

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

## Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **27 January 2021**.

Due to current government guidance on social-distancing and the COVID-19 virus, this meeting will not be open for members of the public to attend. Arrangements have been made for the press and public to watch the meeting live via the Council's online webcast channel: [www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast)

### Membership of the Council:

Terry Piccolo (Mayor)  
Sue Shinnick (Deputy Mayor)

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

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

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



**Lyn Carpenter**  
**Chief Executive**

Agenda published on: 19 January 2021



## Agenda

Open to Public and Press

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1 Apologies for absence</b>	
<b>2 Minutes</b>	<b>9 - 28</b>
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 25 November 2020.	
<b>3 Items of Urgent Business</b>	
To receive additional items that the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
<b>4 Declaration of Interests</b>	
To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
<b>5 Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council</b>	
<b>6 Questions from Members of the Public</b>	<b>29 - 30</b>
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
<b>7 Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors</b>	
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2(Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
<b>8 Petitions Update Report</b>	<b>31 - 32</b>
<b>9 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels</b>	
The Council are asked to agree any changes to the appointments made to committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels, as requested by Group Leaders.	

<b>10</b>	<b>Police Fire &amp; Crime Commissioner (Presentation and Q&amp;A)</b>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Director of Public Health Recruitment</b>	<b>33 - 52</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Local Council Tax Scheme</b>	<b>53 - 58</b>
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In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

<b>16</b>	<b>Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies</b>	
<b>17</b>	<b>Minutes of Committees</b>	

Name of Committee	Date
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9 September 2020
Standards and Audit Committee	10 September 2020
Planning Committee	22 October 2020
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6 October 2020
Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	1 October 2020
Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13 October 2020
General Services Committee	9 November 2020
General Services Committee	16 November 2020
Corporate Parenting Committee	1 September 2020
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	4 November 2020

Planning Committee	26 November 2020
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5 November 2020

**18 Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year 97 - 98**

**19 Motion received from Councillor Anderson 99 - 100**

**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](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

**Future Dates of Council:**

24 February 2021 (Budget)

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## **Information for members of the public and councillors**

### **Access to Information and Meetings**

Due to current government guidance on social-distancing and the COVID-19 virus, council meetings will not be open for members of the public to physically attend. Arrangements have been made for the press and public to watch council meetings live via the Council's online webcast channel: [www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast)

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

### **Recording of meetings**

This meeting will be live streamed and recorded with the video recording being published via the Council's online webcast channel: [www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast)

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

### **Guidelines on filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings**

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

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

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

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

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

## Thurrock Council Wi-Fi

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

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

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

## Evacuation Procedures

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

## How to view this agenda on a tablet device



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

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

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

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



# DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

## Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

## **Pecuniary**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Non- pecuniary**

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



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

## PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

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

## Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

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

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

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## WW2 in Memoriam

### Remembering Thurrock's Fallen : Civilian Deaths due to enemy action and Roll of Honour

Today we share names on the Roll of Honour. These are people whose home address was shown as Thurrock who lost their lives during the Second World War whilst serving with the armed forces or merchant navy.

In recognition of the adversity and bravery experienced by ordinary people in Thurrock civilian deaths are also noted here in relevant months. 101 non-combatants were killed in Thurrock between 1939 and 1945 who will also be remembered.

A special thanks to Museum volunteer Pam Purkiss for compiling the Roll of Honour information. Civilians added by Valina Bowman-Burns from Thurrock Museum.

The names have been listed in date order.

#### December 1940

*BEADLE Henry G*  
*PRITCHARD Edward J*  
*RITSON William Stuart*  
*GOLDSMITH John V C*  
*CLARKE Jeremiah*

#### January 1941

*HOCKING Derek*  
*TOKELEY June*  
*ALLEN Charles Lewsey*  
*STEPHENS Frederick J*  
*ALDWINKLE Doris*  
*ALDWINKLE George*  
*ALDWINKLE Kenneth*  
*ALDWINKLE Alan*  
*EMMS Joseph*  
*EMMS Sarah*  
*KNIGHT Leslie Donald*  
*WISBY George Thomas*

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25 November 2020 at 7.00 pm

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Mark Coxshall

**In attendance:** Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive  
Ian Hunt, Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer  
Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting was being live streamed to the Council's online webcast channel.

### **172. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 28 October 2020 were approved as a correct record.

On matters arising from the minutes, Councillor Worrall asked for an update from Councillor Jefferies following his portfolio holder at last month's meeting on whether he had considered implementing a working group to look at enforcing the 20mph outside schools and to ensure that parking restrictions were enforced.

### **173. Items of Urgent Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

### **174. Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 175. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council

The Mayor made thanks to the continued support being received from residents and businesses through these extraordinary difficult times.

The Mayor stated that although his engagements had been limited he had attended a few virtual engagements with other mayors and some social distanced events.

The Mayor announced that he had given some thought on how money could be raised for his chosen charity GiFT and further details would follow shortly.

The Mayor stated that although there had been some technical difficulties previously he had been reassured that those difficulties had been overcome.

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements:

In regards to COVID 19, we are due to come out of this lockdown exactly one week today and thanked the residents of Thurrock for continuing to show such great community spirit and resilience as they had done throughout this pandemic. As many of you would have seen from the figures we published in the Council's e-newsletter last week we had seen an increase in the number of people testing positive for COVID 19 but this was not unique to Thurrock, we were seeing a similar picture in all the surrounding Council areas.

We continued to see some outbreaks at schools, which were being dealt with by the schools themselves with support from our Public Health Team, and an outbreak in a care home. But most worryingly we were seeing an increase in infections spread and caught in the community. That was why it was so important that we all try hard to make sure that we were doing all that we can to protect ourselves and indeed each other. The advice was almost deceptively simple: we need to make sure to follow hands, face and space advice. We will learn for certain tomorrow what tier Thurrock would be placed in and to what extent there would be an easing of restrictions for us but we must continue to work together to follow advice, protect and support our most vulnerable residents and most importantly self-isolate when we need to do so. The Leader provided some COVID- 9 stats as of Wednesday 18 November, there were (actual positive test results by age brackets):

- Under 18s – 32
- 18-49 years – 219
- 50-59 years – 43
- 60-69 years – 23
- Over 70s – 30
- Total: 347
- Total number of tests carried out in the previous 7 days = 4085
- 7 day rate of positive test per 100,000 = 199
- Local authority rank (where 2 was highest, 149 was the lowest): 99<sup>th</sup>



The Leader referred to the additional support for residents and businesses that this winter we would be supporting vulnerable families with food, energy and utility bills thanks to more than half a million pounds in funding received from the Government.

We were also amongst the first in the country to launch a new discretionary businesses support fund last week which had been created by Thurrock Council, using £3.5 million of Government funding, to help smaller businesses which had been affected by COVID 19 restrictions which had not been eligible for previous funding because they worked from home or provided services from rented halls or other similar premises. These were just two examples of the help we and the Government had given residents and businesses as we had collectively faced this pandemic these last few months.

Including business rate relief, local businesses had benefitted from more than £70 million in funding and that was before the latest restriction support and discretionary grants were distributed.

The Leader announced that the Council was committed to supporting local traders and businesses and would once again offer free car parking every Saturday in December in all Council owned car parks and pay and display on-street parking. The high street shops and local businesses had faced many challenges over the past nine months, unlike anything they had seen before. This initiative, which was being implemented for the fourth consecutive year, would offer them a welcome boost when they needed it most, and as they begin to reopen when national lockdown measures come to an end and we entered into an updated tier system.

This free parking scheme would make it easier for residents to shop locally and have a positive impact on our local economy as shoppers to do their Christmas shopping in the wide range of local businesses that the borough had to offer.

*At 7.18pm, Councillor Jefferies called a Point of Order stating that Members were unable to hear or see and questioned whether this was the right way to do business.*

Councillor J Kent stated he had heard very little of meeting so far and questioned whether there was anything that could be done to improve on this.

*At 7.21pm the Mayor suspended the meeting.*

*At 7.30pm the meeting was reconvened.*

The Mayor announced that due to some technical difficulties, some Members were having problems accessing the meeting and proposed that one item of urgent business on the agenda, Item 10 - Senior Management Appointment Report, be heard and then following that report he would adjourn the meeting to another date. The Mayor apologised to Mr Perrin that his question would not be heard this evening.

*At 7.32pm, Councillor Jefferies called a Point of Order stating that this was an important item which all members should have the opportunity to debate on.*

*At 7.34pm the Mayor suspended the meeting.*

*At 7.54pm, within the suspended period, Councillor Byrne was removed from the meeting.*

*At 7.57pm the meeting was reconvened.*

The Monitoring Officer stated that the majority of Members had a good MST connection to the meeting so the presentation of the senior management appointments report would proceed.

## **176. Senior Management Appointments**

Councillor Gledhill introduced the report and sought the approval from Council to appoint to the Corporate Director Adults, Housing and Health and Assistant Director Economic Growth and Partnerships. That following a robust search and selection process, General Services Committee interviewed on the 16 November 2020 and recommended the appointment of Ian Wake as Corporate Director Adults, Housing and Health and the appointment of Gerard McCleave as the Assistant Director Economic Growth and Partnerships.

Councillor J Kent seconded the report and was happy to move to the vote.

Councillor Massey was happy to move to the vote.

Councillor Allen was happy to proceed.

Councillor Little stated that she was pleased with the two appointments made.

The Mayor called a vote on recommendations 1 and 2 to which the recommendations were carried. It was noted for the minutes that Councillor Potter abstained his vote.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1. Approved in accordance with the Council's Constitution the appointment of Ian Wake as the permanent Corporate Director Adults, Housing and Health.**
- 2. To approve in accordance with the Council's Constitution the appointment of Gerard McCleave as the permanent Assistant Director Economic Growth and Partnerships.**

*At 8.06pm the Mayor adjourned the meeting and would reschedule to another date to allow time for any technical issues within the Council or with Member's individual connections to be resolved.*

*The meeting reconvened on Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 7.30pm.*

*Apologies had been received from Councillors Hague and Worrall for this reconvened session.*

*Councillor Coxshall was in attendance for this reconvened session.*

**177. Questions from Members of the Public**

A copy of the transcript of question and answer can be viewed under the relevant meeting date at <http://democracy.thurrock.co.uk/thurrock> and are attached at Appendix A at these minutes.

**178. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors**

The Mayor informed Members that in accordance with the Council's petition scheme, no requisition of notice had been given to present a petition at the meeting.

**179. Petitions Update Report**

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

**180. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels**

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

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, informed the Chamber he had no changes to make.

Councillor J Kent, Leader of the Labour Group, informed the Chamber he had no changes to make.

Councillor Byrne, Leader of the Thurrock Independent Group informed the Chamber he had no changes to make.

Councillors Massey and Allen informed the Chamber they had no changes to make.

**181. Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing**

Councillor Johnson, as Portfolio Holder for Housing, was proud to be presenting this third portfolio holder report and began by thanking all officers, council partners and volunteers who had come together to do such a marvellous job in providing the housing services in such difficult times.

Some of the key points made were:

- In 2019/20 the housing service had recorded its strongest performance for overall satisfaction for housing services since the tenant satisfaction had first been recorded in 2013/14 with the department finishing a very difficult year very strongly.
- Satisfaction with transforming homes remained high for 2019/20 with repair satisfaction levels demonstrating a consistent level and the three tenant satisfaction measures had shown continued improvement.
- The number of complaints on housing services had seen a year on year reduction and Councillor Johnson was confident that this trend would continue.
- The housing department had worked tirelessly to support and protect the wellbeing of those that accessed the services with an extra 60,000 contact calls made since March 2020.
- Following Government guidance in March 2020 to identify and provide accommodation to all known rough sleepers, Thurrock had by the end of October 2020 accommodated 56 individuals.
- Housing Development had seen new council owned homes being handed over in the current financial year and ongoing building of homes specifically for older people would be handed over during summer 2021.
- Cabinet had agreed in March 2019 to deliver 500 new council homes over the next five to 10 years with the process of identifying potential sites being agreed by Cabinet in 2020.
- Regular progress reports are presented to the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Spillman thanked Councillor Johnson for the report and on behalf of members thanked officers in the housing department who had undertaken an amazing job during these terrible times. Councillor Spillman questioned whether any new ways of working had been identified during this period that could be carried forward. Councillor Johnson stated this was the actual number of homeless or potential homeless people who the housing team had managed to accommodate and how the team had worked to ensure that nobody went back on the street as rough sleepers.

Councillor J Kent stated that during the pandemic we had learnt the importance of Thurrock's parks and open spaces and had been disappointed to see that Elm Road open space in Grays still earmarked for development. Councillor J Kent had over 60 letters from local residents objecting to this proposed building and would forward these onto Councillor Johnson. Councillor J Kent asked again to remove the Elm Road open space from this list of site for potential development. Councillor Johnson thanked Councillor J Kent for the feedback and stated this was a consultation process and once the consultation had concluded a decision could be made.

Councillor Byrne echoed Councillor Spillman comments on the great efforts made during this tough year and the great effort made by everyone. It was also important to look at open spaces and keep them as open spaces.

Councillor Allen raised concerns on complaints he had made in regards to damp and mould in Thurrock's high rise blocks and questioned what the portfolio holder was proposing to do to ensure that residents had acceptable living and safety standards in place in all those properties. Councillor Johnson stated that officers had been commissioned to look at the high rise blocks to see whether this was being caused by the way the building was constructed or down to people's lifestyles and reassured Councillor Allen that everything was being done to find a solution.

Councillor Rice referred to the residents of the new bungalows in Chadwell who were very pleased with their new accommodation but he had received complaints in regards to the collection of their refuse bins as on occasions they were being missed. Councillor Johnson agreed to take this action away.

Councillor Muldowney referred to the Government not renewing their commitment to rehoming rough sleepers and the homeless and asked for confirmation that Thurrock would continue to work to rehome all rough sleepers. Councillor Johnson reassured that nobody accommodated would return to rough sleeper and aimed to provide long term accommodation for transition to independent living. That 15 households had moved on from temporary accommodation which had been provided by the Council, 14 of which had found and secured accommodation in the private rental sector, nine households had moved on from the temporary accommodation on their own accord and unfortunately five had returned to prison. Councillor Johnson stated he would endeavour to ensure that we kept as many rough sleepers off the streets as the Council possibly could.

Councillor Fletcher stated that mould was a widespread problem and asked not to limit the investigation work to just high rise blocks as there were a number of areas in South Ockendon where mould was becoming a widespread problem and encouraged officers to speak to council tenants in Ockendon. Councillor Johnson agreed that the investigation work should not be limited to just the high rise blocks but as most of the complaints had been received from residents from those high rise blocks, this would be a good place to start.

Councillor Johnson summed up by stating the Council had continued to provide many key housing services for tenants and residents across the borough where performance in several areas had remained strong and good progress had been made in others. That COVID had impacted the delivery of services but officers, partners and volunteers had worked tirelessly to minimise and mitigate wherever possible to ensure that services continued to be provided to those who were in need.

## **182. Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that the question received to the Leader of the Council and question 5 from Councillor Kerin to Councillor Coxshall had

been withdrawn. Those questions not heard would either receive a written response or have the option to withdraw and resubmit.

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

**183. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that no reports had been received.

**184. Minutes of Committees**

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

**185. Motions Update Report**

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

**186. Motion submitted by Councillor J Kent**

Councillor J Kent withdrew his motion on the night.

**The meeting finished at 8.25pm**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

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

## **Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 25 November 2020**

### **Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.**

#### **1. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Johnson**

Over a number of years the Council has been carrying out a programme of installing double glazed windows in Council rented housing. Can you assure residents that these windows meet with current health and safety regulations, particularly with regard to escape/rescue in the event of fire?

**Mayor**

Councillor Johnson

**Councillor Johnson**

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you Mr Perrin and good evening long time no speak. Thank you for your question. The Council have always installed windows that would comply with the applicable regulations at the time of installation either via an approved contractor scheme known as FENSA or through building regulations applications therefore I can confirm Mr Perrin that I am confident that windows and doors installed in council housing stock do meet building regulations as appropriate including where applicable fire regress hinges for means of escape.

**Mayor**

Mr Perrin do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Mr Perrin**

Yes Mister Mayor. Thank you. I asked my question having in mind the shocking revelations of disregard of health and safety regulations with regard to Grenfell Towers these windows have a maximum opening of 12 and a quarter inch, 310 millimeters, I have tried to exit my council rented property by way of the window and found it impossible to do so. Are you able to give it any assurance that in the event of an emergency for example a fire and the window was the only means of escape the fire service will be able to speedily rescue people especially those living in high rise buildings. Would you consider a further report by the fire services on the suitability of these windows.

**Mayor**

Councillor Johnson

## **Councillor Johnson**

Thank you Mr Perrin and with regards to the high rise buildings I believe that the windows with the correct ingress statement in them, our hinges are correct and are installed in them. I am perfectly happy with that, I wish you hadn't tried to get out of your building by the window it's not very, quite dangerous Mr Perrin but I am happy that the fire service would be able to release you from a building of your size. If that was the only escape route in the event of fire but I am willing to look at any or look again at any report that you think may make residents of Thurrock feel even safer but at this present moment in time I am quite happy that those windows are correct. I mean it is not always possible to install a new window into an old house to meet all current regulations in regards to fire escape because you'll have things like the window sill height or the actual size of the opening may not meet the latest regulation requirements. But in these instances you know as long as they are not impeding the opening size anymore but you know we would accept them under the regulations but I will ask someone to look at that again if you saying that it's impossible to get out of your property through the window.

## **Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Johnson.

## **Item 13 – Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the Chamber that the question received to the Leader of the Council and question 5 from Councillor Kerin to Councillor Coxshall had been withdrawn.

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

### **1. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Johnson**

In the last year, how many homeless Thurrock households have been rehoused outside of the borough?

## **Mayor**

Councillor Johnson

## **Councillor Johnson**

Thank you Mister Mayor. Thank you for your question Councillor Kent. During the previous calendar year of the 345 household who were placed into emergency temporary accommodation approximately 56% were placed in Thurrock and approximately 44% placed outside of Thurrock. Just to put some context to these percentages of the placements outside of Thurrock



over 90% were placed in neighbouring authorities of Basildon, Havering or Southend.

**Mayor**

Councillor J Kent do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

**Councillor J Kent**

Mister Mayor. Freedom of information request 10289 tells us that is in fact 188 Thurrock households that have been rehoused outside of the borough and of those 188 households, 145 of those were households with children. You know that kids that have been taken away from their schools, taken away from their support groups, taken away from extended family. Mister Mayor this is reaching a crisis point so can I ask the portfolio holder what firm plans he has to make sure that no more Thurrock families are rehoused outside of the borough.

**Mayor**

Councillor Johnson

**Councillor Johnson**

Thank you Councillor. The calendar year I was referring to was the 1 of January 2020 to the 31 March 2020 according to my figures it is actually 218 that were placed outside of the Thurrock area. I haven't got the figures to hand how many of those included children and I must state here and now that I really don't want anybody placed outside of Thurrock certainly those with children. We have made strides towards getting this better. We recently brought Brookhouse back into working order which I think gives us 10 units. With the recent proposal for Alexander Court where that will eventually give us something like 40 units of emergency temporary accommodation so although that does not count for the amount of people that we have got outside of the borough it certainly goes a long way to help but I think we have to take the word emergency into real context here Councillor Kent it is emergency temporary accommodation so whilst we try everything to get people accommodated within Thurrock the word emergency then takes over because if that isn't possible they need to be housed so we will look to house them wherever we can but I assure you we're working as hard as possible to try and increase those numbers of emergency temporary accommodation we have within Thurrock.

**Mayor**

Councillor J Kent do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

### **Councillor J Kent**

Mister Mayor, I am grateful for the clarification from the portfolio holder that he believes that the majority of these households that have been placed outside of the borough were placed there as an emergency so therefore only short term. Can you tell me how many of these were actually emergency short term and how many of these Thurrock families have ended up living outside the borough permanently?

### **Mayor**

Councillor Johnson

### **Councillor Johnson**

The honest answer to that is I don't have those actual figures in front of me but I reiterate that it is emergency temporary accommodation and if emergency temporary accommodations lasts longer than one day, two days, three weeks, four months then the accommodating of that resident is far more important than where it is in my opinion as I can't reiterate enough to say we are doing everything we can to and we will always look to try and accommodate people for an emergency temporary accommodation within Thurrock but I can't get away from that word emergency and you say if that if you put into temporary accommodation because of an emergency that means we can't just move you back willy-nilly so if it does go on longer than as I said one week, two weeks, three weeks I am afraid that is something that just has to happen. We will look at the people safety and security above where they actually are.

### **Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Johnson.

## **2. From Councillor Byrne to Councillor Coxshall**

Can you enlighten the Chamber on the timed out £600,000 of funding from LG/DP world that we forgot to claim for the Stanford station?

### **Mayor**

Councillor Coxshall

### **Councillor Coxshall**

I am just happy to go into the explanation but not here today about the negotiations between them all but it's important from the LDO passed by this council and right the way back from their London Gateway have an obligation under the section 106 to a requirement to design and construction of the bus turnaround. Since this has happened we were then we decided to do improvements to the trains station and improvements and connected to the

bus turnaround and as you were aware we've had to review these and add significant enhancements to proposals to the bus turnaround and to the station to give a much better residence parking, a much better experience and a better station. The council has brought before these contributions today and still bringing through the contributions with this at were in dialogue with the one with that London Gateway and DP World for the resize turnabout and securing their future and we expect DP World will stick to their commitments made in the 106 and the LDOs agreed by this council and so in the spirit of law and in spirit as well. Now as for the Thames Enterprise Park as that moves forward into a planned application we will then leave that until it comes as a planning application comes forward for Thames Enterprise Park and see what happens at that point. As we said the 106 commitments and the planning department will deliver one of the commitments around what happens there and if there is a 106 and a transport commitment coming out of Thames Enterprise Park as it goes through planning that will come forward at due course.

**Mayor**

Councillor Byrne do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Byrne**

Oh yes please, the small parcel of land purchased opposite the three million pounds against a much larger plot at the Stanford car park that was sold at £280,000. Does this three million represent good value or as its owned by a the UKIP supporter were you done up like a kipper by a kipper or was the car park grossly knowingly undersold.

**Mayor**

Councillor Coxshall

**Councillor Coxshall**

I would say it was grossly undersold at that sort of money I think in the end after the conservative councillors in Stanford objected there we got there was an extra hundred thousand pounds I think it went for 350 in the end. It was vastly under-priced for 21 units there and a shop and the loss of parking around in Stanford that should be a shame on the opposition who did deliver that through there and that's why we brought in 2016 to review and make sure we release fairly into the open market and you'll be seeing that coming forward very shortly in a paper to cabinet of it this doesn't happen as I've always said what we need in these in sale of land and assets of the council is we should have sunlight is the best disinfectant in policy changes and we shall shine sunlight on all that land that we are selling and what we are going to do with it and hopefully that will never happen again. As for the three millions pounds I like your joke about the UKIP whoever owns the land or wherever their political allegiances lie it was ideal for us it made the better opportunities to deliver a fantastic parking facilities and fantastic new train

station and turn around so I think the three million pounds there instead of building into the river and extra works that the residents didn't want on that side there. This is an opportunity it's a shame it wasn't done four years earlier but at that point we weren't in administration.

**Mayor**

Councillor Byrne do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

**Councillor Byrne**

Yes please when Councillor Ralph was with the TI he had a story ready for the press naming and shaming the very people responsible for letting Stanford down on this station project and the interest of learning from our mistakes as you stated last night probably the A13 with ample time to give and to pause and review and come out of in a better place will you allow Councillor Ralph to publish that story only then can we hold the correct people accountable for the invisible project management of this station project and a long term suffering course of commuters.

**Mayor**

Councillor Coxshall

**Councillor Coxshall**

I think you're confused, I think your confusing two things here. I maybe a bit confused are you talking about the parking in the town centre which was not in this administration and that the people there, some of the councillors are no longer elected councillors and some are no longer members who are actually involved in that so and I obviously as a previous administration wouldn't be privy to the conversations of a previous cabinet, why that went forward. As for this long long process of maybe 15 years in the process to deliver this there is a lot of people involved in this. I think the designs that were taken over to try and you've got to work and pause and reflect which has come in on the learning of the A13. I think sometimes you have to in public building you have to stop relook at what it is, instead of carry on building the wrong thing that residents want. Residents weren't very happy with the position that the council were proposing, there was a pause and reflect and once you reflect you do make changes and I think we've got a better scheme coming out of that. As for naming and shaming people I think as I said to go back and do what would you let sunlight is the best disinfectant if we've made mistakes in that you can't learn without giving getting that and I am very happy for anyone like that and just like in any projects in my department I think that improves the position, improves the area and improves what the residents actually want. Blindly carrying on going down alleys isn't the right way and I think what's improved by pause and reflect out of the learnings of A13 is a great scheme that the people of Stanford and Corringham will be very proud of once we get through planning.

**Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Coxshall.

3. **From Councillor Muldowney to Councillor Johnson**

Can the Portfolio Holder tell us when this administration will finally sign off on building some new, genuinely affordable housing for Thurrock residents?

**Mayor**

Councillor Johnson

**Councillor Johnson**

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor for your question. Can I begin by reminding the chamber that we do have a housing development programme in place which is regularly shared with Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee in which we continually look for further delivery opportunities and in this regard the Housing O&S committee recently considered a report that was presented by myself and Councillor Coxshall pointing out the further mixed approach the Council will take to increase provision for new homes for our residents with good community engagement but in direct response to your question I am very pleased to report significant progress in delivering affordable homes for Thurrock residents with 29 units handed over in June 2020 at the award winning Alma Court site in Grays which has generated a high level of satisfaction with regards to its quality of design. We are currently in the process of taking hand over of 53 unit site in Claudian Way in Chadwell St Mary which completes very very soon. It is part complete at the moment .There is also a 35 unit scheme for older persons housing at Calcutta Road in Tilbury which we hope to conclude by late summer 2021. All of these schemes will deliver 100% affordable homes and I can also report that earlier this evening at cabinet I presented a report seeking approval to tender a construction contract at Loewen Road, Chadwell St Mary to build a further five three bedroom family homes to be rented by the housing revenue account. There is also the scheme at the Culver Centre which as I mentioned in my report is getting very close to coming to fruition with 173 properties where 35% of those will be affordable homes.

**Mayor**

Councillor Muldowney do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Muldowney**

Yes thank you Mister Mayor and thank you portfolio holder for your answer. What your answer didn't mention was the first three schemes that you claim as your own were actually signed off under the previous administration so today my count is that just tonight, just before this meeting, you've managed to sign off five houses to be built in Loewen Road. A really appalling record

after four years in power but I am going to move on. Can the administration let us know when are they going to actually put spades in the ground to deliver the council houses that they've been promising for well must be nearly two years now since I've been a councillor.

**Mayor**

Councillor Johnson

**Councillor Johnson**

Thank you Councillor Muldowney I started off my first answer with you making the point by reminding the chamber of the housing development programme that's in place. Once all parties engage in this and don't keep throwing things in its way then hopefully we can get a lot more of these sites ready, up and running. There are plenty of affordable homes going to planning this year but I really I am not going to go any further than that as to say they are there they will be done. Thank you very much for your compliment about four years and only getting five houses done.

**Mayor**

Councillor Muldowney do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

**Councillor Muldowney**

Yes thank you Mister Mayer it wasn't really a compliment its appalling that you've only managed to now bring forward five houses after four years in power but let me go back to my original question and affordability. Will local residents be able to afford any of these new council houses if they're ever built? I note that in your report on page 51 tonight you say that rents and service charges are being set subject to a local housing allowance cap however in a recent housing scrutiny report it stated only that the council will try to ensure that it does not set the level of rent and service charges above the local housing allowance level. Will Councillor Johnson give a cast iron guarantee that when these houses do come online, whenever that may be, housing rents and service charges will not exceed the benefits limit.

**Mayor**

Councillor Johnson

**Councillor Johnson**

I think you answered the question yourself Councillor Muldowney, every effort will be made to make sure that happens.

**Mayor**

Thank you.

4. **From Councillor Muldowney to Councillor Mayes**

Can the Portfolio Holder tell the Chamber how many GP surgeries he has visited since taking up his portfolio in January and that's January 2020?

**Mayor**

Councillor Mayes

**Councillor Mayes**

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor for your question. Since taking office unfortunately I have not been able to physically visit any GP surgeries obviously due to the coronavirus pandemic however I have been meeting with partners in health just to make sure that we are working together for the best outcome for Thurrock without this pandemic.

**Mayor**

Councillor Muldowney do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Muldowney**

Yes thank you Mister Mayor. Of course you will know from your conversations with our health partners that even before COVID there had been widespread problems with people being unable to see their GP. With the pressures brought by COVID can you tell us what conversations or meetings you have been having to ensure that Thurrock residents can see their GP when they need to?

**Mayor**

Councillor Mayes

**Councillor Mayes**

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you for supplementary question Councillor. I met with the CCG, Head of the Thurrock CCG, as myself as well as with Councillor Halden and other partners to discuss how whether it was physical or virtual GP appointments that were being handed out. I was pleasantly surprised that actually there was a large amount of face to face appointments however that does not get away from the fact that people do find it difficult to see their GPs and obviously that was spoken about. I know they are trying to work very hard to see people in a COVID world and COVID secure as such as possible obviously they have had to change the same as

everybody else to meet the demands of what we're facing and they have our full support in doing so.

**Mayor**

Councillor Muldowney do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

**Councillor Muldowney**

Yes please Mister Mayor. Given the issues which obviously you acknowledged that people are having with seeing their GPs for everyday ailments and also the recent issues with the rollout of the winter flu vaccination are you 100% confidence that the roll out of the COVID vaccination which is so important for us getting out from underneath the cosh of this deadly virus that this roll out in Thurrock will proceed smoothly.

**Mayor**

Councillor Mayes

**Councillor Mayes**

Thank you Mister Mayor, thank you for your supplementary question. I have faith in our health professional and our colleagues within and partners within the health care they are working around the clock extremely hard with extremely difficult circumstances whether its trying to deal with general health care issues as well as the vaccination as well as the flu vaccination so in discussing it with them they are actively rolling out vaccinations as I was very very happy to hear a 107 year old resident of Orsett got vaccinated in Stifford Clays last weekend and lots of different people being vaccinated so that we can get out of this pandemic as quick as possible so I believe we will get through this, I believe there is a lot more work that the GPs are doing to build up the ability to vaccinate. It is logistical beast as I am sure everybody can imagine but they are working around the clock to ensure that people get vaccinated so we can get out of COVID as quickly as possible.

**Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Mayes. We will move onto question 6.

5. Question was withdrawn.

**6. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Johnson**

When does the Portfolio Holder anticipate the electricity supply issues affecting, some residents of Airey Neave Court will finally be resolved?



**Mayor**

Councillor Johnson

**Councillor Johnson**

Thank you Mister Mayor. Thank you for your question Councillor Kent. The loss of electricity to any home is obviously very upsetting but we can confirm that the issue with the power supply to the selected properties in Airey Neave was fully restored last year. We do understand however how disruptive this is especially in the case of our sheltered housing schemes and therefore it is key that we work as quickly as possible to remedy any faults when they occur. Council officers will continue to work constructively with third party organisations to improve communication and service delivery in the future to ensure critical infrastructure such as the supply of services to homes in the borough is repaired and maintained when issues do arise.

**Mayor**

Councillor J Kent to you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor J Kent**

This question I initially put to October meeting and clearly the issue has now been resolved but it did flag up some other issues so there were a couple of elderly vulnerable residents who were left without any electricity for a couple of days. In that time they had no way of heating, no way of cooking, no way of boiling a kettle, there was no lighting provided for them. These people are living in a sheltered accommodation because they need some extra support, extra support which unfortunately they did not and I now glad the issue has now been resolved but can I ask the portfolio holder if he will instigate a review or ask the scrutiny committee to instigate a review that can help us to make sure that when things do go wrong in our sheltered complexes the system kicks in and makes sure that people are properly looked after because I really don't think it happened on this occasion.

**Mayor**

Councillor Johnson

**Councillor Johnson**

Thank you Mister Mayor and thank you for your supplementary Councillor Kent, as I tried to say in my response in there, well you've called it a review, but this is already taking place by officers and they are ensuring that this, I can't say this is never going to happen again because loss of service can happen, but they are working already to ensure that there is a process in place that means that vulnerable people will not be left well certainly not for two days without any heating or lighting.

**Mayor**

Councillor J Kent do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

**Councillor J Kent**

Now I am grateful for that response it is helpful and apologies if I didn't quite understand you from the first response I got. I understood that to be a look at the way the Council dealt with other agencies such as power supply and our power supply company and our contractors. If I misunderstood that I apologise but I am glad that there is, as the portfolio holder called it, a look into this.

**Mayor**

Thank you.

## **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No questions were received from members of the public.

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## Petitions Update Report

Petition No.	Description	Presented (date)	Presented (by)	Responsible Officer	Status
542	We, the undersigned residents of Belhus and Ockendon believe that the plan to build on the Humber Avenue and Garron Lane green space, will rob the neighbourhood of vital and much loved amenity. We call upon the council to reject any attempt to force through without proper consultation.	October 2020	Resident (on-line)	Andy Millard	<p>The Portfolio Holder agreed to remove the site from the housing development list on the 3 June 2020, and this decision was made public in the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 16 June 2020 and accompanying papers. Officers also replied directly to Ms Smith about her petition on the 3 November 2020</p> <p>Therefore the site will not be brought forward under the Council's current plans for housing development.</p>

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<b>27 January 2021</b>	<b>ITEM: 11</b>
<b>Council</b>	
<b>Director of Public Health Recruitment</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Key
<b>Report of:</b> Councillor Rob Gledhill, Leader of the Council	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
<b>This report is Public</b>	

## Executive Summary

In accordance with Constitutional requirements this report seeks approval from Council to appoint to the interim Director of Public Health.

Following a search and selection process, General Services Committee (GSC) interviewed on the 19 January 2021. GSC recommends the appointment of [*name to follow*] as interim Director of Public Health.

In accordance with Public Health England requirements and Faculty of Public Health Guidance, attached as Appendix 1, the Council is obliged to establish a specialist panel to conduct recruitment to a permanent Director of Public Health. The panel comprises of representatives from Public Health England, Faculty of Public Health, NHS and the recruiting Local Authority. Furthermore, final approval of the appointment of the permanent Director of Public Health is granted by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 To approve in accordance with the Council's Constitution the appointment of [*name to follow*] as the interim Director of Public Health.
- 1.2 To agree in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Chapter 2; Part 1; Article 4; 4:1) the appointment of the sub-committee set out at 4.5 below to conduct recruitment to the permanent Director of Public Health.
- 1.3 To agree in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Chapter 2; Part 1; Article 4; 4:1) to discharge approval of the appointment to a permanent Director of Public Health to the sub-committee set out at 4.5 and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

## **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 The Director of Public Health role will become vacant from 1 March 2021 when the existing postholder takes up the role of Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health.
- 2.2 As a statutory role for the Council it is essential that the post is filled on an interim basis whilst the permanent recruitment process is underway.
- 2.3 The requirements relevant to the appointment of a permanent Director of Public Health are set out in the guidance, attached as Appendix 1, produced by Public Health England in partnership with the Faculty of Public Health and Local Government Association. This sets out the recruitment process to be followed and the composition of the panel that must be involved in the selection and appointment.
- 2.4 Local Authorities must have regard to the statutory provisions and best practice guidelines when undertaking recruitment for this role and adapt normal processes to comply.

## **3. Interim Director of Public Health Recruitment**

- 3.1 Recruitment to the interim Director of Public Health role commenced in December 2020.
- 3.2 One candidate was interviewed by General Services Committee on 19 January 2021.
- 3.3 The recommendation of General Services Committee is to appoint [*name to follow*] as interim Director of Public Health.

## **4. Permanent Director of Public Health Recruitment**

- 4.1 In accordance with Public Health England and Faculty of Public Health guidance recruitment to a permanent Director of Public Health should be undertaken by a panel comprising of representatives from Public Health England, Faculty of Public Health, NHS and the recruiting Local Authority. Furthermore, approval of the appointment of a permanent Director of Public Health must be provided by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.
- 4.2 In accordance with this guidance Council is asked to approve the appointment of a temporary sub-committee that will carry out recruitment to this role on behalf of the General Services Committee.
- 4.3 Council is asked to give approval for this sub-committee to make the recommendation for appointment to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and to discharge the duty set out in the Constitution for Council approval of the appointment.



4.4 This approach will enable the Council to adhere to the statutory guidance and meet the requirements for the Secretary of State’s approval of the appointment in compliance with the employment procedural rules set out in the constitution.

4.5 The panel required to be appointed as sub-committee will include:

1	Cllr James Halden	Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board
2	Cllr Allen Mayes	Cabinet Member for Health
3	Cllr Victoria Holloway	Shadow Portfolio Holder
4	Lyn Carpenter	Chief Executive
5	Ian Wake	Director of Public Health
6	Dr Aliko Ahmed	Regional Director, Public Health England
7	To be confirmed	Faculty Assessor, Faculty of Public Health
8	To be confirmed	Senior NHS Representative

**5. Reasons for Recommendations**

5.1 To appoint to the interim Director of Public Health to ensure the council fulfils statutory functions and requirements and has appropriate senior leadership in place.

5.2 To discharge the functions of recruitment and approval of the permanent Director of Public Health to the recommended sub-committee to recruit in accordance with Public Health England and Faculty of Public Health guidance.

5.3 To allow the Council to recruit to the permanent Director of Public Health to ensure the council fulfils statutory functions and requirements and has appropriate senior leadership in place to deliver critical services and ambitions.

**6. Consultation**

6.1 Appointment to the interim Director of Public Health role has been conducted by General Services Committee. GSC recommends the candidate be approved by Full Council.

6.2 Group Leaders have been consulted on the recommendations for the permanent recruitment process.

**7. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

7.1 The Director of Public Health is a politically restricted statutory officer post under Section 73A of the National Health Service Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

## **8. Implications**

### **8.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Sean Clark**  
**Corporate Director of Finance, Governance  
and Property**

This is a substantive, statutory post and is therefore included within the council's core budgets.

### **8.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Ian Hunt**  
**Assistant Director Legal Services and  
Monitoring Officer**

Under section 73A of the National Health Services Act 2006 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, local authorities have a statutory duty, acting jointly with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to appoint a Director of Public Health.

The recruitment process should be undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidance employment law provisions and the authority's constitutional framework.

### **8.3 Diversity and Equality**

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

This appointment is recommended based on the council's recruitment process which is underpinned by the council's equal opportunity policy.

## **9. Appendix**

Appendix 1 - Faculty of Public Health and Public Health England Guidance

### **Report Author:**

Jackie Hinchliffe

Director of HR, OD & Transformation



Public Health  
England

# Directors of Public Health in Local Government

## Guidance on appointing directors of public health

Produced by Public Health England in partnership with the Faculty of Public Health  
and the Local Government Association



## About Public Health England

Public Health England's mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities through working with national and local government, the NHS, industry and the voluntary and community sector. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

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Published October 2013

PHE publications gateway number: 2013198

This document is available in other formats on request from [kevin.rampling@phe.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.rampling@phe.gov.uk)

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The formal transfer of responsibility for the local delivery of public health to local government in April 2013 created a new context for the appointment of directors of public health (DsPH) after that date. The opportunities afforded by the change, for whole-organisation engagement in improving the health and wellbeing of local populations and for a more direct relationship with the strengths of local democracy, underline the importance of the role to local government, and the breadth and depth of impact that DsPH can achieve.
- 1.2 The roles are also important to the national public health system. Some of the key responsibilities, in health protection for example, form part of arrangements that link to regional and national structures.
- 1.3 These circumstances must be reflected in the arrangements for appointment to DPH roles that are required to be filled. An approach is required that is based on the established practice for making key appointments within an autonomous local government system but which also provides the level of assurance over professional competence that is, appropriately, required by the Secretary of State for Health.

## Purpose of this guidance

- 1.4 This guidance sets out arrangements that are designed to allow local authorities to have confidence in the DPH appointments they make, build on their own good practice, while meeting national requirements set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2013 and statutory guidance set out in *Directors of Public Health in Local Government (Roles, responsibilities and context)*.
- 1.5 The new arrangements took effect from 1 April 2013 and this guidance applies to appointments made after that date.

## Local government practice

- 1.6 Top tier local authorities already employ a range of senior staff whose professional competence is of fundamental importance to the integrity of the discharge of the council's functions and the wellbeing of its residents, such as lawyers, architects, engineers and social workers.

- 1.7 For most of these professions, assurance of competence is managed through a combination of:
- requirement that candidates are certificated or registered members of the relevant profession or regulatory body, which in turn normally has its own mechanisms for assuring the maintenance of professional competence and continuous professional development. For several professions this is a legal requirement
  - use of appropriate expert assessors feeding into the appointment process
- 1.8 Key requirements for senior appointments in local government will apply to DPH posts:
- depending on the constitution of the authority concerned, the appointments at equivalent levels of seniority may be the direct responsibility of elected members, acting through a formal appointment committee
  - the posts will be politically restricted, ie the post-holders are not allowed to be active campaigners for a party interest
- 1.9 Post-holders will be part of the senior management structure of the authority and will contribute to its overall management and leadership

## 2. Particular requirements for director of public health appointments

- 2.1 The Health and Social Care Act makes clear that each local authority must, acting jointly with the Secretary of State for Health, appoint an individual to have responsibility for its public health functions under the Act, known as the director of public health.
- 2.2 The Act sets up the DPH as the officer champion for health within the local authority. She or he is responsible for all the public health functions of local authorities defined by the Act, including any conferred on local authorities by regulation. The Act made it a statutory requirement for the DPH to produce an annual report on the health of the local population, and for the local authority to publish it. DsPH are also statutory members of health and wellbeing boards, and will work with the boards to promote integrated, effective delivery of services. To reflect the importance of the role, the Act added DsPH to the list of statutory chief officers as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as amended. The guidance on appointing DsPH is part of statutory guidance on the responsibilities of the DPH, in the same way that guidance is currently issued for directors of children's services and directors of adult services.
- 2.3 The responsibilities of the DPH should translate into their role having accountability for acting as the lead officer in a local authority for health and championing health across the whole of the local authority's business. To enable them to carry out their role effectively there must be direct accountability between the DPH and the local authority chief executive for the exercise of the local authority's public health responsibilities and they must also have direct access to elected members.
- 2.4 The statutory responsibilities of the DPH must be key elements of local job descriptions and local authorities will find the Faculty of Public Health template job description a useful basis for development.
- 2.5 Because of the statutory nature of the process of appointing DsPH jointly with the Secretary of State and of the responsibilities of the DPH, there are a number of specific features of the appointment process for DsPH, which include:
  - PHE, on behalf of the Secretary of State, being involved in all stages of the recruitment and appointment process
  - designing the job role to provide specialist public health leadership and an appropriate span of responsibility to deliver health protection, health



improvement and advice on health services and ensure that the impact on health is considered in the development and implementation of all policies and, the production of a job description that reflects this role. The professional elements of the job description will need to be complemented by others that reflect the generic responsibilities of senior managers of the authority, and that there may be other specific responsibilities, drawn from existing local government functions. (The Faculty of Public Health can provide essential advice on the draft job description, draft advert and person specification and it is recommended that local authorities contact them at an early stage to benefit from this and its template job description)

- sharing the local job description with the Public Health England (PHE) regional director, who will act on behalf of the Secretary of State, to provide assurance that it covers all necessary areas of professional and technical competence in compliance with the Act. (Guidance for local government when considering appointing a DPH to lead across more than one local authority area is provided in Appendix B)
- managing the recruitment and selection process, including organising an advisory appointments committee in line with the joint guidance from the Faculty of Public Health, Local Government Association and PHE, which provides a robust, tried and tested method for providing assurance of technical and professional skills of DsPH ([http://www.fph.org.uk/senior\\_public\\_health\\_appointments](http://www.fph.org.uk/senior_public_health_appointments)).

2.6 It is customary for an advisory appointments committee to be chaired by a lay member such as a local authority elected member, for example the cabinet member of the health and wellbeing board. The advisory appointments committee should also normally include:

- the chief executive of the appointing local authority or his/her nominated deputy
- the PHE regional director, or another senior professionally qualified member of PHE acting on his or her behalf
- an external professional assessor appointed after consultation with the Faculty of Public Health
- senior NHS representation

and, in the case of appointments to posts that have either teaching or research commitments, or both, the committee should also include:

- a professional member nominated after consultation with the relevant university

2.7 In addition to the five core members the employing organisation may appoint such additional members as it considers appropriate but the majority of the committee should consist of employees of the employing organisation and professional members.

- 2.8 The local authority is required to seek advice and recommendations from PHE and the Faculty of Public Health on the membership of the appointment committee, including the assessor.
- 2.9 Assessors must be geographically distant from the locality where the post is being advertised to maximise objective assessment.
- 2.10 The PHE regional director must be involved in all stages of the decision making process for the joint appointment. The local authority will confirm to the PHE regional director of public health, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, their preferred candidate and the candidate's professional competence, compliance with statutory regulation and necessary registration to undertake the role.

### Multidisciplinary public health

- 2.11 The majority of DPH posts are open to applicants from a variety of professional public health backgrounds. Appendix A provides information on the professional requirements relating to the appointment of a DPH and addresses issues of salary assessment, Appendix B provides information for consideration regarding appointing a DPH across more than one local authority area.

## 3. Roles in the appointments of directors of public health

### The role of the Secretary of State for Health in the appointment of directors of public health

3.1 DPH posts are specialist, leadership positions. The role of the Secretary of State in the appointment process is to provide assurance of the DPH's competency to protect and improve the health of the population, provide advice on health services and deliver statutory and mandated responsibilities.

### The role of PHE (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health) in appointing the director of public health

3.2 The Secretary of State's role in the appointment process will be fulfilled by PHE. The relationship of the Secretary of State and the local authority in the joint appointment process is one of equals. The role of the Secretary of State is to provide additional assurance of the DPH's competency. This means that PHE, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, should be involved in all stages of the process. PHE will advise the Secretary of State on whether:

- a robust and appropriate recruitment and selection processes has been undertaken
- the local authority's preferred candidate has the necessary technical, professional and strategic leadership skills and experience to perform the role proven by their specialist competence, qualification and professional registration.

3.3 In order to provide this assurance for the Secretary of State for Health, PHE is responsible for:

- agreeing that the local job description fits with the statutory responsibilities, mandated responsibilities and has the necessary technical and professional skills required
- offering advice in relation to the recruitment and selection process, including the appointment of Faculty of Public Health assessors
- having the regional director of PHE or his/her representative, participate in the local advisory appointment committee
- ensuring that the local authority has verified that their preferred candidate has the necessary specialist public health qualifications, skills and experience and appropriate registration to undertake the role
- advising the Secretary of State whether an appropriate recruitment and selection process has taken place and that the candidate has the necessary

technical, professional and strategic leadership skills to undertake the role proven by their specialist competence, qualifications and professional registration

- confirming to local government whether the Secretary of State approves the appointment on the basis of this advice

- 3.4 Each regional director will manage the process in relation to PHE's responsibility for DPH appointments in their area.
- 3.5 Regional directors will work with local government in any area where there is a DPH vacancy to ensure a robust and transparent appointment process is established and a timescale for recruitment and appointment agreed. This should be completed within three months of a post becoming vacant.
- 3.6 If the regional director has concerns about the process or their involvement in it, they should seek to resolve these through negotiation with local government, making clear their responsibilities on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and the role of the Faculty of Public Health. They will be able to draw upon advice and dispute resolution support if required. It is important that the interaction between the regional director and the local authority is based on dialogue, collaboration and agreement so that appointments are got right first time.
- 3.7 If the regional director cannot confirm that an appropriate recruitment and selection process has taken place and/or that the local authority preferred candidate or appointment has the necessary technical, professional and strategic leadership skills and professional registration to undertake the role, he or she will be required to advise both the local authority and the Secretary of State.
- 3.8 In the unlikely event of such a situation arising, the Secretary of State would write to the lead member and chief executive of the council and advise them not to appoint the candidate. This would be on the basis that he or she has not received evidence that an appropriate recruitment process has been undertaken and/or that the candidate has the necessary specialist public health skills and professional registration.

### The role of the Faculty of Public Health in appointing the director of public health

- 3.9 The Faculty of Public Health oversees the quality of training and professional development of public health consultants in the UK and sets the professional standards in the discipline. The Faculty of Public Health embraces the wider multidisciplinary public health workforce. It also provides advice on continuing professional development, appraisals, revalidation, good practice and practitioner development.

- 3.10 External professional assessment and advice provided by the Faculty of Public Health provides the assurance that DsPH, as well as their public health consultant colleagues, have the necessary technical and professional skills required to promote, improve and protect health and provide high level, credible, peer-to-peer advice to the NHS about public health in relation to health services.
- 3.11 This is based on the Faculty's knowledge of training, professional development and standards and its ability to provide independent assessment and advice to local authorities on these issues.
- 3.12 The role of the Faculty of Public Health in the appointment process is to:
- provide advice to the local authority on the DPH job description, advert and person specification and to give a definitive opinion as to whether they fulfil the technical and professional elements required to protect and improve health and provide advice on health services. Councils will need to give strong weight to this opinion as it will be used in evidence by PHE in assessing appointments
  - provide a representative of the Faculty of Public Health to act as an assessor to sit on the advisory appointments committee for every DPH appointment to assess and advise on the necessary technical and professional skills, qualifications and professional registration issues  
(The local authority can obtain a selected list of appropriate faculty assessors from the Faculty of Public Health. Regional Faculty advisers are able to assist in identifying the appropriate type of assessor dependent on the specific role requirements of the job being appointed to)
  - confirm to the local authority whether their preferred candidate has the necessary specialist public health skills to undertake the role
  - provide evidence to PHE and the local authority if a candidate does not have the specialist public health qualifications, skills and registration to undertake the role

# Appendix A: Essential professional requirements for director of public health appointments

## Professional regulation and registration

The government has committed to legislate to ensure that all public health consultants are appropriately regulated, thereby removing the existing anomaly whereby medical, dental and nurse public health specialists only are statutorily regulated. This process will take some time to complete. The Secretary of State announced on 23 January 2012 that public health consultants from professional backgrounds other than medical or dental, who are not otherwise subject to statutory regulation, will be appropriately regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council in future.

Public health consultants can currently register with the voluntary UK Public Health Register. Medical and dental public health consultants are regulated by:

- the General Medical Council
- the General Dental Council

The following routes of specialist training and assessment provide assurance of competence:

- undertaking Faculty of Public Health specialty training
- having a portfolio demonstrating competence with all aspects of public health accepted by the GMC (assessed by Faculty of Public Health) and UK Public Health Register

## Revalidation

Medical revalidation is the statutory process by which all licensed doctors, including DsPH with medical qualifications, are required to demonstrate to the General Medical Council (GMC) that their skills are up to date and that they are fit to practise in order to retain their license to practise. The GMC publishes guidance on the revalidation process.

PHE acts as the designated body for revalidation, where appropriate, for all doctors for whom it is the employing organisation and for those holding honorary contracts with PHE. PHE also acts as the designated body for doctors employed by local government organisations. Equivalent arrangements for revalidation are likely to be agreed for all public health consultants with backgrounds other than in medicine, including dental public health consultants.

## Professional appraisal and continuing professional development

Continuing professional development plays an important role in maintaining professional standards and quality for all professional groups in local government. It is an essential feature of the revalidation and re-registration processes for public health consultants and specialists. In public health, the overall aim of continuing professional development is to ensure that those who work in the field develop and maintain the necessary knowledge, skills and attributes to practise effectively and work towards improving the health of the population.

Continuing professional development is a professional obligation for all public health professionals, including DsPH, and protected time to undertake continuing professional development activities is a contractual entitlement for those directors who transferred into local government employed on medical and dental contracts.

Local government will wish to consider these issues in relation to the appointment of the DPH. In order to comply with the Faculty of Public Health's minimum standards for continuing professional development and to remain in good standing, all Faculty of Public Health members must either submit a satisfactory continuing professional development return for the previous calendar year, or have been formally exempted by the Faculty from this requirement. Continuing professional development is an essential component of annual professional appraisal for medical revalidation.

The UK Public Health Register expects that all registrants participate in continuing professional development preferably as part of a formal scheme, such as those operated for specialists by the [Faculty of Public Health](#), [Chartered Institute of Environmental Health](#) or [General Pharmaceutical Council](#).

Evidence of a personal continuing professional development programme outside of a formal scheme will be considered if equivalent to the above schemes, where a registrant is unable to access a formal scheme. A public health professional is initially registered with the UK Public Health Register for five years. After this time the UK Public Health Register Board will want to be satisfied that the registrant remains fit to practise. Appropriate recommended procedures for re-registration will be followed and all registrants should be aware that having been re-registered this will not negate the requirement of revalidation when introduced.

The annual process of checking and refreshing professional competence will need to run alongside the local authority's mechanisms for targets setting, performance appraisal, management and leadership development and, in many authorities, progression within the relevant salary scheme.

For medical consultants subject to the General Medical Council revalidation process there is a requirement for annual professional appraisal to be undertaken as an integral part of the medical revalidation process. Local authorities will wish to reassure themselves that they are in a position to deliver this requirement. PHE is the statutorily-defined designated body for all medical practitioners employed by local authorities.

## The role of the responsible officer in relation to the director of public health

Local government will wish to be aware of the Responsible Officer Regulations, which came into force on 1 January 2011 and which were amended from 1 April 2013. These have implications for local authorities that employ or contract with licensed doctors. These regulations designate bodies that are required to nominate or appoint a responsible officer for the purposes of medical revalidation. They connect doctors to designated bodies in a strict hierarchy to make a link between an individual doctor and a responsible officer.

The connection for doctors employed by local authorities is not to the local authority employer as they are not designated bodies as defined in the Regulations. For doctors employed by local authorities, the connection is to PHE.

In order to revalidate doctors are required to have an annual professional appraisal which considers information from across their whole scope of practice. This will include any work a doctor does for a local authority.

When employing or contracting with licensed doctors local authorities should ask them for the name of their designated body and responsible officer in addition to other information. Advice on the connections for doctors working with local authorities can be obtained from the PHE responsible officer at [revalidation@phe.gov.uk](mailto:revalidation@phe.gov.uk).

Local authorities should look to collate clinical governance information about doctors that engage with them. In particular complaints and compliments, but also activity that contributes to an improved service. PHE will also expect the doctor to obtain stakeholder and colleague feedback, using a recommended tool, at least once per five year revalidation cycle. This information forms part of the information supplied by the doctor to PHE as a component of the revalidation process.



## Pay

Local authorities can determine the pay of public health staff (subject to any protected rights and trade union consultation). For directors of public health this may be informed by reference to existing pay arrangements in the NHS (eg the Pay Framework for Very Senior Managers Pay<sup>1</sup> which covers directors in PCTs and related supplementary guidance on PCT DsPH<sup>2</sup>) or in local government those for chief officers<sup>3</sup>, if these are commensurate with the level and responsibilities of the role in question.

A key consideration will be the ability to recruit and retain specialist staff in public health roles for which local authorities will need to understand and respond to the relevant market. Account should be taken of the role of public health directors in working strategically both across the local authority and with multiple organisations locally and nationally using influence to ensure health protection and improved health outcomes for the population. Decisions on what terms and conditions to apply to a particular role, including any necessity to use market supplements if NJC terms and conditions are used, will depend on local circumstances.

Jobs will of course need to be fitted into the local grading structure appropriately, based on the local authority's job evaluation processes having full regard to the breadth of the role. If a market supplement to the standard rate of pay for an equivalent job is considered, reference should be made to the NJC for Local Government Services relevant guidance to ensure that equal pay considerations are satisfied.

Principles that should inform decisions about pay when making new appointments:

- an appropriate rate of pay for the role should be determined
- the principle of equal pay for work of equal value should be observed
- reasonable arrangements are in place to promote the flexibility and mobility of the workforce in the longer term

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1 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/211964/Pay\\_Framework.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/211964/Pay_Framework.pdf)

2 [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/DH\\_063889](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/DH_063889)

3 [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/workforce/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/3510601/ARTICLE](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/workforce/-/journal_content/56/10180/3510601/ARTICLE)

## Appendix B: Guidance on the appointment of directors of public health covering more than one local authority

### Guidance on the appointment of directors of public health covering more than one local authority

The Health and Social Care Act 2013 made clear the duty on each unitary and upper tier authority to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area. Each authority must, acting jointly with the Secretary of State, appoint an individual to have responsibility for its new public health functions, known as the director of public health. That individual could be shared with another local authority where that makes sense (for example, where the senior management team is shared across more than one authority).

Local government will wish to take into account a number of factors when considering whether to appoint a DPH to lead for across more than one unitary or upper tier authority area. These include:

- the size of population
- existing or historical arrangements for working on the wider footprint and an assessment of their effectiveness and success
- the leadership requirements if more than one health and wellbeing board
- the number of committees and strategic partnership groups the DPH is required to lead, advise and attend
- the leadership role in relation to more than one joint strategic needs assessment and overseeing its development and use
- the ability to deliver range of corporate responsibilities across more than one local authority area
- the ability to build relationships and inform elected members across more than one local authority and to act as an advocate and champion of the public's health
- the implications of the span of the role in relation to delivery of public health advice, including to NHS commissioners
- the implications of the span of the role in relation to ensuring robust health protection arrangements
- other local factors that may impact on the successful delivery of leading for public health and improving the health of local people in each local authority area

<b>27 January 2021</b>	<b>ITEM: 12</b>
<b>Council</b>	
<b>Local Council Tax Scheme</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Key
<b>Report of:</b> Councillor Shane Hebb, Portfolio Holder for Finance	
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Jonathan Wilson, Assistant Director Finance	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Sean Clark, Corporate Director of Finance, Governance and Property	
<b>This report is</b> Public	

## Executive Summary

Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) helps support council taxpayers who have a low income by providing a reduction in the actual amount in Council Tax payable.

Since 2013, councils were required to design, implement and support their own scheme against a backdrop of a 10% reduction in central funding. With the subsequent reductions in the Revenue Support Grant, central funding has significantly reduced which means that LCTS is predominantly funded locally.

In order to keep the process as simple and efficient as possible Thurrock and the majority of other authorities made the decision to keep the Local Scheme aligned as closely as possible to Housing Benefit Legislation and the scheme would be reconsidered once Universal Credit had been fully rolled out.

Initially, Universal Credit was to be fully implemented for all new and existing Working Age claimants by 2017, however this has now been extended nationally and the Government's latest forecast suggests the project will not complete before 2023. In view of this, new Housing Benefit legislation is now forming part of the Welfare Reform agenda with this benefit continuing until at least 2023.

The Council resolved to undertake a review of the scheme within the current year before undertaking a consultation on any recommended changes. However due to the impact of the pandemic, in the interests of maintaining current levels of support and consistency it was not deemed appropriate to consider any changes to the scheme at this time. This will however be further considered once the situation stabilises, and future demand/ support can be more confidently assessed. For now, the council is increasing its provision under the LCTS scheme for next year, by over £0.7m.

The Council is, however, required to agree its scheme annually, even if there have been no changes. The current LCTS scheme was implemented on the 1 April 2017 following consultation and has subsequently been agreed for each financial year with no changes.

This report provides details of Thurrock's scheme and in line with the above there are no proposals to amend the scheme for 2021/22.

## **1. Recommendations:**

### **1.1 That Council agree to maintain the existing scheme for 2021/22.**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

2.1 The design of each LCTS scheme must be finalised by the 11<sup>th</sup> March ahead of the relevant year to which it relates. Failure to provide a scheme by this date will trigger the implementation of a default government scheme. The default scheme would require the council to revert back to the level of support that would have been provided under the national Council Tax Benefit arrangements. With regards to current caseload, reverting to the national scheme would result in an additional cost to Thurrock Council of circa £1m per annum.

2.2 Some components of the LCTS scheme have been directed by Government such as:

- All low income pensioners will be protected under the national framework as defined by MHCLG;
- Consideration for protection for vulnerable working age groups will be allowed for; and
- Each authority's scheme will maintain work incentives wherever possible. The Government continues to stress the importance of this principle given the current economic climate and their welfare reform agenda.

2.3 From 2014/15, any specific funding for the LCTS scheme was rolled up into the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) as provided to local authorities by the government. The RSG has been reduced significantly over the subsequent years resulting in the scheme being predominantly funded from local resources. It is for local authorities to decide how much they are prepared to spend on their LCTS scheme.

2.4 Local authorities take on the risk that liabilities under LCTS exceed the amount projected for at the start of the relevant financial year. This risk is shared between billing and major precepting authorities with circa 15% of the council tax collected by the council being paid over to the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Police.

### **3. Analysis/ assessment of current scheme**

#### **3.1 Overview of existing Scheme**

The existing Scheme contains the following elements:

- To ensure work pays, the first £25 per week of earned income is disregarded when calculating levels of council tax support;
- The maximum capital limit is to be set at £6,000. This means anyone who has savings over £6,000 may not receive support with their council tax;
- For working age claimants, the maximum support that will be allowed will be 75% of their full council tax bill;
- To assist those with families the Child benefit and child maintenance received will not be included as income in the calculation of council tax support;
- The maximum period a claim can be backdated under the scheme is one calendar month. In order to qualify for this the claimant will need to provide good reason for not claiming earlier;
- There is a full disregard of military compensation payments, including War Disablement Pensions, War Widow's Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments;
- The number of dependants assessed in the calculation of claimants needs is a maximum of two; and
- The maximum period of an award when temporarily absent outside the United Kingdom is four weeks.

#### **3.2 Administration of the scheme and impact of Universal Credit**

The numbers of UC claimants claiming LCTS are being monitored. As at the 15 January 2021 there was a total LCTS caseload of 10,289; of this 4,039 claims were for people in receipt of Universal Credit.

Due to the design of Universal Credit, any related LCTS claims have to be reassessed more frequently. This is due to Universal Credit awards being reassessed on a monthly basis to reflect changes in income, whereas legacy benefits were generally awarded on a fixed term. However this process has now been automated to negate any additional administration; and

At this stage the introduction of Universal Credit in the Authority has not made any significant change to the amount of LCTS awarded to claimants.

#### **3.3 Accessibility**

The application process for LCTS is linked to other national benefits such as Universal Credit and Housing Benefit. This means that people who claim these benefits are automatically considered for LCTS and in many cases do not need to make a separate application. Where a separate application is required these can be made online. Assistance is available via customer

services, community hubs and various other organisations for those who need help in completing a claim.

### 3.4 Cost of Scheme and caseload – Impact of the Pandemic

As can be seen from the table below the number of people claiming LCTS has increased by 479 over the last 12 month period at an annual cost of £700k. It is anticipated that demand is likely to further increase once the various support mechanisms put in place to support businesses/employment through the pandemic is phased out.

Whilst forecasting the potential impact for the forthcoming year is currently difficult due to a number of factors, for indicative purposes a 10% increase in new working age claimants in receipt of out of work benefits, would raise costs of the scheme by up to £800k.

Claimant Type	As at Jan 21		As at Jan 20	
	Number of Claimants	Cost of Support	Number of Claimants	Cost of Support
Working Age - Employed	1,395	£744,013	1,462	£766,163
Working Age - Not Employed	5,293	£4,149,578	4,564	£3,415,278
Pension Age	3,601	£3,576,952	3,784	£3,586,268
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,289</b>	<b>£8,470,544</b>	<b>9,810</b>	<b>£7,767,708</b>

### 3.5 Affordability and Collection

In the interests of claimants and wider tax payers the scheme needs to balance the overall cost of the scheme against affordability for claimants.

In order to achieve this, in combination with the principle that all working age claimants should contribute something towards their council tax liability, the local scheme remains means tested, and provides support up to a maximum support level of 75%.

The amount each claimant is required to pay is therefore subject to their individual circumstances and is reassessed for any reported changes in circumstances to ensure the level of support remains appropriate.

The design of the current scheme builds in various protections and incentives and supports a high collection rate. For 2019/20 the amount of council tax collected in the year it was billed was; for those in receipt of LCTS 93.62%, against an overall in-year collection rate of 98.22%.

Levels of payment default for council tax are therefore broadly comparable between LCTS claimants and those not receiving support. Whilst collection rates for LCTS are not available to compare nationally, overall Thurrock has one of the best collection rates for council tax in England.

### 3.6 Complaints

There have been no specific complaints recorded regarding the council's scheme in the last year.

### 3.7 Additional Support

Alongside the LCTS scheme various other mandatory and discretionary discounts and exemptions are in place to provide assistance and support to specific groups. These include: Care Leavers' exemption to the age of 21 (25 in exceptional circumstances); Severe Mental Health Exemption; and Single Persons Discount. The council also considers its wider discretionary power in exceptional cases to reduce the council tax owed where appropriate.

## 4. Future Considerations

- 4.1 Most authorities continue with a scheme closely linked to the Housing Benefit assessment process however some have implemented schemes designed to simplify the assessment process, such as incorporating a low verification of income requirement. Whilst the benefits of such schemes could eventually lead to administration efficiencies as Universal Credit roll out increases, there is also a potential risk of increased fraud which needs to be carefully considered.

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

- 5.1 The Council is required to undertake a full public consultation on any proposed scheme changes.

## 6. Implications

### 6.1 Financial

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

The financial implications are set out in the body of the report.

### 6.2 Legal

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

The Council Tax Benefit system was abolished by Section 33 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012. The Local Government Finance Acts 1992 and 2012 prescribed certain steps in the design of a local scheme, such as consultation and publication. These Acts also enable the Secretary of State to introduce both regulations and guidance relating to local schemes. The Government

has included regulations to ensure pensioners will not lose or gain relative to the previous system.

The LCTS scheme must be ratified by full Council by the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the latest to enable the authority to implement the scheme from 1st April 2021.

### 6.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**  
**Community Development and Equalities Officer**

The Council has a duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010 to consider the equality impact of its policies and decisions. The LCTS can be claimed by anyone in the Borough meeting the eligibility criteria.

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

N/A

### 7. **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):

Working Papers held by Corporate Finance and Revenues and Benefits.

### 8. **Appendices to the report**

None

### **Report Author:**

Andy Brittain

Strategic Lead for Revenues and Benefits



<b>27 January 2021</b>	<b>ITEM: 13</b>
<b>Council</b>	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Councillor Rob Gledhill, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour	
<b>This report is public</b>	

## Introduction

As the portfolio holder for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) this report is presented to update on the work of the teams within Thurrock Council whose role it is to keep residents safe. This report covers the period from April 2019 to date.

We recognise and fully understand that anti-social behaviour has always been a key priority for residents, therefore this is a key priority for Cabinet, and it is for this reason I have continued to be the Cabinet Member responsible. The areas that fall under the remit are:

- Community Safety Partnership
- Environmental Enforcement
- Counter Fraud and Investigation
- Housing Anti-Social Behaviour
- Emergency Planning and Resilience
- CCTV Service
- Public Protection

Whilst Essex Police maintain law and order in Thurrock by protecting members of the public and their property, Thurrock Council as a responsible authority have a legal duty to work with our partners to tackle crime and disorder locally and work in partnership to prevent crime, reduce the fear of crime and improve the quality of life for all citizens.

The Council's Public Protection team have continued to provide a crucial service to the Borough in keeping residents safe; in particular, the Trading Standards team, which handles over a third of all seized goods at the UK's ports and continues to lead in an exemplary way.

In January 2020, the Counter Fraud & Investigation function moved into this Portfolio aligning the capabilities in that service with the wider-public protection services, improving the response to serious issues that could affect residents and businesses.

Across the teams, we are taking every possible action, including the issuing of Community Protection Warnings/Notices, Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, Closure Orders and injunctions to protect the community from those that would cause residents harm.

## **1. COVID-19 Response**

- 1.1 In direct response to the pandemic and in the efforts to encourage compliance and support front line emergency services, the Environmental Enforcement team provided proactive foot patrols in high footfall areas such as high streets, parks, and open spaces that were identified as hot spot locations for groups gathering in breach of the government rules and guidance. Since March 2019, Officers have engaged with over 5,000 groups, promoting compliance with the social distancing rules and actively reducing, and deterring non-compliance. The officers gathered information and Intel, which was shared with police partners.
- 1.2 The Emergency Planning and Resilience team have been supporting the Council's response to COVID-19 since March 2020, with senior officers from across the Council attending a Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG) twice per week to ensure a shared situational awareness and response to the pandemic.
- 1.3 The Counter Fraud and Investigation work undertaken in Thurrock during the pandemic has drawn national attention and the team have now been commissioned by the government to lead nationally on the response to serious organised crime for COVID-19 support schemes. The newly funded team have been working across the country pursuing over 82 individuals and recovering over £3.2m of public finance.
- 1.4 The Licensing Team have contributed towards the Councils response to reduce the spread of COVID-19 through their work with hospitality venues. During the period of the pandemic when premises were allowed to open, the team worked with businesses to ensure precautions were in place. The team ensured that hospitality businesses were complying with their obligations under the regulations to provide signage, guiding visitors around the one-way systems and giving indications of separation distances, as well as ensuring they collected the relevant customer data to facilitate the follow up by test and trace should an outbreak unfortunately arise at the premises.
- 1.5 Environmental Health Officers from the Food Team have dealt with hundreds of complaints from residents regarding failure to observe COVID-19 restrictions. The enforcement approach has escalated to meet the threat in line with the Councils Enforcement Policy. In many cases, premises have complied voluntarily when approached by officers but on occasion, it has been necessary to take action that is more formal. An example of this includes a hairdresser's salon where it was necessary to serve a prohibition notice to achieve compliance.

- 1.6 Considerable work has been undertaken at Winter Wonderland, Lakeside in conjunction with Thurrock's Public Health team to help safeguard residents using the ice rink and wider Winter Wonderland attractions from the virus. Environmental Health officers provided advice and guidance to the business to allow it to operate as safely as possible. However, the Environmental Health Officers had to serve three Direction Orders on behalf of Public Health to restrict the capacity of people across the site, together with the numbers on the ice rink. Once the Order was served, EHOs undertook COVID-19 monitoring visits during evenings and at weekends to ensure compliance with the Order. This event involved considerable work by Public Health and the EHO team to allow the event to continue to operate in a COVID safe way.
- 1.7 Environmental Health Officers from the Food Team have assisted with the Public Health operation to test and trace those infected with COVID-19, this has involved working evenings and weekends and sourcing additional specialist staff to reinforce the existing team to upscale this area of work. This has greatly assisted the national effort to trace and isolate those infected with virus and thereby reducing the spread in the community.
- 1.8 Trading Standards have undertaken work on the closure of businesses where COVID-19 regulations have mandated it. Officers have been monitoring businesses and intervening where needed to ensure compliance with the rules. In many instances, businesses have complied but Trading Standards have had to serve nine prohibition notices to date on businesses that declined to accept advice and close to comply with the regulations. Whilst many of these have applied to small retail establishments, some work has involved more determined resistance to the regulations by national chains including Carpet Right and Wren Kitchens who initially adopted a different interpretation to the regulations than the Council. Following legal advice and the service of prohibition notices these matters have now been resolved. In the case of Carpet Right that has a head office in Thurrock, our Trading Standards service were called upon to advice to numerous other authorities on the prohibition notice to help facilitate its imposition across much of the UK.
- 1.9 When phase one of lockdown started, Environmental Protection continued to run the weekend out of hours noise service and dealt with a number of ongoing noise, light and bonfire nuisance matters by way of abatement notices, collecting evidence and retrospective enforcement action. The easing of lockdown in the summer this year saw a rise in noise nuisance complaints where groups of young people were congregating on land using amplification equipment. The team continued to deal with these while working the weekend out of hour's noise team to bring abatement where possible, within COVID-19 constraints and taking enforcement action against organisers where they could be identified and traced to a premise
- 1.10 Lastly, the Health and Safety team have been working with premises that have remained open during various phases of the lockdown to ensure robust risk assessments and precautions are in place to reduce the spread of the virus among staff and visitors. Premises specific advice has assisted business owners to mitigate the risks and reduce infection. The team have also

provided similar advice and support to council departments to assist the Council in reducing sickness among staff.

## **2. Community Safety Partnership**

2.1 Community Safety Partnerships were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to ensure joint working between partners to reduce crime and promote public safety in a locality. In 2011, they were extended to include the duty to reduce re-offending.

2.2 The Council is a statutory member of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership, as are Essex Police; the Community Rehabilitation Company; the National Probation Service; the Clinical Commissioning Group; and the Essex Fire and Rescue Service. The responsible authorities who form the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) have a legal duty to work together to tackle local crime and disorder in the area and to have in place a partnership plan for that area, setting out the CSP's priorities.

### **2.3 ASB Data**

2.3.1 ASB incidents reported to Essex Police in 2019 compared to 2018 declined by 9.9% (467) compared to the Essex decrease of 10.9%. ASB incidents reported to Thurrock Council declined by 20.5% (42).

2.3.2 Grays Riverside remained the Ward with the highest number of reported incidents. There were significant reductions in ASB reported in Tilbury Riverside and Ockendon wards following action plans having been put in place – including work with the local schools.

2.3.3 The top 3 Wards, of Grays Riverside, West Thurrock & Chadwell St Mary, all went against the District and County trend of decreased ASB recorded by Essex Police. Chadwell St Mary increased by the greatest percentage (24.8%) resulting in a number of actions to address this, including 3 resident meetings and target hardening. Nuisance Vehicle incidents decreased by 27.9% (95)

2.3.4 Essex Police recorded ASB data for 2020 shows a significant increase, however, this reflects the four new ASB categories in relation to Covid-19 and a meaningful comparison is not available. All partners acknowledge that the perception of residents concerning ASB is not always aligned to reporting.

2.3.5 Following the restrictions placed to limit the spread of the worldwide pandemic, ASB levels reported to both Thurrock Council and Essex Police have seen a significant increase, in part due to the reporting of breaches in relation to COVID-19 guidance.

2.3.6 With many people confined to their homes there have been an increased number of reporting in relation to domestic living noise. Appreciating the impact this can have on people's health and wellbeing, the officers use all enforcement options available to stop the disruptions.

2.3.7 In response to the recorded increase in violent crime and the concerns raised by residents in relation to gangs and anti-social behaviour, Cabinet allocated £1m of surplus funding in 2018/19 to tackle anti-social behaviour in the borough. This enabled the recruitment of an ASB officer for 3 years within the Councils Community Safety team. The funding also enabled four additional police officers to complement the Town Centre Teams. The team have increased visible policing and their priority is to tackle ASB in the busiest areas, protect the vulnerable and tackle crimes against businesses.

2.3.8 Funding in 2019/20 enabled the Community Safety Partnership to resource Operation Caesar, run by Essex Police to tackle the nuisance caused by off road vehicles behaving in an anti-social manner. Funding enabled operations to run until September 2020.

2.3.9 In 2019, reports of Nuisance Vehicle incidents to Essex Police decreased by 27.9% (95 incidents). It is disappointing to note increased reporting in 2020; however, some increased reporting is a direct result of confidence in reporting following previous action taken.

2.3.10 For the 12 months – July 2019 to June 2020 operation results were:

<b>ACTION TAKEN</b>	<b>Jul 19 - Jun 20</b>
Incidents attended	124
Fail to stop	86
S 59 warnings	43
Intel reports	33
Stop search	29
Other traffic process/offence	19
Careless driving	18
Words of advice (engaged whilst setting up to ride)	13
Arrests	7
S165	6
Stolen vehicles recovered	5
Vehicle search	4
Prohibition notice	4
Excess Speed	3
CPWs	3
Vehicle seized	3
Driving otherwise than in accordance with a license	3
No seatbelt	1

2.3.11 The local authority provided funding to Operation Raptor, which is the response to tackling gang related violence. In 19/20, the operation was paramount to the success of obtaining and enforcing gang injunctions against members of the C17 gang and the on-going operations to target urban street gangs and county drug lines operating in the Thurrock area.

2.3.12 Following the obtaining of the injunctions a reduction in reported ASB incidents in all of the targeted areas: Grays; High Street, train station, park, Seabrooke Rise and Beach; Lakeside Shopping Centre and Chafford Hundred train station; and Dilkes Wood, Danbury Crescent and Cawdor Avenue in Ockendon was seen. There was also a 25% reduction of drug offences in Ockendon, however all areas saw an increase in violent crime. The increase in violence may be as a result of a gap in the drugs market that has been created following the successful enforcement against C17 and county drug lines operating in the Thurrock area. Rival urban street gangs from neighbouring areas and county drug lines could potentially be looking to exploit market opportunities.

2.3.13 Since April 2020, Op Raptor have continued to enforce the Gang Injunctions obtained on 11 members of the C17 gang and a further interim injunction has been served on one member from September 2020.

2.3.14 The Council takes all reports of potential cuckooing – whereby gangs or a County Line target vulnerable members of the community and is synonymous with persons from out of the area taking over a premises for free to give them a base within a community with which to supply drugs. One recent report has resulted in joined up activity and patrols by Essex Police, and Environment Enforcement Officers, with welfare checks resulting in an arrest of an individual in the area for drug offences.

2.3.15 Operation Adaminaby was set up in August 2019 as a partnership operation Between Thurrock Council Environmental Enforcement Officers and the Community Policing Teams. A total of 14 operations have been completed to date. The aim of the operation is to proactively conduct out of hour's patrols to ASB hot spot areas, as directed by intelligence from the community and the Cleaner Greener Team, to target the anti-social use and littering of nitrous oxide canisters.

2.3.16 The results from Operation Adaminaby to date are as follows:

- 32 Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to fly tipping, littering, urinating, fly Posting and Duty of Care
- 6 Notice in relation to Duty of Care (commercial waste s34)
- 12 Police community resolutions for possession of cannabis
- 2 x male arrested for unfit through drugs in charge of a motor vehicle (possession Cannabis and Cocaine), and;
- 36 Community Protection Warning Notice (30 for ASB, 3 for HGV parking)

#### 2.4 Council funded Community Policing Team Operations to address ASB in 2019/20

2.4.1 In response to an increase in reporting of ASB and robberies around the station in Stanford Le Hope, with support from Council funding, there were over 40 additional hours of visible policing in the area. This resulted in 1 vehicle search, 3 person searches, which in turn resulted in 1 cannabis

warning and multiple groups of youths dispersed, as well as positive engagement with local residents and businesses.

2.4.2 Operation Starfish was put in place in Chadwell St Mary to respond to an increase in ASB and vehicle crime. This part funded operation led to 82 additional hours of visible policing with 1 x vehicle search, 12 persons stopped and searched, 1 x cannabis warning issued and 6 intelligence reports generated. It also led to 1 arrest for possession of a knife, which resulted in a charge, remanded and sentenced to 6 months custody the day after

2.4.3 Following reports of ASB and young people using drugs in Little Thurrock, specifically Delafield Park, Council funding provided 32 hours of additional high visibility policing. Engagement with young people and local residents took place and there were no persons causing issues when police were present. There has been no further reporting of issues at the location, post the operation taking place.

2.4.4 Op Natal was the policing operation put in place in Tilbury in response to increased reporting of ASB. This was part funded by the Council and ran from August 19 to Jan 20. The operation was multi-faceted and there were 7 deployments with a total of 48+ additional visible police hours. Some of the deployments have also been jointly conducted with council officers, resulting in; 3 x persons arrested, 1 x cannabis warning issued, 3 x vehicle searches, 7 x persons stopped & searched, 1 x Section 59 warning issued in relation to nuisance motorbike, 9 x intelligence reports submitted and 2 engagement events completed at local schools.

2.5 An increase in reports due to COVID 19, have required investigation where the complainants are privately renting or owner/occupiers. The cases relate predominantly to noise nuisance, neighbour disputes, drug taking and youth congregation and have resulted in:

- 2 Community Protection Warnings being issued
- 2 referrals to Restorative Justice service
- 23 Noise Warning letters issued
- 9 referrals to multi-agency Locality Action Group
- 6 Safeguarding referrals

2.6 £143k of funding was secured for Thurrock in 2019 and a further £57k in 2020 through the PFCC and the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit to tackle violence in relation to gangs. In 19/20, this funding was used to:

- Increase awareness of risky behavior and impact on parents, pupils and staff at the Olive Academy, where some of our most vulnerable pupils attend
- Expand the work of the new school wellbeing service to work with pupils at risk of permanent exclusion
- To provide a mentoring programme for young people through youth services. This programme continues

- To increase our targeted youth provision through detached youth work and diversionary schemes
- To work with the community and Thurrock Youth Council
- Commission analytical resource to improve our intelligence with regard to links between exploitation and gangs

2.7 The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) obtained by Thurrock Council to address car cruising in West Thurrock had been tested over the summer and was robustly enforced by the Community Policing Team, in partnership with the Environmental Enforcement Team. Operation Falcon, aimed at tackling the blight that this behaviour places on the community resulted in 30 Fixed Penalty Notices and cessation of the activity to date.

2.8 In April 2020, the Council reviewed and extended the Public Spaces Protection Order in Grays High Street, which continues to be effective in addressing the persistent street drinkers in the area. A total of 52 Fixed Penalty Notices have been served to members of the public linked to breaches of the order and 119 warnings were issued, after the disposal of their alcohol offenders were moved on from the PSPO zone.

### **3. Environmental Enforcement**

3.1 Thurrock Council's Environmental Enforcement Team have issued various enforcement notices and issued a large variety of Fixed Penalty Notices in response to environmental and ASB related offences between the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. A breakdown of which is:

- Community Protection Notices issued by Officers: 63 from Feb 2018 to Sep 2019 and 58 from Feb 2019 to Sep 2020
- Abandoned vehicles removed: 33 from Feb 2018 to Sep 2019 and 75 from Feb 2019 to Sep 2020
- Fly tipping incidents investigated by the Environmental Enforcement Team: 4653 from Feb 2018 to Sep 2019 and 3722 from Feb 2019 to Sep 2020

The investigations of these and proactive patrols have resulted in:

- Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping: 248 from Feb 2018 to Sep 2019 and 323 from Feb 2019 to Sep 2020
- Fixed Penalty Notices for littering: 268 from Feb 2018 to Sep 2019 and 322 from Feb 2019 to Sep 2020
- Unauthorised encampments reported: 60 from Feb 2018 to Sep 2019 and 12 from Feb 2019 to Sep 2020
- Fixed Penalty Notices progressed to prosecution files for littering offences in the Magistrates Court: 136 from Feb 2018 to Sep 2019 and 204 from Feb 2019 to Sep 2020
- Community Protection Warnings issued to HGV drivers (and their companies) for parking on the footpath/grass verge, also asked to



- move on immediately by the Environmental Enforcement Officers: 55 from Feb 2018 to Sep 2019 and 36 from Feb 2019 to Sep 2020
  - Community Protection Notices issued after they breached the Community Protection Warnings, refusing to move their vehicle: 17 from Feb 2018 to Sep 2019 and 55 from Feb 2019 to Sep 2020
  - Fixed Penalty notices issued by the Council's contractors (Kingdom Environmental Services). In the main, fixed penalty notices were issued for littering offences, however they also include the following offences, urination, fly tipping, fly posting and failure to produce waste transfer notes on request: 5631 from Feb 2018 to Sep 2019 and 5618 Feb 2019 to Sep 2020
  
- 3.2 The Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer and Operations Manager have enhanced partnership working and fostered excellent relationships with both internal and external partners. As a result, the team have been instrumental in delivering long-term sustainable solutions. They have seized 4 vehicles linked to fly tipping offences and provided valuable evidence in support of a planning breach, preventing over one hundred acres of land being illegally built on.
  
- 3.3 An additional dedicated twilight / night team have recently commenced with officers tasked to specific patrols focusing on enviro crime and ASB. This team are also responsible for providing front line partnership support to the Police and partners where required.
  
- 3.4 The team are part of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) and also for mobile CCTV in relation to fly tipping. CCTV has some potential to improve officer's opportunity to capture and identify offenders in the act of fly tipping. The CSAS devolved powers, authorised by Essex Police, enable the team to wear a high visibility and professional uniform with the CSAS logo and provide them with the following: -
  - Power to issue penalty notices for disorder
  - Power to issue fixed penalty notices for cycling on a footpath
  - Power to require giving of name and address
  - Power to deal with begging
  - Power to require name and address for anti-social behaviour
  - Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol
  - Power to seize tobacco from a person aged under 16
  - Power to issue FPN for persons believed to be causing harassment, alarm or distress
  - Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 or allowing such consumption
  
- 3.5 The service have recently received the agreed uniform with the correct CSAS Logos. This will make the officers clearly identifiable when enforcing the CSAS Powers that they have been accredited with.
  
- 3.6 The Environmental Enforcement Team this year adopted the powers to issue FPNs for breaches of household waste duty of care. These powers

will be used to ensure that householders dispose of their waste legally at all times and includes waste from domestic properties, caravans and residential homes.

Householders must ensure that:

- The person who takes control of their waste is licensed to do so
- Take steps to prevent it from escaping from their control
- Store it safely and securely
- Prevent it from causing environmental pollution or harming anyone

- 3.7 In support of growing concerns about pollution and the environment by reducing unnecessary exhaust emissions from vehicles, the Enforcement Team have adopted the power to request vehicle drivers to switch off their vehicle engines while parked and they can issue a £40 fixed penalty notice to drivers if they refuse to comply with the warning.
- 3.8 The service have implemented the new Single Justice Process system to streamline the prosecution process with legal services. This means that the legal process in relation to summary offences will speed up prosecution against offenders.
- 3.9 Of the 351 prosecutions for littering, three trials have been requested by defendants. In all three cases, each defendant changed their pleas to guilty having seen the weight of the evidence supplied. The defendants all received a fine and costs awarded to the Council.
- 3.10 From April 2018, there has been an increase in the fine payable for littering offences, from £80 to £150, resulting in a payment rate dip. Income levels started to increase, but have also been impacted by the unprecedented circumstances due to Covid-19 impact and individual's inability to pay. Steps have been taken to offer extended periods of payment to reduce any further financial impact on offenders and measures are in place to improve the 56% payment rate for fixed penalty notices by conducting more detailed searches on offenders at the time of issuing.
- 3.11 The Council is taking a positive approach to tackling graffiti, the Enforcement Team are working closely with the Cleansing Team, who remove all tags on Council street furniture and buildings immediately as they appear. Through Operation Abercrombie, a joint partnership with Essex Police, which commenced 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019, all tags and offenders are recorded. Consequently, two prolific offenders were arrested and received community resolution for criminal damage. 1 prolific offender has been identified and an Agreed Behavioural Agreement put in place, attached to their Tenancy Contract.
- 3.12 A partnership focused approach, with Essex Police aimed at tackling Anti-Social issues in high footfall areas such as Grays Town Centre and Tilbury has resulted in:

- 112 Public Space Protection Order Warning Notices for Anti-social drinking alcohol
  - 80 Fixed Penalty Notices for further breaches of those Notices
  - 2 suspects being arrested and restrictions placed on their movements and behaviour by the Magistrates' Court
- 3.13 In the Tilbury area, Enforcement Officers in partnership with Essex Police have undertaken a series of regular high visibility patrols in the High Street, schools and colleges' to offer reassurance to the community. These patrols named Operation Anglesea have resulted in 7 FPNs for littering and raised public reassurance.
- 3.14 The Councils proactive and robust approach to tackling fly tipping has resulted in 4 vehicles being seized and the vehicle owners subsequently fined. A number of waste carrier operations have been effectively conducted in partnership with Essex Police. A total of 87 vehicles transporting waste have been stopped and FPNs have been issued for various offences including littering, duty of care offences, failure to possess waste carriers licences, and no vehicle insurance.
- 3.15 The Environmental Enforcement team led on a media campaign using high visible posters affixed to council vehicles and in hot spot areas to raise awareness linked to fly tipping and the penalties and consequences for offenders. There has been a noticeable decrease in the areas targeted by this media communication campaign. There has also been an increase in residents willing to support and report anyone they see fly tipping across the borough. Overall, this campaign was well received and effective.
- 3.16 Unauthorised Traveller Encampments
- 3.16.1 Thurrock Council employs the services of Essex County Traveller Unit (ECTU) who investigate unauthorised encampments on the Council's behalf. The turnaround time for eviction, depends on courts availability to approve applications for summons and to evict, however the end-to-end process and turnaround time is normally between 7 to 9 days to evict.
- 3.16.2 2019/20 has seen a significant reduction in unauthorised encampments, due to the success of the target hardening undertaken, along with the Gypsy and Traveller media outlets reporting that Thurrock Council have been successful in obtaining an injunction. This illustrates the significant impact that an injunction can have on the travelling community. However, it should be noted that there would be occasions when Travellers will come into the area in certain circumstances, for example attendance of a funeral. The total number of encampments is showing a steady decrease:
- 111 - February 2017 to September 2018
  - 60 - February 2018 to September 2019
  - 12 - February 2019 to September 2020

- 3.16.3 ECTU only investigate unauthorised encampments on public land, which is not covered by the injunction. The injunction covers some private land, but if the injunction does not apply, Private land owners will be responsible for dealing with encampments on their land, by employing private bailiff companies or by liaising with the police to enforce evictions where appropriate. However, the Council always takes an interest in all unauthorised encampments on private land in our borough and provide guidance to private landowners on the options to address unauthorised encampments on their land.
- 3.16.4 Due to the significant number of unauthorised encampments across the borough, it was agreed that Thurrock Council would apply to the High Court for an injunction preventing further encampments. On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 the Council applied to the High Court requesting permission to serve the defendants the evidence via an alternative method such as a USB stick.
- 3.16.5 On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019, the Council successfully applied for an Interim injunction prohibiting unauthorised encampments across the borough. The interim order covers 163 locations across the borough and identifies 107 defendants. The Council were due to return to the High Court and apply for a full order, but due to Covid 19 and the additional evidence required in light of the London Borough of Bromley appeal, this was delayed but it is anticipated that the council will return to the High Court very soon. However, please note that the interim injunction does not have an expiry date and can still be used.
- 3.16.6 The Environment Enforcement Team proactively identified unlawful development of a traveller's site at Buckles Lane South Ockendon. Working in partnership with Planning Enforcement, the team have secured a temporary injunction on 137 acres of land; a full hearing is due to take place in December 2020 for a permanent injunction.

#### **4. Emergency Planning & Resilience**

- 4.1 Thurrock has more industrial processes and commercial storage facilities than other councils in Essex due to its strategic location. This poses challenges for the Emergency Planning & Resilience Team who are responsible for the drafting and exercising of plans for managing incidents at hazardous industrial sites, commonly known as COMAH sites. These sites are regulated by HSE and as a local authority; we have a legal obligation to adhere to the requirements under The Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015. The team have undertaken five full multi-agency exercises with sites in the area since April 2019 and have developed our response at Silver/Tactical level during COVID to include a virtual tactical cell; meaning that incidents can be managed at Silver/Tactical level with partners all using MS Teams.
- 4.2 The team continues to administer the Council's 24/7 emergency response service and in addition to the less serious incidents, have managed the Council's response to two 'major incidents', one significant business continuity incident, as well as other significant incidents, including;

- Operation Melrose (Vietnamese lorry deaths in October 2019)
- Evacuation of Collins House Care Home due to a major power failure on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019
- ICL major incident (COMAH site) in January 2020
- Burst water main in South Ockendon in June 2020
- Child death at Alexander Lake, Lakeside Shopping Centre in August 2020

4.3 We thank the emergency response partners, particularly Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue for their support and collaborative approach to emergency planning and for their support in managing these incidents. I would also like to thank the voluntary agencies, particularly the Red Cross who provided an outstanding level of support to our partners and ourselves during our response to the tragic incident that led to the deaths of 39 Vietnamese individuals.

4.4 The Emergency Planning & Resilience Team are actively involved in the Essex Police led multi-agency 'Port Watch' project, which looks to address the learning points from Operation Melrose. Partners meet on a regular basis to share intelligence in relation to immigration criminality. The objectives of Port Watch are:

- To prevent incidents of organised immigration crime, crime, anti-social behaviour, modern slavery & human trafficking
- To identify perpetrators of such incidents
- To bring such perpetrators to justice
- To protect victims from such perpetrator
- To make communities in Ports safer

Activity by this group is also shared with other partners via the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meetings.

4.5 The team have additionally taken over responsibility for business continuity planning for the Council, working with teams council wide to ensure Business Impact Analysis (BIA) is carried out and robust Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) are in place, enhancing our resilience and ability to continue delivering critical services in the event of a disruptive event.

## **5. Counter Fraud & Investigation**

5.1 The Counter Fraud & Investigation Team supports the Chief Finance Officer in discharging his statutory duty to prevent and detect fraud committed against the council's finances.

5.2 Since the service was formed it has been successful in protecting from fraud across our services, including housing fraud, and fraud in our grants and council tax schemes, recovering £5.5m from criminals and reinvested in to frontline services.

- 5.3 Government sponsorship was received to launch an enhanced service for Thurrock designed to bring advanced crime-fighting capabilities to protect us from developing fraud risks. Part of those enhancements was to also launch a new outward-facing function, known as the National Investigation Service, which supports the wider public sector in serious fraud issues.
- 5.4 The National Investigation Service has been extremely successful in detecting over £35m of fraud against the public sector across the country, bringing criminals to justice and disrupting organised crime.
- 5.5 We entered a national emergency this year, with financial support being awarded to our businesses, through the council, who were affected by the lockdown measures. Our Counter Fraud team worked closely with our Revenues team, who were administering the scheme, to prevent and detect fraud losses. That collaborative approach identified an organised criminal attack on the COVID grant scheme where £85k was lost due to sophisticated fraud. Within a short space of time, having the benefit of the national function hosted here in Thurrock, the criminals were arrested and the monies fully recovered.
- 5.6 Following the obvious success in combating serious organised fraud by our national function, the team have now been commissioned by the government to lead nationally on the response to serious organised crime for COVID-19 support schemes.
- 5.7 The Counter Fraud team is extremely productive in managing the risk from fraud in the council. This year for every pound spent on the service, it detected £3 in fraud.

#### Return on Investment Performance

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>Detected Fraud</b>	£1,622,604	£4,562,032	£1,179,987	£3,426,474	£3,578,285
<b>Service Budget</b>	£880,637	£909,556	£939,313	£945,876	£1,144,949
<b>Money Recovered</b>	(£701,418)	(£3,729,705)	(£889,097)	(£941,155)	(£205,334 <sup>1</sup> )

## **6. Housing Anti-Social Behaviour**

- 6.1 Thurrock Councils Housing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) team deal with ASB where the person causing the problem is a council tenant or it affects a council tenant and where the ASB is any act that causes, or is likely to cause, alarm, harassment or distress to anyone living in a different household to the person responsible. Examples of ASB include:

<sup>1</sup> This figure represents the available assets which a court can order to be paid back by criminals to the council under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 or civil remedy, which is different to the amount of fraud that was proven at court. The period was affected by the courts closing due to COVID-19

- Noise nuisance
- Drug taking and dealing
- Threatening or rowdy behaviour
- Violence and disorder
- Vandalism

6.2 As a result of carrying out high visibility out of hour patrols targeting estates and hotspots, which are the subject of intelligence received from residents, local businesses and community partners the team have achieved the following outcomes from the 1st January 2019 to date:

- Community Protection Warnings 20
- Final warning letters issued 44
- Acceptable Behaviour Agreement 11
- Reassurance visits to vulnerable residents 104
- Notices of Possession Proceedings 4
- ASB Injunctions 4
- Demotion Order 3
- Closure Orders 6
- Evictions due to ASB 8

6.3 Private Housing promotes awareness of its regulatory and licensing function to estate agents, landlords, property owners and tenants.

6.4 Landlords must have a license if renting out a large House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) and small HMO of 3 or 4 people who are not from 1 household under Additional Licensing. A licence is valid for 5 years. The council has licenced 84 HMOs in 2019/20 and 40 HMOs April to September 2020. Licensing in the private rented sector helps improve property conditions and management standards benefiting residents and neighbourhoods.

6.5 Private housing enforcement action prevents risks to public health and statutory nuisance. The Private Housing Team has increased enforcement measures within the Private Rented Sector to improve housing conditions and provide greater protection to HMO and single dwelling lets in 2019/20 in comparison to 2018/19.

<b>Enforcement Measure</b>	<b>2018/19 No.</b>	<b>2019/20 No.</b>	<b>2020/21 Apr-Sept</b>
Improvement Notice	17	36	13
Prohibition Order	8	3	3
Emergency Prohibition Order	0	0	0
Emergency Remedial Action	1	3	2
Environmental Protection Act S80	21	10	2
Hazard Awareness Notice	2	15	1

Suspended Prohibition Order	3	2	1
Suspended Improvement Notice	2	6	1
Building Act 1984/Public Health Act 1936 Drainage	4	8	2
Public Health Act 1936 Notice	4	3	3
Works In Default	6	10	1
Prosecutions	4	5	0
Civil Penalty Notice	0	15	3
Rent Repayment Order	1	0	0

6.6 Targeted visits and unannounced property inspections are carried out under the Private Housing Enforcement Policy for proactive investigations, such as:

- Suspected unlicensed properties
- Poorly managed private rented properties
- HMO properties subject to incidences of anti-social behaviour
- Properties with a low energy efficiency rating on their Energy Performance Certificate below an E rating
- Unregulated Care Homes
- Untidy gardens

6.7 The Private Sector Housing Team is exploring the business case for a Selective Licensing Scheme, covering certain parts of the borough. This would require all landlords of privately let properties to apply for a licence. Secretary of State Approval will be required for a scheme that covered more than 20% of the geographic area of the local authority area or would affect more than 20% of private rented sector in the area.

## 7. CCTV Service

7.1 The borough wide CCTV service has 600 cameras, spread over 40 locations on housing estates and open spaces including town centres. This provides residents with a sense of security and reassurance of feeling safer within their neighbourhood.

7.2 The council's Housing Enforcement CCTV service works in collaboration with Essex Police and internal departments sharing information and intelligence to prevent crime and deter anti-social behaviour.

7.3 Table 1 and 2 highlight the number of incidents captured on camera for Police and Council investigation. Evidence packs are the recordings and statements, which the CCTV operators produce for police and council enforcement officers.



April to March 2019/20

Team	CCTV Incidents	Evidential Packages Produced
<b>Police</b>	1415	375
<b>Council</b>	663	214

April to August 2020

Team	CCTV Incidents	Evidential Packages Produced
<b>Police</b>	369	146
<b>Council</b>	202	71

- 7.4 Cabinet approved a Public Identification CCTV policy on the 15 January 2020 for enforcement purposes and using images of criminal incidents in local publications and on the internet.
- 7.5 Council appeals for public help to identify persons of interest in local publications and on the internet was not needed over the last 6 months.
- 7.6 Enforcement Officers are identifying offenders by other investigative actions such as gathering information, establishing facts, analysing photographs, and evaluating evidence to track and apprehend those caught on camera committing criminal offences.
- 7.7 Some examples of how CCTV evidence has been used in the past year:
- CCTV evidence was provided to the Police regarding a prolific burglary offender caught on camera, which enabled a successful prosecution in Court, the outcome on sentencing is awaiting reports.
  - CCTV evidence was provided to the Police for an assault, threatening behaviour and Public Order offences in Grays Town Centre. The offender was sentenced to 4 weeks imprisonment and a banning order for three years from the Town Centre.
  - CCTV evidence was provided for a case of Criminal Damage against Council property in the High Rise flats at Tilbury. The offender was found guilty and ordered to pay £500 costs to the Council.
  - CCTV was used to identify, arrest and convict a tenant for criminal damage in the communal area George Tilbury House. The offender was seen kicking the glass door panels. Due to this conviction and other Anti – Social Behaviour (ASB) matters the ASB Team served the tenant with a mandatory possession under the Anti - Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
  - A visitor to Gooderham House was seen damaging the CCTV in the lift. The offender was subsequently identified and charged with criminal damage. This case will go before the courts soon. The ASB Team will

consider a proportionate response following the outcome of the court hearing.

- A female was assaulting another female as a result of argument over parking at Poole House. CCTV evidence captured the incident. The police are currently looking at the CCTV images and videos and will update the ASB Team for their input into this case.

## **8. Public Protection**

### **8.1 Licensing**

8.1.1 The Licensing Team continue to administer the Council's licensing functions and have worked throughout the year to ensure that licenced activities are as safe for residents as possible. This work has involved regular work with the Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance service and other external agencies with an interest in preventing crime and promoting public safety to provide safe solutions for events and regular licenced activity in the area. The team remains at the forefront of our shared services initiative with Brentwood Council reducing the cost of this service and increasing its resilience. Having assumed responsibility for the administration of the street trading scheme in Thurrock, the team have made a positive start in clamping down on unlicensed traders with the successful prosecution of a trader that failed to apply or cease trading. A number of traders are now licensed who would have otherwise undermine legitimate traders and fixed businesses in the area.

8.1.2 The licensing regime for animals covering pet shops, boarding kennels and breeding activities has been overhauled by central government. This is giving rise to an increased demand for work from the team in this area and they have upskilled to meet these new requirements. This has seen an increased number of licensed premises, particularly around home boarding and puppy breeders, with a prosecution progressing through the courts for a home boarder that failed to licence. The team welcomes information about unlicensed breeders and boarders to be emailed to [licensing@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@thurrock.gov.uk).

### **8.2 Food Safety**

8.2.1 The Food Team have had a very busy year dealing with over 150 notifiable diseases including cases of Legionella and E-Coli 157. Work has included the approval of a new bacon factory within Thurrock, intervention at a cheese manufacturer in Thurrock where poor hygiene standards were giving rise to a risk of E-Coli infection, successful prosecution of a butcher for activity giving rise to a serious risk of fatal infections from their products. The team have served 29 Hygiene Improvement notices to protect residents and visitors from poor hygiene and disease during the year.

8.2.2 The team have issued 150 export certificates to allow for companies in Thurrock to export food to non-EU countries. This work is expected to increase following the UK's departure from the European Union and we are in the process of recruitment to provide staff for this activity. Certification and

inspection work on imported and exported food is also undertaken in Thurrock's ports. The Corporation of London's Port Health Teams undertake this dockside work in collaboration with the Food Team. This is particularly necessary when consignments move between port sites and surrounding facilities in Thurrock. The team works with the Corporation of London's officers to streamline as far as practical this process reducing friction at the ports and surrounding business parks. We are currently working on an arrangement to provide jurisdiction for port health officers in the new business park surrounding DP World in Coryton. This arrangement will simultaneously reduce costs for Thurrock and reduce bureaucracy for importer and exporters of food using Thurrock ports.

### 8.3 Trading Standards

8.3.1 Trading Standards team have continued during this year to combat crimes against consumers in Thurrock prioritising activity based on local and national intelligence focusing on doorstep crime, fair trading, intellectual property and mass marketing schemes. Over the last few years, the team have expanded to include the operation of the ports safety project, a nationally funded project that monitors and regulates the safety of products imported into the UK via the Ports at Coryton, Tilbury and Purfleet. Examples of recent seizures include fake hand sanitiser and electronic foot massagers that present the user with a risk of electrocution. This is an increasing area of work and the Government grant to fund this has increased over recent years. The UK departure from the EU will give rise to an increased demand for this work and the team are monitoring the situation nationally to identify any opportunities that exist for additional funding to continue and expand this work stream. The team were finalists in this year's APSE team of the year awards.

8.3.2 Trading Standards have been working with Essex Police to conduct underage sales test purchases of knives. Two operations were undertaken working in partnership. These test purchases have shown limited sales of knives to young people. Where sales have been made, follow up visits have taken place to premises to provide advice to the traders to prevent further sales. Further operations on underage sales are planned for the future.

8.3.3 Responsible Retailer packs have gone out to all the off licences in the area and will continue to go out to all businesses selling age restricted item. These provide advice for traders to prevent sales of alcohol to underage consumers.

### 8.4 Health and Safety

8.4.1 The Health and Safety team are responsible for the regulation of health and safety standards for workers in the majority of businesses in Thurrock. This year they have investigated over 10 accidents, 20 new requests for health & safety in licensable premises, 30 complaints and investigated potential legal failings against two companies for health and safety failures that lead to injuries to staff. In addition to formal enforcement, the team maintain expertise in health and safety matters and advise both external employers and the Council on health and safety issues that impact employees. The team have

used their knowledge to exploit opportunities to offer their expertise to others on a paid consultancy basis. This has so far yielded income from schools and is an area of work that the team hope to develop further.

## 8.5 Environmental Protection

8.5.1 The team continues to deal with a high demand for work on nuisance and pollution issues. From 01.04.20 – 16.11.20 the team received 2005 requests for service. 1083 of which were for Noise including amplified sound, barking dogs and unreasonable DIY. 72 complaints were made for bonfire nuisance, 109 for odours and 46 for rubbish accumulation at premises requiring intervention and public health legislation.

8.5.2 The teams drone service has expanded now working in contract with Basildon District Council to assist their Planning Enforcement evidence gathering and this is creating some income. Thurrock qualified remote pilots continue to train and develop their expertise in this heavily regulated industry and work closely with the CAA to ensure competencies are up to date in full compliance with the law. This service enables the council to continue to enhance its ability to undertake monitoring and evidence gathering in hard to reach locations, which assists officer investigations in taking appropriate legal action where necessary. There are a number of high profile sites in Thurrock due to be overflowed and aerial imagery collected in the near future. Formal consultations and requests for scientific / technical expertise in acoustics, air quality, contaminated land and pollution prevention control continue in high demand and even throughout the pandemic EP have routinely continued to supply this expertise to Thurrock Planning / Highways, external consultants and other government agencies.

## 9. Financial Information

Service area	Revised budget	Year to date actual	Forecast outturn	Budget variance
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Public Protection	1987	429	2030	43
Environmental Enforcement	(279)	232	(274)	nil
Community Safety Partnership	154	82	154	nil
Housing Anti-Social Behaviour	464	95	440	(24)
Counter Fraud & Investigation	341	402	328	(13)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>11</b>

Note: These figures are as at period 3 and exclude loss of income due to COVID-19. The forecast overspend in Public Protection is due to agency staff cost.

## Community Safety Partnership Funding

2019/20:

<b>Funding stream</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Grant	£24,976	All allocated to CSP priorities
Thurrock Council	£18,347 £17,000	All allocated to CSP priorities For the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA)
Home Office Violence and Vulnerability Funding through PFCC	£123,000	
Cabinet funding	£1,000,000	3 years to fund additional Police and ASB

2020/21:

<b>Funding stream</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Grant	£24,976	All allocated to CSP priorities
Thurrock Council	£18,347 £17,000	All allocated to CSP priorities For the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA)
Home Office Violence and Vulnerability Funding through PFCC	£57,000	

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<b>27 January 2021</b>	<b>ITEM: 14</b>
<b>Council</b>	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Sport &amp; Leisure</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Councillor Aaron Watkins, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sports and Leisure	
<b>This report is Public</b>	

## **Introduction**

This is my fourth annual report as the Cabinet Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure. It continues to be an honour presenting this report to both members and the public regarding the accomplishments of the Department, the exceptional work that the staff do and the pride they take.

This year has been a hard year for everyone, but the work the Environment Team have done has been fantastic, and I thank every one of them for their continued work. The bin crews have been under exceptional pressure, with more of us at home it has meant an increase in the total amount of waste that our crews have had to collect, alongside the continued increase in blocked access issues. The teams continue to work hard to ensure all collections are met. With a 'Recycling First' focus, we will be focusing on ensuring we do our bit for climate change improvements across Thurrock. We will also be moving forward on the introduction of the separated food waste collection. This is a requirement from National Government to help with the separation of food from general waste, to help improve recycling and ensure we have improved impacts on the environment.

Our Clean and Green teams have been hard at work over this period. We have seen exceptionally strong growth in our Keep Britain Tidy scores over 2020, which continue to show how our Strive for Five continues to perform, with strong cleaning scores. We have taken the lessons learnt from previous years on where we need to see improvements in different areas as part of these scores and these are paying dividends. We will continue to strive for more over 2021 to see continued improvements. Our cemeteries have continued to see improvements over 2020, after the introduction of our cemeteries standards plan, and as a result, we have seen a substantial decrease in the number of complaints received over the year.

We continue to strive for tree planting strategies, and whilst new technology will help us deliver a better tree maintenance strategy across the borough, allowing us to be proactive with works and protection. We are also continuing to look at new funding streams to enable us to do more tree planting during 2021.

It has and continues to be an ambition of mine to ensure we start planting more trees and working with our community groups.

Which leads me onto a continued push over 2021 with engagement with our communities, both as part of the Active Places Strategy but overall improvements we will make over the coming years to our parks and open spaces, ensuring we are effectively communicating with residents and the community groups, such as Friends of Groups who give up their time to better their local areas. To ensure effective delivery, the right equipment is used, and we are not spending money for things not wanted, we work with community groups to get this right first time.

It came with great pleasure to deliver the Active Places Strategy, which is enabling Thurrock to start putting Sports first and as part of the local plan and will help to provide an improved sporting opportunity. However, whilst we have this now as a strategy we must start delivering and during 2021, the team will be working to do just that. Starting to deliver actual sporting improvements we plan to present a plan to Cleaner, Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the middle of 2021, showing the progress on work but also how we plan to improve consultation. As part of improved consultation, we are continuing to look at ways in which we can support sporting services but also ensure that future projects are completed with the community first mindset. We are currently looking into the setup of an Active Sports Group, which will be comprised of sporting partners across Thurrock whom will be able to provide support and feedback on the Sporting works and improvements as part of the Active Place Strategy changes in 2021 and beyond.

We look to the wider side of 2021 and how we can continue to make improvements. The following are a series of targets I expect to see achieved by the end of the 2021/22 year:

- A minimum of 5 new Wildflower sites identified and planted within the borough
- A target of 250 tree saplings to be planted by the end of the financial year 2021/22, should external funding become available for the trees, planting and ongoing maintenance costs
- A refreshed Thurrock Tree Strategy, with a roadmap of tree planting to be in place which outlines the next 5 years, subject to funding
- A refreshed Thurrock Street Cleansing Strategy and Cemeteries and Burials Strategy
- A new Missed Bin Collection Strategy to incorporate the online reporting function which will be introduced shortly and working with the Bartec system in place
- Responding to recent feedback, a need for a refreshed approach and a better system in place for residents
- A brand-new Fly Tipping awareness campaign to be designed and launched subject to funding
- Implementation of the separated food waste stream, including a communication
- Continue a recycling first focus, to work with the recycling team on introducing the new campaign 'Getting Thurrock Recycling'
- A concrete set of initial sporting improvements, as part of the APS to be brought forward by summer 2021



- A consultation strategy to go to Cleaner, Greener, Safer committee outlining the consultation process on the new sporting sites. In line with the Council's consultation process
- Aim to introduce a new resident and council led Sports group, working on any plans as part of the Active Place Strategy

The past year has been met with multiple challenges as a result of Covid-19 as well as additional pressures, but the service continue to strive forward and continue to deliver an excellent service for residents. 2021 will continue to have challenges, but as they have always done, will meet them head on.

## 1. Clean and Green

- 1.1 The Clean and Green service have worked throughout the Covid-19 pandemic continuing to deliver the very successful Cut It, Clean It Programme. This has included carrying out spraying of street furniture within town centres when this was requested and ensuring that any discarded public PPE was cleared.
- 1.2 Street Cleanliness had received an excellent Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) score for littering over the last 3 tranches with an average of 4.83%; this is well below both the national and London benchmarks. The team have also done well with low scores for instances of graffiti. This has been down to the combined action of both the Enforcement team (Asking private property owners to clear their premises of Graffiti), and the Clean and Green staff carrying out large scale area clearances.

<i>NI195-style scores</i>	<i>Litter</i>	<i>Graffiti</i>
<i>Thurrock 2020/2 Tranche 2</i>	5.00%	1.33%
<i>London Benchmark 2019/20</i>	8.90%	4.83%
<i>National Benchmark 2019/20</i>	9%	3%

The service are putting together an action plan to address the tranche 1 and 2 scores, this in preparation for the Tranche 3 inspection.

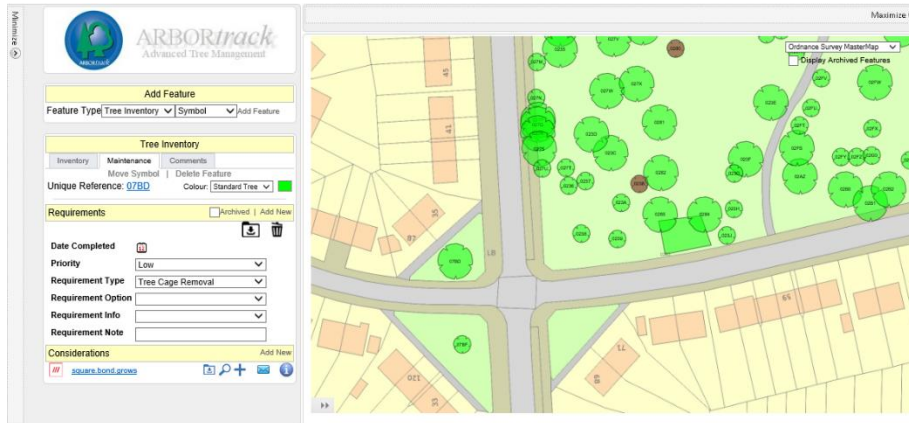
<i>NI195-style scores</i>	<i>Litter</i>	<i>Graffiti</i>
<b>2020/21 Tranche 2</b>	<b>5.00%</b>	<b>1.33%</b>
2020/21 Tranche 1	3.67%	6%
2019/20 Tranche 3	5.83%	6.33%
2019/20 Tranche 2	5.83%	4%
2019/20 Tranche 1	8.00%	3.67%
2019/20 All Year	6.56	4.67
2018/19 All Year	10.06	4.28
2017/18 All Year	9	2.78

- 1.3 The level of cleanliness of the streets within the Borough is assessed by KBT against a nationally recognised standard, with three tranches of inspections being undertaken each year. Litter levels within the Borough continue to achieve excellent performance, which are better than the national and London benchmarks.
- 1.4 To continue with the improvements in our street cleanliness we will be preparing a new Thurrock Street Cleansing Strategy and associated action plans to give a more formal direction to the street cleansing staff, and to address our areas for improvement. We will look at the usage of our mechanical sweepers and the possibility of supplementing the sweeping provision by being more commercial.
- 1.5 Over the last year, the presentation standards within the Cemeteries have been meeting or exceeding the standards that is expected. The Technical Team have been using seasonal staff to ensure that there has been sufficient amount of resource to achieve compliance with the maintenance schedule, resulting in an improved appearance of Thurrock's burial grounds. The improvements are evidenced by the low numbers of complaints and enquiries that have been received. A new Thurrock Burials and Cemeteries strategy

and associated policies are being created to help ensure that there is adequate burials space, looking towards having a new Crematorium and effectively regulating the current cemeteries.

- 1.6 The registrar of Burials and the Burials team have answered the need of the local community for a dedicated Muslim Burial within the cemeteries. Working with the local Muslim community an area in West Thurrock Cemetery was specifically identified for Muslim burials and has had the local Imam read prayers undertaken in preparation for the service offer to commence. The grave spaces within this area will all be orientated correctly for Muslim Burials and the team has a specific on call arrangement over the weekend to allow burials to take place outside of the standard working hours to accommodate the needs of the Muslim faith.
  - 1.6.1 The Burials team are working with the Technical Support team on the implementation of the newly procured Plotbox software that will replace the old Epilogue system for the management of burials records. Apart from having a far more modern user experience, the new system gives far more functionality including mapping of the grave spaces, planning new cemetery sections and the ability for funeral directors to book online. This is expected to go live in June 2021.
- 1.7 Winter maintenance work will be carried out over the next 5 months, with a view to enhance the appearance of these sites. The winter maintenance will include path edging and shrub & hedge pruning. There is a programme in place to ensure that our parks, open spaces and cemeteries are looking their best. The Shrub pruning winter maintenance programme commenced at the end of November, ensuring that all shrub and hedged areas across the borough are maintained.
- 1.8 The team have continued the scheduled inspections and maintenance of all of the war memorials, which has become an all year-round activity. Even though the memorial and remembrance events were sadly cancelled this year due to Covid-19, the team continued to ensure that all of the memorials were to a high standard for anyone wanting to carry out individual acts of remembrance. In addition, the team has been instrumental in commissioning and the maintenance of the new memorial in Grays Town Park. The team have also worked with our contractor Henderson and Taylor to paint poppies on the footway at the memorial locations. Subject to funding we will be looking at further ways in which we can promote this year's Remembrance Sunday event including:
  - Refresh of the poppies painted on the footways near the memorials.
  - Large painted poppies on grass areas.
  - Lamp column mounted poppies.
  - Feature planting at the Grays Town park memorial.
- 1.9 The Arboriculture Team now have software that shows all of the boroughs trees, following all of the trees being surveyed and catalogued onto a new

database of all public trees. This enables the team to more effectively deal with enquiries and complaints. The system has a general inspection cycle of 3 years. This system is a database that manages the tree work, with each tree being allotted into a High, Medium or Low Priority for work. This has meant that an effective programme of ongoing tree maintenance has been started, with all of the trees identified as high priority having now been addressed



- 1.10 The team are working closely with planning and local charities (Thames Chase) to identify areas where we can plant trees as part of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The team have also put in for funding through the Lower Thames Crossing project for additional tree planting.
- 1.11 The service are working with colleagues in Children’s and Adults services to provide work placements for SEND young people through the governments “Kickstart” Programme. This will not only give these young people essential work experience but will also give extra staffing within the service to assist in keeping up the required standards.

## 2. Sports and Leisure Development

- 2.1 One of the most significant pieces of work that the Recreation and Leisure Team have been working on is the development of a Thurrock Active Place Strategy. These studies provide the evidence base for the local plan and compose of four independent but interrelated strategies that have been developed simultaneously to ensure connectivity. The four strands of the Active Place Strategy are indoor built sports facilities; outdoor sports facilities; open space and play standards; and active travel. The studies are long-term plans, which cover the length of the local plan and have been developed using best practice and relevant planning and Sport England guidance. This includes an assessments of existing quality, quantity and accessibility of existing facilities as well as an assessments existing and future supply and demand. The strategies long term vision for sports and Leisure is ***“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”.***

- 2.2 The Active Place Strategy was approved by Cabinet in January this year and Officers will be working with the many stakeholders to develop the actions plans required to deliver against the recommendations. Examples of the key recommendations include.
- Developing a network of new modern sports facilities aligned multi agency facilities such as Education and Health provision
  - To increase community use of schools and ensure that any new schools or improvements to sports facilities are accompanied by a community use agreement
  - Expanding on a comprehensive consultation strategy based on the individual needs of residents
- 2.3 To help deliver against the Sport Strategies, Recreation and Leisure has established a working group of the National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB') and Sport England to advise and assist with the development of Sports in Thurrock. These NGB's link the National agenda and opportunity with the local Thurrock Sports Clubs collectively the group will drive investment and improvement.
- 2.4 In addition to the NGB group, Thurrock has advanced its Active Thurrock Network during the year and now brings together those involved in delivering sports and physical activity to work collectively and share information and best practice. This group has representatives from across the Council, Thurrock CVS, Thurrock Sports Council, MIND, Impulse Leisure and Active Essex. The network will expand its impact during 2021 by organising wider network meetings for all those in Thurrock who are involved in organising Sport and Physical activity and provide information on such things as new initiatives and potential funding streams.
- 2.5 The objective of the Park Engagement Officers is to encourage “getting people active” and use of the parks and open spaces, supported by the programme of parks improvements. The ability to organise activities has been extremely difficult throughout 2020 due to COVID 19 restrictions and apart from some targeted work with Special Educational Needs Children, very limited. However, the team have been focusing on park improvements and this includes:
- Bonnygate Park – Solar lighting
  - Purfleet Garrison estate – new play equipment
  - Gobians Park – new skate park and solar lighting
  - Grays Beach – new water feature, new play ship to replace old galleon, new Parkour area fitness area
  - Grays Town Park – New war memorial, funding secured for new café and wheelchair / buggy friendly access path from Bridge road

- King George Playing Field, Tilbury aka Daisyfield – New Parkour and 1km walking / running trail
- 2.6 Nationally, it has been an extremely difficult time for Leisure Centres with COVID 19 restrictions closing facilities for some considerable time. This has deeply affected the industry with many leisure operators facing significant financial challenges or even collapse. Impulse Leisure, the Charitable Trust who manage the Council owned three leisure centres have of course been similarly affected but have managed to keep the facilities open for Thurrock's community where permitted and have been working tirelessly to overcome these challenge.
- 2.7 It has similarly been a very difficult time for Sports Clubs and groups and the Recreation Leisure team have supported Thurrock clubs with over £80,000 of funding applications to help them through COVID 19.

### 3. Waste and Recycling

- 3.1 **KPI's** - Work on bringing the KPI's back to pre-Covid levels is ongoing at present. The situation remains that as more residents are at home for most of the day/week it has resulted in more waste being generated and presented for collection, which has put a continued and sustained pressure on the collection service for both refuse and recycling. This had meant that some roads not being collected due to vehicle capacities being reached, particularly on Recycling collections where the vehicles cannot be emptied locally to allow crews to then continue collecting their work.
- 3.1.1 The increased amount of residual waste being presented is decreasing the percentage of waste being recycled as it is proportionately more, the increase in recycling being collected is by volume, due to the increase in cardboard packaging being presented, which by nature does not compact sufficiently and therefore vehicle carrying-capacities are reached, alternatively with the load-weights appearing lower than the known carrying-capacity of the vehicles.
- 3.2 **Route Optimisation** - The Route-Optimisation software procurement has been finalised and data-information has been provided to the supplier, for them to build a design-file from which the Service can start working on creating new collection rounds. This will determine where further capacities can be found, in which to absorb the first tranche of additional recycling containers rolled out to council-managed flats across the borough, as part of the Flats-Recycling project. The remaining capacity will be required in preparation of the roll-out of Phase II from the New Year, to privately owned flats.
- 3.2.1 The Route Optimisation software will then be used to determine similar remaining capacities within the Refuse and Garden-collection rounds, with which the ever-increasing number of new-build developments across Thurrock can begin to be included within the Service as they come on line.

- 3.3 **Vehicle Procurement** - Work is now ongoing for the creation and circulation of vehicle-tender specifications in preparation for the purchase of a new fleet of collection vehicles for the planned rollout of a new separate food-waste service, as part of the Waste Strategy for Thurrock. These new vehicles will be designed to allow the collection of both food-waste and dry recyclable waste on the same vehicle, which enables the council to provide this new service without the need to introduce further collection vehicles onto the roads.
- 3.4 **Disposal Contracts** - Work is continuing on the preparation for the re-procurement of the current waste disposal contracts for the council's waste streams. Officers are looking at options for these contracts over the coming year to ensure they remain fit-for-purpose and allows for any changes necessary to facilitate the Waste Strategy for Thurrock. These changes include a separate food-waste contract, and a garden-waste only contract, as well as ensuring the Strategy's planned move towards a zero-waste-to-landfill policy while working to increase the council's recycling performance.
- 3.5 **Changes within the Service:** The Covid pandemic affected the staff resources available to the Service as staff levels fluctuated considerably over the period. As staff levels reduced the service was compelled to recommend that garden collections were temporarily stopped and residents advised to dispose of their food-waste in the residual bins, as while the service was valued by residents, the impact of garden-bins not being emptied for a time would not pose environmental issues.
- 3.5.1 As staff were able to return to work and the Service was again allowed to utilise external agency staff the garden-collections were recommenced in April on a two-weekly basis. This was well received by residents, who also broadly accepted the revised collection regime over no service at all. By January 2021 the Covid situation affected staff levels once more and the garden collections service was again suspended and remains so to date.
- 3.6 In September 2020 the Service started the roll-out of a new Flats Recycling scheme which looked at such locations with the aim of introducing new signage in bin-store locations, providing in-home storage options for many residents and new waste containers for both the existing residual waste and new containers for recyclable materials. The scheme was roll-out to around 2,000 council-owned properties over an 8 week period.
- 3.6.1 This introduced a further 200 four-wheeled containers for recycling collections. This increase in containers for collection has been accommodated in the short-term by utilising a single garden-waste crew that was already stood down as the growing season came to an end. The Service is now exploring accommodating the increase in containers as part of the route-optimisation process scheduled in the coming months.

3.6.2 Phase II of the Flats Recycling roll-out will introduce the scheme to the remaining privately-owned properties around the borough, expected to begin in February 2021. As part of the Waste Strategy for Thurrock a borough-wide communications campaign is planned to focus on improving recycling rates in Thurrock. Alongside this work preparations will be made in readiness of introducing a separate food-waste collection service. This service will require the procurement and distribution of food-waste containers for residents as well as vehicles for collection. It is envisaged the new food-waste service and the existing recycling service will utilise the new vehicles as both services will operate on a weekly basis.

3.7 Work continues regarding the Cross-Party Approved Waste Working Group Waste Strategy. The only current plans of change over the future months are for the separated food waste collection to be introduced, whilst other aspects of the strategy continue to be reviewed. We have extended our existing collection cycles as part of the need to renew contracts.

#### **4. Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC)**

4.1 Although the development of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre has been delayed due to Covid and the temporary pause on capital expenditure. The site has remained mainly open during COVID and the team have adapted to ensure that the site remains COVID safe. One of the restrictions implemented was the suspension of trailers coming into the site due to limited vehicle space. From Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January, Trailer Thursday would be introduced at the site, which will allow access for vehicles with trailers only from 8am – 12pm. This will be monitored over the coming weeks and amendments made where needed.

#### **5. Environmental Enforcement**

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

5.2 The Environment Enforcements Teams efforts to make the streets a clean and safer place to live, work and play has continued to significantly increased and improve. The team has delivered the below between January 2020 to date:

- A borough-wide interim injunction on both public and private land against unauthorised encampments meaning residents are assured that action can and will be taken immediately by both the Police and the Council in partnership with an agreed signed protocol. The council intend to make this interim injunction permanent at the High Court in London
- Increased partnership patrols between the council and police leading to added high visibility, deterrent against crime and public reassurance



- Continued seizure of vehicles used in the commission of fly tipping offences
- Increased partnership operations to tackle graffiti, ASB and enviro-crime such as littering including, nitrous oxide canisters
- The team have 303 Prosecutions utilising the single justice process, which streamlines the process for prosecution meaning those blighting the lives of residents can be brought to justice faster
- Daily distribution of intelligence between internal and external partners regarding offenders and hot spots resulting in more cohesive and robust enforcement
- Increased enforcement linked to domestic duty of care fixed penalty notices in accordance with DEFRA guidelines
- Additional early morning patrols as well as high visibility patrols in known anti-social behaviour hot-spots resulting in 3 x Community Behaviour Orders
- Continued target hardening project, protecting vulnerable pieces of land from unauthorised encampments and verge encroachment
- Working with partners promoting an anti-engine idling campaign for improved air quality around schools
- Applying to the Home Secretary to adopt further powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for highways offences
- Operation Abercombe aimed at identifying criminal “tags” graffiti compiling a graffiti index and working with Police to issue fixed penalty notices
- Conducting weapon sweeps in partnership with the police
- In partnership with the councils contractor removed 271 untaxed and 29 abandoned vehicles
- Increased operational support to partners:
  - Joint parking enforcement school patrols
  - Identifying, preserving the scenes of crime on finding 3 bodies at Thames foreshore.
  - Identifying, preserving the scenes of crime on finding cannabis factories.

**Other highlights include:**

- Leading operations with Essex Police linked to illegal waste carriers, stopping and inspecting over 150 vehicles, resulting in 34 x FPNs for noncompliance, 2 uninsured vehicle seizures, 2 drivers reported for cannabis use, alcohol seized for duty evasion offences
- Proactive patrols and engagement with over 5,000 groups during Covid-19, ensuring compliance with social distancing rules during the pandemic
- Our Street Cleansing Team have continued to be trained by the EE team to be more enforcement focused to capture and protect evidence, before cleansing to avoid duplication of attendance at site
- Supporting Police during Halloween and Bonfire night tackling ASB and Disorder

5.3 Figures for Fixed Penalty Notices issued and actions relating to Abandoned Vehicles are detailed in the tables below:



5.4 In partnership with Essex police, following the introduction of the Town Centre teams. The Joint working aims and objectives of the teams are to:

- Combat ASB and disorder within the town centre
- Educate officers in the processes of how to understand and enforce the PSPO
- Conducting visible and engaging patrols, which include joint patrolling
- Working with the council and all key partners within the town centres to run joint operations and working approaches to all problems

- 5.5 The team have consistently delivered and led on partnership operations aimed at delivering long term sustainable solutions utilising education, enforcement and engineering solutions, including:
- **Operation Anglesea** - joint patrols with police to reduce ASB surrounding schools and colleges.
  - **Operation Agnes** - Targeting rogue waste carriers.
  - **Operation Adaminaby** - Targeting ASB linked to nitrous oxide canisters and littering.
  - **Operation Abercrombie** - Target and reduce graffiti offences
  - **Operation Abermain** – Target and reduce Section 34 EPA 1990 - duty of care offences.
  - **Operations Balpin** - Covid-19 social distancing support patrols and identifying premises in breach of the special measures.
  - **Operation Belgrave** – Licencing and duty of care initiative linked to night time economy and fast food outlets.
- 5.6 The officers are fully trained and CSAS (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme) accredited, enabling the team to deliver the wide range of devolved powers from Essex Police, e.g. seizing and confiscating alcohol, demand of names and addresses in respect of ASB making them even more effective in tackling ASB
- 5.7 The Team has led and delivered a proactive approach to combat the blight of graffiti across the borough.
- 5.7.1 **Operation Abercrombie** is a joint partnership with Essex Police and the cleansing team which to date has recorded over **2000** graffiti tags and removed over 4000 pieces of graffiti across the borough.
- 5.7.2 To date, 3 prolific offenders responsible for over **205** graffiti tags across the borough were identified as part of this operation. 2 resulted in arrest and received community resolutions for the criminal damage. 1 was issued an Agreed Behavioural Agreement which was attached to his Thurrock Council Tenancy Contract.
- 5.7.3 The success of this operation was evidenced in the recent Keep Britain Tidy inspection, tranche 2 as it was noted that the graffiti rate for the borough had fallen from 6.0 to 1.67

## 6. Budget

<b>Service</b>	<b>Budget 19/20 (£000s)</b>	<b>Outturn 19/20 (£000s)</b>	<b>Revised Budget 20/21 (000s)</b>
Cleaning and Greening	5,460	5,460	5,304
Recreation and Leisure	846	846	964
Waste Services	12,830	12,830	13,354
Enforcement	(43)	(43)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,093</b>	<b>19,093</b>	<b>19,622</b>

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

There were no questions to the Leader and five questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

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

**1. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Johnson**

What is Thurrock Council doing to stop the practice of landlords and letting agencies placing blanket bans on renting to prospective tenants in receipt of housing benefit (known as "No DSS"), after two county court judges ruled this practice amounted to indirect discrimination on the basis of gender and disability under the Equality Act 2010 in July 2020 and September 2020?

**2. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Mayes**

In December 2020, a coroner ruled that air pollution was a cause of death of a nine year old girl from Lewisham, Ella Kissi Debra, who tragically died in 2013 during an asthma attack. What is Thurrock Council doing in response to this landmark ruling to protect Thurrock residents from toxic air?

**3. From Councillor Shinnick to Councillor Mayes**

Can you please inform me if there are any plans for Thurrock to have Covid 19 Marshals going around the borough?

**4. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Huelin**

When will the report of the Communications LGA Peer Review, carried out last October, be published?

**5. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Coxshall**

When does the Portfolio Holder expect planning application 18/01671/FUL, in respect of the land at Arena Essex, to be determined?

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This report lists all motions from the previous twelve months which still have updates forthcoming. All Motions which have been resolved or the actions from officers have been completed are removed.

Date	From	Motion	Status	Director
29 January 2020	Cllr J Kent	This year's Holocaust Memorial Day marked the 75th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust. Thurrock Council understands the importance of remembering the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust and the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The Council calls upon Cabinet to explore the opportunity to work with schools to facilitate visits to former Nazi death camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau, to help learn first-hand the consequences of hate. A future programme should seek to work across schools in Thurrock.	Holocaust Memorial Day is an important occasion for Thurrock Council to commemorate and remember the millions murdered in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. The day also provides an important focus to educate about the consequences of hate and the need to tackle discrimination. Previous visits to former Nazi death camps have provided a valuable opportunity to learn these lessons first hand, and to share experiences within the wider school and community. Given the current pressures on schools and restrictions on travel, our initial focus will be on promoting digital opportunities for learning more about Holocaust Memorial Day and how the lessons of history are relevant today. This position will be reviewed once the Pandemic is under control, and when travel is easier to consider.	Roger Harris

Date	From	Motion	Status	Director
26 February 2020	Cllr Redsell	Council calls on Cabinet to consider a new wood and bluebells to be planted on a piece of land at the edge of Woodside.	The requirement from the s106 is for the open space to be kept mowed, with limited planting around the edges. Contact has now been established with the developer and a meeting is being scheduled to discuss the motion presented.	Julie Rogers



## **Motions Submitted to Council**

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

### **Motion 1**

#### **Submitted by Councillor Anderson**

Given the great importance the Conservative government has placed on the "prevent" agenda in terms of countering extremism, and the need to consider all of the human trafficking and modern day slavery implications of illegal entry and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, especially in areas with a large waterfront or port industry, the chamber wishes to have an appropriate member's forum for "prevent".

Therefore, following the procedure used to constitute the Corporate Parenting Committee as a formal Council Committee, we instruct the monitoring officer to present relevant terms of reference for the next meeting of the Full Council to help better protect our communities and those who come into our care.

#### **Monitoring Officer Comments:**

This motion seeks a report to Council on a proposed new Committee. It relates to a matter which affects the authority's area and is a matter over which the Council has a relevant function.

This motion would require an amendment to the constitution, therefore in accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution a report will be taken to the General Services Committee before it is brought before Council. This report and the subsequent report would set out the proposed terms of reference, and contain full discussion of the relevant considerations for Members. It will also consider the wider context including; overlaps with existing committees of the Council and the national guidance. The Council has a current Prevent member working group under the auspices of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the national guidance on prevent does not require Councils to set up a specific committee, but does recommend that there is Member oversight.

#### **Section 151 Officer Comments:**

There are no specific financial implications arising from the motion. The wider context will be considered as part of the further reporting required should Council support this motion.

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

Yes

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