

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

Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **23 October 2019**

Council Chamber, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL

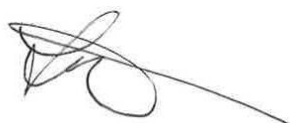
Membership of the Council:

Terry Piccolo (Mayor)
Sue Shinnick (Deputy Mayor)

Qaisar Abbas
Abbie Akinbohun
John Allen
Alex Anderson
Chris Baker
Gary Byrne
Daniel Chukwu
Colin Churchman
Gary Collins
Mark Coxshall
Jack Duffin
Tony Fish
Mike Fletcher
Oliver Gerrish
Robert Gledhill
Garry Hague

James Halden
Shane Hebb
Victoria Holloway
Deborah Huelin
Andrew Jefferies
Barry Johnson
Tom Kelly
Cathy Kent
John Kent
Martin Kerin
Angela Lawrence
Steve Liddiard
Susan Little
Sue MacPherson
Ben Maney
Fraser Massey

Allen Mayes
Sara Muldowney
Bukky Okunade
Jane Potheary
David Potter
Shane Ralph
Joycelyn Redsell
Gerard Rice
Elizabeth Rigby
Sue Sammons
Jennifer Smith
Luke Spillman
David Van Day
Aaron Watkins
Lynn Worrall



Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive

Agenda published on: 15 October 2019

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

	Page
1 Apologies for absence	
2 Minutes	7 - 32
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 18 September 2019.	
3 Items of Urgent Business	
To receive additional items that the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
4 Declaration of Interests	
To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
5 Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council	
6 Questions from Members of the Public	33 - 34
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
7 Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors	
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2(Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
8 Petitions Update Report	35 - 36
9 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels	
The Council are asked to agree any changes to the appointments made to committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels, as requested by Group Leaders.	

10	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19	37 - 64
11	Amendments to the Constitution (to follow)	
12	Thurrock Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 2) Report of Consultation	65 - 88
13	Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sports & Leisure	89 - 110
14	Report of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	111 - 122
15	Questions from Members	123 - 124

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

16	Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies	
17	Minutes of Committees	

Name of Committee	Date
Corporate Parenting Committee	4 June 2019
Standards and Audit Committee	18 July 2019
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	18 June 2019
Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2019
General Services Committee	29 July 2019
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2 July 2019
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25 July 2019

18	Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year	125 - 128
19	Motion received from Councillor Gerrish	129 - 130

Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

Please contact Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Future Dates of Council:

27 November 2019, 29 January 2020, 26 February 2020 (Budget), 25 March 2020 (Provisional)

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Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

Members of the public can attend all meetings of the council and its committees and have the right to see the agenda, which will be published no later than 5 working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published.

Recording of meetings

This meeting will be recorded with the audio recording being published on the Council's website. The meeting will also be filmed and live streamed. Members of the public not wishing to be filmed the Mayor will give them the opportunity to leave the chamber. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be recorded.

Members of the public not wishing any speech or address to be recorded for publication to the Internet should contact Democratic Services to discuss any concerns.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

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The council welcomes the filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings as a means of reporting on its proceedings because it helps to make the council more transparent and accountable to its local communities.

If you wish to film or photograph the proceedings of a meeting and have any special requirements or are intending to bring in large equipment please contact the Communications Team at CommunicationsTeam@thurrock.gov.uk before the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will then be consulted and their agreement sought to any specific request made.

Where members of the public use a laptop, tablet device, smart phone or similar devices to use social media, make recordings or take photographs these devices must be set to 'silent' mode to avoid interrupting proceedings of the council or committee.

The use of flash photography or additional lighting may be allowed provided it has been discussed prior to the meeting and agreement reached to ensure that it will not disrupt proceedings.

The Chair of the meeting may terminate or suspend filming, photography, recording and use of social media if any of these activities, in their opinion, are disrupting proceedings at the meeting.

Thurrock Council Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available throughout the Civic Offices. You can access Wi-Fi on your device by simply turning on the Wi-Fi on your laptop, Smartphone or tablet.

- You should connect to TBC-CIVIC
- Enter the password **Thurrock** to connect to/join the Wi-Fi network.
- A Terms & Conditions page should appear and you have to accept these before you can begin using Wi-Fi. Some devices require you to access your browser to bring up the Terms & Conditions page, which you must accept.

The ICT department can offer support for council owned devices only.

Evacuation Procedures

In the case of an emergency, you should evacuate the building using the nearest available exit and congregate at the assembly point at Kings Walk.

How to view this agenda on a tablet device



You can view the agenda on your [iPad](#), [Android Device](#) or [Blackberry Playbook](#) with the free modern.gov app.

Members of the Council should ensure that their device is sufficiently charged, although a limited number of charging points will be available in Members Services.

To view any “exempt” information that may be included on the agenda for this meeting, Councillors should:

- Access the modern.gov app
- Enter your username and password

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.

PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

No speech may exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Mayor [Rule 19.8], except for the proposer of any motion who shall have 5 minutes to move that motion (except on a motion to amend where the 3 minute time shall apply) [Rule 19.8(a)]			
All Motions will follow Section A and then either Section B or C			
A.	A1	Motion is moved	[Rule 19.2]
	A2	Mover speaks	[Rule 19.8(a) (5 minutes)]
	A3	Seconded	[Rule 19.2]
	A4	Secunder speaks or reserves right to speak	[Rule 19.3] (3 minutes)
Then the procedure will move to either B or C below:			
B.		C.	
IF there is an AMENDMENT (please see Rule 19.23)		If NOT amended i.e. original motion	
B1	The mover of the amendment shall speak (3 mins).	C1	Debate.
B2	The seconder of the amendment shall speak unless he or she has reserved their speech (3 mins).	C2	If the seconder of the motion has reserved their speeches, they shall then speak.
B3	THEN debate on the subject .	C3	The mover of the substantive motion shall have the final right of reply.
B4	If the seconder of the substantive motion and the amendment reserved their speeches, they shall then speak.	C4	Vote on motion.
B5	The mover of the amendment shall have a right of reply.		
B6	The mover of the substantive motion shall have the final right of reply.		
B7	Vote on amendment.		
B8	A vote shall be taken on the substantive motion, as amended if appropriate, without further debate.		

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

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 18 September 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Terry Piccolo (Mayor), Qaisar Abbas, Abbie Akinbohun, John Allen, Alex Anderson, Gary Byrne, Daniel Chukwu, Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Tony Fish (*arrived 7.44pm*), Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Deborah Huelin, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, Martin Kerin, Angela Lawrence, Steve Liddiard, Susan Little, Ben Maney, Fraser Massey, Allen Mayes, Sara Muldowney, Bukky Okunade, Jane Potheary, David Potter, Shane Ralph, Joycelyn Redsell, Gerard Rice, Elizabeth Rigby, Sue Sammons, Jennifer Smith, Luke Spillman, David Van Day and Aaron Watkins

Apologies: Councillors Sue Shinnick (Deputy Mayor), Chris Baker, Mike Fletcher, Garry Hague, Victoria Holloway, John Kent, Sue MacPherson and Lynn Worrall

In attendance: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health/Interim Director of Children's Services
Sean Clark, Director of Finance, Governance and Property
Andrew Millard, Interim Director of Place
Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways
Karen Wheeler, Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service
Tim Hallam, Acting Head of Legal, Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Jenny Shade, Senior 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.

46. Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 24 July 2019 were approved as a correct record.

47. Items of Urgent Business

No items of urgent business were received.

48. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

49. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council

The Mayor stated that he hoped all Members had enjoyed a good summer break.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that he had attended his first Giving for Thurrock event at the Tilbury Cruise Terminal where £450 had been raised and thanked all those involved.

The Mayor reminded Members to leave their webcasting swipe card on the table when they left this evening with any Member forgetting would be asked to donate £10 to the Giving for Thurrock Fund.

Members were also reminded that they could donate a small amount of money each month through the Pay Roll Giving Scheme.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, updated Members on the Government funding for Grays and Tilbury with both set to benefit from Government funding to bring improvements to infrastructure, drive economic growth and increase job opportunities and would receive a share of the Government's £3.6 billion New Towns Fund with each in line to get up to £25 million in funding. Grays had also been named as one of the additional 50 towns successful in the first round bids for the Government's Future High Street Fund. This would mean that the Council would receive funding to develop a detailed business plan to bid for a share of £1 billion Government funding, which could be used to invest in new infrastructure to revitalise Grays High Street, attracting businesses, shoppers and homes to the town.

The Leader stated this was on top of the ambitious plans Thurrock Council had already announced for Grays Town Centre, stretching from the Thameside Theatre to the very heart of the town. With £200 million in investment already secured including an underpass at Grays Station, which had received £11 million funding from the Government through the Local Growth Fund. In addition, private investment were set to transform the State Cinema site and create a revitalised shopping centre.

The Leader updated Members on the successes Thurrock Council had enjoyed tackling anti-social behaviour in the borough:

- That a temporary injunction had been secured preventing anyone from setting up an unauthorised encampment on specific areas of both public and private land in Thurrock. This would mean that anyone who set up an illegal encampment would face the prospect of immediate arrest and would give the Council the tools it needed to move on encampments within just a few hours rather than the days it currently takes. The interim injunction would be in place for several months

whilst the Council prepared the case for a final injunction. This had been the first successful interim application for an injunction of this nature since the London Borough of Bromley's injunction was significantly reduced in its scope by the High Court, a decision which was currently under appeal to the Court of Appeal.

- That a joint campaign between Essex Police and the Council's Environmental Enforcement Officers to tackle anti-social behaviour and activities linked to discarding nitrous oxide canisters in car parks in Thurrock had proven to be a real success. In the first few weeks of this operation alone the Council had seen some fantastic results, including:
- 20 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for offences such as littering, fly-posting and anti-social behaviour.
- 26 Community protection warnings issued to people involved in Anti-Social Behaviour in Grays, Chafford Hundred and Tilbury.
- A 10 year Criminal Behaviour Order had been secured against a nuisance dog owner who had made his neighbours lives a misery. This decisive action followed fines totalling more than £12,000 after the man failed to comply with a noise abatement notice. Our environment protection team had worked scrupulously with the local community, RSPCA and Essex Police to ensure this thoughtless individual was brought to justice.

The Leader was delighted to announce that Thurrock Council's Give a Gift campaign won Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative at the Association for Public Service Excellence Awards last Thursday. The Give a Gift, hosted by the Council, was a campaign that collected presents in the run up to Christmas for Thurrock's children in need, who may not otherwise receive presents at Christmas. This initiative donated for more than 2,400 children. The Leader thanked all the sponsors, residents, staff, volunteers and into Lakeside that gave their time and support which had brought the community together. The Leader stated that the Give a Gift would be returning to into Lakeside for its fourth year this year with more information being announced at the end of October.

The Leader was also pleased to announce that Thurrock's Principal Social Worker, Fran Leddra, had been appointed to the position of Chief Social Worker for England in a joint role with Mark Harvey of Hertfordshire County Council. This a huge recognition of Fran's talent, expertise and experience as well as the high esteem our services here in Thurrock are held.

The Leader provided a Clean It, Cut It, Fill It update that since April 2019:

- 1,084 potholes filled – more than 99% within agreed timeframes
- 647 fly-tips cleared
- 1,299 tonnes of waste cleared from our streets

- 2,187 fixed penalties have been issued for offences such as littering, dropping cigarette butts and various forms of anti-social behaviour
- 187 Fixed Penalty Notices for fly-tipping as well as three vehicles seized
- 54 Prosecutions for failing to pay Fixed Penalty Notices

50. Questions from Members of the Public

No questions from members of the public were received.

51. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors

The Mayor informed Members that in accordance with the Council's petition scheme, two requisite of notices had been given to present a petition at the meeting.

Councillor Byrne presented a petition that was strongly against the implementation of parking permit within SS17 until a suitable solution was found we also ask Thurrock Council to abandon this project which was not in the best interest of the community.

Councillor Redsell presented a petition for the Council to consider replacing the grass area in Heathview Gardens with hard standing for parking.

52. Petitions Update Report

Members received a report on the status of those petitions handed in at Council meetings and Council offices.

53. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels

The Mayor enquired whether Group Leaders wished for any changes to be made to the appointments previously made to Committees and Outside Bodies, statutory and other panels.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, informed the Chamber that he would like to make the following change:

For Councillor Johnson to be added as a Substitute Member on the General Services Committee.

Councillor Potheary, Leader of the Labour Group, informed the Chamber that she had no changes to make.

Luke Spillman, Leader of the Thurrock Independent Group, informed the Chamber that he had no changes to make.

54. Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Johnson, Portfolio Holder for Housing, presented his second portfolio holder report to Members by highlighting the performances, the key challenges and the opportunity of this portfolio in 2018/19. Some of these were:

- The number of new tenant satisfaction Local Performance Indicators had been added to the scorecard for 2018/19 where 71.5% of tenants had been satisfied with the quality of their home.
- The Annual Tenants Conference had taken place in March 2019.
- The satisfaction with Transforming Homes remained high at 87.5% for 2018/19.
- The percentage of repairs completed on target was consistently above the contractual target of 95% throughout the 2018/19 financial year.
- That Improvements had been made on the Active Garage Project.
- The new build programme will deliver in total 117 new Council homes for rent.
- That Cabinet had agreed to deliver up to 500 new Council homes for Thurrock over the next five to ten years.
- That a report will be presented to the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November to look and identify the allocation of these 500 units.
- That a number of changes to the Housing Allocations Policy had been around the financial criteria and the allocation needs.
- That the number of new homeless applications had increased by 15% from the previous year and it had been identified that more needed to be done.

Councillor Johnson stated that the area of complaints was an area to be improved stating that the Administration were listening, learning and taking action.

Councillor Potheary thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and stated it had been concerning to see housing had the highest number of complaints at stage 1 when compared to other areas in the Top Ten Complaints Areas taken from the Annual Complaints Report for 2018/19. Councillor Potheary stated that this would suggest the Council were not getting it right first time and asked the Portfolio Holder that complaints received were being upheld and what steps are being taken to reduce this number. Councillor Johnson stated he was not happy with the number of complaints but the Council were working to address this with Officers showing that these areas can be improved and was confident that they would improve.

Councillor Spillman touched on Out of Borough Placements and questioned what plans were in place to address this. Councillor Johnson stated there were 34 families housed in temporary accommodation outside of Thurrock and plans were in place to get this number down. Councillor Johnson stated this was the last choice to house a family outside of the borough and this will continue to be monitored. Councillor Johnson was pleased to announce the recent purchase of Brooke House which would increase in the number of Council owned temporary accommodation properties by ten.

Councillor Okunade thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and requested more information on the achievements made by Thurrock Regeneration Limited. Councillor Johnson stated he had confidence and would support Thurrock Regeneration Limited in the delivery of new homes in the borough with an aim to develop 1000 units over a five year period. Councillor Johnson stated that lessons would be learnt going forward but confirmed that a matrix detailing site locations would be consulted on and that all Members having an opportunity to comment.

Councillor Gerrish referred to the abolishment of the Housing Revenue Cap following the announcement made by Government in 2018 and stated the development and plans should have moved forward more. Councillor Johnson agreed this had not been actioned as quickly as he would have liked but 500 units would be built over the next five to ten years and was confident and asked Members to wait and see the report that would be presented to Cabinet.

Councillor Kerin stated he looked forward to seeing the report and reiterated that the Council must focus on the consultation as the Belmont Road consultation had been poor. Councillor Johnson stated he was aware of the concerns of the access to Belmont Road but stated the report would implement these concerns.

Councillor Rice stated that it was good that the scheme in Claudian Way, Chadwell was coming to an end where 20 bungalows would be available for older residents to move into which in turn would release larger properties.

Councillor Allen questioned how many families had been housed in temporary accommodation outside the borough, what areas they had been housed and what was the furthest point a Thurrock family had been placed. Councillor Johnson confirmed that the number of families housed in temporary accommodation outside the borough was 34. Councillor Johnson stated that some of the families had asked to be moved, some had consented to the moved and some had been forced onto the Council. Councillor Johnson agreed to provide a breakdown of data to Councillor Allen if legally allowed to so.

Councillor Johnson summed up by thanking Members for their questions.

55. Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that two questions to the Leader had been received and eight questions to Cabinet Members. Those questions not heard would either receive a written response or have the option to withdraw and resubmit.

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be found at Appendix A to these minutes.

At 8.14pm the Mayor called time on this item.

Councillor Gerrish requested a written response.

56. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies

Councillor Kerin briefly updated Members on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report for 2017/18 and thanked the SACRE Chair, Reverend John Guest, for his commitment, passion and enthusiasm at the meetings and continued to thank all the teachers and volunteers from the community faith groups who also attended these meetings. Members were referred to the development of the Youth SACRE which had sought the views, experiences and the importance of Religious Education in Thurrock from members of the Youth Cabinet. Councillor Kerin stated the report had been a pleasure to read and had been a dedication to those that attended the meetings.

57. Minutes of Committees

The Minutes of Committee as set out in the Agenda were received.

58. Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year

Members received an information report updating the progress in respect of Motions received at Council.

59. Motion submitted by Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Jefferies accepted the amendment to his motion, which had been submitted by Councillor Potheary. The motion as amended and proposed was seconded by Councillor Potheary. The original motion read:

This Council notes with concern the violation of planning regulations at Buckles Lane in South Ockendon, which includes unlawful development in the greenbelt. Members therefore call on the Council to bring forward a report detailing what action has been taken to date and how the authority will address planning infringements at Buckles Lane, including via the use of further enforcement proceedings, whilst protecting the Showmen community.

The amended Motion accepted read as follows:

This Council notes with concern the alleged violation of planning regulations at Buckles Lane in South Ockendon, which includes unlawful development in the greenbelt. Members therefore call on the Council to bring forward a report detailing violations, what action has been taken to date and how the authority will address planning infringements at Buckles Lane, including via the use of further enforcement proceedings, whilst protecting the Showmen community.

Councillor Jefferies introduced the Motion by stating it was clearly not an attack on the Showmen community but had been brought to Council to raise

the concerns of the unlawful development on greenbelt, the overcrowding of caravans on the site and the impact this was having on the health and safety of the community living in Buckles Lane. Areas of concern were the electricity tripping, flooding, low water pressure, how the caravans were packed to close together which had been raised by the Fire Authority on how easy a fire could spread and potential cause a loss of life. The Council, as corporate parents, had a responsibility to address the wellbeing of all children and vulnerable adults. Councillor Jefferies stated that necessary action was required to clear the land of caravans and to make this site a legitimate caravan park.

Councillor Potheary stated her support of the Motion and all efforts made with regards to planning and especially around the health and safety of the site but stated this was also happening in other sites in the borough which should also be addressed.

Councillor Spillman asked for clarity from Councillor Jefferies whether Council Officers were refusing to deal with this situation or not.

Councillor Lawrence stated her support of the Motion and identified that the situation had increased at a vast rate and had gone on far too long with the site having been unchecked and unregulated for some time. Councillor Lawrence explained the Showmen Community had lived on that site for many years, were law abiding who made contributions to the community with the Council having a duty of care to protect those people and the environment around them.

Councillor Gledhill welcomed the Motion and thanked Councillor Potheary for her amendments and stated the Motion had highlighted there were potential lives at risk and the issues had to be addressed. Councillor Gledhill confirmed that a number of injunctions had already been issued over the past few years to stop works but with the site being so complex it had not been sufficient to stop those who were clearly determined to develop parts of the greenbelt without the proper permission and regulations. Councillor Gledhill further stated that discussions had taken place with Cabinet Members and Officers which had led to a Multiagency Task Force being formed to take the issue as a whole. That over 1000 hours had already been dedicated to this issue with a further 1000 hours required for the task force to bring this issue to a close. Where the caravan site would then need the Local Plan to move forward so that the number of pitches can be supplied and authorised. Councillor Gledhill stated that this was not the only site in the borough that had been developed without the proper permissions and regulations.

Councillor Gerrish questioned Councillor Jefferies on what action this motion would enable that the Administration could not have already undertaken. Councillor Jefferies stated that Planning Officers would enforce notices to prevent the site developing further and the necessary action would be taken. To ensure the vulnerable were protected and would address the fire and health and safety concerns and take the necessary action to clear the land of caravans to make this site a legitimate caravan park. Councillor Jefferies

thanked Members for their comments and urged Members to vote in favour of the Motion this evening.

The Mayor called a vote on the Amended Motion.

Upon being put to the vote Members voted unanimously in favour of Amendment, whereupon the Mayor declared the Amended motion carried.

The meeting finished at 8.32 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

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

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Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 18 September 2019

Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.

No questions were submitted from members of the public.

Item 13 – Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that 2 questions had been received to the Leader of the Council and 8 questions had been received to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee had been received.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Mayes to Councillor Gledhill

Mayor

Question one, to the Leader of the Council. Councillor Mayes will you please read out your question as stated on page 51 of the agenda.

From Councillor Mayes to Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Mister Mayor. In relation to crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour in Tilbury, can the Portfolio Holder tell me what the Council is putting in place for the safety of Tilbury residents?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill.

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you for Mister Mayor and thank you for Councillor Mayes for your question. As previously advised at Full Council and other committees, crime and drugs are a matter for the police to deal with and specific enquiries in regards to policing matters needs to be directed to them accordingly. Certain aspects of tackling anti-social behaviour do fall under my Portfolio and as such I'm going to have to give this answer in two halves. The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has recently increased the number of police officers in Thurrock with an additional fifteen police officers, and more recently another seven town centre police officers. This unfortunately have not included Tilbury at this time. I and this administration see tackling anti-social behaviour as high priority and continue to work in partnership with the police to assist in any way we can. As such, the Council's allocated £1million to be spent over the next three years reducing anti-social behaviour, and part of this includes funding for the additional police officers, and the funding of some specialist police operations. Not at least the gang injunction, which we've seen repeat successes on, and indeed producing the illegal use of motorcycles and quadbikes, which has seen a significant success for the police under Operation Caesar. It's also seen a reduction in Tilbury and other places of these crimes, indeed in the first two quarters across the whole of the borough compared to the same period, across the same two quarters in previous years going back to 2016, we've seen a decline in reports and indeed incidents relating to this. Council have set up a joint partnership patrol with the Council's environmental enforcement officers, and these police have been out on patrol in Tilbury. These patrols have resulted in

persons being dealt with for the following crimes: causing anti-social behaviour; misusing nitrous oxide canisters; fixed penalty notices for people committing offences such as fly-tipping, littering, urinating, and fly-posting; breaches of care of duty in respect of commercial waste; three anti-social behaviour community protection warnings have been issued; two fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping; four fixed penalty notices for littering. 27% of those, sorry 20%, that represents 27% of notices issued so far under this particular operation. On top of this, police have issued a number of cannabis warnings and community protection warning notices for those causing anti-social behaviour, and dealing or indeed in possession of cannabis. As I said earlier, I know this will be a fact because I've been out with them and I understand Councillor Allen has also been out on them. With the success of the police funded town centre team, we'll be meeting the local police commander to work with them to use part of the funding we've set aside for more police to put at least two more police officers for town centre policing in Tilbury. As soon as these discussions have concluded, I will then of course notify yourself, and the other Tilbury Councillors and any other Councillors of areas who will see a direct benefit from these extra police officers. Finally, as I always say, police are intelligence and information-led organisation, so the more residents that report crime and anti-social behaviour, it clocks up these statistics, which then allows the police to argue for more services and support in specific areas.

Moving on to what we've done as a Council, on top of the offences listed previously, we've dealt with thirty fly-tipping, issued thirty notices; forty-four for littering; six for failing to provide waste transfer notes, I'll get that right eventually; and thirteen fly-posting offences, that's solely in Tilbury this year. As part outlined in Councillor Johnson's report, we're due to complete our CCTV review and take that to overview and scrutiny, and we're recruiting an anti-social behaviour officer, to help co-ordinate between housing, ASB and the police to ensure a great level of support, not only in Tilbury, but across the borough. Thank you Mister. Mayor.

Mayor

Councillor Mayes do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

Councillor Mayes

Thank you for your detailed answer. I get lots of people obviously, I know that you said the police isn't a council matter, but obviously because we put money towards it, and pay for police officers, obviously there's a vested interest. A lot of people say they don't feel safe in their own homes, this is not just in Tilbury but around Thurrock, and indeed around the country as well, but obviously we need to focus on here. We – in Tilbury there's a neighbourhood watch scheme, they are trying really, really hard. They've seen some extra police, but there's still a very, sort of, lack of police presence on the ground, which is obviously making people not feel safe. In terms of supplementary question, with youths, which is quite a big issue, especially with the C17 gang in Thurrock, what are the Council doing or putting in place to ensure that youths are protected from gangs, getting involved in crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill.

