

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 7.00pm on 30 June 2021 at Thameside Theatre, Orsett Road, Grays, RM17 5DX.

There is very limited space for press and public to physically attend this meeting due to social distancing requirements. We advise anyone wishing to physically attend to book a seat in advance via direct.democracy@thurrock.gov.uk to ensure a place.

Arrangements have been made for the press and public to watch council meetings live via the Council's online YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/user/thurrockcouncil

Membership of the Council:

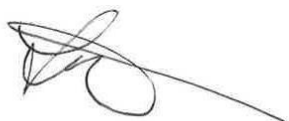
Sue Shinnick (Mayor)

James Halden (Deputy Mayor)

Qaisar Abbas
Abbie Akinbohun
Alex Anderson
Chris Baker
Gary Byrne
Adam Carter
Daniel Chukwu
Colin Churchman
Gary Collins
Mark Coxshall
Jack Duffin
Tony Fish
Mike Fletcher
Robert Gledhill
Shane Hebb
Victoria Holloway

Deborah Huelin
Andrew Jefferies
Barry Johnson
Tom Kelly
Cathy Kent
John Kent
Martin Kerin
Steve Liddiard
Susan Little
Ben Maney
Fraser Massey
Allen Mayes
Sara Muldowney
Bukky Okunade
Augustine Ononaji
Maureen Pearce

Terry Piccolo
Georgette Polley
Jane Potheary
Shane Ralph
Kairen Raper
Joycelyn Redsell
Elizabeth Rigby
Sue Sammons
Jennifer Smith
Graham Snell
Luke Spillman
James Thandi
David Van Day
Lee Watson
Lynn Worrall



Lyn Carpenter
Chief Executive

Agenda published on: 22 June 2021

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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1 Apologies for absence	
2 Minutes	
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Council, held on 26 May 2021.	
3 Items of Urgent Business	
To receive additional items that the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
4 Declaration of Interests	
To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
5 Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council	
6 Questions from Members of the Public	9 - 10
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
7 Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors	
In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2(Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.	
8 Petitions Update Report	11 - 12
9 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels	
The Council are asked to agree any changes to the appointments made to committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels, as requested by Group Leaders.	

10	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21	13 - 32
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13	Report of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways	49 - 64
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In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

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

Name of Committee	Date
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5 November 2020
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	17 November 2020
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10 November 2020
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	1 December 2020
Cleaner Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3 December 2020
Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8 December 2020
Planning Committee	7 January 2021
Corporate Parenting Committee	5 January 2021
Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	14 January 2021

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 January 2021
Standard and Audit Committee	24 November 2020
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19 January 2021
Planning Committee	11 February 2021
Planning Committee	25 February 2021
Planning Committee	18 March 2021

18 Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year 77 - 78

19 Motion submitted by Councillor Worrall 79 - 80

Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Future Dates of Council:

21 July 2021, 22 September 2021, 27 October 2021, 24 November 2021, 26 January 2022, 23 February 2022 (Budget)

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Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

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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

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at 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 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.

Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi will be available at the Thameside Theatre and can be directed by Theatre staff on the night

Evacuation Procedures

In the case of an emergency, you should evacuate the building using the nearest available exit and congregate outside as directed by Theatre staff.

How to view this agenda on a tablet device



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

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

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

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

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non- pecuniary

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



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

PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

No speech may exceed 3 minutes without the consent of the Mayor [Rule 19.8], except for the proposer of any motion who shall have 5 minutes to move that motion (except on a motion to amend where the 3 minute time shall apply) [Rule 19.8(a)]			
All Motions will follow Section A and then either Section B or C			
A.	A1 Motion is moved 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.		C.	
IF there is an AMENDMENT (please see Rule 19.23)		If NOT amended i.e. original motion	
B1	The mover of the amendment shall speak (3 mins).	C1	Debate.
B2	The seconder of the amendment shall speak unless he or she has reserved their speech (3 mins).	C2	If the seconder of the motion has reserved their speeches, they shall then speak.
B3	THEN debate on <u>the subject</u>.	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.

June 1941

IDDENTEN Frederick G
FROST Anthony C

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There are 2 questions from members of the public.

1. From Mr Carruthers to Councillor Maney

Can citizens have trust and confidence that the registers of the Council that record its planning decisions are correct?

2. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Maney

Can you tell me the Council's current policy regarding parking of vehicles on pavements and grass verges?

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Petitions Update Report

Petition No.	Description	Presented (date)	Presented (by)	Responsible Director	Status
547	We the residents of Tilbury Town and the wider community of Thurrock call on Thurrock Council/ Enforcement to take urgent action against the owner/owners of the van repair business located in Lansdowne Road, Tilbury. For using the Queens Highway as an extension of their business. Hence obtaining all parking spaces in the current Controlled Parking Zone in both Lansdowne Road and Calcutta Road which is not allowing parents to pick up or drop off their children from the two school's being Lansdowne and St Mary's in a safe and controlled manner. This is a long ongoing matter that requires some urgent action to stop this particular business from flouting the parking rules and regulations that are in place.	30/4/2021	Resident	Andy Millard	The Transport Development team are consulting on removal of the bays which will enable the location to be enforced, under the existing Parking Permit Area, preventing the business from using the location. The Traffic Regulation Order for the removal of the bays is out to public consultation until 3 June 2021 and local residents are urged to comment on proposals.
548	Traffic/Parking issues relating to Quarry Hill/Grays Convent/St Thomas Schools. Congestion/poor driving and parking causing dangerous scenarios. HGV usage (predominately skip lorries/cement lorries/tankers). Address and Remedy Parking Issues (Bradleigh Avenue, College Avenue, Langthorne Crescent, Cresthill Avenue, St George's Avenue and Ward Avenue).	4/5/2021	Resident	Andy Millard / Julie Rogers	The issues raised within the petition fall under the Safer Routes to School (SRTS) and Area Intervention Programme (AIP) sections of the Council's annual Integrated Transport Block programme. The schools are ranked as 6th, 8th and 10th within the current SRTS programme of 52 schools, and the HGV issue is currently ranked 6th on the AIP programme. Although these locations are not included in the 2021/22 programme, based upon the

Petitions Update Report

Petition No.	Description	Presented (date)	Presented (by)	Responsible Director	Status
					<p>petition received, the Transport Development Team have begun to investigate solutions that could address the issues that have been raised. In relation to Parking Enforcement, the Council patrol and monitor schools in the borough on a rotational basis to a predetermined programme. Enforcement patrols are already in place to enforce the current restrictions in the areas surrounding Quarry Hill Academy, Grays Convent and St Thomas School. An increase in restrictions could be a possible solution, and periodic enforcement patrols will be provided in line with resourcing levels. Residents can report obstruction of their dropped kerbs by calling 01375 413871 and where resource permits an officer will be deployed. At present Thurrock Council do not have any plans to install cameras or introduce enforcement cars.</p>

30 June 2021	ITEM: 10
Council	
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key
Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Chairs	
Accountable Assistant Director: Ian Hunt, Assistant Director Law and Governance, and Monitoring Officer	
Accountable Director: Sean Clark, Corporate Director of Resource and Place Delivery	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

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

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21 be noted.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Each year an Annual Report is produced detailing the work of the six Overview and Scrutiny committees and their main achievements for that municipal year. The report is designed to inform residents of this work in an accessible and engaging format.

2.2 The last municipal year has seen Overview and Scrutiny tackle a wide range of topics, with Members leading on issues that have come to the fore both through their own research and through the recommendations of Council officers.

2.3 Throughout the last municipal year, Overview and Scrutiny have also been dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and have worked hard to change their approach, which is detailed in Appendix 1.

2.4 This report, as in 2019/20, highlights the key projects and achievements of each Committee, and therefore does not provide an exhaustive list of all meetings, discussions, or recommendations that occurred in Overview and

Scrutiny this year.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 It is hoped that the format of the Annual Report will highlight to residents how the Overview and Scrutiny committees have picked relevant community issues, and how Members undertook work to form recommendations that positively affected these issues.
- 3.2 The report will be published on the Council's website and key community groups and participants from last year's work will be made aware of its publication directly.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The report outlines the positive work that has been undertaken during 2020/21 and is being referred to Council for review in order for Members to comment on the overall Overview and Scrutiny function of Thurrock Council.

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

- 5.1 In accordance with Chapter 4, Part 1, Rule 7.1 of the Constitution, the annual report is submitted to Council for their consideration and comment.
- 5.2 Overview and Scrutiny Chairs were consulted on the contents of the report in April 2021.

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

- 6.1 This report has a community impact as the work of the Overview and Scrutiny committees for 2020/21 allows residents to participate in decision making and tackling key issues of local concern, which is clearly documented in the annual report.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Dammy Adewole**
Senior Management Accountant –
Central Services

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

7.2 Legal

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

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. It is good practice to produce an annual report reviewing Overview and Scrutiny activity, and meets the requirement of the Constitution to report (Chapter 4, Part 1, Article 6, paragraph 7.1).

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

The Overview and Scrutiny function is carried out with due regard to equality and inclusion legislation and specifically the Equality Act 2010. The Annual Report, as well as all other Overview and Scrutiny documents, are designed to be easy to understand and as accessible as possible. All members of the public are encouraged to participate in the Overview and Scrutiny process regardless of any protected characteristics they may have.

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

None.

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

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

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

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21

Report Author:

Lucy Tricker
Senior Democratic Services Officer

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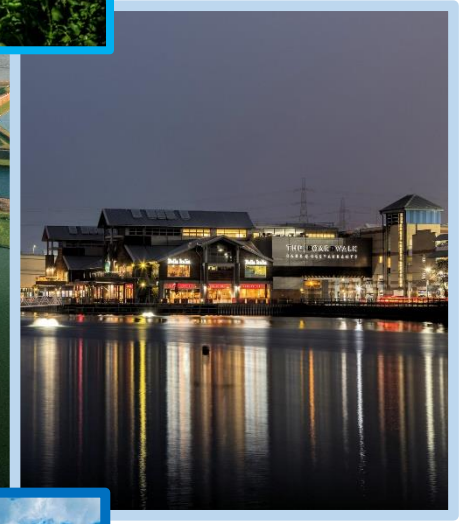
Appendix 1

Overview and Scrutiny

Annual Report

2020-21

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What is overview and scrutiny?

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

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

Work Programme

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

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

The agendas and associated reports of each Committee can be accessed by the following link:

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

Committees

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

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

An Overview and Scrutiny Committee can also form Working Groups or Task and Finish Groups to focus on particularly important issues.

Membership

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

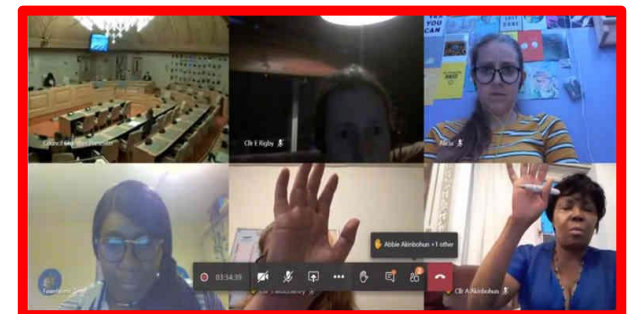
Thurrock has a number of non-Councillors sitting on Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Children's Services Committee has two parent-governors as well as a diocesan representative from the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches respectively. There is also one co-opted member on the Health and Wellbeing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

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

The decision making process

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

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees meet in an informal atmosphere and engages with people who can help with their work and provide evidence for their reviews. Under normal circumstances members of the public would be welcome to attend meetings of the Committees and would be able to take part.



Overview and Scrutiny during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020/21 municipal year has involved lots of change and adaptation for the scrutiny function, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic meant that Members could no longer physically hold scrutiny meetings in the Council Offices and members of the public could not attend these meetings either. This has meant that the function has switched to virtual meetings, using the Microsoft Teams application. When restrictions have allowed, meetings have also been held using a hybrid format, with some Members in the Council Chambers and some Members attending virtually. This has allowed Members to isolate or shield when necessary whilst continuing with their work on their scrutiny committee.

Despite the global pandemic, the scrutiny function continued to do its job, and held every meeting as scheduled with no cancellations or disruptions. Both Democratic Services and the IT teams worked hard to

ensure that everything was 'alright on the night', and meetings continued using the new technology and hybrid/virtual formats.

Scrutiny Committees also continued to virtually meet with external stakeholders and guests during scrutiny meetings using the Microsoft Teams platform. For example, the Planning, Transport and Regeneration O&S Committee met with C2C rail directors; the Corporate O&S Committee met with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Thurrock Association of Forums; and the Health and Wellbeing O&S Committee held NHS and CCG leaders to account.

Members of the public also had the opportunity to watch meetings live from the comfort of their own homes, first through the Council's YouTube channel, and then through the Council's public-I streaming service. This allowed members to watch discussions and decisions being taken live, even during COVID-19.

How have we helped you?

The following pages provide a brief summary of the work of Thurrock's six overview and scrutiny committees across 2020/21. Each page outlines the main achievements and considerations of each committee, to provide members of the public an insight into the work of scrutiny. This does not represent an exhaustive list of every meeting, agenda item or discussion, but should provide a brief overview and give members of the public a taste of what scrutiny at Thurrock has achieved, and how this has helped you and other Thurrock residents.



Overview and Scrutiny 2020/21

Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Home to School Transport and Travel Policy

At one of our first meetings this year, we scrutinised



the Home to School Transport and Travel Policy, which outlined the proposed changes to the policy. Some of us felt concerned regarding the recommendation that families living in temporary accommodation would have to move their child to a closer school after twelve weeks in one property.

We felt that these children were already at a disadvantage, and needed stability with their schooling, and therefore did not approve the recommendation. The report, including our comments, was then discussed by Cabinet who supported our decision to remove the recommendation. Therefore, parents living in temporary accommodation do not have to move their child to a closer school if they don't wish to.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Inspection Outcome – Written Statement of Action

Last year, we discussed at length the OFSTED SEND inspection, and subsequent Written Statement of Action, and continued to do so throughout this municipal year.

We continued to monitor the progress that was being made on the inspection actions, and requested an update at each committee, to be able to highlight any progress and areas of concern.

We also ensured the service had been



continuing to communicate with parents throughout the pandemic.

Later on in the year, we questioned the dissolution of the Carer/Parent Participation Group, but were pleased to hear at the next meeting that the group was being reinstated and would continue to help parents and carers.

This year, our Committee have worked hard to make sure the most vulnerable children in the borough remain safe and have the best possible outcomes. We'd like to thank officers and Members for their hard work during this difficult year.



**Cllr Alex Anderson,
Chair of the
Children's Overview
and Scrutiny
Committee**

Cleaner, Greener, and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Public Protection Work Involving Animals



One of the areas we discussed this year was animal welfare, and how to ensure Thurrock were working to protect animals across the borough, including from the problems associated with puppy farms and illegal breeding.

We discussed this issue at length during our October meeting, and questioned animal rights and the Animal Welfare Policy, which we believed needed reviewing. We decided that the best way to focus on this issue was to establish an Animal Welfare Working Group to update the policy in line with new legislation. We look forward to hearing more on their work next year, and believe it will help pets and their owners throughout Thurrock.

Cross-Party Waste Working Group and Municipal Waste Strategy 2021- 2031



Over the course of the past year, the Waste Management Working Group have been working hard to investigate

recycling rates across the borough, and study potential new approaches to increase recycling.

We were pleased to welcome members of the Working Group to our meeting to discuss their findings and recommendations. We also agreed to an additional recommendation to consult fully with the community before any changes were enacted, to ensure that all residents had the chance to have their say on the proposals.

PREVENT Strategy Update

This year, we continued to focus on the Council's response to terrorism. We considered potential local threats, as well as actions and responses that would address this.



**Cllr Joycelyn Redsell,
Chair of Cleaner,
Greener, and Safer
Overview & Scrutiny**

Our committee members felt this was an important issue, and recommended that PREVENT training be mandatory for all Members, to

ensure that all Councillors understood their PREVENT duties.

The work of the CGS Committee this year has helped keep residents safe, and worked to improve the environment, during a particularly challenging year. Thank you all for your hard work.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Local Full Fibre Network



At our first meeting of the year, we discussed the bid to central government for a local full fibre network, which would help improve Council and public sector efficiency by improving Wi-Fi connections. We questioned which sites would receive the full fibre connections, and were

pleased to hear this included care homes, community buildings, and fire and rescue buildings.

We had lots of questions on this report, so requested an update later in the year. This update was brought to our Committee in November 2020, and we learned that the bid had been successful and was being delivered. We feel this will improve the local economy, as public buildings will now have improved internet connectivity.

Community Forums



This year, we invited the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the Thurrock Association of Forums (TAF), as we wished to investigate the relationship between the Council and forums, and how this could be improved.

We questioned how Councillors could help and support forums, for example through increasing public interest and knowledge of their work. We welcomed comments from the TAF representatives, and feel this will start an ongoing conversation and improve relationships between the two entities. We also agreed to encourage residents to join forums, and so they could make their views heard regarding their local communities.



**Cllr Oliver Gerrish,
Chair of Corporate
Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

General Fund Budget

After a difficult financial year in regards to COVID-19 and the ongoing pandemic, we believed it was important to scrutinise the budget.

We wanted to ensure that residents had been taken into account in the budget, and therefore scrutinised in detail the proposed council tax rise, and potential government support. We sought reassurance that the Council could balance the budget before we

agreed recommendations and sent the report to Cabinet for final agreement. The Portfolio Holder replied to all of our comments at the Cabinet meeting, and they agreed the budget to Full Council.

This year we've helped you by ensuring the Council works effectively with its partners, as well as by holding the Council's finances to account during this difficult year.

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

COVID-19 Pandemic

This year our main focus has been the COVID-19 pandemic, and the effect this devastating virus has had on local residents and the NHS. We've received an update at every meeting we've held, and constantly monitored case numbers; ICU bed data; and death rates. We've also considered the impact that lockdowns have had on the mental health of our resident's, as well as the health impacts added stress such as unemployment or job insecurity can have. We've also scrutinised the Test and Trace system, and earlier on in the pandemic, we pushed to ensure all frontline healthcare workers received PPE.

We've continued to advocate for NHS and other frontline healthcare workers through the pandemic, by scrutinising the vaccine rollout and ensuring that all frontline healthcare staff were offered the vaccine when appropriate.

In addition, we've continued to scrutinise and hold the NHS and CCG's to account by inviting them to our Committee to ask questions and explain issues and concerns.

Throughout the year, we've also monitored the development of the Integrated Medical Centres, and worked to ensure that medical services remain in Thurrock during construction. I'd like to thank officers and Members for their hard work throughout this difficult year.



Proposed Consultation on Adult Social Care (Non-Residential) Fees and Charges

Alongside the pandemic, we've also continued to scrutinise Thurrock's adult social care sector, and were therefore pleased to invite the PFH to our

meeting to discuss the proposed increase in non-residential fees. He presented a series of options, including a gradual raise over three years, which we questioned him extensively on. We wanted to ensure that all residents affected by this change had the opportunity to put their views across, so we therefore suggested an extended consultation period, which included HealthWatch. In January 2021, we were pleased to hear that the consultation had received a good response rate.

I'd also like to offer my condolences to Ian Evans, a HOSC co-opted member, whose work and dedication to the Committee were invaluable. He was a passionate advocate for disabled residents in Thurrock, and we were deeply saddened to hear of his passing.



**Cllr Shane Ralph,
Chair of Health
and Wellbeing
Overview and
Scrutiny
Committee**

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Housing Development

This report continued to come before our Committee throughout the year, and we scrutinised these developments in great detail.

We started off the year by looking at potential housing development sites in Broxburn Drive and Riverview, and were concerned about the level of community engagement. At the next meeting, we were able to look at the consultation process, which outlined how residents could share their views, and the impact that COVID-19 had had on resident consultation. We wanted to ensure that residents had the opportunity have their voices heard on any potential housing developments in their communities.



Tenants and Leaseholders

We looked at the results from tenants and leaseholders satisfaction surveys. We scrutinised the way in which satisfaction rates were measured and the results.

From the results, ASB was the main concern for tenants and we questioned Officers on the actions proposed. We asked Officers to engage with Ward Councillors on ASB hotspots to fully understand the issues. Leaseholders' main concern was that they did not feel they were getting value for money for service charges and we questioned Officers' solutions. We will continue to monitor this and will scrutinise the solutions that will be coming back to Committee Members in the next municipal year.



Automatic Gates Update

We've also deliberated on the results of the resident consultation regarding automatic gates in some Council properties, and if there should be a charge on this system, or if some automatic gates at high rise sites be removed. We welcomed Councillor Holloway to this meeting as Ward Councillor and heard her views regarding the safety of elderly residents. The Committee then questioned the level of consultation response and the impact of no charges.

We asked officers to look into other options for maintaining the automatic gates without implementing a charge, such as sponsorship.

We've helped residents by continuing to ensure that homes are built in the right area, and that tenants and leaseholders' concerns are addressed to improve the area they live in.



**Cllr Luke Spillman,
Chair of Housing
Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

Planning, Transport, and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

A13 Widening Scheme

Throughout the year, our Committee has continued to monitor and scrutinise the on-going work on the A13 Widening Project.

We've requested and received regular updates, including a breakdown of costs, details of financial shortfall, and other issues as they arise. We've continued to question any potential overspend, as well as the project completion date and work with contractors.

We'll continue to receive reports next year and ensure that the project gets completed to a high standard for residents.



Stanford-le-Hope Interchange Project

We've also been monitoring the Stanford-le-Hope Interchange Project, to ensure this is completed on time and on budget. We've reviewed the original scheme design and welcomed the new proposed plans for the scheme, including the newly designed car park and bus turnaround point.

Later on in the year, we received an update regarding the finances on the project, and requested regular financial updates to ensure that money was being spent efficiently and effectively, and the project would also be delivered to a high standard.



C2C Rail Update

This year we welcomed the Head of Communications at c2c Rail to discuss the new timetable they had

implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic. We wanted to ensure that all residents that needed to travel into London were safe, and could still adhere to social distancing measures. We questioned the enforcement of mandatory face coverings, as well as hand sanitising stations and train cleaning, and welcomed the response from c2c.

We will continue to monitor this throughout the pandemic, and once life has resumed its normal pace.



We've worked hard this year to ensure projects will be delivered on time and on budget, and will help improve the lives of residents.



**Cllr John Allen,
Chair of Planning,
Transport &
Regeneration
Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

Task and Finish/Working Groups

Overview and Scrutiny Committees also have the power to form Task and Finish Groups or Working Groups.

These groups can then focus on a particular issue and report back to their parent committee. This frees up time for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to focus on different issues, whilst still ensuring that the most important topics for you can be scrutinised in detail.

Task and Finish Groups 2020/21

The Waste Management Working Group completed their work this year, and reported their findings back to the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

This year we also undertook an Animal Welfare Working Group to draft a new Animal Welfare Policy and ensure our borough's pets and animals are kept safe.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee also continued their work on the scrutiny review, and were pleased to approve all

recommendations, and send this to Cabinet who also approved the recommendations.

Although a review is not an independent Task and Finish Group, it is a detailed piece of work, which can last up to a few years, and we look forward to seeing the review implemented in 2021/22.

The work of the scrutiny review is outlined on the following page.



Scrutiny Review

The Scrutiny Review began in 2018/19 to look in detail at the scrutiny function and how this could be improved. This work continued throughout 2019/20, and was finalised this municipal year. The Corporate O&S Committee have been pleased to see the work continue and receive regular updates, as well signing off the final recommendations to be agreed by Cabinet.

Executive-Scrutiny Workshop

In April 2020 members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet met virtually to discuss the draft review recommendations, particularly the proposed Executive-Scrutiny Protocol, as well as discussing how members from both functions felt and how the service could be improved. This was a productive workshop, with good comments coming from both overview and scrutiny and Executive Members.

These comments and recommendations were added to the final review document, for example ensuring all long-term projects met the

SMART objectives, and highlighting the importance of training for Chairs.

Review Agreement

We worked hard this year to formulate the review's recommendations and make sure that they work for all functions in the Council. For example, we proposed recommendations regarding improving training for scrutiny Chairs and Members; ensuring more detailed oversight of motions presented at Full Council; and proposed each Committee undertake a long-term project, focussing on an area of interest to both Councillors and residents. We hope that these recommendations, which cover both short and long-term, will improve the scrutiny function.

In November 2020, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed the final review document. We commented on the implementation process, the next steps, and continued involvement of the Executive, and were happy to agree all recommendations. We therefore sent it to Cabinet for their

agreement and approval in December 2020.

Cabinet were also pleased to see the report and agreed all recommendations. They discussed how recommendations would be implemented and were looking forward to seeing positive changes.

This year we have been pleased to see the completion of the scrutiny review, and hope it will improve the function and provide better outcomes for residents. We look forward to seeing the review's implementation next year, and would like to thank Committee Members, the Executive, and officers for their hard on the review.



Cllr Oliver Gerrish, Chair of the Scrutiny Review

How can you get involved?

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

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

Email: Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

30 June 2021	ITEM: 11
Council	
Response to Motion at Council 27 January 2021 – Request for Committee	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non Key
Report of: Councillor Gledhill, Leader of the Council	
Accountable Assistant Director: Ian Hunt, Assistant Director Law and Governance	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

At its meeting of the 21 January 2021 Council passed a resolution to request a report for the formation of a Prevent Committee. This report responds to that resolution and makes recommendations which enable Council to consider the formation of a committee with the relevant consequent elements.

The report highlights related matters in relation to the proposals, and incorporates the recommendations of the General Services Committee.

1. Recommendations

1.1 That the Council establishes a Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee, with the following provisions:

1.1.1 That the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix A be adopted;

1.1.2 That, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the allocation of seats to political groups, on the Committee, in light of the current groups, be approved as Conservative 4, Labour 2;

1.1.3 That the nominations of Political Groups to the Committee, to be received at the meeting, be approved;

1.1.4 That nominations be received at the meeting for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and approved;

- 1.1.5 That the Prevent Violent Extremism Members Working Group, as referred to in Chapter 12 of the Constitution, be formally disbanded;**
- 1.1.6 That the amendments to Chapter 1, 5 and 12 of the Constitution, as set out in paragraphs 3.7, 3.17 and 3.24, be approved; and**
- 1.1.7 That the Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary consequential amendments to the Constitution.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 At its meeting of the 21 January 2021 Full Council approved a motion proposed by Councillor Anderson in the following terms:

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.

- 2.2 This report responds to this motion and provides a potential structure for Members to consider.
- 2.3 The motion refers to a number of different frameworks and regimes which the Council has responsibilities in relation to:
- Prevent;
 - Human trafficking and modern day slavery; and
 - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
- 2.4 These areas of work are already subject to Member engagement through a number of different forums; the formation of a new committee could unify work in relation to this agenda and enable a holistic view to be taken, however it also has the risk of duplicating effort. The following sections highlight the key responsibilities of the Council and the existing scrutiny and Member responsibilities.
- 2.5 The General Services Committee at its meeting of the 15 July considered the proposed response to the motion. Within the terms of reference it requested that the term Prevent is more adequately defined and this is incorporated in the proposal before Cabinet. The Committee further considered a proposal from the Leader that the terms of reference be widened to include Criminal

Gang Association. There was substantive debate on this proposal, the Leader confirmed that his intention was that this would be for significant gang association relating to large groupings over a geography wider than Thurrock alone rather than widening the scope of the committee to include any or all crime or small gangs involved in local antisocial behaviour. The committee unanimously recommended the change to the terms of reference, but cautioned against further widening of the committees remit.

Prevent:

- 2.6 The Council has a duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of its functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is shared with a number of other public bodies including criminal justice agencies including prisons, educational and childcare establishments, health and the police. The Council updated its Prevent Strategy last year publishing the 2020/23 strategy in October 2020.
- 2.7 Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism. According to the 2020 Channel Duty guidance the most significant of these threats is currently from terrorist organisations associated with Al Qa’ida, Daesh, terrorists associated with extreme right-wing ideologies and lone actors inspired by such organisations. Clearly this list evolves over time and is not exhaustive.
- 2.8 The recently published Home Office Prevent handbook for Elected Members states: “Elected Members are crucial for successful delivery of Prevent, by overseeing and scrutinising local plans which ensure that citizens are kept safe, and vulnerable people are given safeguarding support from the harms of radicalisation. Elected Members also play a critical role in representing members of their local community. They act as both a voice of local citizens; raising issues and concerns, whilst speaking on behalf of the Local Authority to communicate how policies and programmes operate.”
- 2.9 The handbook outlines three key roles for Elected Members in shaping and delivering Prevent activity locally:
- 1) Leadership and Direction;
 - 2) Community Dialogue; and
 - 3) Scrutiny: Elected Members may also consider their role in providing transparency and accountability in delivering Prevent through formal scrutiny procedures. By holding to account the local delivery of Prevent, improvements can be made to implementation, and communities can be reassured by increased transparency.
- 2.10 The Council’s existing structures for the management of its obligations for prevent include:
- Leadership from the Leader of the Council within his Portfolio Responsibilities;
 - Formal Member scrutiny through:

- Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Prevent Violent Extremism Members Working Group;
- Childrens Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- The Community Safety Partnership;
 - Overseeing both the Prevent Strategic Board and the Channel Panel.

2.11 Counter Extremism and Terrorism (and within this the Prevent agenda) is one of the five priorities of the Community Safety Partnership, the scrutiny and oversight of the partnership is formally undertaken by the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery:

2.12 Human Trafficking and modern day slavery is nationally led by the National Crime Agency under the auspices of the Home Office. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 created specific criminal offences and codified the law in this area.

2.13 The 2015 Act placed a specific duty on Local Authorities to report to the Home Office where it has reasonable grounds to believe that an individual may be the victim of slavery or human trafficking. Given that these issues are criminal matters the Councils general duties in relation to crime and disorder would also be relevant. Essex Police has its own lead units for this area of work.

2.14 The Community Safety Partnership, treats this as part of its Violence and Vulnerability priority and considers and looks at the wider work across the partnership in respect of these issues. This is included in the oversight work of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Leaders Portfolio of Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour provides leadership in this area.

2.15 Within the remit of the wider Community Safety Partnership there are linked Port Watch meetings, which support collaborative work in this area.

2.16 The Council is further engaged in the national referral mechanism and the wider safeguarding of victims through the Councils formal safeguarding functions (for both Adults and Children). The Councils processes are undertaken in line with the common Southend Essex and Thurrock Safeguarding policies and procedures.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children:

2.17 The Council has a responsibility for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). An unaccompanied asylum seeking child is defined as an individual who is: under 18 years of age when the claim is submitted; applying for asylum in their own right; separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so.

2.18 Where a UASC is within Thurrock they are entitled to the same local authority support as any other looked after child, and our ambitions for these children

are the same: to have a safe and stable placement, to receive the care that they need to thrive, and the support they need to fulfil their educational and other outcomes. In this respect the Council owes the exact same duties of care and enquiry as it would with any other child in care.

- 2.19 The Portfolio Holder for Children and Adult Social Care, has the responsibility for Member leadership in relation to this issue. The Corporate Parenting Committee, is established to provide additional Member support to the Portfolio Holder to ensure that all parts of the Council work together to provide the best possible service for looked after children, this includes those categorised as UASC. The Corporate Parenting Committee is not decision making but advises the portfolio holder. There is further formal scrutiny of the function through the Childrens Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.20 It should be noted that whilst UASC are claiming asylum, it does not mean that there is a direct link to either the Prevent or Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking frameworks highlighted above.

Criminal Gang Association

- 2.21 There is no formal definition of Criminal Gangs, there are related terms such as County Lines and Organised Crime Groups. The Policing and Crime Act 2009 created a definition for a specific purpose of obtaining specific injunctions but can be used to illustrate the type of group which is within scope; a gang will have at least three people involved, and there will be characteristics of the group which are able to be used by others to identify the members to be identified.
- 2.22 Criminal gangs are associated with a wide range of offending, although drug dealing and distribution is often a part of the overall mix. Gangs may well be involved in other violent offences and this may include a mix of characteristics including issues such as coercion and controlling behaviours towards members of the gang and others who they are either victimising or using to further their main offending.
- 2.23 The principle responsibility for tackling criminal gangs rests with the Police. Depending on the nature of a specific issue there may be a direct role for the Council in relation to safeguarding victims, and the Council can be involved in specific targeted action such as gang injunctions or premises closures. The principle The Community Safety Partnership is the principle coordinating group for this interaction and the Councils support of the police in this area. This is included in the oversight work of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Leaders Portfolio of Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour provides leadership in this area.
- 2.24 Whilst some of the tactics and approaches may share some links to the other elements of the proposed committees work there is no direct or automatic link.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Members have requested that proposals for a new committee are prepared for consideration. Members have three principal options:
- Retention of the existing arrangements;
 - Modification of the existing arrangements without the formation of a new committee; or
 - The formation of a new committee.
- 3.2 Members may consider that the existing arrangements provide an adequate basis for their engagement in this agenda, equally with the additional detail provided Members may consider that there is a need for some modification of the existing arrangements. As noted above all three principal areas of work are covered by other committees, although not with a single focus as is proposed.
- 3.3 A new committee with a more specific focus has the capacity to provide additional support to the Council and particularly relevant Portfolio Holders, whilst noting that this will mean that there are overlaps and an element of duplication. This duplication can be managed through effective management of the committees work programme.
- 3.4 The following parts of this report are prepared to set out the considerations required of Council if it wishes to establish a new committee, these are set out below.

Terms of Reference for a new Committee:

- 3.5 The Council will need to set formal terms of reference for the committee. In recognising that this has been proposed along the model of the Corporate Parenting Committee, the key clarity that the committee is advisory to the relevant Portfolio Holders and not decision making has been replicated.
- 3.6 The proposed committee terms of reference are set out in Appendix A. If approved these will be included in Chapter 5 of the Constitution with appropriate cross referencing of the committees formation and composition in Part 1 section 1.1.
- 3.7 Having reviewed the aspiration that this committee has a remit to consider a range of subjects and not just Prevent it is proposed that the committee be called the “Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee” this would mitigate the risk of confusion between a specific national framework and this specific committee.
- 3.8 The motion has proposed broadly following the approach of the Corporate Parenting Committee in terms of its approach and format. The committee whilst being able to consider the work and the approach of the Council would not benefit from the wider statutory framework underpinning a formal Scrutiny

Committee. Equally it should be recognised that the committee does not have formal decision making powers, although through its work it may highlight areas where it considers that either comments or proposals ought to be directed to a Portfolio Holder or a relevant Scrutiny Committee.

Membership:

3.9 It is proposed that the committee is comprised of 6 members. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that seats on committees and sub-committees should be allocated in proportion, insofar as is reasonably practicable, to the proportion of seats held by each group on the Council as a whole.

3.10 The political balance of the Council was set at the Annual Meeting of Council. If the committee is approved this would increase the total number of seats on committees from 81 to 87. With the current political proportions on the Council also taking into account the wider proportions across all committees this would give the following committee seats:

Conservative:	4
Labour:	2

3.11 If Council determines that it wishes to form the committee, then it will need to determine the allocation of seats as well as seeking and considering nominations from Group Leaders to these positions.

3.12 In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 28.1 in addition to appointing the Members of the Committee Council will also be asked to consider the appointment of Substitute Members in equal numbers to those appointed by each group.

3.13 In considering appointments Council will also be asked to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the committee.

Public Participation:

3.14 The Committee will if established be subject to the formal requirements of public participation as set in the legislation, therefore the meeting will be open to the public to attend unless the business of the meeting warrants moving into private session.

3.15 It is expected that there will be times when there are specific matters where there is a need to move into private session given the information being discussed, given the context it is anticipated that this will be a frequent element of these meetings. This will be managed in accordance with the legislation and the Council constitution.

3.16 Article 3 of the Constitution provides for specific rights of Public Participation for specified committees, this includes Public Questions, Statements, and

Petitions. It is proposed that in Line with the Corporate Parenting Committee this committee is:

- 1) Included in the List of Committees in Article 3 Appendix A 1.1 where Public participation is permitted; and
- 2) Included in the List of Committees in Article 3 Annex 3 1.5 as a committee where petitions can be presented.

Allowances for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee:

- 3.17 The Council is required to consider whether it wishes for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee to be eligible to receive a special responsibility allowance. If the Council decides that the positions should receive an allowance, it will be necessary to engage the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations in this regard to a future meeting of Council.
- 3.18 The precedent from the formation of the Corporate Parenting Committee was that Council did not proceed with a proposal for special responsibility allowances for the Chair and Vice Chair of the new committee until the next time the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel was called upon to review Special Responsibility Allowances.
- 3.19 It is proposed that this precedent is followed as this will give the committee time to establish a work programme and for there to be a clear understanding of the role and responsibilities required of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Prevent Violent Extremism Members Working Group:

- 3.20 The Council has an established Member working group on Prevent, this was formed at the request of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This working group's remit would be duplicated within the role of this committee.
- 3.21 Given the overlap and duplication it is proposed that this working group is disbanded and its work transferred to the new Committee.
- 3.22 If the option to do this is undertaken then the group would need to be removed from the list of Outside Bodies in the Constitution Chapter 12 Part 2 table 5. Equally the Member appointments to the group by Council would be terminated.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 This report responds to the Motion of Councillor Anderson at the meeting of Council on the 27 January 2021, with the requested proposals for a new committee.

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

5.1 The General Services Committee in advance of Council considered proposals to respond to this motion and their recommendations are detailed within this report.

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

6.1 These proposals link to the Council's People priority, particularly in respect to the priority that "communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together".

6.2 It should be noted that the Council as a key partner of the Community Safety partnership is also supporting its priority focus in regards to Tackling Violence and Vulnerability as well as Counter Extremism and Terrorism.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Sean Clark**
Corporate Director of Resource and Place Delivery

There are no direct financial implications from this report. Should there be a decision to seek special responsibility allowances for the Chair and Vice Chair of a committee this would be an unbudgeted additional cost to the Council.

7.2 Legal

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

The legal implications are addressed within the report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

There are no direct equality or diversity implications in the decision to establish (or not) a committee of Council.

The work of the Council in supporting vulnerable residents and through the Community Safety Partnership is supported by full equality impact assessments and ongoing monitoring.

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

As highlighted above the Council has a number of statutory obligations in respect of the prevention of illegal activities, this report addresses the interactions between Member engagement and oversight leading to the Councils responsibilities for the consideration of Crime and Disorder.

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

- Council's Constitution <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/constitution-of-council/thurrock-council-constitution>
- Community Safety Partnership Annual Delivery Plan <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership>

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix A – Proposed Terms of Reference

Report Author:

Ian Hunt

Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

APPENDIX A

3. Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee	
Appointed by: The Council under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972	Number of Elected Members: Six
Chair and Vice-Chair appointed by: The Council	Political Proportionality: The elected Members shall be appointed in accordance with Political Proportionality
Quorum: Three elected Members	Co-opted Members to be appointed by Council: None
<p>Functions determined by Council:</p> <p>1. Purpose:</p> <p>1.1 The Committee exists to ensure that all elements of the Council work together to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its duties regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Prevent, in line with the Councils responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (b) Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery (c) Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (d) Supporting tackling criminal gang association. <p>1.2 The Committee will serve to aid elected members to drive the improvement of the services involved forward including by interacting with partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>2. Objectives:</p> <p>2.1 To promote the role of all councillors and support the Council to promote Prevent objectives through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Ensuring that other elected members are fully briefed on key work in Prevent and how it will affect other portfolio areas (b) Provide a steer on reaching difficult decisions on those issues that involve competing public interests or may prove contentious in an area (c) Encouraging open discussion and transparent decision making (d) Ensuring prevent priorities are reflected in the work of the Local Authority <p>2.2 To provide scrutiny and challenge of Prevent delivery.</p>	

- 2.3 To promote the role of all councillors and support the Council to engage with the national strategy and work in respect of Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery and tackling criminal gang association.
- 2.4 To support the Corporate Parenting Committee in the Councils management and care of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) through:
 - (a) Receiving effective 'preventative' and qualitative information in order to hold senior officers to account in relation to meeting the needs and improving the outcomes of UASC.
 - (b) To oversee the strategy for UASC and ensure that the various elements within it are being delivered in a holistic and comprehensive way by all responsible.
- 2.5 To bring together members/officers/representatives of partner agencies with relevant responsibilities, with the Chair having discretion to extend invitations to attend meetings of the Committee as appropriate.
- 2.6 To make recommendations to the relevant executive decision maker where responsibility for that particular function rests with the executive
- 2.7 To report to the relevant scrutiny committee any matter which it believes that committee should give consideration to.
- 2.8 The Committee shall be responsible for setting its own work programme, taking into account the wishes and preferences of the members of the Committee, together with any suggestions from Officers of the Council for particular topics to be considered.

Matters reserved for decision:

There are no specific matters reserved to this committee.

