

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 **9 March 2020**

**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

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### Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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**Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:**

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Agenda published on: **2 March 2020**

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# DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

## Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



**Does the business to be transacted at the meeting**

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

## **Pecuniary**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Non- pecuniary**

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



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

## Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

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

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

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Development Plan Task Force held on 20 January 2020 at 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Martin Kerin (Vice-Chair) and Andrew Jefferies

**Apologies:** Councillors Alex Anderson, Gerard Rice and Luke Spillman

**In attendance:**  
Leigh Nicholson, Interim Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection  
Sean Nethercott, Strategic Lead of Strategic Services  
Paulette McAllister, Joseph Hardy Representative  
Wendy Le, Democratic Services Officer

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

### **17. Minutes**

The minutes of the Local Development Plan Task Force held on 4 November 2019 was approved as a true and correct record.

### **18. Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **19. Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **20. Thurrock Local Plan - Design Charrette Process**

Paulette McAllister, Joseph Hardy Representative, gave a presentation to accompany the report provided within the agenda. The presentation focused on the Aveley Design Charrette process which the Council had been undertaking in association with the Princes Foundation and Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The work looked at piloting the development of a design led process for engaging with local communities in planning for the future development in their local areas. Following on from an evaluation of the outcome of the Aveley pilot, it were proposed that the Design Charrette process be rolled out across the rest of the Borough as key informant to the development of a community-led Local Plan.

The Chair noted that throughout the presentation, several references had been made to Aveley being a village. She commented that Aveley was a village but it was now 'split' into individual parts due to developments in the area and was no longer 'seen' by some residents as a whole village.

The Chair continued on and said that the roads in Aveley were becoming dangerous particularly for children in the school area and it was a good idea to incorporate a walkway but it was important to build in the right places.

Noting the closed session workshop mentioned within the presentation, the Vice-Chair questioned the timeframe that would have been for the consolidation of information to take place if it had not been for the General Election during that period. Paulette McAllister answered that the consolidation process would have taken three weeks.

The Vice-Chair went on to ask what changes residents had asked for during the open session workshops and whether there were any examples. Paulette McAllister explained that with the closed session workshops, discussions had taken place with landlords and agents on how their existing owned sites could be used. With the open session workshops, the focus for most people had been the village in the sense that people wanted a good high street but the village had to incorporate other isolated parts of the area into the village as a whole. However, small steps had to be taken during the process.

Noting the attendance for the consultation sessions, the Vice-Chair suggested arranging other suitable dates and times to enable more people to attend. He suggested avoiding special events and potentially arranging evening consultations to capture people who would be working during the day.

Councillor Jefferies commented that the Enquiry by Design process was a good idea and a good way to engage with the community. He queried if there had been any feedback from residents on the process and thought it would be good to hold meetings soon after a consultation had taken place. He went on to question whether the local elections to be held in May 2020 would affect the design process.

Regarding residents' feedback, Paulette McAllister said that the team had listened to all feedback from residents and that the focus of the consultation was to listen to residents and talk with residents. She went on to mention that an elderly resident had mentioned that they had been in many consultations for Aveley over the years but this consultation was the first time where they had seen their comment posted on the design board. She continued on to say that there had been services from the Council in attendance and on hand to provide support to residents where needed.

Regarding elections, Paulette McAllister said that the pre-election period was a sensitive time but the design process was on community so should be continued but it was the decision of the Council to halt the process for this period due to sensitive matters that could arise.



The Chair commented that developments sometimes did not take place when expected to so could understand why people could be sceptical of the design process. She went on to say that developments needed to be incorporated into the community and not isolated and that infrastructure and characterisation had to be considered with developments.

Paulette McAllister explained that the next step was characterisation of the area which was important for Aveley but this did not mean it would be the same for another area. Residents' views of the character of Aveley had been sought during the consultation.

Leigh Nicholson, Interim Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection, said that the comments provided from Members had been insightful. He went on to say that the Aveley Charrette Design was the first pilot scheme run and with the comments provided from Members and during the consultation of the design process, this would help the service to identify improvements where needed. This would prove to be helpful in providing a more efficient process when the design scheme would be rolled out to other towns in the future. Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham were likely to be the next towns. He continued by saying that the Council would continue to work with the Prince's Trust for the next schemes as it was good to use a separate brand as part of the process.

The Chair questioned the role of the Prince's Trust in the design process. Paulette McAllister confirmed that the Prince's Trust was facilitating and leading the engagement process of the consultation which had been a good follow on from December 2018's Your Place, Your Voice consultation by the Council. She went on to explain that there were many branches of the Prince's Trust and that one of the branches had architects there.

The Chair commented that some of developments that had worked with the Prince's Trust were not freehold sites and questioned if these types of developments would work in Thurrock. Paulette McAllister explained that there were discussions and comments on what affordable housing was in Thurrock. During the consultation of the design process, the Council's housing team had been in attendance so had received these comments. The design process was for residents to shape the design and to give their thoughts on it.

Councillor Jefferies was pleased to hear that the Prince's Trust was a part of the design process as it gave the process a bit more authenticity. He questioned the timeframe moving on from the consultation period.

Sean Nethercott, Strategic Lead for Strategic Services, replied that a review of the process would take place with the Prince's Trust, Officers and landowners. From that review, it would be identified which services needed to be fed into the process and from then, the process could take two or three years for changes to be implemented.

Councillor Jefferies questioned whether residents would expect to see any of the changes implemented before the process began as he felt two to three years for change to happen was a long time to wait. He felt that small changes would be 'quick wins' and would help to keep the confidence of the public as it would give them reassurance that the process was still going. The Chair agreed and said that people would lose interest over time without the 'quick wins'.

Sean Nethercott answered that the 'quick wins' had to be identified and the process needed to ensure that there was a legacy gained from the public consultation part of the process. Once a bespoke design process was identified, this would then be rolled out, bearing the pre-election period in mind, and it was one that would take over a year to roll out. This would be continuous and had no end date.

The Chair felt that the pre-election period should not bring a halt to the design process as it only affected councillors where they could not be involved. Agreeing, Councillor Jefferies stated that the Prince's Trust were non-political and ignored elections. He felt that a year was a long time for the process to be rolled out particularly as the consultation sessions had taken place in November 2019. He referred to the 'quick wins' again and gave an example of the community group of Flowers Estate in that the small changes had helped the group to continue on.

Paulette McAllister reminded the Committee that feedback of the consultation would be held with residents for the coming Friday (24 January). The Committee further discussed 'quick wins' with examples of installing a bench for people to sit where needed.

Sean Nethercott said that the design process would continue forward but processes would need to be followed to ensure quality development and through working with other services within the Council.

## **21. Work Programme**

The Committee discussed the work programme and the following items were added to the next meeting on 9 March 2020:

- Lakeside Design Frame
- Timeframe for the Delivery of the Local Plan

There was a suggestion made for Sports Facilities within the Local Plan to be added to the work programme as an external body had asked for this to be considered as part of the Local Plan. It was agreed that Officers would look into this before deciding to bring to the Task Force.

**The meeting finished at 7.56 pm**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Democratic Services at [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)**

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<b>9 March 2020</b>	<b>ITEM: 5</b>
<b>Local Development Plan Task Force</b>	
<b>Thurrock Local Plan - Next Steps</b>	
<b>This report is Public</b>	

## **Executive Summary**

This Note summarises the steps that the Council propose to take to prepare a sound Local Plan in accordance with all relevant legal and procedural requirements and consistent with national policy.

### **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 It is anticipated that the process for preparing a draft Regulation 18 Local Plan for publication and consultation will take 24 months to complete (January 2022), with a further 12-16 months elapsing before a further Regulation 19 Local Plan is consulted upon and submitted for Examination (June 2023). Following submission of the Local Plan, it is anticipated that both the Examination and process for adopting the Local Plan will take a further 12 months to conclude with the Plan being formally adopted by the Council in 2024.
- 1.2 It should be noted that the timetable set out above is contingent upon the level of resources available to complete what is one of the most complex Local Plans in the UK and the ability of the Council to manage and mitigate the impact of Lower Thames Crossing Development Consent Order (DCO) process, the parallel production of the South Essex Joint Strategic Plan and proposed further changes to the planning system on the timescales for preparing the Local Plan.
- 1.3 This note summarises the Councils emerging approach for dealing with the issues raised above and highlights the need for the Council as a whole to take collective ownership of the Local Plan process and work collaboratively to ensure that the resulting plan assists in the implementation and delivery of wider corporate priorities and strategies.

### **2. Lower Thames Crossing**

- 2.1 The proposed development of the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) has, and will continue to have, significant implications for the Local Plan process not only in terms of the timescales for its preparation but also in relation to the Council's ability to bring forward a sound Local Plan which meets relevant legal requirements.

2.2 A number of Options for taking forward the preparation of the Local Plan in the face of the difficulties and uncertainties surrounding the Lower Thames Crossing proposal have been considered. The Options considered included the following;

- not preparing a plan until the LTC DCO process has been concluded;
- the preparation of a partial plan with a shorter plan period and reduced development targets focused on land outside the influence of Lower Thames Crossing;
- asking neighbouring local authorities to meet any shortfall in Thurrock's ability to accommodate its own future development needs; and
- the production of a full plan which assumes the timely provision of critical strategic infrastructure required to support development along the route of the LTC should Government decide to progress the scheme.

2.3 All the Options considered reflected the fact that submitting a Local Plan in advance of the resolution of the LTC DCO process is fraught with risk given the design, routing and delivery of the scheme has yet to be fixed. Therefore any plan which is based on the current proposal might prove unsound and undeliverable should the scheme continue to evolve and be markedly amended before a Consent Order has been issued.

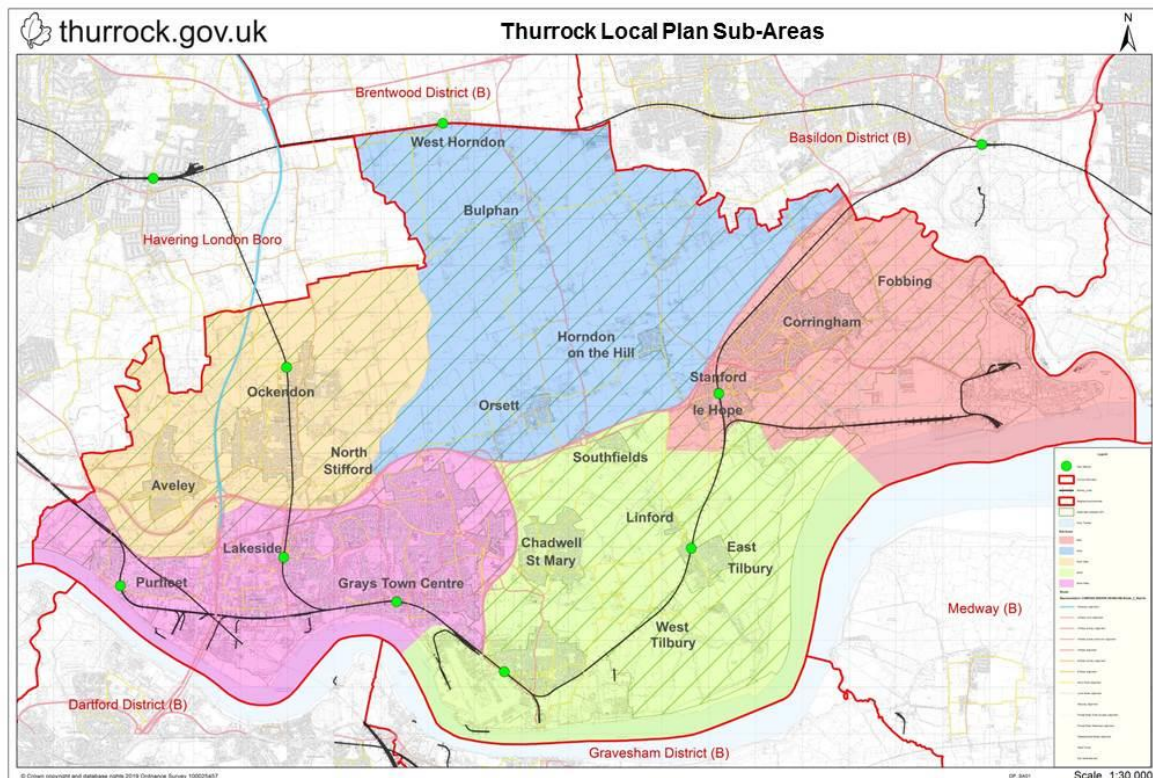
2.4 Following discussions with officials from MHCLG, Homes England and the Planning Inspectorate, it is minded to proceed with the Option of preparing a full Regulation 18 and 19 Local Plan which meets the totality of the Borough's future development needs over the full plan period. In adopting this approach the Council will need to assume that the alignment of the LTC will not change significantly over the next 2/3 years and that it will be possible to come to an agreement with Government and Highways England that the provision of any additional infrastructure including better local connectivity will be fully funded and delivered early in the plan period to support any land allocations along the LTC Corridor. This decision reflects the following considerations:

- It is the only Option which allows the Council to meet its development needs in full and in a range of sustainable locations;
- The Option strongly supports the regeneration of existing communities and makes the most effective use of historic infrastructure investment;
- The adoption of this approach provides the Council with a strong narrative when bidding for additional government funding support to deliver a comprehensive and transformative development strategy for Thurrock; and
- It also assists the Council in resisting proposals for inappropriate development in unsustainable locations whilst also providing developers

with the confidence and certainty they need to invest in Thurrock and deliver strategic development projects.

