

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 January 2020 at 7.00 pm

The deadline for call-ins is Monday 27 January 2020 at 5.00pm

Present: Councillors Robert Gledhill (Chair), Shane Hebb (Deputy Chair), James Halden, Deborah Huelin, Barry Johnson, Susan Little, Ben Maney and Aaron Watkins

Apologies: Councillors Mark Coxshall

In attendance: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
Sean Clark, Director of Finance, Governance and Property
Tim Hallam, Acting Head of Legal, Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health/Interim Director of Children's Services
Andrew Millard, Interim Director of Place
Lucy Tricker, 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.

49. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 October 2019 were approved as a correct record.

50. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

51. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests declared.

52. Statements by the Leader

The Leader began his statement by wishing everybody a Happy New Year and discussing a major power outage that had occurred on New Year's Eve at Collins House, during which all 38 residents had to be temporarily relocated. He stated that all residents had been moved out and back in quickly once the power had been restored. He thanked the residents, families, and staff who had managed the incident, and felt that everybody, particularly residents, had kept their spirits high during the difficult time. He also discussed a second major incident that had occurred on 6 January during which 415,000 litres of

sulphuric acid had been spilled. He thanked the emergency services who had attended, and had received minor injuries, and thanked every officer and department who had worked throughout the night to manage the incident. He stated that the gas cloud had dispersed naturally, but schools had been closed quickly to minimise the impact, and again thanked everyone for their management of the situation.

The Leader moved onto discussing two recent inspections that had occurred of Thurrock's vulnerable people services which had come back positive, as well as the recent OFSTED inspection, during which Thurrock had received a 'good' rating. He elaborated that Thurrock had narrowly missed the 'outstanding' rating, but this was due to timing. He thanked everyone for the effort they had put in to make the inspection a success, and for their continued hard work throughout the year. He stated that Thurrock's care homes had also recently had an inspection by the Care Quality Commission, and these services had also been rated 'good', which was an improvement on the previous inspection. He clarified that these services were also on the path towards an 'excellent' rating, and felt that many people had worked hard for this.

The Leader then mentioned the recent Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) scores that had improved since the last inspection, and mentioned that Thurrock had previously inspected themselves, but had moved this responsibility to Keep Britain Tidy, as they were independent. He felt that although there was still room for improvement, the directorate was moving forward and had numerous plans in place to improve the KBT scores. He highlighted that the Environmental Enforcement team had recently been shortlisted for an award by KBT, and wished officers good luck. He clarified that last year the environment directorate had doubled their street cleaning capacity, installed 600 new bins, 4 new road sweepers, and had improved the old road sweepers, which had made an impact across the borough. He also highlighted that the Civil Enforcement team had received devolved powers from the police, so they could now enforce certain laws such as underage possession of alcohol. He stated that additionally Thurrock had received the powers of injunction to remove illegal encampments, which was already being used where necessary, around the borough.

The Leader then talked about housing and the work Thurrock was doing to tackle rogue landlords and the successes that had been seen in court. He described how a review of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) had been undertaken, during which 100 HMOs had been visited, 7 of which were found to be unlicensed, which Thurrock were taking action against. He stated that Thurrock had £27,000 to tackle criminal landlords who ran unlicensed care homes for vulnerable people, and this work was being discussed around Essex and London. He added that if residents knew of any potentially unlicensed HMOs, they could contact the council who would investigate.

The Leader then discussed £36million town centre funding, which had been granted for the improvement of Grays and Tilbury, and stated that Grays had also been one of only 50 towns nominated for the Future High Street fund,

which was a share of £1billion to attract businesses and people to the area. He added that £200million of private investment had also been granted to improve Grays town centre and the Thames, which showed that private companies were willing to invest in the town.

The Leader highlighted the work of the Trading Standards team, which had seized 120,000 counterfeit cigarettes worth £170,000 from 120 shops across the borough, with the help of sniffer dogs. He stated that one shop had been fined £13,000 for the possession of 17,000 illegal cigarettes in his shop, and although the Leader felt there was more to do, he felt glad that the number of prosecutions had risen since 2016. He added that the Trading Standards team were working closely with the police, and were now going after the suppliers of illegal cigarettes, as well as the shops that sold them.