The reason for this is that the role and function of the committee is to review and monitor the council's role in relation to the three areas set out in 1.1. This involves the participation of members on a cross political group committee. However any specific actions the committee might identify as necessary would be executive functions and need to be taken by a cabinet decision maker, in accordance with cabinet responsibility for functions.

Functions determined by Statute:

None

30 June 2021	ITEM: 12
Council	
Constitutional Change – Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: No
Report of: Councillor Gledhill, Leader of the Council	
Accountable Assistant Director: Ian Hunt, Assistant Director Law and Governance	
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive	
This report is Public	

Executive Summary

This report details a change to the terms of reference of the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board to allow greater flexibility in the membership of the committee.

The Board is a statutory committee of the Council set up under the auspices of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.

The membership of the committee is in part prescribed in the regulations, including Members, Officers and partners. Currently of the 5 Member positions 4 of these are reserved to the Leader and Members of Cabinet, with a separate position allocated to the Labour Group. The chairmanship of the committee is also defined as a portfolio holder.

The proposal is that the Elected Members of the committee is moved from being specifically prescribed by the Constitution to appointed by the Leader in line with the national guidelines and that the Chair of the Board is appointed by the Council.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Council approves that the Constitution of the Council be changed to:

1.1.1 Permit the Leader of the Council to appoint up to 5 elected Members to the Health and Wellbeing Board;

1.1.2 Permit the Chair of the Board to be appointed by the Council;

1.2 That the Council receives the nominations to the Health and Wellbeing Board of the Leader at the meeting.

1.3 That nominations be received at the meeting for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and be approved.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Council is required under the terms of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to form a Health and Wellbeing Board which fulfils the statutory requirements. The ambition behind the introduction of health and wellbeing boards is to build strong and effective partnerships, which improve the commissioning and delivery of services across NHS and local government, leading in turn to improved health and wellbeing for local people.

2.2 This report reviews the provisions for the appointment of Councillor Board members to allow for greater flexibility in the appointment of suitable Councillors.

2.3 The appointment of elected Members to the Board is determined by s194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. It prescribes that where the Council uses executive arrangements (as is the case in Thurrock) the appointment of Members to the Board is the decision of the Leader.

2.4 The Council sets a framework through the Constitution for the number of Members and the appointment of the Chair of the committee. The current arrangement specifies that this will be the Leader and specific portfolio holders, together with a Councillor Member of the opposition group. This prescription does not reflect the underlying statutory provision, in that the Membership could be any Members of the Council appointed by the Leader, and need not include the Leader.

2.5 It is therefore recommended that the constitution is updated to reflect the statutory position that the Leader is able to appoint Members to the Board without prescription.

2.6 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requiring political balance on committees has been excluded from the operation of the Board.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The Council is obliged to operate a Health and Wellbeing Board, and accordingly to set its terms of reference within the constitution.

3.2 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 prescribes that the appointment of elected Member members of the board is the function of the Leader of the Council.

3.3 Whilst it could be seen as promoting a diversity of views and thought that there remains a political balance on the Board there is no legal power to require this or fetter the Leaders discretion in the appointment of members of the Board.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 Further to the Leaders request the current restrictions on the exercise of his power to appoint the Board are proposed to be removed, the underlying statutory framework supports this proposal.

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

5.1 This proposal was considered by the General Services Committee on the 15th June, the committee recommended the report to Council.

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

6.1 The Membership of the Board is important to ensuring that the Board is able to effectively and efficiently discharge its functions however this change does not fundamentally impact on the board's outcomes.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

The proposals do not alter the cost profile of the Board, and are therefore within existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

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

The legal implications are detailed in the report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

The Council is under a statutory duty to ensure that equality and diversity is a key part of the decision making process of the Council. Therefore, attention is

drawn to the importance of ensuring that appointments to committees are underpinned by appropriate training on the statutory equality framework. The introduction of essential member training provides the assurance that members of committees will be able to fulfil their obligations with a full understanding of equality and diversity issues. This is fundamental to the Council being able to meet its statutory responsibilities. However, consideration must be given to members not completing the training or not attending, and the steps to be taken in these circumstances, once the member has been appointed.

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

None

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

- None

9. **Appendices to the report**

- None

Report Author:

Ian Hunt

Assistant Director Law and Governance

30 June 2021	ITEM: 13
Council	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways	
Report of: Councillor Ben Maney, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways	
This report is Public	

Introduction

Like all areas of the council, Transport and Highways services have been impacted by COVID-19. It has also meant that many of our public transport operators have experienced difficulties with reduced passenger numbers and the council itself has seen some of our own initiatives affected. We have also seen a sharp reduction in the patronage of our car parks.

Despite the difficulties, we have risen to the challenge and managed to deliver ambitious programmes of work to help support the residents and businesses of Thurrock, such as the reconstruction of Stonehouse Lane and completion of the Orsett Road two-way scheme. The Planning team have also adapted to working restrictions while also meeting customer needs.

We have put in place measures through the government's funding for active travel in immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to make our public areas safe. In addition, in line with the government's attempts to promote sustainable and greener travel, we are looking at ways to promote walking and cycling in the borough.

In the coming months, as a result of government and private sector investment in the borough, particularly in Grays and Tilbury through the Towns Fund as well as the transformative Thames Freeport, services will be working closely with the Local Plan team to assess the transportation infrastructure needed to support growth in the future – an important part of supporting our recovery and return to growth.

1. Network Management

- 1.1 In the last 12 months the Network Management Team has received around 6,883 applications to work on the Highway Network, granting 4,385 of those applications. 730 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for non-compliance of permit conditions which has given the team greater control of the road network ensuring inconvenience to our residents and road users is kept to a minimum.

- 1.2 The London Road medium pressure gas main renewal programme continued throughout the pandemic and was completed on time, enabling London Road to re-open to traffic.
- 1.3 10 variable messaging signs have been installed keeping our road users up to date on traffic conditions around the borough.

2. Highways Infrastructure

- 2.1 The council manages and maintains highway assets which consist of over 545km of carriageway and over 700km of footway & cycle ways. Through last years' capital programme 41 roads have been resurfaced and 16 footway reconstruction schemes have been delivered. The team have made good progress already for this year's programme with work already having started on arterial road resurfacing and footway repairs in Carnach Green and Hathaway Road.
- 2.2 The £1.5m reconstruction of Stonehouse Lane was completed ahead of schedule and within budget, restoring over 6,000sqm of road surface, with round the clock operations enabling the road to be reopened to traffic at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.3 Efficient and effective programme management and delivery through effective asset management has enabled us to maintain Level 3 in the DfT's Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme, the highest level available. This has enabled us to secure the maximum funding available, for the upkeep of our roads.
- 2.4 On our structures, 40 principal inspections were completed last financial year as part of an annual rolling programme. The results of the inspections help form the basis of our future work programmes and priorities.
- 2.5 We continue to upgrade and renew our street lighting stock following completion of the LED replacement programme. Now have turned our focus on renewing structurally unsound concrete columns throughout the Borough with £350,000 allocated over the next 2 years.

3. Reactive Maintenance

- 3.1 545km of the highway network requires safety inspections, which are completed by our Highways Safety Inspectors. So far they have carried out 3,078 inspections, resulting in the identification and repair of over 4,364 potholes, exceeding the KPI target of 98% for pothole filling within the allocated timeframe. This shows our continued commitment to the 'fill it' campaign.
- 3.2 4,498 customer enquiries were received and processed via the Highways Report It app last financial year and our in-house Highways Team continues

to be on hand to deal with out of hours emergencies, with over 250 attended last year.

4. Transport Development

- 4.1 The Transport Development Team have continued to deliver an extremely complex and diverse programme of improvements and enhancements which support the day to day need to develop the transport network as well as the more strategic and longer term need to cater for growth from the emerging Local Plan.
- 4.2 As well as the annual requirement to deliver the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme, additional funding in the region of £8m (Safer Roads Fund, capital bids, Active Travel, Capability Fund, Flood Resilience) has already been identified for the implementation of schemes over the next 2-3 years. Further details on these schemes is covered in section 16 below.
- 4.3 The ITB capital programme was approved early in the year, setting out how the £971,000 funding allocation from DfT is prioritised and utilised.
- 4.4 The Transport Development team leads a number of discussions with key stakeholders across the borough in regards to its highway network. To further improve community and Member engagement a new system has been established to regularly update forums and Ward Members of schemes in their respective areas, for highways maintenance, Transport Development, Highways Development Management and Major Projects.
- 4.5 Other key highlights over the past 12 months include:
- Development of an access improvement scheme on the A1013 near Treetops School in Grays is underway and a planning application is to be submitted this year.
 - Collaboration with the Port of Tilbury to provide enhanced crossing facilities for the cruise terminal, which is being fully funded by the port and implemented by the Highways Authority to provide necessary enhancements following the completion of the new port access road in Tilbury.
 - Continuing to develop enhancement for National Cycle Network 13 in Tilbury, focussing on the eastern part of the town and Civic Square.
 - The introduction of the second average speed camera system in the borough on Lodge Lane Grays under the Road Safety Engineering programme and enhancements to the A128, which has been subject to several serious incidents in the last few years.
 - The Council continues to work with all stakeholders to determine a solution to enforce bus lanes and width restrictions across the borough, including a possible camera enforcement methodology.
 - Installation of new wayfinding schemes in Grays and Tilbury, to complement the scheme in Stanford-le-Hope.

- The Council has taken over management of the ForwardMotion Cycle Hub on Calcutta Road, with funding from the Active Travel Fund securing the project until at least March 2022.
 - Increased opening hours in the hub have increased awareness and footfall within the hub, with an increase in bike sales and servicing for the community.
 - Enhancements of the Bus Station in Grays are being delivered through funding from the accelerated funding from the Grays Towns Fund. This will include replacement of the bus shelters, repairs to damaged furniture in the vicinity including guard rails, and the cycle and taxi waiting shelter, and repainted lines on the road to create a more appealing environment. Investment has also been made to replace the damaged bus and rail information signage, and the electronic bus display signs within the shelter will also be upgraded by summer 2021.
 - Collaboration with the education department to develop a branded communications programme to promote sustainable travel following lockdown.
 - As lockdown restrictions are eased, Thurrock Healthy-led walks are restarting, with one walk already launched, and a number of new walk leaders trained to the new standards.
 - The Thurrock Cycle Forum has been relaunched by the Council in May 2021, following a seven year absence, increasing active engagement with the community on the needs for enhancing cycling activities and infrastructure.
 - The Council has extended its membership of the Safer Essex Roads Partnership and signed up to a commitment of aiming towards zero road deaths and serious injury by 2040.
- 4.6 The 2021/22 ITB capital programme was approved by Cabinet at the start of the year and focuses on the policy and prioritisation approach taken to delivering key elements of the programme. Funding allocations were reviewed and amended to ensure a greater focus on these priority areas Road Safety Engineering £250k), Area Intervention Programme (£300k) and Traffic Calming and Safer Routes to Schools (£250k).
- 4.7 The progression of the five year programme of funding for Road Safety Engineering schemes was supported by Cabinet and has seen some significant enhancement coming forward this year as part of the ongoing drive to make key roads in the borough safer for all road users.
- 4.8 Similarly, the Safer Routes to School programme continues to provide enhancements around schools to promote safer walking and cycling routes to schools and to reduce incidents in the immediate area of the school.
- 4.9 This has resulted in the delivery of 4 new safety enhancement schemes, improving walking/cycling facilities in these areas. Additionally a further 2 schools have seen their cycle parking increased under this programme.

5. Emergency Active Travel

- 5.1 Within Tranche 1 of the Emergency Active Travel fund the Council was awarded £288,000. This was used to support quick-win, pop-up temporary measures to encourage walking and cycling while public transport options were reduced and to support the Government social distancing message. Signage schemes were applied in high footfall areas (approaches to shopping areas and schools) encouraging walking and cycling, urging road users not to park on footways and verges etc.
- 5.2 Traffic calming and speed reduction measures have also been applied at pinch-point locations around 4 transport hubs. Group Leaders and Ward Members were consulted on Tranche 1 measures and the consultation is due to finish in June 2021.
- 5.3 The Council's allocation from Tranche 2 of the Active Travel fund is £690,000. To date, the Council has consulted with a number of key stakeholders and local residents in a number of the scheme locations which were put forward as part of the submission to DfT. Five schemes were consulted on, including three in Stanford-le-Hope, one in Aveley, and one at the Orsett Cock Roundabout. Feedback to date has shown overwhelming support for all five schemes to progress to the next design stage. Further consultation will take place in the coming months before confirmation of scheme implementation by late 2021.

6. Road Safety

- 6.1 The Road Safety team continue to deliver a range of informative and engaging educational and practical road safety initiatives to local schools. This road safety programme ensures that road safety education, training and awareness raising are a fundamental part of the school experience.
- 6.2 Key highlights include:
- Bikeability Cycle Training (including Level 1 & 2, Balance Bike and Learn to Ride) in 21 Schools covering 1,264 pupils – 444 pupils trained to date since schools reopened in March 2021 with another 1100 scheduled by July 2021.
 - Road Safety Pedestrian training in 19 Schools for 4,591 pupils – Over 800 year 6 pupils trained since March, with a further Reception to Year 5 pupils from 19 schools by July 2021;
 - Twilight Trail events (awareness of being Bright and Being Seen during the winter months) held in 12 schools for 343 Year 3 pupils and parents;
 - Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) adopted in 12 schools. Road safety activities are taking place within schools with JRSOs including poster competitions / assemblies / fashion shows which involve both pupils and staff – the schools taking part are; Arthur Bugler / Benyon / Belmont Castle / Chadwell / Corringham / Denholm / Dilkes / Horndon / Stifford Clays / Thameside / Warren / Woodside.

- Currently 9 School Crossing Patrol (SCP) sites in active service;
- 11 School Travel Plans completed online with Modeshift STARS to accreditation standards with many more working towards developing robust achieve plans promoting sustainable travel and road safety.
- Scooter training – 12 schools and 474 Year 1 pupils have participated in scooter training during Sept 2019 - July 2020). In 2020 the Road Safety Team opened up the scooter training for years 1 and 2 (for the pupils who were unable to participate due to lockdown).
- Adult cycle training – 20 adults have received adult cycle lessons, in collaboration with the South Essex Active Travel Programme (SEAT).

6.3 In the current academic year we have seen many schools still keen to participate in Road Safety activities offered since March 2021, but lockdown closures within schools and travel restrictions have reduced participation levels against previous years. However, the levels of demand from schools for the remainder of the academic year are showing a strong bounce back.

6.4 The Council is a member of the Safer Essex Roads Partnership, in collaboration with the emergency service providers and Essex County Council and Southend Borough Council. The SERP partnership continues to provide benefits for the borough by funding road safety activities, awareness campaigns and training for residents, funded by speed enforcement notifications. The Council has entered into a new MoU with the partnership, increasing our commitment to safer roads in Essex for up to ten years. This year, the MoU includes a commitment towards eliminating all road deaths and serious injury within the Borough by 2040, through a programme of Safer Systems approach.

6.5 The sole function of the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) is to deliver Road Safety Services across its area in order to meet the casualty reduction targets set for 2020 and the longer-term aspiration of Vision Zero. The SERP Road Safety Delivery Plan (RSDP), is produced on an annual basis and details the individual activities that will be undertaken to deliver the strategy in line with the Safe System approach of Road Safety Management, Safer Roads and Mobility, Safer Vehicles, Safer Road Users, Post-crash response.

7. Highways Development Management and Traffic

7.1 The Highways Development Management Team have again provided a significant level of support for high-profile developments in the Borough. The Team continues to play a key part in pre-application dialogue with the Planning Service, providing confidence and support to the development industry, making Thurrock an attractive place to build homes, to invest and do business.

7.2 The team continue to maintain strong relationships with developers to ensure the Council's Highways Development Management policy direction is adhered to as improvements are made.

7.3 The team continues to be provide key specialist advice for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and their related Development Consent Orders (DCO).

8. Parking Enforcement

8.1 The team have worked throughout the pandemic to ensure the borough's roads are safe, accessible and clear from obstruction including implementing targeted concessions for key workers operating across the borough. The operational posture of the service balanced government guidelines and encouragement of visitors to our Town Centres to boost revenue to our businesses.

8.2 The service deploys full-time Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) to patrol the borough, to enforce parking restrictions and issue penalty charge notices where parking contraventions are deemed to have occurred. The team patrol all areas of the borough to promote and encourage compliance, updating and amending enforcement patrols based on varying priorities and requests. In addition to 10 full-time CEOs and 2 agency CEOs, the parking team was granted approval to employ 4 additional CEOs to facilitate the introduction of a dedicated night team to proactively patrol the borough and enforce the night time economy and 24 hour restrictions.

