

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

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **4 July 2019**

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

Membership:

Councillors John Kent (Chair), Allen Mayes (Vice-Chair), Mike Fletcher, Garry Hague, Angela Lawrence and Elizabeth Rigby

Substitutes:

Councillors John Allen, Terry Piccolo, Sue Shinnick, David Van Day and Lynn Worrall

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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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.

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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 Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 February 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Lynn Worrall (Chair), Angela Lawrence (Vice-Chair), Qaisar Abbas, Mike Fletcher and Elizabeth Rigby

In attendance: Daren Spring, Assistant Director – Street Scene & Leisure
Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager
Mat Kiely, Transportation Services Strategic Lead
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.

22. Minutes

The minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 December 2018 were approved as a correct record.

23. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

24. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

25. Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Report

Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager, presented the report that provided an update on the areas of work associated with the Thurrock Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2017-2020. Despite the title, the strategy recognised and responded to the fact that men could also be victims in crimes of domestic and sexual violence and abuse. Areas included in this strategy were:

- Domestic violence and abuse;
- Sexual violence;
- Stalking;
- Child sexual abuse;
- So-called 'honour based' violence including forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM);
- Gang related violence; and
- Human trafficking.

Project MAYA was aimed at tackling FGM issues and the service worked with Barnados who was embedded in the multi-agency service hub (MASH).

VAWG remains widespread and has a devastating impact on victims and families. Thurrock Community Safety Partnership remains committed to tackle these violent crimes and work in tandem with local and Essex wide multi-agency groups on the VAWG Strategy. With the appointment of a VAWG Co-ordinator from October 2018, this demonstrates the service's commitment to raising awareness of VAWG and delivery of the strategy.

Giving praise to the service's proactivity, Councillor Fletcher asked if there was evidence to show if the strategy was working so far. Michelle Cunningham answered that domestic abuse reports were not currently available and the service was working with the police on this. Success of approaches had been measured around repeat victims but this information was no longer available. Work was also carried out with perpetrators but again data wasn't always forthcoming.

Councillor Abbas arrived at 19.12.

The Chair questioned why the service no longer received the data on the work undertaken with perpetrators and the success of approaches with repeat victims. In answer, Michelle Cunningham said this was due to the lack of resources available to gather and send the data. This had been raised at the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board meeting and would raise again. Information was available from the perpetrator project in children's services. Councillor Fletcher commented that information was needed to measure the success of the work undertaken within the strategy.

Referring to the 'Violence Against Women and Girls' Strategy title, the Vice-Chair felt this was better titled as 'Violence Against Persons' as men and boys were recognised as victims of these crimes too. Bringing up police stations, the Vice-Chair went on to say there were too many numbers given which could be frustrating for victims trying to find help and support and to be told they had called the wrong organisation. There should be one phone number to call, similar to Childline which was easy to access. Continuing on, the Vice-Chair felt police officers needed training in dealing with crimes of domestic and sexual violence because many did not know how to handle these in a sensitive manner. The Vice-Chair would send a private email to Michelle Cunningham with a list of concerns and issues regarding VAWG.

Councillor Rigby queried if extra support was provided during peak periods. Confirming this was the case, Michelle Cunningham went on to say peak periods were usually after the Christmas period due to the money issues and bills. Specialist cars had been deployed in the past during peak periods and the service undertook more reporting campaigns. Picking up on the Vice-Chair's earlier point on the amount of phone numbers given to victims at police stations, Michelle Cunningham said the service was looking into arranging a 'one stop shop', which would include other services such as Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Abbas questioned if there were plans to work with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. Michelle Cunningham confirmed that Project Maya worked with BAME communities and would share this report if not restricted.

Based on the figures given within appendix 1, Councillor Fletcher commented that the hotspots seemed to be around Aveley and asked Officers if Members could provide support to the service in some way. In answer, Michelle Cunningham said the statistics represented areas where there was a concentration of local authority housing although the housing safeguarding officers worked across all tenures. The new community liaison officers and 'one stop shop' were in development and utilising community resources which would be the aim, similar to the one in Ockendon. The new health centres may also be a point of access and this was where Members could give their support. Agreeing that the Ockendon hub was an excellent start, Councillor Fletcher went on to comment that Ockendon was 'not quite there yet' with health services.

The Chair mentioned she had been on the South Essex Rape Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC) Board a couple of years ago and at the time, there had been a commitment from the Housing Team to provide a secure flat. She went on to ask if this flat had been acquired for victims. Confirming the flat had been acquired, Michelle Cunningham said the flat was not utilised well. The process was that the flat would be occupied for a week or so and then the occupants would be moved on once suitable accommodation was acquired.

Referring to the figures provided on page 31, the Chair asked if these figures included the same set of families as the figures appeared consistent. Michelle Cunningham was unsure what the figures consisted of but the police would inform the service of high risk repeat victims. Information on this would be provided by an Officer within the service. Expressing further concern, the Chair felt that if it was the same set of families, the service would need to look into how the cycle could be broken and went on to ask if prosecution could be made without the support of victims.. Agreeing with the Chair, Michelle Cunningham explained that body worn video evidence could be used to progress domestic abuse cases.

The Vice-Chair suggested the service speak with people who reported crimes of domestic and sexual violence for their opinion of the service to check if there were areas of improvement needed within the service. Michelle Cunningham would check with the Housing and Safeguarding Team on whether this survey was undertaken. She was aware the police gathered this information but was uncertain if this was available by crime type.

The Committee agreed on the recommendations provided but wished to add another recommendation on. Councillor Fletcher also asked the service to let Members know of how Members could help, particularly on recommendation 1.2.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee champion the VAWG agenda and raised the profile of the services that are available to Thurrock residents.**
- 1.2 That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee ensured that services are resourced adequately to help all victims of these crimes. In doing so Thurrock Council are addressing and preventing domestic and sexual violence and reducing demand on services.**
- 1.3 That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee commended Thurrock Community Safety Partnership on the good work undertaken and be provided with an update on the VAWG Strategy.**

26. Update on Air Quality and Health

Mat Kiely, Strategic Lead Transportation Services, presented the report which gave an update on the actions, measures and initiatives undertaken by the service to tackle Air Quality issues to support and promote healthier lifestyles and to tackle health inequalities in Thurrock. The update also included information from the 2018 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) which identified the actions and progress towards monitoring air quality in Thurrock.

Councillor Abbas queried if the cycle paths on the southern end of the Purfleet by-pass were part of improvement plans to help with air quality. Mat Kiely confirmed Purfleet by-pass was a part of the cycle improvement plan which the service was looking into.

Referring to London Road in Grays, Councillor Abbas commented on the increasing worry of air quality in the area and questioned if any steps would be undertaken to reduce the pollution. Confirming the area was being looked at; Mat Kiely said the plan was to reduce the impact of pollution on air quality. The area of London Road was challenging due to it being an industrial area and the aim was to encourage people to walk or cycle. The service would need to look at the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) to check what steps would need to be taken regarding London Road.

Continuing on with London Road, the Vice-Chair asked if there were plans to plant trees in the area and who the service consulted with on where trees should be planted. She suggested using low hedges instead of trees which was better as low hedges would not cause view obstruction for drivers. In reply, Mat Kiely said the service worked with colleagues in the Environment Department's Tree Officer on tree planting. Removed trees were replanted and the plans included the planting of trees. The service worked on a 1:3 ratio where the removal of one tree was replanted with three where practical.

The Vice-Chair suggested the service consult with Tree UK who would be able to provide best practise on tree planting. She went on to say that before the area became increasingly industrialised, there had been hedges and trees which had been wonderful and this was no longer the case. Agreeing that a cycle hub would be great to improve air quality, the Vice-Chair felt the planting of trees needed to be considered too. She went on to question how the A13 Widening would affect the air quality as there was no mention of the scheme within the report. There were houses within the area that was affected and trees had been pulled out for the scheme as well. Mat Kiely answered the A13 Widening Scheme was a report of its own and the service would need to speak with the Major Projects Team on plans.

The Committee discussed further on the planting of trees. Daren Spring, Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure said the Tree Strategy had been brought to the Committee at the last Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in December 2018. Some trees had been removed because the roots were too big or because they were dying. He reassured the Committee that their comments would be brought to the relevant team.

Councillor Rigby asked how often the air quality readings were measured. Mat Kiely answered air quality was continuously monitored by the Environmental Protection team with large monitoring stations and diffusion tubes. Trends and issues were identified from the gathered data which suggested air quality was affected in traffic and weather conditions. Damp weather conditions appeared to be better for the air quality.

Referring back to tree planting, Councillor Rigby thought it was not practical to plant trees alongside London Road due to the lack of space but felt there was a need to improve air quality there because there were houses in the area. Agreeing trees had to be considered, Mat Kiely went on to say there were many other topics to consider such as electric charging in car parks for electric cars. Hybrid buses were already in place and helped with air quality. Electric buses were something that could be considered in the future as well.

Looking at the AQMA table in the report, the Chair noted there were a lot of investigations that had been undertaken. She queried when there would be an outcome of these investigations and when the Committee would hear of the outcome. Mat Kiely would update the Committee with the outcomes. The Chair went on to mention there was little information on the air quality in Calcutta Road, Tilbury and was aware of the health adequacies in Tilbury which had been brought to the Committee's attention in the Annual Health Report earlier in the municipal year. It was pleasing to see a plan for a cycle hub in Tilbury and the Chair hoped people would use it.

