

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

## Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **31 October 2018**

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

### Membership of the Council:

Barbara Rice (Mayor)  
Terry Piccolo (Deputy Mayor)

Qaisar Abbas  
Tim Aker  
Abbie Akinbohun  
John Allen  
Alex Anderson  
James Baker  
Clare Baldwin  
Russell Cherry  
Colin Churchman  
Gary Collins  
Mark Coxshall  
Jack Duffin  
Tony Fish  
Mike Fletcher  
Leslie Gamester  
Oliver Gerrish

Robert Gledhill  
Garry Hague  
James Halden  
Graham Hamilton  
Shane Hebb  
Victoria Holloway  
Deborah Huelin  
Andrew Jefferies  
Barry Johnson  
Tom Kelly  
Cathy Kent  
John Kent  
Martin Kerin  
Angela Lawrence  
Steve Liddiard  
Susan Little

Sue MacPherson  
Ben Maney  
Bukky Okunade  
Jane Potheary  
David Potter  
Joycelyn Redsell  
Gerard Rice  
Elizabeth Rigby  
Sue Sammons  
Sue Shinnick  
Peter Smith  
Luke Spillman  
Pauline Tolson  
Aaron Watkins  
Lynn Worrall



**Lyn Carpenter**  
**Chief Executive**



## **Agenda**

Open to Public and Press

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1 Apologies for absence</b>	
<b>2 Minutes</b>	<b>9 - 40</b>
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 25 July 2018.	
<b>3 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 Declaration of Interests</b>	
To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
<b>5 Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council</b>	
<b>6 Questions from Members of the Public</b>	<b>41 - 42</b>
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
<b>7 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 Petitions Update Report</b>	<b>43 - 44</b>
<b>9 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.	

<b>10</b>	<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing</b>	<b>45 - 58</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Adult Social Care</b>	<b>59 - 82</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Questions from Members</b>	<b>83 - 84</b>

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

<b>13</b>	<b>Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Minutes of Committees</b>

Name of Committee	Date
Licensing Sub-Committee	17 July 2018
Planning Committee	12 July 2018
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2018
Corporate Parenting Committee	6 June 2018
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	14 June 2018
Extraordinary Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2018
Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	16 January 2018
Planning Committee	16 August 2018
Licensing Sub-Committee	15 August 2018
Standards and Audit Committee	19 July 2018
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10 July 2018
Licensing Committee	14 February 2018
Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5 July 2018

General Services Committee	7 March 2018
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3 July 2018
Licensing Sub-Committee	19 September 2018
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	18 July 2018
Planning Committee	13 September 2018

<b>15</b>	<b>Update on motions resolved at Council</b>	<b>85 - 88</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Motion 1 submitted by Councillor Halden</b>	<b>89 - 90</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Motion 2 submitted by Councillor Gledhill</b>	<b>91 - 92</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Motion 3 submitted by Councillor Spillman</b>	<b>93 - 94</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Motion 4 submitted by Councillor J Kent</b>	<b>95 - 96</b>

**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:**

28 November 2018, 30 January 2019, 27 February 2019 (Budget), 20 March 2019 (Provisional)

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

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

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

### **Recording of meetings**

This meeting will be recorded with the audio recording being published on the Council's website. The meeting will also be filmed and live streamed. Members of the public not wishing to be filmed the Mayor will give them the opportunity to leave the chamber. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be recorded.

Members of the public not wishing any speech or address to be recorded for publication to the Internet should contact Democratic Services to discuss any concerns.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

### **Guidelines on filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings**

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

If you wish to film or photograph the proceedings of a meeting and have any special requirements or are intending to bring in large equipment please contact the Communications Team at [CommunicationsTeam@thurrock.gov.uk](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.

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

## Thurrock Council Wi-Fi

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

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

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

## Evacuation Procedures

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

## How to view this agenda on a tablet device



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

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

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

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



# DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

## Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

### Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

### Non- pecuniary

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



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

## PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

No speech may exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Mayor [Rule 19.8], except for the proposer of any motion who shall have 5 minutes to move that motion (except on a motion to amend where the 3 minute time shall apply) [Rule 19.8(a)]			
<b>All Motions will follow Section A and then either Section B or C</b>			
<b>A.</b>	A1 Motion is moved A2 Mover speaks A3 Seconded A4 Secunder speaks or reserves right to speak	[Rule 19.2] [Rule 19.8(a) (5 minutes)] [Rule 19.2] [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 debate on <u>the subject</u>.</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.		

## Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

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

1. **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
  - High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
  - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
  - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together
  
2. **Place** – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
  - Roads, houses and public spaces that connect people and places
  - Clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
  - Fewer public buildings with better services
  
3. **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations
  - Attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy
  - Vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all
  - Commercial, entrepreneurial and connected public services

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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.

### October 1918

DATE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	WARD	DIED
02-Oct	KEY	WILLIAM SAMUEL	20	MUCK	BELGIUM
04-Oct	O'CONNELL	DANIEL	29	TIL	GERMANY
07-Oct	COOK	REGINALD JAMES	U/K	W/TH	FRANCE
07-Oct	MOORE	JOHN	U/K	TIL	AUSTRALIA
08-Oct	COOTE	JAMES BERTIE	19	W/TH	FRANCE
09-Oct	BAKER	CHARLES	35	L/TH	FRANCE
10-Oct	TURNER	STANLEY BERTIE	22	G	EGYPT
10-Oct	VINCENT	WILLIAM JAMES EDMUND	33	STIFF	FRANCE
11-Oct	LAST	ALFRED HENRY	20	G	FRANCE
12-Oct	TYLER	PERCY JAMES	19	HOH	FRANCE
12-Oct	CRICKET	WILLIAM ROBERT	37	TIL	FRANCE
17-Oct	WHITEHEAD	JOHN	28	G	FRANCE
18-Oct	MACKLIN	GEORGE	U/K	HOH	FRANCE
19-Oct	COWLEY	FREDERICK CHARLES	U/K	W/TH	FRANCE
22-Oct	TANDY	WILLIAM LEONARD	28	L/TH	CANADA
22-Oct	CHAPMAN	ERNEST ALFRED	36	W/TH	BELGIUM
23-Oct	CHALLIS	THOMAS	U/K	SLH	FRANCE
24-Oct	ROSS	JOHN	22	G	EGYPT
28-Oct	BROWNING	CHARLES JOSEPH	18	G	FRANCE
28-Oct	MARTIN	WALTER	U/K	W/TH	FRANCE
30-Oct	CLAYDON	WILLIAM JAMES	28	G	ITALY
31-Oct	TAYLOR	ERNEST GEORGE	19	L/TH	BELGIUM

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25 July 2018 at 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Councillors Barbara Rice (Mayor), Terry Piccolo (Deputy Mayor), Qaisar Abbas, Tim Aker, Abbie Akinbohun, John Allen, Alex Anderson, Clare Baldwin, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Tony Fish, Mike Fletcher, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Victoria Holloway, Deborah Huelin, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Susan Little, Ben Maney, Bukky Okunade, Jane Potheary, David Potter, Joycelyn Redsell, Gerard Rice, Elizabeth Rigby, Sue Shinnick, Peter Smith, Luke Spillman, Aaron Watkins and Lynn Worrall

**Apologies:** Councillors James Baker, Russell Cherry, Colin Churchman, Angela Lawrence, Sue MacPherson, Sue Sammons and Pauline Tolson

**In attendance:** Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive  
Sharon Bayliss, Director of Commercial Services  
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation  
David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance  
Andrew Millard, Assistant Director - Planning, Transport and Public Protection  
Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services  
Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways  
Ian Wake, Director of Public Health  
Karen Wheeler, Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service  
Detlev Munster, Assistant Director - Property & Development  
Jonathon Wilson, Chief Accountant, Finance  
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.

Councillor J Kent enquired how Councillor Baker was following the incident that took place in Ockendon last week. Councillor Spillman stated Councillor Baker and former Councillor Chris Baker were recovering well from the shock of the injuries suffered from this incident and thanked Members for their concern.

**31. Minutes**

The minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 27 June 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Councillor Redsell commented on Page 31 of the Appendix A to the Council Minutes the word Beckshill should read Bexhill.

**32. Items of Urgent Business**

No items of urgent business were received.

**33. Declaration of Interests**

No declaration of interests were received.

**34. 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 announced as part of her Charity the Community Chest Charity was Giving for Thurrock she announced their 3 fund raising events and encouraged members to attend.

Afternoon Tea with the Mayor to be held on the 14 September 2018 where invited guests would be asked to wear either a hat or a fascinator.

A Charity Ball to be held on the 16 November 2018 at the Orsett Hall.

A Civic Dinner to be held on the 12 April 2019 at the Civic Hall which will be a grand black and white ball.

The Mayor stated she contributed each month to the Pay Day Giving Scheme and encouraged all members to sign up so members could start to Give for Thurrock in Thurrock.

The Mayor announced a "Giving for Thurrock Day" to be held on the last Friday of March each year to have a day of raising funds for small charities in Thurrock and for the good of Thurrock residents to come together as a community.

The Mayor sadly announced the passing of former Councillor Diane Revell who would be remembered for her contributions to the Council and in the Chamber and had sent condolences to her family.

Councillor Gledhill extended his condolences and stated it had been a great loss when Diane Revell had retired and it was an even greater loss now.



Councillor Gerrish reflected on regular Member stories told of their high regard of Diane Revell and extended the Labour Group's condolences.

Councillor Little spoke of her memories and admiration for Diane Revell and how this had been a sad time.

Councillor Redsell echoed comments made by other Members and how Diane Revell had been passionate and gave good advice when the Mayor's seat was passed to her from Diane Revell.

The Mayor thanked Members for their kind words.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, stated Cabinet had allocated £250K to tackle anti-social behaviour in the borough with action being taken to let those offenders know that this behaviour would not be tolerated. Anti-social behaviour in the borough was a whole community issue requiring a multi-agency approach to help prevention and enforcement. The Leader highlighted:

- A funded specialist anti-social behaviour officer will now work alongside the existing housing anti-social behaviour team.
- CCTV would be improved on the Garrison Estate and Derwent Parade.
- Youth Club developments made to help youths at risk to be diverted from bad behaviour.
- Community Events to reassure residents and to create a united community to encourage issues to be reported.
- Funding for the Report It Campaign to encourage residents to report anti-social behaviour and crime on-line.
- Thurrock Council to equip Essex Police with equipment to track down those users that use quad and motor bikes inappropriately in the borough as part of the bike nuisance operation Sacrifice.
- Funding for Thurrock Council and Essex Police to undertake high visibility operations to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- Funding for Essex Police to undertake high visibility operations to tackle gang related issues as part of the Raptor operation.

The Leader stated improvements had been made of both schools and general practitioners across the year and highlighted:

- 94% of Thurrock schools now rated good or outstanding.

- Work continued with the Education Skills Funding Agency to create 3500 new school places.
- Increase of health sessions would be offered for families across the borough and the Children's Centres and through the Brighter Future Service.
- Significant improvement to standards as rated good in general practitioner surgeries had improved from 2 to 21.
- Plans are progressing for the new 4 Integrated Medical Centres.

The Leader thanked and congratulated the Planning Team in achieving 4th position out of 339 Local Planning Authorities in the National Planning Performance results.

The Coalhouse Fort had recently been awarded the Green Flag for the 8th year running as a fantastic park in Thurrock which would be promoted as part of the Discover Thurrock Campaign.

The Clean It Cut It Fill It update since April 2018 - 1108 pot holes had been filled, 408 acres of grass cut, 737 tonnes of waste collected, 425 fly tips cleared, 1004 penalty notices issued for offences of littering.

Councillor Gledhill stated Agenda Item 10 Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 2) had been withdrawn from the agenda due to the Government announcement of the National Policy Framework. That Officers would look at the potential impacts and the report would be presented back at the best possible opportunity. Councillor Gledhill encouraged Members to bring any questions to the attention of Group Leaders to be considered at a later date. Work will continue with the consultation of Thurrock residents which was vital for the project to move forward.

The Leader updated Members on the anti-social behaviour question raised at June 2018 Full Council that an Essex Police raid has taken place at Grays Park on the 30 June where drugs were ceased and arrests made. This was an ongoing operation to halt these behaviours

### **35. 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.

### **36. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors**

The Mayor informed Members that in accordance with the Council's petition scheme, the requisite notice had been given by 3 Members who wished to present a petition at the meeting.

Councillor Hebb presented a petition on behalf of St Joseph's School in Stanford le Hope in relation to Highways matters.

Councillor Jefferies presented a petition on behalf of Bruyns Court and Deveron Gardens in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour.

Councillor J Kent presented a petition on behalf of Elm Road Park in relation to the decision to sell the land.

### **37. Petition Update Report**

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

### **38. 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 wished to make the following changes:

For Councillor Redsell to be appointed as member of the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Kelly.

For Councillor Redsell to be appointed as member of the Police Fire and Crime Panel to replace Councillor Anderson.

For Councillor Redsell to be appointed as member of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Maney.

Councillor Gerrish, Leader of the Labour Group, informed the Chamber he had no changes.

Councillor Spillman, Leader of the Thurrock Independent Group, informed the Chamber he had no changes.

### **39. Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 2)**

Item was withdrawn at the meeting.

### **40. Report of the Cabinet Member for Central Services**

Councillor Collins, Portfolio Holder for Central Services, presented his Portfolio Holder report and stated it was a privilege to be presenting his first report. Councillor Collins thanked Councillor Huelin for her help and support and appreciated the help provided by Members and Officers. Councillor Collins updated Members on the following achievements:

- Changes to the digital strategy with the completion of a number of technology projects and application upgrades formed part of the overall Council Digital Strategy
- Newly refurbished customer services face to face and reception area, to reflect key principles in the Customer Services and Digital Strategies to help residents self-serve online while continuing to provide support for the most vulnerable
- Continued transformation in the digital interaction with residents via other Council's web portal
- 100% of new benefit claims are made online
- 11,400 followers on Twitter
- 4,410 followers on Facebook
- 13,000 subscribers of e-newsletters which includes Business Buzz and Thurrock Careers
- Reversing an agency level of 85% to a permanent officer level of more than 85% by October 2018
- The shared legal service with the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham had been discontinued from March 2018
- The Council's quality performance had been recognised externally with the reaccreditation of the Customer Contact Association in June 2018.

Councillor Collins stated Members should encourage residents to report issues on line.

Councillor Gerrish thanked the Portfolio Holder and welcomed Councillor Collins to his new role. Councillor Gerrish questioned whether there was a problem with communications and the way consultations had been undertaken particularly for the selling of the land at the Thurrock Rugby Ground. Councillor Collins stated work continued on improving communications and this was work in progress.

Councillor Okunade thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and questioned whether there were any underlying problems with the increase of upheld complaints. Councillor Collins agreed to provide a written response as this information was not to hand.

Councillor Redsell stated it would be good practice to continue to publish a contact number of the Council for those residents with no access to IT equipment. Councillor Collins stated this had been taken on board and a contact number would be added to the Council's web site.

Councillor Worrall was pleased the Equality and Diversity scheme had been refreshed and questioned whether a report would be presented at Council. Councillor Collins stated work was being undertaken on this report and would be presented as soon as possible.

Councillor J Kent questioned the cost of the new reception area and why no key spends over £500 appear on the Council's web site. Councillor Collins

stated this information was not to hand and would provide a draft written response.

Councillor Collins thanked Members for their comments and the Council had come a long way with making changes to services but still had a long way to go with 2018/19 being the year of bedding of those new services. This year's objective was to get the Council's services delivered to resident's right first time.

#### **41. Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance**

Councillor Hebb, Portfolio Holder for Finance, presented his Portfolio Report and stated it was a privilege and a pleasure to announce the services provided by Thurrock Council would be safe for the next 4 years with Thurrock Council having a balanced budget since 2016. Councillor Hebb updated Members on some of those services:

- Weekly Bin Collections
- Improved Grass Cutting
- Street Cleaning
- Pot Hole Filling
- Protect the Elderly
- Council Tax Exemptions
- Affordable Housing
- Saving Hospital facilities
- Clean It Cut It Fill It

Councillor Hebb stated the General Fund Budget had been increased by 38%, from £8m to £11m. The Administration had overseen spending of ear-marked reserves which funded projects such as school building and other capital plans with the review of reserves to ensure the Council did not sit on Council tax payers money for no reason. The work would start with the Fair Debt Summit in September 2018 and Members and Head Teachers from the borough would be invited.