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Mayes for your supplementary. I regret trying to trim down my excessively long answer from earlier to the long answer I gave, as that had specifics in relation to the money we've spent and the operations we've had to help protect our young people in Tilbury. Off the top of my head I do remember, I do remember, and I know it's not here, is that we're putting extra patrols in from environmental officers and other officers between 3 o'clock and 7 o'clock in the evening to try and engage with children to make sure, that not only are they safe and protected from those that would prey on them, and get them into that terrible gang lifestyle. Also, to try and identify what they would like to see, and what they would like to do, because as someone whose not even got young children anymore, I wouldn't like to say what's best, or what they would like to engage with, so let's ask the people who we'll be supplying that service too what they want. It is a vital role, this prevention role, the cure, and I'd much rather we stop children and young adults, stop them getting into crime ruining their entire lives, and stay on the straight and narrow to be productive members of the community, which the vast number of residents in Tilbury, and across the borough are.

Mayor

Councillor Mayes do you have a second supplementary question?

Councillor Mayes

Thank you for that. The – I know you're saying 3 until 7 but I'd highly suggest increasing that onwards because our youths are out later than that, as you can imagine, and they're normally the ones that would be causing such issues. My final question would be with the government set to announce 20,000 extra police officers, would you as Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder do all you can to some extra police officers in Thurrock, but more so in Tilbury.

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Mister Mayor and again thank you Councillor Mayes for your question. I take on board your statement about late patrols and that certainly makes common sense. It may be different officers, and indeed, we might need to put some training for our environmental protection officers to help them to engage where they see this, so engagement rather than enforcement. As it comes to the 20,000 police, yes I will lobby, but I'm going to get back to what I said at the back-end of the very long answer. Polices' – police numbers is intelligence and information-led so we really do need any resident and every resident who sees a crime, or is a victim of a crime to report it either through 101, 999 if it's an emergency, or indeed Crimestoppers free

phone, which is anonymous, which they can call, leave the information, and that's passed down to the police or the relevant authority to deal with. I know it's disheartening sometimes when it appears nothing is done, sometimes everyone becomes aware of the problem, it goes on for weeks and weeks, or months and months and months, and then something happens, but where it appears nothing is happening, it's a bit of a problem. So, if more people in that time report problems, the easier it's going to be to say, okay we need to allocate more resources to it.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Gledhill. We now move on to question two for the Leader. Councillor Potheary please read out your question as set out on page 51 of the agenda.

2. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Mister. Mayor. Can the Portfolio Holder explain why the recent announcement of town centre policing teams did not include Tilbury?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill.

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Mister. Mayor and thank you Councillor Potheary. As in my previous answer, police establishment and allocation of resources are a matter for Essex Police, however I can advise that town centre police have been allocated to areas where they meet the criteria of the town centre, as laid down by the PFCC. We had no input on that and that was a county-wide made decision to accommodate for the police. As Leader and Portfolio Holder for ASB, I recognise the need for an increased presence in other areas of the borough, not receiving Town Centre Policing, including Tilbury, and I have already raised my concerns with the police. I have advised them that Tilbury should be an area of priority and focus, and I gave this response to Councillor Mayes earlier and indeed to Councillor Allen about six or eight weeks ago, I'm sure he'll correct me if I'm wrong, when they raised that particular issue with me direct. That said I'm using – we're looking to use part of the £1million we've set aside for extra police numbers to do this, and as soon as we've had those discussions and they are concluded, I will of course notify the Councillors of Tilbury, other Councillors in areas that may be of direct benefit, and indeed the entire Chamber.

Mayor

Thank you. Councillor Potheary do you have – excuse me – a supplementary question.

Councillor Potheary

Thank you Mister Mayor. Sorry I'm not going to do the supplementary that I planned because I'm slightly taken aback by something you said in your answer Councillor Gledhill, which that there was no consultation with the Council by Essex Police about where these officers would go in terms of in town centre teams. Could you just clarify what the relationship between Essex Police and the Council stated at the moment if that didn't occur?

Mayor

Councillor Gledhill

Councillor Gledhill

Thank you Mister Mayor, I was actually going to call for a point of clarification, at that point. I did not say that there was a consultation in Thurrock. I said there was consultation with us in the definition of a town centre, as this was something across the whole of Essex that they decide. We must remember that, right at the beginning, I said that the police are a separate organisation. It's down to the PFCC to make those choices, and this might be a terrible thing for any Councillor to say, especially the Leader, there are times when it's not just all about Thurrock. Unfortunately, for the PFCC it doesn't always just think about Thurrock, it has to think about the whole of Essex, and this is one of those occasions. We may not agree with the methodology they used and we may not agree with the numbers they used, but equally we've got to remember that we've got ward boundaries where we can say that Tilbury consists of Tilbury Riverside and Tilbury St Chads, but actually it may include parts of Thurrock Rectory, parts of Chadwell, we don't know, they could have a completely different set of criteria and obviously when they're setting their rules it's down to them. But, we have registered our disdain, for lack of a better word, giving police officers from one of the areas which does quite clearly need it. I will continue saying that, it's not just Tilbury, there are other areas in Thurrock, where I'm saying need it equally.

Mayor

Councillor Potheary, do you wish to pose a second supplementary?

Councillor Potheary

Thank you for the clarification Councillor Gledhill. By what kind of rate do you see the teams reducing crime by, and by when do you feel we'll start to see these results?

Councillor Gledhill

I really hate saying this, but these types of matters are for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to give. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner does attend here in January and I'm sure he'll be able to give you all that information on our police operations. I do not know whether these police will be pounding the beats like they used to in the olden days, or whether they're

going to be put onto specialist operations that will target one particular crime or another particular crime. There is a report going to Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which outlines the unfortunate increase in crime, not just in Thurrock, across Essex, and indeed the entire country. Sorry, reported crimes across Essex and across the whole of the country, and of course the relevant chair of overview and scrutiny could, of course, ask the police spokesman in at that point for clarification.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO CABINET MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON A JOINT COMMITTEE

1. From Councillor Liddiard to Councillor Maney

Can the Portfolio Holder please explain why, as a councillor visiting my residents, I have been refused a parking permit for Tilbury?

Mayor

Councillor Maney.

Councillor Maney

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Liddiard for your question. It might help, Mister Mayor, if I explain that parking permits form part of the Traffic Regulation Order pertaining to any given scheme, and in the case of the Tilbury resident parking zones, the Traffic Regulation Order does not make provision for Councillors permits. Put simply, this is the reason why he wasn't issued with a permit. I'm sure that Councillor Liddiard will appreciate, any Member will appreciate, that when the Council receives a request for a permit, it has to apply strict eligibility criteria, and unfortunately, at the time of your request you didn't meet that criteria. But, going on from that Mister Mayor, it might help if I reminded Councillor Liddiard that if he is attending a pre-arranged visit with a resident in one of the PDA's, he can of course benefit from the visitors parking permits, which they're issued with. And I will go a bit further and say there are other options, the Council is currently looking at the situation as part of the fees and charges review, and I'm currently considering an option which will allow Councillors to be issued with visitor permits. There are number of considerations that have to be taken into account before a final decision is made on that, but I'm considering that and I'd be happy to report back on that in due course. Thank you Mister Mayor.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Maney. Councillor Liddiard, do you have a supplementary question.

Councillor Liddiard

Thank you Councillor and Mister Mayor for both of those questions.

2. From Councillor Mayes to Councillor Watkins

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me what is being done about the strong toast-like smell that is a daily nuisance to the residents of Thurrock Park?

Mayor

Councillor Watkins.

Councillor Watkins

Thank you very much Mister Mayor, and thank you Councillor for your question here. The Council are fully aware of this issue and we have had concerns raised from Members, residents should I say sorry, previously, and I would like to say we are taking this matter seriously. The Council are aware as to where this toast-like smell is likely coming from, and they are proactively engaging with the company to find a resolution, and I will not be naming the company this evening. Work has been ongoing for some time now as well, dating back to October last year, and that's ad-hoc since October when they had our first visit, and subsequent visits as well in 2018 and in 2019 so far. The company have conducted their own work as well, having employed an odour specialists and so far the evidence would not allow for a statutory odour nuisance, sorry it's a bit technical this one. We're exploring what options are available to the Council and we'll continue to work with the company and keep visiting the site. One request I do have which is very helpful for Tilbury Councillors here this evening and for indeed residents as well, is we are asking residents who have already put in a concern, and are doing equally the same, is to keep an odour diary. It sounds a bit silly, but when you go outside, have a sniff and if you smell the toast smell, jot it down, keep a diary and then can you let the council know, so then we can build up a case as well, which is what we're currently doing. Thank you.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Watkins. Councillor Mayes do you have a supplementary question?

Councillor Mayes

Yes Mister Mayor. Thank you for that. It has been going on for a while, as you said, the only thing that I would say is there always seems to be quite an onus on residents, the residents have to report, and I get that. When people keep reporting they lose faith, and it's the same with the police and everything. Have we got a time scale on how long this will go on, as obviously it's been going for a while now. If you're at these stages, I'm not saying I'm going to hold you to an exact date, but I don't know if you've got a rough time scale or when you'd expect to have a resolution.

Mayor

Councillor Watkins.

Councillor Watkins

Thank you Mister Mayor. Thank you Councillor for your supplementary. Currently there is no timescale that I'd be willing to give right now. It's a bit like the police, it does rely on evidence, which is why we're asking for residents to give that evidence to the Council, and they can do what they need to do behind the scenes. Just like to add as well, that touching on your point on evidence always coming from the residents, in case in particular, the officers are on site and have visited multiple times and any of the officers we have across the county that happen to be in Tilbury as well. I'll also just note that, this sounds a bit weird, but having a sniff in the air to see if it's there and then reporting it back to the council, and then equally as I eluded to as well, the Council's team have been actively engaging with the company, which they believe the smell is coming from and actively engaging with them to try and reduce the smell.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Watkins. Do you have a second supplementary question? No, thank you Councillor.

3. From Councillor Fletcher to Councillor Watkins

The Council is failing its environment-related KPIs in two out of six areas namely street cleanliness (graffiti) and house hold waste reused/recycling. What plans have been put in place to remedy this?

Councillor Fletcher will be provided with a written response.

4. From Councillor Anderson to Councillor Halden

Can the Cabinet Member update the chamber as to the effectiveness of our Youth Offending Service?

Mayor

Councillor Halden.

Councillor Halden

Thank you Mister Mayor, thank you Councillor Anderson.

Our Youth Offending Service which helps to ensure young people who become in trouble with the law, have their lives turned around is incredibly effective. The national reoffending figure for England stands at 41% in the last

year. The south east are slightly lower – 38.4%, in Essex, lower still at 32.8% but in Thurrock, our reoffending rate is only 29.5%.

So, all in all, if you are a young person entering statutory services in the borough of Thurrock, we will far more likely help you to turn your life around and ensure that you don't reoffend again, helping to change lives and making sure our communities are safer.

Mayor

Councillor Anderson do you have a supplementary question?

Councillor Anderson

Can the Cabinet Member assure me that this service is well-funded and well supported?

Councillor Halden

Thank you Mister Mayor.

Insightful question Councillor Anderson.

Unfortunately, the Youth Offending Service at one stage did have a slight cut. In fact, half of its staff sacked in 2011 to 2012 under the previous Labour administration, the previous Leader of the Council, much like a butcher who doesn't quite know what he's doing, the cuts were just random and violent. But fortunately, the Conservative of this administration, at the direction of the Leader of the Council and myself, additional posts have been created to support Officers to deal with gang related issues, new posts have been put in place jointly funded by the Council and the CCG. And the Council and the National Probation Service to additionally help young people turn their lives around. And thanks to this, the Youth Offending Service has got greater capacity to day and has got more positive outcomes today than it had when we took office three and a half years ago.

Mayor

Councillor Anderson, do you have a second supplementary question?

Councillor Anderson

No thank you.

5. From Councillor Akinbohun to Councillor Maney

Residents in the Mayflower Road Chafford Hundred area have complained about parking due to the number of cars which collect or offload school children at two schools. Can you look into the possibility of parking controls to alleviate problems for residents?

Mayor

Councillor Maney.

Councillor Maney

Thank you Mister Mayor, thank you Councillor Akinbohun for your question.

The first thing that I would say is it is recognised and it is a particular problem in Mayflower Road with during school pickup and drop off times. You ask whether additional parking controls could be put in place, I would say that there are already extensive waiting restrictions in Mayflower Road. Having looked at this, in my view and it is the Council's view too or Officers' view that it is hard to see how it could be extended without adversely impacting upon residents in the road also. Obviously we are open to any ideas that you have and we'll gladly receive them. But as I say, there are extensive waiting restrictions in the road already.

The Council's Civil Enforcement Officers carry out regular patrols, they have been very proactive in doing that but it has been agreed that we'll step up the activity in Mayflower Road but there is a caveat to that. We have a very small team of officers and of course, the problems in Mayflower Road are not just limited to the schools there, it is a problem across the borough and I say that as a Councillor, it is a particular problem in my ward as well. We'll carry out enforcement activity, we'll step that up but as I say, that's limited too.

There are other options, I don't want to go into them too much because they are at a very early stage but I think we are looking. There are potentially options for physical changes for the road layout, there are two options which I know Officers are looking at. Both of them would have considerable cost implications but as I say, work is underway to explore those. I can't say whether they will come to fruition in the near future but I hope that gives you some reassurance nonetheless that we are looking at a wide range of options. Thank you Mister Mayor.

Mayor

Councillor Akinbohun, do you have a supplementary question.

Councillor Akinbohun

Yes Mister Mayor. The residents of Mayflower Road really don't want a vague answer, we just want something that is more specific. If we can have some resident bay on that road, that is what they are actually asking for.

Mayor

Councillor Maney

Councillor Maney

Thank you Mister Mayor.

I'm not sure if the Council has received any request for parking bays specifically for resident use but obviously, you've had that feedback from residents so I'm sure it's something we can look at.

Again, there is that option but there is the question of enforcement as well. I'm an optimist but I think, to be honest, without additional enforcement, those parking bays will very quickly be used by parents who want to park there for a few minutes to drop off their children. As I say, I think it is the prevailing view that some kind of physical alteration to the road network could be a more lasting solution.

Mayflower Road was never designed to originally be the road from which the schools would be accessed by. In fact, the school wasn't due to be there at all. It's another example of planning.

As I say, happy to look at any ideas. The Council is open to any solutions. The one point that I have to make though is that the Council has recently announced its Safer Routes to School policy. Schools have a part to play in that. Those schools that have a travel plan will be prioritised. There are about 10 schemes that have been prioritised for implementation this year so I say to any Ward Councillor who's in communications with their school, give them a nudge if they want something in return, because very often, schools are the ones that receive a lot of complaints. It would help their case greatly and the residents who live in harmony with them if they would bring forward a school travel plan and I say that will help them, help their particular scheme to be prioritised. Thank you Mister Mayor.

Mayor

Councillor Akinbohun, do you wish to propose a second supplementary question?

Councillor Akinbohun

No Mister Mayor.

6. From Councillor Jefferies to Councillor Halden

Mayor

Councillor Jefferies please read out your question.

Councillor Jefferies

Would the Portfolio Holder for Health please update Members on what representations the Council has received from the medical profession on the proposed changes to health care in particular with regards to Orsett Hospital?

Mayor

Councillor Halden

Councillor Halden

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Jefferies for your question. As I have told the chamber in the past in May 2017 we signed a memorandum of understanding of our health partners outlining the construction of our integrated medical centre network will be predicated on Orsett Hospital only changing or closing when new centres are up and running so all services remain in the borough of Thurrock to be enhanced by being co-located with GPs, mental health services and public health services. That I know has been adhered to. In due course the overview and scrutiny committee and the People's Panel was established will see a matrix of services will be outlined each and every service at Orsett Hospital, where those services will be redeployed within the new network as the same time we roll out additional assurances regarding GP contracts for those facilities and our initial draft plans by how mental health services will be integrated across the four medical centres. Across the four individual sites members would already have seen that the Purfleet IMC is clearly outlined in the Purfleet Regeneration Master Plan and the Tilbury Regeneration Plan that Councillor Coxshall brought forwarded clearly has the IMC included in there. The Corringham IMC has already had planning permission passed and I attended a visit at the community hospital a fortnight ago with the Director of Health to see the progress. The matrix will come soon and funding is now in a very sound position. Overview and scrutiny did call in this decision to the Secretary of State which meant the decision was put on pause. It was very regrettable that the decision regarding our IMCs and Orsett Hospital was published in June 2018 and the overview and scrutiny committee took almost half a year to get around to calling it in. That has cost us about 14 months of progress, where other parties had to be recall out. But we are now pushing on, the independent review panel have now come back and judged the political merits of the case and are confident this is within the best interests of patients. I know that this scheme is still opposed by the Labour group but let's just quickly review the groups that are in favour of it. NELFT community health provider of the NHS, EPUT mental health provider of the NHS, the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England, Clinical Senate, Basildon Hospital, Thurrock Public Health, Thurrock Social Care, Thurrock CCG, Basildon CCG, Rochford CCG, Southend CCG, Mid Essex CCG. Basically the entire medical profession with the exception of the Labour party.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Halden. Councillor Jefferies do you have a supplementary question.

Councillor Jefferies

No thank you Mister Mayor.

7. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Maney

Mayor

Councillor Gerrish please read out your question.

Councillor Gerrish

What action is Thurrock Council taking to minimise the impact of additional traffic from Purfleet's new secondary school?

Councillor Maney

Thank you Mister Mayor and Councillor Gerrish for your question and I think the first thing I would say Mister Mayor as it is worth nothing that the school only opened this month I think in terms of any additional traffic or traffic associated problems of parking problems I think the full impact of that will become evident in the fullness of time although I hope that the measures that are already in place will mitigate against that. Again another point I want to make before moving on it is not necessary the Council's responsibility to implement all the measures aimed at addressing additional traffic problems that actually rests with the developer, and come back to the point I made earlier about the planning process, it is bit late looking at measures when something like a secondary school is already in operation of course there are things that Council could look but fundamentally it is at the planning stage it is about holding the development to account and making sure that the conditions are in the planning consent. And turning to the planning consent I am sure Councillor Gerrish have read that as no doubt a number of us have I have picked out some things that are already in place which have come about as the Council's Highways Department recommendations to the Planning Committee and their contribution to the planning process. A developer is required to make a £20,000 contribution to the Council so to enable amendments to the existing parking controls in London Road there will be a new signalised pedestrian crossing in London Road which will serve the academy, a private bus service will be in place to transport pupils between Harris Academy in Chafford Hundred and the new campus in London Road. There will be a student drop off and pick up facility at Cornwell House car park which is 500 yards from the school and there are also provision for on-site parking, drop off and pick up facility. Again I come back to the issue of a travel plan the Academy is also expected to prepare and maintain a travel plan which will encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport and on that point of course it is worth pointing out the school does sit on a bus route and is only meters away from Purfleet train station so it is hoped that more pupils will use public transport given as they have access to these kinds of services. Thank you Mister Mayor.

Mayor

Thank your Councillor Maney. Councillor Gerrish do you have a supplementary question.

Councillor Gerrish

Thank you Mister Mayor. Yes I do. I thank the portfolio holder for the answer clearly we all welcome that the new school is opening in Purfleet that gives us huge opportunities in the areas but we do obviously we do need to ensure that we consider the traffic issues around that and to ensure the public are safe. I certainly do welcome that there is a new pedestrian crossing coming something that we talk a lot about in Purfleet and actually if you go down London Road in either direction of the school you have to go quite a long way before you get to a crossing. Would the portfolio holder would be able to confirm to us please when we would expect that new crossing to open.

Mayor

Councillor Maney

Councillor Maney

Thank you Mister Mayor. I would clearly love to but unfortunately I can't, that is a planning condition and my reading of that it should have been in situ before the school was open. Now I do know that officers in the Highways Team have been very active in reminding the developer of their obligation and they haven't as yet been forthcoming in filling that obligation but I understand that they do know the urgency of it unfortunately there are permits that need to be issued before such work can be carried out and there is inevitably going to be some delay because until they do apply no permits can be issued so I think I am right in saying again that we are looking at some time in October but ultimately if the developer does not meet this obligation or any of their obligations it this does fall to the Planning department to consider enforcement action and I do say that again for someone who represents a ward in which a school is in breach of a planning condition and there is a tendency that because it is a school that we won't hold them to it. I personally expect whether it is a school, charity organisation, a large corporation or large business if they sort planning consent with conditions they should adhere to it and enforcement action should follow come what may. Thank you Mister Mayor.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Maney. Councillor Gerrish do you have a second supplementary question.

Councillor Gerrish

Thank you Mister Mayor. Could the portfolio holder just clarify that he seems to be speaking as though he is expecting the school themselves to build the crossing whereas I think most of us would have expected them to provide funding to the Council in order to enable to deliver a project to put a crossing in place. Could he just confirm the situation please?

Mayor

Councillor Maney.

Councillor Maney

Thank you Mister Mayor. It is not my misunderstanding and if I am wrong I stand corrected but it is my understanding is that the developer is responsible for ensuring that the crossing is put in place and use a contractor for that purpose. Thank you Mister Mayor.

Mayor

Thank you Councillor Maney.

8. From Councillor Gerrish to Councillor Huelin

How many senior permanent roles at Thurrock Council (Assistant Director or above) are currently occupied by temporary, agency or acting up staff?

Councillor Gerrish requested a written response.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were 6 questions from members of the public.

1. From Mrs Saunders to Councillor Watkins

We would like to ask the Council why so many trees are being removed in Thurrock in particular in Dell Road Orsett Hill, Orsett Cock roundabout, Rectory Road, Chadwell Road and a whole row taken down at Coalhouse Fort?

2. From Mr Jones to Councillor Huelin

The community environment development fund has been going for about three years now, what difference has it made to Thurrock communities?

3. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Maney

Would the Council consider outlawing the practice of parking motor vehicles on pavements?

4. From Mr Arnold to Councillor Gledhill

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Protection reassure the community regarding the safety of students, given recent coverage of knife crime?

5. From Mr Rikowski to Councillor Watkins

What is Thurrock Council going to do to address the toxic levels of pollution in the air, which damages and negatively impacts people in the area?

6. From Ms Sisterson to Councillor Coxshall

Please can Councillors tell residents how the damage caused with the widening of the A13 is to be compensated for in terms of the carbon capture lost with the destruction of the trees?

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Petitions Update Report

Petition No.	Description	Presented (date)	Presented (by)	Status
524	Thurrock Sports Council – Improve sports facilities	19 June 2019	Mr Norrington Presented at Council	<p>Sports and Recreation Officers continue to liaise and support Sports Clubs and Community groups with their ambitions and bids for financial support.</p> <p>Sports and Leisure draft Strategy work continues to be progressed. The Active Parks team have been proactive during the summer with community engagement and sports sessions in parks and open spaces. Plans for the October school holidays are also being promoted.</p>
529	Council to consider replacing the grass area in Heathview Gardens with hard standing for parking.	18 September 2019	Cllr Redsell Presented at Council	<p>This request has been sent to the Transport Development team so that it can be assessed and considered within the Kerb-it programme. A capital funding bid is currently being prepared in order to identify the additional funds required to assess and implement Kerb-it requests over the next 2 years. If this funding bid is successful all requests will be assessed and prioritised for implementation with the available funds. If Heathview Gardens is identified as a priority residents will be notified and engaged through a statutory consultation process.</p>
530	Strongly against the implementation of parking permit within SS17 until a suitable solution is found we also ask Thurrock Council to abandon this project which is not in the best interest of the community	18 September 2019	Cllr Byrne Presented at Council	<p>The petition has been reviewed by the service and the concerns raised have been carefully considered. These schemes are kept review following their implementation to ensure they are meeting the needs of local communities. In accordance with normal procedure following receipt of a petition against a Parking Permit Area, a Delegated Decision Report (DDR) has been progressed for the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to consider a number of recommendations for decision. Local residents and businesses will be kept informed and updated.</p>

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30 October 2019		ITEM: 10
Council		
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: Non-Key
Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Chairs		
Accountable Assistant Director: Tim Hallam, Acting Assistant Director Legal & Monitoring Officer		
Accountable Director: Sean Clark, Director of Finance and IT		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

This report introduces the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, which in accordance with the Council's Constitution, should be presented to the Council.

At the Full Council meeting on 24 July 2019, a refreshed Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report was requested, and these changes have consequently been made.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19 be noted.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Each year an Annual Report is produced detailing the work of the six Overview and Scrutiny committees and their main achievements for that municipal year. The report is designed to inform residents of this work in an accessible and engaging format.
- 2.2 The last municipal year has seen Overview and Scrutiny tackle a wide range of topics, with Members leading on issues that have come to the fore both through their own research and through the recommendations of Council officers.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 It is hoped that the format of the Annual Report will highlight to residents how the Overview and Scrutiny committees have picked relevant community

issues, and how Members undertook work to form recommendations that positively affected these issues.

