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

Local Development Plan Task Force

The meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on 4 November 2019

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

Membership:

Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Martin Kerin (Vice-Chair), Alex Anderson, Andrew Jefferies, Gerard Rice and Luke Spillman

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Agenda published on: 28 October 2019

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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

When should you declare an interest at a meeting?

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

Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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



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 Non- pecuniary

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

Unless you have received dispensation upon previous

of the interest for inclusion in the register

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

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

Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

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

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Development Plan Task Force held on 1 July 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Councillors Alex Anderson, Andrew Jefferies, Martin Kerin (Vice- Chair) and Joycelyn Redsell (Chair)
Apologies:	Councillors Gerard Rice and Luke Spillman
In attendance:	Andrew Millard, Interim Director of Place Sean Nethercott, Strategic Lead of Strategic Services Luke Tyson, Directorate Business Manager Matthew Lappin, David Lock Associates Representative Wendy Le, Democratic Services Officer

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

1. Nomination of Chair

The Democratic Services Officer, Wendy Le, asked for nominations for the Chair.

Councillor Jefferies nominated Councillor Redsell for Chair and was seconded by Councillor Anderson. With no further nominations, the Committee went to the vote in which all were in favour of Councillor Redsell as Chair.

Councillor Redsell was announced Chair of the Local Development Plan Task Force.

2. Nomination of Vice-Chair

Wendy Le asked for nominations for the Vice-Chair.

Councillor Jefferies nominated Councillor Kerin for Vice-Chair and was seconded by Councillor Redsell. With no further nominations, the Committee went to the vote in which all were in favour of Councillor Kerin as Vice-Chair.

Councillor Kerin was announced Vice-Chair of the Local Development Plan Task Force.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Local Development Plan Task Force meeting held on 18 March 2019 were approved as a correct record.

4. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

5. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Terms of Reference

There were no changes to the Terms of Reference and was agreed by the Task Force.

7. Site Visits

Sean Nethercott, Strategic Lead of Strategic Services, referred the Task Force to the last meeting of the Local Development Plan Task Force held on 18 March 2019 in which a site visit to Alconbury had been briefly discussed. He proposed 3 development sites that the Task Force could visit which were:

- Alconbury Weald it was the most visited site for development by other local authorities and had planning permission for 6,500 units that included new homes, primary and secondary schools and retail units over 350,000 square feet. The site had received planning permission 4 years ago and had developed 800 units so far.
- 2. Trumpington Meadows, Cambridgeshire a slightly smaller site with 1,200 units with the same mix of units mentioned but the difference was that this site had 40% of affordable housing.
- 3. Kings Cross, St Pancras had over 2,000 new homes including a regeneration of the area. The idea was to look at the principles behind housing needs and local community needs.

Sean Nethercott welcomed the Task Force to suggest any other potential sites they wished to visit.

The Chair mentioned that she had been to Huntingdon before and noted that the developments were of a high density which was not what Thurrock was looking for or needed. In response, the Interim Director of Place, Andrew Millard, said that not all recent builds in Thurrock had not been the highest standards of quality and may be due to a lack of vision from developers. The goal of the site visits were to provide Members with a range of different types of developments to give Members an idea of what high/low density and high quality builds could look like. He went on to say the site visit of Alconbury Weald and Trumpington Meadows could be done in one day because of its proximity to each other. With a range of sites to visit, it would help to inform and create a vision for Members of what Thurrock aspire to and deliver. The Chair felt that a better range of development sites could be seen and went on say that Persimmons had not been great with recent house builds because most of the third bedroom in 3 bedroom properties were too small and the roads into developments were tight. Andrew Millard answered that developments in Thurrock were changing which could be seen in recent builds such as The Echoes in Grays and Derry Avenue. He said the Council should continue these types of high quality builds with future developments.

On the 3 proposed site visits, the Vice-Chair said that he would be interested in visiting all 3 sites. With the Alconbury Weald and Trumpington Meadows site, he hoped that the visits would help to fill in the missing elements required for Thurrock's Local Plan and to build affordable high quality homes into the plan. The Vice-Chair went on to say that Thurrock could not continue to build homes into Thurrock's riverside and homes needed to be spread out around Thurrock and it was worth visiting the sites to see the development plans. Regarding Kings Cross, St Pancras, the Chair thought it would be good to see this site as well as Thurrock would have some urban intensification design due to its proximity to London.