Councillor Hebb stated the Council Spending Review the concentrated on reviewing bottom-up services was working.

Councillor Gerrish thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and highlighted the need for the Council to earn external income and questioned what were the biggest, newest opportunities to generate revenue that are currently being explored by the Council. Councillor Hebb stated one of the commercial teams was the Fraud Team who also worked outside the Council where a return of £24.5 million had been generated over past years. Achieving a 2 to 1 return that would enable monies to pay for current services and help the Council to reinvest.

Councillor Spillman stated the sustainability was being achieved by taking money out of pockets of residents by increasing council tax. Councillor Spillman asked for guarantees no further increase in budgets to further

increase council tax. Councillor Hebb stated a motion on the Council Spending Review had been agreed with the ambition to reduce tax burden on residents. A review looking at bottom-up services was currently being undertaken and once complete would be presented where discussions could take place.

Councillor Duffin stated he had supported the Council Spending Review Motion but questioned when Members would see progress and the long term investments. Councillor Hebb stated the Investigation Strategy had been agreed unanimously and the Council's Spending Review agreed and discussed across party. Cabinet continued to look at investments and discussions would take place.

Councillor Jefferies asked what further assurances could be given that the Council's finances are in a safer place. Councillor Hebb stated a Peer and an External Audit Review had taken place where the Council's pathway had been outlined and developed. With this year's initial audit report expected to announce an unqualified position on the Council's financial health.

Councillor G Rice stated on the street cleaning item and suggested Councillor Hebb visited Chadwell St Mary to look at the issue of overgrown weeds and blocked gullies particularly along the A1306. Councillor Hebb stated he was aware of the issue and would contact Councillor G Rice with regards to visiting the sites.

Councillor Hebb thanked Members for their questions and comments. Extended thanks were also given to the finance team who had played a fantastic role and thanked opposition parties for their contributions.

#### **42. Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 1 question to the Leader had been received, 1 question to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and 9 questions to Cabinet Members.

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

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

Councillor Abbas updated Members on his recent visit to the Citizens Advice Bureau where he had been provided with a briefing and been introduced to volunteers and employers. Following the Thurrock Citizen Advice Bureau merge with Basildon in April 2018 the annual funding had been cut significantly from £150k to £50k. Some external funding had been provided by various outside organisations. With these cuts it was becoming harder for them to manage and there were concerns the budgets had been cut but rents would be increased in 2019/20. Due to these cuts 8 to 9 residents are turned away each day, with the Citizens Advice Bureau Chief Executive having

concerns over the funding. Councillor Abbas had also been invited to attend the Board in Basildon on the 8 August.

Councillor G Rice attended an Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood Defence Committee where it been announced work on the proposed lock gate in Tilbury would start in early 2019.

Councillor G Rice stated Officers had engaged with Anglian Water with regards to Ottawa Road, Christchurch Road and Quebec Road who had experienced flooding and surface water flooding.

#### **44. Minutes of Committees**

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

#### **45. Motion Update Report**

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

Councillor Duffin stated he was disappointed with the response provided to his Motion presented at June Council with regards to Thurrock Council looking into contacting all sports teams/clubs. Councillor Duffin stated the response had been against everything the Motion was about and requested further action.

#### **46. Motion 1 Submitted by Councillor Spillman**

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

*Council requests that Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee urgently consider adding to it work programme at its next meeting on 2 October 2018 research into the feasibility of installing sprinkler systems in every high-rise tower block in Thurrock considering the extensive body of evidence highlighting the risks of not having sprinkler systems in such high-rise buildings.*

Councillor Spillman stated the Motion had been presented in light of the tragedy at Grenfell Tower and with the agreement of all parties this work should be undertaken.

Councillor Johnson stated a proactive approach had taken place on the housing stock following the tragedy with a feasibility study being undertaken in late 2017. The Council was compliant and would continue to be so. Councillor Johnson questioned why Councillor Spillman, as deputy chair of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee had not raised this as an item on the committee work programme.

Councillor Gledhill stated his support for this Motion and as previous portfolio holder for housing a considerable amount of work had already been undertaken following the tragedy. Councillor Gledhill also stated the item could have been raised as an item on the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme.

Councillor Spillman stated the reason for presenting at Council had been Cabinet had previously ignored recommendations made by overview and scrutiny committees and felt it was an important item that required discussion. Councillor Spillman requested the Mayor moved to the vote.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

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

#### **47. Motion 2 Submitted by Councillor Smith**

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

*Thurrock Council considers going further than their statutory duty regarding publication of Traffic Restriction Orders (TRO) by publishing them on the Council's social media and contacting residents through email where possible as well as the currently required public notices on lamp posts and in the local press.*

Councillor Spillman stated that in Aveley only 6 residents had responded to a consultation on the proposed painting of yellow lines on every corner. This proved poor engagement and consultation had to be improved.

Councillor Gledhill stated his support for this Motion as it could change the current process. With the right way forward was to reach out to residents electronically and through social media.

Councillor Smith thanked the Leader for his comments and it was important the communication was right to take the Council into the 21st Century.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

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

#### **48. Motion 3 Submitted by Councillor Redsell**

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

*This chamber recognises the valuable contribution that trees make to our local environment and calls on Cabinet and/or officers*



- *Where practicable to consult Members prior to the removal of trees from local authority land within their respective wards, and*
- *Where possible in accordance with the current budget to replace within a reasonable period all trees felled from local authority land including public areas; and*
- *To investigate availability of funding sources for the 2019-20 budgets to enable the Council to purchase replacement trees*

Councillor Redsell stated that the Motion was long overdue and the Council should do more in future budgets for tree planting funds. This would improve cleaner air and encourage wild life. Trees should be replaced as they are felled and Members be informed of any such felling. Thurrock had some very old trees and there should be some provision for the next generation to enjoy.

Councillor Rigby fully supported this Motion and understood some trees had to be felled but where possible these should be replanted. Trees played a vital part in the environment not only for the shelter for wild life but they made the borough look good and bring some wellbeing into the borough.

Councillor Duffin stated his support for the Motion and commented on the amount of paper used to produce agendas for committees. Councillor Duffin suggested where 1 tree was felled 2 are replanted.

Councillor Coxshall stated this was a fantastic Motion and agreed with Councillor Duffin's suggested where 1 tree was felled 2 are replanted. Councillor Coxshall referred Members to the Avenues in Stifford Clays where all the trees had been felled and requested Stifford Clays be addressed first.

Councillor J Kent stated his support for the Motion and it was the best thing to do but questioned why the Council were proposing to dig up the six acre park in Elm Road.

Councillor Maney stated this was an important motion that gave commitment the Council cared. On average 35 trees were lost each year and with no current policy in place to replace them. That funding be added to the budget would ensure these trees could be replaced and give back what the residents want.

Councillor Gledhill stated his support for the Motion and this would be a good way forward and to look at possible funding externally.

Councillor Watkins stated his support for the Motion and agreed communication with Members could be improved and would be addressed at the Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Hamilton suggested a sponsor a tree scheme.

Councillor Redsell thanked Members for their support but informed them the tree plaques had recently been stolen from the trees at Blackshots which had been disrespectful and upsetting.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

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

#### **49. Motion 4 Submitted by Councillor Gerrish**

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

*Thurrock Council calls for our asset disposal process to include an emphasis on:*

- *The importance of informal discussions with current occupiers of land and local residents.*
- *Consultation with ward councillors.*
- *Identification of multiple suitable sites to provide genuine choice.*
- *A more open and inclusive decision-making process.*

Councillor Gerrish stated the Motion was relative to the disposal of land where residents were only being made aware of consultations at committees. That a review should be undertaken to ensure every opportunity was given for proper consultations and proper notification be given.

Councillor Duffin stated his support for the Motion and expressed his frustration as a member of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee that Cabinet seem to be ignoring any recommendations that came out of overview and scrutiny committees. It would appear Cabinet do as they pleased and all other members are ignored.

Councillor Halden stated there should have been a consultation of ward members and had apologised for this. Councillor Halden stated sometimes decisions made would not be good for everyone but decisions had to be made for the greater good and major investments be made for school places.

Councillor Hebb stated the Motion was sound and respected the changes as it was important children get the best start in schools.

Councillor Fletcher stated the consultation and discussions should be taking place as early as possible in the process and the Administration appeared to be doing as they say and other Members can shut up.

Councillor Halden called Point of Order as he had not told the Opposition to "shut up". There were 2 legally binding processes for Members and the Community to have their say.

Councillor Spillman stated it was the tone and stubbornness of Cabinet Members that would make the Overview and Scrutiny and Council meetings redundant and the Administration should be looking at ways to interact more with the other groups.

Councillor G Rice stated his support for the Motion and as a member of the Thurrock Planning Committee he was aware of planning applications being refused and those pieces of land could be used as alternatives for future school developments.

Councillor Gledhill stated his support for the Motion and hoped it was universal across the chamber. Policies would be written into the asset disposal process and discussions would take place on everything the Council undertake. Councillor Gledhill stated Councillor Halden had already apologised for there not being a consultation of ward members.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

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

The Mayor wished Members an enjoyable summer.

**The meeting finished at 9.29 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 July 2018**

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

3 questions were submitted from members of the public.

**1. From Mr Healy to Councillor Halden:**

What assurance can Councillor Halden give on behalf of Thurrock Council that Thurrock Rugby Football Club training and fixture commitments during the season can be met for minis rugby on those pitches without restriction from the South West Essex Education Trust?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Halden can you please respond?

**Councillor Halden:**

I think from the offset the first thing that should be said is the West Essex Education Trust has got no interest in restricting sport activity. They are a specialist sports college. They have worked in harmony with all sorts of sports organisations across the borough for years. They have got no interest in working at odds with any group. As I have said in previous answers to questions in this regard, the Council's statutory responsibility is making sure we have enough school places in this borough. We are extremely proud that we are bringing forward plans for 70 million pounds worth of either new schools or expanded schools. It's something we are very proud of and something we are getting on with so we are meeting our responsibility. In terms specifically of what fixtures can and cannot be played, that is not the Council's remit that is not our forte. Those are conversations to be had between the Rugby Club and the Education Institutions who are actually engaged in the operational running of a rugby club. So your questions are better directed to them and not the Council.

**Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Halden. Mr Healy, do you wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr Healy:**

Councillor Halden, would you not agree with me that the Council can condition our right to continue to play rugby on those pitches in perpetuity.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Halden would you like to respond?

**Councillor Halden:**

Thank you Madam Mayor. Obviously conditions, rights of access so on and so forth are an issue that can be taken up through the planning process. The Education Trust have already outlined that they want to strengthen rugby provision in the area, and they will be making such commitments I understand through the planning process. As you would have seen from the letter that was signed by the Chairman of the Rugby Club, by the Chief Executive of the

Trust that is building the Orsett Heath Academy. They are working hand in glove to make sure they can deliver this strengthened provision. And it is when it gets to the Planning Process and we are looking at the future of these institutions will have together, that is when the provisions are best put in place.

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

Can you tell me how many military graves there are in Thurrock and how much it costs the Council to maintain them?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins can you please respond, thank you.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Mr Perrin, and good evening to you as well. In Thurrock our records state we have currently 99 recorded Military Graves across the cemeteries and within Thurrock. The cost to maintain the military graves is within our General Maintenance Budget and schedules in within our environments schedules as well which we do. We do also receive money from the War Graves Commission to a bit of looking after them as well. One thing that I am going to announce Mr Perrin actually in relation to war graves this evening, obviously we are currently undergoing some war memorial clean ups which was announced last year, obviously in remembrance of those who fell in the first world war and the hundred wars of that, I can confirm that we will be arranging for all the war graves and commissioned headstones to be cleaned as well as part of the war memorials.

**Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Watkins. Mr Perrin, do you wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr Perrin:**

Yes please Madam Mayor. Councillor Watkins and the rest of you in the Chamber, I believe I circulated a story of a Private soldier, Private Howarth, who died on 3 May in 1918 in Orsett Isolation Hospital. His story is a very harrowing story and he was a local boy, he went, he joined the army as a young 20 year old weighing 12-15 stone, fit and healthy, he was a prisoner of war, repatriated back to this country weighing 5 stone. He died as they say on the 3 May and buried on the 5 May 1918 with full military honours. I am asking if the Council would consider commemorating him as a local boy on the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his death with a grave side ceremony, possibly with a firing military honour, and the possibility if we can trace any of his descendants. I know he wasn't married himself but he did have a sister who may well have married. So basically I am asking if the Council would consider on the 5 May 2019 commemorating this one soldier who was a local boy in Thurrock.

**Mayor:**

Thank you. Councillor Watkins

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you very much Mr Perrin for your supplementary. Yes I have taken the time to have a read through this incredibly sad story as to what happened with this poor boy at the time. In regards to obviously your request for a ceremony absolutely will look into what can be done with that. What I would quite like to do as well is, obviously we do have 99 war graves as I mentioned already and part of that is obviously the clean-up in relation to the stones, I'm asking the team as well, sorry I'll speak a bit louder, to see what we can do in the run up to this year's anniversary. To see if we can do something for all those that have fallen, and all those who gave everything for Thurrock and for the residents of the United Kingdom and Great Britain. So absolutely on both levels.

**3. From Mr Coleman to Councillor Gledhill:**

Thank you Mayor. After yet another unauthorised Traveller encampment in Chafford Hundred, can the Council Leader outline what he is doing in his role as Cabinet Member for Public Protection to stop the increasing number of encampments in Chafford Hundred and across Thurrock please.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Gledhill, would you like to respond please?

**Councillor Gledhill:**

Thank you madam mayor, good even Mr Coleman and thank you for your question. I do need to clarify something first of all. The incursion that happened in Chafford recently was on private land so it is down to the private land owner to actually take the action. The Council can't get involved with what is known as a section 77 notice to move them on because it is as I say private land. The Council did actually get to a point where as actually no action had been taken we went down to serve a planning enforcement notice. But I am told that on arrival the Travellers had moved on. And that was solely because the owner of the land had worked with the Police to move them on under the Police powers that they have. Moving on to Thurrock as a whole, there are a number of target hardening measures that we have put in place and that includes bunding, the increasing amount of height barriers on car parks, gates and fences, protective shrouds around the padlocks so they can't be removed and then suddenly the gate is opened. On top of that I am pleased to say the Thurrock Council is moving forward with one piece of legislation is an injunction to permanently protect our sites. This won't actually protect them, it won't stop anyone from going on there, but it will make it much easier for the Police and the Council to remove them as they will be in contravention of a court injunction. It is quite an extensive and time consuming operation, it did start last year, we are still in the process of getting that together but we are hoping that it will be in place by the end of this year. In the meantime, Thurrock Council is one of the very few Councils that doesn't just use the criminal justice public order act 1984 to move travellers on, it does look at other parts of legislation to help move them on and that has been equally successful if not much more successful.

**Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Gledhill. Mr Coleman, do you wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr Coleman:**

Yes I do thank you. Thank you for your response. The response didn't know that land was owned by greenbelt. It was after numerous checking that we were advised of that and we had done some digging ourselves. Greenbelt at the time, and I have spoken to greenbelt personally, were advised by the Council that the travellers would only be there for a few days, and there's not really much point in pushing them along too much because they are just going to move to another area. That will save the Council a little bit of money won't it. Again so my question is what measures will be put into place to stop people driving on to the land in Chafford and that particular area, ironically yes the greenbelt company that own it have said that residents would have to pay themselves to put some fencing up or something if they want to. And to write to them for approval. But under the planning permission for Chafford Hundred we are not allowed to put a shed in our own garden. So how can residents on the bit of land that they pay nothing for and don't own, put fencing up as well.

**Mayor:**

Thank you. Councillor Gledhill

**Councillor Gledhill:**

Thank you for your supplementary there Mr Coleman. Obviously it's not for me to dictate what a private landowner would ask someone to do to try and help protect their land. From what you're saying it does sound somewhat unreasonable for greenbelt to ask you to pay for something that they are responsible for. How they would go about that and if they would get planning permission is another matter. But they are the landowners, they are aware of the covenants on the land, it is down to them to prevent any further incursions on that land. If there are any further problems please do contact me and we will make sure officers make clear their obligations.



