slightly greater amount of provision per 1,000 populations. However, it is the Central Analysis Area with the greater amount of total provision.
- The 10 minute walk time accessibility standard covers the majority of the area. However, there is a slight gap to the eastern edge of the West Analysis Area.
- Overall, quality of play sites is mixed. Only a slightly greater proportion of play sites (53%) rate above the threshold for quality. Lower quality scoring sites tends to reflect a lack in range of equipment and/or its general condition.
- Nearly all play provision rates above the threshold for value; reflecting the social, healthy and developmental benefits provision can provide.

3. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUMMARY

- 3.1. An online and paper public consultation was undertaken as part of the Open Space Assessment between December 2015 and February 2016. This resulted in a total of 207 responses being received. This is a relatively small sample, which gives a confidence limit of +/- 6.8%, and under-represents the views of male users and key users i.e. children and the 18-24 age group. Consequently, while the data is indicative of public opinion and behaviour it is recommended that its results are not used in isolation.
- 3.2. The headline results from the Public Parks and Open Space Consultation were as follows:

<i>Local parks –</i>	<i>Play areas –</i>
<p>People visit parks and gardens for several reasons; more than one in four people go to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play informal sport (42.9%) • Walk the dog (30.8%) • Allow children to play (30.8%) • Enjoy the views (28.0%) • Meet family and friends (26.9%) 	<p>People tend to have fewer reasons for a visit, predictably the main one is to allow children to play. More than one in four people go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow children to play (73.7%) • Meet family and friends (27.2%)
<p>Reasons for people not visiting parks and gardens include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard of the facility (44.4%) • Personal safety (34.2%) • Toilets and car parking (32.5%) 	<p>Reasons for people not visiting play areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard of the facility (50.0%) • Toilets and car parking (25.6%) • Personal safety (23.3%)

4. THURROCK HEALTHWATCH PUBLIC CONSULTATION

4.1. Thurrock Healthwatch conducted a public consultation and the report identified the following themes:

- Access for those with mobility issues
- Cost
- Maintenance and cleanliness in parks
- None local, nearby
- Not enough to do there e.g. Groups, equipment, things to see
- Preference
- Raising awareness
- Safety (personal safety such as not wanting to walk alone, or fears of being mugged)

4.2. Healthwatch have made the following Community recommendations to reflect feedback received through public consultation:

- Community to set up groups to support parks and upkeep.
- Use time banking services to increase volunteering to maintain parks and green spaces.

- Look at ways to increase safety in parks and green spaces such as lighting, and CCTV. Offer more within parks and green spaces such as voluntary run tea rooms, food outlets, gym sessions etc.

5. THURROCK DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

5.1. Thurrock Disability Partnership Board have previously been invited to provide their views on how outdoor spaces could be created to make it easy to exercise and be active and how this might be achieved. Feedback provided included the provision of:

- More “outside Gym” facilities – in public view. Consideration to be given to the merits of micro gyms
- More published/advertised dog walking routes (e.g. dog bin facilities)
- More facilities for people to “gather/rest/refresh” – and accessible. Involvement of disabled people/groups in developing planning policy (someone responsible for access)
- Ensuring that outdoor places are accessible to everybody in the community.

6. THE RESIDENT’S SURVEY SUMMARY

6.1. The 2016 Residents Survey in Thurrock showed that residents in Thurrock have varying levels of satisfaction with local parks, playgrounds and open spaces in their area. Data from the residents survey indicates that whilst satisfaction in areas such as The Homesteads and Corringham and Fobbing is relatively high, satisfaction in the following areas is the lowest in the borough:

- East Tilbury
- Stifford Clays
- Tilbury St Chads
- Ockendon
- Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park
- West Thurrock and South Stifford

6.2. There is also local variation in residents’ perception of the role in Thurrock Council in terms of making it easy to use outdoor spaces for exercise and physical activity, with high proportions of residents in some of the Eastern areas agreeing that it is easy to exercise outside (Stanford East and Corringham Town, The Homesteads and Orsett). However, the following areas have the lowest proportions of residents feeling it is easy to exercise outside:

- Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park
- Tilbury St Chads
- Stifford Clays

- Ockendon
 - East Tilbury
- 6.3. It is interesting to note that there is also variation in this perception between those with and without a disability (75% of those without a disability feel it is easy to exercise compared to 69% of those with a disability). This indicates that accessibility may need to be considered.