Andrew Millard said that the service would liaise with developers on dates for the site visits and suggested that the site visits could be extended out to other Members to make the most of the learning experience. The Chair agreed to extend the site visits out.

8. DLA - Extension of Health and Wellbeing Presentation

Following on from the last meeting of the Local Development Plan Task Force held on 18 March 2019, Matthew Lappin from David Lock Associates brought back to the Task Force, an extended version of his 'Planning for Health and Wellbeing: Active Design Healthy New Towns Initiative' presentation.

The presentation outlined:

- That health and wellbeing was an integral part of design in place making to ensure people felt safe in where they lived;
- The design of place making to encourage people to make healthier choices in the way they live; and
- The NHS's Healthy New Towns Initiative.

The Chair thought the presentation could have included some pictures of Thurrock. She went on to say that there was a need to think of the area and include greenery in open spaces and not just focus on building houses. There needed to be a complex of different homes with open spaces built into the area. Matthew Lappin agreed and said that factors had to be joined up to ensure a good environment that would improve people's wellbeing. He pointed out that there were a number of lovely places in Thurrock that included the marshes and the amount of greenery throughout the borough.

Mentioning a recent trip to Colchester, the Chair said the sporting centre there was a good example of how people could be involved and the design of the

building allowed views from different angles. She went on to mention that elderly people needed to feel involved as well. Agreeing, Matthew Lappin said it was important for the elderly population to be involved and for young families to be able to go out and play safely so it was important that place making included accessibility options.

The Vice-Chair said that the types of houses to be built had to be considered and looking at the different community designs, there needed to be consideration on where open spaces would be strategically placed. Adding to this, Councillor Jefferies said the developments within his ward of Ockendon, did not seem to have as much open spaces as developments in other wards in Thurrock. He questioned how much encouragement was given to potential developers to work with organisations such as David Lock Associates. Andrew Millard answered that the Council had a low level of housing supply and a Local Plan had to be drawn up as soon as possible. There was a demand for developers with high quality designs and builds and the importance of open spaces and healthy places design principles had to be incorporated into this.

The Chair thanked Matthew Lappin for coming and hoped he would be back again.

9. Work Programme

The Vice-Chair requested that an update on the timescales of the Local Plan and its development be brought to the Task Force. Andrew Millard said there were issues such as the lower thames crossing hindering the Local Plan but an update would be provided.

The meeting finished at 7.40 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact Democratic Services at <u>Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk</u>

Thurrock Lakeside Basin: progress update



This presentation...

- Overview of the draft Lakeside Basin Town Centre Framework
- Reasons for the refresh
- Proposed revisions
- Timescales

Page

Planning for the Future of the Lakeside Basin

A Framework to Deliver Town Centre Potential

prepared by David Lock Associates

on behalf of Thurrock Council January 2015

Draft document

- Background document to support Local Plan preparation
- Policy framework for town centre designation
- Produced in consultation with key landowners and stakeholders
- Supported by transport framework
- Important role in considering the future of a key location in Thurrock



Role of the document

- Importance of a planned approach
- Tackle deficiencies placemaking
- Exploit potential economic
- Diversify mix of uses

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- Maintain and enhance a key asset
- Increase accessibility sustainable transport
- Shape a planning strategy for the future of the Basin



Key influences

- Strategic, accessible location
- Key centre and economic driver
- Changing retail environment major factor
 - $\circ~$ How we shop online revolution
 - Creating an 'experience'
 - $\,\circ\,$ Diversifying uses leisure, food and beverage
- Considering further town centre uses hotel, offices, residential
- Understanding strengths and weaknesses
- Patterns of land ownership



Second Thames Land LTD (23)