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

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 1 question had been received to the Leader of the Council and 10 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:**

Could the Leader please update the Chamber on progress with dealing with Serious ASB issues and crime on the Garrison Estate in Purfleet?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Gledhill

**Councillor Gledhill:**

Thank you madam mayor, eventually. And thank you Councillor Gerrish. I do apologise in advance, because of the amount of work that has been undertaken by officers and the Police this will be a fairly lengthy answer. I am aware of the situation on the Garrison and the issues that have been raised both direct to myself and through officers and indeed through Councillor Gerrish. An initial response was sent after concerns were raised on 28 of May by the Chief Executive and a more detailed response was sent on the 25 June by the Corporate Director. Senior Officers of the Council have met the Tenant's Reps on the 5 July and have agreed a monthly meeting to update them on progress. In terms of specifics, repairs have been done within the communal area of Chieftan Drive and the broken glass panels have been replaced with the metal mesh type glass to help reduce the likelihood of vandalism. Repairs have been completed to all magnetic door closures to reduce access by other people that are not residents. And funding has been secured to enhance the CCTV in Chieftan Drive and around the Garrison area. We are also introducing improvements to the security control panel to prevent unauthorised access across all blocks. The Tenancy Team secured funding for demolition of the garages that have been vandalised. Mobile CCTV units are planned to tackle the motorbike and quad bike nuisance as well as locking the gates to the spider fields to reduce access, this is on top of the things I announced earlier. With Police getting access to help tackle this direct. I won't say what it is I don't want to give the game away. Two weapon sweeps have been taken on the estate following intelligence received. A golf club was recovered on the first but nothing on the second. The Antisocial Behaviour team is seeking possession of a property concerned where drugs have been found and are actively pursuing evidence on another to take their tenancies away. We have written to the parents where we have received evidence in relation to the behaviour of their children or younger people living in their premises. And Essex Police are actively pursuing through the courts perpetrators of public order offences recently. To offer residents assurances and visible presence antisocial behaviour officers are committed to conducting evening patrols with the Police and in addition Essex Police are running operation borderland over an extended period to gather intelligence and provide visibility of where the problems actually are. Alongside our Garrison estate working group where professionals meet to agree progress of actions meetings have also taken place with Garrison estate Residents Engagement Group. Following a

consultation with those residents we are looking to apply for a PSPO which will impose conditions on those committing crime and nuisance and antisocial behaviours on the Garrison estate. This can only happen when we have got the evidence so it is a time consuming piece of work. We are also working actively with the youth participation team and Active Essex to provide activities so to discourage those who are vulnerable to get involved with ASB, much better to prevent it than to actually go for the cure. And finally to provide further information to our residents and bring the community together we are hosting a family fun day on the 8 August. There are some other initiatives such as getting the youth offending team and the adult offending team at as part of community payback to go out and help clean up the estate, but I am waiting on dates when that would happen but hopefully when that happens there will be an announcement so people can go out and help. Don't forget these events are there obviously part of rehabilitation but also as punishment but the rehabilitation part that you actually get to show the problems that they cause. There are as I say other activities of the Council that are ongoing and I can quite happily write to you about those.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Gerrish do you have a supplementary question?

**Councillor Gerrish:**

Thank you madam mayor yes. I would just like to thank Councillor Gledhill for his response and for the actions that both he and the Council have taken so far on this issue, and credit where credit is due I think since I raised this issue with both him and the Chief Executive a lot has been done in the area. I think there is still more to do but we are moving in the right direction in terms of tackling some of the issues that we have seen. Madam Mayor when residents came to me a huge concern of theirs was trying to get the Police or Council to listen to their problems that they were facing day in and day out. At times they felt abandoned to whatever might happen and have been in real fear for their safety. Will the leader agree to take up conversations with officers to ensure we have both a clear and understood escalation path for Council staff especially the more junior Council staff that might receive the initial reports of these kinds of issues when issues of serious crime are first reported. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Gledhill do you wish to respond?

**Councillor Gledhill:**

Yes there is, number one we are working in the right direction, yes there is more to do, and yes definitely it will take some time to actually resolve this. Equally yes we need to make sure that whoever receives the information passes it up the line to those who can make the decisions. There is nothing worse than residents giving information day in day out for weeks on end only to find out that it's stuck on a computer or has not been passed to the relevant officer and not dealt with in an appropriate time. Residents want to see action and they want to see it when its needed not when we feel that it is necessary. So there will be a process put in place to ensure that can happen, not just with us but with the Police as well. Such as reporting it to an officer on the street, they can only do so much, but we need to make sure that it gets up through the system, that it is reported as a crime, recorded

as a statistic. That way we can get Essex Police to put more resources in to the area. That will also help me as part of the antisocial behaviour project that we have got going to say where we need to put the resources and what resources are needed where.

**Mayor:**

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

**Councillor Gerrish:**

Thank you Councillor Gledhill, no supplementary.

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

**1. From Councillor Duffin to Councillor Holloway:**

Can you lay out the influence you have as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to prevent the closure of Orsett Hospital?

**QUESTION WAS WITHDRAWN**

**2. From Councillor Akinbohun to Councillor Watkins**

There has been appalling service from c2c recently as we continue to see service disruptions on a regular basis. Many of my residents have lost money, lost jobs, some said their refund policy is very hard to follow. What are you doing to ensure c2c is aware of the discomfort the disruptions are causing and to make sure there are improvements?

**Mayor:**

Thank you would you like to answer Councillor?

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, thank you Councillor for your question and may I welcome you also to the chambers this evening as well, I know it's your first question so welcome to the chamber. I would obviously firstly like to say that I am sorry to hear that residents of Chafford Hundred who use C2C rail service have experience disruptions or delays and obviously extend out my apologies as well to the rest of Thurrock as well within that, not just obviously the residents of Chafford Hundred the users of C2C service. I would add that I am sure C2C are fully aware of the problems on their line, only have to read their Twitter sometimes to know how the general users sometimes feel about that. But obviously the performance I have had a look at this it so trust me does need to be better I have seen where this has dipped and obviously I would say on defence to C2C sometimes there are incidents which are not in their control. I know there was one last week in particular where there was a person fell unwell, obviously wish that person a very speedy recovery and if you read that report obviously they couldn't stop at Barking like they normally would do, it was advised by the doctor I think on the site at the time that they had to stop at Limehouse in order to seek the medical attention in order for

that person who was unwell got that the medical attention they needed and obviously that did cause serve disruptions to the line but that is obviously one incident among many on there which do need to be explained. So for that a letter has been sent to the Managing Director for C2C from myself regarding disruption to residents, as well as expecting a formal reply obviously about recent incidents, performance and also that compensation which residents, not resident users of C2C can get. I have stated and made aware as well within my letter that I would ask the Chair of PTR Councillor Kerin to send a formal request to C2C asking for them to attend the next meeting so members of the PTR Committee can ask questions directly to C2C. I can't obviously ask him to turn up to that because it's not my Committee but I have made him aware that no doubt Councillor Kerin will be sending him a request very shortly and alongside this the leader will be meeting with C2C this Friday to talk about recent performance issues and how we expect to see improvements and best performance residents of Thurrock. I will ensure to remind C2C of the obligations by provide also compensation with the delays in their service and speak to them in regards to the ease of claiming compensation for various customers not already using the automatic delay repay system. Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Akinbohun do you have a supplementary question for the Councillor.

**Councillor Akinbohun:**

No Madam Mayor.

**3. From Councillor Fletcher to Councillor Watkins**

The current weight restrictions in Belhus leave most of the ward at the mercy of HGVs - does the Councillor support a review of weight restrictions and HGV mitigation measures across the borough?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you very much Madam Mayor thank you Councillor for your question, I think I am going to be saying this an awful lot tonight because it seems to be everyone's got questions for me. Welcome to the Chamber as well. HGVs down residential roads obviously are not only an issue in Belhus but they are obviously an issue across the rest of the Borough I am sure we all do feel that it has been mentioned many time by all parties. Obviously by no means the first time it has been mentioned, I would say we are always tackling HGVs access seriously and I've taken measures across the borough to tackle this, from both taking appropriate action on road changes and to enforcement. We've received some stats that say actually approximately 3000 penalty charge notices have been issued across the Borough in the past year that's July to July but I am also very happy to announce that a review is currently underway on HGV weight restrictions not only in Belhus but across the entirety of the Borough as well so just to give you a bit more information on

Belhus, consultation will be going out in around about in August time so keep an eye out for it and I'll make sure obviously your notified about it as well the residents be. And obviously alongside as well further work is being carried out on HGV point of origin to destination work again not just in Belhus but across the rest of the borough, so yes I do support a review as one is already on going. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Fletcher do you have a supplementary?

**Councillor Fletcher:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, yes firstly I would like to thank you Councillor for that very good news we have been waiting a while, yes it's something were looking forward to. I am particularly looking forward to the next question because I see that's on HGVs as well and I am sure it will, I am looking forward to the glowing response that we'll receive. Also I'd like really to do is ask the Councillor if he'll ensure the love is shared not just in the east but in the west of the borough.

**Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you very much Councillor for your supplementary, obviously thank you for your kind words about obviously something being done about it as I said you'll be receiving more information coming in August. In regards to sharing the love across the rest of the borough. You know we as an Administration have always shown love to the rest of the borough in particular to the west of the borough. I could go on about many of the things should come on board, new school places, new health centres, better clean it cut it fill it, road improvements etc etc the list can go on, the answer is yes because it's the same as what we do for the rest of the services.

**Mayor:**

Do you have a second supplementary Councillor?

**Councillor Fletcher:**

Just to say we are all looking forward to seeing the evidence, thank you very much.

#### **4. From Councillor Anderson to Councillor Watkins**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways please provide an update on the HGV issue along the Manorway in Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins/

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, might as well stay standing up I think. Welcome to the chamber as well Councillor Anderson as well and congratulations on your fantastic win. The HGV issue down the Manor Way and Corringham has been a major issue for some time and the Council, local Councillors, community forums, Essex Police and with the support of DP World colleagues and residents set up a task force to try and tackle the issue. What I would say just as a side note to the remarks just made before obviously HGVs issue are major problems across the entirety of the borough. The Manor Way was obviously a very specific incident whereas been reported in the press much about it there was up to 100 not up to 100 but there was a lot of lorries parking on the cycle path and damaging the verges and the road itself as well as actually causing substantial damage to the road. So swift action had to be taken about that for the safety risks which imposed specially in relation to the cycle path. The Council did take a proactive approach and has been working on plans of the 6 areas affected ensuring measures are put in place to not only stop this from happening now but also to try and stop it from happening from again and I would like to put some thanks on record. My thanks to DP World and for partners for interacting and engaging not only with us but DP World in particular did actually engage with its haulage firms where they were reported and where they had seen the lorries had been parking up they made sure those haulage firms were aware that that was not the practice which should be taken. Just going through some of the stuff which was done, new signs were placed down the Manor Way by request from the Police and clearly stating no parking is allowed on the road or its paths or verges, and this was at the request to help the Police. The Council Enforcement Officers have taken on a series of enforcement evenings which saw multiple CPN issued, enforcement officers continue to enforce down the Manor Way. The Police did do a little bit of enforcement, I would have like to see them do a little bit more but that's a different story. I am very happy to announce this evening with 106 funding works will be carried out down the Manor Way to start repairs and instigate solutions to resolve the issue great new story Councillor there will be a series of work to start which will see curbs raised, protection from the drainage areas as well as installation of bollards our retention is to protect the cycle path and were making adjustments to road layout too. As I have stated the Council has been proactive in this matter, plans do take time and I am very thankful for the team for the hard work on this and again thanks once again to everyone who has been involved in the task force which no doubt will continue as well. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Anderson do you wish to pose a supplementary.

**Councillor Anderson:**

I would like to thank the member along with the Council team for their work with regards to this issue, however there have been some particular complaints with regards to HGV parking along the Manor Way between the guard rail just outside the Thames Haven Road. I was wondering if there were any plans to deal with this issue in particular.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor for your supplementary. Yes there are plans in place as part of the 106 works which will be carried out. I know details have been shared to the relevant Ward Councillors across the chamber. What we intend on doing is taking the guard rail back so it's closer to the road which actually frees up little bit of parking for the residents there but ensure as well that no lorries can park there any time soon. I for one have seen this on my many runs and my attempt to get fit these days I have taken many photos of those lorries parked up outside and reported it. Again I would like to thank our Enforcement Officers as well for taking the required work they have done in order to pursue those cases, so yes. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Anderson do you have second supplementary?

**Councillor Anderson:**

No thank you.

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

Residents in Clarence Road have raised concerns with myself and my fellow Ward Councillors about the high volume of traffic and in particular HGVs in the road which is causing frequent damage to parked vehicles and risking further more serious damage to vehicles and road users. What does the Portfolio holder intend to do to alleviate the situation?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor, you're going to get sick of saying Councillor Watkins tonight Madam Mayor. Obviously there is a common theme of the HGV issue going on across this borough this evening from all sides of the chamber. I would obviously like to say I am sorry to hear the residents of Clarence Road are experiencing said difficulties and obviously experiences I would ask Councillor if its ok to have them instances to hand if you could then forward them on to myself and to our teams as well so we can take the appropriate action as well and obviously if there is damage being done to those vehicles its obviously they can see what the lorries are that is a Police matter as well so can take the appropriate action. As mentioned this evening a review is currently being carried out of about the weight restrictions not just mentioned in Belhus but the entirety of Thurrock. Obviously I did a bit of information about this actually, you may well know this Councillor I am not sure if you do so if you don't mind saying this is but between Cement Block Cottages and Stanley Road there is actually an existing weight restrictions which is currently designed to stop the HGVs rap running obviously if that is not happening the way it should be obviously that can be addressed. The Police are responsible for that enforcement and obviously we will speak to the Police about continuing to do enforcement but one of the things that we are doing as I mentioned it, is looking at the point of origin to the point of destination of HGVs as well and with Grays in particular we are looking at the designated route which these HGVs should and can take and to see if solutions can be made more effective for Police to be able to do their enforcement action against. Hope this answers your question obviously

as I said this review is ongoing I would really like for you to feed into that review any information you can provide that would be super helpful and I will take any questions. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Fish do you have a supplementary question.

**Councillor Fish:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, can you give me some idea of the timeline for that review when it would be taking place and when it will be more likely to conclude.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, as I've already mentioned the review is taking place right now so this is not something which has just started this is something that has been going on for a little while now. I can't actually give you the cast-iron guarantee as to when it will come to you in Grays, it will no doubt come to you very shortly as I've mentioned the one in Belhus is coming out to consultation in August. I'll chase up and come back to you with more appropriate responses if that's ok when we'll likely to see that consultation review come back. As I mentioned already there is a review ongoing about origin destinations of those vehicles and the designated routes which is obviously quite an in-depth piece of work, and we've obviously come to the stage where we feel that appropriate action will be able to take place in the work which will need to be carried out of have a good impact on the residents then well come out with that information.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Fish do you have a second supplementary.

**Councillor Fish:**

No thank you Madam Mayor.

**6. From Councillor Rigby to Councillor Watkins**

Please can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways provide an update on our pot hole filling pledge?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor, and in tradition of this evening welcome to the chamber Councillor Rigby. As part of this Administration to continue the commitment to clean it cut it fill it policy I am more than happy to inform the chambers as to where we are with pot hole filling. In the 2017-2018 year 6391 pots holes were filled and so far this year, as already mentioned by the leader in his opening statement 1108 pot holes have been filled. We did see an increase number of reported pot holes this year, which as you can imagine was from the harsh of weather experience, to the constant rain and snow quite a lot of snow and the constant cold temperatures from now obviously seeing the complete reversal when the sun doesn't seem to want to go away. June alone we repaired 315 pot holes which is Council an incredible number when you think about it, but not only are we being proactive with repairing the road



network, where our pot holes formed we are also looking at undertaking patching works where there are signs of damage to the road network which could lead to further and future complications taking on my belief that we should be proactive within the service. Madam Mayor I am proud of this Council's Administrations continued achievements so far. Transport department in the last two years has won multiple awards since April 2016 and we have filled over 20 thousand pot holes that have been repaired and we continue to invest in our clean it cut it fill it policy and more to come. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Rigby do you have a supplementary question?