The Leader detailed the work of the Civil Enforcement team as part of his statement and outlined a recent success whereby Civil Enforcement officers had found a marijuana growth site whilst tackling a fly-tip in East Tilbury. He felt that this showed the teams were not just focussed on one issue, but were working collaboratively. He stated that 15 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued for fly-tipping, and 15 had been issued for anti-social behaviour, as well as 1 arrest for possession of drugs. He added that 10 community protection notices had issued for possession of marijuana, and 30 had been issued for anti-social behaviour including the use and disposal of nitrous oxide canisters. He added that these schemes would be extended in the new municipal year, and would have a wider scope of powers.

The Leader summarised and finished with the Clean It, Cut It, Fill It update and stated that since April 2019 156 potholes had been filled, 99% within target timeframes; 927 fly-tips had been cleared; 2720 tonnes of waste had been removed; 3213 Fixed Penalty Notices issued; and 3 illegal encampments moved. He added that 208 £400 fines had been issued for fly-tipping, and 268 people had been prosecuted for failure to pay fines.

53. Briefings on Policy, Budget and Other Issues

Councillor Watkins stated that work was being undertaken to install new air quality monitoring stations around the borough, to provide data for the new Air Quality Strategy, and help to tackle the problem of air pollution. He added that the environment team was working with Public Health on the air quality monitoring, and detailed findings would be reported back to the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February, which would outline the proposed changes and upcoming work. He added that as there had been very strong winds over the weekend 11 trees had fallen, but in line with the Tree Strategy, these would be replaced.

54. Petitions submitted by Members of the Public

No petitions had been received by members of the public.

55. Questions from Non-Executive Members

The Leader advised that one question had been received from Councillor Piccolo regarding Item 17: Acquisition of Land, and this would be discussed during that item.

56. Matters Referred to the Cabinet for Consideration by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee

There were no matters referred to Cabinet for consideration by an overview and scrutiny committee.

57. Lower Thames Crossing Task Force Update

The Leader stated that this report was for noting as Councillor Coxshall and Councillor Rice had been unable to attend the meeting. He stated that a number of Task Force meetings had taken place, and Thurrock had requested lots of data from Highways England. He felt that the meeting that had occurred in December discussing cut and cover had been particularly useful.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the work of the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force

*Reason for decision: as outlined in the report
This decision is subject to call-in*

58. Quarter 2 Financial Report

Councillor Hebb introduced the report and highlighted the three main points. He stated that the first point was the financial health of Thurrock was strong, as there was currently a surplus. He stated that the second point was Thurrock's handling of the economy which meant that a modest 1.49% rise in Council Tax was needed to maintain services such as weekly bin collections and the timely fixing of potholes. He commented that the third main point was Thurrock's commitment to delivering funding for new police officers in town centres and communities across the borough.

He stated that this report looked back at the financial health of Thurrock since the last budget had been agreed in February 2019, and there were currently pressures within some services, although the budget as a whole was forecast to be balanced. He stated that one of the main directorates that was experiencing financial pressure was adult social care, as pressures were external and outside of the councils control. He commented that this was due to a few high-need, high-cost placements, which could push the budget envelope. He added that this was the first time in many years that the service would experience overspend, and the budget was being handled well despite external pressures, and the fragility of the domiciliary care market. He felt that the most important factor for adult social care was that good quality care was provided, and the financial budget had to be a secondary concern.

Councillor Hebb then moved onto discussing the pressures within children's social care, which although was overspending by £900,000 had reduced their overspend compared to previous years. He felt that this directorate was very fluid, as a few high-need placements could again push the cost envelope. He congratulated the team on their 'good' OFSTED rating, and felt that the investment in the system highlighted in the report would help to sustain this level of achievement and help to achieve the 'excellent' rating in the future. He added that lots of investment had also occurred in the environment directorate, such as for street cleaning and parks, but was still under-budget and thanked the team in the hard work dealing with market pressures. Councillor Hebb added that due to the Homelessness Reduction Act, Thurrock had seen an increase in the number of people presenting as homeless, but Thurrock were working hard to tackle this in line with the central government strategy.