- 3.2 The report will be published on the Council's website and key community groups and participants from last year's work will be made aware of its publication directly.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The report outlines the positive work that has been undertaken during 2018/2019 and is being referred to Council for review in order for Members to comment on the overall Overview and Scrutiny function of Thurrock Council.

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

- 5.1 In accordance with Chapter 4, Part 1, Rule 7.1 of the Constitution, the annual report is submitted to Council for their consideration and comment.
- 5.2 Overview and Scrutiny Chairs were consulted on the contents of the report in May 2019, and then again following June's Full Council on the refreshed report.

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

- 6.1 This report has a community impact as the work of the Overview and Scrutiny committees for 2018/2019 allows residents to participate in decision making and tackling key issues of local concern, which is clearly documented in the annual report.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by:

Dammy Adewole

**Senior Management Accountant –
Central Services**

There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report. If any recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for adoption by the Council have financial implications they are identified separately in each report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by:

Tim Hallam

**Acting Assistant Director Legal
and Monitoring Officer**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report but it is good practice to produce an annual report reviewing Overview and Scrutiny activity.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by:

Rebecca Price
Diversity and Communities
Manager

The Overview and Scrutiny function is carried out with due regard to equality and inclusion legislation and specifically the Equality Act 2010.

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

None.

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

- Agenda, Reports and Minutes of meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Task and Finish Reviews, available from:

<http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock/>

9. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19

Report Author:

Lucy Tricker
Democratic Services Officer
Legal and Democratic Services

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Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report

2018-2019

Contents

What is Overview and Scrutiny	4-6
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny	7-8
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny	9-10
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny	11 -12
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny	13-14
Housing Overview and Scrutiny	15-16
Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny	17-18
Budget Overview and Scrutiny	19-20
Overview and Scrutiny Reviews	21-22
Call-Ins	23

What is Overview & Scrutiny?

In general terms, Overview and Scrutiny is the process whereby Councillors investigate, scrutinise and oversee the work of the Council. More specifically Overview and Scrutiny pays particular attention to:

- ❖ The decisions made by Cabinet, Council and officers in relation to Council policy or key decisions.
- ❖ The activities carried out by the Council and other bodies (such as the NHS).
- ❖ The performance of the Council in relation to its targets and objectives.

Work Programme

The work programme for Thurrock's Overview and Scrutiny is created by a combination of:

- ❖ What Councillors feel are important topics (this is gathered from their work in their wards and activities across the whole of the Council).
- ❖ Members of the public highlighting issues for debate, either through Call-Ins or through consultation.
- ❖ Requests by Thurrock's Cabinet for Overview and Scrutiny to undertake "pre-decision scrutiny" prior to policies being taken to Cabinet for consideration.

The agendas and associated reports of each Committee can be accessed by the following link: <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/>

Committees

At Thurrock, the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function is carried out by six committees, which each have a specific remit:

- ❖ Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ❖ Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ❖ Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ❖ Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ❖ Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ❖ Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership

The membership of Thurrock's Overview and Scrutiny Committees is made up of Councillors drawn from all the political parties of the Council. The Overview and Scrutiny function enables Councillors who are not members of the Cabinet (also known as the Executive) to have an active role in the decision-making process of the Council.

Thurrock has a number of non-Councillors sitting on Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Children's Services Committee has two parent-governors as well as a diocesan representative from the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches respectively. There are also two co-opted members on the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and one co-opted member on the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee representing health and housing interests across the borough.

In addition, sub-committees or panels may also be formed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to undertake specific tasks, such as a review, the membership of which is decided alongside the remit of the review.

The decision making process

In Thurrock, Overview and Scrutiny plays a key role in adding value to the Council's decision-making process. It also reviews the existing practices of the Council and makes recommendations to Cabinet to enhance and improve service provision.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees meet in an informal atmosphere and engage with people who can help with their work and provide evidence for their reviews. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Committees and at the discretion of the Chair may even be able to take part.

Overview and Scrutiny Online

Overview and Scrutiny has a dedicated section on Thurrock Council's website and can be found at <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny/overview-and-scrutiny-committees> .

Thurrock Council's website provides the most up-to-date information on Overview and Scrutiny in Thurrock. Participation from the public is actively encouraged and promoted online.

A number of documents are available and easily accessible, including our Overview and Scrutiny annual reports. Reports, agendas and minutes from each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting are also available electronically from Thurrock's website.

Getting in Touch

Our Democratic Services Team manages the Overview and Scrutiny process at Thurrock, and is located within Legal Services. Democratic Services manage the Council's decision-making process and services a wide range of Council decision-making bodies including the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet, Planning Committee, Licensing Committee, as well as Full Council.

If you have any queries about this report or the Overview and Scrutiny process, or if you are interested in participating, please feel free to contact us.

Email: Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

Address: Democratic Services, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays
Essex RM17 6SL

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

I assumed the position of Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2018, but being a member of the Committee from the beginning of the municipal year, I can report on the work of the committee for the year 2018-19.

We began the year by considering the Children's Social Care Development Plan, which was developed to improve the Council's OFSTED rating by addressing issues, such as the recruitment and training of staff. We questioned the time it took to recruit new foster carers, as Members felt the eight-month time-scale was too long and discussed how to increase the number of adoptions, as this was an underperforming service. As a Committee, we felt it was important to see the Development Plan after officers had considered our suggestions, and therefore did not agree to the Plan, until amendments had been made. In addition, Members also analysed regular updates on the performance of children's social care and discovered that the biggest challenge for young people leaving care was housing and safeguarding. Due to these ongoing discussions, we requested additional reports on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and missing children. As a part of this, Members of the Committee visited the MASH team and got a chance to better understand its workings and talk to staff members.

In addition, the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee regularly undertakes pre-scrutiny of reports, which then follow the governance process with sign off by Cabinet. One of the reports we pre-scrutinised was the Children's Transport Re-Procurement of Service that outlined the statutory service of providing home to school transport. We questioned how to increase bus usage for school routes, and how 'safe' routes to school were assessed. We recommended to Cabinet that they change the methodology of determining a 'safe' route to school.

We also considered the Free Schools Programme that provided an update on the progress of the proposed three new schools across the borough and the planning process they would have to follow. We welcomed the new schools but raised issues with the increased congestion and pollution that could occur, and concerns around safeguarding. Because of these discussions, we requested an update report later on in the municipal year, so we could closely monitor the development of these schools.

Objectively, the most important piece of scrutiny we undertook this year was of the Social Care Services Review, which occurred due to serious whistleblowing allegations. The report outlined the six recommendations that were suggested by the independent investigation. Members requested regular updates on the recommendations being implemented, and requested a meeting with the social care team so we could speak with staff face-to-face. We also recommended a new KPI that could be monitored by the Committee, and asked for Members to receive further service specific training at the beginning of the next municipal year.

My personal highlight of the year was the visit to the Brighter Future's Children's Centre in Tilbury that the Committee requested, so that we were able to see the good work the Centre's were doing for the local community. Whilst there, we

observed a 'stay and play' session and were able to speak with parents and members of staff. It was great to see how the Centre has benefitted parents and how well they had embedded within the local community. We also welcomed two new Parent Governor Representatives whose expertise and guidance was widely appreciated.

As mental health has become a large issue for Thurrock residents, we requested that The School Wellbeing Service deliver a presentation on the emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people. We were pleased to see that mental health was being taken seriously, and discussed teacher and pastoral care capacity in schools and the availability of specialised training for staff. The Committee also heard a presentation by the Youth Work Team on the activities they run across Thurrock for young people aged 11–19 years of age, which emphasised their continued support in young people's personal and social development to help boost their confidence, and improve their peer relationships. The Committee supported projects run by the Youth Work Team such as Tilbury Youth Club and #USound Music Studio that had been set up, but Members questioned how vulnerable young people such as carers and youth offenders could take part.

To conclude, I feel that it has been a successful year. I would like to thank all Members of the Committee, Officers of Children's Services, and Democratic Services for their hard work and commitment.

Councillor Bukky Okunade

Chair of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny

This year the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee have scrutinised a number of items that included Grounds Maintenance, Street Cleansing, Fly Tipping, Refuse Collections, Recycling Services and a report on Air Quality and Health.

The main focus of the year's agenda was the progress of development at the Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre, and how this could lead to significant increases in recycling and re-use facilities on-site. We were excited to have the chance to visit the Centre and saw first-hand the new signage; CCTV; and waste disposal containers. Following our site visit the Committee requested to see the proposed development plans, so we could scrutinise ideas such as the dedicated turn-lane on the highway for access to the site. The Committee also suggested use of a road sweeper at the Centre to maintain the appearance and cleanliness of the site. Finally, we were pleased to hear that a new commercial vehicle access scheme was in place, and staff were now completing more extensive training.

Following on from these discussions, the Committee requested an item that would focus on the current recycling position, and planned actions to improve recycling across the borough. In this report, the Committee discovered that recycling rates across the borough were decreasing, but the Council were tackling this through increased communication and education. Members discussed reasons why recycling rates were decreasing such as worn out 'contaminated bin' stickers and usage of different bins throughout the year. To tackle this, the Committee asked for all worn out 'contaminated bin' stickers to be replaced; and a review of brown bins, focussing specifically on cemeteries and winter collections, to take place, with findings coming back to the Committee.

Based on a motion made at Full Council, a new Tree Planting Strategy was brought before the Committee, so we could decide which option would best suit the borough and its residents. We had to choose between three options, which were replacing trees on a like-for-like basis; replacing trees on the basis that for every one removed, two would be planted; and backdating tree replacement. The Committee considered this item in great detail and discussed how the trees would be maintained once they were planted, and how proposed developments could include the new strategy. We ultimately decided on the replacement of trees on a like-for-like basis and the backdated replacement of trees, and this decision was reported to Cabinet for final sign-off. We wanted to closely monitor the development of the Tree Planting Strategy so requested that an update come before the Committee in a year's time.

Due to the increase in gang related violence across the borough, we also requested an item come before Committee so we could discuss measures being put in place to reduce the number of incidents and increase safety for residents. We invited the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour; Essex Police; and the Youth Offending Service, so we had the opportunity to question them and hear about the partnerships that were in place to tackle gang violence. We questioned the number of injunctions being handed out, and how many arrests were made based on these injunctions. Following this evidence session, we were reassured that the

council were working hard to tackle gang violence across the borough, and had good partnerships with authorities such as Essex Police.

A report on the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy also came before the Committee to highlight how the Council were dealing with this issue, as well as violence against men, domestic violence, and child sexual exploitation. We were glad to hear that Project MAYA, which was aimed at tackling female genital mutilation, worked with Barnado's, who were embedded in the multi-agency service hub (MASH). The Committee raised concerns with some aspects of the report such as the lack of available data, and the number of repeat offenders who repeatedly committed violence against women and girls. We also questioned the number of points of contact for victims, and asked if one single point of contact could be established, who could then direct victims to the correct service. After these discussions, we requested an additional recommendation be added to the report to ensure the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy was resourced adequately.

One of the highlights of the year was the re-establishment of the Prevent Member Working Group, which will be led by the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and will work towards the prevention of terrorism and extremism across the borough. As a part of this, we were pleased to hear an update on the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership, which detailed how the Council were tackling extremism through education, and the Committee are excited to start work on the Prevent Member Working Group.

Members of the Committee also discussed the Air Quality and Health Strategy, which outlined measures being taken to improve air quality and reduce air pollution across the borough. We heard how the strategy was promoting public transport, working with schools to promote walking and cycling, and promoting a heavy goods vehicle management scheme. The Committee suggested that additional tree and hedge planting was included in the Air Quality and Health Strategy, to ensure the Tree Planting Strategy was implemented in all new policies. We recommended that officers consult with Tree UK on this issue, and requested that Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) investigations be brought to committee in the following municipal year so the Committee could closely monitor the development of the Strategy.

I would like to thank Officers, Democratic Services and all those guest speakers for all their hard work and contribution to this committee.

Councillor Lynn Worrall

Chair of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

It has been an eventful year for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which I have been proud to chair. We have examined a wide range of issues relating to the council's corporate functions and made a number of recommendations.

The year started with a review of the disposal of land to build schools within Thurrock. The committee warmly welcomed the commitment to provide more school places, but raised concerns on the process followed to identify sites, and in the level of communication between the council and those groups impacted by the decision. An extraordinary meeting was held on this topic so the Committee could study the decisions in detail, and representatives from affected local groups attended and were able to give their opinion.

In September, the Committee heard an update on our Communications Strategy, which gave the Communications team the chance to update Members on the progress made in implementing the strategy in the last six months, including the increased use of social media, and the success of specific campaigns such as recruiting new foster carers. The Committee also invited members of the local media to directly feedback on the experience of working with Thurrock Council. This led to a good debate and a strong feeling from Members that we must work with local media organisations in a closer partnership and ensure that they are well used as fantastic channels of communication with our residents. The committee recommended an approach of 'proactive openness' with the local media to ensure that our relationship was on the best footing.

Later in the year, the committee considered our Long-Term Investment Strategy and reaffirmed our belief in a robust investment approach and in speeding the development of Thurrock Regeneration Limited. We also took the opportunity to consider how best to deploy the council's capital investments, and heard how the Council found investments; duly considered them; and maintained them through their life span. The long-term budget and proposed Civic Offices expansion were also discussed by the Committee in detail.

The Committee also heard a report on the Customer Services Strategy and we discussed improvements that have been made to customer services such as a new contact centre telephony platform; a Customer Contact Association industry accreditation; transformation of the face-to-face customer services area on the ground floor of the Civic Offices; and the implementation and development of online only services.

Along the way, we have also begun consideration of how we can improve the scrutiny process and ensure that the views of scrutiny are considered by Cabinet; continued to review our corporate performance and KPIs; and ensured that budget proposals were fully debated and scrutinised. At every step, the committee has

worked openly, constructively and not along party political lines, and we look forward to this approach continuing next year.

Councillor Oliver Gerrish

Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny

This year the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee continued to look at a large range of topics ranging from the development of a new residential care facility and a new model of primary care in South Ockendon, cancer waiting times, learning disability health checks, to the future of libraries in the borough.

One of the first items on this year's agenda was the development of the Integrated Medical Centres (IMCs) across the borough. We raised concerns over how the proposed IMCs would cope with predicted population increases and sought assurances that the IMCs would be up and running before the closure of Orsett Hospital. We also questioned parking and public transport links to the new IMCs and felt that public transport links should be improved to ensure accessibility for all residents. The Committee therefore requested an additional report in the next municipal year and further updates to be brought before the Committee to focus on parking and public transport concerns. We also suggested inter-linked working with the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee so both Committee's expertise could be shared to ensure the right decisions are made that benefit all residents.

In addition, the Committee spoke at every meeting about Orsett Hospital and the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) plans. The committee held one extraordinary meeting on this important issue, ultimately referring the plans to the Secretary of State for Health for his consideration. We decided that the consultation process and the decision to close Orsett Hospital was not in the best interests of Thurrock residents. I know that this is a very important issue and will continue to be discussed by this committee. Therefore, we established the Orsett Hospital Task and Finish Group in September 2018 to discuss and study the proposed closure of Orsett Hospital. The Orsett Hospital Task and Finish Group held its first meeting, where we agreed the Terms of Reference, elected the Chair and Vice-Chair and considered research into the planned closure, including press articles and case studies.

As well as establishing the Orsett Hospital Task and Finish Group, we also joined the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to be able to work in partnership with other local authorities, such as Southend Borough Council and Essex County Council, on the issue of the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) plans. This year, we outlined Thurrock's agreement to join, agreed the Terms of Reference, and elected Chairs. We also decided upon Thurrock Council's nominees to join the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee felt concerned over the amount of time residents were waiting to see a specialist after a diagnosis of cancer, so asked the Deputy Chief Executive of Basildon and Thurrock Hospital to attend a meeting to discuss the capacity and capabilities of the hospital. We listened to his comments and ideas, and felt that more should be done to reduce the instances of lung cancer, such as increased education and stopping people smoking outside the Civic Offices. We requested an update in the next municipal year to closely monitor if waiting times after cancer diagnosis were decreasing.

Mental health was an important feature in this year's work. Sadly, mental health support is not as good as it should be in Thurrock. This is not isolated to Thurrock – accessing consistently good quality mental health support is an issue across the country – however in Thurrock we have acknowledged we need to do better. We felt that waiting times to see a mental health provision was too long, and wished to see increased mental health provision in schools for early intervention. The council undertook a peer review and excellent work began on developing our plans for adult mental health service transformation. The Committee will closely monitor this work in the coming year too.

During the standing agenda item that allowed HealthWatch to give their update, the Committee were made aware that funding for the South Essex Rape and Incest Crises Centre (SERICC) had been stopped before alternative provision had been put in place. As a Committee, we discussed plans for funding and data sharing, and agreed to write to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to share our concerns. In response to our letter, the CCG agreed to extend the funding grant for six months until a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment had been carried out.

The Committee also considered the Strategy for Developing Libraries as Community Hubs, which was the first comprehensive strategy for libraries and had gone out to consultation, with this report informing Members of the responses. We were very pleased to hear that no libraries would be closing in Thurrock and the strategy outlined their future plans for development as community hubs.

Thank you to Officers, Democratic Services and the outside organisations who sit on the committee for all their hard work and to fellow Councillors on the Committee for their dedication and constructive contributions.

Councillor Victoria Holloway

Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

It has been a pleasure to Chair the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee in what has been a busy and stimulating year. A key issue this year was a focus on the safety measures installed in high rises across the borough, following the tragic fire in Grenfell Tower in June 2017. The Committee considered a number of additional fire suppressant systems and reviewed policies for compartmentalisation and evacuation in case of emergency. We asked the Council to bring forward the programmed inspection of every high-rise dwelling in the borough; and felt assured once the in-house team, an external fire safety consultant, and Essex County Fire and Rescue had inspected every block. We also requested additional information on the process of retrospectively fitting sprinklers into every block, and where funding for this could be provided in the budget. The Committee also asked for additional safety testing of the cladding used in high-rises. These requests were sent to Cabinet for them to consider as part of their Executive function.

The Committee also raised an issue regarding the state of council-owned garages and therefore started an on-going review of garages. We asked officers to undertake a comprehensive review of all council-owned garages across the borough, and garages were either marked for removal if deemed to be end of life, or were marked for improvement works. The Committee were pleased to hear updates of this review, and heard how the Committee's ideas were being implemented on officer level, for example how detailed records of garages were now kept, as well as increased liaison with the legal team to organise agreements so residents can store items other than cars in their garages. We asked if the Youth Offending Service could include garage painting as part of their community service scheme.

In February 2018, the Committee requested a review on the cases of homelessness because of domestic abuse and mental health. Although this began in the previous municipal year, we continued to hear updates so we could ensure the process was effectively scrutinised and received Member input. To add to this, we requested a review of findings to ensure that housing staff were adequately trained in cases of homelessness due to domestic abuse and mental health. We also wished to meet with frontline staff to ensure they felt they were receiving adequate training, and added this as a recommendation to the report.

Members have also encouraged social housing on a number of occasions and have considered a government Green Paper on social housing and a consultation on the use of "Right to Buy". In addition, we scrutinised the proposal for internal and external redecoration of council properties across the borough, to help benefit those residents in social housing. We felt that we needed additional information before we approved the internal/external redecoration of council properties, so deferred the item until the report contained additional information and more detailed figures.

Pre-scrutiny was a large part of our role this year and as a part of this we had the opportunity to have an in-depth study of the Housing Allocation Review, which recommended a number of changes such as removing band five from the housing list; changing the criteria for the financial threshold; and cancelling inactive

applicants on the housing list. We expressed our concern over the removal of band five as we felt it could disadvantage some residents who needed council housing. Therefore, the Committee did not approve all recommendations before they went to Cabinet. Cabinet noted our concern, and asked us for additional scrutiny, particularly regarding the financial qualification for the housing list, which we were happy to provide.

The Committee had previously requested the chance to view the out of hours procedure for sheltered housing, due to concerns raised during the previous municipal year. We questioned the procedures for sheltered housing, and also questioned how often pendant alarms were tested and if this happened regularly enough. Members felt assured after listening to officers that the out of hours procedure was sufficient to ensure resident's safety and comfort. In addition, we considered the re-procurement of the contract for gas servicing repair and renewal, and felt that the council should increase communications with residents, so everyone was aware when gas works would be taking place in their area. We also discussed issues that residents had been having with the gas servicing hotline, and requested that these issues be fixed before the contract was procured. In addition, the Committee asked for the new contract to include apprenticeships, so local young people could learn and upskill.

My thanks go to all the officers who worked to bring reports and support the Committee, as well as Democratic Services for the efficient organisation of all meetings. My thanks also go to my fellow Councillors on the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee who were committed to the scrutiny process.

Councillor Gerard Rice

Chair of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny

The Planning, Transport and Regeneration (PTR) Overview and Scrutiny Committee have had a good year with many positive reports. Following an update on the Development Plan provided to the Committee at the start of this municipal year, PTR agreed on the formation of the Local Development Plan Task Force. We established the Task Force to consider the amount of affordable homes in Thurrock and proposed sites, as well as the impact of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing on home-building across the borough. This year we agreed Terms of Reference and elected the Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as considering the Local Plan as a whole, by receiving an overview and outline. In addition, the newly formed Task Force invited a representative from David Lock Associates and the Town and Country Planning Association who delivered presentations on 'garden cities', which showed the Committee the types and scales of development that could be undertaken in Thurrock. I was pleased to see the Local Development Plan Task Force undertaking some good work scrutinising the Local Plan to help Thurrock and its residents grow.

The Committee also invited Purfleet Centre Regeneration Ltd to give a presentation that updated the Committee on the new regeneration scheme, and we supported the project to bring new infrastructure to the town. In addition, we invited representatives from developers who were investing in Purfleet such as Urban Catalyst, and also invited the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration. It was great to hear from such a variety of people and gave the Committee the chance to draw on their expertise and ask some great questions. The Chairman of Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum was also in attendance, and had the chance to present his forums views. I have to thank the Chairman of Purfleet-on-Thames Community Forum, and other community forums, for the fantastic work they do in their communities. It was fantastic to see the investment being given to Purfleet and the plans to develop it into a vibrant town.

We also were kept informed on the progress of the Grays South Regeneration Project, and questioned the proposed new pedestrian underpass, which was now in a position to begin the next phase of development. Members of the Committee supported this proposal as the barrier crossing at Grays train station could be dangerous for residents, and felt assured that the new underpass would include CCTV and sufficient lighting to mitigate against anti-social behaviour. The Committee was also pleased to have the chance to scrutinise other ongoing projects, such as the A13 Widening Scheme. We invited a representative from Kier who detailed the timelines and planned works for the A13 Widening Scheme, and the Committee asked for future updates be provided to the Committee, to keep us informed of progress as the scheme develops.

The Committee also heard presentations from Network Rail and c2c that detailed actions being undertaken to tackle trespassing, safety, and train delay issues. I was pleased to hear that c2c are in the process of changing their systems, which are over twenty years old and would help to reduce the number of delays. At the Committee meeting in March 2019, we challenged the ticket machines that were to be placed in Stanford-le-Hope train station, and c2c reassured us that station staff would be on site to help with route and ticket purchase enquiries.

I feel that this has been a productive year for the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee and we have heard a variety of interesting reports. I want to thank Members of the Committee, officers, and Democratic Services for their hard work and support over the year.

Councillor Martin Kerin

***Chair of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration
Overview and Scrutiny Committee***



Budget Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Members were keen to scrutinise the budget to ensure that the Council was on target to achieve significant budget savings and to identify if further value for money and efficiencies could be realised. Members were keen to ensure that Thurrock was getting good value for money for its residents, as well as finding new income streams and protecting services that were important for people in the borough.

Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed proposed fees and charges, particularly the increased fees for the use of Wi-Fi in public libraries; the increased charge for school's visiting Coalhouse Fort; and increased charges for cultural services in the Thameside Theatre. Members also queried the lack of discount for early repayment of fixed penalty notices for fly-posting, and requested additional information before agreeing the proposed fees and charges.

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted and agreed to the proposed fees and charges, and engaged in detailed discussions on issues such as increased nursery charges and increased fees for the use of the Grangewater facility.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a freeze in Council Tax for the next municipal year, and enquired into alternative plans, should the Council opt to increase in Council Tax. The Committee also welcomed the aspirational approach suggested for the Capital Programme, and scrutinised capital plans such as the widening of the A13, Grays underpass, East-facing slip roads; and an improved cycle network.

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny

The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy for 2018/19, and felt that the online application for Blue Badges was difficult and asked relevant officers to provide support to those filling in the application. Members also raised issues with the increased transport fees for the domiciliary care workforce, before agreeing the fees and charges.

Housing Overview and Scrutiny

The Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed the delivery of income targets for 2018/19 and agreed the proposed fees and charges, but raised issues regarding the increase of fees for mobile home licensing fees and the effect this could have on travellers across the borough.