The Chair asked if the Council operated a cycle to work scheme for employees. Confirming a cycle to work scheme was in place, Mat Kiely explained how the scheme worked through salary sacrifice and said the scheme needed better promotion.

Referring to the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC), the Chair understood the Council had asked for an independent report on the impact of LTC on air quality. She asked when this report would be received. Mat Kiely was unable to confirm when the report would be completed but would check and relay back to the Committee.

On National Clean Air Day, the Chair questioned if and how this was promoted by the service. Mat Kiely explained the service worked with schools through encouraging parents to turn car engines off whilst waiting for their children during drop off and pick up times. This had been successful last year and the service aimed to do the same this year. This strategy worked better with parents and schools as opposed to bus operators which were more challenging.

The Chair queried the service's plan to tackle health inequalities. Mat Kiely answered the Public Health Team were working with communities on a strategy and communicating with GPs on scorecards and identifying areas that required more help.

On HGV pollution, Councillor Fletcher thanked Officers for explaining and speaking with him on this topic recently. He brought up two issues which was budget and acquiring support from other Boroughs to tackle HGV pollution. Councillor Fletcher questioned what the service was doing to increase budget and what work was being investigated. Mat Kiely explained the service had a £950,000 budget per year and they aimed to work with Public Health of England in order to acquire funding under Section 106. With gained funding, this left the service to spend the £950,000 on other projects and schemes.

Councillor Fletcher pointed out that relying on external funding was a problem and delayed solutions. As air quality was identified from transport issues, Mat Kiely said the service would have to spend from their budget. Councillor Fletcher went on to mention the continuing issue of metallic dust in Tilbury on which residents were still concerned about. He asked if there was a possibility to put pressure on the Environment Agency to check the metallic dust and to test it. Giving reassurance that the Council was continuing to monitor the situation, Mat Kiely also said regular conversations were being held with the involved parties. The leading party was the Environment Agency and the Council was urging them to investigate if the metallic dust was hazardous to people's health. Initial monitoring of the metallic dust had shown it to be not hazardous but the Council continued to push for further investigation.

On Dalroy Close in Ockendon, Councillor Fletcher sought clarification on whether there were plans to concrete the grass verges for parking spaces. Unaware of plans for concreting grass verges, Mat Kiely said the Council had plans to prevent parking on grass verges as part of the 'Kerb It' scheme. The plan was to cover grass verges with a mesh material which would still allow grass to grow through. The service had been made aware of concerns on the scheme and the Portfolio Holder was looking into these.

The Chair asked that the report be brought back to the Committee in the next municipal year and added this as a new recommendation which the Committee agreed on.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted and considered the monitoring regime, measures and initiatives set out in the report.**
- 1.2 That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the report form part of the 2019/20 work programme.**

The Vice-Chair left at 20.15.

27. Bartec Update

Presented by Daren Spring, Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure, the report outlined the progress of the Bartec Collective which was being implemented for Environment and Highways Services as a back office system. This would provide a digital scheduling and reporting tool and the ability to allocate work to frontline staff via a mobile app or in-cab unit which would be visible to all staff who had access.

The Chair praised the success of the Bartec Collective and was pleased to hear it was working well. She queried if the system also covered cemeteries. Daren Spring confirmed the system covered grounds maintenance work which included cemeteries.

RESOLVED:

That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and noted the report.

28. Refuse Collections Update

The report was presented by Daren Spring, Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure, which gave an update on the performance of domestic waste collections, development of the commercial and business collection service and expansion of refuse collection services that were expected over the next year in line with the Borough's growth.

With the introduction of the shunter drivers, Councillor Fletcher was pleased to hear these seemed to be working well. He questioned whether it was good value for money to recruit a Waste Services Engagement and Education Officer for communication services. The Council already had a good Communications Team and Councillor Fletcher queried if waste services communication could be undertaken there. Daren Spring explained the purpose of the new Officer would be to focus on recycling and waste only and

it would need a person experienced and knowledgeable in this field to be successful.

The Chair asked if the additional budget mentioned had been factored into the overall budget for the service. Confirming this, Daren Spring explained the service had been working with the Finance Team to factor the additional budget in.

The Chair mentioned that Council Tax may have a 0% increase and she hoped not to see the increases made elsewhere within the Council. The Chair went on to ask the process on missed waste collections. She mentioned how small or narrow roads were sometimes missed when the big waste vehicles were unable to access the road and questioned if smaller vehicles could be sent out to collect instead. Daren Spring explained a Late crew was sent out and missed collections were the reason why rounds were rebalanced to reduce the pressure on the Friday collections. In cases of traffic, collections were sometimes missed and work would be rearranged to collect. Smaller vehicles were not sent out as they were too small to hold much waste.

The Chair was aware of a pilot project on waste collection in blocks of flats and she asked Officers for an update. Daren Spring answered the project was still quite new and would need more time to analyse the success.

RESOLVED:

That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and noted the report.

Councillor Fletcher left at 8.41pm.

29. Recycling Service Update

Daren Spring, Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure, gave an outline of the report which stated that the service was in the process of reviewing the new government document titled, "Waste, our resources: A Strategy for England", to establish the possible implications for Thurrock. The report also contained performance on weekly residual and recycling collections for 2018/19 and the service's focus for 2019/20.

With the Bartec Collective system in place, Councillor Abbas sought clarification on whether the 'Oops' bin tags would continue to be used. Daren Spring explained the tags worked in conjunction with the system. Bartec identified contamination within the bins and staff would tag the bins.

Councillor Rigby noted the figures of reduced rate in recycling and questioned the causes. Daren Spring explained there were many factors that contributed to the reduction on recycling. Some of these could be due to thinner glasses and plastics. Councillor Rigby went on to ask if bin tagging had helped with contaminated bins. In answer, Daren Spring said it was still too early to see

results but the tagging had helped some residents understand why their bins were missed.

As Thurrock's recycling rates were low, the Chair questioned the rates of neighbouring local authorities. Answering that there was a general trend in declining recycling rates, Daren Spring said it was dependent on which local authority's process and policy was.

With some products, the Chair asked why these were not recyclable in Thurrock's bins despite the packaging stating it was recyclable. Daren Spring replied that this was dependent on which company the Council used for waste. The waste company Thurrock used would accept glass but another may not.

The Chair mentioned previously requesting recycling bins in Thurrock's cemeteries and open spaces, she asked for an update on the request. With cemeteries, Daren Spring said the service had been trying to establish the best type of bin and had been in conversations with three waste bin providers. Having an open bin would encourage people to throw anything in and the current bins in the cemeteries were not adequate. On open spaces, the service was rolling out a public bin programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the report for information and comment.

30. Work Programme

As this meeting was the last Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the municipal year, the Chair asked the Committee if they wished to add anything to the work programme for the next municipal year.

The Committee requested for the following reports to be added:

- An update on air quality with the AQMA table to be updated
- An update on the tree strategy

Before closing the meeting, the Chair informed the Committee that the Prevent Violent Extremism Members Working group would become a formalised committee in the next municipal year. She encouraged Members to join and attend.

The Committee thanked the Officers for their support and hard work on reports to the Committee.

The meeting finished at 9.04 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

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

4 July 2019		ITEM: 5
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Waste Strategy for Thurrock		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: Key
Report of: Andy Kelly, Interim Strategic Lead for Waste		
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring, Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The direction of travel implied in Central Government's Waste Strategy for England¹ (December 2018), the need to increase recycling rates and any potential growth in Thurrock will have considerable impact on the councils' policies, waste collections and treatment and disposal decisions, over the medium and long term.

The Central Government Waste Strategy aims to increase recycling figures to meet and exceed the national target of 50% by 2020 and reduce the impact on the environment, by introducing a number of measures. Such measures include consideration of free garden waste collections; the potential for food waste collected separately and key recyclable materials including paper and glass collected separately at kerbside.

The current Waste collection regime reflects the council's waste strategy, which comes to term next year. Disposal contracts that were re-tendered in late 2017 expire at the end of 2020, with an option to extend for a further two years. The councils' recycling performance has stagnated at around 37%, which falls below the national target of 50% by 2020. Potential impact of changes to recycling collections and any growth within the borough could require an increase in the number of vehicles and staff, in turn providing capacity issues within the depot, which is already at capacity.