Councillor Hebb stated that Thurrock were predicting a surplus for the next three years, and if this occurred, it would mean a balanced budget for a total of seven years. He elaborated that this was due to reform of services, as well as investment, and this led to the ability for a one-off spend on more policing. He added that corporate projects totalled £112million spending for new infrastructure and projects that were outlined in appendix 2 of the report, and included the regeneration of Purfleet and Grays, A13 east-facing slips, 21st century care homes and new schools. He added that he had met with the Leaders of opposition parties to discuss surplus spending and they had agreed on the majority of ideas, findings of which would be published next month. He added that to facilitate necessary elderly care, the report proposed a 2% rise for the adult social care precept. He summarised and stated that pressures were being managed to ensure the budget was balanced and there was a surplus to spend on projects such as additional police officers. He clarified that the 1.49% council tax rise would be ring-fenced spending. He finally thanked those departments which were under-budget as these helped to support the councils wider goals.

Councillor Halden felt that it was good to see a balanced budget and surplus, and stated that the proposed council tax rise was still below inflation. He also stated that there had been no council tax rise in 2018/19 and no maximum increase the year before, which only 5% of councils had managed to achieve. He highlighted the pressures within the Dedicated Schools Grant, and stated that this was because there had been a 35% increase in requests for Education, Health and Care Plans, and a 24% increase in requests for placements in special schools. He felt that although there were many pressures, the team were trying hard to reduce the debt. He added that all special schools across the borough had maintained their 'excellent' OFSTED rating even with new, tougher criteria. Councillor Halden added that there were plans to build a new special school called Treetops 2, as well as the infrastructure to support this in Blackshots. He stated that 2020 was the 'Year of Inclusion' and this scheme was being launched soon, which would involve more investment in schools, to ensure more rigorous standards and more timely processes for requests. He stated that statutory guidance for processing education requests was 20 weeks, but Thurrock wanted to cut this

in half to stem late crisis referrals and build a more responsive system.

Councillor Watkins thanked the Deputy Leader for his report, and stated that the environment directorate had increased their revenue compared to the last administration, which he felt had been understaffed and underfunded. He commented that the KBT scores needed to be improved, but the team had worked hard for worthwhile investment, such as new street sweepers. He added that officers were being taught about KBT scoring systems, so they could self-monitor as part of the 'Think 4 5' Strategy. Councillor Watkins summarised and stated that there were overall market pressures in waste disposal that the team were aware of and working to mitigate, as well as working closely with partners and the Waste Management Working Group to look at the future of waste in Thurrock.

The Leader welcomed the report and the ring-fencing of the proposed council tax increase for the three strategic priorities, as many residents often asked where their council tax went, and now Councillors could give a clear answer. He was also pleased to hear that there was alignment between the Cabinet and opposition leaders, as they had many of the same ideas and could work together for maximum impact. He stated that areas of overspend were being worked on, but this could prove difficult in pressure-led directorates. He summarised and felt that Thurrock were in a good position compared to other councils, and felt it was good to see tax-payers money being used to invest in services across the borough.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the revenue forecast outturn position for 2019/20 and that further mitigation is required to outturn within the agreed budget envelope**
- 2. Noted the proposed updates to the Medium Term Financial Strategy**
- 3. Noted that the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy forms the basis of the 2020/21 Budget and asks Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment and make recommendations back to Cabinet in February ahead of Full Council**
- 4. Following Cabinet's decision in December 2018 to allocate funding for additional police officers that the Director of Environment and Highways, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance, Governance and Property and the Leader, be authorised to enter into a four year contract (with the right to renew for another 4 years)**
- 5. Noted the results of Treasury Management activities undertaken in the first half of 2019/20**
- 6. Noted the capital forecast outturn position and the overall position on the approved proposal.**

*Reason for decision: as outlined in the report
This decision is subject to call-in*

59. Housing Development Process

Councillor Johnson introduced the report and stated it was important as it ensured the delivery of housing programmes, both internally and through Thurrock Regeneration Limited. He clarified that this report did not discuss specific sites but outlined the proposed process and criteria for choosing sites. He stated that this report had gone to the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee who had approved the recommendations, and wished to see an update report in six months' time to be able to monitor progress. He explained that this report set out robust criteria for housing development sites, whilst still allowing projects to be delivered at pace. He described how careful consideration would be used for all sites to ensure that no unsuitable sites would be brought forward in the future, and focus would be put on Ward Councillors and residents views. He clarified that if a site was added to the long-list, this did not mean it had received planning endorsement, as the new process meant the site would have to go to scrutiny, then Cabinet, before finally arriving at Planning Committee. He summarised and stated that this would be an annual process, with scrutiny committees and Ward Councillors seeing sites first, for a smoother and more transparent process.

Councillor Halden thanked the Portfolio Holder for his report and thanked him for his support in the Head Start Housing Scheme, which ensured young people leaving care had somewhere suitable to live. The Leader added that he felt it was good to see earlier engagement and consultation with Ward Councillors and residents as it would improve the process for land release, and ensure that sites were worth selling before planning approval was sought.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the proposed process and criteria by which Council owned sites are selected for redevelopment for residential purposes.

*Reason for decision: as outlined in the report
This decision is subject to call-in*

60. Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025

Councillor Johnson introduced the report and stated that it strengthened the strategy, which had last been updated in 2015. He commented that homelessness was a concern across the country, and the new Homelessness Prevention Act put the onus on councils to tackle homelessness within their borough. He stated that the Act had increased the number of households eligible for homelessness assistance, and this had increased the homelessness figures across Thurrock. He stated that this report had been made in consultation with a number of other directorates such as education, and had consulted with residents who had had lived experience of

homelessness. He stated that a Homelessness Partnership Board had been put in place to monitor the progress of the strategy, and described how the strategy increased access to services for armed forces veterans and those people who were escaping domestic violence. Councillor Johnson highlighted that the report increased accessibility to temporary accommodation, winter night shelters and council housing for residents faced with homelessness.

The Leader felt this report was very important as many people experienced homelessness through no fault of their own, and felt glad to see the scope of the strategy increasing. He was glad to see that Thurrock would not send homeless people and families to other boroughs unless necessary, as this further disrupted people's lives, such as their employment or access to schools. The Leader stated he was pleased to see increased access to services for veterans. Councillor Hebb echoed the Leader's sentiments and supported the strategy as he felt it tried to avoid crises before they appeared.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the implementation of the draft Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25

Reason for decision: as outlined in the report

This decision is subject to call-in

61. School Protocol to Reduce Serious Youth Violence

Councillor Halden introduced the report and felt that young people needed to feel safe in schools to be able to receive the best education. He outlined the changes in the nature of crime over recent years, and felt that gang violence could affect every area of society. He highlighted that gangs tended to prey on vulnerable adults and could use their houses as gang bases, as well as being aware of the legislation regarding curfews and police presence to evade arrest. He described how the Youth Offending Service had been expanded and now included officers with expertise in gang violence, and this had reduced youth reoffending rates to 27%, which was 10% lower than the national average. Councillor Halden also highlighted that young people not in education, employment or training was also only 1.5%, which was half of the national average. He added that Thurrock had granted £1million to Essex Police to help them tackle gangs across the borough, which had led to 24 injunctions and 16 prosecutions of youth gang members.

Councillor Halden then outlined the proposed Protocol and stated that it gave schools the opportunity to designate specific staff members with the powers of stop and search, for both children and adults on school premises. He clarified that the proposed protocol was clear on the policy and its uses, as well as being responsible and robust. He added that the Protocol brought together the Youth Offending Service, as well as pastoral care such as mental health workers, careers advisors and the drug/alcohol teams. He stated that this would tackle the root causes of gangs in the borough. He added that the

report would produce a proactive network, which would work both in and out of schools throughout the year to help vulnerable children and young adults, and would provide a wrap-around service. He stated that this report would increase the relationship with schools as it expanded the role of the mental health teams and Youth Offending Service, as well as working to avoid exclusions and expulsions.