Planning, Transport & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny

The Planning, Transport & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised queries regarding the introduction of fees for schools providing scooter training and the increasing of fees for skip and highways licenses. All proposed fees and charges under the remit of PTR Overview and Scrutiny were agreed.

Overview and Scrutiny Reviews

Overview and Scrutiny Committees can establish Scrutiny Review Panels to investigate in-depth issues, which have come to their attention.

Therefore, a Task and Finish Group may be established by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider a specific piece of work and make recommendations to its parent committee or directly to the Cabinet. The number of Members of the Task and Finish Group and its terms of reference must be specified when it is established.

An Overview and Scrutiny Committee may establish Working Groups to consider a specific piece of work or look into a particular issue in more detail outside of the formal meeting of the Committee. Any such Working Group will comprise of members of the Committee, working informally with Officers or other Members and reporting their findings back to the Committee.

There were two Task and Finish Groups convened this year, which were the Orsett Hospital Task and Finish Group set-up by the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and the Local Development Plan Task and Finish Group set-up by the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In addition, the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force continued their work investigating Highways England's plans to build a new Thames crossing.

Orsett Hospital Task and Finish Group

The Orsett Hospital Task and Finish Group held its first meeting in November 2018 to scrutinise the proposed closure of process of Orsett Hospital and looked at the following:

- Proposed transfer of services.
- Timings and operational position of the integrated medical centres.
- The future of Orsett Hospital and alternative proposals.

Members also received a briefing note regarding the Sustainability and Transformation Plan and this was discussed in detail.

Local Development Plan Task and Finish Group

The Local Plan Task and Finish Group held its first meeting in January 2019 to discuss and make recommendations in relation to the development and implementation of the Local Development Plan and looked at the following:

- The preparation, development of strategies, and policy approaches of the Local Plan and provided comment on its scope and development
- Reports, presentations, and updates on government policy and the South Essex Joint Strategic Plan.
- Reviewed the Council's approach to community engagement in the plan-making process.

Members received an overview of the Local Plan and of the Issues and Options 2 Consultation, in which residents had the opportunity to express their opinions on the Local Plan. The Task and Finish Group also received a presentation by David Lock Associates, and the Town and County Planning Association, which informed Members about the most effective way of building new 'Garden Cities', and how to deliver effective communities. Members also discussed transport in relation to the Local Development Plan as traffic and pollution was an issue for Thurrock residents.

Lower Thames Crossing Task Force

The Lower Thames Crossing Task Force was set up in 2017, and continued its work this municipal year. The Task Force meet on a monthly basis and seeks to hold Highways England to account and oppose the proposed Lower Thames Crossing. During the year the Task Force considered the following:

- Highways England's statutory consultation, which contained the Local Authority response and a Land Owner response.
- Local issues such as the Tilbury Link Road, the location of the Rest and Service Area, and the impact on the Gammon Fields Traveller Site.
- Traffic modelling and the design of the proposed crossing.

Throughout the year, Highways England attended meetings of the Task Force which allowed Members and co-opted members the chance to question and listen to a variety of topics. In addition, technical experts were also invited to attend meetings to give their opinion and help Members understand the process and governance behind the new crossing.

Call-ins

Thurrock's Call-In process is a vital aspect of the Overview and Scrutiny function. It allows Councillors or members of the public to ask that a decision of the Cabinet not be implemented until it has been subject to scrutiny by the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A Call-In of a Cabinet decision can be requested by two elected Members who are not members of the Cabinet, a Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a voluntary group with an interest in the Borough, or a local business situated in the Borough. A Call-In can also be requested by a minimum of ten residents in the Borough. The Call-In must be in writing and include reasons for the Call-In together with an alternative course of action.

The Call-In, once it has been verified as legitimate and in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution, is then referred to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. The Committee receives all the evidence relating to the issue in question and following consideration makes recommendations about whether the original decision should stand or whether Cabinet should be requested to reconsider its original decision.

During 2018-2019, no Call-ins were submitted to an overview and scrutiny committee.

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23 October 2019		ITEM: 12
Council		
Thurrock Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 2) Report of Consultation		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: Key
Report of: Sean Nethercott, Strategic Lead – Strategic Services		
Accountable Assistant Director: Leigh Nicholson, Interim Assistant Director – Planning, Transportation and Public Protection		
Accountable Director: Andy Millard, Interim Director Place		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the preparation of the Thurrock Local Plan and sets out the key messages received in response to the Thurrock Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 2) Consultation Document that was published for consultation on 12th December 2018.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That Council agree the publication of the Issues and Options 2 Report of Consultation on the Council's website and agree the approach to preparing a new Local Plan.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1** The Council's approach to growth is that it should be community-driven, infrastructure-led and make a key contribution to high quality place making. The need to plan for future housing and economic provision due to population growth and the impact of wider socio-economic factors means that Thurrock and South Essex will change considerably over the next 20-30 years. Having an up-to-date Development Plan is a key component in ensuring that the borough grows in a sustainable way with the necessary supporting infrastructure in place.
- 2.2** The Council has an adopted Local Plan in the shape of the Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development DPD (Adopted in 2011 and updated in 2015). In February 2014, the Cabinet gave approval to undertake a review of the Core Strategy and begin the preparation of a new Local Plan.

- 2.3 A key principle underpinning the operation of the planning system is the requirement that local authorities must have an up-to-date Local Plan for their area. The February 2014 Cabinet resolution recognised that a review of the Core Strategy was required in order to address the impact of economic change and a number of significant changes to the planning system at the national, regional and local levels. These included:
- The need for a more up-to-date statutory planning framework to coordinate the delivery of the Council's ambitious growth strategy for Thurrock;
 - The revocation of the East of England Plan and the requirement for local planning authorities to undertake a fresh assessment of their future development needs;
 - A requirement for the Council to identify a deliverable five-year housing land supply and to bring forward more sites for development to support long term economic growth;
 - Legislative changes that fundamentally affect the form, content and process for preparing a Local Plan; and
 - A need to plan for a decision by Government on the route and location of the Lower Thames Crossing and its potential economic, transport and environmental impact on the Borough.
- 2.4 The first consultation on the new Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 1) Document (I&O1) was undertaken in February and March 2016 and focused on thematic policy areas. During the 6-week public consultation, 70 organisations made formal responses raising 548 separate comments. An additional 500 comments were received from Members of the Community at events organised to promote and raise awareness of the Consultation.
- 2.5 Based on the responses received from those who made representations on the I&O1 Consultation Document, the following key challenges for the Local Plan to address were identified:
- Reduce inequalities and create more balanced communities;
 - Allocate enough land to meet our housing needs in full in particular affordable housing that meets local needs;
 - Secure sustainable economic growth and create a wider range of local employment opportunities;
 - Ensure that our centres are vibrant and remain relevant to the communities they serve;
 - Create welcoming and engaging spaces and places for young people;
 - Plan for healthier places that encourage people to be active and have a positive effect on the mental wellbeing;
 - Deliver essential strategic and local infrastructure to support new development and regeneration; and
 - Protect the integrity of the green belt.

Issues and Options (Stage 2) Public Consultation

- 2.6 The spatial strategy set out in the adopted Core Strategy (2015) focuses the majority of new housing development on previously developed land in the urban area. To meet some of the challenges set out earlier in this report the emerging Local Plan will need to look at the possibilities of a combination of denser urban development and the potential of releasing Green Belt sites to meet our housing needs over the next 20 years. This approach would represent a significant change from the Council's current Local Plan.
- 2.7 In this context, the purpose of the Issues and Options (Stage 2) consultation document (I&O2) was to seek views from communities and key stakeholders on how Thurrock should develop and grow in the future and where, in broad terms, new development could be located to meet identified needs. The range of issues consulted on included the following:
- The key challenges and objectives underpinning the development of the Local Plan;
 - The future scale and distribution of new housing, employment, retail and leisure development needed in Thurrock over the plan period up to 2038;
 - The range of broad alternative spatial options and approaches available to accommodate the Boroughs future development requirements;
 - The opportunities available to improve the range and quality of sporting, leisure and recreational facilities, including public open space to meet community needs both now and in the future; and
 - Call for Sites 4 – a further request for landowners to submit sites for assessment and possible allocation for development through the plan making process.
- 2.8 In addition to looking at potential spatial options to accommodate housing and economic growth, the consultation document also sought views on a range of policy options to address a range of locally important issues. These included issues such as housing for older people and specialist needs, hot food takeaways and the need to protect locally important green spaces and buildings.
- 2.9 To ensure that stakeholders were able to make informed responses to the consultation the Council published a number of supporting technical evidence documents including an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) alongside the consultation document. These together with the main consultation documents were made available on the Councils website and in hard copy at various locations across the Borough.
- 2.10 The consultation commenced on Wednesday 12th December 2018 and ran until Friday 8 March 2019. Following requests from a number of parties for additional time to respond, the deadline for responding to the consultation was extended beyond the original date to the 29th March.
- 2.11 The consultation events were delivered through a mixture of community-based sessions and 'Your Place, Your Voice' events organised across the

borough on the dates and locations set out below. In addition to the Consultation events, Officers also attended a number of Community Forum Meetings and held Duty to Cooperate Meetings with neighbouring authorities. These included the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, and Havering with further meetings organised with Dartford Borough Council, Essex County Council and the adjoining South Essex authorities of Basildon, Brentwood, Rochford and Southend.

Principal Community Planning Events

Event Location	Time and Date
South Ockendon – Lime Close Club	Sat 19 Jan 1pm – 5pm
Corringham – Corringham Library	Thurs 24 Jan 5pm – 9pm
East Tilbury – East Tilbury Village Hall	Sun 27 Jan 2pm – 5pm
Tilbury - Tilbury Hub	Mon 28 Jan 5pm – 9pm
Orsett – Orsett Churches Centre	Fri 15 Feb 4pm – 8pm
Grays - St Clements Church and Surgery	Sat 16 Feb 1pm – 5pm
Grays - St John's Church Hall	Sat 23 Feb 1pm – 5pm
Chadwell St Mary - Chadwell Library	Tues 26 Feb 3pm – 7pm
South Ockendon – South Ockendon Centre	Sat 2 Mar 12 – 3.30pm

Informal Drop-in Sessions

South Ockendon Centre Derry Avenue, South Ockendon	Tuesday 15 January
Aveley Library Purfleet Road, Aveley	Thursday 17 January
Tilbury Hub Civic Square, Tilbury	Monday 21 January
Hardie Park Hardie Park, Stanford Le Hope	Tuesday 22 January
Chadwell Centre Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary	Tuesday 22 January
Bulphan Village Hall Church Road, Bulphan	Friday 1 February
The Beacon Centre Drake Road, Chafford Hundred	Thursday 7th February
Purfleet Community Hub 53-54, River Court, Centurion Way, Purfleet	Tuesday 12 February

Acorns Community Centre, Headon Hall, Crawford Avenue, Stifford Clays	Wednesday 20 February
The Beehive Centre West Street, Grays	Thursday 21 February

- 2.12 A full Report of Consultation is currently being prepared and will be made available to view on the Councils Local Plan website. (www.thurrock.gov.uk/localplan). This will provide details of the representations made and set out how the Council will respond to the views of the community and stakeholders in progressing the Local Plan through to preparation of a full Draft (Regulation 18) Local Plan.

Consultation responses – The key messages

- 2.13 By the close of the consultation period on the 29th March around 700 organisations and individuals had responded to the Issues Options (Stage 2) Consultation with nearly 3,000 separate comments having been made in response to the 40 questions set out in the Consultation Document. This included over 400 representations in the form of a signed standard letter requesting the allocation of land in the North Grays / Blackshots area, to include a new community football facility for the use of local teams including Grays Athletic.
- 2.14 Given the volume of representations received, this report only sets out the key messages arising from the consultation. Further information will be made available in the Report of Public Consultation that is currently under preparation and it is intended to provide more detailed information on the responses received on a thematic basis.

Issues and Options 2 – Key Responses

Introduction

- The evidence base underpinning the plan needs to be up-dated in order to ensure that the Council plans to meet the full future development needs of the Borough.
- The Council needs to undertake a further more fine grained Green Belt Assessment when considering the future allocation of sites for development.
- There needs to be more consideration of the cross boundary implications of development and its impact on public rights of way; biodiversity and water bodies including the Mardyke and the River Thames; marine planning considerations; and on the need for essential community infrastructure.
- The Council should consider the need to plan to accommodate any unmet housing and employment needs arising from London and neighbouring South Essex authorities through the Duty to Co-operate and the emerging South Essex JSP.
- Consideration should be given to the provision of a new general hospital rather than local hubs given the scale of new development proposed across South Essex.

Challenges for the Future

- The key issues and challenges identified in the IO2 Consultation Document although comprehensive should be expanded to take into account and/or provide better recognition of the wider aims and objectives of statutory consultees and key delivery partners and stakeholders.
- The Local Plan Vision is broadly supported but should be recast to better reflect the need to address climate change and the wider aims and objectives of statutory consultees and key delivery partners and stakeholders.
- The Draft Strategic Objectives underpinning the plan should be expanded to better reflect the wider aims and objectives of statutory consultees and key delivery partners and stakeholders.

What level of growth is needed – Housing?

- Strong support from the development industry and local businesses for the Local Plan to set a housing target higher than Thurrock's objectively assessed housing need calculated using the standard method to support increased economic growth.
- Strong support for increasing the delivery and mix of affordable, Self-Build and Custom Build housing and specialist housing products subject

to viability considerations being taken into account.

- Recognition that the Borough would not be able to meet its future housing needs by relying on any one Spatial Option including Urban Intensification.
- Support for a 'mix and match' approach utilising a range of spatial options depending on sustainability, deliverability and infrastructure considerations.
- Unlikely that Thurrock would be able to meet any part of its future housing needs through the Duty to Cooperate due to the perceived difficulties that neighbouring authorities were facing in meeting their own needs first.
- Little support for the development of a new settlement at West Horndon beyond the scheme promoters. This is due to its location – better placed to meet London housing needs by virtue of good east- west rail connectivity; the adverse impacts of development on this scale for the Green Belt in this location; the high infrastructure costs associated with developments of this nature; potential adverse impacts on the rate of housing delivery over the plan period elsewhere in Thurrock; and a lack of regeneration/positive economic spin-off benefits for existing Thurrock communities.
- Development of a new settlement at West Horndon opposed by Brentwood Borough Council and West Horndon Parish Council due to impact on the character of the existing settlement.
- General support for the development of urban extensions (major/small) from landowners and developers but needs to be balanced against concerns over long lead-in times for delivery and the availability of funding for strategic infrastructure provision.
- Support from landowners and developers for the village expansion option but less so from members of the community. Concerns arising over impact of development on the character of the villages and a lack of infrastructure to support growth.
- Support for isolated site allocations from landowners and developers with an interest in the land on the basis of their ability to support the delivery of housing early in the plan period and/or reuse previously developed land in the Green Belt.
- Recognition of the need/opportunities available from locating development around the urban fringe in providing existing communities with better access to the green belt and new leisure and recreation opportunities.
- Although numbers responding were small, strong community concern over the need to ensure infrastructure improvements come forward in advance of new development irrespective of the spatial option(s) being promoted.

What level of growth is needed – Employment Growth

- The Local Plan should consider allocating additional employment land to diversify the Boroughs economic base and attract further investment in growth sectors and provide some flexibility to meet changing market requirements.
- The Thurrock Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA) (2017) and Employment Land Availability Assessment (ELAA)(2017) underestimate the future need/demand for employment space in Thurrock and need to be updated.
- Additional land should be identified to support port and logistics related growth in close proximity to the ports and with good access to the strategic road network and Lower Thames Crossing.
- Need to plan for additional local employment 'grow on' space provision in town centres, established employment areas and in new strategic growth locations
- No clear view from respondents on the most appropriate option or options suggested to manage the supply and development of employment land over the plan period.
- Further investment in the transport infrastructure both within and outside the Borough is required to improve access to the strategic economic hubs.
- No clear view from the respondents on the need for additional lorry parking facilities, the benefits associated with their provision or the most appropriate locations to accommodate their development.
- The Council should not be overly protective of poor quality employment sites and premises where there is potential to secure their redevelopment for a range of uses including housing.
- The Council should develop a programme for the voluntary "lifting and shifting" of bad neighbour uses from existing urban area. This should be coupled with the stricter enforcement of planning conditions to ensure that the residential amenity of exiting communities is protected.
- Need to take care not to lose existing and viable businesses through the adoption of a restrictive approach to managing established industrial areas.
- New employment or housing areas should be segregated in order to avoid any adverse impacts upon each other.
- Viable waterside industrial developments, including wharves and port facilities should be provided with a level of safeguarding to ensure that they are protected from adverse impacts of surrounding uses.
- The improvement of digital infrastructure serving Thurrock is strongly supported but concerns over who should cover the cost of it's installation.
- Section 106 and CIL contributions should help cover the cost of new digital provision.

What level of growth is needed – Retail and Leisure?

- Intu Lakeside should continue to be the principal focus for comparison shopping and leisure in Thurrock.
- The future scale of development at Lakeside should not have an adverse impact on town centres within Thurrock and neighbouring authorities
- Transport and access issues at Lakeside will need to be addressed before further development is permitted.
- Gridlock and congestion are having an adverse impact on local communities. Infrastructure improvements need to be assessed and upgraded to meet additional demand.
- Need to ensure Grays is not neglected.
- Agree that future convenience floorspace should be directed to growth locations.
- The redistribution of convenience floorspace provision should not occur in a way that undermines existing centres.
- Town centre planning policy needs to be more flexible so that better use can be made of surplus floorspace.
- Smaller town centres such as Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham need to be supported and improved.
- Lakeside already functions as a town centre and preconditions which seek to limit its potential development are unnecessary. The emphasis should be on facilitating and guiding development in a positive way. The idea of an Inset Plan or similar for the northern part of the Lakeside Basin is therefore supported.
- Scale nature and timing of any further development at Lakeside should be subject to the delivery of suitable infrastructure needs.
- Future development at Lakeside should not have an adverse impact on Borough Centres in Havering, particularly the Metropolitan Centre of Romford.
- Any significant further development at Lakeside should consider the relationship with and impacts on London's Town Centre Network.
- Need to improve the range and quality of retail and other service provision in Grays Town Centre.
- Supportive of concept of reconnecting Grays Town Centre to the River Thames and provides an opportunity to develop a riverside strategy approach as set out in the TE2100 Plan.
- Access to and around Grays Town Centre needs to be improved.
- A series of Place Studies should be prepared for locations such as Stanford-le-Hope, Corringham, Aveley and Ockendon.
- New urban extensions may require policies that identify suitably scaled centres.
- High Streets need to evolve into multi-use facilities to attract more people to visit.
- Strong support for limiting/restricting the growth of hot food takeaways and betting shops.
- Access to and around Grays Town Centre needs to be improved as the one-way system is ill thought out.
- To maintain the viability of smaller town centre retail offerings adequate

short to medium stay parking should be maintained to prevent residents traveling further afield for their requirements.

- The aim to reduce the use of private cars is commendable but impractical in the short to medium term. Need for better parking provision in all shopping centres outside Grays to ensure their viability. Any major new facilities should have adequate parking and a robust travel plan.
- The improvement of riverfront cycling from Southend to London is a favourable ambition due to the benefits associated with it. Need for better connectivity between Five Bells and Corringham.
- Need for a Park and Ride Scheme to serve Basildon Hospital.
- Need for edge of town park and ride facilities to serve Corringham and Stanford –le-Hope
- More parking (and affordable parking) in the vicinity of railway stations would encourage people to limit car use.
- Essex County Council would welcome an exploration of the effect of free car-parking at Lakeside on the wider transport network.

Health & Well-Being

- The main leisure centres have a good spread across Thurrock which should be retained and improved. New centres should be placed in and around these and incorporate other community facilities.
- Leisure facilities at Blackshots are dated and old fashioned and new residential development in North Grays could help fund improvements.
- Leisure facilities at Corringham are dated and old fashioned and new residential development in Corringham and Stanford-le-Hope could help fund necessary improvements.
- New facilities should be located in North Grays/Blackshots area to include a new community football facility that will facilitate the relocation of 32 teams including Grays Athletic as well as complementing the proposed Orsett Heath Academy School.
- The LP should improve spectator sporting facilities including the construction of high class outdoor stadia capable of hosting national/international/elite sport. There should be a specific focus on upgrading the amenities for motor sport as a planned development of the Arena Essex site. The Local Plan should seek to support the future viability of the 'Hammers'.
- The closure of Essex Arena is a great loss. Encourage the Council to look at what Peterborough have achieved and aim for same. An Essex showground with speedway track, other sports facilities, a conference centre and a meeting/social event space.
- Please find an alternative location so that speedway can continue in the Borough.
- Policies that support the development and maintenance of new and existing riverside and on-river leisure activities such as rowing clubs etc must be encouraged.
- Priority should be given to new and improved open space, sporting and

leisure development alongside existing and planned new residential areas.

- Sport and leisure development and open spaces in coastal locations connected by estuary side routes will help promote riverside routes for leisure side activity and sustainable movement patterns.
- New residential development in Orsett could contribute towards improving existing leisure facilities in the area.
- There is an opportunity within the Green Belt at Little Thurrock Marshes to provide a significant area of new open space and recreational land which could be delivered by planning for new housing/mixed use developments in the Green Belt.
- Improvements to Belhus Country Park could be supported by contributions arising from the development of land at Avontar Road for housing.
- The former private sports ground adjoining ICLs West Thurrock Works should be re-allocated for employment use.
- The Active Place Strategy (APS) should be published before the next stage of the Local Plan, in order for landowners and developers to assess the implications for delivering their sites and addressing wider needs.
- Need to update the local plans evidence base (playing pitch, indoor/built sports facilities strategies) and the development of long term commitment by the Council to coordinating the development of action plans to implement these strategies.
- Need to take a positive approach to the principle of new and enhanced facilities that meet the needs of clubs.
- Need to secure provision of provision of new facilities through development and use of Section 106 agreements. The Council's current approach is reactive ad hoc and is not considered appropriate. Where areas of major growth are proposed a strategy should be prepared for each setting out how provision for sport and recreation will be made.
- Need for a sub-regional approach to planning for the delivery of new indoor and outdoor sports facilities across local authority boundaries.
- Thurrock Council is asked to complete its evidence work (Active Place Strategy) to allow for cross boundary opportunities to be identified (with Basildon Council).
- Support for incorporation of Sport England's Active Design Principles in the Local Plan. These can be applied at a strategic scale in the master planning of major new developments or at the local scale in the detailed design of new developments.
- The proposal to incorporate Active Design Principles within Local Plan policy is supported but it must be done in a flexible way.
- The adoption of Sport England's guidance would give more weight to any decisions the Council make with regards to improving the supply of sporting facilities by way of contributions. The Council should encourage competition in the sports market and consider different delivery models.
- Needs of equestrians should be addressed in the Local Plan.
- Health Impact Assessments should be submitted as part of large and/or

sensitive applications to ensure that the health impacts of developments are fully considered.

- Disagree with need for HIA for each application. This should be done through the plan-making process which should set out how health impact related considerations will be addressed over the plan period.
- A number of local green spaces were suggested to be protected and designated Local Green Space.
- A number of local buildings and features were suggested for inclusion on the Local List.

Your Place, Your Voice

2.15 As set out above, community and stakeholder engagement is an important and central feature of the planning system and in order to engage with as many people as possible the Council launched a series of Your Place, Your Voice (YPYV) community planning events. These events were devised in response to comments that residents felt overwhelmed by the technical nature of planning consultations and the volume of Council consultations that all seem to ask similar questions. The community planning events were run on a drop in basis giving local communities the opportunity to feed into the Local Plan and other Council documents and strategies by participating in a range of informal and highly interactive consultation activities.

2.16 In total 17 events were held across the borough between February and April 2018. Across all of the events, there were a number of issues consistently raised by local communities. These included:

- Poor and failing infrastructure;
- Lack of affordable homes and homes for older people;
- Anti-social behaviour, drugs and crime;
- Neglected open spaces; and
- Congestion and poor air quality.

2.17 A number of the issues raised by residents at the YPYV events fell outside the remit of the Local Plan so these issues were relayed to other relevant services to consider and address as appropriate. Some progress on these issues has already been made and includes:

- To address concerns over community safety, additional funding to increase police resources in the borough has been provided by the Council;
- To address issues with HGV parking in inappropriate locations, laybys have been closed at night and dedicated HGV parking facilities have been provided;
- To address concerns regarding parking around schools, a school road safety review is underway.