**Councillor Rigby:**

Madam Mayor, yes please. Thank you Councillor for your response, it is great this Administration continues to invest in the clean it cut it fill it campaign and take pride in our borough. Residents of Stifford Clays are very happy with this year's improvement to Long Lane. Moving on from your comments about being proactive please may I ask the Council to look at some of the deteriorated roads we do have in Stifford Clays, namely Oak Way, Whitmore Avenue and Crammaville Street to see if there can be any repairs in the future either for this financial year or next please?

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor for your supplementary. Yes absolutely, we'll make sure that is passed on and that will take a look into those roads. I know in particular Crammaville Street and Fairway designated for some work to see how the road network is currently looking down there and if work needs to be carried out on those roads either in this year or next year and I will ensure that Oak Way and Whitmore as well are included within those reviews as well. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Rigby do you have a second supplementary?

**Councillor Rigby:**

No thank you Madam Mayor.

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways please provide an update on the bin review announced last year?

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor and again welcome to the chamber this evening, I know you've spoken a few bits already I am more than happy to advise on the update this evening on the bin review over the last few months the team have been working hard on identifying an all existing bins across the borough find the position and assisting the state they are in and also looking at how often they are emptied and also the residual rubbish left around those bins in

particular to see if they are big enough, based on this and the fact that we finally know where all the bins are which is sadly never have seem to have been done before, we are in the process of replacing where needed and removing unused bins and replacing were required bigger and better bins. The procurement is coming to its end and we expect this to be finished by the end August, and this will be an investment of over 400 thousand pounds on top of the money we have already invested into the clean it cut it fill it policy. We're looking at all types of bins what are the best types for the area they are located, big belly obviously have played a massive part it in the last year following their trial and obviously forming a so call part of the review as well. Other areas looking into are by bus stops across the borough to see if more bins are needed by the bus stops to soak up some of that rubbish left by those waiting for a bus were pockets of litter are found, bins in cemetery as reported in last full Council obviously being reviewed as well, and bins in less density populated areas but could require a bin all factors are being considered installation will start as soon as these bins come into play. But by no means do I want this to be a one off thing, I want this to be continuous prevention is the best solution, rubbish in the bin not rubbish on the floor. So I want us to continue to install bins were they are required by any future demands.

I think this is still and is a great new story, it is over 400 thousand pounds in additional investment into the clean cut it fill it policy. This is helping residents on the ground it might only seem a very small way for some, but a new bin in a good area soaking up that rubbish which is in the bin and not on the floor makes a huge difference. Thank you.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Jefferies do you have a supplementary question

**Councillor Jefferies:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor Watkins for such a comprehensive reply, I am pleased to see the continued investment in clean it, cut it and fill it are that the Councils proactively installing bins in Ockendon in particular in Brandon Grove, as you mentioned the further reviews being done but I wondered if you could confirm when the bins in the rest of Ockendon will be replaced and in particular Dilkes Park and Bonnygate Park.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you very much Councillor for your supplementary. Yes just want to touch on the point you raised about bins obviously installed in parts of Brandon Grove already this goes back into my point about us being proactive obviously a lot of work has happened across the entire borough as well where both residents and both Councillors have commented about perhaps the state of the bins perhaps the state of the park as example needing more bins where it is required or perhaps there are instances which I have reported in the past where you turned up having three bins in one block and but then no bin anywhere else, this just seems peculiar in my opinion and obviously we have taken on some of that work on already to

try and fix where bins need to be fixed but obviously looking at where there is some demands for that bin now. As I stated once the bins arrived once the procurement exercise has finished they will start to be installed and we expect that to be finished by May 2019. I can confirm that Ockendon bins and the ones not already installed will be looking to be done within the first two months of 2019 January February. Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor.

**Mayor:**

Thank you, Councillor Jefferies do you have a second supplementary?

**Councillor Jefferies:**

Thank you Madam Mayor only to thank Councillor Watkins for his answer.

**8. From Councillor Hague to Councillor Huelin:**

Could the Cabinet Member please update the Chamber on the Council's policy for the maintenance of play equipment in our parks and open spaces?

**Mayor: Councillor Watkins, Oh no, that was a trick. Councillor Huelin?**

**Councillor Huelin:**

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor Hague for your question. Play equipment inspected weekly, minor repairs like tightening up nuts and bolts and things are done by the team on the site after the inspection, larger repairs include things like resurfacing are done by specialist contractors as and when they are required and then more complex repairs like replacing slides and swing seats and things are done by the play fitter. Some of the spares are kept in stock and could be done fairly quickly but sometime they have to be ordered from abroad and so it can take a little while to arrive, and equipment may have to be sent off for safety reasons and until the replacements arrive and can be fitted.

**Mayor:**

Councillor Hague, do you have a supplementary?

**Cllr Hague:**

Yes please Madam Mayor thank you Councillor Huelin that was very helpful, I just wanted further raise the matter for Rainbow Road/Warren Lane play area in Chafford Hundred as you might recall the local forum Councillors and resident work together to reclaim the land and secure the funding for the play area and the equipment several years ago. This play area has been a tremendous success it is very popular with residents in fact it has been a victim of its own success. It was brought to my attention some of the equipment, the slide and rope swing in particular are suffering from severe wear and tear, I have reported this to Officers but could I ask your support as portfolio holders to get urgent attention on this, particular as we are now reaching the holiday period the equipment will be getting much more use. Thank you.

**Mayor:**  
Councillor Huelin.

**Councillor Huelin:**  
Thank you Councillor Hague, absolutely I think it's fantastic when community groups come together and take charge of a project like that, so yes I will please ask officers to look into this to that straight away and see if we can get something done before the end of the summer holidays.

**Mayor:**  
Do you wish to have a second supplementary question Councillor Hague?

**Councillor Hague:**  
No thank you Madam Mayor.

**Mayor:**  
Moving onto the question 9 Councillor John Kent can you please read out your question on page 214.

**9. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Halden**

Can the Portfolio Holder explain to the residents of Elm Road, Maple Road and the surrounding streets why they should lose their, much loved, six acre park?

**Mayor:**  
Councillor Halden, we have just have just over a minute left. Thank you

**Councillor Halden:**  
Thank you Madam Mayor, first of all I would like to put out to Councillor Kent that the current place plan projects that by September 2022 Grays going to be a short of well over a 1000 school places, so his earlier comment of we should just expand existing schools, will nowhere near cater for that amount, unless you want to spend absolute millions ferrying children from Grays all over the Borough for their education. We have considered other sites in the area and nothing was available I am determine I do want to work with local resident to see what we can do to mitigate the impact of the build, but we've got the statutory responsibility to look for places and we are proud that we are delivering almost 60 million pounds in Grays to build 3 new schools. But let's be quite honest about your questions, I was very disappointed when I saw your tweet, turning up at the site with a collection of Labour Councillors, and Labour Candidates and Labour activists all in red rosettes from all over the borough from different wards some failed candidates and its quite clear this is more about.

**Mayor:**  
Councillor, Can we now finish we have had exactly 30 minutes for question time. Can I ask Councillor Kent would you like a written answer?

**Mayor:**

The question time is now finished, OK question time is now finished, with the remaining questions that we have, with the remaining questions that we have on the list including indeed if Councillor Kent wishes to ask a supplementary question of Councillor Halden not in the chamber he is within his right to do so, and I am going to go through the list now there is a couple questions left and ask if people would like a written answer to their questions. All we have is Councillor Worrall. Councillor Worrall would you like a written answer to your question?

**10. From Councillor Worrall to Councillor Watkins**

What is the importance of parks and improving our open spaces for residents to enjoy?

Councillor Worrall requested for her question to be resubmitted at the next Full Council please, thank you.

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## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There are 2 questions from members of the public.

**1. From Mr Atkins to Councillor Halden**

Could the Portfolio Holder for Education and Health tell me how many children are currently waiting for a school place via the SEN department please?

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

The Council recently submitted two complaints to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO), about the Editor of a Local Newspaper. Was there any financial cost to the public, if yes, how much?

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## Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 31 October 2018

Petition No.	Description	Presented (date)	Presented (by)	Status
507	To implement a protection mechanism to provide safety and prevent vehicle access to open green space by Rainbow Road and Felipe Road.	25 July 2018	Ms C Dyson	<p>An inspection to protect the open green space was conducted.</p> <p>Protection measures by way of pressure treated wooden bollards will be inserted between the trees and to narrow the access to the footpaths to prevent vehicular access.</p> <p>We anticipate this work being completed by end of September.</p>
508	To undertake a parking controlled zone consultation prior to implementing their proposed parking restrictions in Galsworthy Road and Fleming Gardens.	Via email	Mr S Isibor	<p>Proposals for junction protection in Galsworthy Road and Fleming Gardens, as well as on the inside bend adjacent to No. 17, will provide a better access for refuse vehicles in this location at the request of the Waste and Recycling Team. The consultation period for this scheme has now expired.</p> <p>There are no proposals to provide a Controlled Parking Zone in this area at this time as there is no current evidence to warrant such provision. The Transport Development Team will continue to monitor the location.</p>
509	Install a PSPO as well as Gates at the entrances to Bruyns court and Deveron Gardens	25 July 2018	Cllr Jefferies	The Petition was discussed at the multi-agency Locality Action Group. The Local Community Policing Officer has advised that only 4 complaints have been received by the Police, which doesn't provide sufficient evidence or have Police support to proceed with a PSPO.

## Item 8 : Petitions Update Report – 31 October 2018

				<p>“Report It” leaflets have been distributed to all residents, to encourage greater reporting and will be monitoring CCTV, ensuring that there is visible signage.</p> <p>Measures have been taken to enhance the security at Bruyns Court which was discussed at a recent residents meeting. The side gates have a key pad entry which means only residents and their visitors are able to access.</p>
510	To Stop Thurrock Council selling Elm Road Open Space	25 July 2018	Cllr J Kent	The Council continues to work closely with the ESFA to support the delivery of new free schools in the Borough to meet much needed demand for school places. Significant progress is being made and updates will be provided including with regard to the ESFA’s intentions for the delivery of the new Thames Park Secondary School to which this petition relates.
511	To Install safety barriers around pedestrian route ways in the vicinity of St Joseph’s School.	25 July 2018	Councillor Hebb	Assessment of the request has identified that the perceived safety issue is not backed by data and as such the existing layout is not considered to have a safety standard issue. Moreover, the physical implementation of a scheme of this nature would not be supported by contemporary design standards as it would narrow the footways considerably to cause issues with movement by vulnerable roads users, such as wheelchair users.

<b>31 October 2018</b>		<b>ITEM: 10</b>
<b>Council</b>		
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-applicable	
<b>Report of:</b> Councillor Barry Johnson, Cabinet Member for Housing		
<b>The Report is Public</b>		

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1.** This report outlines the achievements of the Housing service and provides an overview of key challenges and opportunities facing the Council, not only in its role as a social landlord, but also as a provider of a range of other statutory services relating to homelessness prevention and relief, housing advice and private sector enforcement.
- 1.2.** This document also identifies a range of key external factors which have affected and shaped service delivery throughout the 2017/18 financial year and sets out the financial position for the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund budgets within Housing.

## 2. Service Overview

- 2.1.** The Housing service provides a range of statutory and landlord functions, utilising rental income through the Housing Revenue Account as well as smaller General Fund budgets. The Housing service interacts with around 10,000 households in the Borough directly through the provision of tenancy and leasehold management services, and additional households through the housing advice and options, homelessness and private sector housing functions.
- 2.2.** The key functions which the Housing service are responsible for delivering include:
- Tenancy management activities, including tenancy audits, sign-ups and exit inspections, and other day-to-day interactions with the Council's tenants for both general needs and sheltered housing properties.
  - Caretaking and estate services for many of the blocks and communal spaces across the borough.
  - Rent collection, financial inclusion and welfare advice.

- Ongoing repairs and maintenance of Housing stock and assets.
- Monitoring and maintaining over 300 CCTV cameras across the borough.
- Tackling domestic abuse, hate crime and other safeguarding issues.
- The investigation, management and implementation of enforcement action for anti-social behaviour issues.
- Capital investment programmes delivering improvements to Housing stock and assets, such as the Transforming Homes programme.
- Homeownership services, including the administration of Right to Buy applications and leasehold management.
- Tenant and leaseholder engagement through forums, community activities and other events.
- The administration of the Council's Housing Register and the allocation of properties in line with the Allocations Policy.
- The prevention and relief of homelessness in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, as well as the provision of temporary accommodation for households, for example those which are homeless or have been displaced through emergency or disrepair.
- Management of three council run Travellers' sites, including rent collection.
- Mediation, enforcement and licensing activity for private sector landlords and tenants.

**2.3.** The majority of Housing services have now moved onto the Northgate Housing Management System as the central system for administering, managing and monitoring the range of Housing functions.

### **3. Performance in 2017/18**

**3.1.** The performance dashboard for Housing has been designed to ensure that key objectives are identified for reporting and that every team has a role in delivering at least one of the high profile indicators. Performance is reported at various levels on a monthly basis including locally within the Housing department as well as at directorate and board levels.

The dashboard is divided into four sections:

- Corporate Performance Indicators – Captures Housings individual contribution to the corporate suite of performance indicators.
- Key Performance Indicators – A suite of service critical performance indicators designed to measure key outputs of the Housing service.

- Local Performance Indicators – An extensive suite of service level indicators which measure key outputs of each team.
- Trackers – Trackers are not targeted and are used to measure demand, i.e. Housing register.

**3.2.** In 2017/18 there were six key performance indicators (KPIs) which relate directly to Housing performance including the important housing management measures of voids, rents and repairs. Two additional indicators have been added to this suite for 2018/19.

Of the six Housing KPIs, four indicators met or exceeded their targets, with void re-let time narrowly missing its aim of 30 days.

**3.3.** Performance in rent collection again exceeded its target with a collection rate of 98.5% against a target of 98%, although was slightly below the 99% collection rate in the previous reporting year. Part of this can be attributed to the roll-out of the Universal Credit full service, however in the 2017/18 reporting year 645 tenants were provided with support and assistance to retain their homes.

**3.4.** Beyond the work carried out which supports tenants living the Council's stock, the Housing service works with tenants in the private rental sector in the borough and intervenes to improve the quality of homes. In 2017/18, 843 homes were improved as a direct result of intervention from the Housing service, 33% above the performance of the previous year and 59% above target.

**3.5.** The number of Housing related complaints received was 27% lower in comparison to the previous reporting year, with 894 complaints received in 2016/17 compared to 656 received in 2017/18.

**3.6.** Work began part-way through the previous reporting year to establish tenant and resident associations (TRAs) to better engage with those who live within the Council's estates. At the end of the reporting year, 30% of tenants who live in the Council's estates were represented by TRAs, with a target of 75% representation by the end of the 2018/19 reporting year.

**3.7.** A key challenge faced by the Council is sourcing suitable properties in the private rental sector for preventing homelessness or discharging homeless duties which is due to a number of reasons. A main contributing factor is the high rent levels which can be set by private landlords and competing demand from other authorities trying to secure accommodation in the borough. In the 2017/18 reporting year the target for the number of properties to be sourced in the private rental sector was 120. The actual number of sourced properties was 54, however this was a 20% increase against the performance in the previous year (45).

Another performance indicator which was impacted upon due to the above was the number of households in temporary accommodation. At the end of the reporting year 145 households were in temporary accommodation placement -

a figure which is higher than both the target for the year and the performance of the previous year.

#### **4. Housing Development – New Build and Regeneration**

##### **4.1. New build programme**

**4.1.1.** The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) new build programme will deliver in total 118 new Council homes for rent. The properties will be a mix of houses, low rise flats and bungalows. The budget for the programme is £32.53m. HRA Rents are being set at 70% of local market rents under the Affordable Rent regime.

**4.1.2.** To reduce annual costs on the HRA for the new schemes it is proposed to utilise Right to Buy Receipts which would otherwise potentially need to be paid to the government along with interest at 4% above the base rate. Sufficient unallocated receipts of £9.8m have been identified to fund this programme partially.

**4.1.3.** The HRA is currently facing substantial budget pressures, however there is a clear ambition to continue a pipeline of HRA development activity to meet urgent housing needs. In September 2018 the Council submitted a bid for £48m worth of additional HRA Borrowing Capacity that would deliver 263 new homes. This is not currently reflected in the HRA business plan. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have advised that the outcome of the bid will be known in the Autumn. Clearly this will need to be reviewed in light of the Prime Minister's announcement on 3 October to remove the HRA borrowing cap.

**4.1.4.** Individual Housing Revenue Account and Thurrock Regeneration Ltd schemes are listed below. Each scheme has been subject to a full review by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, and re-designed as appropriate to fulfil the Commission's recommendations.

##### **4.1.5. Tops Club, Argent Street, Grays**

The Tops Club scheme will provide 29 units of 1-, 2- and 3-bed flats and maisonettes together with an enhanced playground for residents. The scheme gained planning permission in January 2017. Demolition of the club took place in July 2018 and subject to contract the building contractor is due to start on site in middle October 2018 to begin the main works.

##### **4.1.6. Claudian Way, Chadwell**

This is a 53-unit scheme consisting of a mix of bungalows, houses and low rise flats. Tenders have been returned and extensive evaluations have led to the selection of a contractor under a two-stage tendering process earlier this year. Contracts are currently being drawn up which should be agreed and subsequently signed in October 2018. Pre-contract works have commenced on site including re-routing existing utility services.

#### **4.1.7. Calcutta Road, Tilbury**

This development of 35 flats is for people approaching retirement and beyond. The scheme accords with the 'HAPPI' principles ('Housing our Ageing Population – Panel for Innovation') which will ensure good design appropriate to the age group. Tenders have been evaluated and selection of a main contractor is in progress. Once a contractor has been appointed, they will take possession of the site and discharge pre-commencement planning conditions.

#### **4.1.8. Thurrock Regeneration Ltd – (TRL)**

Thurrock Regeneration Ltd (TRL) is a wholly owned company of Thurrock Council. The principal focus of the company is to support the achievement of the Council's wider regeneration goals through the delivery of specific schemes which support the delivery of new homes in the borough. The company has a strategic aim to develop 1,000 units over a five-year period, a pipeline of sites continues to be developed and refined.

### **5. External Strategic Issues**

#### **5.1. Homelessness Reduction Act 2017**

- 5.1.1.** The Homelessness Reduction Act was introduced from April 2018. The Act places a legal duty on councils to give people greater support in preventing homelessness in the first place and in securing longer-term safe and suitable accommodation for those who have become homeless and to whom the authority owes a duty. Longer-term accommodation is usually a social tenancy with the Council or a Registered Provider (usually a Housing Association) or a minimum 12 month assured short-hold tenancy with a private landlord.
- 5.1.2.** The increased duty to assist applicants to either remain in or to find for them safe, secure and suitable longer-term accommodation is labour intensive and an initial assessment of a homeless application can take up to two hours to complete. On average it takes three working weeks to complete a full assessment of a homelessness application. In 2017/18 and under the previous legislative regime the Council had a duty to provide housing for 235 homeless households. Currently, the Council has an average of 5 homelessness presentations each working day and with the new duties placed on the Council the number of homeless households to whom the authority owes a duty will increase significantly.
- 5.1.3.** With the significant increase in numbers of households who are owed a duty, the Council is increasingly using the private rented sector for both temporary and permanent accommodation. The Council works with private sector landlords to ensure that any accommodation they provide is safe, suitable and secure. This includes providing financial assistance that would have been offered to the homeless applicant direct to the landlord. This is usually in the form of rent deposits and/or guarantees. In addition, the Council

encourages landlords to offer longer-term tenancy agreements.

- 5.1.4. Despite the best efforts of the Housing Options teams, the use of Temporary Accommodation will continue to show high actual and forecast costs associated with Homelessness placements and these will continue to be closely monitored on a monthly basis. There is continual work to reduce the use of nightly let private sector accommodation which is the costliest form of Temporary Accommodation. The service is seeking alternative cheaper accommodation to mitigate the forecast overspend position as well as working towards permanent recruitment of staff and team managers to stabilise the workforce and reduce spend on agency staff.

## **5.2. Grenfell Tower Tragedy and Fire Safety**

- 5.2.1. The immediate response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy was to bring forward the planned inspections of all high-rise blocks by 12 months. Inspections were undertaken by Council officers, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) and an independent fire safety expert.
- 5.2.2. Any urgent issues which were identified were addressed immediately, with planned work programmes drawn up to undertake improved safety measures. This included fitting smoke and heat detectors in all high-rise flats. The programmes are continuing and are supported by housing management actions, such as ensuring all communal areas are clear of items and widely publicising fire safety information to all residents with leaflet drops and posters containing key information in all communal areas.
- 5.2.3. The 15 high-rise blocks were designed to be safe, and the Council has done nothing to change or modify in any way the inherent safety features designed into the buildings. This is illustrated through the fire at George Tilbury House in June 2018, where ECFRS confirmed their 'stay put' policy by actively encouraging residents to return to their flats rather than trying to evacuate the building.
- 5.2.4. ECFRS and Housing staff responded to the incident swiftly, with ECFRS attending the site of the fire with eight pumps and staff from Housing arriving within 10 minutes of the initial report, implementing the emergency planning response which had been developed following the Grenfell Tower tragedy. No injuries were experienced by any member of the public either directly or indirectly as a result of this fire.
- 5.2.5. Every high-rise block has had sprinkler systems installed in bin store areas, but not in other parts of the buildings. Retrospectively fitting sprinkler systems would require the provision of pumps capable of pumping water at high pressure to the top of the block, with the appropriate pipework to transport water to each flat with suitable protection from unauthorised interference.
- 5.2.6. The Council currently meets its obligations regarding the health and safety of its tenants, including in matters surrounding fire safety, however a review was undertaken in late 2017 to explore options surrounding the retrospective



installation of sprinkler systems within high-rise blocks. It was estimated that the total cost for the work would be in excess of £3m, however ECFRS have offered £10k per block towards this work for every local authority in Essex with its own housing stock. The remaining funding would have to be met from the Housing Revenue Account, representing further pressure and would therefore need to be included in future HRA business plans.

## 6. Financial Summary

### 6.1. General Fund

6.1.1. The 2018/19 financial position for the Housing General Fund is shown below as at the 31 July 2018.

Overall GF Position	Full Year Budget	Spend YTD	Forecast	Forecast Variance from Budget	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
Homelessness	522	(494)	702	180	34%
Private Sector Housing	321	119	321	0	0%
Travellers	(110)	53	(40)	70	59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>(310)</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>35%</b>

The Housing General Fund budget for 2018/19 is £733k. The July (Period 4) forecast is a £250k overspend.

6.1.2. In 2018/19 the homelessness function has received £347k by way of the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant. This will be used in part to offset the withdrawal of additional Housing Benefit subsidy from the DWP for those in temporary accommodation. The Council has also received £75k by way of new burdens funding in 2018/19. Despite receipt of these, there is still a forecast overspend position of £180k on Homelessness.

### 6.2. Housing Revenue Account

6.2.1. The HRA Reserve position as at the 31 March 2018 is shown below:

#### HRA Reserves – 31 March 2018

Reserve	Balance
HRA General Reserves	(2,175)
Development Reserve	(4,351)
One for One Receipts	(22,073)
Major Repairs Reserve	(844)
Non-ring-fenced Capital Receipts	(2,685)
Housing Zones/Capacity Reserve	(1,274)

6.2.2. The HRA General Reserve remains at £2.175m and is forecast to increase to £3m over time once the rent policy changes to rent increases in 2020/21.

- 6.2.3.** The Development Reserve will ensure the current New Build Programme can be financed and completed in 2019/20. This reflects the ongoing financing requirements of these schemes as build costs increase.
- 6.2.4.** During 2017/18 there were 115 RTB Sales and which realised £10.089m in 1 for 1 receipts. £454k was used to finance the New Build programme in 2017/18.
- 6.2.5.** Some of the Transforming Homes planned works were reprogrammed into 2018/19 and are being delivered under the new contract arrangements. The balance on the major repairs reserve will be utilised in 2018/19
- 6.2.6.** £398k of additional housing capital investment has been made to fire safety (£185k) and the upgrade of Careline (£213k) financed from the non-ring-fenced capital receipts from RTB sales. A further £815k is allocated during 2018/19 to be invested on continued fire safety works in 2018/19 and £137k on the completed of the Careline upgrade.
- 6.2.7.** During 2017/18 £166k was spent on estate regeneration work. The remainder of the reserve will be utilised in line with the funding agreements.

### **6.3. HRA Revenue Position 2018/19**

The 2018/19 financial position for the HRA is shown below as at the 31 July 2018.

	<b>Full Year Budget</b>	<b>Spend YTD</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Forecast Variance from Budget</b>	
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>%</b>
Repairs and Maintenance	11,798	2,470	11,798	110	0.9%
Housing Operations	11,605	3,145	11,625	20	0.2%
Financing and Recharges	24,315	6,643	24,298	(16)	(0.1%)
Rent and Income	(48,077)	(11,181)	48,190	(114)	(0.2%)
Development	359	162	359	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

- 6.3.1.** The HRA is forecast to break-even in 2018/19. There are some small variances, but no overall pressure within existing budgets to report at this stage. There are a number of risks that we are closely monitoring and factoring into spending plans. Members agreed not to proceed with the proposed Grounds Maintenance service charge during the last financial year and this has been factored into our HRA Business Plan.
- 6.3.2.** In line with Government policy, the Council has applied a 1% rent decrease over the last three financial years with a further 1% reduction required in 2019/20. This has withdrawn resources available for capital investment.

## **6.4. HRA Capital – Existing Stock**

- 6.4.1.** The allocated budget for Transforming Homes in 2018/19 is £10.668m. The new programme is now mobilising under the new contract arrangements. In addition, £542k has been set aside to undertake works to some of the Council's Non Traditional properties. However, this only represents a portion of the overall required investment for the Council's non-traditional portfolio. A proposal is now being prepared for the full programme. This will be informed by a specialist survey on the current condition which is currently being procured. It is therefore likely that the majority of this £542k budget allocation will now fall into the next financial year.
- 6.4.2.** £709k is remaining from the original allocation of £1m to support remedial fire safety works, and works are currently being undertaken. The budget is forecast to be spent in full in 2018/19. £243k was the budget remaining in 2018/19 for Telecare works from the original £350k allocation. To complete the project, additional spend of £57k is forecast.
- 6.4.3.** During 2017/18 we undertook a full stock condition survey this indicates an average annual investment requirement of £15m per year to maintain our existing stock. The level of required investment will be reviewed through the development of the HRA business plan for 2019/20.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1.** The Council continues to provide many key Housing services for tenants and residents across the borough. Performance in a number of areas remains strong and good progress has been made in others however further analysis and growth is required elsewhere, such as in specific categories of tenant satisfaction with services.
- 7.2.** The expected and unforeseen implications following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, Universal Credit full-service roll-out and the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act have impacted upon service delivery in varying degrees. These events have led to additional pressures being experienced by a range of functions across Housing, however the service has reacted and adapted appropriately to meet new requirements.
- 7.3.** The Housing service will continue to identify areas for refinement and improvement, in order to deliver value for money for tenants as well as a greater customer experience and overall levels of satisfaction.

## **8. Appendices to the report**

- 8.1.** Appendix A – 2018/19 Performance Indicator Targets.

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## Housing Performance Scorecard 2018/19

### Service Critical Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicators			
KPI	Performance Indicators	2017-18	Target 2018-19
KPI01	% General Satisfaction of Tenants With Neighbourhoods / Services Provided by Housing	70%	75.00%
KPI02	% Satisfaction of Tenants With Transforming Homes (Contractor & Programme)	NEW	85.00%
KPI03	% of Repairs Completed Within Target	97.5%	97.00%
KPI04	% Rent Collected	98.5%	98.0%
KPI05	Average Time to Turnaround / Re-let Voids (in days)	30.6	28.0
KPI06	% of Gas Service Checks Carried out Within Statutory Timescale	100%	100%
KPI07	Number of "Family Connection" Homeless Households in Bed & Breakfast For Six Weeks or More	NEW	0.0
KPI08	Number of Category 1 & 2 Hazards Removed as a Direct Result of Private Sector Housing Team Intervention	NEW	800

Local Performance Indicators			
LPI	Performance Indicators	2017-18	Target 2018-19
LPI01	% Tenant Satisfaction With The ASB Service	58.3%	65%
LPI02	Properties Recovered as a Result of Joint Action With Corporate Fraud	23	30.00
LPI03	Number of CCTV Footage Packages Produced for Community Safety Partners	190	300
LPI04	% Tenant Satisfaction With The Responsive Repairs Service	90.2%	90%
LPI05	% Tenant Satisfaction With The Quality of Home	NEW	75%
LPI06	% Reductions in Repairs Costs Realised as a Result of Asset Management Team Validations	NEW	20.00%
LPI07	Average Number of Days Taken to Complete a Technical Survey	5.3	5.00
LPI08	Number Gas Warrants Obtained	NEW	<1%
LPI09	Percentage of calls substantively responded to within 2 working days	95%	95.00%
LPI10	Submission of all Statutory Returns by Deadline Date	100%	100%

LPI11	% Tenant Satisfaction with Grounds Maintenance	68.3%	75%
LPI12	% Tenant Satisfaction With The Caretaking Service	NEW	75%
LPI13	% of Caretaking Visits Completed on Schedule	99%	95.00%
LPI14	% of Tenants on Estates Represented by TRAs	30%	75%
LPI15	% of RTB Applications Processed in Target Timeframe	87%	100%
LPI16	% Leaseholder Satisfaction With Homeownership Services	52%	55%
LPI17	% New Tenant Satisfaction With The Sign-up Process	72.30%	75%
LPI18	% Tenant Satisfaction With Estates Officer	NEW	75%
LPI19	Average Days Taken to Complete Letting (sign up date) After Keys Returned by CVT to TM (General Needs)	NEW	4
LPI20	Number of Council Tenants Where Rent Arrears Reduced/Or Income Increased Through Financial Inclusion	NEW	125 PA
LPI21	Number of Private Tenants Where Rent Arrears Reduced/Or Income Increased Through Financial Inclusion	NEW	25
LPI22	% Void Loss - Dwellings	£396,846.00	£500,000
LPI23	% Void Loss - Garages	£296,077.00	£250,000
<b>LPI24</b>	<b>Number of Homelessness Applications Where Preventions Have Been Achieved</b>	NEW	350
LPI25	Number of Households Assisted to Downsize	67	65
LPI26	Average Days Taken to Provide Shortlist	4	3
LPI27	% of Cases Where Homelessness Relieved	NEW	30%
LPI28	% of Homeless Applications Where Decision is Made in 15 Working Days	NEW	85%
LPI29	CORE Data Submitted	100%	100%
LPI30	% Tenant Satisfaction With The Sheltered Housing Service	NEW	75%
LPI31	Sheltered Housing Tenant Activities	-	500 P/M
LPI32	% Sheltered Housing Tenant Enquiries Resolved at First Point of Contact	-	200 P/M

LPI33	% Rent Collected - Travellers	98%	98%
<b>Tracker Items</b>			
TRK	Performance Indicators	2017-18	Target 2018-19
TRK01	Number of Housing Queries Resolved at the Hubs	NEW	Tracker
TRK02	Waiting Times at Reception for Homelessness Prevention Customers	NEW	Tracker
TRK03	% of Lettings Achieved Through Direct Offers	NEW	Tracker
TRK04	Number of Households in Temporary Accommodation	145	Tracker
TRK05	Number of Properties Sold Through Right to Buy	NEW	Tracker
TRK06	Number of applicants on Housing Register; Bandings 1-3, 4,5	Band 1 - 3 Band 2 - 137 Band 3 - 508 Band 4 - 4040 Band 5 - 4125 Total - 8813	Tracker
TRK07	Number of mutual exchanges completed in the period	45	Tracker
TRK08	Number of new social lettings	681	Tracker
TRK09	Number of Households at Risk of Homelessness Approaching the Council For Assistance	1395	Tracker
TRK10	% of Homeless Cases Where Main Duty Accepted	NEW	Tracker
TRK11	Reported Households placed in Thurrock Borough Council by other Local Authorities	56	Tracker
TRK12	Number of cases where formal ASB action has been taken	88	Tracker
TRK13	Number of DA cases where formal enforcement action has been required	45	Tracker
TRK14	Number of tenants evicted	58	Tracker
TRK15	Tenants provided with support and assistance to retain homes	645	Tracker

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<b>31 October 2018</b>	<b>ITEM: 11</b>
<b>Council</b>	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Adult Social Care</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-applicable
<b>Report of:</b> Councillor Sue Little, Cabinet Member for Children and Adult Social Care	
<b>The Report is Public</b>	

## Adult Social Care

### 1. Introduction

I am honoured to deliver my third Cabinet Member report to Council as Portfolio Holder for Children’s and Adult Social Care. The report gives me the opportunity to reflect on what both my departments have achieved over the last year and detail the future of the services. I am proud of the progress we have made and would like to thank my senior officer team and all staff for their amazing commitment to improving services for the people of Thurrock.

### 2. Adult Social Care :

For 2018/19 Adult Social Care was provided with £3.3m new funding which comprised:

Adult Social Care 3% Council Tax precept:	1,897,000
Improved Better Care Fund (pooled with the NHS):	974,000
Adult Social Care Support Grant (one off):	408,000

This funding has allowed us to meet the growing demands for adult social care, stabilise the market through increased funding for domiciliary and residential care but also to meet some of the rising costs of providers for such increases as the rise in the National Living wage.

Funding levels for 2019-20 will not be confirmed until the Government’s Budget announcement in late October. However, we know that the precept cannot be increased further (as this was capped at 6% over 3 years) Potential pressures have been identified as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The challenges with recruitment and retention, particularly in relation to carers, market stability, demand and an ageing population remain and we are expecting

a Green Paper on the long term future funding of Adult Social care sometime in the autumn.

## **2.1 Stronger Communities**

In my last report, I emphasised the importance of providing a range of solutions to enable us to respond to the growing demands for social care. This helps to ensure that residents requiring support are able to have greater choice and control.

Thurrock has a strong track record of working with the voluntary and community sector, through the Stronger Together Thurrock partnership, to develop solutions that focus on the strength and assets that already exist within communities and individuals. This is based on the premise that strong and resilient communities are essential to achieving health and wellbeing.

I'm extremely proud, for example, of what we have been able to achieve through our social work and Local Area Coordination teams. There are numerous examples of how the intervention of good social work and Local Area Coordination has ensured that people have been able to achieve their vision of a good life – including making sure that they are less isolated and better connected within their communities and helping to tackle loneliness, which we know has a significant impact on wellbeing.

Since my report last year, the Stronger Communities agenda has continued to gather momentum. I will highlight a few examples below:

### **Social work**

Our social work teams continue to work alongside our partners to support and protect some of the most complex and vulnerable adults in Thurrock. We now have less than 5% turnover of qualified social work staff. This has led to people having consistent support in their lives, with a strong emphasis being placed on building relationships and helping people to live independent and fulfilling lives.

Thurrock is seen as a lead nationally in strength based social work, gaining recognition in the Chief Social worker for England's annual report, and contributing case studies for what will soon be national guidance on strength based social work.

I am also delighted to inform you that our Principal Social Worker, Fran Leddra, was this summer elected to the role of co-chair of the national principal social work network, this is a prestigious post that recognises Fran's, and Thurrock's, reputation at being at the forefront of innovation in the profession.

### **Local Area Coordination**

Our able to find solutions that help them achieve the outcomes that matter most to them. This can often be something as simple as connecting people with clubs and groups within the community. However, the team can deal with cases

ranging in complexity and reduce the risk of individuals reaching crisis point as well as ensuring that those individuals can achieve choice and control over their own lives. There are numerous case studies that continue to demonstrate the benefit and power of this service.

### **Micro Enterprises**

When I introduced my report last year, I spoke about how we were aiming to provide people with greater choice and control through expanding the market place for care and support with the introduction of Micro Enterprises. At the time of writing last year, we had helped 18 Micro Enterprises to be established. I'm extremely pleased to say that this initiative is continuing to prove extremely successful for a number of reasons. We have now helped to established 52 Micros (at the time of writing) and these are continually expanding. Residents do not have to be eligible for social care support to access the wide range of services that are offered by a Micro as they offer a range of services and solutions from gardening and housework, to pet sitting and home care.

Our work to help Micros to form has enabled the establishment of 38 paid employment opportunities and 28 volunteering opportunities. Because of the flexibility offered by Micros, they can also help people who need to work flexibly – maybe due to caring commitments or due to health-related reasons. Micros often help to fill gaps in service provision and provide very personalised services. Much of the feedback from people using the Micros established express this view.

### **Shared Lives**

This scheme enables adults with complex needs to live in a family setting in the community, avoiding a residential home placement. Residential placements for adults with complex needs are few and far between – with some being available only 'out of borough' at a very high cost. The Shared Lives scheme is part of our strategy to build capacity, flexibility and diversity in the adult social care market place.

The Shared Lives Contract has been in place since March 2017, the team is now well established in Thurrock with a positive profile. 4 Shared care arrangements have been made and are currently in the process of being approved. An additional 6 other potential shared care arrangements are starting the process for either respite or long term arrangements. Successfully developing Shared Lives schemes take time but I am reassured that we have everything in place to maximise success. Targeted work is also being carried out to identify further Shared Lives Carers and indeed people in our care who would benefit from this program.

## **2.2 The Built Environment**

Shaping the place we live in has a significant bearing on our health and wellbeing. We know that influencing the built environment will help us to manage and reduce the demand for adult social care and health. For this

reason it is a key element of our transformation programme. We have a well-established Housing and Planning Advisory Group in place which reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Housing and Planning Advisory Group helps us to manage and influence issues that span planning, development and housing. The Group includes representatives from health, social care, community safety and planning.

We have a number of projects underway upon which I want to provide an update:

### **Chichester Close**

Last year I noted the success of the Council, with the support of the Clinical Commissioning Group, in being awarded approximately £500k from the Housing & Technology fund for People with Learning Disabilities Local Authority Capital Fund. This money was secured to develop homes for people with learning disabilities who may otherwise have to live in residential care outside the Borough. The work is now completed and 8 people with Learning Disabilities have moved into their own homes. Each person has a direct payment to fund the support they require. This is a great success and has made a significant difference to the quality of the lives of the people involved.

### **Medina Road**

Last year I had the pleasure of informing you that in line with our autism strategy the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group supported a bid by Peabody (previously Family Mosaic) to the Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund. This secured £786,948 to develop 6 homes for young people with autism and/or severe learning disabilities in Medina Road, Grays.

After an extensive process, planning permission was approved and the initial work is just about to start. 6 specialist units of accommodation will be built. The scheme will be to a high specification, central to its local community and able to meet the needs of people with lived experience of autism. The specification draws on the “Living in the community Housing Design for Adults with Autism” report which guides architects and designers. The scheme is expected to take about 12 months to build, with completion now scheduled for late 2019.

### **Calcutta Road**

This housing scheme in Tilbury, being developed by the Council, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> to be designed to follow the recommendations of Housing our Ageing Population: Panel for Innovation (the HAPPI report).

The design addresses the fact that the health of older people is exacerbated by poor housing, particularly inaccessible poorly-heated and poorly lit homes, making older people vulnerable to conditions such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, more likely to have falls and fractures and to be less active, resulting in them often feeling socially isolated and depressed.

The scheme comprises 31 one-bedroom flats and 4 two-bedroom duplexes with communal facilities. All homes are dual aspect and wheelchair adaptable, with a private outdoor balcony or patio. The scheme will feature three main landscaped external spaces: a small public space fronting onto Calcutta Road, a secure shared podium-level garden and an allotment garden to the north of the scheme. Completion is expected in early 2020.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Residential Care**

As part of our transformative approach, we also want to ensure that we provide residential care that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We are currently tendering for a design team for a new facility in South Ockendon. This will increase our residential placement capacity and provide homes specifically designed for people who need residential or nursing care. And, as many of our residents are ready to leave hospital but may not be ready to go home as they need an intermediate care option first, the new care facility will also provide increased intermediate care capacity. Cabinet will be asked to confirm the commencement of a procurement exercise in December.

### **2.3 Integration with the NHS and community partners**

In last year's report, I emphasised the strong relationship between health and social care, and the voluntary and community sector. These relationships have been essential to our ability to deliver so much for our residents.

No longer can we deliver an organisation-focused approach to providing people with the support they need to continue living independent lives. Supporting people to continue to live independently and feel that they have choice and control in their lives often spans organisational boundaries. We are now truly moving towards delivering a 'system' response to health, care and wellbeing. I've detailed below some examples of how this is being achieved:

#### **Better Care Fund**

Our Better Care Fund for 2017-19 stands at £42 million and consists of the Clinical Commissioning Group budgets and Adult Social Care budgets pertaining to older people. 60% of the funding comes from the Council and 40% from the Clinical Commissioning Group. The plan that sits behind the fund identifies how the money is to be allocated. Thurrock received excellent feedback for its plan through the assurance process.

Discussions are now taking place about the Fund's future focus. It has traditionally focused on older adults but there are opportunities to expand the Fund, so that it mirrors as far as possible the health and care spend in the Borough – for example including funding relating to adults of working age and giving consideration to children's health and social care funding streams.

## **Better Care Together Thurrock - New Model of Care**

I spoke last time about the Director of Public Health's report on a new model of health and social care – designed to enhance and concentrate the focus on prevention and early intervention through a population-health approach. This aims to support people to remain healthier for longer and ensure that when they do develop a health condition or the need for support, they can usually manage that condition or receive the support they need close to where they live.

The findings of the report produced by the Director of Public Health have provided the basis of the next phase of our transformation programme, known as Better Care Together Thurrock. Our programme is completely integrated with Health and being developed in partnership with the voluntary and community sector and the Stronger Communities Partnership.

As part of the Better Care Together Thurrock programme, we are focusing on redesigning the health and care system, initially testing out our approach in one area of the Borough (Tilbury and Chadwell). I'm extremely excited about the benefits this work will bring. We are focusing on a number of areas in order to bring about the change we want to see:

- Transforming community services;
- Preventing, identifying and managing long term conditions;
- Developing a mixed primary care workforce; and
- Building strong and resilient communities.

There are numerous initiatives being developed and delivered under each of the streams below:

### **Technology Enabled Care in Thurrock**

I am delighted to report that locally we have embarked on a project to increase the awareness of assistive technology and how it can benefit people to stay well and independent in their own homes and remain connected to the wider community.

A pilot project which is linked to social care and health service developments in Tilbury and Chadwell, encourages staff to consider how assistive technology could be used to help prevent, reduce or delay the need for formal care. The project is also looking at innovative uses of digital apps that are designed to promote health and wellbeing and support people to stay connected with friends and family.

A comprehensive training programme has been launched for staff and community partners running initially from September and through to December. The programme will provide three levels of expertise in the use of assistive technology with the aim of having a small group of highly trained experts who will be able to undertake complex assessments of suitable telecare equipment in the home.

The programme will also raise awareness of the benefits of assisted technology amongst all Adult Social Care and Housing staff so that they can act as champions. In addition to staff training, two workshops have been held for residential care homes looking at the use of telecare/telehealth.

In parallel, a pilot project is being set up which uses a specially designed phone application to support vulnerable young people with navigating further education. It can also be used to help working age adults with depression and anxiety resume independent living.

This is yet another example of how we are trying to transform the well-being system in Thurrock and are taking full advantage of every possible innovative solution, which will help to ensure our citizens can enjoy a full life, living as independently as possible, minimising the impact of ageing and disability in terms of their quality of life.

## **2.4 The local Health and Social Care market:**

### **Delayed Transfers of Care**

Delayed Transfers of Care (or DTOCs as they are often referred as) remains a concern nationally. Delayed Transfers of Care are where someone is medically fit to leave hospital but there is no-where for them to move to. This might be because they need an intermediate care bed but one isn't available, or because they need a care package at home but care providers have no capacity.

Delayed Transfers of Care levels have increased but Thurrock is still performing well compared to other local authorities. It is a key priority in our Better Care Fund Plan. We have also increased the numbers of staff in the hospital social work team and are continuing our 'Home from Hospital' service to keep the Delayed Transfers of Care numbers as low as possible.

### **Provider Market**

Further to my report last year the provider market continues to be fragile. However, a great deal of work has been undertaken to increase capacity. The new contracts for Domiciliary Care have been in place since April 2018 and are progressing very well. Our in-house services have stabilised and we have created Thurrock Care at Home as our in-house domiciliary care provider. Regular meetings are held with all providers to monitor stability and capacity. A real and meaningful partnership approach is now well established.

### **Recruitment and Retention**

Earlier in this report I highlighted the success we have had with retaining our qualified social work staff. However, recruiting and retaining carers remains a particular challenge.

In Thurrock, there are numerous opportunities for flexible and part-time work in the retail and distribution industries. This has an adverse impact on our ability to recruit carers given the limited pool of people to draw from.

We continue to regularly hold recruitment days across Adult Social Care for social work staff and carers and we liaise with local colleges and we advertise widely. We are working hard to ensure that caring is seen as a positive career choice that enables individuals to improve their skills and experience and expertise with room for career development.

### **Partnership Working (across the health and care system)**

A number of the challenges felt by Thurrock Adult Social Care are shared by health partners. In the main this is because those individuals who are most resource intensive for adult social care are also the most resource intensive for health providers. They are our most complex and frail residents. As well as Adult Social Care, health providers are also struggling with capacity, recruitment and retention, and face similar demand pressures that are compounded by demographic change.

A number of the service users receiving a service from Adult Social Care will also be receiving a service from one or more health providers. As a result, there has been a growing focus on delivering solutions that span the health and care system and for greater integration – as reflected by our Better Care Fund Plan.

## **2.5 Future Adult Social Care Delivery**

Whilst I will detail the initiatives we are responsible for taking forward below, the steps we are taking are part of the broader Health and Social Care Transformation Programme Better Care Together Thurrock and are not stand alone. For the reasons already outlined, it is absolutely key that we adopt a system and not an organisational approach to defining the future of health and care in Thurrock – putting our residents at the heart of everything we do.

### **Wellbeing Teams**

The challenges faced by domiciliary care are well rehearsed and it is important we find alternative models. The development of our Micro Enterprises project is one way we are seeking to address what is one of our greatest risks, but another is the development and delivery of alternative models of care. This means doing things very differently. In Thurrock, we are testing a different model known as Wellbeing Teams. Based on the Buurtzorg model of self-management, Wellbeing Teams launches a new approach to delivering the outcomes that are most important to the individual being supported.

This means a move away from a more traditional ‘time and task’ way of delivering care, to a flexible approach that puts the individual firmly in control of how they want to be supported.



This includes the person being able to choose the wellbeing team worker that will be supporting them and coproducing how they want their support to be delivered. The new approach will enable individuals to get a higher degree of personalised and flexible support. It also enables us to improve the profile of the care professional – and area that we struggle with in terms of recruitment and retention, as highlighted earlier in this report.

Two teams are scheduled to start in the New Year and the approach will be run on a pilot basis in the first instance. I look forward to providing you all with an update in future.

### **Community Led Support Team**

Again, as part of our Better Care Together transformation programme, we are introducing an initiative known as Community Led Support (CLS). This is Social work led and similar to Wellbeing Teams. Community Led Support provides a different way of delivering the care and assessment function of adult social care.

We will be launching one pilot Community Led Support Team covering Tilbury and Chadwell in the Autumn. The Team will be based in the community and will operate via a system of appointments and also 'drop-in' sessions at different venues. The 'drop in' sessions provide people with an opportunity to get the advice they need close to home. By being in the community, the Team can make links with other key stakeholders – for example Housing, Mental Health, Community and Voluntary Groups, GPs. As the Team develops the links within the community, it should become easier to get people the right solutions and reduce the amount of onward referrals and should be easier to tailor an approach that suits the community based on knowledge of that community.

The aim for the team will be to reduce bureaucracy and increase the amount of time available to be spent with individuals requiring support. The team will be expected to identify improvement opportunities that help to achieve that aim. As with Wellbeing Teams, I look forward to providing you all with an update at a later date.

### **Domiciliary Care**

The Domiciliary Care tender was awarded in April 2018. The tender process has addressed some of the key issues that contribute to market instability. There is a greater focus on outcomes rather than time and task calls. The care is now delivered in smaller geographical areas meaning less travelling time for carers, carers being able to work where they live and more locally focused services for people in their local communities.