Councillor Hebb stated that he felt this was a good initiative as it increased collaboration between teams and would support vulnerable children. He asked if there was a role for the finance team and debt management officers. Councillor Halden replied that the debt management team could be brought into the Protocol, as they could work with young adults on the Life's Ladder initiative and teach young people how to avoid debt and enter into schemes such as the Help to Buy. He stated that this could provide young people with financial stability and mobility, which would reduce the pull of gang membership. The Leader stated that it was good to see partnerships on projects such as these, as collaboration became standard practice across the council. He stated that this report would provide the appropriate level of action when required, and would not become mass stop and search policies as was seen in some American schools.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the Schools Protocol to reduce vulnerability factors and safeguard children and young people from serious youth violence.

2. Continued to invest and identify positive activity programmes to provide alternative pathways for vulnerable children and young people.

3. Continued to endorse the cross directorate working that is in place to support our wider community safety ambitions for children and young people.

*Reason for decision: as outlined in the report
This decision is subject to call-in*

62. CCTV Identification Policy

The Leader introduced the report and stated that this report focussed on the CCTV strategy as a whole, as well as the identification of criminals through their photos on the internet, which many other councils already do. He mentioned that this policy would have numerous benefits as it meant that criminals could be caught quicker, as the police requested Thurrock's CCTV footage very regularly. He stated that the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, and the London Borough of Havering currently used the same system to catch fly-tippers and had a 'most wanted' page on their website. He stated that photographs of criminals would appear both on the council's website and around the Civic Offices to ensure criminals are successfully caught, and anti-social behaviour could be prevented across the borough. He

stated that overview and scrutiny had agreed the recommendations and requested an update report in six months' time to monitor progress and make comments. He stated that this would become recommendation 1.4 of the Cabinet recommendations.

Councillor Little asked if the policy would be used for both town centres and rural areas, as she felt there was often large fly-tips on the fens. The Leader replied that the policy would be used across the entire borough, and the photos of criminals would be easily accessible on the council's website. He described how the policy outlined the use of both covert and overt CCTV, and the team were becoming more adept at recognising hotspots when they appeared and catching culprits. Councillor Watkins added that this policy also used inter-departmental working, which he felt was good to see. He outlined changes to the Household Waste and Recycling Centres that would reduce fly tipping across the borough, and asked residents to check waste carrier licences when they used such companies to remove their waste. He also detailed a new zero-tolerance policy on fly-tippers bringing their waste from other boroughs, and stated that signs had been erected at the entrances to the borough outlining this scheme.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Approved the implementation of a Public Identification CCTV policy for enforcement purposes.**
- 2. Approved the use of images in local publications and on the internet including the council's website.**
- 3. Approved that the Community Safety Partnership monitor the implementation of this policy.**
- 4. Approved the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive an update report on the Policy in six months' time to monitor the progress made.**

*Reason for decision: as outlined in the report
This decision is subject to call-in*

63. Mid-Year Corporate Performance Report 2019/20

Councillor Huelin introduced the report and stated that 74% of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were now on target, compared to less than 50% under the last administration. She highlighted that 50% of KPIs had also improved since last year, such as the number of apprentices, number of potholes filled in on time, and percentage of bins collected on time. She stated that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee were particularly happy with the success of the KPI relating to the percentage of tenant satisfaction, and the introduction of the 'route to green', which focussed on improvements that needed to be made. Councillor Huelin drew Cabinet's attention to page 145 of the agenda and felt that there had been a good direction of travel for

the majority of KPIs, and felt pleased to see the spreadsheet was mostly green.

Councillor Watkins felt this was a good report, and elaborated on the environment directorates KPIs. He described the KPI relating to bins collected on the correct day as he felt pleased that this target had been met every month, barring February 2019 when the target had been missed by a marginal percentage. He stated that this service had been improved by the introduction of Bartec, which reported bins missed to the contact centre and the relevant collection trucks, so bins could be picked up. He added that the KBT scores had improved and thanked the department for their work on the 'Think 4 5' Strategy which set the standard for cleanliness across the borough. Councillor Watkins then moved onto discussing the environment directorates missed KPIs, such as the percentage of waste recycled. He commented that this was a challenging KPI, but lots of work had been done on its improvement, such as the introduction of the Waste Management Working Group who were currently undertaking resident consultation. He stated that a pilot scheme had also recently been completed to improve recycling in flats, which the estates management team had found successful, and had rolled out across their sites earlier than anticipated. He also highlighted a schools outreach programme that was currently underway to teach children about recycling, as well as highlighting changes to the Household Waste and Recycling Centres, which would be introduced in March.