- 2.18 A series of follow up YPYV events were programmed to run alongside the Issues and Options (Stage 2) Consultation in order to provide local residents with greater range and more accessible means of engaging with and influencing the plan-making process. As part of the IO2 consultation process, nine events were held on evenings and weekends. In addition to these, 18 drop in sessions at libraries and community hubs across the borough were organised to raise awareness of the Local Plan process and to promote the YPYV events. While the questions in 2018 were designed to solicit the public's priorities and issues, the events in 2019 focussed on the ways the Council could potentially address those priorities through the Local Plan and other services. Some of the responses highlighted ongoing issues but most related to opportunities for housing and community facilities. Again, the main issues were:

transport	224
open spaces, sports & leisure	199
housing	94
community cohesion	91
crime, ASB, litter	82
health care	81
other	72
employment and shopping	71
education	43

- 2.19 The top 10 comments made by the community during the YPYV process related to the following matters:
- the need for housing (specifically affordable, social, and adaptable for older residents);
 - concerns over air quality;
 - the desire for more or better gym and sport facilities;
 - the need to address traffic congestion and gridlock;
 - the need to protect natural landscapes for enjoyment and for ecology;
 - the desire for better community facilities including more GP services;
 - A greater and more visible police presence including an increased frequency of police patrols in the evenings;
 - The re-routing of HGV's away from residential areas and village centres;
 - An improved network of walking and cycle paths;
 - Additional bus routes, more frequent services and increased rail capacity.
- 2.20 A more detailed summary of the comments made at each of the Community Planning Events is set out in Appendix 1 to this Report.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

Thurrock Local Plan - Next Steps

- 3.1 The ability of the Council to make further progress on the preparation of the Local Plan is severely constrained by the need to await the outcome of the

Lower Thames Crossing Development Consent Order (DCO) process. Having taken advice from leading Counsel it is now clear that while the Council should proceed with the preparation of a draft plan, it will not be possible for Thurrock to submit a Local Plan to the Secretary of State until after the conclusion of the DCO process (expected at the earliest in 2021). This arises due to the potentially adverse impacts of the scheme, including any future design changes, on the ability of the Council to prepare a sound and deliverable Local Plan.

- 3.2 On the 27th June 2019, the Council was contacted by the Ministry of Housing Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) requesting a meeting to discuss progress with the Local Plan and to explore whether there was any additional support or assistance that Government could provide to Thurrock to help it progress the plan to adoption.
- 3.3 As a follow up to this, Officers met with officials from MHCLG to discuss the following key matters:
 - The Council's ambitions to deliver significant numbers of high quality homes and jobs;
 - The Lower Thames Crossing and its impact on the plan-making process;
 - Improving housing delivery in Thurrock; and
 - The opportunities for support from Government.
- 3.4 Following a very positive meeting, MHCLG immediately confirmed its willingness to assist Thurrock in addressing the issues associated with the LTC and to help facilitate the earliest possible adoption of a new Local Plan.
- 3.5 Following this meeting, the Council also met with Homes England to discuss ways in which they could assist the Council. This included the potential for Homes England to use their influence to promote within Government a greater recognition of the need to support housing and economic growth in Thurrock, as well as their own direct involvement in the Local Plan process and the opportunities to secure their involvement in the possible delivery of strategic developments across the Borough.
- 3.6 In August following further discussions with the Council, MHCG were able to confirm the following arrangements were being put in place to support the delivery of the Local Plan:
 - A senior Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate would meet with Council Officers to discuss the Local Plan related matters including the impact of the LTC and housing delivery;
 - DfT would write to the Council to invite Officers to attend regular meetings with MHCLG, Highways England, and Homes England to help find a resolution to the LTC and M25 Jct30 issues which are preventing the early delivery of development and the progress on the Local Plan;
 - DfT would also write to the Council to set up meetings at a senior political level to discuss outstanding issues between the parties;

- MHCLG's Housing Delivery Team will arrange a meeting with the Council Officers to explore the scope for agreeing a bespoke Housing Growth deal with the Council to support the delivery of strategic development locations
 - The Planning Advisory Service would contact the Council to set up a meeting to discuss how they could further assist the plan-making process with advice and guidance to the Council
- 3.7 It is hoped that the outcome of these meetings will be an increased willingness on the part of Highways England to work with the Council to help support the Local Plan process and greater collaboration and support from the Government on the delivery of critical infrastructure needed to support the delivery of the Local Plan.
- 3.8 The next stage of the plan-making process is to prepare a full Draft (Regulation 18) Local Plan. It is anticipated that this will take 16-18 months to produce the document and at the conclusion of this process Council will be asked to authorise the publication of the draft plan for public consultation.
- 3.9 It is a key principle of the plan-making process that all local plans should be supported by an up-to-date evidence base. In order to comply with this requirement the Council has commissioned a number of technical studies to help inform the preparation of the plan to ensure that the emerging spatial strategy and policy framework will be effective in delivering the Council's vision and priorities for Thurrock over the plan period. As part of the process of evidence gathering the Council has recently commissioned a series of Infrastructure Baseline studies which reflect the fact that the Local Plan is an infrastructure led plan. These studies will identify the Borough's future infrastructure needs based on different levels of growth and will be strongly informed by the community feedback received in response to the YPYV consultations.
- 3.10 In addition to a number of borough wide technical studies it is also intended to commission a number of 'Place Based' strategies which will also be used to inform the preparation of area based Inset Plans for incorporation in the Local Plan. The proposed scope of this work is set out in the table below.
- 3.11 One of the next key stages in the preparation of the Local Plan will be the rollout of Design Charrettes across numerous settlements in the borough. Design Charrettes are a planning tool that bring together key stakeholders (including local communities, businesses, built environment professionals and other stakeholders) to collaborate on a place-making vision for a new, or existing, neighbourhood that will guide the regeneration and future development of that area. The outcome of the Charrettes will include a set of principles that will shape the overall development strategy to be identified in the Local Plan, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and site specific detailed masterplans. As key stakeholders are actively engaged in the planning and design of their community, the design charrettes help to build confidence and collective enthusiasm for the vision to be taken forward through the Local Plan.

- 3.12 MHCLG and the chief planner are supporting this approach to promote development and growth in the borough, with high-quality place-making at the heart of the process. Thurrock has been successful in receiving support from MHCLG to pilot this process and it is proposed that the rollout of the scheme to the first settlements in the borough to benefit from this approach will begin in November 2019.

Further development of the Local Plan Evidence Base includes:

- Detailed assessment of sites and ranking/prioritisation of sites for possible allocation in the Local Plan
- Preparation and completion of Infrastructure Delivery Baseline Study to identify existing/future infrastructure needs.
- Preparation and completion of Transport Delivery Baseline Study to identify existing/future infrastructure needs.
- Climate Change Scoping Study – Baseline Study to identify existing/future conditions/mitigation required and best practice and options

Area Frameworks to include:

- Aveley and Ockendon (including the Mardyke Valley)
- The Fens – land north of the A13/Lower Thames Crossing
- Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary – land west of the Lower Thames Crossing
- East Tilbury, Linford and Southfields – land east of the Lower Thames Crossing
- Stanford-le-Hope, Corringham and London Gateway/Thames Enterprise Park

Master Plans to include:

- Grays Town Centre
- Lakeside – including West Thurrock & Chafford Hundred

Design Charrettes/Development Frameworks/Settlement Studies to include:

- Aveley
- Bulphan
- Chadwell St Mary
- Corringham and Fobbing
- East Tilbury and Linford
- Grays
- Horndon on the Hill
- Orsett
- South Ockendon
- Stanford-le-Hope

- Tilbury

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 it is essential that the Council has an up-to-date Development Plan in place and the supporting documentation that will help drive its delivery.

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

- 5.1 The Local Plan has been previously subject of formal consultation (Issue and Options 2) and engagement with Planning, Transport and Regeneration Committee, the Local Plan Group, All Member Briefings, and Group and Ward Member Meetings.
- 5.2 This report was presented to Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 9th October 2019. The Committee noted the report and supported the approach to preparing a new Local Plan, particularly the involvement of local communities to ensure housing and employment opportunities are realised and supported by essential infrastructure.

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

- 6.1 The Local Plan has an impact on the delivery of all of the Council's corporate objectives.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Rosie Hurst**
Interim Senior Finance Manager

There is a dedicated budget for plan making to cover the basic costs of preparing planning policy documents.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Tim Hallam**

Acting Head of Law and Monitoring Officer

The current system of plan making is contained in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 ('2012 Regulations') and supported by the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The Issues and Options Consultation Stage 2 is a preparatory step for the

production of a draft Local Plan as required under Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations. In due course, the draft Local Plan shall be prepared and publicised in accordance with the statutory and policy frameworks.

The Authority has a statutory duty pursuant to Section 13 of the PCPA 2004 to keep under review matters which may affect the development of its area. It should be noted that the Secretary of State has intervention powers under section 21 PCPA 2004 and default powers under Section 27 of PCPA 2004 where he thinks that the Authority are failing or omitting to do anything necessary in connection with the preparation, revision or adoption of a development plan document. In such cases, the Secretary of State may, under section 27, prepare or revise the document or direct that the Authority do so.

Under the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the statutory provisions contained in section 9D of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, Full Council has the power to make decisions in relation to the preparation and adoption of the Development Plan.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Strategic Lead, Community Development and Equalities

The Council has a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to promote equality of opportunity in the provision of services and employment opportunities. Through a process of proactive engagement, the Council will ensure that the consultation process associated with the emerging Development Plan will provide an opportunity for all sections of the community, including harder to reach groups, to become fully involved in helping to shape the future planning and development of Thurrock.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children)

There are no other implications associated with the report.

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

- None

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 - Summary of Comments From YPYV Community Planning Events

Report Author:

Sean Nethercott

Strategic Lead – Strategic Services

Place Directorate

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Summary of Comments From YPYV Community Planning Events

Chadwell St Mary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social behaviour is a big issue here • There is a need for a visible police presence • There is an opportunity for a new community centre here • More facilities for young and old needed here • Children's play areas need to be improved • Opportunity for a new / need to extend existing GP surgery here • Congestion / air quality are issues along the SRN, Lakeside, N Chadwell • HGV movements are an issue in the village • Local spots offer opportunities for trim trails, a BMX or skate park, and community events / festivals • Open land around the village needs to be protected to prevent conurbation • Bus service need to be improved and more cycle and walking links • Housing appropriate for young and old needed, social housing for locals • Opportunity for pop-up retail and cafes, fewer takeaways • Opportunity to improve public realm • Opportunity for more allotments / places to grow food
Corringham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A visible police presence is needed • High need for affordable housing • There is a desire for more highly skilled and/or professional jobs here • More GP coverage is needed • There is still concern that IMC will not provide the same services as Orsett Hospital or that, if they do, services will not be at an IMC which is easy to access • Secondary schools need to be extended • Parking is an issue • Protect local green spaces • Green Belt could provide better / more open spaces • More facilities for young people needed (BMX / skate park could be located in Old Corringham) • Need to improve bus service, walking and cycling links • Concern over the effects Dunton Hills will have on countryside • Leisure centres are good but expensive • Concern that homes built in the Thames Flood Plain reduce marshland and result in increased flooding elsewhere • Bungalows should not be extended as this reduces the number of available retirement properties • Support for multi-generational properties and granny flats to allow people to age in their own homes • Many objections to Lower Thames Crossing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No desire for more large industrial units but support for live-work units and more local employment
East Tilbury
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houses in multiple occupancy are an issue here • Need more starter homes and homes for older residents • Opportunity to convert empty buildings to housing • Air quality is an issue here • A visible police presence is needed here alongside more CCTV • Congestion and HGV movements are an issue here and traffic makes roads unsafe • Bridge required over the railway • Bus routes need improvement as well as better walking and cycling links • There is a need for new or extended GP facilities • Pharmacies could offer more services here • There is an opportunity for an IMC here • Need more early years, primary, and secondary school facilities • A further education facility or college is desired here • Start up spaces, pop up shops, and more offices could be accommodated here • Highly skilled and/or professional jobs are desired here • More leisure and entertainment facilities are desired • Community cohesion is an issue • More facilities for young and old needed • More space required for community activities; good location for a community theatre • Library / hub needs improvement • Opportunity for a local gym and more sports pitches • The green space around East Tilbury should be protected from development • Strategic urban green spaces should be protected and used better • More allotments wanted • There are opportunities for trim trails here • Nature conservation is important to residents • Children's play areas need improvement • The village's unique character must be preserved • An emergency services depot was suggested several times, potentially related to concerns over the only access being routinely closed by trains • Land at West Tilbury Marshes, Tilbury Port, Coalhouse Fort and Mucking Marshes requires clean-up • S106 projects not progressing • Need for better internet service • No desire for travellers pitches here
Grays
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion and parking are issues, particularly near schools • Opportunity for river taxis • Bus service improvements needed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A visible police presence is needed • Opportunity here for a new community sport / leisure facility to serve as home for Grays Athletics • Air quality is an issue • More affordable swimming facilities needed • More facilities for young people are needed • More professional / highly skilled jobs and creative industries needed • Incubator spaces for start-ups needed • Empty shops are an issue • Opportunity for a night-time economy with more leisure and entertainment • Town centre needs a wider variety of shops and a farmer's market • Orsett Hospital should be expanded, not closed • More GPs and better mental health services needed • Need more housing for older people, students, locals • Opportunity for riverside housing in Purfleet • Opportunity for short-term travellers pitches here • A new primary school is needed • Tech education required (web design, video editing, social media)
Orsett
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion is a big issue here • HGV movements are an issue here • A128 is dangerous – traffic is too fast to allow cars to enter or cross • Air quality is an issue here • The area is important for nature conservation and includes strategic green space • The historic character of the area must be protected • Opportunity for an IMC here but keep the hospital • Opportunity for a new primary school here • Concern that additional development creates more environmental damage • River could be used for more transport to relieve roads
South Ockendon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High need for more affordable housing, particularly social housing to ensure local needs are met • Need more houses for older residents (and ensure new housing is adaptable), sheltered housing, key worker housing • Opportunity to regenerate here • Anti-social behaviour is a big problem here • There is a great need for a visible police presence • Significant need for new or extended primary and secondary schools • Attracting good teachers is an issue here • New / extended GP services should be a priority here • Pharmacies could offer more services • Utility infrastructure including drainage must be upgraded to accommodate growth

- A new supermarket is needed here
- Air quality is an issue here
- Parking, congestion and HGV movements are issues here
- Walking and cycling links could be improved
- Transport needed to get students to secondary schools
- Social spaces – restaurants, cafes, better public areas – needed
- Culver Playing Fields should be protected
- Need more sports pitches
- More facilities for young and old needed
- Allotments should be retained
- Opportunity for incubator / start up spaces

Tilbury

- Parking is an issue here
- Need to improve walking and cycling links
- Anti-social behaviour is an issue
- High need for affordable housing for local people
- Opportunity for short- and long-term traveller / gypsy pitches
- Basic literacy courses need to be taken into traveller sites
- Fly tipping is a problem (attributed to costs to use amenity with a van)
- Strategic green spaces – could be better used
- More activities for young and old
- More facilities needed for community events – community centre should have longer hours
- Community unrest is an issue here
- Unemployment is an issue here
- Need a wider variety of shops here, i.e. fishmonger, butcher, and more restaurants and bars
- Empty shops are an issue
- Opportunity to improve public spaces
- No more takeaways or industrial units
- Locals desire more input into how their town is managed

23 October 2019	ITEM: 13
Council	
Report of Cabinet Member Report for Environment, Sports & Leisure	
Report of: Councillor Aaron Watkins, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Leisure	
This report is Public	

Introduction

In this third annual report for Environment and Leisure, we continue to strive and thrive across the service, ensuring we continue to deliver the best service possible for our residents, refresh and invigorate where needed and improve where required.

Thurrock in many areas continues to buck the national trends. We continue to deliver services our residents pay for and ensure they can get the best service possible. Over the past year, to name a few things the following has been achieved:

- Within Leisure;
 - Equipment in parks has been refreshed with dedicated officers working with community groups to embed support for and appreciation of the parks.
 - They are providing opportunities for energetic outdoor play during school holidays.
 - The Sports Strategy that is being developed will further ensure that we are ensuring that residents have all the support and infrastructure at hand to be fit and healthy. It is important that we have the best sports facilities for our sports groups and residents and ensure we are futureproofing Thurrock.
- Within Air Quality;
 - While working and seeing success with the 2017 Air Quality strategy and the actions taken are documented within this report, this work has been ongoing throughout 2018 and 2019 so far.
 - We have re-opened the strategy, creating a brand-new Air Quality and Healthy Thurrock Strategy, working to improve the 2017 strategy.
 - We are working with Environmental partners to tackle environment issues and ensuring that the Council remains robust in defending and standing up for residents where there could be issues and concerns.
- Within Environment;
 - Continued improvements in the standards of general maintenance within the Borough, which is looking much Cleaner and Greener with the continuation of the Cut It, Clean It campaign.

- Plans for enhancing our gateway roundabouts and creating wildflower meadows are an exciting next step now that the basics are being delivered so well.
- Ensuring we are delivering the best service, whether it be on the streets, collecting waste or ensuring cemeteries remain clean, tidy and respectful.
- The re-invigorated Enforcement Team has been working to address the issues of fly tipping, littering and abandoned vehicles and anti-social behaviour.

Focus has also been on ensuring we are achieving our KPIs and ensuring we have robust plans in place where we are not. Within waste collection, we knew the importance of ensuring we achieved our KPI but also ensuring residents were getting the service they expect. The waste collection service has shown a marked improvement in performance with the target for bins to be collected on schedule being achieved for 10 out of the 11 months since October 2018. This is a performance standard that has not been achieved for many years.

Another area where we are striving for improvements, is within our recycling and overall green policy. The reliability of the waste service means that we can focus attentions on improving the rate of recycling. Many new schemes are in-place, ensuring we can give residents the tools and information to recycle, educate where needed and invigorate where required. One we are proud to see launch is the pilot at two sites to re-introduce recycling collections to flats. The initial feedback from residents is positive, with the recycling being collected from the sites uncontaminated.

Clean It, as ever is a focus for this council making sure our streets and roads are clean and tidy. Several changes to the service have taken place over recent months and are due to take place to ensure that the service remains refreshed, we ensure KPIs are met and we take valuable learnings from Keep Britain Tidy to improve the service.

Air Quality improvements remains a large focus for me, ensuring we can improve Air Quality across Thurrock and ensure, working with Health partners, we have a healthier Thurrock. Much has taken place over the last year, but as times change so should our policies and the refresh to this strategy which is currently being worked on, will play a pivotal role in improving air quality, tackling pollution and protecting our home, the Earth.

My report will consider the achievements for each of the services within my portfolio and outline our plans and show where we need to do more.

As ever, I would like to thank all my teams across Environment and Leisure and to everyone whom volunteers to get people involved in sports and leisure to those who help clean and tidy their local areas. I thank you all for ensuring we have a better Thurrock.

1. Portfolio Overview

1.1 The last year has again seen changes to my Portfolio role that now focuses on the areas outlined below:

- Waste and Recycling - including domestic and commercial waste collections and the Household Waste and Recycling Centre
- Clean and Green – which encompasses street sweeping, litter picking, grass cutting and other general maintenance of the Borough, including Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries
- Air Quality
- Sports and Leisure Development

2. Air Quality

2.1 Although an Air Quality & Health Strategy is in use, which was approved in 2017, we are re-developing Air Quality and Healthier Thurrock Management Strategy, which will be stronger and more robust. This will drive the implementation of projects and other interventions required to tackle Air Quality issues and improve health across Thurrock. Tackling air pollution, protecting the environment, reducing net emissions and tackling climate change is important, and the refreshed strategy will tackle each of these. This will be one of my key priorities over the next 9 months.

2.2 The Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the Air Quality and Health Strategy in 2017 which highlighted the following key aims and objectives for Thurrock, which were appropriate at the time:

- Implement measures for managing air quality throughout the Borough to prevent new AQMAs from arising;
- Implement measures contained within the action plans for existing AQMAs; and
- Work with external bodies to reduce background pollution from inside and outside of the Borough.

2.3 The strategy adopted four policies in order to facilitate decision-making on air quality issues and work to prevent new AQMAs from arising wherever possible. Those policies are as follows:

AQS1 - Tackling Transport Emissions

AQS2 - Tackling health inequalities

AQS3 - Thurrock Clean Air Zones / Low Emissions Zones

AQS4 - Future Developments and Planning

2.4 These policies have been translated into actions and measures that are Borough-wide, including specific actions within the existing AQMAs where pollutant concentrations are highest.

2.5 I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made over each of the policy areas.

Progress made under AQS1 - Tackling Transport Emissions

- 2.6 Thurrock has 18 AQMAs and a range of schemes have been progressed to ameliorate the air quality issues that arise from HGVs, notably in Tilbury, Grays, Purfleet and Aveley.
- 2.7 In addition to specific targeting of AQMAs, we have established a programme of borough wide initiatives to address air quality and health inequalities. These are summarised below:
- 2.8 **South Essex Active Travel (SEAT)** – the Council, along with Southend-on-Sea and Essex County Council are delivering a £3.3m programme which targets people in a transitional stage of life to encourage sustainable travel options.
- 2.9 **Weight Restrictions and HGV Management Schemes** – implemented schemes include the completion of Towers Road HGV routing scheme (phase1), Rectory Road width restriction scheme, Stifford Road Aveley Width restriction scheme, Ship Lane Freight Management Scheme and feasibility options for London Road, Purfleet Freight Management Scheme.
- 2.10 **Improvements to Walking and Cycling** – the Council continues to deliver an extensive programme of walking and cycle infrastructure improvements secured as part of planning consents, grant funding from Public Health and the Cycle Infrastructure Development Programme (CIDP).
- 2.11 **School and Workplace Travel Plans** – the Council secures travel plans and monitoring provisions as part of development consents. 35 out of 51 schools in the borough are actively working on their School Travel Plans. Workplace travel plans have been adopted at numerous locations across the borough (including London Gateway, Amazon and intu Lakeside) which help to assess and mitigate the negative transport impacts of development and promote sustainable travel behaviour.
- 2.12 **Road Safety** - The Road Safety team continue to deliver a wide-ranging programme of educational and practical initiatives with focus placed on encouraging and enabling sustainable travel choices for future generations. The initiatives include road safety walks in all schools, Bikeability training, roadside activities and road safety campaigns to promote safer & sustainable journeys to school/colleges. Engine switch-off zones at schools continue to be supported in 2019.
- 2.13 **Highways Development Management** – the Development Management and Traffic team continue to deliver a programme of work which supports the Council's Air Quality and Health objectives.
- 2.14 **Freight Quality Partnership (FQP)** – the Council has re-established its Freight Quality Partnership to help manage the impact of HGVs in Thurrock.

This group will focus upon the emerging Freight Strategy and to discuss issues arising from the Council's Road User Group and Congestion Task Force.

- 2.15 **A13 East facing Slip roads** - Following the announcement by the Secretary of State in October 2018 in support of the delivery of the East Facing Slips schemes, officers have been developing a process to move the scheme forward to ensure it can be delivered to the appropriate timescales. This scheme will provide relief to the road network in West Thurrock and Lakeside and will remove traffic flows from areas such as London Rd, Chafford Hundred and A1306.
- 2.16 **Vehicle Fleet** - The Council's Environment and Highways directorate have now completed the replacement of over 100 vehicles across all directorates. This process has now moved the council to almost a 100% euro 6 fleet which is the cleanest emission technology at this time for standard vehicles. The council have also steered away from diesel where possible using petrol alternatives in populated areas. During the next round of procurement for new waste and Environment and Highways vehicles, we will be exploring the reliability of electric vehicles with a possible pilot being implemented.
- 2.17 **Variable Message Signing (VMS)** – The council has acquired three (3) VMS signs that have been deployed at strategic locations on the network. The VMS are used as a traffic management tool, which supports minimising traffic impacts arising from incidents in the borough and at Dartford Crossing.
- 2.18 **Electric Vehicle Charging** - Progress has been made in developing a partnership approach, with a suitable EV charging provider, to replace and enhance the on-street EV charging offer across the borough. Progress has been made in relation to the Council advising on the requirement for EV charging and car clubs (using EVs) within larger development proposals. Local bus operators are also adopting cleaner fleets with both Ensign and First using hybrid buses on selected routes.

Progress made under AQS2- Tackling Health Inequalities

- 2.19 The Council's Public Health, Air Quality, Planning and Transport Development teams are working collaboratively to identify the areas of highest need in order to deliver focussed measures, initiatives and events to improve air quality and health. Recent examples include the creation of the Tilbury Bike Hub, healthy walks initiatives, cycle training and a comprehensive communication and education programme.
- 2.20 Public Health continue to be pivotal in the screening of pre-application and full applications of planning in the borough through continued presence at the Housing, Planning Advisory Group. Air Quality mitigation measures such as Active travel, greener open space, Public Rights of Way (PROW) continue to be part of the dialogue with planning and the developers.