- 2.5 In order to manage the risks associated with the LTC the Council will prepare the Local plan in such a way that enables it to quickly extract out of the emerging spatial strategy a 'partial plan' which meets the development needs of the Borough over a shorter timescale without necessitating the abandonment of the overall spatial strategy (A 'Plan within a Plan' approach).
- 2.6 In order to do this it is proposed to divide the Borough up into five character areas and develop a planning and delivery strategy based around the capacity of those areas outside the zone of influence of the LTC to begin making a contribution towards meeting the Borough's developments in the early part of the plan period, with the assumption being that any major development areas adjacent to the Lower Thames Crossing would not begin to deliver at scale in the early part of the plan given the long lead in times associated with developments of this nature.
- 2.7 **Figure 1** below illustrates how this might work in practice with any future allocations in the Thurrock Urban Area, The Fens, and the Corringham/Stanford-le-Hope areas capable of being developed in isolation of the Lower Thames crossing. Further Opportunities also exist to bring forward development in sustainable locations at Aveley and Chadwell St Mary during the early part of the plan period.
- 2.8 Reflecting this approach it is intended to prepare a Local Plan which follows the broad structure set out below:
1. Vision and Strategic Objectives
  2. The Spatial Strategy
  3. Strategic Policies and Proposals
  4. Thematic Policies
  5. Strategic Character Areas (SCA)
    - Place-making principles
    - SCA policies and proposals (includes identification of Strategic Development Locations)
    - Inset Plans for Strategic Development Areas and Centres
    - Scale, distribution and phasing of development and infrastructure
    - Infrastructure Delivery – priorities and proposals
  6. Development Management Policies
  7. Monitoring and Implementation Framework

**Figure 1 – Thurrock Local Plan Sub-Areas**



### 3. Developing the Local Plan Evidence Base

- 3.1 The 24 month programme for preparing the Draft Local Plan can be broken down into two broad but overlapping 12 month periods of work which involve developing the evidence base followed by the iterative development and production of the plan itself.
- 3.2 Reflecting the foregoing, the approach to developing the Local Plan evidence base (abbreviated) over the next 12 months is proposed to include the key work stages set out in **Figure 2** below.

**Figure 2 Local Plan Technical Work**

#### Key Tasks

1. Complete Housing Land Availability Assessment.
2. Complete Baseline Infrastructure Needs Study.
3. Complete Baseline Transport Needs Study.



4. Undertake Sites Assessment Technical Study to identify potential supply and sites for allocation to be based on set criteria – e.g. deliverability; sustainability; accessibility; regeneration impacts, impact on green belt and other NPPF Footnote 6 considerations in order to provide evidence on capacity; infrastructure; mitigation; delivery; and phasing.
5. Commence Integrated Assessment process to provide an assessment of the sustainability, health and equality impacts of alternative spatial options/broad locations for growth and individual sites.
6. Roll out the Thurrock Design Charrette-led community engagement process.
7. Commission formal master planning and infrastructure planning work in partnership with landowners/scheme promoters/stakeholders for major development locations.
8. Update Green and Blue Infrastructure Study /Green Belt Stage 2 Assessment and Land scape Character Assessment Studies to identify necessary mitigation.
9. Update 2017 South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment and Thurrock Employment Land Availability Assessment to produce new economic forecasts to input into Local Housing Needs Assessment
10. Update 2017 SE Strategic Housing Markets Assessment by way of new Local Housing Needs Assessment to set out benchmark Standard Methodology needs figure and any economic uplift adjustments if required.
11. Undertake Housing Delivery Strategy Study to identify potential mechanisms for boosting levels of housing delivery.
12. Prepare Housing Delivery and Allocations Topic Paper
13. Work with scheme promoters, MHCLG, Homes England and infrastructure providers to identify and develop effective delivery models.
14. Adopting the Local Plan and Development Management Planning Performance model, work with scheme promoters to bring forward planning applications in parallel with the Regulation 19 Local Plan to help evidence the deliverability of strategic other Local Plan allocations.