Councillor Little elaborated on social care's two missed targets, but stated these were out of her control, as they were due to the death of residents. She stated that this report held the council to account and felt that improvements had been made across the directorates. She also felt pleased to see that all children's social care KPIs had met their target. The Leader outlined which KPIs his directorate had missed, including the non-payment of Fixed Penalty Notices for littering, although he stated that these had started to increase. He mentioned that the new CCTV Identification Policy would help enforcement officers tackle the problem of criminals providing false names and addresses, which would increase the number of Fixed Penalty Notices and prosecutions.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted and commented upon the performance of the key corporate performance indicators in particular those areas which are off target.

2. Identified any areas which require additional consideration.

64. Acquisition of Land

The Leader highlighted that there were two exempt appendices to the report, but felt that as long as these were not directly discussed, the meeting could remain open.

There had been one question submitted by a non-Executive Member.

Councillor Piccolo asked the following question to Councillor Coxshall, relating to Item 17 on the agenda: Can the Portfolio Holder outline how his new plans for Stanford le Hope station will benefit residents? As Councillor Coxshall was unable to attend, the Leader replied that the Stanford Le Hope Transport Hub was a significant project to deliver much improved station facilities in Stanford Le Hope for residents, businesses and commuters. He added that the original design of the scheme with a cantilevered deck proved to be an expensive design, requiring complex engineering solutions to be delivered all of which pushed the scheme much beyond the existing budget available. He clarified that consequently the scheme had been under review to identify alternative design and construction options that could deliver a high quality design within the available budget. The Leader stated that the options included identifying additional land that could, if secured, result in much improved public realm outside of the station and a dedicated bus turnaround/waiting area on land in the vicinity as well as much needed additional parking provision.

Councillor Piccolo was invited to ask a supplementary question and asked the following question: since the Labour administration sold Sandpits carpark, Stanford-le-Hope residents have been struggling to park, and there has been a lack of infrastructure links in the town. Can the Leader assure me that the proposed purchase of land will reduce the stranglehold of capital landowners in the town?

The Leader replied that the proposed acquisition of land would increase both commuter parking and parking for residents wishing to access the town centre, as well as a new bus turnaround location. He stated that although the new station car parking would not be as convenient as Sandpits for access to the town centre, it would still provide parking within walking distance. He stated that parking and development of the station was long overdue.

The Leader introduced the report on behalf of Councillor Coxshall and stated that this report was a fantastic opportunity to improve Stanford-le-Hope station, after the loss of Sandpits carpark, the increase of commuters, and the expansion of DP World. He felt that this report would deliver the required improvements to the station at a timelier pace, and would reduce the need for a complicated design. He mentioned that the new design would not require a complicated cantilever bridge, changes to Mucking Creek, and would not encroach as much on resident's houses. He added that the new design would also provide better bus turnaround facilities, so workers at the port could access the buses more easily, and would increase commuter and town-centre parking. He apologised to the residents of Stanford-le-Hope for the delay in the implementation of the project, but felt that it was better to get the project right first time, rather than increasing spending and the risk of flooding with the original design.

Councillor Hebb added that the new proposed design would benefit residents more, as it would save bricking over the River Hope, which was a large part of the identity of Stanford-le-Hope, and did not affect residents near the station as much as the original design. He commented that this proposal was a partial resolution after the sale of Sandpits and would unburden the local

infrastructure and highways. Councillor Maney echoed the comments made and felt it was important to get the scheme back on track. He commented that he hoped the Compulsory Purchase Order option would be a last resort, and the Leader commented that it was, although would be used if necessary.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the regeneration and financial opportunities presented by the potential acquisition of land identified in Appendix A.

2. Delegated authority to the Director of Place and Director of Finance, Governance and Property in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration to commence negotiations and seek to agree final terms for the acquisition of the site and to enter into any such agreements necessary to conclude the acquisition of the site.

*Reason for decision: as outlined in the report
This decision is subject to call-in*

The meeting finished at 8.45 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**