¹

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf

An opportunity exists to align these elements and create a waste strategy that can address these issues and drive the recycling figures to within, or potentially exceed national targets.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to a cross-party working group being formed. The purpose of the group to review current Waste arrangements from collection through to disposal and potential commercial operating solutions for Thurrock. The group tasked with producing a vision statement by December 2019, with a new waste strategy/policy to be drafted in the last quarter of the financial year and for agreement and adoption in June 2020.**
- 1.2 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that the working group be a sub-group of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a minimum of two members from each political party.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1** Central Government have recently launched a number of consultation papers designed to gauge opinion around a number of issues considered for inclusion within the Strategy for England policy.
- New provisions for extended producer responsibility (EPR) on packaging waste
 - New provisions on a deposit return scheme (DRS) for some (drinks) packaging
 - Introduction of a tax on the recycled content levels in plastic packaging
 - The requirement to provide consistent collection schemes, to include a core set of recyclable materials
 - Proposals on improving quality by source-separating dry recycling materials (especially glass and paper)
 - The introduction of mandatory weekly food waste collections and free fortnightly garden waste collections.
- 2.2** The outcome of these consultations have the potential for wide-ranging impact on the council's policies, waste collection activities and treatment & disposal decisions moving forward. Thurrock, like many Councils is anticipated to increase property numbers in the coming years. This growth will require additional resources to provide waste collections if the existing collection regime is maintained.
- 2.3** The Government commitment under the Waste Strategy for England for councils to provide separate food-waste collections from 2023 will add further resource requirements, as could the potential for the introduction of more source-separation of recyclable materials.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Current Collection Regime:

- 3.1.1 Thurrock council currently provide a weekly collection of refuse, dry-recyclables and combined food/garden waste to around 63,000 properties across the borough, delivered by in-house collection teams since 2010. A fleet of 29 collection vehicles and crews are required to provide these services on a weekly basis. Crews are presently employed on a standard 'five-day / 37 hours per week' contract basis.
- 3.1.2 Residual waste or 'refuse' is collected weekly in 180/240 litre bins for residential properties, large bulk containers for flats and communal locations and is delivered locally to a waste transfer station near Oliver Close Depot, for onward transportation and treatment. In addition to this two 'Combined' Rounds that collect from both communal and commercial trade customers around the borough. A 'no side-waste' policy is in place and is supplemented by local enforcement where deemed necessary. In addition, a weekly collection and composting of kitchen organic waste and garden waste from all suitable properties using wheeled bins.
- 3.1.3 The recycling service collects a wide range of dry recyclable materials from kerbside, comingled in 240 litre wheeled bins, and transported to the 'Bywaters Materials Treatment Facility' in Bow, London. These journeys, presently being carried out during the evening period to minimise traffic delay, are transported some 36 miles round trip to and from Bow, and restrict collection rounds to one load of material per day, unless supplemented with a replacement vehicle with which to continue working.
- 3.1.4 The recycling rate reported over the last five years has shown a steady decline from 40.93% in 2013/14 to 36.97% in 2017/18. Defra publish annual performance tables² measuring recycling performance and for the period 2017/18 Thurrock were ranked 250th with 36% recycling rate, out of 345 local authorities in England. By comparison, the highest performing authorities are reaching over 60% recycling rates, with the highest at 64.5%.
- 3.1.5 Thurrock has set a target of 41% of all household waste to be recycled, re-used and composted in 2018/19. The table below shows the monthly recycling performance to December 2018, including previous year's performance.

	2016/17 Outturn	2017/18 Outturn	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18
% of household waste, reused, recycled & composted	37.62 %	36.97 %	43.25 %	46.39 %	40.24 %	45.52 %	39.40 %	39.86 %	38.46 %	33.63 %	39.88%

² <https://www.letsrecycle.com/councils/league-tables/2017-18-overall-performance/>

3.1.6 Seasonal factors including weather, the holiday periods and Christmas influence recycling rates throughout the year.

3.2 Disposal:

3.2.1 Thurrock council have existing disposal contracts through a number of suppliers. These contracts have been in place a number of years and were re-tendered for commencement in December 2017. The contracts now run until the end of 2020, with residual waste disposal to March 2024. Existing disposal options are dependent on third party support and involve considerable onward transportation to various treatment options.

3.2.2 There are a number of factors that the Council will need to address, prior to procurement of new waste disposal contracts. These are as follows:

- Current performance of service against the Council's waste strategy objectives;
- Current performance against national waste recycling target of 50% by 2020 and likely subsequent national targets;
- Compliance of waste collection service with the Revised Waste Regulations 2011;
- Aspirations of the public and elected Members for waste services up to 2027;
- The impact of proposed new housing developments; and associated infrastructure;
- Any future financial pressures;
- Consideration of growth in relation to vehicles and existing depot provision;
- Aspirations for commercial opportunities;
- Consideration of waste disposal provision both within the borough and in neighbouring authorities, where similar growth may be in plan, rendering existing options under further pressures.

3.2.3 With a combined waste collection and disposal cost of £12.2m p.a. and as a service received by all residents, waste disposal is a significant service for the borough and can incur a significant cost. Thurrock has an excellent opportunity to design and procure new waste disposal contracts that will be fit for purpose in the borough for the longer term.

3.3 Oliver Close Depot

3.3.1 The current depot site at Oliver Close is at capacity and any further increases in vehicles and staff will require consideration. Should facilitation of a provision of separate food-waste collections and source-separated dry-recyclables, following government consultations, come to fruition this will further impact the site and its ability to maintain safe ways of working. There is no option for expansion at the current site and any increase in vehicle and staff would require an additional or alternate site.

3.4 Alternate Delivery Models:

- 3.4.1 This increase in resource-needs will require consideration through exploring alternate delivery models for waste collections to reduce the impact on future budgets. Such models may include for example, changes to collection days, different shift-times or changing material collections through use of multi-compartment vehicles. This increase in resource-needs will have an effect on disposal contracts through the increase in material tonnages for all waste streams.
- 3.4.2 While recycling tonnages would increase as the number of properties increase, this would be pro-rata with the increase in residual tonnages and would not produce an increase in percentage of waste recycled. This will require a radical rethink in terms of service delivery.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The current Waste Strategy document is nearing its end. The Government has set out its vision for national strategy for waste. Thurrock's waste disposal contracts are coming to a close in the next 18 months. There is an opportunity to bring together all of the elements to create a new vision for Thurrock's Waste Strategy and by forming a cross-party working group to drive this forward will secure a consolidated view of how this will happen.

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

- 5.1 The sub-working group of Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee will propose possible consultation options

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

- 6.1 N/A

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

Any change to waste collections will have an impact on costs of waste collection and disposal. A strategy that looks to provide an efficient and cost effective service is essential. The review will consider options and financial implications.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Tim Hallam**
Deputy Head of Law and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Waste collection and disposal are regulated services and relevant legislation must be adhered to when considering a future strategy document. The Council also needs to have regard to relevant Government policy including the Resources and Waste Strategy for England (December 2018) and the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

The waste service is one that impacts every property in the borough, it is essential that a consistent service is provided giving all residents an equitable service provision. Any communication in respect to the service needs to reflect the borough's diversity and ensure visual representation to provide clear guidance on service provision.

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

Health and safety is essential for these services and ensuring that our residents aren't adversely impacted by any potential changes in relation to collection. Should split shifting be considered, lighting will be a key consideration to safe working.

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

- Municipal Waste Strategy 2008 – 2020
- Waste Disposal Contracts (10/02/16 – Decision 01104353)

9. Appendices to the report

None

Report Author:

Andy Kelly

Interim Strategic Lead for Waste, Environment and Highways

4 July 2019		ITEM: 6
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Tree Planting Strategy – Update Report		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: Not Applicable
Report of: Vincent Taylor, Strategic Lead for Clean and Green		
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring, Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee were presented with proposals for a Tree Planting Strategy in December 2018, recommendations from that Committee were presented to Cabinet on 12 February 2019, when the Strategy was approved.

This report provides an update of progress, as requested by the Chair of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 This report provides the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the Tree planting Strategy, which was agreed by Cabinet on 12 February 2019.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Tree planting strategy report looked to ensure that in 2019-20 only, trees, which have been removed in the past 3 years, are replaced, this equates to 66 new trees at a cost of £9,900, plus maintenance costs to ensure survival. From 2020-21 there is a requirement for one tree to be planted for every tree removed and for future developers to include tree planting, appropriate for the location, in future schemes (3.4.1).

2.2 The following was also agreed:

- 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.

3. Tree Species, Planting and Maintenance

3.1.1 For the tree replacement program 2019-20, we have now planted 32 trees. The remaining allocation for this year will be planted in the autumn, new trees require considerable maintenance and to ensure greater survival rates, it was imperative that we split the planting into two seasons. This season, being dryer, will require watering whereas in the autumn there is a higher opportunity for rain, reducing the maintenance burden. We will then have planted the 66 trees planned for this year.

3.1.2 The trees planted are listed in Appendix 1 and include:

- Ostrya in our Grays Avenues - a fantastic ornamental tough tree.
- Limes in Connaught Avenue, Lenthall Avenue and Lenmore Avenue to match the avenues existing trees. The new trees are a variety that is non sticky. We also have another Norway maple planted this season.
- Taxodium on the edge of Blackshots Recreation Ground - these will make stunning trees with amazing colour.
- Robinia in Ward Avenue to match existing trees, Robinia's thrive in most soils and are pollution and drought tolerant
- Tree Privet has been planted on the very small verge and flowering crab apples and cherries for grassed areas.
- Two Paulownia at Blackshots Lane in sheltered corners, these have Foxglove violet-blue flowers and stunning green large leaves.
- Some pictures of the trees that have been planted are in Appendix 2

3.1.3 The Tree Officer is currently collating the locations and species for the trees to be planted in the autumn. Once this list is finalized, we will be happy to share this list with committee members if required.

3.1.4 In order to address the capacity issues within the team, an Arborist Apprentice has been recruited into a vacant post, providing an opportunity for them to be trained alongside the existing team.

3.1.5 The arboriculture team have procured a new water bowser, pulled behind the Arboriculture vehicle, this large tank of water has its own pump and hose to deliver the water directly to our new trees, providing capacity to improve efficiency, with less journeys required to refill.

3.1.6 All trees on Council land within the borough are currently being surveyed, the data collected being used to populate a new electronic tree management system called Arbortrack. This system has the ability to schedule all tree

maintenance work systematically. It will hold detailed maintenance work carried out, providing a full history of our trees and up to date information for residents enquiring about planned maintenance. The system can be updated within the office or remotely by our inspectors. We aim to inspect all Thurrock public trees in our housing complexes, on our streets, in our town parks and cemeteries.

3.2 Future Planting and Maintenance Agreed Options

- 3.2.1 The Council rarely remove trees, but should there be a safety issue or disease requiring removal, the Arboricultural Team will replace the tree by planting the new tree, close to the original location as possible,. This is in line with the motion tabled at Full Council to ensure we maintain tree stock levels in the future.
- 3.2.2 As new developments are considered, developers will be encouraged to include in their design the planting of trees and shrubs and for the ongoing maintenance to be the responsibility of the management company. This will provide an increase in tree planting across the borough in future years without impacting on resources and maintenance costs.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the tree planting strategy, as requested.

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

- 5.1 N/A

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

- 6.1 This relates to the corporate priority – Clean Environments that everyone has reason to take pride in.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

The 2019/20 revenue budget is sufficient to fund this work.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
**Assistant Director of Law & Governance
& Monitoring Officer**

Consideration will be given to location of the street trees, when they are being planted on the Highway.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Price**
**Team Manager – Community Development and
Equalities**

There are no Diversity Implications arising from this report.

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

We have considered the potential for any Crime or Anti-Social Behaviour

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

N/A

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 – List of trees planted
Appendix 2 – Photos of a selection of the planted trees

Report Author:

Vincent Taylor
Strategic Lead – Clean and Green Services
Environment and Highways

List of trees planted in April / Spring 2019

Blackshots Civic Hall Grays	2 x Paulownia tomentosa
1a (Opposite) Bradleigh Avenue Grays	1 x Ostrya carpinifolia
21 (Opposite) Bradleigh Avenue Grays	1 x Ostrya carpinifolia
27 (Opposite) Bradleigh Avenue Grays	1 x Ostrya carpinifolia
Broadview Avenue/Blackshots Grays	2 x Taxodium distictum
42 Chestnut Avenue Grays	1 x Ostrya carpinifolia
48 Chestnut Avenue Grays	1 x Ostrya carpinifolia
6 Connaught Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
11 Connaught Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
23 Connaught Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
29 Connaught Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
81 Connaught Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
207 (Opposite) Hathaway Road Grays	1 x Acer platanoides Emerald Queen
2 Laird Avenue Grays	1 x Ligustrum japonicum
66 Laird Avenue Grays	1 x Prunus Royal Burgundy
5 Lander Road Grays	1 x Ginkgo biloba
20 Lenmore Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
37 Lenmore Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
46 Lenmore Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
73 Lenmore Avenue Grays	1 x Malus Evereste
10 Lenthall Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
65 Lenthall Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
111 Lenthall Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
116 Lenthall Avenue Grays	1 x Tilia x euchlora
Outside on verge St Thomas School, Ward Avenue Grays	1 x Robinia Umbraculifera
24 Ward Avenue Grays	1 x Robinia Umbraculifera
36 Ward Avenue Grays	1 x Robinia Umbraculifera
39 Ward Avenue Grays	1 x Robinia Umbraculifera
1 Wentworth Place Grays	1 x Prunus Tai Haku

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Pictures of a selection of Trees that have been planted



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4 July 2019		ITEM: 7
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock Active Parks Programme Update		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: N/A
Report of: Jahur Ali, Recreation and Leisure Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring, Assistant Director, Street Scene and Highways.		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Active Parks is a new programme designed to encourage residents to “get out, get active and enjoy Thurrock’s parks and open spaces”. To help achieve this, three Park Engagement Officers have been employed on a three year contract to develop a range of localised park activities that compliment and support existing parks groups and to also inform future parks investment. The plan is for the programme to be self-sustaining in the longer term, through developing and supporting community volunteers.

To date, a range of activities at different parks have been organised and programmes continue to develop in response to community need. The programme is under constant review to respond to these needs and evolves on a weekly basis.

This report highlights some of the activities held to date.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the progress of the Active Parks Programme.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Three Parks Engagement Officers have been recruited to create an Active Parks Team within the Environment and Highways Directorate to support the overall parks improvement programme.

- 2.2 As reported on 13 July 2017 to the Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a cross service working group reviewed the approach to investing the £1,350,000 allocated from the capital programme for park Improvements (2017/18 to 2019/20). The group developed a methodology for prioritising investment in the parks and open spaces on the basis of the following criteria:
- Quality and value findings from the Active Place Parks and Open Space needs assessment
 - Parks and Open Space public consultation
 - Residents survey
 - Health data
 - Known operational requirements and issues
 - Areas of Vandalism and Anti-Social behaviour
 - Health and Safety Issues
 - Physical Activity Levels (Adults)
 - Deprivation
- 2.3 In addition, a study was conducted to identify the best ways to utilise park equipment, which identified the need for engagement staff.
- 2.4 The Park Engagement Team would engage with the community and “Friends of Parks” groups to inform localised planning of parks, encourage ownership and establish custodians for local parks and open spaces. This assists with reducing anti-social behaviour, re-establish parks as a go to destination and increases activity leading to improved health and wellbeing.
- 2.5 The council supported an external funding bid to NESTA, submitted by Friends of Hardie Park, to support and widen community engagement of volunteers in park. This was successful with the group receiving £200k to develop and support five more “Friends Of” groups across Thurrock replicating the successes of the Hardie Park model.
- 2.6 The Park Engagement Team would support identifying projects related to health and wellbeing and sports development for the Infrastructure Requirement List (IRL), which is used to allocate developer contributions.
- 2.7 The purpose of the team is to directly contribute to the Corporate Priorities of People and Place and specifically the work of Thurrock’s Health and Wellbeing Plan Goals as shown below:
- Goal 2 Healthier Environments: Objective 2A – Create spaces that make it easier to exercise and be active
 - Goal 3 Better emotional health and wellbeing: Objective 3C - Fewer people will feel socially isolated or lonely.

- Goal 5 Healthier for Longer: Objective 5A – Reduce obesity / increase the number of people in Thurrock who are a healthy weight.
- 2.8 The Active Parks Team have a strap line of “*Get out, get active and enjoy our Parks*” with a role to:
- Engage with park users, the local community and partners to activate parks and green spaces.
 - Provide support for established groups and assist with the development and delivery of current and new projects.
 - Increase investment in parks beyond what the council can do by alerting interested groups to external funding opportunities and assisting with applications.
 - Run free or minimum cost outdoor activity sessions with both adults and young people.
 - To recruit local community volunteers, organise supervised work days and to organise and promote a wide range of events, walks and talks, workshops and a variety of volunteering opportunities.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 There are many health and wellbeing benefits associated with physical activity and these are widely documented. In addition, participation in group based activities can engage those who are isolated and help support community cohesion.
- 3.2 The Active Lives survey showed that almost half of adults in Thurrock (47.2%) are not meeting the recommended physical activity guidelines as advised by the chief medical officer in England. There are around 26,000 inactive people in Thurrock, the highest number in Essex.
- 3.3 To help get Thurrock residents active, Park Engagement Officers were recruited in March 2019. They deliver front line services in the parks and open spaces, encourage the public to utilise the free community assets such as using the outdoor gyms. They will also actively recruit volunteers to support the development of the parks and inspire the take up of other sports and recreation services.
- 3.4 There are many existing “Friends of Parks”, and community groups already running a range of fantastic activities and projects within Thurrock parks and the role of the Parks Engagement Officers is to complement these existing activities and identify gaps in activity opportunities elsewhere in the Borough.
- 3.5 To commence the programme the Active Parks Team ran activities in the Easter half term engaging with approximately 300 people. Four main activity

days were run from 11am to 4pm during the two-week break. These focused on getting the whole family involved in a range of fun sports and Easter events. These free days were held at the below venues:

- West Thurrock Memorial Ground, Grays, on Tuesday 9 April
- Grays Town Park, Grays, on Thursday 11 April
- Dilkes Park, South Ockendon, on Tuesday 16 April
- Anchor Fields Park, Tilbury, on Thursday 18 April

Other smaller April events included:

- A mini sports day at Quince Tree Park, South Ockendon, on Wednesday April 10
- Cage cricket at Grays Town Park, Grays, on Thursday April 11
- Outdoor gym session and cage cricket at West Thurrock Memorial Ground, Grays, on Monday April 15.

3.6 During the May half term over 300 people participated. Events were held at:

- Corringham Recreation Ground on Tuesday 28 May from 10.30am-12.30pm (35 Participants)
- Horndon-on-the-Hill Recreation Ground on Tuesday 28 May from 2pm-4pm (40 Participants)
- Dilkes Park, South Ockendon, on Wednesday 29 May from 10.30am-12.30pm (70 Participants)
- Delafield Road Park, Grays, on Wednesday 29 May from 2pm-4pm (30 Participants)
- Parker Road open space, West Thurrock, on Thursday 30 May from 10.30am-12.30pm (20 Participants)
- West Thurrock Memorial Ground on Thursday 30 May from 2pm-4pm (65 Participants)
- Orsett Heath on Friday 31 May from 10.30am-12.30pm (20 Participants)
- Grays Town Park on Friday 31 May from 2pm-4pm (30 Participants)

3.7 In addition to the school holiday activities, the Team ran a range of daytime activities designed for all sections of the community to encourage them to *“get out, get active and enjoy our parks”*. The intention is to establish what the local community would like to do on a regularly basis and then kick start that activity. Once established, to then look to support local participants to take over the programme and self-manage with the support of the team. This way the team can then move on to another park and start another programme with the aim of eventually being a borough wide programme.