- 3.3 In addition to the 'pure' planning policy work outlined above the Council would also undertake parallel work in relation to the Integrated Assessment, Transport Planning and Infrastructure delivery and place-making work streams as set out on the appended Technical Work Schedule **Appendix 1**
- 3.4 Given the extensive and cross-cutting nature of this work, the full and proactive involvement of all the Council Services is essential to the preparation of not only the Evidence Base but also the production of a plan which secures the effective delivery of wider cross directorate priorities and strategies. It should be noted that work already being undertaken or proposed in other service areas has a key part to play in informing the preparation of the Local Plan, with the proposed refresh of Housing, Economic Development, Public Health, Waste, Transport and Grays/Tilbury Town Centre Strategies to name a few, being important in setting a context for the Local Plan as a tool for their delivery.
- 4. Appendices**
- 4.1 Appendix 1: Proposed Local Plan Technical Studies

## **Appendix 1**

### **Proposed Local Plan Technical Studies**

#### **Housing**

*South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update\**  
*South Essex Strategic Growth Locations Study\**  
Thurrock Development Capacity Study Update  
Thurrock Housing Land Availability Update  
Thurrock Housing Urban Capacity Study  
Thurrock Housing Sites Assessment Study  
Thurrock Local Plan Housing Delivery Strategy  
Gypsy and Travellers Transit Sites Assessment  
Thurrock Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessment update  
Thurrock Gypsy and Travellers Sites Assessment

#### **Economy**

*South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment Update\**  
*South Essex Employment Land Availability Assessment\**  
*South Essex Grow On Space Study\**  
*South Essex Tourism Study\**  
Thurrock Economic Development Strategy Review Baseline Study  
Thurrock Employment Land Availability Assessment Update  
Thurrock Local Plan Employment Land Delivery Strategy  
*South Essex Retail and Leisure Study Update\**  
Thurrock Centres Study

#### **Transport**

*South Essex Connectivity Study \**  
Thurrock Transport Baseline Study  
Thurrock Vision for Movement  
Thurrock Transport Strategy  
Thurrock Freight Strategy  
Thurrock Parking Strategy and Design Standards  
HGV Parking Study  
Thurrock Air Quality and Health Strategy  
Strategic Development Area Transport Access Strategies  
Development of Thurrock Strategic Transport Model  
Development of Local Area Transport Models  
Lakeside Transport Strategy  
Grays Town Centre Transport Strategy

#### **Infrastructure**

*South Essex Infrastructure Position Statement\**  
Thurrock Local Plan Infrastructure Baseline Study  
Thurrock Local Plan Infrastructure Delivery Plan  
Strategic Development Area Infrastructure Delivery Strategies  
Thurrock Digital Infrastructure Strategy  
Thurrock Energy Strategy

Thurrock Whole of Plan and CIL Viability Assessment Baseline Study Report Update  
Thurrock Local Plan CIL Charging Schedule  
Thurrock Local Plan Whole of Plan Viability Assessment

## **Environment**

Local Wildlife Sites Update  
Thurrock Active Play Strategy Update  
Thurrock Climate Change Strategy Scoping Report  
Thurrock Climate Change Strategy  
Thurrock Design Strategy Update  
Thurrock Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 Study  
Thurrock Flood Risk Assessment - Broad Locations Report.  
Thurrock Surface Water Modelling  
Thurrock Water-cycle Study Update  
*South Essex GBI Strategy\**  
*South Essex Strategic Green Belt Assessment\**  
Thurrock Green & Blue Infrastructure Study Update  
Thurrock Green Belt Assessment Phase 2 Report  
Thurrock Landscape Character Assessment Update  
Thurrock Air Quality and Health Strategy

## **Minerals and Waste**

Thurrock Minerals Safeguarding Assessment  
Thurrock Waste Arisings and Capacity Study

## **Integrated Assessment (SA/SEA/HIA/EqIA/HRA)**

*South Essex JSP Integrated Assessment \**  
Thurrock Local Plan Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan Integrated Assessment  
Thurrock Local Plan Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan Integrated Assessment

## **Place Studies**

### **Area Development Frameworks**

#### **East – “Corringham Triangle”**

Running south of the A-13, the eastern triangle of the borough broadly covering the areas: Stanford le Hope and Corringham.