Progress made under AQS3 - Tackling Health Inequalities

- 2.21 Officers continue to monitor air quality throughout the Borough and oversee the implementation, delivery and success of the Air Quality Action Plans in terms of improvements to air quality within AQMAs.
- 2.22 The main pollutant of concern in Thurrock is nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and to a lesser extent particulate matter (PM₁₀); both of these pollutants arise from road traffic emissions.
- 2.23 In 2016 the Council undertook a detailed modelling assessment to determine the extent of NO₂ & PM₁₀ exceedances over most of the borough and including all 18 AQMAs. This assessment found that 8 AQMAs could be revoked if additional motoring data supported this.
- 2.24 In 2018 the Air Quality Team introduced additional monitoring sites using NO₂ diffusion tubes in 6 AQMAs. This has enabled additional data trends to be understood so that revocations can be explored on the basis that monitoring shows that they are well below the annual mean objective limit of 40 ug/m³ for NO₂. In addition to the potential revocation of some AQMAs, other AQMAs may be reduced in size.
- 2.25 I am pleased to report that we are going in the right direction. However, we do not want to remove any AQMAs unless there is robust supporting data and justification for doing so. The Air Quality Team intend to review data through to 2020 in order to confirm which AQMAs can be revoked.
- 2.26 In addition to monitoring of AQMAs, Officers have, and will continue to quickly react to any air quality issues as they are identified across the borough.

Progress made under AQS4 Future Developments / Planning

- 2.27 **Major Developments** - The Council's Highways Development Management team play a key role in ensuring that new development mitigates its impact on the highway network and wider communities. This is achieved by utilising a range of development management tools such as travel plans, development contributions for highway improvements and the provision of construction management plans where construction traffic is significant enough to impact the highway network.
- 2.28 **Sustainable, energy efficient buildings** - Through the application of Core Strategy policies by the Planning Service, the Council is directly tackling emissions by driving the use of renewable energy sources for new development. In September this year, the Council obtained planning permission to extend the civic centre and I am proud that the scheme has been designed to have a BREAM rating of 'Outstanding'. In my view, the Council should wherever possible lead the way in becoming a green centre of excellence and set the bar for the development industry to follow. The Civic

Centre project represents a vital part of the regeneration of Grays and is a prime example of this approach.

- 2.29 **Lower Thames Crossing (LTC)** – The LTC consultation material puts a strong reliance on developing a Code of Construction Practice in order to control environmental impacts during construction. Technical meetings continue with Highways England and Thurrock Council in order to identify how construction impacts will be addressed and designed-out from the outset to ensure that adverse environmental issues are not only being mitigated, but avoided entirely where possible.
- 2.30 **Local Plan** - The Council is presently working on a new Local Plan and air quality will be a key thematic area of the Plan. Through growth and investment and development partnerships we will adopt a more holistic approach which recognises the importance of improving air quality and tackling health inequalities in Thurrock.
- 2.31 **Tilbury** – The Council continue to work with relevant enforcement agencies regarding dust experienced in Tilbury. There are numerous potential dust sources in this area, some of which can be deposited from transboundary locations. The Environment Agency and London Port Health Authority officers monitor dock based companies who may contribute to the dust in this area. Dust mitigation measures continue to operate around sites within the dock. The steering group of professionals are meeting frequently on this subject and the relevant attending agencies monitor the situation and take action where required. Specialist dust monitoring equipment was deployed by the Environment Agency at the end of June 2019 and data collection is underway.
- 2.32 The extensive list of actions, measures and initiatives set out within this section of the report identify the comprehensive approach that we are taking to addressing air quality issues and health inequalities.

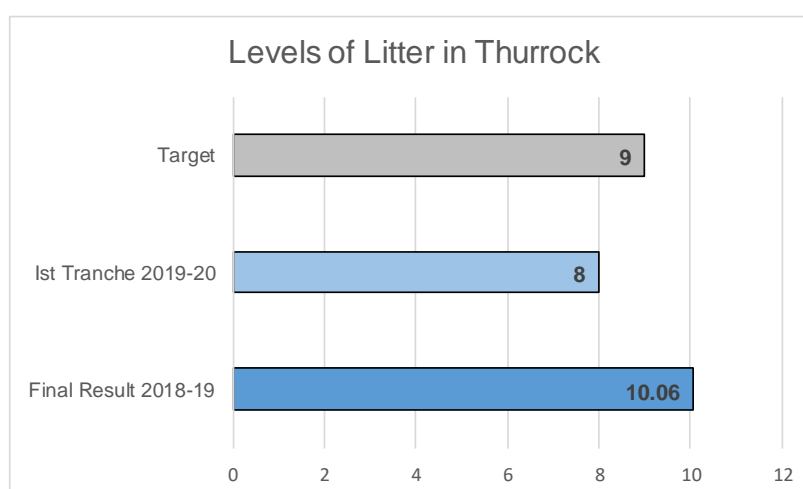
3 Fleet Management

- 3.1 The Fleet Management service continues to provide key support to Environment and Highway teams. Since the vehicles replacement programme began in February 2018, Fleet have renewed 131 council vehicles across all directorates, with only 5 vehicles still to be delivered to complete the project. Two new gulley suckers have been funded by revenue surpluses and new street sweepers have recently been delivered. The new vehicles all meet euro 6 conditions and are ULEZ compliant. This means that they can travel into London and the ultra-low emission zones.
- 3.2 The waste vehicles implemented last year, have experienced some minor manufacturing faults. Good contract management has led to a further year of manufacturers guarantee for the areas of concern.

- 3.3 In response to the growing numbers of blocked access, the team trialled a narrow access vehicle, which did not meet expectation and we continue to research an alternative vehicle.
- 3.4 Vehicle tracking systems have been fitted to all new vehicles and the entire fleet is now monitored weekly/monthly regarding driver behaviour, environmental impact and effective utilisation of our assets. This monitoring has had a positive impact on fuel usage and increased the standards of driving across all services

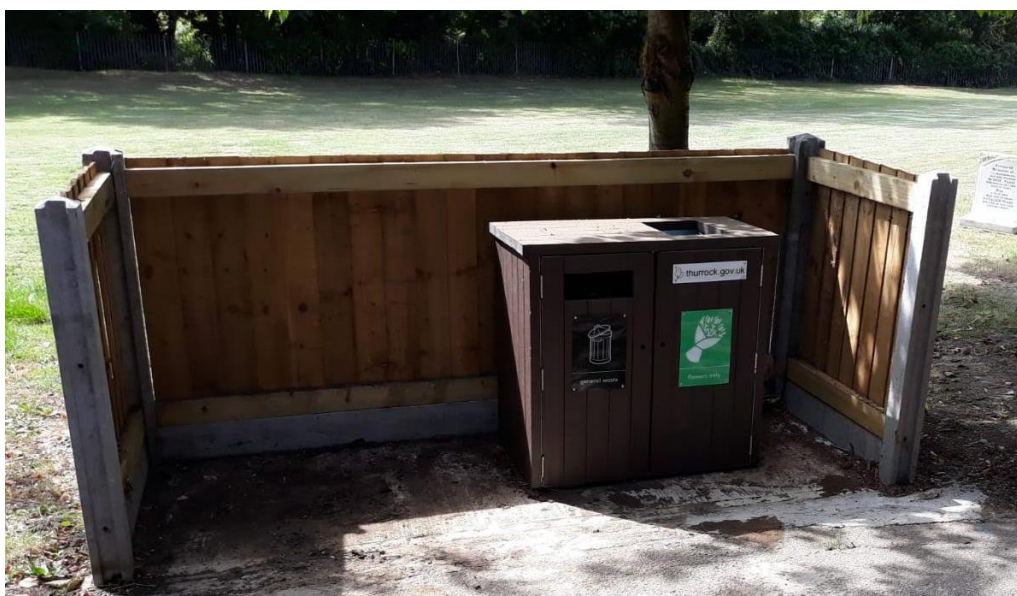
4 Clean and Green

- 4.1 The work of the Street Services teams is predominantly focussed on delivering the very successful Cut It, Clean It Programme. Cabinet were keen to ensure Thurrock have stretch key performance indicators (KPIs) and whilst Street Cleanliness had an excellent Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) result of 10.06%, above the national average, the end of year score fell slightly short of the target we have set ourselves. We continue to review feedback from KBT and part of our “route to green” will be to focus on areas which are not currently meeting standards, predominantly industrial areas and major routes. Further investment of £120k per annum has been built into revenue budgets for a major routes team, due to be implemented in October 2019.

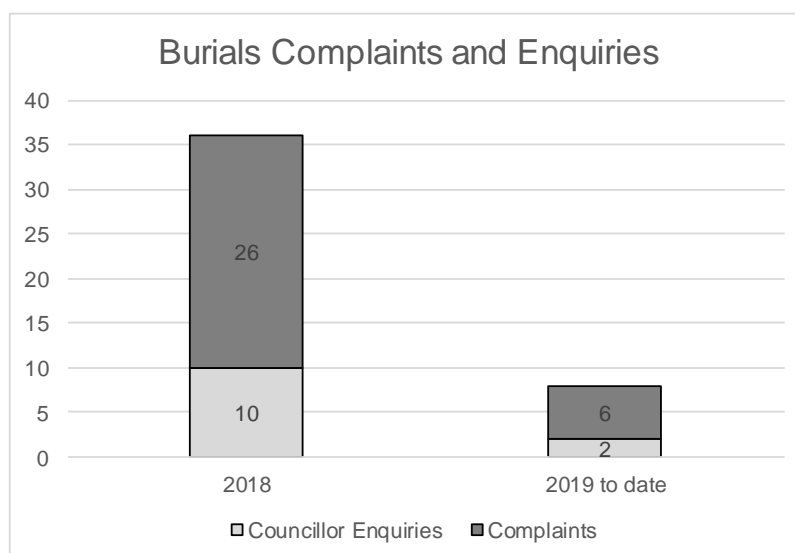


- 4.2 Since the beginning of this financial year, there has been a move to East and West teams, which has worked well ensuring a better coordinated Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance function for each area and Tranche 1 KBT scores of 8%. The teams are managed by a Team Manger with a number of Team Leaders reporting to them. The Team Leaders are the front line management of either Grounds Maintenance or Street Cleansing teams within smaller geographical areas, in the respective halves of the borough. There is also the Technical Clean and Green Team with the responsibility for Parks, Play and Cemeteries, with training having been conducted to refresh, increase and ensure they have the appropriate levels of qualifications within their respective fields.

- 4.3 The level of cleanliness of the streets within the Borough is assessed by KBT against a nationally recognised standard, with three tranches of inspections being undertaken each year. Litter levels within the Borough continue to achieve excellent performance, which is higher than the national benchmark.
- 4.4 To maintain high standards and to strive to achieve the stretch targets, KBT training was scheduled in September for our frontline staff. This “Frontline Focus” will teach our staff to recognise the impact street cleansing roles have on public perception and satisfaction, differentiate between the different standards of cleanliness in accordance with legal requirements – COPLAR and the A – D grading levels used in assessing the level of cleanliness. This will empower staff to identify and resolve issues whilst carrying out their daily tasks as part of our “small changes, big improvements” campaign. Training has also been scheduled in October to provide key staff with the knowledge and practical skills required to assess, grade and monitor standards of local environmental quality in line with the KBT standard. We will then carry out reciprocal inspections with another local authority, increasing the number of inspections per year, enabling a clearer understanding of performance and the ability to address hotspots more effectively, while sharing best practises.
- 4.5 Another initiative aimed at improving the overall cleanliness of the Borough is the bin replacement programme. This project is nearing completion, with the final delivery of bins expected September. All street bins are currently being mapped and will be individually numbered, rescheduled for checking and emptying, providing accurate and easily interrogated records of work completed. Numbering of bins will ease resident reporting and reduce uncertainty when describing locations.
- 4.6 We have installed new bin areas and bins in Chadwell St Mary and Stanford Le Hope cemeteries, these are a trial to see if there are any issues caused by this design. We intend to roll out this style of bin and enclosure once we have given the time to evaluate and receive feedback.



- 4.7 Cemeteries were, on occasion, falling below the presentation standards we expect and in order to improve a new Technical Team have been given responsibility for grass cutting in our cemeteries, ensuring compliance with the maintenance schedule, resulting in an improved appearance of our burial grounds. The improvements are evidenced by the sharp drop in the numbers of complaints and enquiries that have been received by the service.



- 4.8 Now that grass growth has slowed the team have capacity to carry out other tasks including the removal of small self-seeded trees and the epicormics growth on larger trees. As part of the fleet replacement programme, we have invested £62k in new and smaller diggers are soon to be delivered which will improve the productivity of this team.
- 4.9 With confidence that the underlying services for both Cut it and Clean it are being well delivered, work is underway on a land strategy aiming to improve the aesthetics of our roundabouts and verges. Options are being explored which include feature trees, public art and low maintenance but attractive shrubs and wild flower meadow planting.
- 4.10 Building on the success of last year's winter maintenance programme, work will continue this year on the larger roundabouts. "Treacle Mine" and "Daneholes" roundabouts were opened up to improve visibility, improving access for litter picking and reducing fly tipping and anti-social behaviour.
- 4.11 Following on from the excellent work delivered in 2018, scheduled inspections and maintenance of all of our war memorials has become an all year round activity. Residents paying their respects at any time of the year will see a well maintained memorial befitting its meaning.
- 4.12 The Tree Strategy was adopted this year and we are in the process of surveying and cataloguing onto a new database all public trees. Additional funding for trees has seen 32 planted so far this year with plans for an additional 34 to be planted during the autumn. As with the 9 trees that were

lost in recent storms, we will ensure a like for like replacement in the same location.

- 4.13 The team are also researching funding opportunities and considering appropriate locations to plant additional trees to improve the environment as part of air quality plans.

5 Sports and Leisure Development

- 5.1 The Sports Development team have been proactive in managing the relationships and engagement with sports clubs in the Borough. The team have met with most sports clubs and are supporting their varied needs, including empowering clubs to become self-managed and maintain their own facilities, improving their individual clubhouses, pavilions and enhanced pitch provision, where there is a desire to do so. As part of this work, the team are encouraging partnerships between different groups to enable positive opportunities for Thurrock residents, an example is the Sail Thurrock project where Thurrock Yacht Club partnered with Grangewaters to offer sailing to local residents. This also encouraged increased public interest in the club and new members.
- 5.2 Thurrock continues, bucking the national trend, to invest in parks and open spaces and is engaging with our local communities, providing them with the opportunity to inform what equipment they would like in their parks to ensure increased usage.
 - 5.2.1 The Park Engagement Team have delivered a wide ranging programme of activities, commencing Easter Holidays 2019, across Thurrock and engaged with over 1100 children, young people and adults. They have engaged with local community forums, local schools and delivered outreach. During the school holiday's they have delivered sessions across different parks and during term time have a fixed 10 week programme of delivery.
- 5.3 The objective of the Park Engagement Officers is to encourage "getting people active" and use of the parks and open spaces, supported by the programme of parks improvements.
- 5.4. Play equipment at Horndon-on-the-Hill has been refreshed for the first time in 30 years as a result of close collaboration with communities and school children to ensure facilities met their needs, leading to increased community use and a sense of custodian of the space. Similar transformation is under way at Gobions Park with the installation of a skate park and consultation is underway for water play at Grays Beach, where a new Tots corner has been installed. Grays Town Park has benefitted from new toddler play equipment and replacement of safety surfacing. Orsett Recreation Ground has benefitted from the introduction of outdoor gym equipment. Grays Phoenix Riverside received a full update with a toddlers play areas and junior and adult gym areas. The Park Engagement Officers will have a major role to play in

engaging with the community when further park improvements are made in the future.

Parks to be transformed in 2020 include:

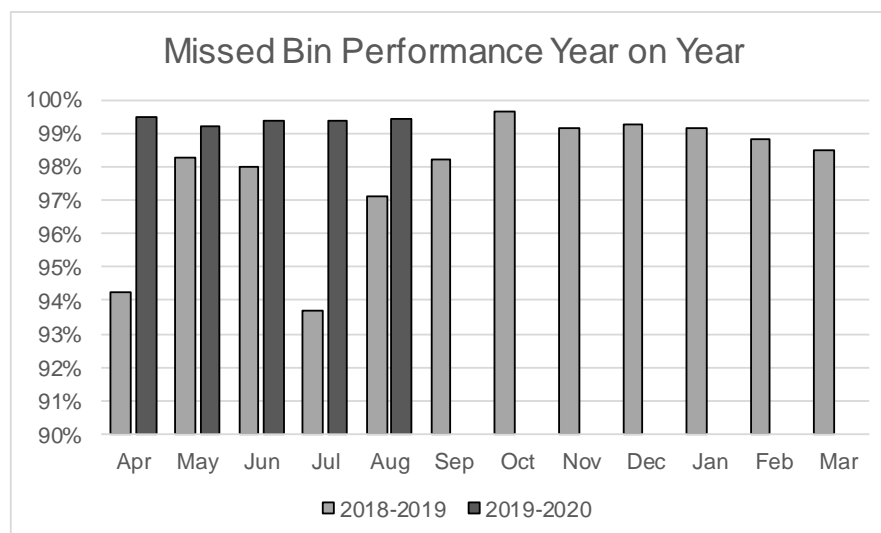
- Purfleet Garrison
- Delafield
- Koala Park
- West Thurrock Memorial Recreation Ground
- South Ockendon Recreation Ground
- Aveley Rec
- Corringham Town Park

- 5.5 Thurrock Council manages Langdon Hills Country Park and Coalhouse Fort, the two sites have higher level stewardship agreements with Natural England and both have areas that are listed as SSSI. There are some very rare species of bees at Coalhouse Fort, and the Bluebells at Langdon Hills are infamous. Three Rangers operate the country parks and are supported by volunteers, without whom it would be very difficult to keep the large sites in working order.
- 5.6 The combined work of the country parks team and Park Engagement team have seen the introduction of World Rangers Day activities this year and will re-introduce the extremely popular Santa in the Wood, which has been missed by our residents over the last four years
- 5.7 Park Engagement Team also work with community groups to develop informal recreation opportunities by utilising the existing facilities within our parks and open spaces. Groups have been supported to start up Volleyball and use the fitness equipment available across the borough. The Park Engagement Officers provide supported and encourage groups to upskill themselves by attending training so that they are able to continue the activities on their own.
- 5.8 Despite being well managed and maintained, some of Thurrock's main sports and leisure facilities are inevitably showing the signs of their age. The Council is therefore working closely with the National Governing Bodies of Sport and Sport England to develop a new ambitious Sports and Leisure Strategy. This strategy will be driven by the aspiration of creating new, modern facilities that will meet the needs of both sports and recreational users and encourage more residents to enjoy being physically active.
- 5.9 The Sports and Leisure strategy will include an assessment of the quality and quantity of existing facilities such as sports halls, swimming pools, sports pitches, tennis courts and bowls facilities and compare this to anticipated future demand and need.
- 5.10 In addition to working with the National Governing Bodies of Sport, local sports groups will be consulted with to ensure that there is a clear understanding of current issues, recent trends in membership and their own aspirations for the future.

- 5.11 When complete the evidence base for the new sports and Leisure Strategy will put Thurrock in a strong position to seek funding to deliver high quality buildings that meet modern sports designs and standards.

6 Waste and Recycling

- 6.1 The waste collection service configuration has remained largely unchanged since my last report, with three wheeled bins being collected from every household each week. The bins enable the service to separate residual waste, dry recycling and kitchen and garden waste. The service has significantly improved its collection rates, when comparing the same period last year with the KPI for collections exceeding 98.5% target consistently since October 2018, in all but one month, which was 0.03% under target. The table below provides a comparison of the year on year performance to date.

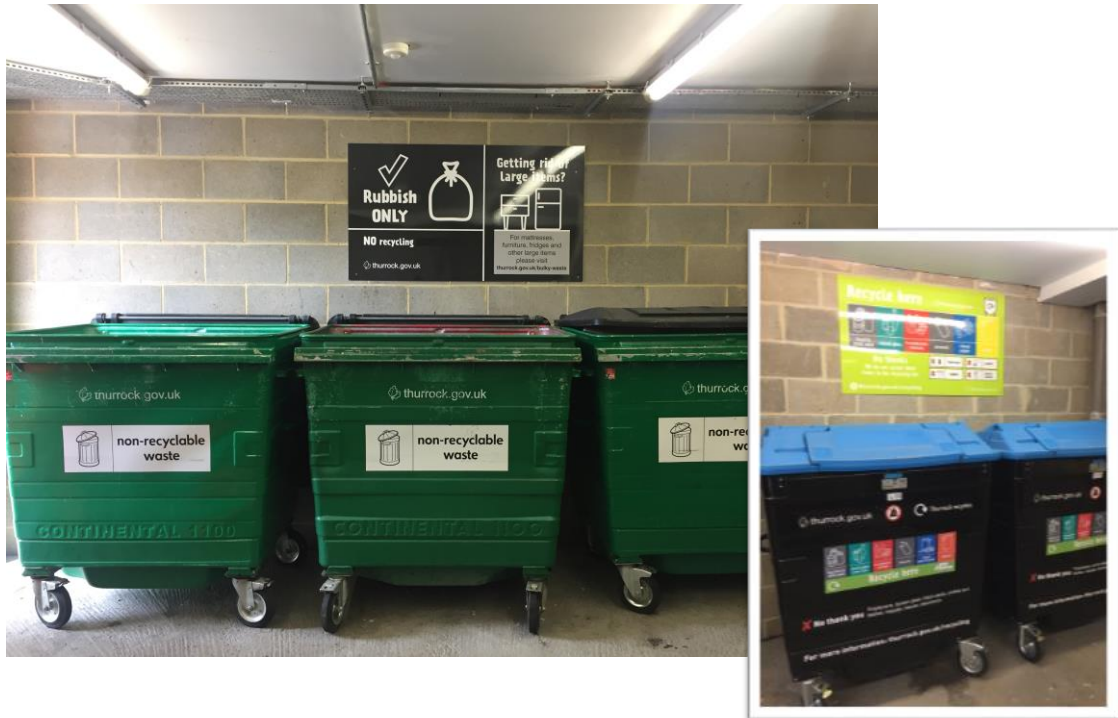


- 6.2 Work within the Service to address the impact of the national shortage of HGV drivers, particularly during the summer period has taken place to ensure staffing levels have been sufficient to deliver a full collection service, while allowing staff holidays, particularly during the peak holiday period. Consistent and robust management with focus on issues that affect the service such as staff and resources and sickness-absence management have contributed to this improvement.
- 6.3 Also new for this year, is the introduction of a night shunter service that utilises two HGV drivers during the evening to 'shunt' loaded recycling-vehicles to the Bywaters recycling facility in Bow, East London. This allows up to eight vehicles to be taken for emptying over night when the traffic along the A13 route is considerably lighter than during usual working hours. High levels of traffic and congestion had created issues around drivers' overtime, and work being left incomplete as crews stopped their rounds at a point to allow sufficient time to make the round-trip to tip the vehicles during the day. The current method of making the journeys during the evening has resulted in the dry recycling stream being completed each day with empty vehicles ensuring

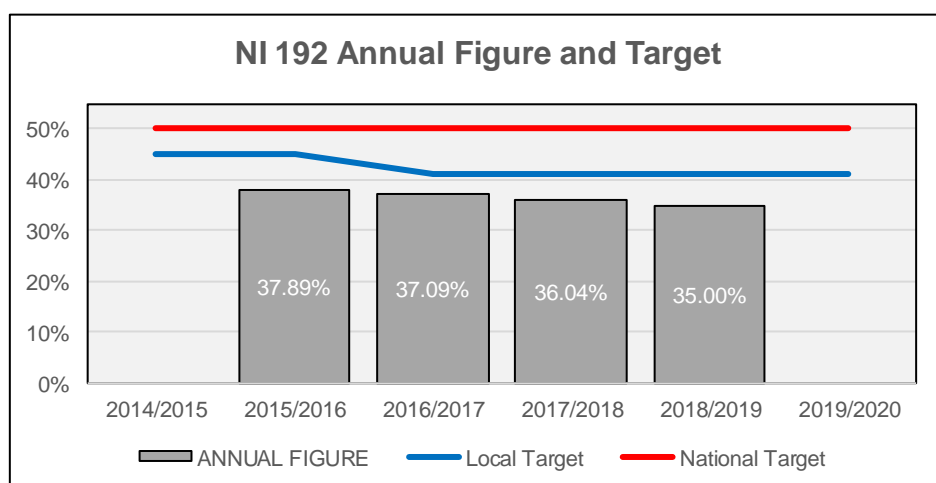
that the stream can operate efficiently the following day. The service continually review rounds for optimum efficiency and to take into account any new developments becoming occupied.