7. HEALTH DATA SUMMARY

- 7.1. In addition to ‘creating open spaces that make it easy for residents to be active’, increasing physical activity in children through higher quality and accessible play provision will also support in the achievement of the health and well-being strategy goal 5, objective A to ‘increase the number of people who are a healthy weight’ in Thurrock.
- 7.2. The latest National Childhood Obesity Programme (NCMP) data for year 6 (age 10-11) shows that there is variation in the levels of obesity in the Borough. The lowest proportions of children who are obese are observed in the East and North of the borough. Higher levels of obesity are observed to the West and South of the borough, in particular the following areas
- West Thurrock and South Stifford
 - Ockendon
 - Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park
 - Tilbury St Chads
 - Grays Riverside
 - Belhus
 - Aveley and Uplands
- 7.3. It is recommended that focus on improvements to parks and play provision should be targeted to those parks in the highlighted areas above to help reduce the inequalities in health experienced in the borough. As a priority specific focus should be given to West Thurrock and South Stifford, Ockendon and Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park and Tilbury St. Chads, all of which are all in the highest quintile in Thurrock for Childhood Obesity at year 6 (age 10-11) and which also predominantly feature in the residents survey feedback outlined above.
- 7.4 Further investigation to correlate the quality of the park provision with the NCMP data is being undertaken, and will also be used to ensure that resource is targeted appropriately.

8. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEVELS (ADULTS)

- 8.1. Sport England figures for the amount of adult physical activity at 3x30 mins per week have been used to identify the least active areas of the Borough.

9. DEPRIVATION

- 9.1. Parks and open spaces offer residents free access opportunities to be active. Consideration has therefore been given to areas that are in the national Indices of Multiple Deprivation lower 2 quartiles.

10. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF NEED AND PRIORITIES.

- 10.1. The overall assessment of need and priorities have been assessed using the criteria above and are tabled in Appendix A. These results will be used to inform where future investments are made.

10.2. NEXT STEPS

- 10.3. The first phase of the projects was to identify a robust methodology to establish priority for investment. The second phase is a more detailed review of the areas identified and a rolling programme of individual plans developed for the sites prioritised. In some instances, where simple and immediate improvements can be made, they will be. In other areas where redesigning is required, plans will be developed and consulted on.
- 10.4. Where significant works are required they will be scheduled, where possible, for the winter and early spring when parks are less busy.