Secretary of State for Transport (24

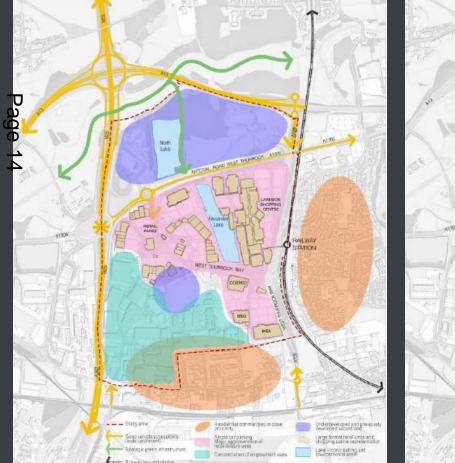
Unknown (D)

REA (55)

KMP Investments LTD (12)

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities







West Thurrock Way

Wide corridor with potential for remodelling to become more pedestrian, cycle and bus friendly and create an attractive interface rather than divisive barrier (some small development opportunities might be created through reconfiguring highway)

Secondary Streets Existing network of streets deficient in extent and character but capable of being integrated and extended to improve access by all modes and bus penetration, in particular

Alexander Lake

Significant scope to remodel development and public realm alongside the Lake to take advantage of its potential as a setting for development, leisure amenity and environmental asset





Significant Areas of Surface Car Parking and Vacant/Under-utilised Land Presents opportunities to remodel, re-provide parking in more efficient forms and introduce new uses, new connections and improved public realm

Intu leisure proposals provide an important example of this approach and potential catalyst

Gateways

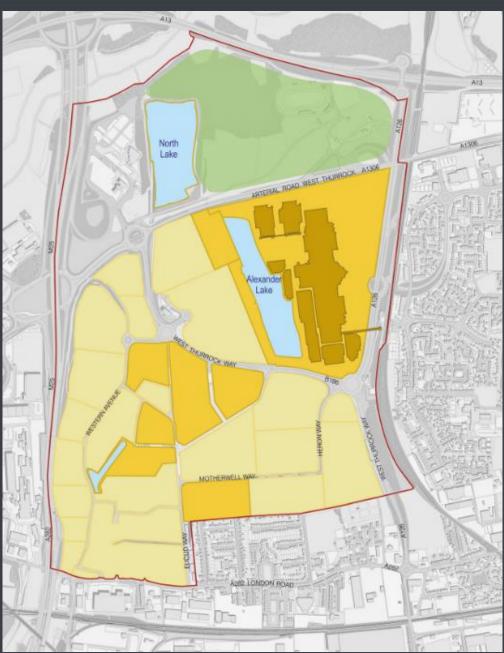
۲ Existing access arrangements provide scope for remodelling to improve principal points of access by rail and car and introduce multi-modal interchange

Arena Essex

Undeveloped land to the north with attractive lakeside (North Lake) - but constrained by Green Belt designation

Potential development opportunities

- Significant potential redevelopment and remodelling
- Limited potential restructuring over time
- Green Belt Essex Arena, policy constraint
- Existing Lakeside Mall



Development Framework

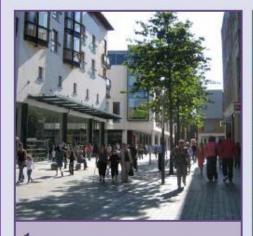
- Establishing identity
- Key public realm elements
- Linkages and connectivity
- Towards a town centre

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Town Centre Development Principles



1 Existing and new streets and pedestrian thoroughfares must join and make direct and meaningful connections between existing and proposed activities and make provision for safe pedestrian movement and crossing (providing for those with restricted mobility) wherever possible.

5 Vehicular routes should intersect at junctions that take the form of traffic light controlled crossroads, wherever possible, and should be designed as attractive and memorable spaces.

6 Development proposals should incorporate secondary, supporting uses which add to the diversity of the centre and meet the needs of workers and visitors.

2 The convenience and experience of the

pedestrian must be prioritised in all regards and

vehicle movements managed to facilitate this priority.



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3 New inward facing and internalised development forms must be avoided – built development must adjoin and present animated, primary frontages to the principal streets and pedestrian thoroughfares (achieving perimeter block development).



4 As existing buildings are modernised, extended and adapted every opportunity should be exploited to create perimeter block development with outward facing, primary facades and points of entrance.

5 The public realm should wherever possible be framed by elevations which are appropriately scaled to the width of the thoroughfare/space. 6 Development should make efficient and effective use of land and adopt optimal block sizes wherever possible. Wherever possible secondary routes through development blocks, that add a further level of permeability, will be encouraged.