- 6.4 Another important development for the waste collection service has been a large recruitment initiative. The waste collection service have been carrying a number of vacancies for a period of time. A recruitment process was undertaken to fill the vacancies and during September, the collection service will see 13 new Waste Collection Assistants and Eight Waste Collection Round Leaders (Drivers) join the team on a permanent basis. The recruitment of permanent staff also works to ensure that teams are consistent and well skilled for the work they are doing. Both of which have a positive impact on performance.
- 6.5 The Waste Collections crews have started using in-cab technology units to report on the completion of their work. The Collective system has now been rolled out to the recycling and residual waste crews, with the kitchen and garden waste crews planned to join them in early October. The benefit of the system is that Waste Team Managers are able to receive real time information about the collection service, from bins that have been left unemptied due to contamination, to confirmation of collection of previously missed bins and the level of completion of the rounds. Next steps for this project will be linking data to the call centre, to enable call centre operatives to advise residents on the day of reporting why bins haven't been collected, e.g. contaminated recycling bin, blocked access.
- 6.6 This year has also seen an increase in the communication activity relating to recycling. During the course of the year communications have issued regular information to residents about recycling through social media. National Recycling Week towards the end of September, sees the launch of a dedicated campaign focusing on plastics with specific messaging relating to plastic products from the bathroom that are commonly disposed of as residual waste. This will be followed by a further dedicated campaign increasing awareness of the metal household items that can be readily recycled. New materials have been produced for the recycling in flats campaign (see section 6.8), trialling higher levels of imagery which if successful will lead the way for future campaigns. The new flytipping campaign with eyes being used, "we are watching you" in relation to hot spot areas and on environmental vehicles used to clear such waste.
- 6.7 The messages have been supported with renewed engagement with schools, with a number of school visits having been undertaken sharing recycling information with pupils. With the support of Bywaters, some of the visits include pupils having an opportunity to use virtual reality goggles to explore what happens to materials that are collected in our blue bins.
- 6.8 A pilot looking at options for supporting recycling in flats within the Borough has also been launched this year. Traditionally recycling in flats has had high levels of contamination and been difficult for residents. New recycling bins,

tidied bins stores and clear signage have been introduced to enable residents in flats to more easily separate their waste into the correct streams. The pilot is due to end in October with plans already in place for rolling the scheme out to other sites across the borough. Early feedback is very positive from residents and waste crews have identified high quality recycling, low contaminants and increased recycling being presented.



6.9 The recycling KPI and Thurrock's performance in relation to recycling, as measured through NI 192 (Household waste re-used, recycled and composted) has remained largely stagnant and below target for the past four/five years as detailed in the graph below:



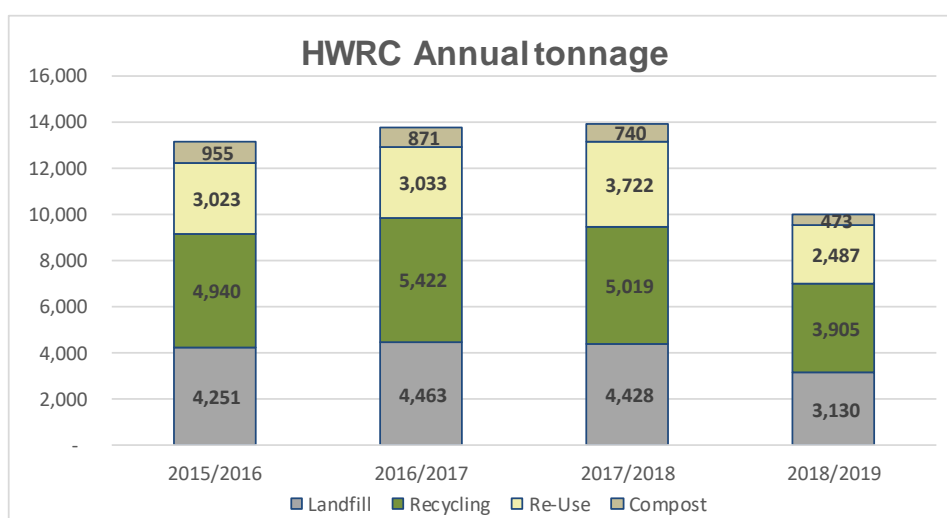
- 6.10 The need to address this and also to consider options for waste collection, with the planned increase in homes in the Borough over the next ten years, has resulted in a cross party Waste Management Working Group, Chaired by Cllr Fletcher, consisting of members and officers being formed. Central Government released a new Waste Strategy in December 2018, the aim of the group is to consider the strategy and the implications for Thurrock, while considering the new Thurrock Waste Strategy, due to be refreshed in 2020. The group will give consideration to current and future waste service arrangements from collection through transfer, processing and disposal and potential commercial operating solutions for Thurrock.
- 6.11 The group commenced their activities with a planned visit to Bywaters Recycling facility, observing Thurrock waste recycling being processed and learning about end destinations and reuse for different materials. The group is tasked with producing a vision statement for the Waste Strategy by February 2020.
- 6.12 From the beginning of August additional bulky waste collections have been made available to residents. This is in response to the clear demand and also as a means of testing whether the service will be able to provide support with a planned reduction of Household Waste and Recycling Centre capacity when the re-development of that site commences in December 2019.

7 Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC)

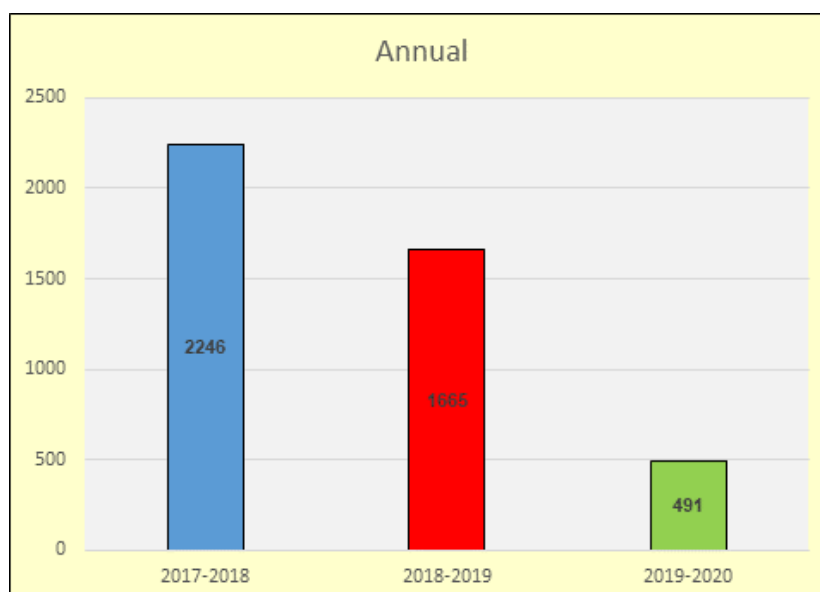
- 7.1 The planning and preparation for redevelopment of the HWRC is progressing well, with an expectation that the contract for the building and site development will be awarded before the end of 2019. Dependent on weather conditions, work could start as early as January. Alternative temporary HWRC sites are being assessed in line with the guidance received from the Environment Agency as a contingency should the developer be unable to assure safety of our residents for a reduced service at the existing site, while construction takes place.
- 7.2 Whilst the planning for the re-development is under way, improvements at the current site continue with clearer signage and systems that allow staff on site to simply and efficiently direct users who need assistance. Working with our current disposal contractor, we have been able to ensure that mattresses and hard plastics received at the site are now recycled.
- 7.3 Since the beginning of 2019, we have had 48,611 visits to the site.
- 7.4 The service continuously explores new innovations, in conjunction with our waste disposal contractor, to increase reuse and recycling, the most recent introduced includes the recycling of hard plastics, which have now been diverted from landfill, and mattresses are now recycled through MAT UK.
- 7.5 A partnership has been established with the Active Travel Cycling Team to provide unwanted bikes from the HWRC. The main purpose of the cycle hub

is to help people get active, assist with affordability and support residents to get to and from their place of work, education or job interviews, whilst encouraging sustainable travel. This is a not for profit scheme with any income being reinvested in the scheme to replenishing stock of spare parts etc.

- 7.6 The permitting process implemented in 2018 continues to work well with 1,135 permits issued this financial year. Most importantly the permits are continuing to discourage the inappropriate disposal of commercial waste at the site. The graph below shows the reduction in disposal tonnages since the scheme was introduced.



- 7.7 Most importantly, the introduction of the scheme has not been linked to an increase in fly-tipping. The graph below demonstrates the drop in incidents of fly-tips of the size of a small vanload or greater, year on year from 2018, which is when the HWRC permits were initially introduced. These are the fly-tips that are most likely to have resulted had a vehicle been denied access to the HWRC.



- 7.8 The commercial waste service continues to grow and provide an excellent and flexible service to businesses in the Borough. As the graph below shows, customer numbers have more than doubled in since April 2017.



- 7.9 The team continues to explore and investigate other options for income generation and actively encourages commercial customers to recycle.

8 Environmental Enforcement

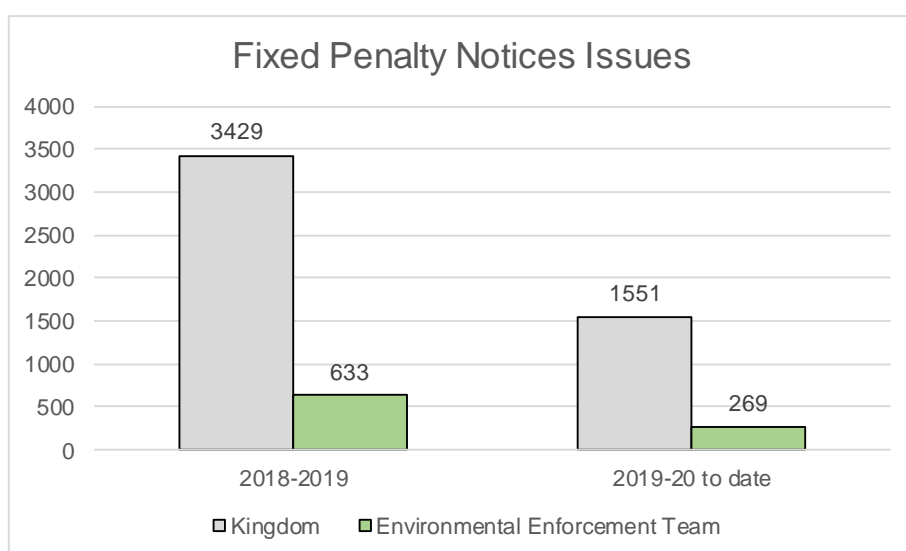
- 8.1 Although covered in greater detail by the Cabinet Member for Public Protection in his January 2019 report, it seems appropriate given the timeframe to revisit some core areas specifically in relation to fly tipping and littering fixed penalty notices, both of which have an impact on overall levels of cleanliness within the Borough.

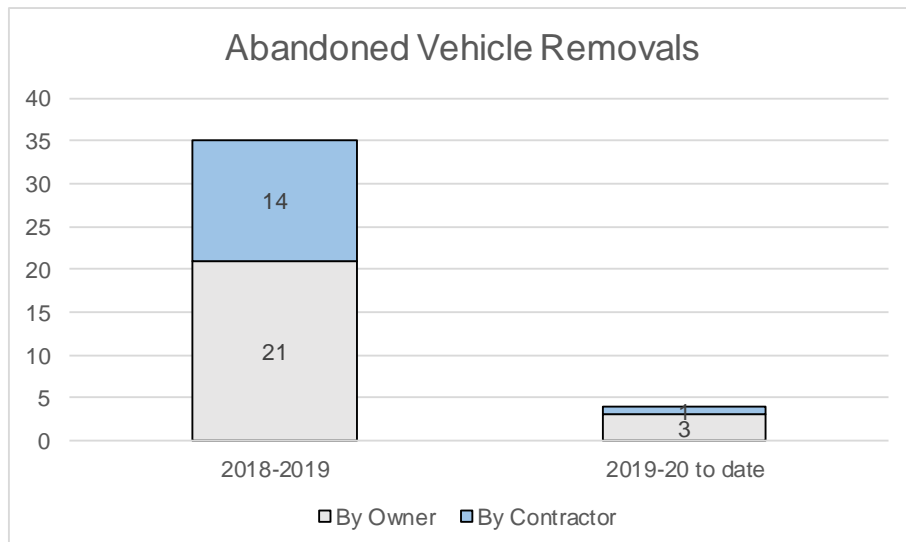
- 8.2 Following restructure and recruitment of the Enforcement Operations Manager, Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer and the fixed term position of the Enforcement Projects Manager the service has broadened scope and a number of successes have been delivered including:

- Application of first hearing at the High Court in respect of obtaining authorisation to issue defendants with evidence as part of the process to obtaining a borough wide injunction for unauthorised encampments.
- High Court granting of the interim injunction on both public and private land for named and unnamed individuals, including the powers of arrest.
- Increased joint partnership patrols between the Council and the Police
- Seizure of vehicles used in the commission of fly tipping offences.
- Increase in joint partnership operations to tackle ASB and Enviro-crime such as the unlawful deposit of litter namely nitro dioxide, gas canisters also known known as laughing gas
- Implementation of the single justice process, which streamlines process for prosecution
- Distribution of intelligence between internal and external partners [police] regarding offenders on a daily basis

- Streamline processes in educating and enforcing breaches of waste duty of care by commercial businesses across the borough
- Target hardening, protecting vulnerable land from unauthorised encampments across the borough
- Working with partners promoting the engine idling campaign for improved air quality around schools
- Application to the Home Secretary for permission to adopt further powers to issue FPNs under the Highways Act 1980, in accordance with Section 8, schedule 4, London Local Authorities & Transport for London Act 2003 as amended and unlicensed Street Trading.
- Operation Abercombe which is identifying known criminals “tags” and working with the Police to identify the individuals and take legal action for Criminal Damage thereby improving the environment and reducing the broken window effect.

8.3 Figures for Fixed Penalty Notices issued and actions relating to Abandoned Vehicles are detailed in the tables below. It is noteworthy that the number of abandoned vehicle reports have dropped from 1,240 in 2018-19 to 288 received for the year to July





- 8.4 In partnership with Essex police, following the introduction of the Town Centre teams, joint working aims and objectives of the teams are to:
- Combat ASB and disorder within the town centre
 - Educate officers in the processes of how to understand and enforce the PSPO
 - Conducting visible and engaging patrols, which include joint patrolling
 - Working with the council and all key partners within the town centres to run joint operations and working approaches to all problems

8.5 There are further joint partnership operations planned in relation to youths causing ASB, littering and spitting. Additionally there are planned high visibility Patrols in the area of the schools and delivery of talks at the Schools in relation to issues raised.

8.6 The joint partnership patrols have resulted in requests to deliver talks in relation to Best Practice of canister operations by the chair of Love Essex littering campaign in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy (KBT).

9 Budget

9.1 For this financial year these core services have again benefitted from investment. The list below is a summary of the additional funding that has been made available to ensure that services can continue to provide a high standard of service whilst accommodating growth within the Borough.

Variances are as a consequence of medium term financial strategy growth and movement of budget between services. Environment and Community Safety have a higher income target this year of £182K due to high performance last year.

Service	Budget 2018/19	Budget 2019/20
Clean and Green	4,033,165	4,784,004
Environment and Highways Management Team	910,128	763,768

Performance and Support	402,469	523,076
Recreation and Leisure	923,399	994,053
Waste Services	12,604,467	12,609,663
Air Quality	33,100	33,000
Env Enforcement and Community Safety	408,141	226,083
	19,314,869	19,933,647

9.2 In a similar vein, a number of capital projects have been initiated. Further commentary on those have been included in the body of the report. A summary list of key programmes includes:

- Household Waste and Recycling Centre site re-development
- New vehicles and cleaning equipment
- Parks improvements
- Litter bin replacements

Summary

While a lot has been achieved over the previous year, as we continue to work on the successes since May 2016, but as ever, there is more to do. For the remainder of 2019/2020 and moving into 2020/2021, there are several important projects ahead and the focus will be on ensuring that we continue to deliver the services residents pay for and expect. We will continue working on improving refreshing and improving our Air Quality & Health Thurrock Strategy and developing and finalising our new Sports & Leisure Strategy.

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23 October 2019	ITEM: 14
Council	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport	
Report of: Councillor Ben Maney, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport	
This report is Public	

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I introduce my first report as Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. The services within this portfolio are among the most important to residents and cover everything from working with promoters of large scale growth sites in the Borough to design appropriate transport systems, to ensuring the road network runs efficiently and is well maintained.

As well as the long-term and successful work under the Clean it, Cut it, Fill it initiative, which has ensured 100% of potholes are repaired within target , £1m has been invested in the Kerb-it scheme which has been well received by residents, provided much needed additional parking in priority areas and improved the appearance of our roads.

In July, Cabinet authorised £971,000 investment in the Integrated Transport Block which will deliver improvements in the Council's priority areas across the borough and work continues to install the long-awaited east-facing slip roads at the A126 junction of the A13, following the funding announcement made by government last year.

All in all, a lot of excellent work has been done and many improvements achieved on behalf of residents. There is still more work to be done, but I am confident we can continue to deliver the high level of service our residents deserve.

1 Network Management

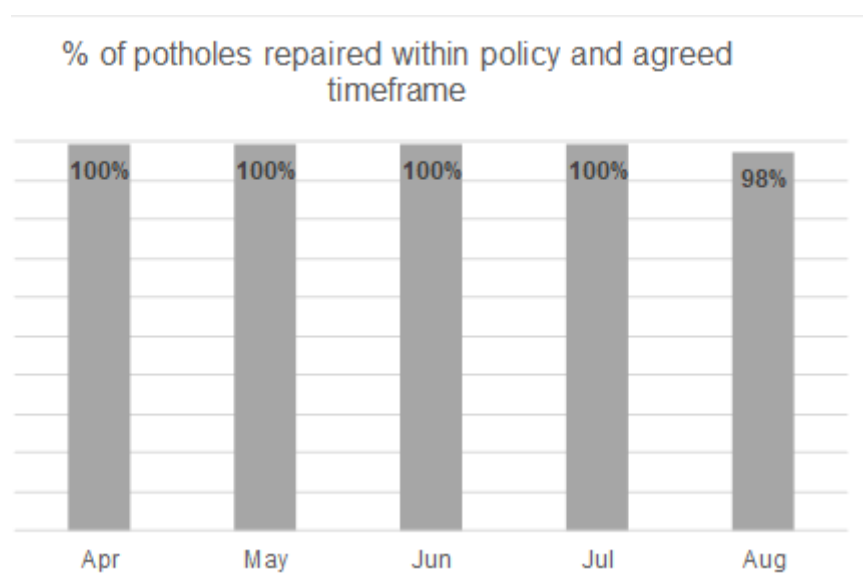
- 1.1 2,015 applications to work on the Highway have been received so far this calendar year and over 220 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for non-compliance of permit conditions
- 1.2 We continue to strengthen relationships with stakeholders and utilities and we've seen the benefits of this with the continuation of the Gas Main renewal works on London Road. We are already reaping the benefits on the sections completed, as we've received no emergency permit applications on London Road where the repairs have been completed. Phase one was completed ahead of schedule last year and phase two is also being delivered to schedule.

2 Highways Infrastructure

- 2.1 The council manages and maintains a road network that is 545 km long, has 27,000 lighting units and over 117 structures. Through our Capital Programme 19 roads have been resurfaced so far this year from the Maintenance block allocation, which constitutes approximately 5 km of the road network. A new bridge has been built across the Mardkye at Davey Down and we have carried out repairs to 3 other structures.
- 2.2 Preparations are underway for the delivery of the remaining schemes on the 2019/20 Capital Programme and the design for the reconstruction of Stonehouse Lane is nearing completion.
- 2.3 Efficient and effective programme management and delivery through effective asset management has enabled us to maintain Level 3 in the DfT's Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme, the highest available, enabling us to secure maximum funding, equating to an additional £334,000 towards the up keep of our roads.
- 2.4 Sound budget management and a resulting revenue surplus has enabled delivery of much needed repairs to Long Lane, additional kerb-it works, new boundary signage and renewed road markings on the strategic road network.

3 Reactive Maintenance

- 3.1 545km of Network requires safety Inspections and our Inspectors so far have carried out 1,156 inspections, this has resulted in the identification and repair of 3285 potholes. We are exceeding the annual KPI target of 98% for pothole filling, with repairs being completed well within the allocated timeframe. This shows our continued commitment to the 'fill it' campaign.



- 3.2 We've taken delivery of two brand new gulley cleansing machines, which will see the number of cleansed gullies continue to increase. In 2018, 13,396 gullies were attended and this year due to changes in the approach to the management of gullies 11,629 gullies have already been attended between January and August, which is projected to be a 24% increase on last year.
- 3.3 The Highways Team continue to rise to the challenge of unplanned works where they've attended incidents on the Network from oil spills, to concrete spills on the A13, fallen trees on Stifford Hill, Road Traffic Accidents, traffic signal strikes and the out of hours gully cleansing crews attendance at the Globe Industrial Estate unit fire to assist emergency services. The team continue to work around the clock to keep the network moving.

4 Transport Development

- 4.1 The Integrated Transport Block (ITB) capital programme was approved in July 2019 which sets out how the £971,000 funding allocation from DfT to the Transport Development Service within the 2019/20 financial year will be utilised. The programme includes a range of improvement and enhancement schemes and strategic priorities as set out and agreed in the Council's Transport Strategy.
- 4.2 A five year programme of funding for Safer Routes to Schools and Road Safety Engineering schemes has been approved and ring fenced by Cabinet. A methodology for prioritising and delivering these schemes has been developed, ensuring at least ten Safer Routes to Schools schemes are delivered each year. This is based on a criteria of accident records outside the school and progress in delivering a valid school travel plan. Ten schools have been identified to be delivered within 2019/20, of which four have been delivered at Kenningtons Primary Academy, Dilkes Academy, Thameside Primary School, and Arther Bugler Primary School, with schemes for a further six schools currently in the planning stage to be delivered by March 2020.
- 4.3 The Council leads a number of discussions with key stakeholders across the borough in regards to its highway network, including the Congestion Taskforce, Thurrock Road User Group and Freight, Logistics and Transporting Partnership. In an effort to improve efficiency and minimise the time demands on stakeholders, the Congestion Task Force and Thurrock Road User Group are to be amalgamated into one meeting, with a consideration to integrate freight issues into these meetings if and where appropriate.

5 Road Safety

- 5.1 A broad range of exceptional education and practical road safety initiatives during the previous academic year, including: Bikeability Cycle Training (including Level 1 & 2, Balance Bike and Learn to Ride) in 38 Schools covering 2496 pupils.

Key highlights over the past 12 months:

- Road Safety Pedestrian training in 41 Schools for 8048 pupils;
- Twilight Trail events (awareness of being Bright and Being Seen during the winter months) held in 12 schools for 278 Year 3 pupils and parents;
- Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) adopted in 8 schools. Road safety activities are taking place within schools with JRSOs including poster competitions / assemblies / fashion shows which involve both pupils and staff;
- Crucial Crew safety event held for 1000 Year 6 pupils in one week;
- 6 Surround a Town (SAT Days) held in conjunction with the Safer Essex Roads Partnership and Thurrock Road Safety;
- 15 School Crossing Patrol (SCP) sites;
- 18 School Travel Plans completed online with Modeshift STARS. This year has seen a higher number of Silver and Gold applications for accreditation. Currently we have 12 Bronze, 3 Silver, and 3 Gold accredited schools. Secondary Schools are actively becoming more involved in the school travel plan process with St Clere's achieving Silver Accreditation and working towards Gold;
- Scooter training – since April 2019, 14 schools and 535 Year 1 pupils have participated in scooter training. The Road Safety Team have 10 schools booked in for scooter training starting in the new school year with many more schools requesting dates;
- Adult cycle training – 10 adults have received adult cycle lessons, in collaboration with the South Essex Active Travel Programme (SEAT).

5.2 Looking forward to the current academic year and into 2020, we are committed to delivering even more support and initiatives across the borough to enable all schools to achieve school travel plan accreditation. All Bikeability Cycle training including Learn to Ride and Balance Bike sessions will continue to be offered to schools. Scooter Training will be offered to all pupils in Year 3 and a further 8 Surround a Town days are planned. The success of Crucial Crew means that it will be held again in summer 2020.

5.3 In September this year, Cabinet also approved the enforcement of idling car engines in parked cars. With this new power, will be able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to those who do not switch off their car engines after being asked and are therefore unnecessarily damaging the environment. Officers are engaging with schools and motorists to promote and encourage behaviour change - using FPNs as a final resort.

6 Highways Development Management and Traffic

6.1 The Highways DM team have again assured a high level of support for high-profile developments in the Borough. The Team continues to play a key part in pre-application dialogue with the Planning Service, providing confidence and support to the development industry.