Park Sites	Analysis area	Post Code	LSOA	MSOA	Ward Code	Ward	Quality Score	Value Score	Y6 Childhood obesity (age 10/11)	Childhood Obesity Quartile	IMD Quintile	3 x 30 mins	Community Safety - ASB / Vandalism incidents reported	Issues and Complaints	Resident Views - Council make it easy to exercise	Resident Views - Satisfaction with Parks, Playgrounds & Open Spaces
Bonnygate Wood	West	RM15 5AR	E01015973	E02003301	E05002239	Ockendon			29.05%	1	2	19.4	Min	0	59.00%	33.00%
Koala Park	Central	RM18 7SS	E01016006	E02003313	E05002246	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park			25.96%	1	1	16.4	Min	1	45.00%	34.00%
Palmerston Gardens	West	RM20 4YJ	E01016015	E02003310	E05002248	West Thurrock and South Stifford			27.63%	1	3	21.6	Min	0	64.00%	35.00%
Purfleet Recreation Ground (River Court)	West	RM19 1QT	E01016013	E02003310	E05002248	West Thurrock and South Stifford			27.63%	1	2	21.6	Min	0	64.00%	35.00%
West Thurrock Memorial Ground	West	RM20 3BJ	E01016012	E02003310	E05002248	West Thurrock and South Stifford			27.63%	1	2	21.6	Mod	3	64.00%	35.00%
Culver Field	West	RM15 5RR	E01015931	E02003302	E05002230	Belhus			23.48%	2	1	18.4	Min	0	65.00%	43.00%
Dilkes Park	West	RM15 5ND	E01015929	E02003302	E05002230	Belhus			23.48%	2	1	18.4	Min	2	65.00%	43.00%
Woodview	Central	RM16 2YR	E01015965	E02003305	E05002237	Little Thurrock Blackshots			20.83%	3	4	20.9	Min	0	62.00%	44.00%
Park Road Playing Field	East	RM17 6RB	E01015956	E02003311	E05002235	Grays Riverside			25.88%	2	2	23.2	Min	1	62.00%	48.00%
Delafield Road	Central	RM17 6AR	E01015967	E02003309	E05002238	Little Thurrock Rectory			21.58%	3	4	23.5	Min	3	70.00%	53.00%
Hillside	Central	RM17 5SX	E01015970	E02003309	E05002238	Little Thurrock Rectory			21.58%	3	5	23.5	Min	0	70.00%	53.00%
Corringham Town Park	East	SS17 9BN	E01015945	E02003297	E05002233	Corringham and Fobbing			12.06%	5	3	18.9	Min	1	78.00%	66.00%
Coalhouse Fort	East	RM18 8PB	E01015949	E02003308	E05002234	East Tilbury			18.93%	5	4	22.3	Min	0	60.00%	23.00%
Gobbions Park	East	RM18 8SB	E01015948	E02003308	E05002234	East Tilbury			18.93%	5	3	22.3	Min	3	60.00%	23.00%
Thomas Bata Memorial Park	East	RM18 8PB	E01015949	E02003308	E05002234	East Tilbury			18.93%	5	4	22.3	Min	0	60.00%	23.00%
South Ockendon Recreation Ground	West	RM15 6TY	E01015974	E02003301	E05002239	Ockendon			29.05%	1	4	19.4	Mod	2	59.00%	33.00%
Spiderfield Recreation Ground	West	RM19 1ZU	E01016014	E02003310	E05002248	West Thurrock and South Stifford			27.63%	1	1	21.6	Mod	2	64.00%	35.00%
St Francis Way Field	Central	RM16 4RH	E01015936	E02003307	E05002231	Chadwell St Mary			20.18%	4	2	16.9	Min	0	73.00%	44.00%
Grays Beach Riverside Park	Central	RM17 6JP	E01015954	E02003312	E05002235	Grays Riverside			25.88%	2	1	22.3	Mod	1	62.00%	48.00%
Grays Town Park	Central	RM17 6RB	E01015956	E02003311	E05002235	Grays Riverside			25.88%	2	2	23.2	Min	4	62.00%	48.00%
Usk Road	West	RM15 4NT	E01015924	E02003303	E05002229	Aveley and Uplands			25.25%	2	2	18.3	Min	0	73.00%	52.00%
Hardie Road Park	East	SS17 0PB	E01015989	E02003300	E05002243	Stanford-le-Hope West			19.79%	4	3	21.7	Min	1	79.00%	57.00%
Fobbing Recreation Ground	East	SS17 9BZ	E01015946	E02003296	E05002233	Corringham and Fobbing			12.06%	5	4	21.9	Min	0	78.00%	66.00%
Balstonia Park	East	SS17 8BH	E01016002	E02003300	E05002245	The Homesteads			14.12%	5	5	21.7	Min	1	81.00%	73.00%

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**Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme
2017/18**

Dates of Meetings: 13 July 2017, 12 October 2017, 14 December 2017, 22 February 2018 and 19 April 2018

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
13 July 2017		
Terms of Reference	Democratic Services	Officers
Fire Service	Steve Cox	Members
“Clean it, Cut it” Update	Daren Spring	Councillor Gerrish (Chair 2016-17)
Community Partnership Update	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Fly Tipping in Alleyways	Gavin Dennett	Members
12 October 2017		
Waste Refuse Update	Julie Rogers	Officers
Air Quality Update	Steve Cox	Members
Housing Recycling Waste Centres (HRWC)	Julie Rogers	Officers
Enforcement Policy	Julie Rogers	Officers
14 December 2017		
Volunteer Groups within the Borough <i>(invite Thames21 to speak)</i>	Steve Cox	Councillor Cherry (Vice Chair 2016-17)
2018/19 Budget Setting Update	Carl Tomlinson	Officer

Updated: May 2017

Fees & Charges Pricing Strategy 2018/19 (Adults)	Carl Tomlinson	Officer
"Bin it" Campaign	Steve Cox	Councillor Piccolo (Member 2016-17)
22 February 2018		
19 April 2018		