A Framework to Deliver Town Centre Potential 63



9 Vast areas of surface parking have a detrimental impact upon the quality, character and experience of pedestrians – every opportunity should be taken to limit the visual impact of parked cars, through integration within and behind built development (decked parking being preferred) and through generous and creative landscaping.

11 Infrastructure (particularly gateways and highways) must no longer be regarded as purely functional but as part of the fabric of the town centre – with an equally valid purpose as a setting for activity and development and as a beneficial addition to the public realm. 12 Alexandra Lake is to become the heart of the centre - all development upon its fringes must front the Lake (or be dual aspect), create an attractive and accessible lakeside edge and maintain and improve opportunity to access and move around the Lake.



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10 The public realm should display a restrained and consistent quality of design with paving, lighting, street furniture, signs, landscaping and public utility requirements kept to a minimum and drawn from a design palette, to be agreed with the Council.

13 Visual interest and visual delight within building design, streetscape and landscape must be elevated – perfunctory design will no longer be appropriate: investment in high quality, sustainable materials and finishes will be required through reference to the Thurrock Council's design guidance. 14 Art and artistic interventions as an integrated aspect of urban and landscape design are encouraged to contribute to character, identity and visitor experience.





\sum

Updating the Framework

- Updated policy background:

 National Planning Policy Framework
 National Planning Policy Guidance
 Local Plan update and emerging development strategy
 Updated Thurrock Design Strategy
- Planning application and development proposals:

 Housing on-site adjoining West Thurrock Way
 Implemented leisure development at Alexandra Lake
 Arena Essex application
 Intu residential proposals
- Revised economic background and retail challenges

Updating the framework

• Policy context

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- Economic and development context
- Key landowner discussions
- Lakeside Steering Group input
- End 2019 timescale



Refreshing the Thurrock Design Strategy: progress update



This presentation...



- Overview of the current Design Strategy
- Reasons for the refresh
- Proposed revisions
- Timescales

Current document

- Adopted in March 2017
- Supplementary Planning Document

 formal status and weight
- Development Management tool
- Informs pre-application discussions and application decisions
- Important role in enhancing design quality in Thurrock

Thurrock Design Guide

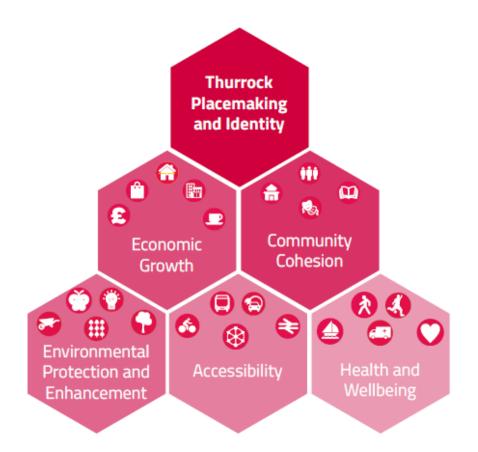
Design Strategy SPD

Adopted March 2017

thurrock.gov.uk

Importance of Good Design

- Placemaking reinforcing the character of Thurrock
- Enhancing values and contributing to economic growth
- Improving community cohesion
- Environmental protection and enhancement
- Increased accessibility sustainable transport
- Health and wellbeing physical and mental



Designing in context

- Producing a robust site appraisal to inform the design process
- Understanding Place the importance of local design influences
- Working with site features heritage assets, topography, water features, green infrastructure, physical and hidden constraints

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- Making connections local movement network, street hierarchy, promoting sustainable transport, integrating parking
- Building in sustainability resource minimisation, low carbon energy, surface water drainage, adaptable over time