- 6.2 The team maintain strong relationships with developers to ensure the Council's Highways DM policy direction is adhered to as improvements are made. Enhancements to Junction 31 have been agreed, as have freight travel plans and vehicle access agreements. Dialogue and liaison continues with proposed development of the former Arena Essex site and the proposed Thames Enterprise Park – including enhanced enforcement along the A1014 Manorway and junction with the A13.
- 6.3 In relation to Traffic, key highlights over the past 12 months include:
- £1m of funding became available this year to deliver the Kerb IT scheme – funding has enabled the delivery of treatment in five locations across the Borough, including Aveley, Grays, South Ockendon and Corringham. The programme has been positively received by residents, helping to improve the visual amenity of local areas while also allowing more drivers to park legally along the roadside. A further capital bid is being developed by the team in order to address additional priority areas across the borough.
 - Parking Permit Areas (PPAs) have been identified, consulted upon and progressed in Stanford le Hope, Grays and Tilbury. Zones B and C have been delivered in Stanford le Hope with some minor amendments and Zone T4 in Tilbury with a small number of limited waiting bays and associated signed installed in September. An extension of Zone H in Grays, incorporating Gipsy Lane and Charles Street is expected to be implemented by the end of September 2019. These schemes will remain subject to periodic reviews, so as to ensure they continue to meet the needs to residents.
 - A new average speed camera system is now live on Southend Rd, Stanford le Hope to address the high number of Personal Injury Accidents recorded on this part of the network. Speeding along the route has now reduced with enforcement action being undertaken by the police where speeds are deemed to be excessive. 1,218 offences were recorded in the first formal two months of operation, of which 1,123 were offered a speed awareness course rather than prosecution. In total, 3,175 offences were recorded by the police between the scheme going live in January 2019 through to July 2019.
 - HGV restrictions have been successfully implemented on Woodview and Dock Approach Road to prevent vehicles from parking near residential areas.
 - Over £1m has also been secured for the A126 through the DfT Safer Roads Fund. A package of safety measures will commence next year, with preliminary surveys being commissioned for the autumn.
 - The Council continues to work with all stakeholders to determine a solution to enforce bus lanes and width restrictions across the Borough, including a possible camera enforcement methodology.
 - The team have also progressed a capital funding bids for a range of improvement and enhancement schemes including additional Kerb-it programme, Aveley Freight management and provision for a new access scheme to support school growth aspirations on the A1013.

- 6.4 Steps have been taken to implement freight management measures along Rectory Road in Grays while HGV access to and from Towers Road / Globe Industrial Estate have been restricted improving the safety for all road users with vehicles moving to and from the estate. Parking within Towers Road and Rectory Road have also been improved with newly implemented parking restrictions, improving vehicle access and sight lines. A width restriction has also been implemented at the top of Rectory Road with Lodge Lane to prevent freight vehicles travelling on Rectory Road using inappropriate routes and a new loading bay has been installed for use by businesses by the Oak Public House.

7 Orsett Road two-way scheme

- 7.1 Our plans to create a new two-way system in Grays involve significant changes to Orsett Road to allow two-way traffic between Derby Road and Stanley Road, as well as the upgrading and installation of pedestrian crossings, resurfacing work and various other highways improvements.
- 7.2 This is a vitally important scheme that will improve traffic flow and provide significant benefits to residents, visitors and businesses in Grays.
- 7.3 During stages of the project there will be traffic management required at the following four junctions of Stanley, Clarence, Derby and Orsett roads and any disruption during the works to a minimum and to take into account other planned work affecting the town centre.

8 Parking Enforcement

- 8.1 The provision and enforcement of parking supports the delivery of the objectives of accessibility, tackling congestion, improving air quality, safer roads, assists the efficient movement of traffic, increases compliance, maintains access to services and amenities and facilitates regeneration of the Thurrock transport network.
- 8.2 To ensure achievement of the above objectives full time Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) are employed to patrol the borough, with focus on problem hot spots to enforce parking restrictions and issue penalty charge notices where parking contraventions are deemed to have occurred.
- 8.3 To tackle the ongoing issues around the illegal parking of HGVs in the borough a twilight shift and an intermittent night shift were operated. This resulted in increased HGVs parking in appropriate parking areas provided by private companies in the borough.
- 8.4 Together with the Environmental Enforcement Officers they have reduced the borough of significant damage to grass verges and footpaths. This focused approach resulted in 167 Driver Community Protection Warnings (CPWs), 25 Driver Community Protection Notices (CPNs) and 8 Driver Fixed Penalty

Notices. As a result there have not been any significant reports of HGVs causing criminal damage to grass verges and public footpaths of late.

- 8.5 In response to reports from CEOs of eleven trailers parking on the clear way at Thurrock Park Way, Environmental Enforcement Officers have carried out regular visits. Using the Community Protection Notice (CPN) process they have successfully cleared the trailers.
- 8.6 We continue to use a well-placed company to trace and pursue the keepers of foreign registered vehicles with the view to collecting outstanding payments. In 2018/19 the council received a payment of almost £12k for debt owed to the Council in relation to foreign vehicles.
- 8.7 At the end of February 2019, the Parking Services Back Office successfully completed a much needed upgrade to the Parking Software which has resulted in a more efficient service, higher payment rate on penalty charge notices and better reporting.
- 8.8 All CEOs have been issued with a body worn video camera (BWVC). In the case of any prosecution, case officers can use the footage from the BWVC to support a written statement.
- 8.9 The Council went cashless on the 25 February 2019, which has resulted in an increase in income, a very positive change we hadn't anticipated.
- 8.10 The Parking Enforcement service together with Network Management are also regulating the suspension of parking bays more effectively and in accordance with the Fees and Charges agreed by Council. This has resulted in over £40,000 of income, as well as a better regulated system of minor works carried out in the borough by utility companies and private companies.
- 8.11 In the 2018/19 financial year the parking service produced a surplus of £416,951 – a 6% increase compared to £393,031 in 2017/18. All income generated is used for the operation of public passenger transport services, highway or traffic improvement projects and maintenance of parking restrictions, as per legislation.
- 8.12 An increase of 17% in the total number of penalty charge notices issued (18,723) in 2018/19 compared to (16,017) issued in 2017/18 demonstrates increased activity in enforcing Thurrock roads.

9 East-Facing Slips

- 9.1 A major success in the past year was the announcement by the Secretary of State, for funding towards the long-sought A13 East Facing Slips scheme. Since the announcement, work has been ongoing to prepare a submission for the Outline Business Case (OBC) to the DfT to provide the economic and strategic case for the scheme. The OBC submission is expected in December 2019, which will outline the expected cost and funding allocation required from

Government to deliver the scheme, as well as outlining the expected delivery timeframe and regulatory framework to enable the scheme construction. Current estimates expect the construction to commence in the financial year 2022/23 with a construction time frame of 18-24 months. Once the OBC is submitted and approved, a Full Business Case will be developed and shared with DfT for final sign off of the scheme and the scheme taken through the planning process.

- 9.2 In addition to funding achieved for the East Facing Slips, the Government has created a new opportunity to address other congestion pinch points across the Borough. The Council can bid for funding, where high impact schemes will help to address and reduce congestion on the road network. A maximum of £75m is available each year for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and schemes will need to show where congestion is preventing economic growth. The Council will need to submit an Expression of Interest by January 2020.

10 Passenger Transport

- 10.1 This year the Passenger Transport Team Tendered and successfully procured a new three year contract for local Bus Services 11, 265 and 374. This has enabled us to provide a service for 6 communities which would otherwise have not had access to a bus Service. Provision has also been made for amendments to the routes to be made to ensure links to the Integrated Medical Centres are available, as and when required. Feedback received from the Bus User Group has been very positive.
- 10.2 Bus punctuality continues to be good, major road improvement schemes and essential utility works have had minimal impact, with 91.2% of bus observations for 2018/19 classified as on time. The figure for buses starting their journey on time was also very good at 99.2%.
- 10.3 The Bus Shelter Contract has been awarded, which will facilitate improved and modern facilities with the first phase of delivery due to commence in the autumn.
- 10.4 The team provide school transport for all pupils in the borough that meet the eligibility criteria, both mainstream and those with special educational needs and disabilities. In an average years approximately 400,000 school trips are provided.
- 10.5 Currently the Passenger Transport Team are managing approximately 23,000 concessionary fares pass holders, which the Council continues to fund.

11 Liaison with c2c

- 11.1 Our relationship with c2c continues to develop and provides opportunities to understand the issues and improvements that c2c deal with on their network, it also provides an opportunity for the Council to respond to consultations relating to service changes. c2c provide updates to the Council's Congestion

Taskforce when required and attend O&S meetings to provide service updates as requested. The Council's Communications Team continue to work with c2c to develop a collaborative communications strategy (including social media sharing, Variable Message Signs at stations, Tic-Tac network updates and other measures). c2c are committed to delivering infrastructure improvements that will enhance their service.

- 11.2 Station refurbishment works have commenced at Ockendon and Grays Stations and similar works are planned at East Tilbury, Tilbury Town and Chafford Hundred. New trains are to be added to the Thurrock line from 2021 and timetable amendments are to be explored.
- 11.3 Opportunities to utilise the c2c Customer and Community Improvement Fund have also been discussed with c2c. Ideas including Electric Vehicle (EV) charging, water fountains, bike pumps, increased seating and onward journey information have been highlighted to c2c.

12 Smart Thurrock

- 12.1 The Transport Development team continue to explore opportunities that will support the Council's vision for a smarter and more connected borough. Opportunities identified within the TD team include managing traffic flows through Variable Message Signs (VMS), Intelligent Traffic Systems (ITS), contactless payment on trains and Real-time Bus Information.
- 12.2 The Council is procuring five new large VMS signs to advise motorists of issues on the highway network and eight new VMS signs are to be delivered within the vicinity of the Lakeside Basin in collaboration with Intu Lakeside to manage congestion and traffic flows to car parks.

13 Fleet Management

- 13.1 Following on from the Council's previous investment of £8m on fleet renewal, Fleet have so far for this year invested an additional £900,000 of capital on further replacements these include 2 new gulley suckers, 2 mid-range street sweepers, 2 large street sweepers, 2 tractors and 2 mini buses. We have also ordered and are awaiting delivery of 2 new grave diggers, a JCB for Highways, a tele handler for the recycling plant and 4 precinct sized sweepers that are all due for delivery before November and provide a further commitment of £500,000.
- 13.2 All new vehicles meet Euro 6 standards and all vehicles are ULEZ compliant, allowing them to travel into London and the ultra-low emissions zones.
- 13.3 New vehicle tracking systems have been fitted to all 140 of the new vehicles which are now monitored in relation to driver behaviour, environmental impact and effective utilisation of our assets.

- 13.4 The Council's MOT station has completed 389 MOTs in the previous year which includes a saving on expenditure as we MOT our own vehicles in house and an income generation from private MOTs from members of the public.
- 13.5 Fleet have also conducted over 400 taxi licence compliance checks, 600 in house vehicle inspections and approximately 3,800 in-house repairs over the past year.

14 South Essex Active Travel

- 14.1 The collaborative working relationship with colleagues in Southend and Essex continues to deliver the £3.3m South Essex Active Travel (SEAT) programme which encourages and enables increased walking and cycling across the borough. A number of innovative ideas and events (including the Civic Offices Healthy Walk) have been delivered and developed and SEAT has enabled the Council to engage with local businesses. The SEAT programme has recently become publically rebranded as Forward Motion. DfT have recently announced that the SEAT project will gain additional funding for 202/21 to deliver similar projects.
- 14.2 June 2019 saw the opening of Thurrock's first cycle hub in Tilbury, a scheme funded by the Council's Public Health team and SEAT which will deliver improved access to cycling opportunities, refurbished bikes and community advice that will encourage cycling. The Strategic Transport team has engaged with the Household Waste and Recycling Centre to direct any bicycles which are brought to the site to be refurbished at the cycle hub, thereby enabling low cost bikes to be make available to the Tilbury community. Observations to date have shown a positive reaction towards the facility by local residents. The Cycle Hub is currently open three days per week – Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

15 Travel Plans

- 15.1 Workplace and residential Travel Plans continue to be assessed and approved in order to bring forward sustainable travel options to mitigate the impacts of new development. Encouraging and enabling more walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing are all recognised as having a beneficial impact on the highway network. Within the past year, the Purfleet Regeneration Travel Plan has secured funding for a formalised Car Club scheme, which will also be implemented as part of future large residential and employment site based travel plans, creating a borough wide Car Club, giving residents access to private vehicles without the cost of owning a vehicle.

16 Transport Strategy

- 16.1 As part of the Lower Thames Crossing, engagement continues with Highways England and key stakeholders to promote the Tilbury Link Road (TLR). Working alongside our consultants, the Council has developed an Options Assessment Report to identify and prioritise the scheme variations as a

requirement of any future Outline Business Case. The submission of robust and matured TLR options identifies the Council's commitment to a link road scheme. DfT will advise the council when suitable funding sources become available.

- 16.2 Agreement has been secured with Highways England to migrate the signals at Junction 31 to Highways England in order to provide 24/7 focus and management on this part of the network and to allow more appropriate and effective clearance plans to be applied when there is severe congestion or in the event of an incident.
- 16.3 The works will involve enhancing the existing signal controllers on Junction 31 and when congestion occurs, implementation of a pre-determined clearance plan to help improve traffic flows on the junction, minimising exist blocking. This work will enable further collaboration with Highways England and Essex to enhance the technological investment on Thurrock's roads.
- 16.4 The Transport Strategy team lead on Flood Risk Management for the Council and provide advice and support to the Thurrock area, working with Essex County Council and the Environment Agency. A new flood risk officer is currently being recruited to provide a dedicated resource towards this statutory responsibility, and is expected to be in post in December/January.
- 16.5 A new Parking Strategy is being developed to help improve engagement with developers with formalised parking standards. The new strategy, when approved, will enable the authority to inform developers, residents and businesses of required parking provision for all modes and requirements dependant on the nature of the development. The parking strategy will also enhance the existing strategy for parking enforcement, creating improved policies for the Council to utilise. This will create a more transparent opportunity to engage and inform the public. Consultation will be undertaken toward the end of the year and the strategy is expected to be presented to O&S and Cabinet in early 2020.
- 16.6 The launch last year of the London Gateway bus service, linking Stanford le Hope Station and Corringham to London Gateway development– creating a sustainable transport link to the site continues to operate. Patronage is growing on the service, but it cannot be run commercially at the moment. Efforts continue to determine longer-term funding for the bus, with contributions from businesses on site to ensure a continuous link to the station. Route and timetable enhancements are also being considered, and a new promotional leaflet for distribution to staff and placing at stops have also been finalised.

17 Gritting

- 17.1 Winter will soon be upon us and preparations are underway, with weather monitoring commencing in October and the gritters are on standby for action. Last season we completed 40 runs, during what was considered to be a mild

season, with Twitter alerts to inform our residents when our teams were active.

- 17.2 We are in the process of installing Thurrock's very own Weather Station. Historically we have relied on the weather station which is located on Canvey Way, the procurement of a Thurrock based station will enable us to receive more accurate forecasts which identify when our crews will be active.

18 Finance

- 18.1 Significant further investment has been made in the vital services and the table below summarises the budget and income targets.
- 18.2 Variances are as a consequence of medium term financial strategy growth and movement of budget between services. The budgets for Fleet and Logistics and Parking Enforcement are balanced by recharges and revenue respectively.

Service	Budget 2018/19	Budget 2019/20
Fleet and Logistics	(604,499)	(400,807)
Highways Infrastructure	5,958,290	7,592,638
Passenger Transport	1,862,848	1,765,716
Transportation Development	255,135	884,247
Parking Enforcement	(448,984)	(376,193)
	7,022,789	9,465,600

QUESTION TIME

Questions from Members to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Members appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee in accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

There are 2 questions to the Leader and 6 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER

1. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Gledhill

Can the Portfolio Holder provide an update on joint working between the Council and other agencies to ensure we are working to prevent those at risk of being drawn into gang activity or taking appropriate enforcement action against gang members?

2. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Gledhill

When will Police Officers funded by Thurrock Council start walking the beat in Thurrock?

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO CABINET MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON A JOINT COMMITTEE

1. From Councillor Okunade to Councillor Coxshall

With the announced £25M Government investment in Tilbury, what are the real improvements that residents can expect to be delivered to make Tilbury become a more desirable place for people to live and work?

2. From Councillor Mayes to Councillor Johnson

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me why it has taken over 8 months to try and fix the vehicle gate to the Tilbury high rise car park?

3. From Councillor Mayes to Councillor Johnson

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me how long residents should expect to wait for repair jobs to lifts within flats?

4. From Councillor Fish to Councillor Johnson

Are residents on Seabrooke Rise Estate entitled to the same standard of caretaking as other similar areas of the borough?

5. From Councillor Worrall to Councillor Huelin

Can the Portfolio Holder please update the chamber on the results of the Thameside Theatre review?

6. From Councillor Collins to Councillor Maney

Would the Portfolio Holder confirm that the proposed yellow lines which are due to be painted on the roads in Homesteads will be delayed until the full impact on the parking displacement it will cause is assessed and the resulting problems are remedied?

Update on Motions agreed by the Council

Date	From	Motion	Status	Director
31/10/2018	Cllr Gledhill	We call on the elected members of Thurrock Council to support any judicial review, or other legal action, that may be possible against Highways England proposals for the Lower Thames Crossing?	Evidence will continue to be gathered to support a potential future judicial review of Highways England's proposed Lower Thames Crossing. Should the opportunity arise to challenge the process on grounds eligible for judicial review it will be taken.	Andy Millard
27/2/2019	Cllr Duffin	Thurrock Council will write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling on the Government to reverse its policy of placing Authorities who do not increase Council Tax to the maximum level at a financial disadvantage by assuming such a notional increase have been made when calculating the amount of business rates they will be allowed to retain.	<p>Thurrock Council has responded to the Fair Funding Review being carried out by the Treasury and MHCLG making the unfairness of this approach clear, especially considering historic decisions.</p> <p>The Fair Funding Review is part of the wider resetting of Local Government Finance being conducted by Central Government which also includes the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review and an updated system of Business Rate Retention. This overall reset of the system will consider the overall funding allocated to Local Government, the proposed allocation to individual authorities and the mechanism to access this funding. The Council continues to consult on all elements of the reset and will update members in due course.</p> <p>Members should note that the Fair Funding Review has now been pushed back a year for announcement towards the end of 2020.</p>	Sean Clark
19/6/2019	Cllr Potheary	Thurrock Council notes opposition to the proposed plans to redevelop the Civic	This project was discussed in detail at O&S Committee on 3rd September and at Cabinet on 11th September.	Andy Millard

Update on Motions agreed by the Council

		<p>Offices. Thurrock Council calls on Cabinet to abandon this costly and unnecessary project.</p>	<p>The benefit of the proposed scheme was demonstrated by the fact that it is not possible to replicate the wider benefits by using the existing CO1 building, in particular the delivery of town centre housing, support for vulnerable residents requiring facilities that are sensitive to their needs (including secluded waiting areas), and increased community use of facilities.</p> <p>Moreover, O&S and Cabinet were presented with figures produced by the Council's consultants which showed that spending money to bring CO1 up to modern standards would be more expensive than building the proposed extension.</p> <p>Planning permission for the scheme was granted on 19th September which means work can soon start on the new Civic Centre which will kick-start the regeneration of Grays attracting investment of around £200m into the area much of which will come from private sector partners.</p>	
24/7/2019	Cllr Holloway	<p>That Council notes with extreme concern, the recent instruction from NHS England to NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to set out a clear and agreed timeline by the end of September 2019 for a CCG merger to create a single CCG covering Mid and South Essex.</p>	<p>Following the motion, a letter was sent from all Members to Ann Radmore, Regional Director at NHS England (East of England) highlighting the motion and calling on NHSE to retain a fully constituted CCG at Thurrock level.</p> <p>Ann Radmore has responded to the letter stating that NHSE remains committed to retaining a focus on 'Thurrock as a place' but reiterating NHSE's to restructure local NHS Commissioning architecture to create a single Integrated Care System for Mid and South Essex by 2021 with a single Mid and South Essex Clinical Commissioning Group.</p>	Ian Wake

Update on Motions agreed by the Council

		<p>Council finds the complete lack of consultation by NHS England with us as a key statutory partner and with local residents, prior to issuing an instruction of this magnitude, unacceptable and disrespectful. Council strongly opposes any move by NHS England to create a single CCG for Mid and South Essex which we believe will damage the strong partnership working and local relationships we have with our NHS partners, shift focus away from local health & care transformation at Thurrock level, and will make our local NHS less accountable to our residents. Council calls on NHS England to retain a fully constituted CCG at Thurrock level with a Thurrock CCG Accountable Officer and Executive. Council also resolves to write to our two local MPs to ask them to support our calls and work</p>	<p>Wayne Bartlett-Syree, Director of Strategic Transformation and Locality Director from NHS England (East of England) attended HOSC on 5 September 2019 to answer member questions on the CCG merger. Wayne Bartlett-Syree, reiterated NHS England's commitment to 'place based working' at Thurrock level and that this would be reflected in establishment structure of any new CCG structure, but confirmed that NHSE would implement proposals set out in the NHS Long Term Plan 2019 to create a single CCG for each STP geographical footprint (in our case at Mid and South Essex Level). The Thurrock Integrated Care Alliance approved an MOU developed by the Director of Public Health, between the Council and STP partners which sets out roles/ responsibilities and functions at STP (system), Place (Thurrock) and locality (sub Thurrock) geographical level. The MOU proposes creation of a Thurrock Integrated Care Partnership between all key stakeholders to focus on population health outcomes and integration between health, local authority and voluntary sector functions related to health, social care and wellbeing. The MOU aims to ensure a strong focus remains on partnership working at Thurrock level and that decision making remains local. The MOU is currently being shared with wider system partners across the STP. During his attendance at HOSC, Wayne Bartlett-Syree, Director of Strategic Transformation and Locality Director, NHSE declined to give a commitment to sign the MOU, suggesting that it was the responsibility of STP partners to determine the most appropriate partnership arrangements for Mid and South Essex.</p>	
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Update on Motions agreed by the Council

		with us to intervene to prevent this merger.		
18/9/2019	Cllr Jefferies	This Council notes with concern the alleged violation of planning regulations at Buckles Lane in South Ockendon, which includes unlawful development in the greenbelt. Members therefore call on the Council to bring forward a report detailing violations, what action has been taken to date and how the authority will address planning infringements at Buckles Lane, including via the use of further enforcement proceedings, whilst protecting the Showmen community.	Part of the site is long established and is allocated as a Show people site, however in recent years the site has been sub-divided and extended with further unauthorised development and non-Show people have found accommodation on the site without permission which has created cramped living conditions and incidences of public disorder. Recent attempts to introduce further mobile homes onto the eastern part of the site without permission have been prevented by the Council through injunctive action. Through the Council's review of the site, genuine Show people have been receptive and keen to engage with the Council to achieve a permanent permission for the site. The Council has adopted a multi-disciplinary approach to the case and is committed to working with land owners to bring forward planning applications to create a safe and well-designed residential environment for the Showmen Community in Thurrock. This approach is supported by the Showmen's Guild who we have been closely liaising with. The Council recognises its role as part of a wider collective to ensure all aspects of the case are addressed. A cross-service group of officers will consider the full range of issues affecting the site, the action which has been taken as well as future plans and will report back to Members.	Andy Millard

Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor Gerrish

Thurrock Council therefore resolves to:

- 1.1 Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action;
- 1.2 Request that the Council's activities become net-zero carbon by 2030;
- 1.3 Request that the Council embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities;
- 1.4 Request that the relevant Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Climate Change convenes a Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change and a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group should consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030. It should also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
- 1.5 Request that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency;
- 1.6 Request that the Leader write to the UK Government asking them to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

The Secretary of State is under a duty to ensure that the net UK carbon account for 2050 is at least 100% lower than the 1990 baseline and to set legally-binding carbon budgets and limits to achieve that target (Climate Change Act 2008). This Act also established the Committee on Climate Change, to ensure that emissions targets are evidence-based and independently assessed. The Secretary of State has powers under that Act to issue guidance and give directions to 'reporting authorities', including this Council, in relation to those authorities climate change impacts, proposals and policies and their progress in implementing them. Reporting authorities would have to comply with any such directions. Central Government has published the Clean Growth Strategy (2017) under that Act and national non-statutory policy related to climate change, including the 25 Year Environment Plan

(2018) and the National Planning Policy Framework (2019), which the Council would need to have regard to as relevant in making decisions. The Council has a wide range of statutory duties and powers, including its general power of competence under s.1 Localism Act 2011, the exercise of which might be relevant to climate change impacts, mitigation and adaption. Any specific legal implications relating to this motion cannot be determined at this stage. Should the motion be agreed further advice on any specific legal implications would be given at that time.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

Financial implication relating to this motion cannot be determined at this stage. Should the motion be agreed, an action plan will have to be completed and fully costed for future consideration.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes