

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

Local Development Plan Task Force

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **18 March 2019**

Committee Room 2 & 3, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL

Membership:

Councillors Andrew Jefferies, Martin Kerin, Joycelyn Redsell, Gerard Rice, Peter Smith and Alex Anderson

Substitutes:

Councillors

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Wendy Le, Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to direct.democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Agenda published on: **13 March 2019**

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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non-pecuniary

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



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

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Development Plan Task Force held on 21 January 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Andrew Jefferies, Martin Kerin, Joycelyn Redsell, Peter Smith and Alex Anderson

Apologies: Councillors Gerard Rice

In attendance: Steve Cox, Corporate Director Place
Andrew Millard, Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection
Sean Nethercott, Strategic Lead for Strategic Services
Luke Tyson, Directorate Business Manager
Wendy Le, Democratic Services Officer

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

1. Appointment of Chair

The Democratic Services Officer asked for nominations for the Chair.

Councillor Jefferies nominated Councillor Redsell and Councillor Anderson seconded the nomination.

Councillor Smith nominated Councillor Kerin and Councillor Kerin seconded the nomination.

Members voted in favour of Councillor Redsell as Chair.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

The Democratic Services Officer asked for nominations for the Vice-Chair.

Councillor Smith nominated Councillor Kerin and Councillor Jefferies seconded the nomination.

Members agreed on the nomination.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Rice.

4. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

5. Declaration of Interests

Councillors Kerin, Smith, Anderson and Jefferies declared they were Members of the Planning, Transport, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Terms of Reference

The Corporate Director of Place gave a brief on the Task Force's Terms of Reference and advised Members on named substitutes and the start time of the Task Force.

Members agreed on a named substitute from each political party. The start time of the Task Force meetings would remain as 19:00.

Councillor Smith sought clarity on in point 6 to which the Strategic Lead for Strategic Services answered that comment was to be provided in regards to location based on the evidence given.

7. Overview of Local Plan

The Overview of the Local Plan was outlined by the Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection. The item detailed results from the previous Issues and Options Consultation and provided information on the current Issues and Options 2 Consultation that was currently running.

Pointing out the dates of the first 3 consultations that had recently been held in Ockendon and Aveley, the Chair queried if more consultation dates would be held in these areas. She went on to say that some residents may have missed those dates due to the festive period and asked if these dates had been advertised. The Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection confirmed the dates and venue had been advertised.

Councillor Jefferies commented that he had not seen advertisements for the consultation dates within his ward of Ockendon. The Chair stated that people may not be aware of the venues booked for other consultation dates and referred specifically to the venue of Acorns which was within her ward of Little Thurrock Blackshots. The Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection explained the venues had been chosen based on availability but the service would look into the given venues.

Expressing concern on congestion, Councillor Smith questioned the council's plans regarding existing transport links. Giving reassurance, the Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection said an assessment would be carried out to look into spatial options as to what may emerge from the assessment. A new transport infrastructure was a possibility.

The Vice-Chair stated the importance of the Local Plan and felt it would achieve success through a strong partnership, regardless of political party

background. He hoped Members and Officers would continue to work in unison to see the Local Plan through.

In agreement, the Chair reflected back on past builds within Thurrock and mentioned the incorrect building of Chafford Hundred. She stated infrastructure was of key importance and was to be at the top of the priority list.

Councillor Smith felt that a lot of the Local Plan was applicable to the Planning, Transport, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He queried how the Local Development Plan Task Force would avoid overlapping with the Planning, Transport, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair agreed and replied that there were other committees that overlapped into the Task Force. The Corporate Director said the Local Plan was felt across all services of Thurrock and would work together with all affected services.

8. Work Programme

Referring to the Local Development Scheme, the Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection explained the project plan was in its various stages and would be going to Cabinet.

The Vice-Chair asked for presentations to accompany reports and asked for feedback from other services within the council on big schemes. The Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection said workshop sessions could be set up to gather feedback and provide information.

Councillor Smith asked if the service had an idea on congestion problems. The Strategic Lead for Strategic Services answered a baseline study was due to start in February 2019 on road infrastructures and the Local Plan would address these issues to reduce congestion and air quality. The service was working with land owners on development to remedy problems from the past.

The meeting finished at 7.36 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

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

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18 March 2019	ITEM: 6
Local Development Plan Task Force	
Developing the Transport Evidence Base	
This report is Public	

Introduction

This Report sets out the key transport issues which will need to be considered by the plan-making process and provides an overview of the transport technical work which will be undertaken to support the preparation of a robust and deliverable Local Plan.

1. Background

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (July 2018) requires that all Local Plans should be based on an up-to-date evidence base. In terms of transport related issues, detailed guidance on the nature and scope of the technical work needed to ensure that the Local Plan is both sound and deliverable is set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)(July 2018).
- 1.2 The Guidance states that a robust transport evidence base can facilitate approval of the Local Plan and reduce costs and delays to the delivery of new development, thereby reducing the cost burden on public and private sectors. The PPG also requires that the transport evidence base should identify the opportunities for encouraging a shift to more sustainable transport usage, where reasonable to do so; and highlight the infrastructure requirements for inclusion in infrastructure spending plans linked to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Section 106 provisions and other funding sources.
- 1.3 A robust evidence base will enable an assessment of the transport impacts of both existing development as well as that proposed, and can inform sustainable approaches to transport at a plan-making level. This will include consideration of viability and deliverability.
- 1.4 The PPG advises that a robust assessment will establish evidence that may be useful in:
 - Improving the sustainability of transport provision
 - Enhancing accessibility
 - Creating choice amongst different modes of transport
 - Improving health and well-being
 - Supporting economic vitality

- Improving public understanding of the transport implications of development
- Enabling other highway and transport authorities/service providers to support and deliver the transport infrastructure identified in the Local Plan
- Supporting local shops and the high street through improved accessibility and the provision of safe and convenient car-parking.

1.5 The PPG identifies a number of generic key issues which should be considered in developing a transport evidence base. These include the need to:

- Assess the existing situation and likely generation of trips over time by all modes and the impact on the locality in economic, social and environmental terms
- Assess the opportunities to support a pattern of development that, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport
- Highlight and promote opportunities to reduce the need for travel and where appropriate identify opportunities to prioritise the use of alternative modes in both existing and new development locations
- Consider the cumulative impacts of existing and proposed development on transport networks
- Assess the quality and capacity of transport infrastructure and its ability to meet forecast demands
- Identify the short, medium and long-term transport proposals across all modes

1.6 The outcome of this work could include assessing where alternative allocations or mitigation measures would improve the sustainability, viability and deliverability of proposed land allocations (including individual sites) provided these are compliant with national policy as a whole.

1.7 The Guidance states that an assessment of the transport implications should be undertaken at a number of stages in the preparation of a Local Plan:

- As part of the initial evidence base in terms of issues and opportunities
- As part of options testing
- As part of the preparation of the final submission

The last of these stages should highlight the scale of and priorities for investment requirements and support infrastructure spending plans. Like sustainability appraisal, it will be an iterative process and become more

refined and detailed as the plan-making process progresses through to development of a “preferred option”.

1.8 The starting point in development the transport evidence base is generally the preparation of a baseline study which identifies the “state of the network” across all modes of travel. The following list indicates the key aspects that should be addressed in the transport assessment. This list is not exhaustive, and the PPG notes that there may be additional issues that are important to consider locally.

- All current transport issues as they affect all modes and freight covering, for example, accessibility, congestion, mobility, safety, pollution, affordability, carbon reduction across the whole Plan area and, within relevant areas of the Plan, including existing settlements and proposed broad areas for development or specific land allocations
- The potential options to address the issues identified and any gaps in the networks in the short, medium and longer term covering, for example, accessibility, congestion, mobility, safety, pollution, carbon reduction
- The locations of proposed land allocations and areas/corridors of development and potential options for the provision of sustainable transport and transport networks to serve them
- Solutions to support a pattern of development that, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport
- The scope and options for maximising travel planning and behavioral change
- Accessibility of transport nodes such as rail/bus stations to facilitate integrated solutions.

1.9 The PPG advises that the transport assessment should be produced at a Local Plan level in partnership with all relevant transport and planning authorities, transport providers and key stakeholders, for example, the Local Economic Partnership. It may be appropriate for the transport assessment to cover an area wider than the Local Plan at least initially given the size of some travel to work areas (This would be similar to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment or Economic Needs Assessment). This process should help identify any potential measures that may be required to mitigate negative impacts.

2. Developing the Thurrock Local Plan Transport Evidence Base

2.1 Consistent with the approach set out in guidance, the Council has begun the process of developing the Local Plan transport evidence base. The key outputs and deliverables which will come from this work will include:

- Thurrock Local Plan – Transport Baseline Study (Commissioned)
- Thurrock Vision for Movement & Transport Strategy
- Strategic Development Areas (Housing/Employment/Town Centres) – Transport Access Strategies
- Strategic Transport Model/Local Area Transport Models
- Freight Strategy
- Car Parking Strategy
- Establishment of Transport Providers Reference Group.

2.2 At this stage of the plan-making process the only piece of transport technical work which has been formally commissioned is the Thurrock Local Plan - Transport Baseline Report. The purpose of this Study will be to identify the key capacity constraints, challenges and opportunities facing the Borough's transport networks and to critically consider their ability to support the future development of Thurrock. The study will also need to identify a package of strategic and local interventions to add further capacity and/ or mitigate the transport or environmental impacts of growth for further investigation and testing through the plan-making process. In addition to the matters set out in paragraph 1.8 above, the consultants appointed to undertake this work (Peter Brett Associates) have been asked to consider the following local issues:

- The capacity of Borough's road, rail and other transport networks to support future growth and development at a strategic and local level
- The interventions required to provide additional transport capacity, including the phasing and funding of their delivery to support sustainable growth
- The need for and opportunities available improve rail capacity and service frequency for passenger and freight services
- The need to deal with the ongoing problems of severance and public safety arising from the significant number of rail crossing sin the Borough
- The need for passenger improvements at the Borough's principal railway stations
- The economic, environmental and transport implications of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing
- The opportunities available to improve local transport connectivity to support growth or mitigate the environmental or other impacts of any decision by Government to proceed with the construction of the Lower Thames Crossing.
- The need to address the environmental and/or transport impacts of HGV movements in the Borough including the need for more/better lorry-parking facilities

- The need for and opportunities available to secure improved, convenient and affordable access to the Borough's existing and future strategic housing, employment and town centre growth locations, including for example Purfleet, Lakeside, Grays, Tilbury and London Gateway/Thames Enterprise Park.
 - The need for and opportunities available to provide appropriate infrastructure to support and promote the use of new transport technologies including electric cars.
 - Need to deal with the cumulative impact of an increasing demand for travel in terms of air quality and the opportunities to reduce the need to travel by car through the promotion of sustainable transport choices and the co-location of high travel generators next to strategic public transport hubs and or as part of mixed housing and employment developments.
- 2.3 Alongside the preparation of the Transport Baseline Study, the Council will need to work with landowners, developers, transport stakeholders and local communities to develop Transport Access Strategies to support the master planning and infrastructure planning processes associated with the possible development and regeneration of strategic development locations including for example, possible garden communities and major employment centres such as Lakeside, Grays, and London Gateway and Thames Enterprise Park. In all instances the emphasis will be on improving accessibility by sustainable transport modes to reduce people's reliance and use of the car. However, it should also be recognised that it may also be necessary to re-imagine Thurrock's road network to provide better road access and reduce the impacts of congestion and poor air quality on existing communities through the re-routing of vehicles away from residential areas or town centres.
- 2.4 Both the Baseline Report and the Local Transport Access Strategies will help inform the preparation of a Thurrock Vision for Movement and Transport Strategy which will set out an overarching strategy for the implementation of a range of transport, infrastructure and policy interventions required to support the delivery of the Local Plan and the Councils wider vision and place-making aspirations for Thurrock. Work on developing the transport evidence base will also include the need to develop separate but related freight and car parking strategies which will also help inform the production of the Vision for Movement and Transport Strategy.
- 2.5 The Vision for Movement and Transport Strategy will also identify key infrastructure priorities and the responsibilities and programme for their delivery and it is proposed to set up a Transport Providers Reference Group as a means of bringing the key service providers and infrastructure delivery partners together to develop a joined up approach to support the delivery of an effective and integrated transport strategy.
- 2.6 As work on the plan progresses it is intended to model the effectiveness of alternative spatial strategies based on different scales and distributions of development and the implementation of a range of different transport packages and interventions. This will help identify the most appropriate,

effective and deliverable transport interventions required to deliver future growth and the development of the final submission version of the Local Plan. The modelling work will also help identify and develop an effective approach to managing down the impacts of travel and congestion on the local and strategic road network which will contribute towards improving air quality across the Borough.

- 3.** Work on the preparation of the transport evidence base is at an early stage. The views of the Taskforce on the approach and scope and nature of the work outlined in this Report and, specifically, the range of activities listed in paragraph 2.2 above, would be welcomed. As work advances on the Baseline Study it is proposed to invite the Council's consultants to attend a future meeting of the Taskforce to present their emerging findings and conclusions to Members for their consideration.

Work Programme

Committee: Local Development Plan Task Force

Year: 2018/2019

Dates of Meetings:

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
21 January 2019		
Risk Analysis of Thurrock's Economic Growth	Steve Cox	Member – Motion from Cllr Jones Feb 2018
Overview of Local Plan	Steve Cox	Officer
18 March 2019		
Garden Communities - Presentation by David Lock Associates	Sean Nethercott	Officer
Developing the Transport Evidence Base	Sean Nethercott	Officer

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