3.8 The team recognise that things will work differently in different parks and will need to have flexible programmes which can be adapted to suit local circumstances. By way of example, for the period of June to July the Team will be focusing on the parks below but this may change depending on demand.

Active Parks Outline Programme - June/July 2019

Day	Time	Venue	Activity
Mon	9.00-10:30	Grays Town Park	Ladies session*
	9.30-10.30	Grays Town Park	Outdoor Gym Club*
	11.00-14.00	Elm Road Open Space	Outdoor Gym Club*
	13.00-14.30	Grays Beach	50+ Activities*
	15.30-17.00	Grays Town park	Multi- Activity depending on participant choices * *linked to Grays Big Local
Tues	9.00-10:30	Parker Road Open Space	Post school drop off activities for parents
	12.00-14.00	West Thurrock Memorial Ground	Multi activities depending on participant choices. Also providing opportunities for local sheltered housing and local Businesses lunchtime activities.
	12.00-14.00	West Thurrock Memorial Ground	Outdoor Gym Club
	15.30-17.00	West Thurrock Memorial Ground	Multi- Activity depending on participant choices
Wed	9.00-10.30	Dilkes Park	Post school drop off activities for parents*
	9.30-10.30	Dilkes Park	Outdoor Gym Club*
	12.00-14.00	Lakeside	Multi activities depending on participant choices.
	18.00-20.00	Orsett Recreation Ground	Multi activities depending on participant choices.
			*Linked to Friends of Dilkes Park
Thurs	9.00-10.30	Corringham Recreation Ground	Post school drop off activities for parents
	12.00-14.00	Corringham Town Park	Activities for those retired
	15.30-16.45	Horndon on the Hill	Multi activities depending on participant

		Recreation Ground	choices* *Linked to Horndon on the Hill Community Forum
Sat	First Saturday of the month	Orsett Heath	Superhero Fitness ages 3-7* *Linked to Thurrock Play Network

3.9 The team have been consulting with community groups/ local forums and children to design and improve play areas in parks and open spaces. Dilkes Park fencing has been installed, play equipment for the Purfleet and Horndon Recreation ground has been finalised and installation will be completed before the summer.

3.10 The service is new and will evolve to meet the communities' needs through consultation. For example, at events the team take time to chat to local people to see what type of activities they would like organised and if they would like to be involved in volunteering to help. In addition, the press releases associated with the programme asks residents to email sports@thurrock.gov.uk with their ideas about what park activities should be organised.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 To Inform Members of the Greener Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee of progress to date.

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

5.1 N/A

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

6.1 Please see section 2.7.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

This project is funded from £300k of s106 funding (£100k over 3 years) plus any additional donations that are received. The project will break even as any money not spent on staff costs will be spent on project work and activities within the parks. In addition, the Parks Engagement Officers are also able to signpost community groups to grant funding opportunities and assist with bid

writing with the aim of bringing in extra money to parks to benefit the whole community.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Assistant Director of Law & Governance
& Monitoring Officer

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Officer

This programme positively affects members of the Community in that activities are free and accessible to all members of the community. Similar such activities help to bring communities together and assist with cohesion.

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

This programme supports Section 17 activity to drive down ASB and support the community. The staff will work closely with enforcement colleagues to report and tackle negative issues.

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

Cleaner Greener Update to Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee report 13 July 2017.

9. Appendices to the report

None

Report Author:

Grant Greatrex
Sports & Leisure Policy Development Manager
Environment and Highways

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4 July 2019		ITEM: 8
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Environmental Enforcement Update		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: N/A
Report of: Phil Carver, Strategic Lead for Enforcement and Community Protection		
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring, Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance, service achievements and future priorities for the Environmental Enforcement Team.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 **Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the performance and service achievements and support the future priorities for Environmental Enforcement, which is linked to the Council's priorities.**
- 1.2 **Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support the adoption of S34 – Duty of Care for domestic waste as stated in point 3.4 of this report, and recommend to Cabinet for approval.**
- 1.3 **Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support the adoption of S42 – Idling engines in parked vehicles as stated in point 3.5 of this report, and recommend to Cabinet for approval.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Environmental Enforcement Team consists of one Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer and four Environmental Enforcement Officers. The purpose of the Environmental Enforcement Team is to investigate breaches of legislation in regards to Environmental Crime and some aspects of Anti-Social Behaviour.

2.2 The service investigates and enforces within the scheme of delegation, which includes the following:

- Fly-tipping and Accumulated Waste on Public Land
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Littering
- Dog Fouling
- Commercial Waste Offences
- Domestic Waste Offences
- Fly-Posting and Graffiti
- Public Space Protection Orders
- Community Protection Warnings/Notices
- Advertising boards
- Unauthorised Encampments
- Vehicles for sale on the highway
- Vehicle repairs
- Nuisance parking

The above list is not exhaustive.

2.3 When the Officers have concluded their investigations into environmental crime, and there is sufficient evidence to allow Thurrock Council to take enforcement action, there are several options when considering how to deal with an offender. These include; warnings, fixed penalty notices, simple cautions and prosecutions.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Service Outcomes for Financial Year 2018/9

3.1.1 During the financial year 2018/9 the Environmental Enforcement Service increased to four Environmental Enforcement Officers and one Environmental Enforcement Supervisor who covered the whole of Thurrock, dealing with Environmental Crime and some aspects of Anti-Social Behaviour. During 2018/19 the Environmental Enforcement Services achieved the following:

- 3429 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) were issued by Kingdom Services, 663 were issued by Thurrock Council Environmental Enforcement Officers. Combined FPN's achieved a payment rate of 62%, against a target of 70%. The fee increased in April 2018, in line with legislation, which had an impact on payment rates earlier in the financial year. We continue to proactively use the media to promote court outcomes, costs associated and how a fine can significantly increase as a consequence of Court action. The Council are currently liaising with our internal legal services, to explore the use of advertising photo stills in the media, of persons who have committed an offence and walk off without providing their details. The drive behind this is to encourage members of the public and residents to come forward with details of offenders.
- 132 Community Protection Warnings (CPW) and 13 Community Protection Notices (CPN) were issued in respect of various nuisances that were

causing a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those living in the locality.

The majority of CPW's issued were due to HGV Parking on the Manorway. This is parking action that causes issues for local residents and an increase of litter in the vicinity. The drivers were spoken with individually and given details of how to comply with the CPW and where legal, safe parking is available locally.

A CPW and subsequent CPN was issued to a garage based in Tilbury. This was due to persistently parking un-roadworthy vehicles on the street whilst repairs were taking place. Further FPN's were issued due to non-compliance with the CPN.

- 77 vehicles were assessed and deemed to meet the criteria for abandonment, these vehicles were issued with FPN's for Abandonment, the fee being £200, equating to a total of £15,400. 14 of the vehicles were removed by the Council's Contractor, the majority of vehicles were claimed by the owner or were no longer on site when our contractor arrived to remove them.
- 3011 service requests were issued, investigated and responded to by the team. Service requests came directly to the team from members of the public through the Portal and cover all aspects of Enviro-Crime, as outlined in 2.2.
- 172 FPN's for littering offences were prosecuted in the Magistrates Court. 96 cases proven; 24 cases withdrawn, 4 adjourned and 48 yet to be heard, Court date set. Upon conviction, the average fines imposed by the Courts are £220 with the Council's Legal Services costs of £200 and victim surcharge £30. These fines are awarded to the Courts and the costs are awarded to the Council.
- Joint tasking operations were set up with the Police and Environmental Enforcement Service to enforce the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Zone that came into force in July 2017. These are carried out once a week in Grays Town Centre. A total of 139 FPN's were issued for breaking the conditions of the PSPO: -

1. Continuing to drink alcohol or consume intoxicating substances when required to stop doing so by an authorised officer.

2. Being verbally abusive to any person or behaving in a way which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to another person

- 166 FPN's were issued because of fly tipping incidents, these have a value of £400 each, a total of £66,400.
- Environmental Enforcement Officers have forged close working relationships with a number of teams within Thurrock Council. Information

is regularly passed to the Environmental Enforcement Officers of businesses that are suspected of not meeting their legal obligations concerning their commercial waste. Contact and inspections were carried out in relation to the disposal of commercial waste, 17 businesses were found to be non-compliant with their waste duty of care, resulting in FPN's being issued with a value of £300 each, totalling £5100.

- There were 61 unauthorised encampments reported in 2018 and 72 were reported in 2017, the majority of which were dealt with by the council using the court process.

3.2 Service Achievements for Year 2018/9

3.2.1 In July 2018, three Environmental Enforcement Officers were recruited increasing the number of Environmental Enforcement Officers in the Service to four, plus one Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer.

3.2.2 This increase allowed for a new way of working to be introduced namely the 'Quadrant Model'. The borough of Thurrock is now split into four areas with one Environmental Enforcement Officer assigned to one quarter of the Borough. This model allows each Environmental Enforcement Officer to concentrate on a specific area and target any activity concerning Environmental Enforcement including Anti-Social Behaviour based on specific Quadrant issues in liaison with the police.

