

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

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **3 December 2020**

Due to current government guidance on social-distancing and the COVID-19 virus the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2020 will be held virtually online. The press and public will be able to watch the meeting live via the Council's online webcast channel: www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast

Membership:

Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Mike Fletcher, Garry Hague, John Kent, Angela Lawrence and Elizabeth Rigby

Substitutes:

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

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 1 October 2020.	
3. Items of Urgent Business	
To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	

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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Agenda published on: **25 November 2020**

Information for members of the public and councillors

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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non- pecuniary

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



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

Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

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

1. **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
 - High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
 - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
 - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

2. **Place** – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
 - Roads, houses and public spaces that connect people and places
 - Clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
 - Fewer public buildings with better services

3. **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations
 - Attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy
 - Vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all
 - Commercial, entrepreneurial and connected public services

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 October 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Mike Fletcher, Garry Hague, John Kent, Angela Lawrence and Elizabeth Rigby

In attendance: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment, Highways and Counter Fraud
Dulal Ahmed, Housing Enforcement Manager
Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager
Gavin Dennett, Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager
Andy Kelly, Strategic Lead Waste
Daren Spring, Assistant Director – Street Scene & Leisure
Stephen Taylor, Strategic Lead of Economic Development
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the meeting, all present were advised that the meeting was being live streamed and recorded, with the video recording to be made available on the Council's Youtube channel.

64. Minutes

The minutes of the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 2 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

65. Items of Urgent Business

There were no urgent items of business.

66. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

67. Cross Party Waste Working Group and Municipal Waste Strategy for Thurrock 2021-2031

The following Members of the Waste Management Working Group were in attendance for this item – Councillors Byrne, Muldowney, Ralph, and Smith.

Councillor Fletcher, Chair of the Waste Management Working Group, presented the report and stated the Cross Party Waste Working Group had been formed in August 2019 with the key objective of reviewing the requirements of the Government's waste strategy paper and establish how Thurrock would be able to meet those requirements. The Group considered the statutory implications for the Council which would impact on the way Thurrock collected and disposed of their waste and to improve the level of the

recycle rate of household waste that was re-used, recycled and composted. Thurrock's recycling rate was 34.76% compared to the national average of 43.2%.

Members were provided with the areas investigated and the activities the working group had undertaken which included:

- Understanding the current process with household waste collection which included a visit to Bywaters, Thurrock's current dry recycling disposal point.
- A review of the current waste collections service levels and vehicles which included a visit to the Depot.
- An overview of communications and education had taken place in the past two years.
- Members attended a training event with WRAP. An insight into messaging and communication regarding recycling and reuse.
- An overview of the planned improvements for the Household Waste and Recycling Centre redevelopment.
- Supported the work currently being undertaken on the Flats Recycling Project.
- Benchmarking the collection regimes maintained by other councils.
- Reviewed the National Waste Strategy to understand the implications for waste services in Thurrock.
- A consultation of all residents was undertaken with a response rate of 1%, 684 completed surveys returned.
- Education work within schools would continue.

Councillor Fletcher stated that following the work of the Waste Management Working Group the recommended approach would be to:

1. Thurrock would have a refreshed Waste Strategy that was compliant and aligned with National Policy. The approach outlined in the strategy would include changes to domestic collections, implemented on a phased approach which would have implications for disposal contracts and vehicles. The key aspects would be: replace residual waste collections with a new weekly food waste collection to all households and an alternate weekly residual collection; retain the weekly collections of dry recycling; retain the fortnightly collections of garden waste; redevelop the Household Waste and Recycling Centre; review of Thurrock's waste collection fleet to ensure a reduction in carbon footprint and fuel usage; ensure future waste disposal contract negotiations followed new principles such as (i) reduction in distance travelled to disposal sites (ii) identify opportunities for additional recycling and reuse and (iii) ensure a reduction in waste sent to landfill; reduce the occurrence of single use plastics; investigate the feasibility of creating a transfer station within Thurrock to support alternative disposal options; investigate the feasibility of building an energy recovery facilities in the borough.

2. To ensure that throughout the implementation of the Waste Strategy, the service would consistently look to Educate and Empower residents to recycle and reuse with enforcement being seen as the final option.
3. The Council would consider any potential impact on jobs and services before the Waste Strategy was put in place.
4. That a Waste Communications Strategy would be developed as part of the Waste Strategy.
5. That the Waste Management Working Group continued to work with the waste service in an advisory capacity with update meetings being held 4-6 times a year.
6. That all options presented to the Waste Management Working Group did not include financial costs or savings.
7. The Waste Management Working Group acknowledged that the proposed changes would have a positive impact on the recycling rate but would also impact residents and therefore a robust communications campaign would need to be implemented.

Members discussed the consultation response rate and questioned what work had been undertaken to promote the consultation. Members were informed the consultation had taken place between January and March 2020, every Thurrock household had received a postcard with details on how to register, changes were made to the on-line consultation portal to make the registering process easier to encourage more residents to respond. A reminder mail shot that included bin stickers and best practice guides were distributed to every household. Paper copies were available in libraries and hubs, press releases and social media were used and the deadline had been extended to allow time for more residents to participate. Councillor Hague and other Members agreed that although they were disappointed with the level of response, acknowledged the challenges of when the consultation was undertaken.

Councillor Lawrence questioned whether residents had the opportunity to purchase a second brown bin. Officers informed Members that this had not formed part of the working group discussions and would be for Officer Groups to discuss and consider other garden waste options available and would report back to the committee.

Councillor J Kent commented that the residual waste collections should remain as a weekly collection, otherwise this would lead to fly-tipping.

Councillor Redsell questioned whether hospital clinical waste had been considered and was informed that there was not a separate clinical waste collection in Thurrock.

Councillor Rigby questioned why the recycling rates in Thurrock had reduced and was informed that this was potentially down to lack of awareness and contaminated collections and these areas would be included in the education part of the strategy.

Councillor J Kent stated that the Council should be ambitious in their review of Thurrock's waste collection fleet and to take the opportunities of all

possibilities. Councillor Lawrence agreed and questioned whether leasing would be the way forward instead of purchasing new vehicles.

Councillor J Kent stated his uncertainty and that serious consideration would need to be given when investigating the feasibility of building an energy recovery facilities in the borough.

Members discussed their concern on any impact to job losses and were reassured that the service was currently backfilling a number of vacant posts with agency staff and that following the finalised route optimisation this would more than cover any potential resource implications. Members were also reassured that the Council would protect any potential job reductions and would not recruit into permanent positions until such time as this transition period had been completed.

Councillor J Kent asked for the costs of the two waste survey exercises and questioned the value for money of these exercises. It was agreed that Officers would provide this information following the meeting. This information is as follows: Mail-out 1: Postcard delivered to 68,000 properties in Thurrock, two sided colour postcard printed on recycled paper - Total Cost for printing and distribution - £12,280. Mail-out 2: Educational/Information and Survey Reminder Pack including letter, full-colour recycling guide printed on recycled paper and a weather proof recycling bin sticker to go on blue bins distributed in a pack to 68,000 properties. Total cost for printing and distribution – £26,746. The combined total cost was £39,026.

Members had a lengthy discussion on how the community should be made aware of the potential changes and agreed these should not be implemented until residents had been informed. That a clear mandate should be provided with clear details of the proposals and therefore all Members agreed that a further recommendation should be added to the report:

Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that they consult fully with the community before they enact with the refuse collections in Thurrock.

Councillor Redsell thanked Members for the good debate and discussion and thanked members from the Waste Management Working Group for all their hard work and contribution.

Councillor Redsell asked whether Members now agreed with the five recommendations. Members agreed to all recommendations apart from Councillor J Kent who voted against recommendation 1.2.

RESOLVED

- 1. The Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the activities and research undertaken by the Cross Party Working Group.**

2. **The Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented on the refreshed Waste Strategy and Communications Plan, recommending it to Cabinet.**
3. **The Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposed that the Cross Party Working Group continue to have a role in reviewing the progress of the implementation of the Waste Strategy.**
4. **The Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered as part of the new Waste Strategy how the council can lead by example and act to reduce, and where possible, eliminate single use plastics.**
5. **That Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that they consult fully with the community before they enact with the refuse collections in Thurrock.**

68. Public Protection work involving Animals

Gavin Dennett, Strategic Lead Public Protection, presented the report which provided members with an update on the services and functions the Public Protection Team undertook that involved the regulation and permitting of animal movements in relation to the control of diseases of livestock, detention and quarantining of pets in relation to rabies control and the licensing of some animal related services.

Councillor Redsell stated the Council needed to be stricter and to follow up on those residents living under a tenancy agreement where there were lots of pets in one property or dangerous dogs. Gavin Dennett stated these instances should be referred to Housing but if it was a risk or health concern for the animal the RSPCA would need to be involved.

Councillor Lawrence questioned what could residents do when they saw horses tied up on the roadside. Gavin Dennett stated that horse welfare would fall under the Animal Welfare Act and the RSPCA would enforce where horses were in distress. The welfare of horses that may stray onto roads and the welfare and safety of road users fell with the Police who had some powers to ensure that roads were kept clear. The Council would also ensure that any leases issued for grazing covered the appropriate conditions and was dealt with properly.

Councillor Lawrence asked for clarification on housing associations where there had been reports of the number of dogs in flats and questioned whether the Council had any powers to deal with that. Gavin Dennett stated housing associations would have their own terms, tenancy agreements and stipulations with the Council would not having as much control as they did over their own tenancies. Councillor Lawrence questioned what the process would be to report an incident of a resident living in Thurrock but under another housing association who kept dangerous dogs. Gavin Dennett stated

that if the resident had concerns about dog noise the Council did have some powers but if the resident felt in danger of a dog attack they should report this to the Police and the Council could assist the Police in communicating with such housing associations.

Councillor Rigby questioned whether there had been an improvement in the reduction of puppy farms following the compulsory registering of breeders with the Council. Gavin Dennett stated there had been an improvement with those that registered but the issue was with the illegal puppy farms who were unlikely to register. That the Council issued dog breeding licences which were enforced vigorously and also worked alongside other local authorities. Councillor Rigby further questioned whether the imported dogs were being picked up at the ports or once they were in the communities. Gavin Dennett stated that these were normally identified through a consumer complaint received through the Trading Standards Team. Also any potential stowaway animals found in the port area would be dealt with differently as they were potentially importing disease so would have to be quarantined.

Councillor J Kent noted his disappointment in the contents of the report which should have focused more on the welfare of animals as detailed in the terms of reference of the Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor J Kent recommended that the Council's Animal Welfare Policy should be readdressed and possibly written to take those concerns into account and for clarification on the selling of animals from council premises and from car parks within the borough.

Members discussed this at some length and agreed that the Animal Welfare Policy should be readdressed and for this to be undertaken in the most efficient way would be to have a working group. Therefore Members agreed to add a further recommendation for a working group to be established to review the Council's Animal Welfare Policy.

RESOLVED

- 1. The Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.**
- 2. The Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend that a working group be established to review the Council's Animal Welfare Policy.**

69. CCTV Public Identification Policy Update

Dulal Ahmed, Housing Enforcement Manager, presented the report that outlined the Council's CCTV purpose, the six month interim results implementing the policy during COVID-19 and assisting with the successful prosecution of offenders. That CCTV was an invaluable tool for Essex Police and the Community Safety Partnership to combat crime, deter anti-social behaviour and environment crime such as fly tipping, whilst enhancing community safety. Members were referred to the data sharing part of the

report and the evidence packs that were produced for the Police and Council enforcement officers.

Councillor Redsell referred to the mobile cameras and questioned whether these were connected to vehicles. Dulal Ahmed stated there were 10 mobile camera devices that were fitted around the borough on street furniture and that the Council did not have any cameras on moving vehicles.

Councillor Redsell referred to the problem of motor bikes on Blackshots Field and questioned why this camera did not pick anything up. Dulal Ahmed stated the Council had worked closely with Essex Police on a number of operations on motor bike offenders and had been identified with their items being seized.

Councillor Lawrence questioned what the process was for Members to ask for a mobile camera to be moved into a certain area. Dulal Ahmed stated that intelligence of such activities would be presented to the Council's Local Action Group and would be discussed with partners including the Police to identify what offences were being committed, the operation need and whether it would be feasible to install a camera at that location. Members could report such activities to the Police as a priority area or an email could be sent to the community safety partnership team.

Councillor Lawrence questioned whether mobile cameras had been in operation to capture the use of gas canisters. Dulal Ahmed stated that cameras had been deployed to car park areas to deter this from happening and contact was being made to those offenders using the vehicle registration number to identify them. Members were reminded that these incidents, and where the registration number was known, could be reported to the Police. Julie Rogers stated a lot of joint work had been undertaken with the Police and the Council's enforcement team and had some very positive outcomes and that Members could report any such incidents through member enquiries.

Councillor J Kent questioned whether the Council were considering in any way the use of facial recognition software. Dulal Ahmed stated that his team were in the process of drafting a CCTV Strategy and there were no plans, at this stage, to look at using facial detection as a surveillance tool to identify persons of interest.

At 9.20pm, Councillor Redsell suspended standing orders.

RESOLVED

- 1. The Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted and commented on the interim results of the Public Identification CCTV policy.**
- 2. The Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the Community Safety Partnership oversee the monitoring of this policy.**

Community Safety Partnership oversee the monitoring of this policy.

70. A collaborative approach to Arts, Culture and Heritage in Thurrock

Stephen Taylor, Strategic Lead Economic Development, presented the report that set out the role of the Council to facilitate a collaborative approach to develop shared ambitions around community driven arts activity and the steps being taken by partners to secure resources and support delivery. The Council recognised the value of arts, heritage and culture and heritage in itself and as a way of improving health and wellbeing, learning and skills, civic pride and a community driven growth agenda.

Councillor Redsell stated the residents were missing culture and heritage events but it was good to hear that work was still continuing in the background.

Councillor J Kent queried whether this item fell under the terms of reference of this committee. Stephen Taylor stated the fees and charges report for theatre and museum had traditionally been presented to this committee for approval and this had been the basis for bringing this report this evening.

Councillor Hague asked for some examples of practical and physical outputs of this work programme to ensure that the Council build on the strengths and capabilities that Thurrock had locally. Stephen Taylor stated that the outcome in terms of the community driven arts and heritage activity would be determined through development of the shared vision and priorities but an agreed approach would give a good basis for external funding bids, help identify who was interested in what and to see where there may be opportunities to join up and collaborate to deliver a bigger or better programme. In terms of looking at the economy, jobs, skills and business it would be an opportunity to look at what could be attracted into the borough or grown from existing business base. Councillor Hague thanked for the answer and although creative was important it should also be linked into the economic development in the area and building in the sense of place.

Councillor Redsell stated the Council needed to be more imaginative in their ideas and plans.

Councillor J Kent stated that more consideration should be given to matching developments with the need of the local art community and referred to the close working of the High House Production Park with Acme Studies. Councillor J Kent stated the approach of the report was too self-selected and there was a concern that a lot of artists were missing out. That it was for the community to be given the tools they need to run events such as an open-air cinema and not for the Council to tell the communities what they think they want. Councillor J Kent referred to the Creative People and Places lottery bid and stated the members did not know what was in that report, what that would deliver and what success would look like and stated the report was very unclear as to what the message was that they were trying to get across.

Stephen Taylor stated Tilbury on Thames Trust had been selected by a voting process managed by the CVS and acknowledged that it would have been helpful to have had this information in the report and agreed that transparency was important and would work with partners to ensure that any future bid to Creative People and Places was clearly summarised and explained.

Councillor Redsell stated it was important to get the community together.

RESOLVED

- 1. The Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the report and the collaborative approach taken to developing the shared ambitions around community driven arts activity.**
- 2. The Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the development of funding applications to help secure delivery.**
- 3. The Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented on the collaborative approach to broadening out the work to consider the impact the cultural sector can have on the economy, jobs, skills and the growth agenda.**

71. Work Programme

Members discussed the work programme.

The meeting finished at 9.48 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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3 December 2020	ITEM: 5
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Thurrock Active Place Strategy	
Wards and communities affected: All wards	Key Decision: Key
Report of: Rob Cotter, Principal Policy Officer/Grant Greatrex, Sports and Leisure Policy and Development Manager	
Accountable Assistant Director: Leigh Nicholson, Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection/Darren Spring, Assistant Director of Environment, Highways and Counter Fraud.	
Accountable Director: Andy Millard, Director of Place/Julie Rogers, Director of Environment, Highways and Counter Fraud.	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

As part of the preparation of the new Local Plan the Council commissioned the 'Thurrock Active Place Strategy' (APS), a suite of studies to act as an up to date evidence base and to help inform future decision-making processes. The Local Plan, once adopted, will replace the currently adopted 'Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development' (Core Strategy) and will become the statutory planning document for Thurrock. The new Local Plan will identify where future development in Thurrock will be located and set out the policies which will be used to assess future planning applications. It will also identify specific sites for development for a wide range of uses, including open spaces and indoor and outdoor sports facilities, as well as the optimal sustainable routes from and between both existing sites and future development sites.

The APS consists of four discrete strands covering Open Space and Play areas; Indoor and Built Sports Facilities; Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport; and an Active Travel Strategy, each of which includes a separate assessment of current provision and a strategy (standards for open space) report setting out strategic recommendations and targeted specific actions for how each can be improved/increased/delivered over the Local Plan period (the Active Travel Strategy combines assessment and strategy into a single report). The documents will help inform the requirements for such forms of provision with regard to future housing need and consequent population growth.

The APS has not only been developed within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and vision for Health and Wellbeing, but also within the context of consultation with key partners who will share the responsibility for the delivery of the strategic outcomes.

In delivering each of the studies all relevant national guidance and methodology has been followed to ensure that Thurrock has a robust evidence base that informs future planning policy, the Council's wider investment decisions and how the Council can best position itself to attract inward investment into the Borough.

Having this APS in place and adopted as a robust evidence base to the Local Plan will also allow the Council to fulfil and deliver on its broader health and well-being objectives, deliver on its sports and recreation facility objectives over the Local Plan period, and also strongly position the Council in bidding for any government or organisational funding to support these objectives, as well as negotiating for funding through future development proposals.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the content and recommendations contained within this report.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England, detailing how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and providing a framework to produce distinct local plans reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and establishes that to do this the planning system needs to focus on three themes: economic, social and environmental.

2.2 Under paragraph 73 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies 'should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities, and opportunities for new provision'. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies, as well as surpluses in local areas, should also be identified to inform what provision is required in an area.

2.3 Paragraph 74 of NPPF further states that existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or

- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
- 2.4 Responding primarily to the need to have a robust evidence base in place from which to develop sound and suitable policies for open space and sports provision in the emerging Local Plan, in November 2015 the Council commissioned consultants Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to prepare the APS. Working alongside KKP is a multi-disciplinary steering group including senior officers of key departments within the Council (Planning, Transport, Health, Environment and Education) as well as external agencies as and when relevant (Sport England, Public Health England).
 - 2.5 Formal approval and adoption of the updated APS by Cabinet would signal endorsement of the strategy as the basis of robust and sound policy development as well as for providing the strategic direction of future open space and sports facilities provision for the Borough. Furthermore, a formally approved APS offers the robust basis from which to secure funding from Sport England, central Government and other relevant bodies for the improvement/provision of such facilities within the Borough.
 - 2.6 All of these strategies were developed before the outbreak of COVID 19. However, the strategies retain the flexibility to address emerging issues and changing trends through the ongoing and further development of the strategic recommendations. Furthermore, the APS will be subject to regular and periodic review as the Local Plan progresses and as new development coming on stream may begin to offer opportunities for leisure, recreation and new open space through the more detailed place-making processes. Additionally, with specific reference to playing pitches and the strategy the Sport England guidelines requests a review every two years, which will also offer the opportunity for updated Facilities Planning Modelling (FPM) work to also be input into regular assessment of facility need, ensuring flexibility of the overall strategy as development and new facilities come on stream.
 - 2.7 These strategic documents set out the longer term needs assessments and resulting recommendations for facilities and infrastructure. However, it is recognised that this will need to be underpinned with targeted and accessible interventions and activities to encourage, support and promote physical activity to all sections of the community.
 - 2.8 It must be remembered that the Active Place is a long term ambitious strategy and will not be delivered over night. The recommendations will take many years to deliver against and will evolve over time to take account of and respond to changing circumstances and opportunities.
 - 2.9 The recommendations arising from these strategies offer an exciting opportunity to create an infrastructure to support active and healthy lifestyles by working collaboratively with wider interest partners such as; health, schools, clubs, funding partners and the commercial and voluntary.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 As set out in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 above, in order to comply with NPPF it is incumbent upon a local authority to demonstrate that it has carried out an up to date assessment of its open space, sports and recreation facilities. In the absence of having such assessments and strategic steer in place as evidence to the Local Plan, the risk to the Council would be that at Examination in Public the plan would most likely be found unsound by an inspector as any policies on open space or sporting facilities would have no evidential base. This would have considerable financial implications to the Council by way of time and investment allocated to the plan making process.
- 3.2 A further considerable advantage in having an approved APS in place is that it will position Thurrock strongly when bidding for central government funding for open space and sports facilities improvements or any other funding opportunities that may become available from, for example, national governing bodies or sporting institutions, as well as when seeking Section 106 contributions from development towards open space and sports facilities provision.
- 3.3 Sport England, a member of the APS steering group, has recently been engaged in significant investment programmes throughout the nation and has indicated that a Council-endorsed strategy in place for sports facilities and playing pitches greatly increases the opportunities for funding. The FA has also been engaged on a large-scale investment programme and is seeking suitable locations with evidence bases in place for playing pitch strategies with identified need.
- 3.4 Working collaboratively with such a range of key partners and within the context of corporate priorities, the following common vision across the APS has been established:

To create a network of high quality, accessible and sustainable sport and leisure facilities, which offer inclusive services for all; enabling the inactive to become active and more residents to fulfil their potential by participating in sport and physical activity, thus improving their long-term health and well-being.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The reasons for recommendation are:
- To give Council approval to the evidence base to be used for relevant sound policy development in the Local Plan;
 - to set the strategic framework for the improvement/enhancement of open space, sports facilities, playing pitches and active travel routes in the Borough;

- to have a Council endorsed APS in place that can be used to assist funding bids from national and governmental bodies for open space and sports facility improvements in the Borough; and
- to have a robust evidence base in place when securing Section 106 contributions from developers for provision of/improvements to the local open space and sports facilities infrastructure.

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

- 5.1 Each of the strands making up the APS was subject to extensive consultation/engagement as part of their initial development (the Playing Pitch Strategy element being formally signed off by Sport England as well as all of the participating National Governing Bodies). In advance of this recommendation to Cabinet for approval of the APS the respective initial strategies (with assessment overview provided for information) were also subject to a more general six-week consultation via the Council website, for which the respective Reports of Consultation are included in Appendix 2.

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

- 6.1 Approving the APS and engaging the suggestions in the strategy will have a direct positive influence on one of the Council's five key priorities and an indirect positive influence on two others. 'Improve health and well-being' will be directly addressed by both improving and enhancing the open spaces and sports facilities throughout the Borough as well as by providing connections between key destinations in the Borough that can be connected and accessed via sustainable travel networks. There will also be the direct effect on this priority by working to encourage non-active people to become active and by providing a wider range of facilities and activities more suited to existing and future populations.
- 6.2 There will also be the indirect impact on two further Council priorities, those of to 'Create a great place for learning and opportunity' and 'Protect and promote our clean and green environment'. The consequence of both direct and indirect impacts of these Council priorities would be a broad overall positive impact on the present and future communities of Thurrock.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Rosie Hurst**
Interim Senior Management Accountant

The APS work has been commissioned and funded as part of the Local Plan evidence base to meet the requirements of NPPF. There are no direct financial implications arising from the APS or any of its four strands. At a later stage there will be financial implications arising from the development of the

respective recommendations included within them, but these will be subject to their own discrete financial assessments and respective business cases at that time.

The approval of the APS will position the Council strongly for providing the basis for policy development in the emerging Local Plan as well as providing a robust evidence base for sourcing external funding and investment and additionally for being able to negotiate Section 106 contributions arising from development within the Borough and with a direct bearing on the supply and/or need for provision for open space and/or sporting facilities.

7.2 **Legal**

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

This report sets out how the preparation of the APS is necessary to provide the requisite evidence for the development of the Local Plan as per the relevant requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

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

This report sets out how the preparation of the APS has been undertaken in a manner consistent with meeting wider corporate objectives as well as the Council's vision for health and well-being, all of which is underpinned by promoting equality of opportunity. General consultation exercises were undertaken on all of the final draft documents, details on responses are contained in appendix 2, they were open to all members of the community for feedback and comment though it is noted that response rate was low.

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

Health – the strategy sets out recommendations that if pursued can help lead to a broad improvement to the health and wellbeing of residents of Thurrock.
Sustainability – the strategy sets out recommendations that if pursued can lead to a network of open spaces, sports facilities and active travel connections that can play a major part in the future sustainability of the Borough.

- 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 – Executive Summary to APS
- Appendix 2 – Consultation undertaken on APS

Report Author:

Rob Cotter

Principal Planning Officer

Growth & Strategy

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AUGUST 2020

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

Quality assurance	Name	Date
Report origination	Steve Wright, Christopher MacFarlane, Clare MacLeod	14.08.2020
Quality control	David McHendry	17.08.2020
Client comments	Rob Cotter, Grant Greatrex	21.08.2020
Final draft	David McHendry	24.08.2020
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THURROCK COUNCIL ACTIVE PLACE STRATEGY: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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INTRODUCTION

Thurrock Council in its preparation of a new Local Plan for Thurrock commissioned a suite of studies to provide an up to date evidence base and to help inform future decision-making processes. The Local Plan, once adopted, will replace the currently adopted 'Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development' (Core Strategy) and will become the statutory planning document for Thurrock. The new Local Plan will identify where future development in Thurrock will be located and set out the policies, which will be used to assess future planning applications. It will also identify specific sites for development for a wide range of uses, including open spaces, indoor and outdoor sports facilities.

Each study is intended to help inform and guide decision making processes relevant to that element and should help inform the requirements for such forms of provision with regard to future housing and population growth.

The documents developed include the following:

- ◀ Open Space and Play areas study
- ◀ Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy
- ◀ Playing Pitch (and outdoor sport) Strategy
- ◀ Active Travel Strategy

The key focus for the documents is that the initial three studies (open spaces, indoor sports facilities and playing pitch strategies) provide the planning related evidence base across Thurrock and identify a clear strategy to develop improved facilities for residents. The Active Travel Strategy seeks to ensure that Thurrock is connected in such a way that residents can be active in their daily lives and to ensure that local communities are connected with key physical activity and cultural destinations.

In delivering each of the studies KKP has followed the relevant national guidance and methodology, which ensures that Thurrock has a robust evidence base that informs future planning policy and wider investment decisions.

The documents have been developed within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan vision and objectives: *'Thurrock: a place of opportunity, enterprise and excellence, where individuals, communities and businesses flourish'*.

- ◀ Create a great place for learning and opportunity
- ◀ Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity
- ◀ Build pride, responsibility and respect
- ◀ Improve health and well-being
- ◀ Promote and protect our clean and green environment

A key consideration for the Council, its partners and stakeholders is to deliver on its vision for health and wellbeing: *'Add years to life and life to years'*. Improved infrastructure is required to enable residents to be physically active and to enable partners to achieve the following five goals:

- ◀ Opportunity for all
- ◀ Healthier environments
- ◀ Healthier for longer
- ◀ Quality care centred around the person
- ◀ Better emotional health and wellbeing

Collaborative approach

Although Thurrock Council has taken the lead in developing the above strategic documents as part of its Local Plan evidence base, it is recognised that it alone is not responsible for delivering all of the recommendations and actions. The Council requires a collaborative approach with its national, regional and local stakeholders to deliver the key recommendations and health and wellbeing outcomes that the documents identify. For example, there are many models for building and managing a community sports hub including a variety of professional, commercial, voluntary, educational, health and statutory partners.

The strategies do not apportion direct responsibility for specific recommendations and actions to single organisations. In some instances, these will be Council led but supported by external stakeholders, whereas in others, they will be led by local clubs and organisations in partnership with their respective national governing bodies of sport and where the Council has no specific role to play.

A key aspect of the combined Active Place Strategy is to guide infrastructure developers in understanding the wider needs and opportunities across Thurrock when developing new housing and infrastructure projects. This seeks to ensure that as much as possible, a holistic approach to delivering health and wellbeing outcomes is achieved from new development in the Borough.

The strategic recommendations within this report are examples of the opportunities and areas where a collaborative approach can have greater impact for Thurrock residents.

There will be a steering group that will review the APS every six months to ensure this is a working document and can adapt to the changes required in line with new needs. The Steering Group will be comprised of a wide range of partners including Sport England, sports clubs via the NGB's, friends of parks groups, community & voluntary sector organisation as well as other key stakeholders.

This steering group will ensure there are regular links to emerging opportunities on an ongoing basis such as the Grays Town Fund, Tilbury Towns Fund programmes, Health and Wellbeing strategy, Lower Thames Crossing and other regional documents.

National strategic context

Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2018

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies the need to focus on three themes of economic, social, environmentally sustainable development.

A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making, the NPPF states that local plans should meet objectively assessed needs. It is clear about sport's role delivering sustainable

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communities through promoting health and well-being. Sport England, working within the provisions of the NPPF, wishes to see local planning policy protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need, as well as helping to realise the wider benefits that participation in sport can bring.

The *promoting healthy communities* theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust, up-to-date assessment of need for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs, quantitative/qualitative deficiencies and surpluses should be identified and used to inform provision requirements in an area.

Sporting Future: A new strategy for an active nation

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising the impact of Major Events.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

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Sport England: Towards an Active Nation

Sport England's response to the Government's strategy was to develop Towards an Active Nation. Sport England has identified that it will invest in:

- ◀ Tackling inactivity
- ◀ Children and young people
- ◀ Volunteering – a dual benefit
- ◀ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ◀ Supporting sport's core market
- ◀ Local delivery
- ◀ Facilities

It is clear that increasing participation in sport and physical activity and the health and wellbeing benefits that this delivers is the key driver for Thurrock Council and its partners. This is particularly important in the context of getting the inactive to become active and ensuring that interventions are targeted at under-represented groups.

Sport England is in the process of reviewing its Active Nation Strategy (2016-2021). It is undertaking an extensive consultation process to understand stakeholder views and to gain input into the strategy development. Initial engagement on the strategy indicates that a key focus will be to build on existing principles and to ensure that movement and physical activity in all their forms are key to future delivery.

The big issues that consultees suggest Sport England should play a role in are:

- ◀ Tackling inequalities – for a long time, it has been evident that the way sport and activity experiences are designed and delivered typically meets the needs of some people more than others. Partners are clear that some people need more support to get active and stay active than others, and that it will take a determined and co-ordinated effort to tackle inequalities in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Climate emergency – partners have told us that this represents some tangible threats, as well as opportunities to be part of the solution.
- ◀ Connecting with health and wellbeing – a sense of unlocked potential, especially around social prescribing into sport and activity.
- ◀ Digital and data – concern that sport and leisure has fallen behind other sectors in terms of the digital experience and needs to catch up.
- ◀ Workforce – how we can sustain, grow, develop and diversify the professional workforce and volunteers.
- ◀ Active environments – creating the spaces and places for people to be more active and planning to make it more joined-up for people.
- ◀ Diminishing local resources and capacity – fears about ongoing reductions in local government spending on activity, sport and leisure. A sense that places are losing capacity and capability to make strategic long-term decisions.
- ◀ School experiences – often the first and most equal opportunities that children and young people have access to - which shape their relationship with movement for the rest of their lives – are felt to be low priority for many schools.

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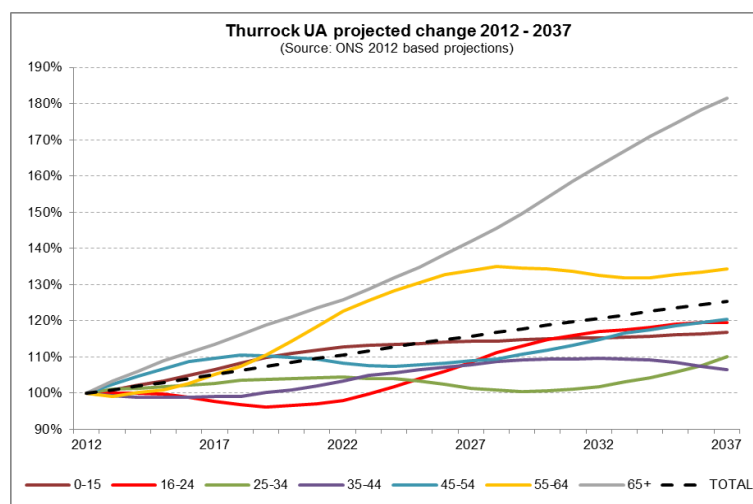
ACTIVE PLACE STRATEGY: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About Thurrock

Demographics and socio-economics

Thurrock has a population of 168,428 (2016 estimate) which is anticipated to increase by 22.9% (30,000) to 2037. The current population is younger than the East Region average; however, it is the change to the population profile in the future that is a key consideration.

Figure 1: Projected population change to 2037



Thurrock's changing population will have implications for the Council and partners in delivery of physical activity opportunities and health and wellbeing programmes. The key changes include 38% more 55-64 year olds, 55% more 65+ year olds and 27% more 16-24 year olds.

Thurrock's ethnic composition closely reflects that of England, with circa 14% of the population belonging to BME groups.

In addition to this, the Tilbury and South Ockendon areas are popular with traditional travelling and show communities.

Life expectancy in Thurrock is similar to the national figure (males 79.3 compared to 79.6 for England and females 82.6 compared to 83.2¹). However, for those living in the most deprived areas of the Authority, life expectancy is 9.3 years lower for men and 7.4 years lower for women, whilst 6,590 children live in absolute poverty. Source: PHE Thurrock Health Profile August 2019

Adult and child rates for the overweight or obese are above national and regional levels. The adult obesity rate is c.8% above the national average. In common with other areas, obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4 and 11. In Thurrock, 10.8% are obese in their Reception Year at school and 11.8% are overweight. By Year 6 this rises to one quarter (25.6%) obese and 13.9 overweight.

Sport England's Active People Survey consistently demonstrates that adults from higher socio-economic groups are more likely to take part in sport than the converse. Currently the most popular sports in Thurrock are walking (for leisure), structured programme classes, athletics, fitness and cycling. Athletics and fitness are the only activities, which perform better than national averages (and this is only slight). Walking for leisure, for example, is significantly below that of regional and national averages.

There is a strong relationship between physical inactivity and health and wellbeing challenges in Thurrock. Thurrock has high numbers of residents with long-term conditions,

¹ Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2013.

which could be prevented or managed more effectively by physical activity interventions. Therefore, it is important for residents to be able to access high quality local places and environments to play sport and be physically active and have a positive experience that will increase the likelihood that they participate regularly.

Housing and infrastructure

The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan that will set out the amount and spatial distribution of new development across the Borough. 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 and environmental factors means that Thurrock 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.

Following a successful bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for support, the Council were chosen as one of two Local Authorities to pilot the potential use of Design Charrettes as a means helping local communities influence the future planning and development of their area and to ensure the delivery of better standards of design and quality of place. Funded by MHCLG, the Princes Foundation was commissioned to assist the Council in facilitating a stakeholder engagement process and masterplan visioning exercise for Aveley to explore how any new growth could potentially act as the catalyst for the regeneration of the village centre and its surrounding communities.

Following the Aveley Design Charrette, the Council is now set to roll out a series of Design Charrettes across the Borough. The outcome of the Charrettes process will include a vision and set of principles for each location that will guide the future development of the area and, in doing so, help inform the preparation of more formal place-making planning policy documents, including the Local Plan and any associated Inset Plans, Master Plans or Development Frameworks.

This process will also help identify the necessary infrastructure improvements (including leisure facilities) required to support the delivery of the place-making strategy, and by involving key stakeholders and the community in the planning and design of their community, the charrettes approach can help to build confidence and collective enthusiasm for the vision and its delivery and implementation. It should be noted that the Council sees facilities brought about largely by the private sector as part of new development proposals via the Local Plan.

It is also important to recognise that strategic growth takes time but if done properly and in a considered way, it can bring about significant benefits to local communities. This strategy will help inform and shape the future of the borough in terms of the built environment and also improve lifestyle choices, helping to reduce obesity and associated health issues in the borough.

APPROACH

Open space study

Methodology

The methodology used in the open space assessment is based on that originally set out in Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guide; Assessing Needs and Opportunities published in September 2002. Whilst PPG17 has been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), it is still recognised as best practice providing a sound methodology.

This study is intended to assist in the Council in preparing a new 'Local Plan'. Given the potential scale of growth, and the implications this may have on existing provision, it is important for the Council to have clarity about existing levels of open space and what types of provision should be delivered via the strategic growth proposed (whether through onsite or offsite contributions).

All open space sites (including provision for children and young people) have been identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate their value and quality. Only sites publicly accessible are included (i.e. private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with best practice:

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards
7. Civic space

The provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated PPS. The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space (as a different methodology is prescribed).

Consultation

The results of the consultation undertaken as part of the previous open space review in 2016 are utilised. An on-line and paper survey was conducted as a key element of the assessment. The survey ran for a 9-week period and was publicised through the Council website, in public buildings and through contacts of the project's steering group. It invited members of the public to:

'Tell us about the open spaces that you visit and outdoor recreational facilities you use in Thurrock; what you think of their quality and accessibility, how often you use them and what improvements could be made'.

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The survey secured the views of 207 respondents, with a general interest in the provision of open spaces in Thurrock. In addition to the survey, face-to-face meetings were undertaken with key council officers and community groups (e.g. Friends of groups, community forums) as well as external stakeholders to help inform opinions towards open space provision. This ensures a robust approach to the assessment of need in the area.

Playing pitch strategy

Sport England's guidance details a stepped approach to developing a PPS. These steps were followed throughout the process and are separated into five distinct stages:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date

The following outdoor sports facilities were included within the PPS:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Cricket squares
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Netball courts
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Third generation turf (3G)
- ◀ Athletics tracks

NB. Golf was not included within the scope of the study. Four courses in Thurrock are privately operated with the only public course being Belhus.

The quality of provision was determined via a combination of non-technical assessments (determined by NGBs) and consultation with stakeholders. This not only relates to the pitch itself but also to the ancillary facilities.

In addition, a variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Response rates exceeded Sport England's guidance and ensures that Thurrock has a robust evidence base:

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	69	41	59%	Face to face, Online Survey
Football teams	262	214	82%	
Cricket clubs	4	4	100%	Face to face
Rugby union clubs	4	4	100%	Online survey
Hockey clubs	1	1	100%	Telephone consultation
Tennis clubs	2	2	100%	Online survey
Bowls clubs	12	8	67%	Online survey, postal survey
Athletics clubs	1	1	100%	Telephone consultation
Colleges	1	1	100%	Face to face
Secondary schools	11	11	100%	Face to face
Primary schools	39	22	56%	Online survey

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Indoor and built sports facilities

Sport England's ANOG guidance (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities) details a stepped approach to developing this study. These steps were followed throughout the process and are separated into four distinct stages:

- ◀ Stage A - Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B - Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- ◀ Stage C - Assessment, bringing the information together
- ◀ Stage D - Application of the assessment and development of the Strategy

The following indoor and built sports facilities were included within the study:

- ◀ Sports halls
- ◀ Squash courts
- ◀ Gymnastics
- ◀ Ice sports
- ◀ Swimming pools
- ◀ Indoor bowls
- ◀ Sports arenas (Athletics)
- ◀ Community halls
- ◀ Health and fitness
- ◀ Indoor tennis
- ◀ Cycling

The approach to delivering the study included an assessment of the following key elements:

- ◀ Quantity of individual sports facilities across Thurrock.
- ◀ Quality assessment of each facility and activity area.
- ◀ Accessibility of each facility to the local community (e.g. how far they need to travel).
- ◀ Availability of facilities for community use.

In addition to the above KKP also undertook face-to-face consultation with a range of local and regional stakeholders including health partners, operators, NGBs, clubs and a wide range of Council officers. Sport England was a key partner in the delivery of all elements of the study and contributed significantly to the overall scrutiny of the approach.

Active Travel

An Active Travel Strategy is a strategic document focusing on the supply and use of an active travel network, in specific relation to walking and cycling. The active travel network refers to a system of on-road and off-road cycle routes, footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic. The Active Travel Strategy can therefore also act as a bridge linking the Active Places documents together in order to help provide a strategic and connected network of appropriate leisure and recreational facilities across Thurrock.

It is widely recognised that walking and cycling are beneficial in terms of our physical and mental health. Therefore, encouraging more journeys through active travel (e.g. commutes to work, school etc) will help to improve health, quality of life and the environment. It will also benefit economically, helping to support local economies and reduce public expenditure surrounding issues of poor health.

It will also ensure the Council is well placed to maximise any opportunities for funding in relation to active travel as funding opportunities are often with short notice. It will therefore help to identify clear priorities for the future ensuring the Council can capitalise on any forthcoming opportunities.

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In 2017, the Government published its first Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, which sets out the Government’s ambition to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys or as part of longer journeys.

The Department for Transport offers guidance on the recommended approach to be taken when planning for cycling and walking as part of its technical guidance for local authorities set out in its *Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans* (LCWIP). A range of tools and supporting guidance is provided to ensure robust plans and schemes are in place. The LCWIP recommends a six-step process as set out in the table below.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Process

Step	Name	Description
1	Determining Scope	Establish the geographical extent of the LCWIP, and arrangements for governing and preparing the plan.
2	Gathering Information	Identify existing patterns of walking and cycling and potential new journeys. Review existing conditions and identify barriers to cycling and walking. Review related transport and land use policies and programmes
3	Network Planning for Cycling	Identify origin and destination points and cycle flows. Convert flows into a network of routes and determine the type of improvements required
4	Network Planning for Walking	Identify key trip generators, core walking zones and routes, audit existing provision and determine the type of improvements required
5	Prioritising Improvements	Prioritise improvements to develop a phased programme for future investment
6	Integration & Application	Integrate outputs into local planning and transport policies, strategies, and delivery plans

The focus for Thurrock is on active travel to growth areas and key ‘destinations’. This is undertaken in context of the links to key destinations, anticipated growth areas and ability to increase walking and cycling to develop a set of priorities for active travel.

A number of nationally recognised methods and tools are used to do this including:

- ◀ Mesh density
- ◀ Propensity to Cycle Toolkit
- ◀ Key destinations/ trip generators

Active travel is relatively new and Thurrock is somewhat ahead of the curve in this respect, but in considering this approach, specific reference is made to the Active Design principles that Sport England has identified. Therefore, it is not sufficient just to have destinations connected, those connections need to be of high quality and well designed to ensure that residents feel safe and secure using them throughout the full year.

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KEY FINDINGS

Open space study

There is a total of over 1,387 hectares of open space in Thurrock. The largest contributors to provision are natural and semi-natural greenspace (1,064 hectares) and amenity greenspace (194 hectares); accounting for 77% and 14% respectively.

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares) ²	Hectares per 1,000 population
Allotments	26	29	0.17
Amenity greenspace	104	194	1.13
Cemeteries/churchyards	11	20	n/a
Civic space	5	3	n/a
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	38	1,064	2.23
Park and gardens	24	68	0.40
Provision for children & young people	96	8	0.05
TOTAL	304	1,387	-

For open spaces, provision standards are established and used to determine deficiencies and surpluses. These are set in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.

Of assessed open space sites, the quality of over half of provision (56%) rates above the thresholds set for quality. However, 44% of sites are of a lower quality, which is significant and slightly higher than in comparison to other similar studies undertaken by KKP.

It is understandable for amenity greenspace to have fewer sites scoring above the quality threshold due to the wider range and forms of provision of this type, often with no features, poor appearance or maintenance.

However, Thurrock also has significantly mixed results for play and parks and gardens, which are more relevant to local residents. In most instances, this is due to the low quality maintenance, general appearance, poor pathways and a lack of ancillary facilities. In relation to play facilities over 40% of facilities in some analysis areas are below the threshold for quality that tends to reflect the poorer condition or limited range of equipment available at a site

However, the majority of all open spaces (91%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects the importance of open space provision and its role offering social, environmental and health benefits.

The public consultation reinforced these findings with key deterrents to using open spaces being the standard of the facility, personal safety, toilets and car parking and lack of information. Furthermore, the key site characteristics most important to respondents of a good quality site were maintenance and cleanliness.

² Rounded to the nearest whole number

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In summary, 26% of respondents are very satisfied with the amount of space for local parks yet only 12% are very satisfied with the quality of that space. Similarly, only 7% of people are very dissatisfied with the amount and availability of outdoor networks but 15% are very dissatisfied with the quality of them.

Therefore, Thurrock has a key challenge in relation to the amount and quality of open space across the area and the application of the provision standards identifies that there are deficiencies and shortfalls in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility. In some cases, owing to the limited value the open space will provide, there will clearly be merit in exploring options for development. However, the key focus for the Council is to maintain current open space standards wherever possible and on improving existing open space for more multi-purpose outcomes.

Playing pitch strategy

The key findings from the assessment of playing pitches across Thurrock is summarised as follows:

Football

- ◀ There is a total of 143 football pitches across 47 sites, 113 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 33 sites.
- ◀ Of the pitches available for community use, 10 are assessed as good quality, 52 as standard quality and 51 as poor quality.
- ◀ Basic maintenance regimes are a key factor for pitches assessed as poor or standard quality, particularly at council and school sites.
- ◀ The overall assessment of changing facilities rated 32% as good quality, 32% as standard quality and 36% as poor quality.
- ◀ The demolition of the changing facilities at Blackshots Recreation Ground is a significant problem as it means the site can no longer be used for adult matches.
- ◀ A total of 262 teams consisting of 67 men's, four women's, 106 youth boys', 13 youth girls' and 72 mini teams are recognised as playing within Thurrock across 69 clubs.
- ◀ Security of tenure is a key issue for many clubs
- ◀ Current shortfalls are evident across the majority pitch types, except for mini 5v5 pitches, and are particularly significant for adult pitches (32.5 match sessions).
- ◀ Future demand results in a shortfall of mini 5v5 pitches and increased shortfalls of all other pitch types.

3G pitches

- ◀ There are three full size 3G pitches (at Aveley Football Club, St Clere's School and Lakeside Sports Ground) within Thurrock, all of which are available to the community, floodlit and approved for competitive matches.
- ◀ In addition, there are four smaller sized 3G pitches, with a pitch at Harris Academy Riverside particularly important given its larger size.
- ◀ All full size 3G pitches are rated as good quality as all three have been provided or refurbished fairly recently.
- ◀ All of the 3G pitches are used at or close to capacity, not only for affiliated activity but also for recreational football and small-sided commercial leagues.
- ◀ For football, there is a current shortfall of four full size 3G pitches and a future shortfall of five.

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- ◀ In addition, given the shortfalls identified on grass rugby pitches, evidence suggests that World Rugby compliant provision would be of benefit.

Cricket

- ◀ There are 11 grass wicket squares in Thurrock, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ There are non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying grass wicket squares at four sites and five standalone NTPs.
- ◀ There are disused or lapsed wickets at Blackshots Recreation Ground, June Ridgewell Ground, Pegasus Club, Billet Recreation Ground, Orsett Heath, Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park), Daisyfield and Thurrock Rugby Club.
- ◀ The audit of cricket pitches found three squares to be good quality, six to be standard quality and two to be poor quality.
- ◀ Changing facility issues are highlighted at North Stifford Recreation Ground, Corringham Recreation Ground and Orsett Cricket Club.
- ◀ In total, there are four clubs in Thurrock generating 24 senior men's, one senior women's, 21 junior boys' and four junior girls' teams.
- ◀ There is a substantial current shortfall of grass wicket squares for senior cricket amounting to 105 match sessions and 159 match sessions when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ The picture is similar when analysing junior demand, with a current overall shortfall amounting to 115 match sessions and a future shortfall amounting to 127 match sessions.

Rugby union

- ◀ There are eight sites containing a total of 16 senior, one junior and two mini rugby union pitches, with 12 senior and both mini pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the pitches available to the community, there are 12 pitches assessed as standard quality and two assessed as poor quality; no pitches are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ The Council pitches servicing Thurrock RUFC are at risk due to the proposed development of Orsett Heath Academy; these pitches require protection or replacement on an equivalent/improved basis as part of any mitigation proposals.
- ◀ In addition, latest consultation proposals for the Lower Thames Crossing may have at least a temporary impact on two of the club-owned pitches at the site; Sport England and the RFU want to resist any impact on the pitches, or, if this cannot be achieved, secure appropriate mitigation.
- ◀ The clubhouse facilities at Thames Rugby Club are assessed as poor quality
- ◀ Four rugby union clubs play within Thurrock, consisting of 10 senior men's, four senior women's, 11 junior boys', three junior girls' and 11 (mixed) mini teams.
- ◀ There is an overall shortfall of pitches amounting to six match sessions currently and 12 match sessions when accounting for future demand.

Hockey

- ◀ There are three full size (sand based/dressed) AGPs in Thurrock (at the Gateway Academy, Harris Academy Chafford Hundred and Palmers College, all of which are fully available to the community and floodlit).
- ◀ Only Palmers College is used for hockey, by Thurrock HC (the only club playing in Thurrock).

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- ◀ Thurrock HC expresses demand to have its own clubhouse at Palmers College or access to a more suitable space; a draft lease agreement is in place for the Club to redevelop and occupy existing hall space within the School.
- ◀ Neither Palmers College nor Harris Academy Chafford Hundred have been resurfaced since they were first provided in 2002 and 2005 respectively, with quality issues prominent.
- ◀ Both current and future demand can be met on the current stock of pitches, providing quality improvements take place at Palmers College.

Tennis

- ◀ There are 39 tennis courts identified in Thurrock located across 16 sites, with 33 courts categorised as being community available across 14 sites.
- ◀ Of provision that is currently available for community use, 12 courts are assessed as good quality, seven are rated as standard and 14 are rated as poor.
- ◀ All courts have a macadam surface, although Thurrock TC is looking to resurface its courts to an artificial surface within the next five years.
- ◀ The courts servicing Thurrock TC are not floodlit, which limits participation at the Club.
- ◀ Storm Fitness TC is the only other club in Thurrock; it uses Palmers College and has demand for dedicated clubhouse space.
- ◀ Both current and future demand can be met on the current stock of courts.

Bowls

- ◀ There are 10 flat green bowling greens in Thurrock provided across eight sites.
- ◀ In addition, there are disused greens at the Billet Recreation Ground and Aveyley Sports & Social Club, as well as a lapsed green at Pegasus Club following its decommission in 2014.
- ◀ Concerns have also been raised over the future of the green at The Springhouse as all other elements of the site are unusable.
- ◀ Of the 10 bowling greens, eight are assessed as good quality and two are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ Corringham Recreation Ground is adjudged to have poor quality ancillary facilities due to a dated clubhouse.
- ◀ There are 12 clubs using bowling greens in Thurrock; where membership is known, there are 268 senior male, 138 senior female and two junior members.
- ◀ Both current and future demand can be met on the current stock of greens.

Athletics

- ◀ There is one track in Thurrock, located at Thurrock Athletics Stadium.
- ◀ There is one athletics club, Thurrock Harriers Athletics Club, which has just over 200 members.
- ◀ The Club assesses its facility as good quality overall, but states that the track is coming to the end of its lifespan.
- ◀ There is one Run Together Group, with Chafford Hundred Running Group gathering three nights a week.
- ◀ A Park Run event is held every Saturday at Pyramid Centre.
- ◀ Both current and future demand can be met on the existing supply of provision.

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Netball

- ◀ There are 42 netball courts in Thurrock across 15 sites, of which 35 courts are available for community use across 13 sites.
- ◀ Only 14 courts are serviced by floodlighting, which limits availability during winter months for those that are not.
- ◀ Of the courts, two are assessed as good quality, 25 are assessed as standard quality and 15 are assessed as poor quality; all have a macadam surface.
- ◀ The South Essex Thurrock Netball Association accesses the courts at Hassenbrook Academy as a central venue for all of its league matches; the Association caters for 80 senior teams and 54 junior teams.
- ◀ Back to Netball sessions are also delivered at Hassenbrook Academy, making it a key venue for netball in the region.
- ◀ Both current and future demand can be met on the current stock of courts.

The existing position for all sports is either demand is being met or there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of some shortfalls where demand is currently being met. Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing outdoor sports provision, including pitches/sites that are no longer in use, until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost.

For the most part, shortfalls can be alleviated by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional floodlighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites or at disused sites.

Notwithstanding the above, where there are significant shortfalls e.g. for football and cricket, additional provision may be required, such as in the example of 3G pitches. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

Indoor and built sports facilities

Strategic decision-making and long-term investment in indoor facilities for sport and recreation throughout Thurrock has been limited for a number of years. External influences such as the recession, cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme, the disbandment of the Gateway Development Corporation and budget restrictions have impacted upon internal priorities for Council investment. The result is dated and aging community sports facilities that residents accept and 'make do' with. This has also resulted in Thurrock having a modest sports club infrastructure and performing below the national and regional averages within all aspects of sports participation. As such, there is a need to transform the existing leisure portfolio and create inspiring, modern and fit for purpose venues that can stimulate participation.

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School sports facilities play a key role in providing venues in which Thurrock's residents can participate in indoor sports. The education sector supplies the full sports hall stock for the area. Since 2016, there has been investment in new schools which has seen an improvement in the quality of sports halls with three out of 12 sports halls requiring investment to bring them up to an acceptable standard for both school and community use (down from six).

Given the location of sports halls, none are available during the school day, which is when the increasing older population would wish to access facilities. Additional sports hall provision will be required to accommodate the 20% increase in population and the opportunity exists to develop some of this supply through the provision of new secondary schools or through new stand-alone sports facilities. Two facilities (William Edward School and South Ockendon Academy) have 'community use agreements' (aligned to funding); therefore, continued access to (other) schools for community use is a risk that will need to be addressed.

The analysis identifies that the projected increase in demand from population growth in Thurrock will result in a shortfall in supply of sports halls to meet demand in 2037 so there is a need to increase supply.

Thurrock's swimming provision is insufficient to meet current and future demand with existing pools fully programmed and operating at capacity during peak periods. The age of the Thurrock swimming pool stock is a major concern and, unless addressed, will impact on the viability, sustainability and net cost of operating these facilities.

Thurrock is in urgent need of new swimming pool provision to replace the existing stock and to meet the needs of a growing population. Without investment in new facilities, there is a danger that Thurrock could be left with no public pools, as the existing pool buildings are already beyond their anticipated life expectancy and are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain and keep open.

In order to accommodate the increased demand for swimming pools generated by the projected increase in population, it is anticipated that Thurrock will require additional pool water space to accommodate this. Ideally, this should be delivered by replacing existing pools with larger provision prior to identifying additional provision in the area.

Analysis indicated that Purfleet, Tilbury and East Tilbury are very poorly resourced with regards to sport and physical activity facilities. All three areas have potential opportunities to address this as a result of either housing growth or the development of integrated healthy living centres.

Thurrock also has a number of specialist sports facilities and a small selection of strong clubs that contribute to the overall network of provision in the area. The main challenge for clubs is gaining access to facilities at the right price and the general poor quality of those facilities. There will be a need to protect and enhance these resources in order that they continue to thrive.

Thurrock has a limited commercial health and fitness sector (e.g. with swimming pools and equivalent sports hall space), which means that there is an important role on the public sector to provide access to facilities. There are two other key facilities in the borough that do provide limited capacity for residents in the area.

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Within any new sports facility developments the Council will also need to design in financial viability through the development of high quality health and fitness provision and other key income generating activities in order to offset the cost of operating facilities such as swimming pools and sports halls.

Emerging opportunities

In relation to its indoor provision, Thurrock has a number of emerging opportunities from which to facilitate the development of new and improved sport and physical activity facilities.

New housing developments: Thurrock is a strategic housing growth area and its objectively assessed need sets out that it is expected to deliver c.30,000 new homes to 2037. However, there is significant competition for land within the area, primarily from distribution centres and warehousing. Therefore, it is anticipated that the Council will have limited options to deliver these homes unless it seeks to expand the urban area into the green belt.

As part of any such urban extensions and the linked increases in population, there will be an expectation placed upon the development industry to provide necessary supporting infrastructure as part of any development proposal and there would also be the scope to use planning gain funding (i.e. Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy) to develop additional and improved sport and physical activity facilities. The scale of the increase in population will determine the demand for facilities. This process presents an opportunity to address current deficiencies in facility size and quality.

New schools: Alongside new housing growth and increased population comes the requirement to deliver new schools, especially secondary schools. The research findings have identified that there is considerable community use of the majority of schools in Thurrock. Therefore, the opportunity exists to design new schools in such a way that community use is easily delivered or alternatively to expand the offering and develop community sport and leisure facilities alongside school sports facilities.

Integrated medical centres: Thurrock's Health and Well-Being Strategy (2016-2021), identifies the need to develop four integrated medical centres in the key areas of Tilbury, Purfleet, Corringham and Grays. The relationship between poor quality health and physical inactivity is clear and the development of these facilities presents a clear opportunity to integrate physical activity alongside health facilities. This approach also reflects the wider aspirations of strategic funding agencies such as Sport England.

Wider service integration: Thurrock Council continues to face the same financial challenges as most other local authorities throughout the UK and will be seeking to minimise the number of buildings that it owns and manages. There is, thus, an opportunity to integrate or co-locate services within a single venue. Services such as libraries, community police offices and community contact centres have successfully been integrated into/with leisure facilities throughout the country.

Active Travel

The Active Travel Strategy utilises a variety of techniques.

Mesh density

In a properly joined-up cycle network, cyclists should not have to travel more than 400 metres to get to a parallel route of similar quality. This attribute of a cycle network is known as 'mesh density'. It describes whether the grid of cycle routes is tighter (with more route choice) or looser (less extensive)³.

There are some noticeable areas with higher population densities, which do not meet the recommendation. The two significant 'gap' areas are Purfleet/West Thurrock and South Ockendon. Potential gaps are also noted to Stanford-le-Hope, East Tilbury, Aveley and Chadwell St Mary. These gaps can be considered as strategic priorities.

Propensity to Cycle Toolkit

The national Propensity to Cycle Toolkit (PCT) is used to identify desire lines of commuter cycle flows. The PCT is a Department for Transport funded project designed to show the flow of cycle users. It is also important to note that the PCT data is only based on the commuting results of the census. It does not take into consideration other trip generators such as leisure or schools. Consequently, it is possible that other routes may exist outside of those highlighted.

It also allows various potential future scenarios to be explored. It enables comparison between current known cycling patterns to scenarios such as the Government's draft Cycling Delivery Plan target (to double cycling in a decade), Gender Equality (if the same amount of women were to cycle as men) and the more ambitious 'Go Dutch' scenario (whereby Dutch cycling levels are reached in England). Consequently, changes in driver numbers, CO² emissions and deaths per year can be estimated to demonstrate the impact such target scenarios could produce.

The desire lines identified through the scenario modelling demonstrate that noticeable changes can be experienced as a result of increased cycling. Both the Government Target and Go Dutch scenarios represent significant changes if they were to be met.

The following desire lines/routes are identified as offering the greatest impact due to being highlighted against multiple scenarios.

³ London Cycling Design Standards

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Desire lines highlighted from scenario modelling

Line ID	Start/end areas	Identified as part of scenario modelling		
		Government target	Gender equality	Go Dutch
2	South Ockendon - Purfleet	✓		✓
5	Aveley – Purfleet	✓	✓	✓
6	Stifford Clays – Grays		✓	
9	Purfleet/West Thurrock – Grays	✓		✓
12	Purfleet – Stifford Clays	✓	✓	✓
13	Purfleet – Grays/Little Thurrock	✓		✓
14	Purfleet - Tilbury	✓	✓	✓

Key destination/trip generators

A focus of the work is on the linkages between key destinations and how individuals may journey to such places via active travel methods. For the purposes of the Active Travel Strategy, key destinations are considered to be:

- ◀ Strategic leisure, sports and open spaces (as identified in Active Place Strategies)
- ◀ Retail centres, key workplaces and transport hubs
- ◀ Education facilities (e.g. colleges and secondary schools)
- ◀ Community hubs

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Open space study

A number of recommendations are provided that seek to address the shortfalls and deficiencies identified as part of the study. These are:

Recommendation 1

<i>Explore low quality sites and their potential for enhancement or development</i>

The policy approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality to the applied standards (i.e. high quality) where possible. This is especially the case if the site is deemed to be of high value to the local community. Therefore, they should initially be protected, if they are not already so, in order for their quality to be improved. Where the site is not deemed to be of high value to the local community and does not serve any beneficial purpose as open space (in line with the other recommendations), such sites should also be considered for development.

The policy and implications summary of the quality and value matrix set out in the Standards Paper identifies those sites that should be given consideration for enhancement if possible. Priority sites should be those highlighted as helping or with the potential to serve gaps in provision

Recommendation 2

<i>Sites helping or with the potential to serve areas identified as having gaps in catchment mapping should be recognised through opportunities for enhancement</i>

These sites currently help to meet the identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies. Often this is related to parks, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace. The Council should explore the potential/possibility to adapt these sites through formalisation and/or greater provision of features linked to other types of open space. This is to provide a stronger secondary role as well as opportunities associated with other open space types. This may also help to minimise the need for creation of new provision to address any gaps in catchment mapping.

Such sites should be viewed as being key forms of open space provision. It is important that the Council looks to maintain sites of this classification to as high a standard as possible.

Recommendation 3

<i>Ensure low quality/value sites helping to serve potential gaps in accessibility catchments are prioritised for enhancement</i>

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to the applied standards (i.e. high quality and/or value). It should be considered whether the site may be of benefit being recognised and changed to a different type of open space (See Recommendation 4).

Recommendation 4

<i>Sites in areas with sufficient provision of open space may be able to meet the need for other types of open space or could potentially be considered surplus</i>

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If no improvements can be made to sites identified as lower quality and value, then a change of primary typology should be considered (i.e. a change of role).

If no shortfall in other open space types is noted, or it is not feasible to change the primary typology of the site, then the site may be redundant/ 'surplus to requirements'.

Recommendation 5

Keeping data, report and supporting evidence base up to date in order to reflect changes over time

The Open Space Standards and Assessment Report are a snapshot in time. Whilst significant changes are not as common for open space provision, inevitably over time changes in provision occurs through creation of new provision, loss of provision and/or alterations to site boundaries and management. Population change and housing growth are also another consideration to review when undertaking any form of update as this may impact on quantity provision levels and standards.

Playing pitch strategy

The following overarching, strategic recommendations have been identified from the PPS analysis. These are based on Sport England's key themes of protect, enhance and provide:

OBJECTIVE 1

To **promote** and **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

Recommendations:

- ◀ Ensure, through the use of the PPS, that playing fields and pitches are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- ◀ Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- ◀ Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.

OBJECTIVE 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities and accompanying ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

Recommendations:

- ◀ Improve quality
- ◀ Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- ◀ Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- ◀ Secure developer contributions.

OBJECTIVE 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Recommendations:

- ◀ Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- ◀ Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.

Linked to the strategic recommendations, the following recommendations are made for each sport:

Football

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches, including pitches/sites that are no longer in use (unless replacement provision of equivalent or better replacement provision in terms of quantity and quality is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Use the LFFP as a guide to further determine suitable sites for grass pitch investment.
- ◀ Following discussions with Essex FA and the Council, consider the feasibility of bringing Blackshots Recreation Ground back into use to act as a hub site for football in the Borough.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity, sites which are not currently available for community use, or to 3G provision.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand as well as expressed exported, unmet and latent demand at sites that are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.
- ◀ Secure tenure for clubs using unsecure school sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ For unsecure, non-education sites, seek to gain access and ensure appropriate mitigation should the provision fall out of permanent use.
- ◀ Work to bring disused sites back into use or, if this is not possible, ensure appropriate mitigation should the provision fall out of permanent use via the creation of hub sites.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand, where possible.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, using the LFFP as a guide.
- ◀ Consider rationalisation of low value sites if contributions can go towards creating larger, better quality multi-pitch sites (providing there is no net loss of playing pitch space).
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

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- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality, using the PPS as a guide to inform suitable sites.
- ◀ If required, explore ground sharing possibilities across Thurrock and the wider South Essex region that can provide a more sustainable long-term future for the senior club network, particularly in the case of clubs that currently wish to relocate.

3G pitches

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Ensure the pitch at Lakeside Sports Ground is appropriately mitigated if it is lost as a result of development.
- ◀ Using the LFFP as a guide, develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified football training shortfalls.
- ◀ Consider an addition to the LFFP project list based on increased demand in the West Analysis Area and also consider amends to the list given new aspirations held by Tilbury FC and at Thurrock Football Club.
- ◀ Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy rugby demand as well as football demand; or explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and rugby appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure South Essex sub-regional needs are considered when developing new 3G pitches to reduce deficiencies across all the local authorities via a partnership approach; for example, a potential new 3G pitch in the new Dunton Hills settlement bordering Thurrock could cater for some of the Borough's demand.
- ◀ Carry out consultation with EH when deciding upon the location of new 3G pitches to ensure the sustainability of existing sand based AGPs.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Ensure all 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
- ◀ Where a housing development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider the potential for 3G provision on multi-pitch sites and as a minimum requirement, design new sites so that they could accommodate 3G provision at a later date, if required.

Cricket

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares, including squares/sites that are no longer in use.
- ◀ Following discussions with the ECB and the Council, consider the feasibility of bringing squares at Blackshots Recreation Ground back into use to reduce shortfalls as part of master-planning for the site. This will require a square/s being reinstated, ancillary provision being re-provided and security being improved.
- ◀ Support the Council to provide a new cricket square at Hall Road in Aveley if, following consultation with the ECB, there is a need for additional provision to meet local demand.
- ◀ Work with clubs and groundsmen to review quality issues on squares assessed as poor and standard to ensure appropriate quality is achieved and to alleviate overplay.
- ◀ Improve communication between clubs and the Council to determine best practice in relation to maintenance and to develop playing opportunities in the right areas that will target the right audience.
- ◀ Work to eradicate overplay at sites assessed as good quality via the transfer of demand to NTPs.

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- ◀ Ensure future demand can be accommodated either outside of the peak period or via access to alternative (and potentially new) provision.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision and outdoor practice facilities where it is required.
- ◀ In line with the Indoor Sports & Leisure Strategy, improve the stock of indoor cricket provision and ensure continued, protected access to the facility at Harris Ockendon Academy.
- ◀ Explore potential sites for non-traditional cricket offerings and seek to develop cricket within communities that more commonly play informal formats of the game.
- ◀ Support the growth of cricket through programmes such as All Stars and Dynamo's as well as via women's and girls' softball cricket.
- ◀ Ensure tenure remains secure for all clubs and seek community use agreements for clubs that use education sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

Rugby union

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches, including pitches/sites that are no longer in use.
- ◀ Improve quality of pitches, prioritising those at sites with identified overplay.
- ◀ Ensure any loss of pitches at Thurrock Rugby Club is appropriately mitigated in accordance with NPPF; the Club requires continued provision of five senior pitches (with two floodlit), or a full size World Rugby compliant AGP and three senior pitches (providing that the 3G pitch is also accessible for all midweek rugby demand).
- ◀ Ensure a strategic approach is taken regarding the developments affecting Thurrock Rugby Club (i.e. Orsett Heath Academy and Lower Thames Crossing) rather than the impacts being considered in isolation.
- ◀ Support Pegasus Palmerians RUFC in its proposed transfer to Palmers College (Storm Fitness) and ensure the level and quality of provision is sufficient to meet its needs.
- ◀ Secure tenure for the Pegasus Palmerians RUFC via a community use agreement at St Clere's School or Palmers College if the Club is to move sites.
- ◀ Explore installation of permanent floodlighting to service Thames, Stanford-le-Hope and Pegasus Palmerians rugby clubs.
- ◀ Improve quality of ancillary provision where it is required i.e. at Thames Rugby Club.
- ◀ Ensure ancillary facilities for Thurrock RUFC provided at Orsett Heath Academy are made available to the Club, with a secure agreement in place for access.
- ◀ Seek to increase the length of Thames RUFC's lease to improve its security of tenure and to assist with any future funding bids.
- ◀ Retain supply of rugby pitches at all school sites for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and encourage secure community availability should demand exist in the future.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.

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- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

Hockey

- ◀ Retain the AGP at Palmers College (Storm Fitness) as hockey suitable and resurface the pitch as soon as possible.
- ◀ Consider creation of a business plan for the pitch (and wider site) and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Seek to provide Thurrock HC with better quality and more appropriate ancillary facilities i.e. changing rooms and social space.
- ◀ Explore if there is a need for pitches at Harris Academy Chafford Hundred and The Gateway Academy to satisfy hockey-based demand in neighbouring local authorities.
- ◀ Should the provision at Harris Academy Chafford Hundred and The Gateway Academy continue to not be needed for hockey purposes, consider for potential 3G conversion (via agreement with EH).

Tennis

- ◀ Protect courts used for competitive play and sustain quality through appropriate maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Support Thurrock TC to ensure it can continue to accommodate its demand and further explore access to St Clere's School.
- ◀ Provide Storm Fitness TC with better quality clubhouse facilities in order to drive an increase in demand.
- ◀ Improve court quality and potentially quantity at non-club sites assessed as poor and standard quality to increase informal demand, focusing on strategic provision.
- ◀ Seek to improve wider tennis offering at sites through improved ancillary provision.
- ◀ Utilise technology to better manage community tennis bookings.

Bowls

- ◀ Improve green quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ To aid quality improvements and sustainability, support clubs with self-management.
- ◀ Seek to improve ancillary facility quality where it is necessary.
- ◀ Support users of the greens at Blackshots Recreation Ground to ensure demand continues to be met, given high levels of membership.
- ◀ Mitigate any permanent loss of greens at disused and lapsed sites through equivalent/better replacement provision or through appropriate enhancements to other facilities.
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.

Athletics

- ◀ Protect Thurrock Athletics Stadium and consider providing new, improved facility within the wider development of Blackshots Recreation Ground.
- ◀ If retained in its current form, explore funding options to resurface the track to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Support running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation.

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- ◀ Look to provide recreational athletics facilities in new developments through circular running routes, ensuring new parks can accommodate Park Run type events or connecting to/enhancing existing running routes.

Netball

- ◀ Improve court quality at Hassenbrook Academy given the importance of the site and the level of netball usage received.
- ◀ Explore improving court quality at school sites where sufficient demand exists for curricular and extra-curricular activity.
- ◀ Support and look to develop England Netball initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.

Indoor and built sports facilities

The following vision and strategic recommendations have been identified for Thurrock's indoor and built sports facilities:

To create a network of high quality, accessible and sustainable sport and leisure facilities, which offer inclusive services for all; enabling the inactive to become active and more residents to fulfil their potential by participating in sport and physical activity, thus improving their long-term health and well-being.

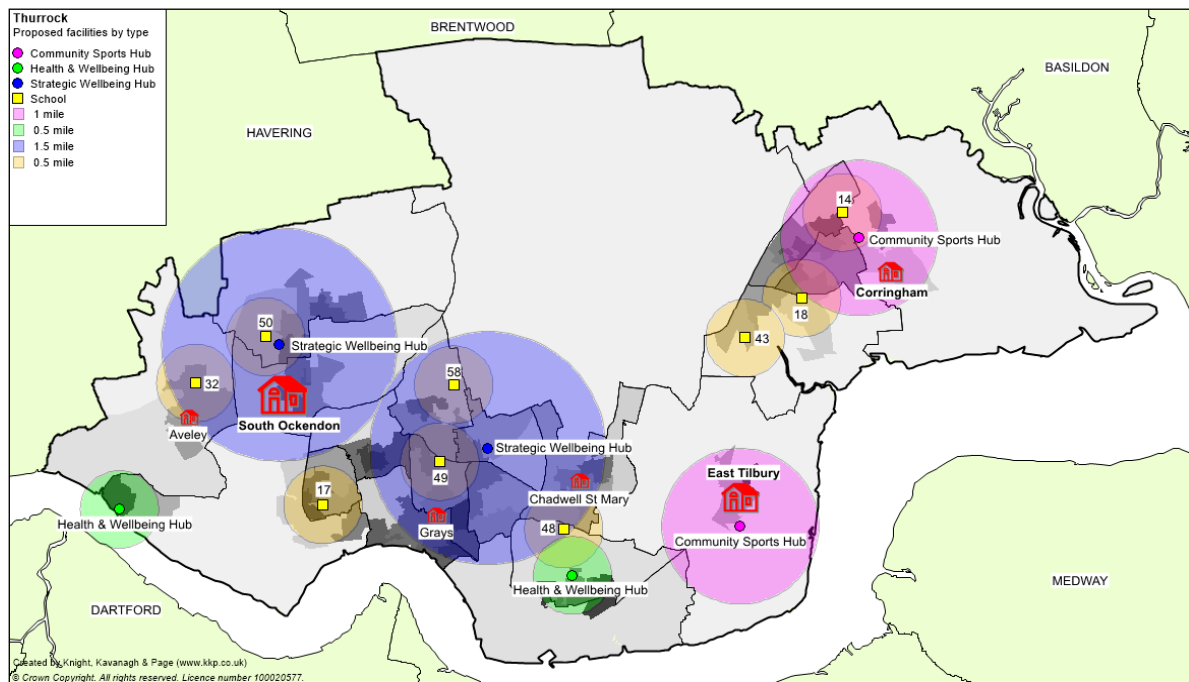
The following strategic recommendations have been identified to deliver the above vision over the period 2020 – 2037. They provide strategic direction for Thurrock Council, its partners and stakeholders which provide facilities and opportunities for residents to pursue sport and recreation as a means to engage in physical activity.

- ◀ **Strategic recommendation 1:** *To develop a fit for purpose network of better quality (indoor and outdoor) facilities in strategic locations in order to meet the sport and physical activity needs of existing communities and new residents in Thurrock; maximising opportunities in respect of:*
 - ◀ *Potential sports facility development as part of Thurrock's investment in new school stock.*
 - ◀ *The development of sport and physical activity facilities aligned to planned integrated medical centres.*
 - ◀ *Engagement with other services and where possible the creation of multi-agency hubs via the co-location of services*

This objective builds on a range of strategic drivers such as the need for Thurrock's existing sports facilities to be replaced, the substantial growth in population, the need for facilities to contribute to addressing health inequalities, new schools and integrated medical centres and major areas of housing growth.

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The visual presentation of the new indoor facility network is detailed below.



The key infrastructure projects required in order to deliver a network of facilities which are fit for the future can be summarised as follows:

*Aligned to the development of a new integrated medical centre in **Tilbury**, investigate the option to deliver a community health and fitness facility.*

Tilbury will see development of the first integrated medical centre. The Council and health partners have an opportunity to develop a community health and fitness facility aligned to the hub within a key area of deprivation. This facility could fill an identified local gap in provision. Ideally this should be a smaller scale development consisting of the following, but with a shared reception and entrance point for the integrated medical centre:

- ◀ 50 to 60 station fitness suite
- ◀ Group fitness studio
- ◀ Changing rooms

*Aligned to the anticipated housing growth in **East Tilbury** and the likely requirement for a new primary school, investigate the potential to develop a community sport and wellbeing hub aligned to the new school development.*

It is anticipated that a significant number of new homes will be developed in East Tilbury – sufficient to justify an additional secondary school. This could incorporate additional community use facilities available not only at evenings and weekends, but also during the school day. It is proposed that adding the following be considered (to complement the school’s requirement to develop a 4 court sports hall and drama facility):

- ◀ 40 to 50 station fitness suite
- ◀ Group fitness studio

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- ◀ Changing rooms
- ◀ Floodlit full size 3G pitch (dependent on the outcome of the PPS and needs of the school)

*In line with the potential requirement for a significant number of new homes in **South Ockendon**, investigate the potential to develop a strategically significant community sport and wellbeing hub to serve the Aveley and South Ockendon community.*

The South Ockendon area, which is currently served by Ockendon Academy and Belhus Park Golf and Country Club, is likely to see a requirement for a significant number of new homes and probably require a new school. The Ockendon Academy 6-court sports hall is primarily geared to provision for cricket so a sports hall facility is needed to serve the wider sporting needs of this significantly growing community.

The Council should commit to investigating the opportunity for Leisure to work with health and other partners to create a new facility on an appropriate site. Ideally, from both community servicing and viability perspectives consideration should be given to this including the following mix of school and community facilities:

- ◀ 8 lane 25-metre swimming pool
- ◀ Teaching pool (with a moveable floor)
- ◀ 100 – 120 station fitness suite.
- ◀ 2 x group fitness studios
- ◀ 1 x full-sized floodlit 3G football turf pitch
- ◀ 2 x meeting rooms
- ◀ Tennis/netball court area.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities for school and community
- ◀ Explore the possibility of developing a gymnastics centre as part of the facility mix.

If the location is appropriate, consideration should also be given to the inclusion of other civic services, such as library within this new development.

If and when this is developed, the Council should rationalise the swimming and fitness facilities at Belhus Park Golf and Country Club. The decision on the future of Ockendon Academy swimming pool will need to be determined by the location of the new facility.

*Replace **Blackshots** Leisure Centre with a strategically significant community sport and wellbeing hub (Blackshots Sports Village) investigating how a replacement facility should be located and operate in the context of the existing park facilities.*

Blackshots Leisure Centre is beyond its anticipated life span and needs to be replaced. There is an opportunity to develop a larger scale, strategically important sports facility to serve the needs of the Grays community and, concurrently, consider development of the wider adjacent park. Orsett Heath Academy is due to open in 2022 on the same site. In addition, an interim academy is being built adjacent to Thurrock Rugby Football Club, also on King George's Field.

This combination of options provides a 'window of opportunity' for a full master planning exercise; taking account of education, leisure, physical activity, wellbeing and cultural needs. It should encompass consideration of a new indoor facility, refurbishment of the athletics stadium, outdoor pitches and general access to the park facilities. It should consider formal and informal sport and physical activity opportunity within any feasibility and master planning.

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The Council also needs to consider potential replacement of the Civic Hall, whether this can be included within the proposed facility mix, or if it needs to have a wider town centre regeneration role. A point to note is that there are clear examples of where the combined programming of sport and arts within a single main indoor sports hall space can impact negatively on participation and user experience (e.g. Sands Centre, Carlisle).

The key challenge is, thus, the juxtaposition of sports facilities and the management of the overall site for the benefit of local residents. Consideration should, therefore, be given to the following facility mix:

- ◀ 8 lane 25-metre swimming pool as a minimum
- ◀ Teaching pool (with a moveable floor)
- ◀ 150 – 200 station fitness suite.
- ◀ 2 x group fitness studios
- ◀ Dedicated spin studio
- ◀ 8 court sports hall
- ◀ 1 or 2 x floodlit 3G pitches
- ◀ Grass pitches
- ◀ 2 x meeting rooms
- ◀ Athletics track
- ◀ Outdoor changing facilities
- ◀ Children's play facilities and skate park
- ◀ Walking and running routes around the park.
- ◀ (Civic hall functions).
- ◀ Explore the possibility of developing a gymnastics centre as part of the facility mix.

Replacement of Blackshots Leisure Centre and the master planning of the recreation ground should be Thurrock's priority project and the catalyst for other developments to follow. It has the potential to combine provision for indoor and outdoor sports facilities plus informal physical activity, open space and play, making it a significant and highly contemporary strategic facility.

*Aligned to any potential housing growth in **Corringham**, investigate the potential of developing a community sport and wellbeing hub aligned to any new school development that might be required to support growth.*

Corringham is another location in the Borough that could accommodate new homes. It is relatively close to Basildon Sporting Village, although (at six kilometres away) this is perceived to be too distant to fully serve the town. The Corringham area still needs a community sports facility, but potentially not one as large as those proposed for the larger population centres of Grays and South Ockendon

It is possible, depending on the scale of development, that a new school and health facilities would be required and there is an opportunity to develop a strategically important community sport and wellbeing hub, potentially on a school site.

As part of the local plan the Council should, thus, commit to investigating the opportunity for Education, Health, Leisure and other community stakeholders to work together to create a new facility on an appropriate site with the following facility mix:

- ◀ 6 lane 25-metre swimming pool
- ◀ Teaching pool (with a moveable floor)

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- ◀ 150 station fitness suite.
- ◀ 2 x group fitness studios
- ◀ 4-6 court sports hall
- ◀ 1 x floodlit 3G pitch (dependent on the outcome of the PPS)
- ◀ 2 x meeting rooms
- ◀ Tennis/netball court area.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities for school and community
- ◀ Integrated medical centre.
- ◀ Explore the possibility of developing a gymnastics centre as part of the facility mix.

If the location is appropriate, consideration should be given to including other civic services, such as a library. A new facility (if and when developed) could replace Corringham Leisure Centre.

*Aligned to the development of a new integrated medical centre in **Purfleet**, investigate the opportunity to deliver a community health and fitness facility.*

There is a (medium term) aspiration to develop an integrated medical centre in Purfleet. The Council and health partners have an opportunity to develop a community health and fitness facility aligned to the hub to strategically align health and physical activity - in a key area of deprivation. This facility will fill an identified provision gap.

The focus will be wider development of physical activity opportunity directly aligned to specific local health improvement ambitions, specific interventions for targeted groups and for improved links and transition between health and community programmes. It would enable the operator and health partners to target employers in the area to deliver workplace health improvement initiatives; a key focus for targeting specific types of employee who might be a higher health risk. This should be a smaller scale development consisting of the following, but within a shared reception and entrance point for the integrated medical centre:

- ◀ 50 to 60 station fitness suite
- ◀ Group fitness studio
- ◀ Changing rooms

Work with the local gymnastics clubs to develop appropriate opportunities for a permanently set out gymnastics facility for the area.

The Thurrock Gymnastic Academy (TGA) aspires to develop a permanently laid out gymnastics facility in the area. TGA has in excess of 660 members with a waiting list of c.500 and is in real need of a dedicated facility, either standalone or part of a larger leisure facility.

British Gymnastics (BG) is keen to work to support the club and to work in partnership with the Council to tackle the current situation. Development of a new facility will need to proceed hand in glove with work to increase the available qualified coach workforce and volunteer base to underpin existing provision and enable future expansion.

The BG strategy for increasing participation in the sport has seen a drive to develop more permanently set out gymnastics facilities at industrial units. However, it is also worth noting that this has the potential to conflict with local planning policy in relation to the protection of higher tier industrial units for employment use. It is, therefore, not as simple as identifying

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potential industrial units, as the demand for these types of facilities is outstripping supply in Thurrock.

Within the above context there is a need for the Council to consider how it could work with the NGB and club to identify facilities where equipment could be permanently set out, thus enabling the TGA to meet unmet demand and grow opportunity in the sport. It is conceivable that development of a permanent gymnastics facility could be aligned to one of the new sports/leisure facilities in the area or one of the academies; however, this will require input from key partners including the club and BG.

Strategic recommendation 2: To work with colleagues in Education to ensure that any new schools or improvements to sports facilities in existing schools are accompanied by a community use agreement.

William Edwards, Ockendon Academy and Harris Riverside Academy have clear community use agreements. William Edwards has received funding from Badminton England, whilst Ockendon Academy has received funding from the ECB. These agreements will require the schools to be available for community use and the delivery of badminton and cricket development opportunities and club sessions throughout the full year.

It is expected that St Clere's School will have such an agreement with its new 4-court sports hall but no other schools have such agreements and their availability cannot be guaranteed. They are, therefore, more susceptible to being altered based on the needs of the school or the personal perspective of the head teacher or school governors. There is, as a consequence, a need for Leisure and Education to work in partnership to get as many schools as possible to sign up to a comprehensive, binding and effective community use agreement and work with them to achieve maximum possible availability and use.

Strategic recommendation 3: To work with selected schools to increase their availability for community use.

In general, those schools that provide community access to their facilities do so for between 30 to 40 hours per week. This presents a reasonably good level of access to school sports facilities and includes weekend as well as weekday evening access. Schools are extensively used throughout these hours by a range of sports clubs and activity groups.

Two specific schools (Gateway Academy and St Clere's) have been identified as having significant capacity to provide additional community use; although this may have changed following the development of a new 4-court sports hall at St Clere's. Newer schools also need to be targeted to ensure their availability to the community and the capacity at a number of older schools also needs to be fully utilised.

Strategic recommendation 4: Use the development of new facilities as a catalyst for requiring the Council's leisure management contractor to have a wider focus on health inequalities.

The development of new facilities in Thurrock, either as replacements or additional facilities, presents the opportunity for the Council to review its current leisure management arrangements. The Council created the trust in 2000 and awarded it a 30-year buildings lease to manage its facilities. However, in the intervening 20 years, local government has changed dramatically with significant cuts in public service funding and the expansion of responsibility to deliver health and wellbeing services for communities.

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There will be a need for the leisure operator to develop wider relationships and networks beyond the walls of its facilities in order that it is fully engaged with the appropriate partners and communities. This will also require it and the Council to develop a business model which recognises that high income generating activity should cross subsidise other physical activity interventions with targeted groups, which enable the Council and its partners to address health inequalities.

Strategic recommendation 5: To plan additional new provision to accommodate continued increases in population beyond the life of this current strategy.

The above recommendations regarding sports halls and swimming pools are only sufficient to accommodate the resident population of Thurrock through until 2037, linked to the Local Plan. Therefore, the Council needs to consider its longer-term planning beyond the life of this strategy and the Local Plan period. This is specifically in relation to swimming pools where there will be a need to plan for the provision of smaller scale community pools beyond this date.

Active Travel

The strategic vision for active travel in Thurrock is:

To create a high quality, accessible and sustainable network which positively contributes to the economy and quality of environment, enabling the inactive to become active and more people to realise their potential by participating in walking and cycling activity, thus improving their long-term health and well-being.

The following goals are identified to work towards the strategic vision:

- ◀ Improve environments
- ◀ Enable people to be healthier for longer
- ◀ Opportunity for all

To achieve the vision and goals a series of priorities are identified. The priorities are based on their suitability, links to growth areas and key destinations as well as the potential to increase levels of active travel.

Priorities are categorised into two types:

- ◀ **Physical** - improvement and connection of routes
- ◀ **Addressing mental barriers** - measures to tackle the common mental barriers.

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Physical priorities

Priority 1: West / East Connections

Analysis of desire lines from the Propensity to Cycle Toolkit (PCT) identifies that many start and end of journeys run west / east across the Borough. This can predominantly be attributed to the number of destination and trip generators able to be accessed via travelling in these directions. Promoting greater levels of active travel along these directions of travel would also help to challenge the busy road networks (i.e. London Road and Arterial Road) as well as associated congestion and air quality levels.

The scenario modelling also highlights that a number of these desire lines/routes can offer the greatest impact in terms of change in driver numbers, CO² levels and deaths per year. Furthermore, mesh density analysis highlights a significant gap in the Purfleet/West Thurrock area, which is a key contributor to the west/east directions of travel.

Priority 2: South Ockendon

Analysis of desire lines from the PCT identifies that several start and end of journeys run to and from South Ockendon.

The scenario modelling also highlights that a key desire line/route can offer the greatest impact in terms of change in driver numbers, CO² levels and deaths per year. Furthermore, mesh density analysis highlights a significant gap in South Ockendon.

Priority 3: Purfleet – Aveley

Analysis of desire lines from the PCT identifies that several start and end of journeys run to and from Purfleet. Many of these desire lines and routes are covered as part of Priority 1: West / East Connections. This priority is specific to the north / south connection between Purfleet and Aveley (with the connection able to further link to South Ockendon).

The scenario modelling highlights that key desire lines/routes can offer the greatest impact in terms of change in driver numbers, CO² levels and deaths per year. Furthermore, mesh density analysis highlights a significant gap in the Purfleet/West Thurrock area, which is also a key contributor to Priority 1: West / East Connections.

Priority 4: Stanford-le-Hope

Analysis of desire lines from the PCT identifies that a noticeable start and end journey runs between Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham.

The scenario modelling highlights the desire line/route has the ability to offer some impact in terms of change in driver numbers, CO² levels and deaths per year. However, the area has a number of other key trip generators outside of the PCT data. Furthermore, mesh density analysis highlights a gap in the Stanford-le-Hope area.

Priority 5: Chadwell St Mary

Analysis of desire lines from the PCT identifies a start and end journey running between Chadwell St Mary and Tilbury.

It may therefore offer some impact in terms of change in driver numbers, CO² levels and deaths per year; as evidenced from the scenario modelling. The area also has a number of other key trip generators outside of the PCT data. Furthermore, mesh density analysis highlights a gap in the Chadwell St Mary area.

Priority 6: Blackshots

Analysis of desire lines from the PCT identifies a number of start and end journeys running to and from the Blackshots area.

Routes may therefore offer some impact in terms of change in driver numbers, CO² levels and deaths per year; as evidenced from the scenario modelling. The area also has a number of other key trip generators outside of the PCT data.

Priority 7: Coastal route

Analysis of desire lines from the PCT identifies a number of key start and end journeys running along sections of the coastal network.

The scenario modelling also highlights that these desire lines/routes have the ability to offer the greatest impact in terms of change in driver numbers, CO² levels and deaths per year. The area also has a number of other key trip generators outside of the PCT data.

Addressing mental barriers

In addition to the physical improvements to the network, it is important to challenge the mental barriers facing active travel. Initiatives and programmes should follow the three core principles of tackling mental barriers and look to:

- ◀ Promote
- ◀ Educate
- ◀ Incentivise participation and awareness.

The approach to tackling mental barriers facing active travel needs to be multifaceted and delivered strategically and locally. Active travel improvements and initiatives will need to be undertaken in partnership with a variety of Local Authority departments and external partners (e.g. England Health, Transport for London, local groups) and should help to inform other strategic documents and programmes.

A number of design principles, best practice examples and initiatives are given as methods to tackle the mental barriers of active travel. Other best practices and initiatives may exist which can contribute to challenging the mental barriers of active travel; consequently, a flexible approach will also be needed.

Several initiatives challenging the mental barriers of active travel already exist locally. The majority of these intend to promote and encourage more active travel participation. These cost-effective and fun ways of learning about active travel, including bike and walking safety should be regarded as practical solutions for reaching out to people of different ages, abilities and backgrounds. A summary of some of the more prominent and successful initiatives already in place and/or planned across Thurrock are set out in the Active Travel Strategy.

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Appendix 2: Consultation undertaken on APS

Open Space Assessment – an online and paper survey with general public as consultees (more than 200 responses received).

Open Space Standards – *not* an independent strategy document, therefore no consultation/consultees.

Playing Pitch Assessment – Chairman - Aveley FC; Chairman - Corringham Athletic FC; Chairman - Corringham Cosmos FC; Chairman - East Thurrock United FC; Club Secretary - Essex Comets YFC; Club Secretary - Lakeside YFC; Chairman - Linford Wanderers FC; Chairman - Stanford Wanderers FC; Club Secretary - Thurrock FC; Chairman - Orsett & Thurrock CC; Chairman - Stanford-le-Hope CC; Fixture Secretary - Horndon on the Hill CC; Chairman - Belhus CC; Chairman - Thurrock HC; Club Secretary - Thurrock Tennis Club; Chairman - Thames RUFC; Director - Pegasus Palmerians RUFC; Club Secretary - Thurrock RUFC; Club Secretary - Stanford-le-Hope RUFC; Chairman - Thurrock Association Sunday League; League Secretary - Shepherd Neame Essex League; League Secretary - T Rippon Mid Essex League; General Secretary - Thurrock & District Bowls Association; Development Officer - Essex Country Cricket Board; Head of PE - William Edwards School; Head Teacher - The Ockendon Academy; Acting Principal - Ormiston Park Academy; Head of PE - St Clere's School; Academy Manager – Hassenbrook Academy; Head Teacher - Grays Convent High School; Assistant Principal - Harris Academy Chafford Hundred; Head of Faculty - Gable Hall School; Assistant Principal - Palmers College; Business Manager - Gateway Academy; Business Manager - Hathaway Academy; Site Manager - Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park); Site Manager - South Ockendon Recreation Ground.

Playing Pitch Strategy – signed off by all NGBs and clubs/organisations involved in the assessment, as well as by Sport England.

Both documents also subject to a general public consultation on the Council website from 30 June to 11 August 2017 – 16 responses received.

Indoor and Built Facilities Assessment – Sport England – Planning and Relationship Manager; Active Essex – CEO; Active Essex – Strategic Lead Business Operations; Active Essex – Club Link Maker; England Athletics – South Area Manager; Archery Development Manager (Participation); Basketball England – Facilities Manager; Badminton England; British Gymnastics – Business Support Officer; Tennis Services Assistant East Region; Goalball UK Development Officer; Boccia Development Officer (Clubs & Safeguarding); Indoor Bowls Association; ASA Head of Facilities; Head Coach of Thurrock Swimming Club; Move It Dance School; Teddy Toes; MD New Horizons Childcare Services Ltd; Athletics Coach/U3A; Thurrock Swimming Club; W.A.D.E.R.S.; Thurrock Gymnastics Academy; Alfa Shotokan Karate Club; Belhus Park Boxing Club; East Thurrock Badminton Club; Essex Kickboxing Academy; HGD Wadokai Karate Association; Jay's Gymnastics; J.S.C. Judo Club; Mayes Martial Arts Club; Seitou Ryu Karate (West Thurrock); Thurrock Volleyball Club.

Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy – was subject to a general public consultation (alongside the assessment report) on the Council website from 10 November to 22 December 2017 – 2 responses received.

Active Travel Strategy – multi-disciplinary steering group included representation from Public Health England. Ramblers Association were consulted through presentation to the Local Access Forum as strategy was being developed. Public consultation on the Council website from 10 November to 22 December 2017 – 4 responses received.

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3 December 2020		ITEM: 6
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview Scrutiny Committee		
Council Funded Police Officers		
Wards and communities affected: Grays Town Centre, Ockendon, Tilbury Town centre, Stanford Le Hope and Purfleet	Key Decision: N/A	
Report of: Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Cheryl Wells, Strategic Lead, Community Safety, Emergency Planning and Resilience		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Environment, Highways and Counter Fraud		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an outline of the activities and successes of the Council funded additional Essex Police Officers, deployed as part of the Town Centre Team (TCT) within Community Policing in Thurrock, during their first year of operation.

The Council recognises that anti-social behaviour has always been a key priority for residents, and in January 2019, The Leader, within his Portfolio Holder Report announced that revenue surplus funding of £750k be committed to provide additional police officers over a three year period, recognising resident concerns and their request to have an increased visible police presence.

Since this commitment, in March 2019 the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) also announced additional Police Officers and the introduction of Town Centre Police Officers patrolling our borough, with effect from July 2019 when 7 Officers were introduced in Grays, South Ockendon and Stanford Le Hope.

This team has provided increased visible policing and their priority is to tackle ASB in our busiest areas, protect the vulnerable and tackle crimes against businesses. Following this success and the benefit to our local community the Council committed the Thurrock Funded Police officers to extend the Town Centre Police team in January 2020 to Tilbury and Purfleet.

The Covid-19 pandemic has prevented some of the planned activity of the TCT, however these resources have been diverted to enforce latest Government guidance in relation to Covid-19 and to provide an assurance and presence in our larger footfall areas.

The roles are dedicated to work within the key town centres to provide a proactive response to emerging crime trends and appropriate local issues as identified by the command team. Directly supporting each of the Essex Police 4Vs priorities, namely: Victims, Violence, Visibility, and Vulnerability. The key purpose is to promote public confidence and to take a dynamic and flexible approach to Community Town Issues.

1. Recommendation(s)

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

1.1 Note the positive approach taken by this team to community engagement.

1.2 Promote the work of Town Centre officers to their residents to improve public confidence in local policing and encourage reporting of concerns.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner for Essex Police announced that a proportion of the uplift in front line police officers in Essex would be dedicated to town centre policing within the county. In July 2019 the Thurrock Town Centre team went live and consisted of 1 Sergeant and 7 Constables. The towns covered within this initial allocation of officers were Grays, South Ockendon and Stanford Le Hope. All designated towns along with the number of officers allocated to them were determined by the Essex Police strategic change team. The criteria used for this determination was based on the recent recorded crime and ASB data per 1000 residents of each town. Following discussions between Thurrock Council and Essex Police representatives an additional 4 Constables were added to the Thurrock team to cover Tilbury and Purfleet. These additional officers joined the existing Town Centre Team in January 2020 and are funded by Thurrock Council.

2.2 The Council recognise the importance of multi-agency working with Essex Police in order to address the concerns of the community, by tackling ASB and gang related violence in the borough and by building confidence through increased presence of uniformed officers. Residents were reporting to the Council and police that they were not seeing good visibility of policing and therefore they had reduced confidence in the commitment of agencies to tackle their concerns and reverse the trend in increasing reported violent crime. Residents also perceived an increase in ASB, which was not reflected in reported crime stats.

2.3 Following the implementation of town centre policing teams, it was agreed that Council funded officers would be best placed complimenting this team and their work in the most vulnerable areas of the Borough: Tilbury and Purfleet.

2.4 When fully resourced the TCT comprise of 1 sergeant and:

Grays	3 PC's
South Ockendon	2 PC's
Stanford Le Hope	2 PC's
Purfleet	2 PC's
Tilbury	2 PC's

This team reports to the Community Safety Inspector for Thurrock and are in addition to an establishment resourced Community Policing Team of 15 Community Police Constables, 11 Police Community Support Officers and 2 Sergeants.

2.5 Main Duties of the TCT are:

- To support businesses and local authorities, create a safe town centre and increase public confidence by preventing crime and disorder.
- To provide a visible presence in the local town community and resolve local town issues by adopting a partnership and problem solving approach.
- To work alongside other teams that investigate crime and address violence in the High Streets.
- Working alongside partners to tackle long-term patterns, series and issues as a team.
- To provide attendance at incidents where necessary and appropriate.
- To conduct intelligence led, proactive and problem solving activities to reduce, resolve and detect vulnerability in the High Streets. These vulnerabilities include County line drug dealing, Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) linked criminality and other similar issues linked to wider crime problems.
- To proactively focus on retail crime and the development of stronger partnership working to help reduce retail crime.
- To adopt leadership and participation (where appropriate) of Night Time Economy (NTE) problem solving approaches in partnership with other departments and community partners.
- To manage public facing websites and use social media, as appropriate, to promote and support the work of the Town Centre Teams to increase public confidence.

2.6 Through these actions, the aim is to:

- Reduce the threat, harm, and risk to our communities
- Improve public confidence
- Create safer communities
- Support business growth

2.7 The measurable outcomes are:

- Number of arrests
- Stop searches
- Intelligence Reports Submitted
- Investigations completed
- Number of CPN/CPW (Community Protection Notices and Warnings) issued

2.8 As of the end of September TCT officers have:

- Made 82 arrests
- Carried out 82 operations in specified areas
- Conducted 150 stop searches
- Conducted 278 separate engagement specific visits to local businesses
**this activity has been significantly affected by Covid restrictions*
- Attended more than 400 incidents
- Submitted 159 intelligence reports
- Investigated over 110 criminal offences
- Have issued 32 separate CPW/CPN's and secured 23 court convictions
**some additional cases from this period have yet to be heard at court.*

2.9 Notable examples of TCT activity and joint activity with Thurrock Council:

2.9.1 Officers from the Thurrock TCT having worked closely with other departments assisted in educating officers in the use of community protection warnings and notices to allow investigations to be fully investigated and deliver positive results for victims of crime. This has recently resulted in a juvenile male, Ned WALL, being arrested following a breach of a community protection notice and other offences. Along with a prolific offender Kelly Martin being banned from Grays High Street and surrounding areas due to other prolific offending and antisocial behaviour.

2.9.2 In July 2020, following reports of a Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) in Dilkes park TCT officers responded and within minutes were on scene with the two juvenile victims who sustained injuries following an unprovoked attack with weapons. This allowed for expedient safeguarding and scene management to allow officers to fully investigate the incident and identify 3 suspects.

2.9.3 In September 2020, officers responded to reports of five males fighting in Derwent Parade South Ockendon, within minutes two males were identified

and arrested for Affray. Without the prompt response from the TCT officers the offenders could have easily made off and never been identified.

- 2.9.4 As part of regular offender management Thurrock TCT have implemented Operation Wantage. The main aim for this operation is to obtain and secure Criminal behaviour orders (CBO's) against known and prolific Thurrock Nominals especially ones who frequent the five town centres, but also to allow the Local Policing Team (LPT) and other departments' access to information, intelligence and evidence to secure CBO's against other offenders
- 2.9.5 In September 2020, officers from the Thurrock TCT received reports of a male aggressively begging in the High Street in Grays. TCT officers increased patrols in the location, identified the male, and following interactions with the male and based on the information/evidence obtained the male was arrested and subsequently charged with begging and obstructing a constable. The male is currently awaiting trial for both offences.
- 2.9.6 Op Agnes was a joint Community Police Team (CPT) TCT and Thurrock Council operation in response to waste carriers in the district with a specific emphasis on road traffic matters and the possible theft of materials. This operation was initiated following feedback received from residents/councillors around this type of activity in the district and the associated incidents/offences. These joint patrols and activity are fed back to the community via both Thurrock CSP and the local police social media accounts. As a result of previous ongoing joint working with Thurrock Environmental Enforcement officers they were named Team of the Year at the prestigious Keep Britain Tidy Awards 2020 with a representative from the CPT also in attendance at the ceremony.
- 2.9.7 Op Adaminaby has been a joint CPT/TCT and Thurrock Council operation in response to ASB in the district with a specific emphasis on the use of nitrous oxide canisters in public spaces. This operation was initiated following consistent feedback received from local residents around this type of activity in the district, the associated ASB and following the trial period has been awarded additional funding to extend its duration as well as other local authorities interested in replicating it. Since the start of these joint operations there have been 32 fixed penalty notices issued, 1 person arrested, 10 community resolutions for possession of cannabis issued and 37 community protection warning notices issued.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Summary of Activity Delivered by TCT funded officers from Jan 2020 to September 2020

- 3.1.1 It should be noted that these 9 months have presented a unique challenge to policing our communities due to the global Coronavirus pandemic. Whilst we have seen a decline in acquisitive and violent crimes there has been a significant increase in reporting of anti-social behaviour and a need to

respond to the changing guidance in relation to Covid-19 restrictions has resulted in additional demands on all areas of policing. The policing response to the Covid-19 situation has required a flexible and sustained approach and it must be acknowledged that the overwhelming majority of the period covered in this section occurred within Covid -19 restrictions.

3.1.2 The 4 Council funded Town Centre officers started on the 27 January 2020 and were deployed to Purfleet (2 officers) and Tilbury (2 officers), see appendix 1 for geographical beat areas. Their specific performance indicator returns from the 27th of January 2020 to the end of September 2020 are:

- Made 18 arrests
- Carried out 21 operations in specified areas
- Conducted 32 stop searches
- Conducted 10 separate engagement specific visits to local businesses
**this activity has been significantly affected by Covid restrictions*
- Submitted 56 intelligence reports
- Attended more than 140 incidents
- Investigated over 35 criminal offences
- Have issued 10 separate CPW/CPN's and secured 3 court convictions
**some additional cases from this period have yet to be heard at court.*

3.1.3 In July 2020, officers from the Thurrock TCT attended Purfleet Garrison following reports of a cherry picker being dumped in a wooded area nearby. Officers quickly arrived on the scene and following checks discovered this belonged to GAP hire and was stolen from a local Travis Perkins yard, with an estimated value of between £140,000 and £160,000.

3.1.4 In June 2020, Essex Police received reports of a large gathering in one of the car parks located on the Garrison Estate in Purfleet. This gathering had been advertised on social media as a street party and included the use of external amplified music equipment, resulting in a significant number of people attending the location with multiple reports of ASB being received from residents. This gathering was in contravention of the national Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time. There was also additional concern that further gatherings might be organised for the location, which would then potentially increase issues for residents and emergency services. In response to this officers from the TCT increased visible patrols of the location and also conducted an in depth investigation to identify the organiser of the gathering so that appropriate action could be taken. Following this investigation the organiser was identified along with apparent plans to hold further events. Officers from the TCT initiated and arranged for the organiser to be spoken with by officers where he was served with a Community Protection Warning (CPW). The CPW outlined a number of restrictions that were being placed on him in respect of preventing any further gatherings and as a result the planned future events were cancelled and no further gatherings took place on the estate.

3.1.5 ASB in Tilbury, specifically within the town centre was of concern for both Thurrock Council and local police officers. In order to manage and reduce this localised ASB, officers from the local CPT and TCT engaged in a partnership tasking and information sharing process with the CSP, Housing Team, CCTV Enforcement, local schools and representatives from social care. As a result of the partnership approach, a number of individuals causing ASB in the area were identified with potential enforcement, diversion and safeguarding options discussed and agreed. Over the course of a number of months and via this holistic approach a number of individuals that had been persistently causing ASB within the community improved their behaviour and subsequently reduced the required interactions with statutory services.

3.2 Priorities for Delivery to March 2021

- Continue to enforce latest Government guidance in relation to Covid-19.
- Visibility remains a key priority of the Chief Constable and our residents. The recent introduction of two Community Safety and Engagement Officers (CSEO) within the District will work with the TCT to raise their profile and awareness of their activities.
- Working with the Business Crime team and CSP ASB Officer pursue Criminal Behaviour Orders for Repeat Offenders in Grays Town Centre and improve it as a safe environment to shop in.

3.3 Long term Priorities for Delivery to January 2024

3.3.1 The long-term priorities for delivery in relation to the Town Centre team are based on the above core principles of:

- Increasing visibility of policing
- Increasing the public confidence in policing
- Reducing reported crime and ASB within the town centres in the district.
- Identify and take enforcement actions in relation to persistent offenders.
- Increase joint partnership working and patrols with statutory partners.

3.3.2 The Police Public Perception survey is used to establish, at quarterly intervals, the current perception of police among local residents in key identified areas. The Thurrock district results for Q4 2019/20 have shown a decrease in perception levels in all but 2 areas when compared to the same period in 2018/19. There are a number of potential reasons for this – including the National and Local reporting on the tragic event on 23rd October 2019 in Thurrock, the impact of COVID-19 and the relationship of the Police and Public in enforcing Coronavirus Regulations Act. It is too early to say exactly what the decrease is attributable too. However, it is worth noting there are some improving areas around public perception and that is an increase in the public feeling informed about local policing. Essex Police have this year invested in local Community Safety Engagement Officers (CSEO's) who work closely with the local CSP in trying to improve confidence in the local area and promote the work they are undertaking. In addition, a decrease was seen in

those who felt crime and ASB had become more of an issue in the last twelve months.

The focus of the engagement strategy for 2020/21 will be cognisant of the areas where decreases were identified. Not accounting for changes within statistical tolerance levels the two areas that saw the largest decrease as comment above were:

- 21.8% decrease in the satisfaction with the level of policing in the local area
- 19.1% decrease in the perception that police in the area are doing a good/excellent job

3.3.3 Improved performance around Public perception was seen in the following areas:

- 5.2% increase in the perception that the community feel very/fairly informed of what Essex Police are doing in the local area
- 6.6% decrease in people who thought that Crime/ASB had become more of an issue in the area in the last 12 months

3.3.4 The Thurrock district has significantly decreased its engagement activity as a result of Covid-19. However, when restrictions are lifted it is hoped engagement activity can be increased. In the meantime, other ways of engaging with the residents of Thurrock are being sought such as the Partnership Q&A with the Tilbury Resident's Facebook group and the Community Safety and Engagement Officer (CSEO). Periodic reviews of engagement activity utilise feedback from the community, partners, persons/staff taking part and the quarterly Public Perception Survey results.

3.3.5 The results of the public perception survey are routinely shared and discussed upon release at executive partnership meetings within the Community Safety Partnership and at the Thurrock Independent Advisory Group (IAG). The results are presented by the district police representative and are then open to scrutiny and discussion by the partnership members and public representatives present at each respective meeting. These results are incorporated into the Thurrock CSP Engagement Plan and Strategic Assessment document as well as include in the community's cohesion work that is undertaken by the CSP in respect of hard to reach groups.

3.3.6 Following the easing of Covid-19 social distancing measures and the 'rule of 6' the district plans to re-integrate face to face engagement with our focused street meets, include a re-launch of 'Coffee with Cops', along with the partnership pop up events that have previously been conducted with Thurrock CSP, proving to be very popular when conducted previously. These types of engagement events are well established in the district, however there will be an increased emphasis on the Town Centre Teams and the additional council funded teams in Tilbury and Purfleet.

- 3.3.7 Since the inception of the Town Centre Team, a total of five defendants have successfully been remanded to prison either pending trial or following sentencing.

Case Study: Of note is the case of Darren Tubby. Tubby is a prolific offender within Grays Town Centre and has subsequently committed a theft series of over 15 offences within a space of two weeks. The Town Centre Team identified the impact Tubby was having on local businesses and community confidence within the town centre and started to plan a long-term problem-solving operation to prevent Tubby from offending.

Tubby was released three times by the courts after appropriate applications were made to remand and the Town Centre Team subsequently applied for a Criminal Behaviour Order to prohibit Tubby from entering Grays Town Centre.

Tubby was successfully remanded, thanks to a joint approach between the Town Centre Team and Thurrock Council, and a three-month interim closure order was successfully obtained on his home address.

Tubby received a custodial sentence for the offences that the TCT had charged him in relation to and he was issued with a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).

Subsequently Tubby has received an additional custodial sentence for breaching the conditions of his CBO.

- 3.3.8 As of Oct 2020 the dedicated Police officers are:
- Purfleet: PC 77994 Bran Butcher & PC 78568 Nicole Plom
 - Tilbury: PC 77725 Ayden Dedman & PC 78933 Richard Harris

3.4 Summary

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

- Balance the policing of Covid-19 with operational need and the delivery of priorities outlined above for 2021.
- Continue to provide additional visibility in areas of high footfall and provide reassurance to communities.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 These recommendations are made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to:

1. Provide members with an insight as to the remit of the team, their progress and some of their key successes.
2. Enable members to understand the value they bring to our residents and promote their work to improve public confidence and provide reassurance.

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

- 5.1 We have received regular positive feedback since the launch of the teams as residents and businesses alike have been asking for more visible policing and it is great to be able to deliver.

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

- 6.1 This team of officers is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

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

This means:

- High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
- Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
- Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together

- 6.2 This supports the following Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 20/21:

2. Tackling Violence and Vulnerability, including Gang Related activity
3. Local Community and Visibility

- 6.3 These additional officers support Essex Police's focus on:

- Victims
- Visibility
- Violence
- Vulnerability

- 6.4 They will deliver on the following priorities of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex:

- More local, visible and accessible policing
- Cracking down on anti-social behaviour
- Tackling gangs and serious violence
- Protecting children and vulnerable people from harm

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Jonathan Wilson**
Assistant Director of Finance

The additional police officers continue to be funded from the reserve created from the members' surplus.

There are no other wider specific financial implications arising from the report

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Ian Hunt**
Assistant Director of Law and Monitoring Officer

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. It should be noted however that whilst there is close working between the Police and the Council, individual operational decisions in respect of potential criminal activity have to be assessed on the evidence and on the basis of proportional policing / enforcement.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

Additional policing will have a positive impact on reducing inequalities within our deprived communities

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

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

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

To find out more on the work of this team Follow Essex Police (Thurrock) on;
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/EPThurrock/>
Twitter - <https://twitter.com/thurrockcpt?lang=en>

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 - Maps of areas policed

Report Author:

Inspector Paul Ballard, Essex Police

Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager

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Appendix 1

Grays:



Stanford Le Hope Town Centre:



South Ockendon:



Tilbury:



Purfleet:



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3 December 2020	ITEM: 7
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy 2021/22	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key
Report of: Accountable Assistant Director of Service: Leigh Nicholson - Assistant Director Planning and Growth Daren Spring – Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure Tracie Heiser – Assistant Director – Customer Services	
Report of: Accountable Directors of Service: Julie Rogers - Director of Environment, Highways & Counter Fraud Andy Millard - Director of Place Karen Wheeler – Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Services	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report specifically sets out the charges in relation to services within the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Charges will take effect from the 1 April 2021 unless otherwise stated. In preparing the proposed fees and charges, directorates have worked within the charging framework and commercial principles set out in Section three of the report. We have also taken into account the effect that Covid-19 has and will continue to have on services, residents and the local economy.

Further director-delegated authority will be sought via Cabinet to allow Fees and Charges to be varied within financial year in response to commercial requirements.

The full list of proposed charges is detailed in Appendix 1.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the revised fees, including those no longer applicable; and comment on the proposals currently being considered within the remit of this committee.**
- 1.2 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note that director delegated authority will be sought via Cabinet to allow Fees**

and Charges to be varied within a financial year in response to commercial requirements.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 This paper describes the fees and charges approach for the services within the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee remit for 2021/22 and will set a platform for certain pricing principles moving forward into future financial years.
- 2.2 The paper provides narrative for the Cleaner, Greener and Safer areas:
- Arboricultural
 - Outdoor Sports and the Commercial Hire of Open Spaces
 - Allotments
 - Domestic Waste
 - Burials and Memorials
 - Environmental Enforcement and Abandoned Vehicles
 - Registrars
 - Theatre
 - Heritage Service
 - Public Protection

3. Thurrock Charging Policy

- 3.1 The strategic ambition for Thurrock is to adopt a policy on fees and charges that are aligned to the wider commercial strategy and ensure that all discretionary services cost recover.
- 3.2 Furthermore, for future years, while reviewing charges, services will also consider the level of demand for the service, the market dynamics and how the charging policy helps to meet other service objectives.
- 3.3 When considering the pricing strategy for 2021/22 some key questions were considered:
- Where can we apply a tiered/premium pricing structure
 - How sensitive are customers to price (are there areas where a price freeze is relevant)
 - Consideration with regards to Covid-19 and the impact on fees and charges locally and nationally
 - What new charges might we want to introduce for this financial year
 - How do our charges compare to neighboring boroughs and private sector competitors (particularly in those instances where customers have choice)
 - How can we influence channel shift
 - Can we set charges to recover costs

- What do our competitors charge
- How sensitive is demand to price
- Statutory services may have discretionary elements that we can influence
- Do we take deposits, charge cancellation fees, and charge an admin fee for duplicate services (e.g. lost certificates)

3.4 The key following points should be noted for 2021/22 fees and charges:

- **Outdoor Sports and open spaces** - have increased fees and charges by a range of between 4%-5% (£1-£50 (£50 per season)) to reflect moving towards a cost neutral approach.
- **Allotments** - fees and charges have increased by around 4% (£2.50 - £5) for 2021/22
- **Domestic Waste** - fees and charges have increased slightly for 2021/22
- **Burials and Memorials** – fees and charges have increased slightly for 2021/22 between 1% - 3% (£2 - £56) and a new charge has been added for Muslim Burials.
- **Environmental Enforcement** – fees and charges are set by legislation, with Council charging the maximum permitted, in line with policy.
- **Registrars** – these charges remain unchanged for 2021/22 due to the adverse impact Covid 19 has had on this area.
- **Theatre** – one charge has been increased due to deep cleaning costs related to Covid 19, all other charges remain unchanged for 2021/22 due to the adverse impact Covid 19 has had on this area
- **Public Protection** - licensing fees and charges are set through the licensing committee and have remained unchanged for 2021/22. Other Public Protection fees and charges remain unchanged for 2021/22 with the exception of those relating to the Control of Dogs. These have been restructured in line with the charges levied by a new contractor. The above inflation rate increase enables the council to be cost neutral in this area.
- **Heritage Service** – these have increased between 1% - 2% (5p-£2.50) for 2021/22.

3.5 Proposals and Issues

3.5.1 The fees and charges for each service area have been considered and the main considerations are set out below.

3.5.2 To allow the Council services to better respond to changes in the commercial environment for fees and charges; delegated authority will be sought through Cabinet to permit the Director of the Service Area jointly with the Director of Finance to vary service charges within financial year due to commercial considerations.

- This will allow service areas, providing services on a traded basis to vary their fees and charges to reflect commercial and operational considerations that impact the cost recoverability calculations.

- Any changes to Fees and Charges due to commercial considerations will require the consultation with, and agreement of, the relevant Portfolio Holder.

3.5.3 Unless indicated otherwise, fees and charges for 2021/22 can increase in line with forecast inflation (subject to rounding).

3.6 Outdoor Sports and the Commercial Hire of Open Spaces

3.6.1 The strategic objective for charging for use of outdoor sports facilities is to provide quality services that are competitively priced to encourage optimum use and consequently maximize income levels while at the same time reducing net subsidy and encouraging the Councils wider health and leisure strategy.

3.6.2 Currently the cost of maintaining the pitches is not recovered from the income generated. To mitigate this the service has introduced technology to make efficiencies and reduce the costs where possible. Despite these efforts, there remains a gap. In order to get closer to a cost neutral position, fees and charges will need to increase over the next three years. Therefore, all sports pitch fees, season tickets and other charges will be increased for 2021/22. The Council will continue to offer a generous discount for block/season bookings to support our sports clubs in the borough who participate in leagues and competitions.

3.7 Allotments

3.7.1 Thurrock Council currently provides two Allotment Sites with all other sites in the borough being self-managed by community groups. The fees and charges in this report reflect Council Managed Allotments only.

3.7.2 The income received from allotments contributes towards the ongoing running costs that they incur. Due to the increased take up of allotment plots during Covid-19 lockdown, we have increased the fees and charges for 2021/22. This is to help cover the additional costs to maintain and manage the sites and provide a better service for residents.

3.8 Domestic Waste Charges

3.8.1 After a review of neighboring authorities' last year, charges for Bulky waste will remain unchanged for 2021/22

Services will continue to explore if there are further commercial opportunities

3.9 Burials and Memorials

3.9.1 Thurrock Council maintains five cemeteries providing a range of burial services and graves for cremated remains. Following a thorough previous benchmarking exercise where we were found to be competitive with other

local authorities, it been decided that this year all burial fees will be increased to be broadly in line with inflation between 1.89% - 3.39%. A new Charge has also been included for Muslim Burials, we are including a new charge because it's a new service, introduced at the height of the first peak of the Covid-19 pandemic recognising the need within the local community.

3.10 Registrars

3.10.1 The Register Office provides the statutory service of registering births deaths & marriages, alongside the non-statutory service of citizenship ceremonies on both a group and individual basis.

3.10.2 The fees and charges set by the Council are always reviewed against neighbouring Authorities, and take full account of any statutory charge limitations.

3.10.3 Customer engagement throughout the year allows us to take into consideration local reaction and address any concerns to changes in the fees and charges. Given the adverse effect that Covid 19 has had on our area and the restrictions it imposes on us, we will not be increasing any fees and charges in 2021/22.

3.11 Theatre Services

3.11.1 A thorough review of fees and charges takes place each year and some new charges were put in place last year. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 the Theatre currently remains closed. Many hirers for this year have agreed to move their bookings to the next financial year and therefore we are not proposing to increase most fees and charges for 2021/22. We have however increased our performance surcharge by 33% cover additional costs incurred for deep cleaning as a result of Covid-19 and Government guidelines on cleaning performance spaces.

3.12 Heritage Service

3.12.1 Thurrock Heritage Service charges for a number of services:

- School visits to Coalhouse Fort and Thurrock Museum
- Talks given to other organisations
- Informal educational sessions
- Topic loan boxes for schools
- Research and Readers tickets

Charges have been increased for 2021/22 between 0.7% - 2%.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The setting of appropriate fees and charges will enable the Council to generate essential income for the funding of Council services. The approval of

reviewed fees and charges will also ensure that the Council is competitive with other service providers and neighbouring councils. The ability to vary charges within financial year will enable services to more flexibly adapt to changing economic conditions.

- 4.2 The granting of delegated authority to vary these charges within financial year will allow the Council to better respond to commercial challenges.

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

- 5.1 Consultations will be progressed where there is specific need. However, with regard to all other items, the proposals in this report do not affect any specific parts of the borough. Fees and charges are known to customers before they make use of the services they are purchasing.

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

- 6.1 The changes in these fees and charges may impact the community; however, it must be taken into consideration that these price rises include inflation.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Joanne Freeman**
Finance Manager

The effect of any changes to fees and charges on individual income targets will be determined as part of the 2021-22 budget setting process in which Corporate Finance and service areas will review anticipated level of demand, fee increases, previous performance and potential associated costs. Covid-19 has significantly impacted the Authority's ability to achieve current income targets and this will be taken into consideration when setting future targets. The Council wide draft budget report will set out the 2021-22 targets across all directorates

7.2 Legal

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

Fees and charges generally fall into three categories – Statutory, Regulatory and Discretionary. Statutory charges are set in statute and cannot be altered by law since the charges have been determined by Central government and all authorities will be applying the same charge.

Regulatory charges relate to services where, if the Council provides the service, it is obliged to set a fee which the Council can determine itself in accordance with a regulatory framework. Charges have to be reasonable and must be applied across the borough.

Discretionary charges relate to services which the Council can provide if they choose to do so. This is a local policy decision. The Local Government Act 2003 gives the Council power to charge for discretionary services, with some limited exceptions. This may include charges for new and innovative services utilising the Council's general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. The income from charges, taking one financial year with another, must not exceed the cost of provision. A clear and justifiable framework of principles should be followed in terms of deciding when to charge and how much, and the process for reviewing charges.

A service may wish to consider whether they may utilise this power to provide a service that may benefit residents, businesses and other service users, meet the Council priorities and generate income.

Decisions on setting charges and fees are subject to the Council's decision making structures. Most charging decisions are the responsibility of Cabinet, where there are key decisions. Some fees are set by full Council.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Becky Price**
Team Manager, Diversity & Equality

The Council is responsible for promoting equality of opportunity in the provision of services and employment as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. Decisions on setting charges and fees are subject to Community Equality Impact Assessment process and the Council's wider decision making structures to determine impact on protected groups and related concessions that may be available

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked after Children) - 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) - None

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Proposed Fees and Charges for 2021/22.

Report Author: Kelly McMillan, Business Development, Project Manager
Business Development & Innovation

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Name of fee or Charge	Directorate	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Owner	Statutory/Discretionary Charge	VAT Status 20/21	Charge excl. VAT 2020/21	VAT Amount 2020/21	Charge incl. VAT 2020/21	VAT Status 21/22	Charge excl. VAT 2021/22	VAT Amount 2021/22	Charge incl. VAT 2021/22	Change from last year (incl. VAT)	Change from last year (% incl. VAT)	New, Removed, Unchanged
Bulky Waste Collections - Collection and disposal of up to three items	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Andy Kelly	D	E	£ 30.90	£ -	£ 30.90	E	£ 30.90	£ -	£ 30.90	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Bulky Waste Collections - Each additional item	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Andy Kelly	D	E	£ 8.24	£ -	£ 8.24	E	£ 8.24	£ -	£ 8.24	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Domestic Waste - Supply of a replacement wheelie bin where broken or lost	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Andy Kelly	D	O	£ 36.00	£ -	£ 36.00	O	£ 36.00	£ -	£ 36.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Domestic Waste - Supply of 1100 refuse or recycling bin for Managing Agent including delivery	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Andy Kelly	D	S	£ 334.75	£ 66.95	£ 401.70	S	£ 342.00	£ 68.40	£ 410.40	£ 8.70	+2.17%	INCREASED
Domestic Waste - Supply of a replacement wheelie bin where broken or lost - reduced rate if resident is claiming benefits or is over 60	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Andy Kelly	D	O	£ 18.50	£ -	£ 18.50	O	£ 18.50	£ -	£ 18.50	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Parks - Commercial Hire of Parks and Open Spaces - Price on Applications	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	S	POA	£ -	POA	S	POA	£ -	POA	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Parks - Bowls - Thurrock Bowls Assoc - Exclusive use of 8 greens - Over 60	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 135.00	£ -	£ 135.00	E	£ 142.00	£ -	£ 142.00	£ 7.00	+5.19%	INCREASED
Parks - Bowls - Thurrock Bowls Assoc - Exclusive use of 8 greens - Under 18	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 80.00	£ -	£ 80.00	E	£ 84.00	£ -	£ 84.00	£ 4.00	+5.00%	INCREASED
Parks - Bowls - Thurrock Bowls Assoc - Exclusive use of 8 greens - Under 60	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 170.00	£ -	£ 170.00	E	£ 180.00	£ -	£ 180.00	£ 10.00	+5.88%	INCREASED
Parks - Cricket - Adult Pitch per match (10 games or more)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	E	£ 105.00	£ -	£ 105.00	£ 5.00	+5.00%	INCREASED
Parks - Cricket - Adult Pitch per match (less than 10 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	S	£ 105.00	£ 21.00	£ 126.00	S	£ 110.00	£ 22.00	£ 132.00	£ 6.00	+4.76%	INCREASED
Parks - Cricket - Youth Pitch per match (10 games or more)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 48.00	£ -	£ 48.00	E	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00	£ 2.00	+4.17%	INCREASED
Parks - Cricket - Youth Pitch per match (less than 10 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	S	£ 48.00	£ 9.60	£ 57.60	S	£ 50.00	£ 10.00	£ 60.00	£ 2.40	+4.17%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Adult Pitch with Changing Facilities per match (10 games or more)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 85.00	E	£ 90.00	£ -	£ 90.00	£ 5.00	+5.88%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Adult Pitch with Changing Facilities per match (less than 10 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	S	£ 85.00	£ 17.00	£ 102.00	S	£ 90.00	£ 18.00	£ 108.00	£ 6.00	+5.88%	INCREASED

Name of fee or Charge	Directorate	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Owner	Statutory/Discretionary Charge	VAT Status 20/21	Charge excl. VAT 2020/21	VAT Amount 2020/21	Charge incl. VAT 2020/21	VAT Status 21/22	Charge excl. VAT 2021/22	VAT Amount 2021/22	Charge incl. VAT 2021/22	Change from last year (incl. VAT)	Change from last year (% incl. VAT)	New, Removed, Unchanged
Parks - Football - Adult Pitch with Changing Facilities per season (max 16 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 1,100.00	£ -	£ 1,100.00	E	£ 1,150.00	£ -	£ 1,150.00	£ 50.00	+4.55%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Child Pitch per match (10 games or more)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 42.00	£ -	£ 42.00	E	£ 44.00	£ -	£ 44.00	£ 2.00	+4.76%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Child Pitch per match (less than 10 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	S	£ 42.00	£ 8.40	£ 50.40	S	£ 44.00	£ 8.80	£ 52.80	£ 2.40	+4.76%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Child Pitch per season (max 16 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 550.00	£ -	£ 550.00	E	£ 580.00	£ -	£ 580.00	£ 30.00	+5.45%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Mini Pitch per match (10 games or more)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 22.00	£ -	£ 22.00	E	£ 23.00	£ -	£ 23.00	£ 1.00	+4.55%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Mini Pitch per match (less than 10 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	S	£ 22.00	£ 4.40	£ 26.40	S	£ 23.00	£ 4.60	£ 27.60	£ 1.20	+4.55%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Mini Pitch per season (max 16 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 105.00	£ -	£ 105.00	E	£ 110.00	£ -	£ 110.00	£ 5.00	+4.76%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Youth Pitch per match (10 games or more)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 54.00	£ -	£ 54.00	E	£ 57.00	£ -	£ 57.00	£ 3.00	+5.56%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Youth Pitch per match (less than 10 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	S	£ 54.00	£ 10.80	£ 64.80	S	£ 57.00	£ 11.40	£ 68.40	£ 3.60	+5.56%	INCREASED
Parks - Football - Youth Pitch per season (max 16 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 650.00	£ -	£ 650.00	E	£ 680.00	£ -	£ 680.00	£ 30.00	+4.62%	INCREASED
Parks - Rugby - Adult Pitch per match (10 games or more)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 90.00	£ -	£ 90.00	E	£ 95.00	£ -	£ 95.00	£ 5.00	+5.56%	INCREASED
Parks - Rugby - Adult Pitch per match (less than 10 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	S	£ 90.00	£ 18.00	£ 108.00	S	£ 95.00	£ 19.00	£ 114.00	£ 6.00	+5.56%	INCREASED
Parks - Rugby - Adult Pitch per season (max 16 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 1,100.00	£ -	£ 1,100.00	E	£ 1,150.00	£ -	£ 1,150.00	£ 50.00	+4.55%	INCREASED
Parks - Rugby - Mini Pitch per match (10 games or more)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 22.00	£ -	£ 22.00	E	£ 23.00	£ -	£ 23.00	£ 1.00	+4.55%	INCREASED

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Parks - Rugby - Mini Pitch per match (less than 10 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	S	£ 22.00	£ 4.40	£ 26.40	S	£ 23.00	£ 4.60	£ 27.60	£ 1.20	+4.55%	INCREASED
Parks - Rugby - Mini Pitch per season (max 16 game)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 105.00	£ -	£ 105.00	E	£ 110.00	£ -	£ 110.00	£ 5.00	+4.76%	INCREASED
Parks - Rugby - Youth Pitch per match (10 games or more)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 54.00	£ -	£ 54.00	E	£ 57.00	£ -	£ 57.00	£ 3.00	+5.56%	INCREASED
Parks - Rugby - Youth Pitch per match (less than 10 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	S	£ 54.00	£ 10.80	£ 64.80	S	£ 57.00	£ 11.40	£ 68.40	£ 3.60	+5.56%	INCREASED
Parks - Rugby - Youth Pitch per season (max 16 games)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 650.00	£ -	£ 650.00	E	£ 680.00	£ -	£ 680.00	£ 30.00	+4.62%	INCREASED
Abandoned Vehicles - Administration charge for removal of vehicle from private property when directed by Management company or Private Landowner	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	D	O	£ 75.00	£ -	£ 75.00	O	£ 77.00	£ -	£ 77.00	£ 2.00	+2.67%	INCREASED
Abandoned vehicles - Where collection and disposal is carried out by the Council's authorised contractor - Storage (When taken into safe custody) per day	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	D	S	£ 20.83	£ 4.17	£ 25.00	S	£ 21.40	£ 4.28	£ 25.68	£ 0.68	+2.72%	INCREASED
Abandoned vehicles - Where collection and disposal is carried out by the Council's authorised contractor - To take vehicle into storage - Vehicle Upright, undamaged and accessible.	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	D	S	£ 208.33	£ 41.67	£ 250.00	S	£ 214.00	£ 42.80	£ 256.80	£ 6.80	+2.72%	INCREASED
Council Managed Allotments - 1x10 Rod plot	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 105.00	£ -	£ 105.00	E	£ 110.00	£ -	£ 110.00	£ 5.00	+4.76%	INCREASED
Council Managed Allotments - 1x5 Rod (1/2 size plot)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Jahur Ali	D	E	£ 56.50	£ -	£ 56.50	E	£ 59.00	£ -	£ 59.00	£ 2.50	+4.42%	INCREASED
Tolerance Policy - Portable toilets 1 day - 4 weeks	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	D	s	£ 170.00	£ 34.00	£ 204.00	s	£ 175.00	£ 35.00	£ 210.00	£ 6.00	+2.94%	INCREASED
Enforcement Fees - Depositing Litter - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	E	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees Wifull Obstruction of the highway	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - engine idling	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£20 to £40 if unpaid before 28 days		£20 to £40 if unpaid before 28 days	O	£20 to £40 if unpaid before 28 days		£20 to £40 if unpaid before 28 days	£ -	-	UNCHANGED

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Enforcement fees - Duty of care Domestic waste	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 400.00		£ 400.00	O	£ 400.00		£ 400.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to comply with a notice requiring works to prevent soil and refuse escaping onto the street or into a sewer	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Pitching of stalls, booths or stands or encamping on a highway	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Depositing anything on the highway to the interpretation of the user	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to comply with a notice requiring removal of tree or shrub	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Unauthorised Disposal of Waste (Fly-tipping) - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 400.00	£ -	£ 400.00	O	£ 400.00	£ -	£ 400.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Depositing material on a made up carriageway	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Depositing material etc. within 15 feet from the centre of a made up carriageway	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Using stall etc. for road side sales in certain circumstances	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to secure removal of a skip	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to comply with conditions of permission	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to remove or reposition builders skip	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to secure lighting or other markings on a builders skip with name and address	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Erecting a building, fence or hedge on a highway	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED

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Enforcement Fees - Depositing a builders skip on a highway without permission	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Unlicensed street trading	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to produce a Street Trading licence on demand	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Contravention of condition of street trading licence or temporary license	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	O	£ 100.00		£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to Produce Authority (Waste Transfer Notes) - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 300.00	£ -	£ 300.00	E	£ 300.00	£ -	£ 300.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to Furnish Documentation (Waste Carriers Licence) - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 300.00	£ -	£ 300.00	E	£ 300.00	£ -	£ 300.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Unauthorised Distribution of Free Printed Matter / Literature - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	E	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to Comply with a Waste Receptacles Notice - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 110.00	£ -	£ 110.00	E	£ 110.00	£ -	£ 110.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Nuisance Parking - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	E	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Abandoning a Vehicle - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00	E	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Graffiti - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	E	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Fly-Posting - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	E	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to Comply with a Community Protection Notice - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	E	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Enforcement Fees - Failure to Comply with a Public Space Protection Order - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	E	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED

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Enforcement Fees - Dog Fouling - no discount for early repayment	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Phil Carver	S	E	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	E	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Burial Grounds - Part 1 Interment - Exclusive right of Burial - In a full size grave-Lawn Section	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 818.50	£ -	£ 818.50	E	£ 840.00	£ -	£ 840.00	£ 21.50	+2.63%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 1 Interment - Exclusive right of Burial - In a full size grave-Traditional grave where available	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 1,668.50	£ -	£ 1,668.50	E	£ 1,725.00	£ -	£ 1,725.00	£ 56.50	+3.39%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 1 Interment - There is no burial fee or associated memorial permit fee payable for any resident of the Borough aged 5 and under	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor		E	£ -	£ -	£ -	E	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	-	
Burial Grounds - Part 1 Interment - In a grave - Buried or cremated remains of a resident aged 5 years and under	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ -	£ -	£ -	E	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Burial Grounds - Part 1 Interment - In a grave - Buried or cremated remains of a resident aged 6 to under 16 years	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ -	£ -	£ -	E	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	-	UNCHANGED
Burial Grounds - Part 1 Interment - In a grave - Person aged 16 year and over	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 669.50	£ -	£ 669.50	E	£ 685.00	£ -	£ 685.00	£ 15.50	+2.32%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 1 Interment - In a grave - Cremated remains in full size grave	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 335.50	£ -	£ 335.50	E	£ 345.00	£ -	£ 345.00	£ 9.50	+2.83%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 2 Memorial Gardens Section - Additional interment of ashes and replacement plaque for further 7 years where original subscription has: Less than 4 years to run	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 233.50	£ -	£ 233.50	E	£ 240.00	£ -	£ 240.00	£ 6.50	+2.78%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 2 Memorial Gardens Section - Additional interment of ashes and replacement plaque for further 7 years where original subscription has: More than 4 years to run	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 166.50	£ -	£ 166.50	E	£ 170.00	£ -	£ 170.00	£ 3.50	+2.10%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 2 Memorial Gardens Section - Cremated Remains Section - Exclusive Right of Burial for a forty year period	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 345.00	£ -	£ 345.00	E	£ 355.00	£ -	£ 355.00	£ 10.00	+2.90%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 2 Memorial Gardens Section - Cremated Remains Section - Interment of Ashes	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 335.50	£ -	£ 335.50	E	£ 345.00	£ -	£ 345.00	£ 9.50	+2.83%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 2 Memorial Gardens Section - Erection of memorial plaque only for 7 years (no ashes to inter)	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 199.50	£ -	£ 199.50	E	£ 205.00	£ -	£ 205.00	£ 5.50	+2.76%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 2 Memorial Gardens Section - Includes plaque for 7 years & loose interment of ashes	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 256.00	£ -	£ 256.00	E	£ 263.00	£ -	£ 263.00	£ 7.00	+2.73%	INCREASED

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Burial Grounds - Part 2 Memorial Gardens Section - Renewal of 7 year subscription - With existing plaque	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 132.50	£ -	£ 132.50	E	£ 135.00	£ -	£ 135.00	£ 2.50	+1.89%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 2 Memorial Gardens Section - Renewal of 7 year subscription - With replacement plaque	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 199.50	£ -	£ 199.50	E	£ 205.00	£ -	£ 205.00	£ 5.50	+2.76%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 2 - Kerb Plaque - replacement	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 77.00	£ -	£ 77.00	E	£ 79.00	£ -	£ 79.00	£ 2.00	+2.60%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 3 Monuments, Gravestones, Tablets & Monumental Inscriptions - For the right to erect or place on a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has not been granted: a tablet not exceeding 20" x 18" x 6" base	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 166.50	£ -	£ 166.50	E	£ 170.00	£ -	£ 170.00	£ 3.50	+2.10%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 3 Monuments, Gravestones, Tablets & Monumental Inscriptions - The fees indicated for Part 3 include the first inscription, for each inscription after the first	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 83.00	£ -	£ 83.00	E	£ 85.00	£ -	£ 85.00	£ 2.00	+2.41%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 3 Monuments, Gravestones, Tablets & Monumental Inscriptions - Permit for Lawn Grave Memorial	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 189.50	£ -	£ 189.50	E	£ 195.00	£ -	£ 195.00	£ 5.50	+2.90%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 3 Monuments, Gravestones, Tablets & Monumental Inscriptions - Permit for Additional Grave Memorial	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 232.50	£ -	£ 232.50	E	£ 239.00	£ -	£ 239.00	£ 6.50	+2.80%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 3 Other Burial Fees - Permit to Work on a Headstone	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 79.00	£ -	£ 79.00	E	£ 81.00	£ -	£ 81.00	£ 2.00	+2.53%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 5 Other Burial Fees - Additional Plaque	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	S	£ 151.67	£ 30.33	£ 182.00	S	£ 156.00	£ 31.20	£ 187.20	£ 5.20	+2.86%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 5 Other Burial Fees - Memorial bench	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	S	£ 1,449.58	£ 289.92	£ 1,739.50	S	£ 1,490.00	£ 298.00	£ 1,788.00	£ 48.50	+2.79%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 5 Other Burial Fees - Memorial tree (New trees no longer available) Interment of second set of ashes for existing memorial trees only	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 335.50	£ -	£ 335.50	E	£ 345.00	£ -	£ 345.00	£ 9.50	+2.83%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 4 Other Burial Fees - Transfer of grant of exclusive right of burial fee for registering the transfer and endorsing the deed	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 79.00	£ -	£ 79.00	E	£ 81.00	£ -	£ 81.00	£ 2.00	+2.53%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 4 Other Burial Fees - Transfer of grant of exclusive burial where a Statutory Declaration is required	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 106.00	£ -	£ 106.00	E	£ 109.00	£ -	£ 109.00	£ 3.00	+2.83%	INCREASED
Burial Grounds - Part 4 Other Burial Fees - Search Fees for Historical records	Environment and Highways	Cleaner, Greener, Safer	Vincent Taylor	D	E	£ 26.00	£ -	£ 26.00	E	£ 26.00	£ -	£ 26.00	£ -	-	UNCHANGED

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3 December 2020		ITEM: 8
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Establishment of the Climate Emergency Taskforce		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A	
Report of: Gary Crooks, ERDF Business Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Stephen Taylor, Strategic Lead for Economic Development		
Accountable Director: Andy Millard, Director of Place		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Climate change is widely recognised as an important and challenging issue for the UK economy and society. As a local authority, the Council has a responsibility to address emissions and to assist local communities and businesses to do the same. At the same time such a fundamental change in the economy brings opportunities to promote new technology and to develop new industries. By acting on climate change and embracing the principles of Clean Growth it is possible to achieve our goal of net-zero emissions but also to have a positive effect on the prosperity of the borough.

In October 2019 the Council passed a motion to declare a climate emergency and to take urgent action to reduce its carbon emissions to net-zero by 2030.

The immediate challenges are to support existing CO2 reduction activity, update strategic documentation to reflect a focus on climate change and green growth, scoping and developing the strategy setting out how the Council will set and realise new ambitious targets and will utilise Clean Growth principles.

This report sets out a collaborative approach to tackling climate change utilising the recently established Climate Change Partnership and Officer groups. It also proposes that climate objectives are considered within an economic development context to maximise the positive outcomes for the borough.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 The Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment on the approach and activity being taken to address the requirements set out in the Council motion to declare a climate emergency.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 committed the UK to an 80% reduction in carbon emissions relative to the levels in 1990, to be achieved by 2050. In June 2019, secondary legislation was passed that extended that target to reductions of at least 100% within the same period. The Environment Bill published in January 2020 builds on this foundation. As currently proposed it places specific environmental responsibilities on the Government or on the proposed new Office for Environmental Protection, which had previously been held by the EU. It also moves many aspects of delivery from central to local government.
- 2.2 The growing responsibility that local authorities have in mitigating and adapting to climate change is well documented, featuring in legislation guidance and policy. For example, Chapter 14 of the National Planning and Policy Framework (2019) is dedicated to '**Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change**'. Currently 300 or 74% of District, County, Unitary & Metropolitan Councils have declared a Climate Emergency.
- 2.3 Thurrock Council passed a motion to Declare Climate Emergency in October 2019 and requested that Council's activities become net-zero by 2030.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The activity called for to meet national and local climate change targets is not only extensive but will require change at an extraordinary pace. As with the implications of climate change the remedies will be far reaching, affecting many aspects of the Council's operations and the lives of Thurrock residents.
- 3.2 Tackling climate change is a theme that cuts across many directorates and departments within the Council. In the absence of a central resource, separate teams have implemented their own CO2 reduction projects. This essential work has helped the council to reduce its emissions but a more coordinated approach is required to meet targets of the scale now proposed. The immediate challenges are to, support existing CO2 reduction activity, update strategic documentation, develop the strategy for new ambitious targets and by using Clean Growth principles build a central resource to coordinate activity.
- 3.3 To guide development of a new strategy a cross-party Climate Change Partnership has been established. Work around the partnership was put on hold in the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic however work is now

underway and the group met for the first time 21 October 2020. The group will support the embedding of carbon reduction in all areas of council activity and consider ways to maximise local benefits. Following a framework created by the Carbon Trust it will undertake six core meetings to investigate how and when Thurrock Council can achieve net-zero carbon emissions. The conclusion of the group meetings will provide the guidance required to produce an updated strategy document and action plan. The meeting schedule is:

Meeting	Theme
1	Scoping
2	Carbon Baseline
3	Target Setting
4	Decarbonisation Pathways
5	Action Plan
6	Monitoring and Evaluation Measures

3.4 At its first meeting the group agreed that primary focus should be on reducing the Council’s carbon emissions to net-zero. However the group recognised the role the Council can play in facilitating reduction in emissions across the economy and were keen to explore what could be done to help businesses reduce their emissions and to promote clean growth in the medium term.

3.5 To support the work of the Climate Change Partnership, to co-ordinate work across the Council and to secure the update of strategic documentation an Officer Group has been established to work in conjunction with the Partnership Group. The Officer Group comprises of representatives from each directorate in key positions to advance the climate agenda. The primary functions of Officer Group are:

- To provide support and guidance to the Partnership Group Members through information and expert opinion
- To report on the current position of each directorate in relation to climate change
- To bring to the attention of the Partnership Group current business priorities
- To identify the necessary budget and resources to undertake this work

3.6 Work on refreshing and updating strategic documentation is underway. Initiated by the planning team. A scoping study has been produced to provide a baseline assessment of Thurrock’s current climate impact, synthesise existing legislation, review existing corporate documents and identify opportunities for Thurrock to integrate into its climate change objectives. The study also outlines initiatives to focus on in the Local Plan, recognising Thurrock as a growth area and the desire to achieve growth without increasing emissions. There are two further key documents that are in need of updating: the Climate Local Plan and the Carbon Management Plan. Work

on scoping the updates required and identifying resources for the work is now underway.

Clean Growth and the local Economy

- 3.7 While Climate Change and reducing emissions is a significant challenge it also brings with it opportunities to promote new technology and new industries that will create jobs and prosperity in the future. Generating clean growth is an important focus for Government in terms of economic policy and is reflected as a key priority in the refresh of the Thurrock Economic Development Strategy – Backing Thurrock. Thurrock is a key growth area for the country and the opportunity to do things differently, to attract new kinds of businesses, to promote new skills and jobs can align with the focus on addressing climate change.
- 3.8 The Council has a strong track-record of supporting businesses to put in place mitigation measures around climate change. For the past five years the Council has led the energy efficiency work package of Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE), delivering energy efficiency advice and financial support to small businesses throughout the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) area. Opportunities to build on this work and help businesses transform will be considered by the Climate Change Partnership and by the Officer Group as part of the work programme.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 Tackling climate change is one of the most important and challenging issues we currently face. As a local authority, there is an imperative for us to address our own emissions and to assist local communities and businesses to do the same. By acting on climate change and embracing the principles of Clean Growth it is possible to achieve our goal of net-zero emissions but also to have a positive effect on the prosperity of the borough.
- 4.2 This report sets out a collaborative approach to tackling climate change utilising the recently established Climate Change Partnership and Officer groups. In that spirit Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked comment on the approach and activity being taken.

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

- 5.1 The programme of work conducted by the Climate Change Partnership allows each aspect of action plan's development to be scrutinised and for value to be added before moving to the next. This iterative process ensures that the broadest set of priorities including COVID recovery, economic development, employment, health, learning, community and wellbeing are all considered and at every stage. The final plan will be subject to usual the approval process but will have had the added benefit of several rounds of scrutiny and subsequent endorsement.

5.2 The Climate Change Partnership will consider who and how to consult on the emerging plans as part of its work programme.

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

6.1 Both climate change itself and the remedies employed to combat it will have a significant effect on all communities within Thurrock. Similarly, as a theme that cuts across many areas of the council its impact is already widespread. The collaboration and coordination of activity are key components of success that will be greatly enhanced as we build capacity and a central resource in this area.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. As the work of the Climate Change Partnership progresses there are likely to be financial implications to the strategy and the recommendations made. The Finance Directorate will need to be kept informed and consulted at all stages in development of the strategy.

7.2 Legal

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

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. There may be legal implications arising from the work of the Climate Change Partnership and these will need to be considered in due course.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager - Community Development and Equalities

Climate change is ubiquitous in nature but its effects will vary considerably among differing communities and individuals. The final Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and to ensure positive outcomes for all regardless of their protected characteristic.

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):

None.

- 9. Appendices to the report**

None

Report Author:

Gary Crooks

ERDF Business Manager

Economic Development

3 December 2020	ITEM: 9
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Environmental Health Jurisdiction : DP World Distribution Park	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A
Report of: Gavin Dennett – Strategic Lead Public Protection	
Accountable Assistant Director: Leigh Nicholson, Assistant Director Planning, Transportation and Public Protection	
Accountable Director: Andy Millard, Director of Place	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

The Corporation of London have jurisdiction for Environmental Health in ports along the river Thames under a Port Health Order. Within Thurrock they exercise this jurisdiction in the Port of Tilbury and the DP World Port at London Gateway.

This jurisdiction applies within the docks only. Within these areas the Corporation provide a comprehensive Environmental Health service, a large part of which is the inspection of food entering the UK from overseas.

The Corporation have requested that their jurisdiction for Environmental Health matters at London Gateway be extended beyond the immediate area of the dock to include the Distribution Park currently being developed, as indicated on the attached map (appendix 1).

The purpose of this report is to provide details of this proposal and its implications for Thurrock Council and to consult Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to seeking a decision from the Cabinet on this matter

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content and proposed recommendation to Cabinet as follows:

Cabinet authorise the Director of Place, in conjunction with the Head of Legal and Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour, to enter into a formal agreement on behalf of Thurrock

Council with the Corporation of London to transfer jurisdiction for Environmental Health Matters pertaining to enforcement of food law within the DP World Distribution Park from Thurrock Council to the Corporation of London.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The City of London Corporation is the Port Health Authority for the district of the Port of London (LPHA). The jurisdiction is set out in the London Port Health Authority Order 1965 and covers all of the tidal Thames. The area for which LPHA is responsible includes the new London Gateway Port as well as the Port of Tilbury.

2.2 The LPHA is responsible for enforcing legal requirements relating to food safety and food standards for all food and animal feed that is imported through the ports within London Port Health Authority area. This includes:

- Operation of the Border Control Posts at London Gateway Port and Tilbury.
- Monitoring for illegal food or animal feed imports at any of the Ports within the Borough
- Carrying out documentary, identity and physical checks on imported consignments of products of animal origin and products not of animal origin
- Making checks of fish catch certificates to ensure compliance with regulations concerning Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

As part of their duties the LPHA undertake Environmental Health duties in the area of the port, including those relating to food controls, pollution control, disease control, pest control and controls on the hygiene standards aboard vessels entering the port.

2.3 The Corporation have requested that their jurisdiction for Environmental Health matters at London Gateway be extended beyond the immediate area of the dock to include the Distribution Park currently being developed, as indicated on the attached map (appendix 1).

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Officers from Thurrock Council's Public Protection Service are responsible for enforcement of the same or equivalent legislation to that enforced by the LPHA as it applies to operations outside of the currently defined LPHA area. This currently includes the London Gateway Distribution Park.

3.2 London Gateway Distribution Park will give rise to an increasingly large amount of activity from food and feed importation and the LPHA are structured and resourced to accommodate the necessary regulation of this activity.

- 3.3 The area covered by the Distribution Park is approximately one square mile. It is anticipated that this will be densely occupied by logistics companies with a fast turnover of goods, including perishable food items. The volume of warehousing together with the quick throughput of goods means that vast quantities of food in numerous consignments are likely to pass through the Distribution Park annually.
- 3.4 The operations at the Port and the adjacent Distribution Park will run outside of office hours and potentially during weekends. The turnaround times required for food certification work for exporters, who could accrue storage and possibly demurrage charges mean that in order to avoid severe disruption and cost to such businesses a rapid response to requests for certification and inspection of goods will be needed. This will require staff working shifts to be based on site or near site for extended periods of the week. The cost of staffing this work, together with resourcing works on the other aspects of Environmental Health work to be covered will entail an estimated need for over 200k in the Services staffing budget. This will provide three staff members to cover a shift pattern with additional hours for sickness and annual leave cover. It may also be necessary to secure welfare facilities and accommodation at or near the site for these staff entailing additional costs.
- 3.5 The staff required to undertake this type of work have to be qualified Environmental Health Officers who have significant and current experience in food safety work to comply with the Food Law Code of Practice. There are not many qualified staff available and this could lead to difficulty in recruitment.
- 3.6 Two options exist to address the increasing activity at the port and in its adjacent distribution centre:
1. Upscale the Environmental Health Provision at Thurrock Council to accommodate the increased workload generated by the increasing activity at the Port and Distribution Park, with an estimated additional revenue cost of over 200k per annum, or:
 2. Transfer jurisdiction for Environmental Health regulation in the Distribution Park to the LPHA.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The transfer of jurisdiction for Environmental Health matters relating to the enforcement of food law within the Distribution Park will avoid significant impending budget pressure that will otherwise arise, as a result of the increased demand for regulation work in the Distribution Park.
- 4.2 The transfer of jurisdiction for Environmental Health matters pertaining to food within the Distribution Park will allow the LPHA with an on-site dedicated provision to provide a more joined up service for importers and exporters, avoiding the need for businesses to deal with both LPHA and Thurrock as regulators for essentially the same activity where for example food commodities move from the Port to the Distribution Park and back.

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

5.1 None

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

6.1 Avoidance of budget growth pressure in Public Protection associated with increased demand for regulation from the Distribution Park will leave more resources available to address the Council's priorities.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Financial implications may subsequently arise dependant on the outcome of discussions with the LPHA regarding the provision of regulation within the Distribution Park. There is a potential for an increase in the costs attributable to the operation of the Council's Public Protection functions of over 200k if agreement cannot be reached with the Corporation of London to undertake this work.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Ian Hunt**
Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Office

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Financial implications may subsequently arise dependant on the outcome of discussions with the LPHA regarding the provision of regulation within the Distribution Park.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Diversity Officer

There are no direct diversity or equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Such implications may subsequently arise dependant on the outcome of discussions with the LPHA regarding the provision of regulation within the Distribution Park. In the event that significant implications arise a full equality and diversity assessment will be undertaken.

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):

- London Port Health Food Safety Enforcement Plan 2016-17

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 - Map of London Gateway Distribution Park

Report Author:

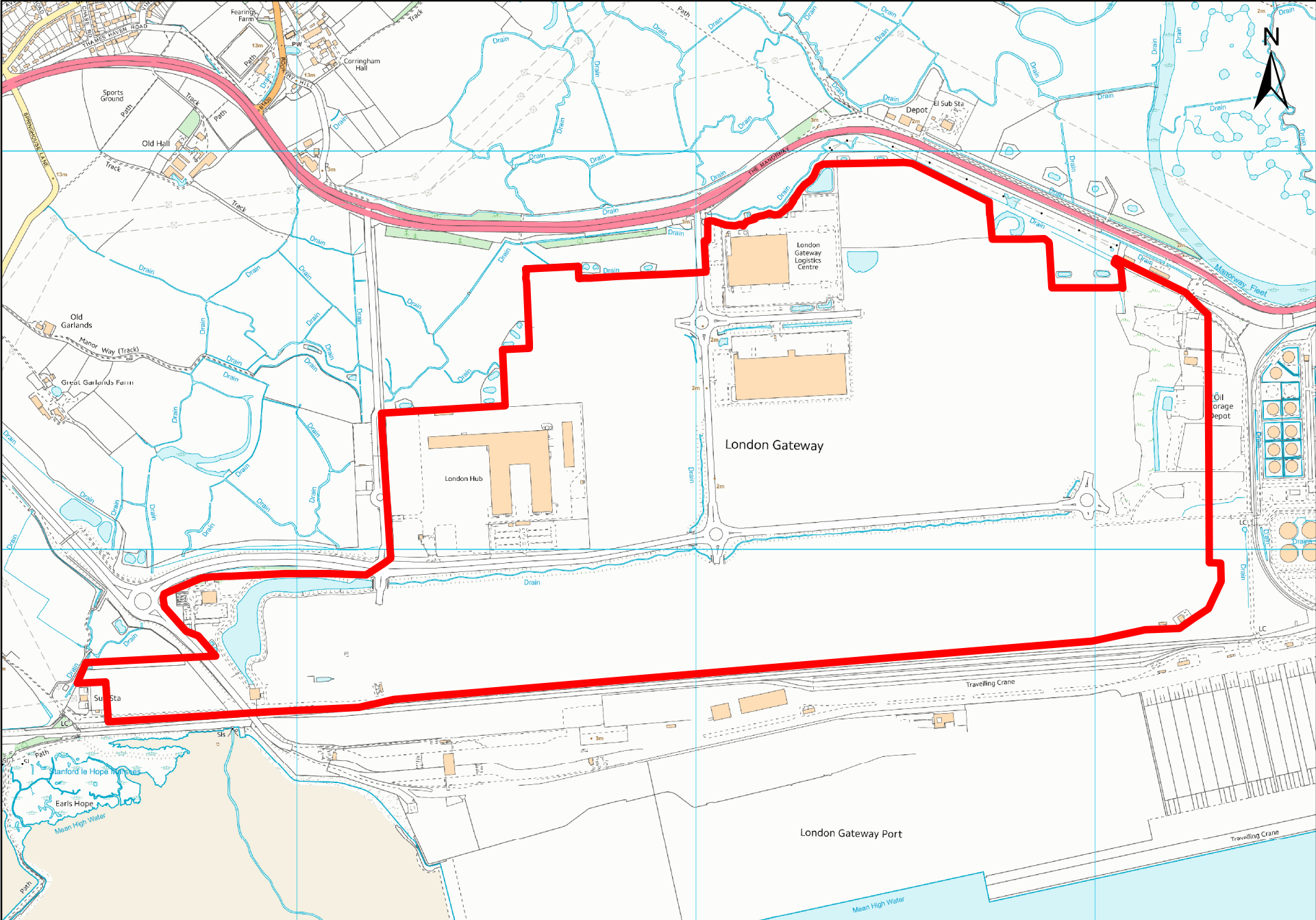
Gavin Dennett

Strategic Lead – Public Protection

Planning, Transport and Public Protection Service

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DP World Logistics Park



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**Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme
2020/21**

Dates of Meetings: 2 July 2020, 1 October 2020, 3 December 2020 and 4 February 2021

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
2 July 2020		
Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, 2019/20: Serious Youth Violence and Vulnerability	Ian Wake	Officers
Gang Related Violence Update Report	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
The Work of Trading Standards	Gavin Dennett	Officers
1 October 2020		
Cross Party Waste Working Group and Municipal Waste Strategy for Thurrock 2021-2031	Daren Spring	Officers
CCTV Public Identification Policy Update Report	Dulal Ahmed	Officers
Public Protection work involving Animals	Gavin Dennett	Officers
A collaborative approach to Arts, Culture and Heritage in Thurrock	Stephen Taylor	Officers
3 December 2020		
Council Funded Police Update report	Michelle Cunningham / Police	Officers
Fees and Charges Pricing Strategy 2021/22	Julie Rogers	Officers
Establishment of the Climate Emergency Taskforce	Stephen Taylor	Members
Thurrock Active Place Strategy	Leigh Nicholson / Jahur Ali	Officers

Environmental Health Jurisdiction : DP World Distribution Park	Andy Millard / Gavin Dennett	Officers
4 February 2021		
Contract Renewal Litter Enforcement	Phil Carver	Officers
Air Quality Modelling Assessment and Associated Work Update Report	Leigh Nicholson	Officers
Update report on Community Safety Partnership and Prevent	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Impact on Air Quality in lockdown in the borough	Gavin Dennett	Members

Reports for 2021/22

Food Waste

Clerk: Jenny Shade
Last Updated: September 2020