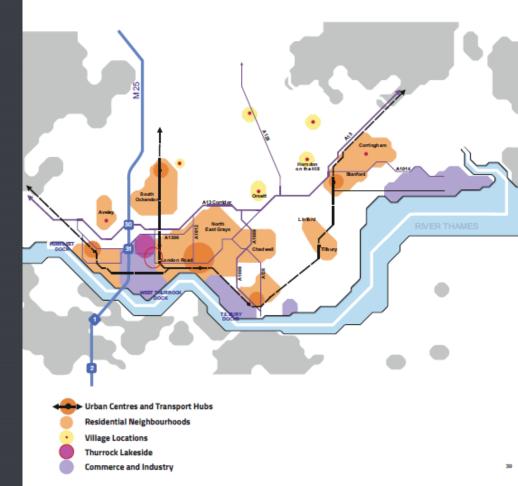
Place typologies

- Based on existing and typical locations and place in Thurrock
 - 1. Urban Centres and Transport Hubs
 - 2. Residential Neighbourhoods
 - 3. Thurrock Lakeside
 - 4. Commerce and Industry
 - 5. Villages locations
- Specific guidance for each

4. Place Typologies in Thurrock

Identifying Place Typologies

4.1 From an understanding of different locations and places in Thurrock, as well as the types of development proposal likely to come forward within the borough, five broad 'place typologies' can be identified. Each is representative of typical locations within the borough, representing a mix of different land uses at different scales and intensities. They draw on the best examples in Thurrock as well as best practice examples from elsewhere.



One. Urban Centres and Transport Hubs

This typology encompasses town, neighbourhood and local centres and the built environment around the immediate edges of those centres. Urban centres will be characterised as mixed-use locations, the focus for retail, commercial, community and education uses, with good accessibility particularly by foot, cycle and public transport.

Locations that immediately adjoin the Urban Centres are also characterised as mixed-use locations but with secondary commercial, retail or community development together with a significant proportion of residential development, the proportion reflecting the status and size of the centre.

The typology also includes transport hubs within existing urban centres, around which more intensive forms of mixed-use development will be encouraged.

Two. Residential Neighbourhood

This typology will form a substantial proportion of development coming forward within Thurrock. It comprises the bulk of residentialled development within which different character areas should be defined, depending on context. Residential Neighbourhoods can also include areas like mixed use neighbourhoods and local centres that would need to reflect guidance in Typology One.

Residential Neighbourhoods must provide a range of different housing reflecting local need, include a range of tenures and affordable homes, and be constructed at a range of densities depending on accessibility and location.

As a general rule, higher density development will be acceptable around locations with good public transport accessibility and a mix of commercial and community uses close by, whilst lower density development will be appropriate to provide the interface between urban and rural locations.







Higher density residential neighbourhood - Great Kneighton, Cambridge







Three: Commerce and Industry

This typology includes large-format retail and industrial facilities which are an important characteristic of Thurrock, particularly associated with the port activities at Tilbury, London Gateway and Purfleet. It also encompasses smaller-scale commercial and employment uses where these form part of a more comprehensive, residentialled mixed-use development.

Four: Thurrock Lakeside

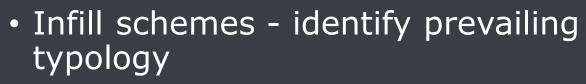
As part of the broader Commerce and Industry typology, it is important to recognise the significance of Thurrock Lakeside as an economic driver and attractor within the borough. Specific guidance is highlighted for the Lakeside area.

Five: Village Locations and Rural Areas

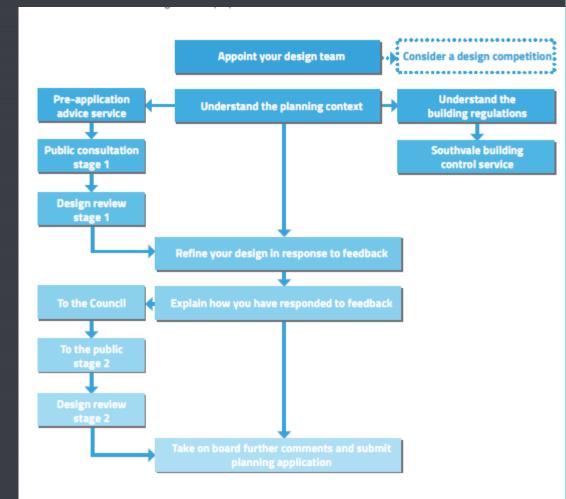
This typology captures the variety of villages, hamlets and single dwellings that exist outside the main urban areas in Thurrock. Many of the villages have historic cores and have experienced relatively modest expansion in recent years. Although the potential for change in village and rural locations is more limited, the ability to integrate development in a way that relates well to the character of these villages and the landscapes in which they sit will be an important consideration.