3.2.3 From 1st April 2018 the Government increased FPN values and Thurrock Council implemented them accordingly. These increases are detailed below:

- Littering increased from £80 to £150.
- Flyposting (included advertising boards) and graffiti increased from £80 to £150.
- Unauthorised distribution of free printed matter increased from £80 to £150.
- There were 978 fly tipping incidents that were investigated by Thurrock Council Environmental Enforcement Officers of which 166 were issued Fixed Penalty Notices at £400 each. There are a range of reasons for the low percentage, including lack of sufficient evidence and the size of the waste. In order to follow a fair process, and to ensure that the Environmental Enforcement Officers follow a proportionate process, if the waste illegally deposited is less than two full bin bags then the Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued as Littering at £150 instead.
- There were 61 unauthorised encampments reported in the year. We continue to promote to our residents that they should directly report to the Police. Public Highway and Council owned land that has been subject to unauthorised encampments are all inspected for preventative measures such as target hardening. There are various ways in which target hardening can be used such as natural planting of trees surrounded by

bunding; wooden/metal fencing; pressure treated wooden bollards; metal or wooden knee rails and various gates with padlocks with special covers which cover the padlock. When assessing the best options for target hardening the Council take into consideration preservation of the locality.

- The restructure within Environment and Highways Directorate brings together the Environmental Enforcement Officers, Civil Enforcement Officers, Kingdom Enforcement, Community Safety Partnership and CCTV. This structure provides greater collaboration and efficient ways of working, providing greater capacity and ability to tackle Enviro-Crime within Thurrock; it also assists with achieving our goal of improving safety within the community.
- Environmental Enforcement Officers are now equipped with Digital Radios to ensure their safety whilst lone working and to enable them to communicate with other officers including; CCTV, Parking, Community Safety and Kingdom Enforcement. The sophisticated Digital Radio system allows the Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer to efficiently deploy officers and CCTV when a priority investigation is reported, which greatly improves efficiency of the service and officers, especially those assigned to the Quadrant Model.
- The Environmental Enforcement Officers are also now equipped with Body Worn Cameras. This allows all interactions with the public to be recorded. The videos are used to deal with any complaints that arise and ensures that officers can capture evidence at the scene. The system is fully compliant with GDPR and the videos that are marked as evidential are stored by the camera supplier on the remote cloud.
- The Environmental Enforcement Officers have all attended CSAS (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme) training in 2019 and have successfully passed their CSAS assessment tests. This means that the Enviro-crime officers are able to use certain devolved powers from Essex Police, for example seizing and confiscating alcohol, demand of names and addresses in respect of anti-social behaviour, seizure of tobacco from under legal age and those cycling on footpaths.
- New uniform was purchased in 2018 for the Environmental Enforcement Officers and comprises of high visibility jackets, black trousers, safety boots and polo t-shirt. The t-shirt details Thurrock Council logo and Officer's designation on the left hand pocket. This provides a visual presence when officers are working on the streets of Thurrock. When all Officers have received the CSAS Accreditation a new uniform will be purchased with the additional badges that this involves.
- The Police and Environmental Enforcement services have initiated a new joint partnership operation where once every three weeks they will be targeting known hotspot areas for Environmental, and some aspects of ASB, crime in Thurrock.

- The Environmental Enforcement Officers have had a number of high profile operations this year that have been reported in the local press.

The first was a Joint Operation with Essex Police and the Environment Agency to stop vehicles and ensure that they were complying with the laws surrounding Commercial Waste and the Waste Carriers License Scheme. On this operation, the team issued the following: -

1 Fixed Penalty Notice for Failing to Produce a Waste Carriers License.

1 Section 34 Notice to provide Waste Transfer Notes

1 Fixed Penalty Notice for Fly tipping

7 Fixed Penalty Notice for Littering

1 Community Protection Warning to require the removal of waste from land.

The second was when two off-duty Environmental Enforcement Officers saw two men offloading a number of used tyres into a layby on the old A13. The Officers called Essex Police and jointly the men were stopped, interviewed and made to remove the tyres. This is an ongoing case and the Environmental Enforcement Team intend to prosecute the alleged offenders.

- 3.2.4 Thurrock Council working in partnership with Essex Police introduced a target hardening strategy aimed at reducing ASB and protecting open spaces from unauthorised encampments. Twenty-one sites were identified for target hardening and three sites are awaiting completion due to waiting for the fabrication of fencing and gates

3.3 Future

- 3.3.1 Unauthorised encampments have been dealt with through applications at a Magistrate's Court for Eviction Orders. However, this process takes approximately two weeks and further time to evict the individuals, which can cause distress for the local residents. Therefore, Thurrock Council with the support of the Police and Essex Countywide Traveller Unit began the process of applying for a High Court injunction Borough Wide. Should the Injunction be granted and in place, this will mean that any individual who has an encampment within the area of the injunction order maybe removed much faster than the current process via a Magistrate Court.

The injunction has been delayed because of the LB Bromley V person's unknown case, which was appealed. As a result of this, the High Court ruled that obtaining a borough wide injunction against persons unknown was against the travellers Human Rights and was discrimination. It is not known at this time if the LB Bromley will appeal this decision. Within the application of Thurrock Council's injunction, measures have been put in place to ensure that we negate the points raised in the Bromley case.

A barrister has been appointed and is fine tuning the case and will be requesting a hearing date at earliest opportunity.

- 3.3.2 A letter will be submitted to the Secretary of State requesting approval for the same powers that London Boroughs have for certain offences under the Highways Act. These offences include for example, depositing skips on the highway without permission, depositing materials etc. on a made-up carriageway, depositing anything on the highway to the interruption of the user. The benefits to the Council and residents being the ability to enforce the Highways Act, ensuring a cleaner, greener and safer environment for those who visit, live and work in Thurrock.

3.4 Duty of Care for Domestic Waste

- 3.4.1 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has published guidance which has been addressed to local authorities, who are now able to issue fixed penalty notices (FPN's) for breaching the duty of care for household waste in England under the provisions of the Environmental protection Act 1990.
- 3.4.2 Householders must ensure that household waste is properly disposed of at all times, which includes waste from domestic properties, caravans and residential homes. Householders must fulfil the duty of care and ensure that:
- The person who takes control of their waste is licensed to do so.
 - Take steps to prevent it from escaping from their control.
 - Store it safely and securely.
 - Prevent it from causing environmental pollution or harming anyone.
- 3.4.3 Guidance from Government states that FPN's can be issued when an individual appears to have failed to comply with their duty of care under section 34(2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in England. For example:
- Where fly-tipped waste can be traced back to an individual who is found to have failed to take reasonable steps to ensure that they transferred the waste to an authorised person
 - Where an unauthorised carrier is found to be carrying household waste that was directly transferred to them by the occupier of a domestic property
 - Where an individual is found to have transferred their household waste to an unauthorised person at a site that does not have a permit or exemption
- 3.4.4 The FPN for such breaches of the household waste duty of care provides an alternative to prosecution. It allows an individual to discharge liability for the duty of care offence by payment of a financial penalty. The duty of care requires occupiers of domestic property to take **all reasonable** measures available to them in the circumstances to ensure that they only transfer household waste produced on that property to an authorised person. This reduces the chance of waste ending up in the hands of those who would fly-tip it. Residents should take steps to check the waste carrier is registered with

the Environment Agency web site, record details of vehicles that removes waste, record details of the waste carrier/contact details/receipts.

- 3.4.5 The following penalties are for consideration. However. It should be noted that Thurrock Council always seek the maximum penalty due to the wide spread effect that fly tipping has on our local communities, members of the public and environment.

Minimum full penalty	Maximum full penalty
£150	£400

- 3.4.6 There is no right of appeal against an FPN issued as it simply offers an optional means of discharging liability for the offence. However, liability for that alleged offence can be disputed or the appropriateness of enforcement challenged.

3.5 Idling Engines in a parked vehicle

- 3.5.1 The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 enable local authorities to request vehicle users to switch off engines when parked and to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to those who refuse to co-operate. The aim is to reduce polluting emissions from unnecessary engine idling vehicles.
- 3.5.2 It is a requirement of Regulation 98 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, as amended, that drivers switch off engines in parked vehicles. Local Authorities have been given the power to carry out enforcement of the offence in an effort to address the growing concerns about pollution and the environment by reducing unnecessary exhaust emissions from vehicles.
- 3.5.3 Local authorities are able to instruct motorists to switch off their engines while their vehicles are parked and to issue FPN's to those who refuse to co-operate. The powers are designed to encourage all motorists to have due regard to the local environment when parking. Emissions from stationary vehicles are only a small contributor to overall levels of air pollution, but they can cause discomfort to people in the immediate vicinity, particularly where they occur in sensitive areas such as schools or hospitals.
- 3.5.4 Guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Transport in 2002 ("Guidance on powers to require drivers to switch off engines") under section 88 of the Environment Act 1995 states that FPNs would mainly be used as a deterrent and should be issued only as a last resort. FPNs would be issued in limited circumstances, and only if a driver refused to turn their vehicle engine off when asked to do so by an authorised officer of the Council.
- 3.5.5 Regulation 98(2) of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 sets out the circumstances where vehicles are permitted to be stationary with the engine running:

- When vehicles are queuing at traffic lights,
 - Where an engine is being run so that a defect can be traced and rectified,
 - Where machinery on a vehicle requires the engine to be running e.g. where the engine powers refrigeration equipment or the compaction equipment in a refuse vehicle
- 3.5.6 The guidance encourages that a common sense approach should be followed when using these powers. FPNs should only be issued when a driver is uncooperative and refuses to switch off engine when advised to do so by an authorised officer.
- 3.5.7 The regulation stipulates the penalty for an offence as £20, which will increase to £40 if not paid within 28 days. There is no discretion to amend the charge.
- 3.5.8 A further FPN could be issued if a vehicle is found stationary during the initial 28-day period with its engine running unnecessarily on a second or subsequent occasion. The offence is absolute and applies equally on every occasion the offence occurs.
- 3.5.9 There is no formal appeal procedure to support this type of enforcement, but a recipient of an FPN could informally query it with the Council, using the complaints process. Alternatively, a request in writing for a hearing can be made no later than 28th day after the day the FPN was issued.
- 3.5.10 It is important for publicity to be carried out before the scheme is implemented to ensure that it is understood, accepted and supported by the majority of motorists. A full communications plan will be created which will include information on the Council website, appropriate signage, media messaging and press releases.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance, service achievements and future priorities for the Environmental Enforcement Team.
- 4.2 This report seeks support from Overview and Scrutiny Committee to recommend to Cabinet to adopt the section 34 Duty of Care for domestic waste and section 42 idling engines in parked vehicles and authorise the enforcement service to issue fixed penalty notices in respect of breaches of these regulations.

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

- 5.1 N/A

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

- 6.1 There has been continuous improvement in the quality of the environment due to the work that the Environmental Enforcement Service has carried out to

date. This ensures that Thurrock Council's priorities regarding People, Place and Prosperity are being met.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

The Environmental Enforcement team has increased from two Environmental Enforcement Officers to four. The two additional posts are required to be self-funding through income generation. Payment rates for Litter, Fly Posting and Graffiti and Free Printed Literature Fixed Penalty Notices have increased from £80 to £150.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Adam Rulewski**
Barrister - Litigation and Prosecutions Law and Governance

All relevant Codes such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; the Criminal Procedures and Investigations Act 1996, along with all relevant policies and procedures are adhered to by all Environmental Enforcement Officers of the Council.

The Local Authority has a duty to prevent crime and disorder (s17 Criminal Justice Act 1988). The Local Authority has wide-ranging powers and duties under The Environmental Protection Act 1990, Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Building Act 1984, Highways Act 1980, Traffic Management Act 2004 and related subordinate and primary legislation, to address those areas of responsibility outlined at 2.2 above.

Where it is necessary or expedient to protect or promote the interests of the inhabitants of its area, the Local Authority may institute proceedings (s222 Local Government Act 1972)

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Officer

The wide spread illegal activity in respect of Enviro-Crime and some aspects of Anti-social behaviour, a zero tolerance approach taken will ensure that all offenders who commit offences will be penalised consistently regardless of any protected characteristics as defined by the Equalities Act 2010.

Concessions are made for young people under 16 and those who are classified as vulnerable including those who suffer from relevant mental health conditions.

A Community Equality Impact Assessment will inform any further actions required to ensure fair enforcement.

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

The Council's Environmental Enforcement and the Contracted Enforcement Service will continue to involve police officers enforcing the Grays Town Centre Public Space Protection Order. Regular Joint Patrols will also continue [in accordance with section 17 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988] to take place with Officers from Thurrock Council and Essex Police.

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

None

9. Appendices to the report

None

Report Author:

Phil Carver

Strategic Lead – Enforcement and Community Protection

Environment and Highways

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4 July 2019		ITEM: 9
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Community Safety Partnership Report on Prevent		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: N/A
Report of: Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Carol Hinvest, Assistant Director of Housing		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the Councils response to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and ensure that:

- i) We understand the local threat; and
- ii) Judge whether the strategy and actions planned will address that threat.

The *Prevent* strategy is a key part of CONTEST, the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The strategy aims to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and those who promote it, prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and work with organisations where there are risks of radicalisation.

The current terrorist threat to the UK is at severe and has been since 2014, meaning that an attack is highly likely. In 2017 it was raised to critical, the highest level, twice.

Counter Extremism and Terrorism – preventing violent extremism locally, remains one of the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in 2019/20.

Thurrock's *Prevent* strategy outlines our multi-agency response to tackle extremism and respond to the duty placed on agencies within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Protecting children and vulnerable adults from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of the Councils wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting them from any other harms be that whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

The CSP has a Strategic Prevent Board which meets quarterly and is chaired by Carol Hinvest, Assistant Director of Housing.

1. Recommendation(s)

That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee members:

- 1.1 Note the National risk.**
- 1.2 Note the ratings and actions against the benchmark in the *Prevent* duty toolkit for Local Authorities.**
- 1.3 Support the Local Authority to fulfil its obligations through encouraging members to attend the Member working group on *Prevent*.**
- 1.4 Complete the online training at www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk**
- 1.5 Promote the important role that members play in community tension monitoring and reporting.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, of which Local Authorities are one, in the exercise of their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This *Prevent duty* guidance¹ states that the authorities subject to the provisions must have regard to this guidance when carrying out the duty.
- 2.2 The other specified authorities in the Act who are also subject to the *Prevent* duty include criminal justice agencies including prisons, educational and childcare establishments, health and the police.
- 2.3 Thurrock’s priority is: Counter Extremism and Terrorism – preventing violent extremism locally.
- 2.4 The strategic objectives outlined in our *Prevent* strategy 2017/19 (Appendix 1) are to:
 - 1. Promote, challenge and develop communities’ capacity to challenge extremism through increased multi-agency working
 - 2. Ensure that we safeguard our children and vulnerable adults from exposure to extremism

¹ *Prevent* duty guidance for England and Wales revised 16th July 2015

2.5 The aims of the action plan are to:

- Identify threat and monitor
- Encourage greater community awareness and challenge
- Support cohesion and integration between different communities in Thurrock
- Ensure professional awareness and ability to act appropriately
- Safeguard those vulnerable to extremism
- Deliver appropriate interventions

2.6 Through these actions we aim to reduce the threat, harm, and risk to our communities.

2.7 The *Prevent* duty places a requirement on each Local Authority to have a Channel Panel in place. Channel forms a key part of the *Prevent* strategy. The process is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism or supporting violent extremism in all its forms. It should be noted that this is pre criminalisation and provides access to a Home Office accredited Intervention Provider to deter those at risk before criminalisation.

2.8 The *Prevent* strategy 2011 makes it clear that Channel is about stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, and this relies on intervention to prevent people moving into extremist groups or from extremism into terrorist-related activity. Where people holding extremist views appear to be attracted to, or are moving towards, terrorism they clearly become relevant to Channel.²

2.9 This panel is scheduled to meet monthly and hear referrals from all agencies and then make a collective decision on whether to escalate to Channel. Previously this decision was taken by the Police and Channel chair only and may not have all the relevant information. Engagement by a nominal is voluntary.

2.10 The Home Office have developed a *Prevent* duty toolkit, which the Prevent strategy group has rated as follows:

² HM Government Statutory guidance

1.	Local Risk Assessment RAG Rating: Green Actions: all complete Comments: within action plan and reported quarterly to Directors Board
2.	Multi Agency Partnership Board RAG Rating: Amber Action: North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) need to identify rep and attend Comments: members working group to develop to promote Prevent
3.	Prevent Partnership Action Plan RAG Rating: Green Actions: to embed in service plans, linked to Section 17 Duty
4.	Referral Process RAG Rating: Green Actions: 6 month review of process in Oct 19 Comments: New referral process in place – to be reviewed by Prevent Board
5.	Channel Panel RAG Rating: Amber Actions: 6 month review of revised process in Oct 19 Comments: Refreshed – monthly meetings in place from 29/3/19
6.	Prevent problem Solving process RAG Rating: Green
7.	Training Programme RAG Rating: Red Actions: To plan with my learning for 2019/20 Comments: uncertainty due to decommissioning of WRAP
8.	Venue Hire RAG Rating: Amber Actions: to work with community development team to promote and cascade
9.	Community Engagement RAG Rating: Amber Actions: to work closer with housing and civil society groups
10.	Communications RAG Rating: Green

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Summary of Activity Delivered in 2018/19

- Delivered Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) to 120 professionals.
- Completed the *Prevent* duty toolkit and refreshed the action plan

- The Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) is being disseminated, as appropriate, and the risk assessment and action plan updated quarterly accordingly
- Refreshed the Channel Panel and adopted new process for referrals
- Promoted the Act Now campaign (Appendix 2) to communities through the Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police and Housing Tenants Conference

3.2 Work planned to deliver in 2019/20

- Continue to disseminate the CTLP and refresh strategy in line with current threat
- Continued engagement with members through the working group and developing a 5 point pledge card
- Engage communities and the voluntary sector through the offer of Counter Terrorism awareness training
- Continue to drive professional development through the Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) programme and ideology training
- Promote referrals to the Channel Panel and deliver interventions as appropriate

3.3 Equality Impact Assessment

The Community Safety Equality Impact Assessment 2017 highlighted:

- There is no age profile and applies to all age groups, however the action plan has a clear focus on prevention of radicalisation of young people and in particular focus is the local duty in educational establishments
- Prevent needs to support people vulnerable to radicalisation due to learning disabilities or mental health and therefore may have a positive impact on this group
- There is a concern nationally that Prevent stereotypes the Muslim community and therefore has a negative impact on the Muslim population. A positive benefit of the strategy is to encourage dialogue between all communities
- Prevent does stereotype men at greater risk of radicalisation, and more likely to be subject to stop and search. There is an opportunity to empower women to challenge extremism

3.4 Summary

3.4.1 The current threat level nationally is severe and this is why the *Prevent* agenda remains a priority for the CSP in Thurrock.