#### **North West – Aveley and Ockendon**

North of the A-13, bound by the Mar Dyke Valley to the East, broadly covering the areas: Aveley and South Ockendon

#### **South – “Tilbury Peninsular”**

Running south of the A-13, along River Thames broadly covering the areas: Chadwell St Mary, Tilbury, East Tilbury and Southfields.

#### **South West – Thurrock Urban Area**

Running south of the A-13, along River Thames broadly covering the areas: Purfleet, Lakeside and Grays. The northern boundary adjusted to exclude a part of the Mar Dyke Valley.

#### **North – “The Fens”**

The North of the borough, bound by the A13 of the East and the Mar Dyke on the West,

broadly covering the stand alone villages: Orsett, Bulphan, Hondon on the Hill and West Horndon.

## **Design Charrettes/Master Plans/ Settlement Studies**

**Aveley**

**Bulphan**

**Chadwell St Mary**

**Corringham** (and associated Conservation Area)

**East Tilbury and Linford** (and associated Conservation Area)

**Fobbing** and associated Conservation Area

**Grays Town Centre** Masterplan and Urban Capacity Study.

**Horndon on the Hill** and associated Conservation Area

**Lakeside**

**North Stifford**

**Ockendon**

**Orsett** (and associated Conservation Area)

**Purfleet** and associated Conservation Area

**Southfields**

**Stanford le Hope**

**West Horndon**

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<b>9 March 2020</b>	<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Local Development Plan Task Force</b>	
<b>Thurrock Active Place Strategy</b>	
This report is public	

## Executive Summary

In order to inform the preparation of the Local Plan the Council commissioned the production of the Thurrock Active Place Strategy (APS). This comprises of a suite of studies which will underpin the plan-making process by informing relevant policies on open space and sports facilities in the Borough. It will also assist the Council in identifying specific sites and priorities for improvement and development of new recreational opportunities, including open space as well as both indoor and outdoor sports facilities.

This Report provides the supporting context to the presentation to the Taskforce Meeting by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP), the consultants appointed to undertake the commission.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England, detailing how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and providing a framework to produce distinct local plans reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.
- 1.2 NPPF states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and establishes that to do this the planning system needs to focus on three themes: economic, social and environmental.
- 1.3 The NPPF requires that planning policies 'should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities, and opportunities for new provision'. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies, as well as surpluses in local areas, should also be identified to inform what provision is required in an area. The NPPF further states that existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
  - An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
  - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or

- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
- 1.4 Responding primarily to the need to have a robust evidence base in place from which to develop suitable and sound policies for open space and sports provision, the Council commissioned consultants KKP to prepare the APS.
  - 1.5 There are four strands to the APS: Open Space and Play areas; Indoor and Built Sports Facilities; Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport; and an Active Travel Strategy. Each of these consists of a separate assessment of current provision and a Strategy Report (a 'Standards Paper' for open space) on each thematic area for the improvement of existing facilities and the provision of new recreational facilities over the Local Plan period.
  - 1.6 In delivering each of the studies all relevant national guidance and methodology has been followed to ensure that Thurrock has a robust evidence base that informs future planning policy and wider investment decisions. Each of the strands making up the APS has also been subject to extensive consultation part of the process (the Playing Pitch Strategy element being formally signed off by Sport England as well as all of the participating National Governing Bodies (NGBs)).
  - 1.7 Further details on the emerging technical findings, conclusions and study recommendations will be provided to the Members of the Taskforce by KKP at their meeting on 9 March 2020. A copy of the Consultants Presentation will be made available to the Members when available.

February 2020



# Work Programme

**Committee:** Local Development Plan Task Force

**Year:** 2019/2020

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

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
<b>1 July 2019</b>		
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
<b>9 September 2019</b>		
Lakeside Development Framework Update – presentation	Sean Nethercott	
Design Strategy Update – presentation	Sean Nethercott	
Work Programme	Dem Services	Standing item
<b>4 November 2019</b>		
Green and Blue Infrastructure	Sean Nethercott	

## Work Programme

Update on Local Plan		
Work Programme	Dem Services	Standing item
<b>20 January 2020</b>		
Thurrock Local Plan – Design Charrette Process	Sean Nethercott	Officer
Work Programme	Dem Services	Standing item
<b>9 March 2020</b>		
Thurrock Local Plan – Next Steps	Sean Nethercott	Members
Thurrock Active Place Strategy	Sean Nethercott	
Work Programme	Dem Services	Standing item