Applying the guidance





- Large scale development or regeneration – one or more typology
- Significant development all typologies represented
- Illustrative examples and precedents from Thurrock or elsewhere
- Development and planning process





Typology Two: Residential Neighbourhoods

- 4.11 Residential Neighbourhoods are a key typology, and will continue to represent the most substantial development opportunity within Thurrock. Creating attractive, healthy, safe and sustainable places for existing and future residents to live is a key priority for Thurrock Council.
- 4.12 Within the borough, Residential Neighbourhoods encompass a significant proportion of the existing housing stock, much of which was constructed inter-War and post-War. It provides a mix of residential development and other facilities but in places lacks a strong place identity, including the use of standard house types and cul-de-sac layouts that are not particular to Thurrock.
- 4.13 Thurrock Council wishes to raise the quality and design standards of proposed residential neighbourhoods within the borough, be that infill development or more comprehensive development proposals - a major urban extension, for example. The Design Guide will be an important part of achieving this aim.
- 4.14 In assessing proposals for new residential neighbourhoods at all scales, Thurrock Council will expect to see how the design proposals have responded to context and how the key considerations set out in Section 3 of this guide have been taken into account.





High quality community space



Typology Five: Village Locations

Key Design Requirements

- 1. With infill sites, new development must be able to relate successfully to the existing grain and reflect patterns and rhythms, considering, where relevant, building lines, set-backs and spacing's.
- 2. Development layouts will be expected to be formed to a pattern, character and appearance that is well related to the existing settlement. Design references in terms of the relationship between uses and spaces and the treatment of the public realm are key considerations.
- 3. A contemporary interpretation of character is encouraged to create successful designs that are locally distinctive but 'of their time.' For example, the use of mews style developments close to established village centres could be a way of increasing density without impact on the rural character of the area.
- 4. Self-build development plots will be governed by a robust design framework or design code establishing broad parameters within which individual design responses can be drawn up. The framework or code must be robustly informed by the design context of the wider settlement.
- 5. Residential streets and access to individual plots / dwellings must be sensitively designed with an emphasis on place to prevent highway design standards undermining local development character.
- 6. New development edges addressing the countryside must be laid out to include generous landscaping to create a development that is appropriate to the settlement and the character of the rural landscape.
- 7. The site boundary should be sensitive to the surrounding landscape. The boundary and edge of the development should feel a part of the rural setting. Lower density development that fronts onto the surrounding landscape and features appropriate planting will be expected. Closeboarded fences, exposed rear elevations and blank flank walls will not be acceptable design responses.

Informal Open Space Example

1. Play space provides a focal point



Refreshing the Strategy



• Updated policy background:

- National Planning Policy Framework renewed emphasis on good design
- **o National Planning Policy Guidance**
- $_{\odot}$ Nationally Described Space Standards
- Local Plan update and emerging development strategy
 Building Better Building Beautiful Review
- Additional focus on health and wellbeing:
 - Active Design (Sport England)
 - Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2016 2021)
 - NHS Putting Health into Place (September 2019)

Refreshing the Strategy

- Using more best practice examples from Thurrock
- Thurrock Regeneration Limited leading by example
- Fully revised draft by end 2019

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Work Programme

Committee: Local Development Plan Task Force

Dates of Meetings: 1 July 2019, 9 September 2019, 4 November 2019, 20 January 2020, 9 March 2020.

Торіс	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member			
1 July 2019					
Nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair	Democratic Services				
Terms of Reference					
Site Visits	Sean Nethercott	Members			
DLA – Extension of Health and Wellbeing Presentation	Mat Kiely	Members			
Work Programme	Dem Services	Standing item			
9 September 2019					
Lakeside Development Framework Update – presentation	Sean Nethercott				
Design Strategy Update – presentation	Sean Nethercott				
Work Programme	Dem Services	Standing item			
4 November 2019					
Green and Blue Infrastructure	Sean Nethercott				

Year: 2019/2020

Work Programme

Update on Local Plan						
Work Programme	Dem Services	Standing item				
20 January 2020						
Work Programme	Dem Services	Standing item				
9 March 2020						
Work Programme	Dem Services	Standing item				