3.4.2 There is no identified greater risk to the community of Thurrock than elsewhere in England.

3.4.3 The key challenges faced by the CSP for the coming year are to:

- Increase awareness of communities and the *Prevent* agenda
- Embed the new Channel referral process
- Refresh our local strategy
- Review the training offer to increase awareness amongst professional

3.4.4 The key message for members and communities is that “Communities Defeat Terrorism and that if you see or hear something that could be terrorist related you need to Act Now”.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 To ensure members understand the current risk to Thurrock and are satisfied that we are responding appropriately.
- 4.2 That members are equipped to champion the Prevent agenda within our communities.

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

- 5.1 Thurrock Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police.

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

- 6.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This means:

- 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
- 6.2 In implementing the *Prevent* strategy in Thurrock there is no community impact, however if Thurrock were to be the target of a terrorist incident or a terrorist cell was living in amongst us this would have a huge impact on our communities.
- 6.3 Historically when there has been an International or a National terrorist attack Thurrock has experienced a spike in hate crime. As part of *Prevent* awareness training we include an awareness of hate crime and how to report, based on the “Stop the Hate” campaign.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
**Assistant Director of Law & Governance
& Monitoring Officer**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Manager

Our Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) identified in 3.3 are recognised within our action plans.

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

This report will help the Council and its Partners ensure that they are delivering on its commitments to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

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

- *Prevent* duty guidance for England and Wales revised 16 July 2015
- Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2019/20
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/tcsp-plan-2019-v02.pdf>
- Government *Prevent* duty tool kit
- Hate Crime awareness www.thurrock.gov.uk/hate-crime

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 - Prevent Strategy 2017/19
Appendix 2 - Act Now Leaflet

Report Author:

Michelle Cunningham

Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager

Environment and Highways

Thurrock PREVENT Strategy 2017/2019

Version & Date	Status	Board
20/9/17	Draft	Working group
28/9/17	Approval	PREVENT delivery group
Nov 17	Information	CSP Executive
Mar 18	Sign off	CSP Strategic Board
	Information and Action	Directors Board Cabinet LSCB Adult Safeguarding Board Health & Well Being Board

1.0 National Context

The PREVENT strategy is a key part of CONTEST, the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The strategy aims to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and those who promote it, prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and work with organisations where there are risks of radicalisation.

The most significant threat is from Al Qai'da associated groups and organisations in Syria and Iraq, including ISIS as well as terrorist's associated with the extreme right.

The terrorism threat currently to the UK is the highest it has been since 9/11, and has been increased to Critical twice in the 9 months to Sept 17. The Extremism

Task Force was established in 2013, following the murder of Lee Rigby, with the intention of building on the work of the Prevent strategy and ensuring a robust response is in place to tackle extremism. The task force laid out the following proposals¹:

- Placing Prevent and the channel programme, which supports individuals at risk of being radicalised, on a statutory footing;
- Consulting on new legislation to strengthen the powers of the Charity Commission;
- Considering the case for new types of order to ban groups which seek to undermine democracy or use hate speech, and new civil powers to target individual extremists;
- Working with the internet industry to restrict access to terrorist material online, improving the process for public reporting of extremist content online and identifying extremist content to include in family-friendly filters;
- Taking steps to ensure local authorities are supporting people on the front line of tackling extremism, and intervening where they are not taking the problem seriously;
- Giving additional support to local communities which are on the frontline of tackling extremism by supporting integration projects and setting up a dedicated public communications platform; and
- Addressing extremism in institutions by improving oversight of religious supplementary schools, finding trained Muslim chaplains to challenge extremist views on campuses and restricting the ability of extremist and terrorist prisoners to radicalise others.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to outline Thurrock's multi-agency response to tackle extremism building on our current Prevent action plan and including our response to the new duty placed on agencies within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

The strategic objectives of this strategy are:

1. *Promote, challenge and develop communities' capacity to challenge extremism through increased multi-agency working*
2. *Ensure that we safeguard our children and vulnerable adults from exposure to extremism*

¹ Taken from www.gov.uk

We will achieve this by:

1. *Identifying local threats and monitoring*
2. *Encouraging greater awareness and challenge within communities*
3. *Supporting Cohesion and integration between different communities to foster positive relations*
4. *Ensuring professionals have awareness and are able to act appropriately on concerns*
5. *Safeguarding those that are vulnerable to extremism*
6. *Delivering appropriate interventions*

3.0 Counter Terrorism and the Security Act

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 is in response to identification that local areas need to, as a minimum, understand the local threat and judge whether activities underway are sufficient to meet it. It came into force on 1st July 2015.

The Act:

- Created a new duty on Local authorities, the Police, prisons, providers of probation services and educational establishments to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
- Issued guidance to those bodies on how the duty should be fulfilled
- Gives the Secretary of State power to direct a body to take action

The Department of Education has said that schools have a vital role to play in protecting pupils from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, a role which will be underpinned by the new duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 “to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks.

We nevertheless recognise that schools need advice and support to carry out effective counter-extremism work. In the first instance, schools can seek help from the local authority and the local police. Local authorities are vital to all aspects of Prevent work and it is the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board to co-ordinate what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area and addressing potential impact on the community

4.0 Governance

This strategy is based on the assessment of threat detailed within the Essex Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) 2017. This strategy and ensuing delivery plan is owned by the multi-agency Prevent Board which is made up of partners from the Local Authority, Police, National Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, Health and Education.

The Prevent Board coordinates the partnership approach to Prevent and associated counter terrorism matters in Thurrock and is responsible for the strategic management and deliverables within the Prevent priorities and objectives.

The Prevent Board is chaired by Thurrock Councils Assistant Director, head of housing and reports into the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board. The duty places an emphasis on the Local Authority and Safeguarding to ensure that there is an appropriate response to threat and therefore the Prevent Board will report annually to Directors Board, Health and Well-Being Board, Adult Safeguarding Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

5.0 Local Context

Thurrock has a diverse community and due to its demography is seeing rapid changes through migration from London and with its proximity to ports and road networks has seen an increase in illegal immigration.

The local strategy for Thurrock will focus on the following recommendations for action within the CTLP:

1. Radicalisation: *Early identification of individuals and families of concern is key to successfully managing risk and putting safeguarding measures into place*
2. Radicalisation: *Social media and strategies to counter the threat from on line radicalisation should be a key priority for Prevent*
3. Legislation and Prevent Referrals: *We need to proactively promote and provide reassurance and guidance with regards to legislation and the referral process*
4. Community Referrals: *We need to identify opportunities to help raise awareness of Prevent within local communities*
5. Syria Returnees: *Departments working within the safeguarding arena need to be aware of the concerns with regards to returnees in order to support those families and children*
6. Hate Crime: *Statutory partners should seek to foster dialogue and mutual understanding between community groups*

6.0 Conclusion

It must also be remembered that Prevent includes Far Right Wing Extremism, and extremist activism including environment and animal rights and this strategy aims to encourage awareness of terrorism and extremism in all contexts.

The overarching objective is to develop an inclusive strategy which will: Promote, challenge and develop communities' capacity to challenge extremism through increased multi-agency working

7.0 Appendices

7.2 Delivery Plan

7.2 Channel process

7.3 Equality Impact assessment

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COMMUNITIES DEFEAT TERRORISM

MAKE NOTHING HAPPEN

You can stop terrorists and **online** extremists by reporting **online** content anonymously.

The internet can be used to promote, glorify or help carry out acts of terrorism and extremism. We need your help to stop it.

Report **online** content which concerns you or which you think could be illegal by visiting **gov.uk/ACT**



COUNTER
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POLICING

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ACT

ACTION
COUNTERS
TERRORISM

COMMUNITIES DEFEAT TERRORISM

Help keep communities safe from terrorism by reporting **online content you think could be illegal or which you find offensive.**

A specialist national police unit will review your online referral and work with industry partners to seek the removal of any content that breaches terrorism legislation.

You can report:

- Articles, images, speeches or videos that promote terrorism or encourage violence
- **Online** content encouraging people to commit acts of terrorism
- Websites made by terrorist or extremist organisations
- Videos of terrorist attacks

If you come across potentially illegal or offensive material on internet sites, chat rooms or other web-based forums, report your concerns anonymously at

**Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme
2019/2020**

Dates of Meetings: 4 July 2019, 3 October 2019, 5 December 2019, 6 February 2020

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
4 July 2019		
Community Safety Partnership Report on Prevent	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Waste Strategy for Thurrock	Julie Rogers / Daren Spring	Officers
Tree Planting Strategy - Update Report	Vince Taylor	Officers
Thurrock Active Parks Programme Update	Jahur Ali	Officers
Environment Enforcement Update	Phil Carver	Officers
3 October 2019		
Community Safety Partnership Annual Report	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Household Waste and Recycling Centre Update	Daren Spring	Officers
Park Improvement Programme Update	Jahur Ali / Vince Taylor	Officers
Animal Welfare	??	Members
Air Quality	Mat Kiely	Members
5 December 2019		
Waste Vision and Strategy 2020-2030	Julie Rogers / Daren Spring	Officers
Fees and Charges Report	Julie Rogers	Officers

Recycling Officer Role and Activities	Daren Spring / Marcelle Puttergill	Officers
Trading Standards	Gavin Dennett / Charlotte Edwards	Members
6 February 2020		
Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Re-Fresh	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Council Funded Community Policing Team	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Public Health and Wellbeing Report on Gangs	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Sports Development	??	Members

Further Reports for potential discussion:

- Food Waste

Reports for 2020/21:

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Clerk: Jenny Shade
Last Updated: June 2019