We have retained a number of hours within the Council to deliver domiciliary care services through Thurrock Care at Home and we will be utilising a proportion of these hours to pilot Wellbeing Teams in Thurrock. The work has started to develop and recruit to these teams and they will start providing services from the New Year.

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding adults who may be at risk of abuse or harm is a priority for adult social care. The statutory Board led by Thurrock Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Essex Police is now well established and the safeguarding team provide skilled and person-centred interventions.

In 2017-18 there were 628 concerns received and 187 of these went on to be progressed as an enquiry as defined under section 42 of the Care Act. We received a high number of safeguarding alerts that reported there had been acts of neglect and / or omission, to which the Safeguarding Team have been working closely with the Providers and our Contracts Team to ensure situations are managed and good person centred outcomes are achieved.

Following on from 2016-17 where it was identified that a high proportion of people in South Ockendon/Aveley experienced financial abuse, work has been undertaken with the victims so they may support each other to prevent future cases of financial exploitation.

The team manage the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS) Service which has seen a year on year increase in applications for people in care homes and hospitals. For 2017-18, the team received 779 applications with the Council granting a safeguard for 449 people, thus far. Nationally, the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard Service has been criticised as overly complicated and costly by the Government, therefore, in 2018-19 work will be start to be undertaken to implement the new Liberty Protection Safeguards. We expect the new Mental Capacity Bill 2018 to be in force in early 2020.

The team also consists of the Corporate Appointee Team who currently manages 146 adults that have been identified needing support with their finances.

## **Learning Disability, Autism, Complex Care**

The work we do with disabled young people transitioning into adulthood was strengthened by the creation of a new 'Preparing for Adulthood' Team in 2017. This has been extremely successful in ensuring that disabled young people move into adult services seamlessly. The team continues to work closely with our colleagues in Children's Directorate, and all post 17 young people are discussed at a multi-agency 'Preparing for Adulthood' forum to ensure all agencies are joined up in their planning.

The Preparing for Adulthood strategy is being refreshed this year through a dedicated multi- agency steering group and it is being co-produced with young people and their families.

For those adults that need long term support from a social worker and health professional a new complex care Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting has been set up to regularly review support, and put in place plans to reduce risk and support independence within our communities. The complex care team supports some

of our most challenging residents, and has specialist knowledge around Autism and Learning Disability. This team ensure timely legal interventions where necessary, keeping individuals safe and ensuring their rights are upheld.

### **Transforming Care Partnership**

Thurrock is a partner with Essex, Southend and the 7 Clinical Commissioning Groups across Essex Southend and Thurrock in delivering this national programme. The programme aims to improve services and support for children, young people and adults with a learning disability and/or autism who display challenging behaviour and it also includes those with a mental health condition.

Its key aims are to reduce inpatient provision and help people live happy and healthy lives within their own home. Through creative and skilled intervention, Thurrock is committed to supporting people within their own neighbourhoods rather than institutions. A significant achievement this year has been the change to the delivery of specialist Health Care for people with Learning Disabilities across all of Essex. The new specialist Health Care contract started on the 1st October 2018 and is to be delivered in a partnership arrangement a jointly funded Team will monitor the delivery of the contract locally and across Essex.

### **2.6 And finally.....**

I'm extremely proud of what Thurrock staff have achieved. It is therefore very encouraging when we continue to receive recognition from those charged with setting and developing the direction of travel for the country.

Thurrock is regularly 'name checked' for the innovative work it carries out to transform social care, and I am confident that the innovation in Thurrock gives us and our residents the best chance of success in the future.

## Financial Information

Service	Sub-Service	17-18 Outturn £k	18-19 Revised Budget £k	18-19 Forecast Outturn £k	Variance to Budget £k
Commissioning & Contracts	Appointee & Receivership	117	118	122	4
	Assistive Technology	82	80	80	0
	Blue Badges	33	30	26	(4)
	Commissioning & Contract Management	857	863	862	(1)
	Demand Management	0	269	239	(30)
	Healthwatch	124	124	124	0
	Management & Support	139	518	477	(41)
	Meals on Wheels	177	139	153	14
	Special Equipment	436	479	469	(10)
	Voluntary Contracts	492	410	413	4
	Customer Finance	354	387	387	(0)
Supporting People	272	277	277	0	
<b>Commissioning &amp; Contracts Total</b>		<b>3,083</b>	<b>3,693</b>	<b>3,629</b>	<b>(64)</b>
External Placements	Learning Disabilities	10,945	11,620	11,433	(187)
	Mental Health	2,893	2,951	3,110	159
	Older People	4,747	5,098	4,949	(149)
	Physical Disabilities	2,733	3,226	3,194	(32)
<b>External Placements Total</b>		<b>21,319</b>	<b>22,894</b>	<b>22,686</b>	<b>(208)</b>
Fieldwork Services	Community Mental Health	758	789	773	(16)
	Early Intervention	1,270	1,431	1,402	(29)
	Hospital Social Work & RRAS	499	456	469	13
	Local Area Co-ordinators	102	125	129	4
	Older People Mental Health	215	222	199	(22)
	Safeguarding	481	530	533	3
	Thurrock First	279	421	415	(6)
	Complex Care & Transitions	276	261	252	(9)
<b>Fieldwork Services Total</b>		<b>3,881</b>	<b>4,235</b>	<b>4,172</b>	<b>(62)</b>
Provider Services	Collins House	764	820	893	73
	Day Care	907	1,001	997	(4)
	Extra Care	614	669	704	36
	Internal Homecare & Joint Reablement	2,537	2,236	2,214	(22)
<b>Provider Services Total</b>		<b>4,822</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>4,808</b>	<b>82</b>
Better Care Fund	Carry Forward to 2019-20	0	0	200	200
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>33,105</b>	<b>35,548</b>	<b>35,496</b>	<b>(52)</b>

### **3. Children's Social Care**

I have considerable experience and knowledge of children's social care services, have chaired the Corporate Parenting Committee and I am a member of the Fostering Panel. I understand the strengths and vulnerabilities of the service well and I am vehement about ensuring that we deliver the best possible services to vulnerable children and their families. I attend the children's social care development board on a monthly basis to ensure that the service continues to make progress on its journey to good and outstanding. Progress has been confirmed by the recent Ofsted Focused Visit on 11 and 12 September although there is still work for us to do if we are to achieve our ambition of becoming an outstanding service. However, I remain confident that my officers have the commitment and drive to continue to move the service in the right direction. This is critical in an environment where there is increased oversight and monitoring from the service regulator, Ofsted.

Since I became Portfolio Holder in 2016 I have achieved the following:

- Increased the number of permanent social workers and reduced the use of agency social workers;
- Increased the number of in-house foster carers and enabled more Thurrock children to be placed with Thurrock carers;
- Joined the Eastern Region Adoption Alliance to ensure pooling of resources and increasing the number of adopters available for Thurrock children;
- reduced the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children from a high of 103 down to 32;
- Reduced the number of children in care and the number of children with a child protection plan; improved educational outcomes for looked after children; and
- Overseen the continued improvement in children's social care performance and had a positive outcome from the Ofsted Focused Visit.

#### **3.1. Context**

The Children & Social Work Bill (2016) published in May 2016 provided a wide-ranging and significant change in legislation for the social work profession. The Bill covers the care system, adoption, corporate parenting and; rights of care leavers. In addition, it includes the introduction of a Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel; significant changes to social worker accreditation, regulation, registration, and training; as well as publication and sharing of information, and a duty for agencies to co-operate when children are at risk of harm.

There is clear evidence nationally that the demand for children's social care services continues to rise, with domestic abuse, parental mental ill health and substance misuse being key drivers behind the rise in the number of children with a child protection plan and children in care.

Thurrock continues to have high rates of children being supported by social care but numbers have dropped in the past year to bring us more into line with our statistical neighbours. We have seen a decrease in the number of contacts and referrals, and the number of children in care has reduced from a high of 353 in 2016 to the current number of 309. The number of children with a child protection plan has reduced from 293 to 200 as a less punitive and more strengths based approach has been adopted by the department and its partners. Further work will be undertaken by officers to develop services which will enable us to safely reduce the number of children with a child protection plan and the number of children in care.

I am pleased to have seen significant progress in Thurrock Children's Social Care Services over the past year. The service continues to make improvements following the 2016 Ofsted Inspection and this has been validated through the annual conversation with Ofsted and the recent encouragement from the Focused Visit, which are both part of the new inspection framework. With the regulator providing encouraging for the progress we've made to date, the service will be given more time to embed the improvements that are clearly evident.

### **3.2 Service Developments**

#### **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

The last 3 years has seen an unprecedented rise in the number of refugee children arriving in Thurrock and entering care. These children usually enter the UK at Dover often in the back of lorry and are subsequently dropped off at Thurrock services on the M25.

Alternatively young people have entered the UK via the ports at Purfleet and Tilbury. As they present themselves in Thurrock they automatically become the responsibility of the authority. The Home Office has sent out guidance suggesting that local authorities should be able to accept a number of refugee's equivalent to 0.07% of their overall child population. In Thurrock's case, this should be 28 children. In 2016 resources were being stretched to the limit supporting over 100 children which is over 3 times the threshold.

So it is positive to note that tremendous progress has been made in reducing the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children looked after by the council. Under my direction and leadership, officers have worked with colleagues in the Eastern Region authorities to establish a transfer protocol so that the financial burden of looking after refugee children would be shared equally across all authorities in the region. As a result at the time of writing this report there were only 32 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in our care with numbers continuing to fall month by month.

### **3.3 The Social Care Workforce**

One of the key areas of concern from our 2016 Ofsted Inspection was the instability of the social care workforce. The high number of agency social work staff was also contributing to an unacceptably high overspend in Children's Services.

I am delighted to report that we have made great progress in recruiting more permanent social workers while at the same time reducing the rate we pay the remaining agency staff. Through our collaborative work the Eastern Region Authorities established a Memorandum of Co-operation which has enabled us to reduce the number of agency social workers paid over the agreed rate. In July 2016 we employed 70 agency staff with 56 paid over the Memorandum of Cooperation rate. Today we have employed 39 agency social workers and only 2 are paid over the Memorandum of Cooperation rate. This is positive news for both Thurrock and the region as a whole, as together we have been able to reduce spending on high cost agency social workers.

As well as having success in recruiting a permanent workforce, the turnover rate for social workers at just over 7% is low and has ensured we can provide continuity for service users. Social worker sickness rates in the service remain below the council average, indicating good levels of support and supervision for staff. This was validated by our Ofsted Focused Visit. Further work is underway on the structure of the service to address issues about the size of caseloads and management spans of control to ensure there is effective oversight of casework practice.

### **3.4 Ofsted Focused Visit**

The Focused Visit is part of the new framework called the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS). Under this framework every local authority has an annual conversation with Ofsted based on a self-assessment.

This inspection focussed on children and families needing support and children for whom there are child protection concerns. The inspectors interviewed over 20 social workers and inspected case records. Social workers and case records were chosen randomly with the latter being inspected in detail. In addition over 100 documents including data reports were uploaded onto the shared Ofsted database for examination by inspectors.

Inspectors reported that since the last inspection in 2016 there have been significant changes. The Authority have established a dedicated senior management team to lead children's services and increased social worker capacity. The Authority has been successful in recruiting a permanent workforce. Social worker vacancies have reduced significantly since the last inspection. Social workers informed inspectors they liked working for Thurrock and that they felt supported by their managers. Social Workers

report that standards of practice expected are clear and supported by good opportunities for training and development.

Inspectors found that children and families are supported to build good relationships with their social workers. Social workers had a good understanding of children's experiences and are working well with parents and extended family members to ensure their views inform service planning.

Inspectors reported that senior managers are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the service and have a clear understanding of what needs to be done to continue to improve services. While many strengths of the service were acknowledged, areas such as workload pressures and children's access to advocacy services were identified as areas for further development. We welcome the challenge provided by inspection and will continue to build on progress in the coming months. The outcome of the inspection will inform when Ofsted will undertake its full inspection which is due in 2019.

The outcome of the Ofsted Focused Visit can be viewed at:  
<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50030096>"

### 3.5 Service Reviews

Following last year's Annual Public Health report and number of recommendations were made on how the service could better manage demand. Through a programme of cross-cutting service reviews, there are now a number of service developments to support improvements in the quality of provision. These developments include:

- **Adoption Service** – The main focus on this business case is to concentrate on the adoption service currently provided and will change the approach at Thurrock and increase the staffing resources in Children's Service
- **Edge of Care** - This service has been developed as part of our early intervention and prevention strategy to provide support to enable more children and young people to remain safely within their families. The service is based on schemes that have been successfully implemented in other authorities. As part of an Early Help strategy to intervene early when families are in difficulty to offer evidence based support and help in order to improve outcomes for children and young people and also reduce demand for high cost children's social care statutory services
- **Fostering** – Our key focus will be on developing and growing our in-house fostering service and reduce our dependence on high cost independent fostering agencies. It specifically seeks to provide up to 100 extra in-house places for looked after children to reduce Independent Fostering Agency purchases and associated costs
- **Signs of Safety** – Is a strengths based social work practice model which enables social workers to work more collaboratively with



parents and ensuring that their views and the views of their children are a key part of any care planning. It is an internationally respected model of practice and has been implemented in numerous Local Authorities across the UK during the past 10 years. It is already being used by a number of local authorities in the UK and worldwide, and is an innovative approach to statutory children's social work. We plan to adapt it and make it our own, with our own front-line experts shaping how and when it is used. In recognition of our progress in implementing Signs of Safety in the Authority, the Chief Social Worker for England visited Thurrock to give a keynote speech at our launch of the model.

- **Two for One** – This is an innovative new initiative to support recruitment of permanent social workers. The service receives many applications from newly qualified social workers. Through this scheme, new inexperienced staff will be supported by experienced agency staff up to the point where they are able to hold a full caseload. This will accelerate our success in recruitment of permanent staff.

### 3.6 Fostering and Adoption

Fostering recruitment continues to be a priority for the service. There were 22 new fostering household approvals between April 2017 and March 2018 (10 approvals in 2016/17); between April 2018 to September, 20 initial visits were made. Of that number, 6 families have been approved and 6 applications are at different stages of the assessment process. Two new members of staff will shortly be joining the fostering recruitment team which will provide additional capacity in the drive to increase our fostering households. This will support our ambition to place more children in Thurrock so that they can continue to access local services and remain close to their families and communities.

The fostering service has been successful at steadily reducing the number of children and young people placed a substantial distance from the borough. In 2016 72% of children in care were placed out of the borough and only 28% inside the borough. As of 31st March 2018, of the 309 Children Looked After; 125 (40.5%) were placed inside of the Local Authority; 111 (35.9%) were placed outside of the Local Authority but within 20 miles of home and 49 (15.9%) were placed more than 20 miles away from home. 7.8% of children without a home postcode (generally Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) were placed outside of the Local Authority.

We are continuing in our drive to improve our numbers of children placed with adopters by Thurrock and we are on target to double the numbers of adoption orders made from 7 to 15 by 31st March 2019, and have ended our partnership with Coram and brought adoption back in house. 7 Adoption Orders have been made since 1st April 2018. This will bring our number of adoption Orders to date to the same level of total orders made in 2017/18. In addition 3 fostering households are currently being assessed to adopt 4

children and a 4th fostering household has expressed an interest in adopting 3 children in placement.

### **3.7 Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation continues to be well understood and addressed across the service in collaboration with partner agencies.

An extensive training programme has been coordinated by the Child Sexual Exploitation Manager: bespoke Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking awareness training has been written and delivered in collaboration with Essex Police, Open Door and South Essex Rape Incest Crisis Centre, (SERICC) variously, to in excess of 1200 professionals, (excluding those present at conferences). Agencies and numbers trained so far comprise: CSC and Support Workers: 332; Adult Social Care: 48; Thurrock Foster Carers: 66; Thurrock Housing staff: 201; Independent Fostering Association Providers and Residential Staff: 71; Thurrock GPs: 27; Thurrock Licenced Taxi Operators, Drivers and PAs: 407 currently licensed Taxi drivers have been trained, leaving only 12 existing drivers to be trained. It is now a condition of Thurrock Taxi Drivers to be trained within 3 months of their attaining their license in the Borough.

With a view to increasing local vigilance around these inter-related exploitative harms, two Hotel Managers initially, have been engaged by the Child Sexual Exploitation Manger and Principal Licensing Officer to participate in Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking training. They have agreed for their staff teams to be trained by the CSE Manager and Essex Police Young People's Officer. Dates are currently being agreed with a view to this training to be delivered by the end of 2018.

In recognition of the national and local increase in trafficking and exploitation of children in the context of County Lines, bespoke Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Training has been written and delivered by the Child Sexual Exploitation Manager in collaboration with the Essex Police Trafficking Lead, to Children's Social Care staff. The feedback has been positive, and a further two sessions under the Children's Service's Practice Development programme have been confirmed for 2018.

Thurrock has an established Risk Assessment Group, (RAG): The Risk Assessment Group, a sub-group of the Thurrock Safeguarding Children Board, continues to meet every 2 weeks, and is attended by a range of statutory and voluntary partners. It has had presented for review 53 referrals for 49 separate children between 01 October 2018 and 3 October 2018, facilitating challenge, oversight and development of plans to reduce the vulnerability of children, and identify opportunities to target, disrupt and investigate potential perpetrators.

Multi Agency Child Exploitation Meeting (MACE) oversees the Risk Assessment Group, and is attended by up to 13 statutory and voluntary agencies every 6 weeks. The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Child Sexual

Exploitation Strategy has been translated into the Thurrock Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation, 'Plan on a Page' to guide multi-agency progression around this area: this in turn has informed the detailed Thurrock Children's Services 'Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing Children and Trafficking Action Plan 2017/18'.

'I Didn't Know' Child Sexual Exploitation Campaign, 2018: In order to better equip adult and child residents of Thurrock in spotting indicators of online abuse and youth-produced sexual imagery, and to know how to report this, given the increase internationally and nationally, (National Society for Prevention and Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), 2015: National Crime Agency, 2017) and locally (Essex Police, 2017) of online grooming and exploitation, the March 2018, the 'I Didn't Know' Child Sexual Exploitation campaign focused specifically upon online Child Sexual Exploitation and youth-produced sexual imagery. Being coordinated by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, it was primarily focused towards parents / carers and children and young people.

'#BeAVoice' for Victims of Trafficking and Modern Slavery Campaign, October 2018: The Thurrock Child Sexual Exploitation Manager is collaborating with Essex Police and equivalent partners in Southend and Essex to launch the 18th October '#BeAVoice' Campaign to coincide with Anti-Slavery Day. This aims to raise professional, parental, young people and public awareness of indicators of this harm, and reporting pathways.

### **3.8 Female Genital Mutilation**

The Barnardos National Female Genital Mutilation Centre, a Department for Education Children's Social Care Innovation Programme project is continuing to work with Thurrock Council to develop and deliver a system change in the social work response to female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practices, including child abuse linked to faith or belief. The vision of the Centre is to end all new cases of Female Genital Mutilation in England by 2030 by working with local authorities together with health, police, education and community organisations.

Thurrock has a specialist Female Genital Mutilation social worker employed by Barnardos and placed in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. She works with alongside Thurrock staff to provide a quality response to families affected by Female Genital Mutilation and to protect children from Female Genital Mutilation and other harmful practices. Since starting work in Thurrock in 2015 the specialist worker has been involved with more than 64 cases involving harmful practices. The Centre also provides accredited multi-agency training to support professionals to protect children from these illegal and hidden practices and delivers community health events.

### **3.9 Youth Offending Service**

Latest performance data from the Youth Justice Board evidences good performance with Thurrock Youth Offending Service's re-offending figure being 37%, compared with a national average of 42 % and our identified family\* being 39%. Although varying slightly over the preceding years this performance has been consistent over a significant period.

During 2017/18 only 2 young people were sentenced to custody which was one of the lowest rates per 1,000 amongst our Youth Offending Team family. (\*The new Youth Offending Team families are child focussed and enable YOTs to benchmark their performance with other Youth Offending Team's deemed to be similar to themselves in terms of the socio-demographic characteristics of their area.)

Thurrock Youth Offending Team remains central to the coordination of the Gang Related Violence work ensuring an effective multi agency approach to managing offenders involved in gang related crime.

Thurrock Youth Offending Team continues to work with victims by offering support and the opportunity for restorative justice to all of those affected by youth crime in the borough. Additionally, we continue to support the local community by supervising young people to complete reparation projects. We also work closely with the community by recruiting volunteers who live and work in the borough to meet with our young people and discuss ways in which they can repair the harm they have caused, this is facilitated through our Youth Offender Panels.

The Youth Offending Team Governance board has now signed off the Youth Justice Plan for 2018/21 which highlights its strategic priorities. The Youth Justice Board wrote to us complementing our clear strategic direction and innovative approach in addressing serious youth violence.

### **3.10 Brighter Futures**

The prevention agenda of Brighter Futures continues to develop across the partnership and has brought together a wide range of services to provide help to children and families in Thurrock as their needs emerge. Brighter Futures offers a range of preventative services to support families in Thurrock, allowing children and young people to achieve their full potential. It supports the education, health and wellbeing of children and young people in a coordinated way, preventing problems from developing and, when they do, intervening early to stop them from escalating.

The revised Brighter Futures Strategy and Governance brings together all of Thurrock Council's universal and targeted prevention services for children and young people and their families. The Core elements of Brighter Futures include:

- Brighter Futures Children's Centres: open to all families offering a range of education, health and play activities;
- Brighter Futures Healthy Families: includes, among other things, Health Visitors who give advice and guidance to all new parents in Thurrock, and School nurses work to keep children healthy in schools;
- Brighter Futures Prevention and Support Service: provides targeted help to families which have specific needs encompassing issues such as parenting support, domestic abuse, sexual violence and continues to focus on families where worklessness, poor school attendance, parental physical and mental health issues and Anti- Social Behaviour are featured.

Families all have an allocated Lead Professional who knows the family best and regular Team Around the Family Meetings are held to ensure that individual, time limited, task focussed plans make a real difference to the lives of families. Early feedback from families continues to be encouraging and we will continue to develop the service to meet the needs of families.

### **3.11 The Way Ahead**

I remain committed to ensuring that we deliver effective and high quality provision for our most vulnerable children and families and will work with officers to ensure that we continue to drive improvements in the service and manage the demand pressures. I would like to thank our foster carers and staff for their hard work and dedication they've shown over the past year.

I am under no illusions that we are facing a tough agenda, but we will continue to explore new ways of working and encourage innovation in the workforce to rise to the challenge.

#### **Financial Information**

The forecast for Children's Social Care as reported at the end of quarter 1 is an overspend of £0.401m which is a much improved position on last year. There is a significant level of risk in delivering this forecast with inherent risk in placement budgets, managing levels of agency staff and achieving proposed mitigation.

The forecast assumes that work within the aftercare service continues to have a positive impact with the ongoing review of placements when children reach 18. This is partly as result of the high level of young people who are unaccompanied asylum seekers and have no source of income. Systems are in place to ensure that a robust response is maintained so that future costs are contained. If this continues the position for the aftercare service is expected to improve further.

The Corporate Director continues to review high costs residential placements on a monthly basis and where safe to do so, placement costs

are reduced as the service focuses on achieving better value and more suitable placements for our young people. In addition, there is ongoing work on re-commissioning of placements provision, and changes to accommodation in aftercare.

<b>Sub – Service</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Last Year Outturn</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>Forecast Outturn</b>	<b>Budget Variance</b>
	<b>£k</b>	<b>£k</b>	<b>£k</b>	<b>£k</b>	<b>£k</b>
<b>Children Looked After Service</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>4,658</b>	<b>4,670</b>	<b>4,526</b>	<b>(144)</b>
<b>Family Support</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>2,950</b>	<b>1,991</b>	<b>2,249</b>	<b>258</b>
<b>LSCB &amp; Quality Assurance</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>(15)</b>
<b>Placement Support</b>	<b>4,077</b>	<b>17,626</b>	<b>15,959</b>	<b>15,923</b>	<b>(36)</b>
<b>Safeguarding and Child Protection &amp; LADO</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>1,271</b>	<b>306</b>
<b>YOS and Adolescent Services</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>(17)</b>
<b>Brighter Futures - Prevention Service</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>2,481</b>	<b>2,421</b>	<b>(60)</b>
<b>Children and Families Assessment</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>2,105</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,683</b>	<b>31,729</b>	<b>28,902</b>	<b>29,303</b>	<b>401</b>

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## **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 3 questions to the Leader and 6 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

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

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

Crime in Thurrock is on the rise. Can the Leader give us the year on year increase in sexual offences, robbery and crimes against the person?

### **2. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Gledhill**

Will the Leader of the Council reaffirm his opposition to the proposed new Lower Thames Crossing and set out how he has made our case to colleagues on Opportunity South Essex and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership?

### **3. From Councillor MacPherson to Councillor Gledhill**

Having seen the good news about the C17 gang member injunctions that Essex Police have secured can the Leader outline how Thurrock Council assisted in this and what benefits it will bring residents of Chafford Hundred?

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

### **1. From Councillor Worrall to Councillor Watkins**

What is the importance of parks and improving our open spaces for residents to enjoy?

### **2. From Councillor Jefferies to Councillor Halden**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Education and Health outline what is being done to deliver more school places in Thurrock?

### **3. From Councillor Anderson to Councillor Halden**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Education and Health update the chamber on children centre provision?

**4. From Councillor Rigby to Councillor Halden**

Please can the Portfolio Holder for Education and Health update the chamber on the progress to deliver new Medical Centres in the Borough.

**5. From Councillor Okunade to Councillor Halden**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Health and Education tell us what the Council is doing to protect the health and wellbeing of our Tilbury residents from the hazardous air pollution?

**6. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Johnson**

How many homeless families are Thurrock Council helping at the current time?

## Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 31 October 2018

Date	From	Motion	Status	Accountable Director
27/6/2018	Cllr Duffin	Thurrock Council should look into contacting all sports teams/clubs competing across the borough and ask them what support they need moving forward. Many need support with facilities and raising awareness that the Council can assist with without giving financial support.	Visits to a number of sports clubs have been taking place, inviting clubs to the Active Thurrock steering group meetings. This open platform will enable clubs to raise their issues and work with the council to develop projects and activities.	Julie Rogers
27/6/2018	Cllr Aker	This Council calls on Cabinet to commit to looking at each private contract and assess whether, or not, it could be fulfilled locally and begin a process of bringing private contracts back in-house as soon as possible so that the Council can maximise the benefits for Thurrock rather than multi-national corporations.	<p>A paper has been produced that summarises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Services provided in-house</li> <li>- Services externally provided and whether they are provided locally within Thurrock</li> <li>- Service that are in the process of being brought back in house.</li> </ul> <p>The paper will be presented at Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>	Sharon Bayliss
25/7/2018	Cllr Spillman	Council requests that Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee urgently consider adding to it work programme at its next meeting on 2 October 2018 research into the feasibility of installing sprinkler systems in every high-rise tower block in Thurrock considering the extensive body of evidence highlighting the risks of not having sprinkler systems in such	An update report on Fire Safety, including the latest position on sprinklers, is going to the October Housing Overview and Scrutiny meeting.	Roger Harris

## Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 31 October 2018

		high-rise buildings.		
25/7/2018	Cllr Smith	<p>Thurrock Council considers going further than their statutory duty regarding publication of Traffic Restriction Orders (TRO) by publishing them on the Council's social media and contacting residents through email where possible as well as the currently required public notices on lamp posts and in the local press.</p>	<p>The Council's Transport Development Team and Communications Team are exploring options that will signpost residents to relevant and accessible TRO information. Social media will be used to direct residents to a dedicated section of the Council's web page where summary information, relating to TRO schemes will be posted.</p> <p>Ward members will be encouraged to share the social media prompts with community forums and other groups so that an increased number of residents are signposted to access TRO information.</p> <p>Existing statutory publications will continue to be provided to ensure that all communications avenues are addressed and to provide residents with a greater level of information.</p> <p>A link to the new TRO webpage will be regularly included in the Council's monthly residents e-newsletter, which people can sign up to receive at <a href="http://thurrock.gov.uk">thurrock.gov.uk</a>.</p>	Steve Cox / Karen Wheeler
25/7/2018	Cllr Redsell	<p>This chamber recognises the valuable contribution that trees make to our local environment and calls on Cabinet and / or officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where practicable to consult Members prior to the removal of trees from local authority land within their respective wards, and</li> <li>• Where possible in accordance with the current budget to replace within a</li> </ul>	<p>As agreed at Full Council, Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Chair has agreed for a paper to be submitted to December meeting, which will outline proposals for this motion.</p>	Julie Rogers

## Item 15 - Update on Motions agreed by the Council – 31 October 2018

		<p>reasonable period all trees felled from local authority land including public areas; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To investigate availability of funding sources for the 2019 -20 budget to enable the Council to purchase replacement trees</li> </ul>		
25/7/2018	Cllr Gerrish	<p>Thurrock Council calls for our asset disposal process to include an emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The importance of informal discussions with current occupiers of land and local residents.</li> <li>Consultation with ward councillors.</li> <li>Identification of multiple suitable sites to provide genuine choice.</li> <li>A more open and inclusive decision-making process.</li> </ul>	<p>The Council recognises the importance of ensuring the use and disposal of its assets follow a transparent, equitable, and democratic process while also ensuring the Council's commercial interests are appropriately safeguarded and its processes are compliant with legislation.</p> <p>The Council is currently seeking to identify how best to consult with councillors prior to formalising any disposal.</p> <p>External consultation will need to ensure that the Council's interests are not compromised and that no unfair advantage is given to any particular group. Discussions with current occupiers is desirable, but needs to be undertaken sensitively and in accordance with the terms and conditions of binding agreements and in accordance with legislative requirements.</p> <p>The Council is also proposing to formalise its property procedures, thereby promoting transparency, equity, democracy and ensuring compliance with legislation and best practice.</p>	Steve Cox

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## **Motions Submitted to Council**

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

### **Motion 1**

#### **Submitted by Councillor Halden**

The Chamber congratulates our schools for the summer exam results and the Council should continue to work closely with them to deliver the new school places we need.

#### **Monitoring Officer Comments:**

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

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

There are no specific financial implications from the motion.

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

Yes

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## **Motions Submitted to Council**

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

### **Motion 2**

**Submitted by Councillor Gledhill**

We call on the elected members of Thurrock Council to support any judicial review, or other legal action, that may be possible against Highways England proposals for the Lower Thames Crossing?

### **Monitoring Officer Comments:**

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

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

There are obvious financial implications in carrying out a judicial review or any other form of legal action. The potential costs will need to be considered should the motion be agreed and a decision taken to progress action.

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

Yes

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## **Motions Submitted to Council**

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

#### **Motion 3**

##### **Submitted by Councillor Spillman**

Full Council asks for the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee under its cross cutting remit on overall performance and monitoring and steering the overview and scrutiny function to look into:

- the effectiveness of overview and scrutiny processes at Thurrock Council
- the effectiveness of Motions agreed at the Full Council.

#### **Statement**

Numerous recent examples have demonstrated a lack of co-operation from the Executive and the Administration regarding requests and recommendations made by overview and scrutiny committees and motions secured through Full Council. This Motion asks the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee in its cross cutting and overall performance remit to scrutinise the compliance of the Executive with requests made by overview and scrutiny committees; the influence recommendations made by overview and scrutiny committees; the responses to Motions at Full Council over the policy decisions being made by both the Administration and Executive. This work will shine a light on the health of democratic scrutiny within Thurrock Council. This work is vital as it will come at a time when I believe a general consensus has formed among Members, Thurrock residents and the local press that the systems of democratic scrutiny within Thurrock Council are now as powerless as they have been since Thurrock became an executive system Council.

#### **Monitoring Officer Comments:**

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

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

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

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

Yes

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## **Motions Submitted to Council**

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

#### **Motion 4**

##### **Submitted by Councillor J Kent**

Thurrock Council notes that since decriminalisation of parking in 2005 residents of Lodge Lane have been able to park on their crossovers - as they had been able to for decades before. The decision to enforce against residents parking in this way has caused significant anger and concern against those affected. Council calls on Cabinet to revisit this decision and find a way of allowing residents to park in the way they have for many, many years without any problem.

##### **Monitoring Officer Comments:**

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

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

This motion has no immediate financial implications. However, should there be a change in approach that leads to any change in the service's financial position then the service will need to absorb these.

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

Yes

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