8.3 Specific issues surrounding unlawful parking of HGVs across the borough which have led to damage being caused to verges and adjacent roads was investigated by the service. The team now deploys twilight shift officers to proactively prevent further damage and parking contravention.. The size and limitations of HGVs bring inherent heightened risks to traffic flow and road user's safety. CEOs will continue with high visibility enforcement patrols in and around areas identified as hot spot locations for illegal and nuisance HGV parking. HGV data and analysis stored on the Parking Processing database is being used to identify additional hot spot locations and peak times for HGV offences. This smart data will be used to deploy Officers to achieve maximum productivity and meet the demands.

8.4 Intensive analysis and survey work has also been carried out across the whole borough this year in relation to HGV compliance, in preparation for the reintroduction of the HGV purge operations. This previously proved a successful way to help recover unpaid PCNs issued to foreign registered vehicles, whilst also reinforcing the requirement of parking compliance.-There are plans to revisit this as a priority for 2021.

8.5 Last year's partnership work between the Parking Enforcement Team and the Environmental Enforcement Officers resulted in a significant reduction in damage to verges caused by HGVs. That collaboration has ensured any evidence identifying continued unlawful activity is supplied to the Environmental Enforcement Team to process and issue Community Protection Warnings. If offenders persist in committing offences this evidence is fundamental in progressing cases through to Community Protection Notice

and Fixed Penalty Notice which then becomes a criminal offence. Partnership working has also extended to other areas highlighted as having ongoing issues, which may span across both service areas, such as Grays Pedestrian Area.

- 8.6 In December 2020 funding was secured for all members of the Enforcement Team and Parking Processing Team through a City and Guilds Training course, or for officers who already have a recognised industry qualification, a refresher training course. This training covered all aspects of enforcement and processing and will enhance the knowledge and skill set of the team and will ultimately ensure a better service delivery across the board.
- 8.7 Our Parking Services Back Office Notice Processing is now being renewed to upgrade the capabilities of the service. This new system will provide better functionality for debt management ensuring improved PCN recovery rates, as well as allow parking permits to be issued virtually, providing the facility for drivers to view PCN evidence online. That approach provides more transparency and accessibility for the public which should reduce challenges, representations and appeals. That programme of investment is also supporting the procurement of new updated hand held computer devices for the CEOs. These devices allow smarter working practices, including ANPR readers which will recognise the online virtual permits providing an even higher standard of primary evidence.
- 8.8 Like many other services across the council supporting the borough-wide response to the pandemic the Parking Team have played an integral part in identifying suitable locations to be offered as testing sites for COVID-19. The team have worked with other Council departments to ensure sites were clear of vehicles, and available for testing to commence. The team have provided officers to install signage and assist with traffic management to ensure operations have run smoothly and efficiently, with this support being ongoing as more sites are introduced. Parking enforcement measures were reviewed and relaxed in residential areas and car parks in support of residents and business owners. Parking enforcement was prioritised to higher level and obstruction type offences with a main focus on high footfall areas, junction protection and vehicles parked in a dangerous or obstructive manner. The Civil Enforcement Officers delivered essential front line patrols keeping a free flow of traffic in support of emergency vehicles and key workers.
- 8.9 In the 2020/21 financial year the parking service produced a surplus of £272,105.84, a 51% decrease compared to £533,864 in 2019/20 due to the pandemic and behaviour changes. The pay and display revenue for on and off street reduced by 71% and free parking was extended by the Council to all NHS and emergency key workers providing support during the COVID-19 pandemic. All income generated is used for the operation of public passenger transport services, highway or traffic improvement projects and maintenance of parking restrictions, as per legislation.

8.10 The overall number of PCNs issued for parking contraventions decreased by 17%, with the number of PCNs issued being 16,478 in 2020/21 compared to 19,989 in 2019/20.

9. Support for Growth

9.1 With the completion of the port expansion at Tilbury2, there are a number of obligations which the Strategic Transport Team are supporting. Within the Section 106 agreement, the Port committed a sum of money to improve real time passenger information for the Tilbury to Gravesend Ferry service, allowing users to have access to better information when approaching and waiting for the ferry. As a result, new 'Real Time' screens are to be installed at Tilbury Town station on the port side, as well as one screen on the landing stage and another at the new ferry and cruise terminal parking area. This will also enable the Port of Tilbury to provide immediate information to passengers arriving on cruise days, helping to support visitors to the borough. Secondly, officers are supporting the Port's cruise operations by procuring a Real Time Passenger information sign for Cruise passengers to use when making a day or overnight visit at London Tilbury.

9.2 Secondly, within the Tilbury2 Active Travel Strategy, the Port of Tilbury has an obligation to deliver wayfinding throughout Tilbury. Officers have supported the Port, ensuring a high quality product is delivered, utilising the expertise gained from other projects and existing procurement contracts already in place. Officers and the Port have worked with community groups to develop a proposal which benefits both residents and businesses. The first stage is to be implemented in early 2021, and completed by April 2021.

9.3 As part of the £750,000 accelerated Towns Fund award to Grays Transport Development are delivering two aspects of the works – wayfinding for Grays town centre and refurbishment of the bus station on Crown Road. £45,000 has been allocated for wayfinding and this will primarily be based in the central town area of Grays but will extend as far as Blackshots leisure centre, Chafford Gorges and West Thurrock. A new map of the town, which can be provided via both electronic and paper based forms for residents and visitors is also being considered.

9.4 With regards to the Bus Station, the refurbishment will include the replacement of bus shelters, new real time passenger information signs to replace those which no longer function or are no longer supported, remarking of all lines, repainting and repairs of railings and the replacement of the perspex on the cycle and taxi waiting shelters immediately to the east of the bus station. Overall, these works will improve appearance and function of the bus station and further consideration will be given to see if additional stands can be accommodated with further funds. Both the wayfinding and bus station refurbishment are sought to be delivered by the end of March 2021.

10. Passenger Transport

- 10.1 Since the start of the academic year the Passenger Transport Team have continued to procure school transport for children with special educational needs and for those of key workers, transporting 1,172 students to mainstream and SEND schools. Throughout the pandemic they also provided transport for approximately 136 students with vary needs.
- 10.2 Bus Operators nationally have been impacted by the pandemic with patronage reducing by over 90% at the height of the pandemic. Thurrock has continued to support bus operators via the COVID Bus Service Support Grant (CBSSG).
- 10.3 Throughout the National Restrictions with increased collaborative working, Commercial Operators have continually adjusted services to meet the identified needs of key workers and we have continued to support our own local bus service, serving our remote residential areas such as Orsett and Bulphan.
- 10.4 The bus shelter replacement programme commenced in February 2021, with a plan to renew shelters throughout the borough. 19 shelters have been installed from the first phase of 37 so far. The second phase will then result in further 52 being replaced. Running alongside this programme 34 new digital real time information screens will be installed within the shelters, with some large scale screens at Grays Bus Station and other key sites.

11. Fleet Management

- 11.1 99% of the council's fleet has been replaced. The Fleet Team have successfully conducted electric vehicle trials with Meals on Wheels for food delivery and are currently arranging demonstrations for street cleansing. If successful the next step is to replace 5% of the small vehicle fleet with fully electric vans. This will be the council's first steps towards having a zero emission fleet.
- 11.2 All new vehicles meet Euro 6 standards and all vehicles are ULEZ compliant, allowing them to travel into London and the ultra-low emissions zones. All vehicles over 12 tonne are also compliant with the new vision standards that were imposed in February 2021. All vehicles over 7.5 tonne are fitted with state of the art live time CCTV which has had a positive impact when dealing with insurance claims against the authority.
- 11.3 New vehicle tracking systems have been fitted to all 152 of the new vehicles which are now monitored in relation to driver behaviour, environmental impact and effective utilisation of our assets on a weekly basis.
- 11.4 The Council's in-house MOT station carried out 382 MOTs last year. The MOT station has remained open throughout the pandemic and has been available for all key workers who wished to use the service. The testing of

Thurrock licenced taxi's recommenced from the 13 April 2021 with an anticipation of over 300 tests to be conducted in the next year.

- 11.5 Throughout the pandemic, the Fleet Team have remained operational ensuring that other front line services have been able to carry on with their normal service delivery. This has involved over 500 vehicle services and inspections on council vehicles and thus far over 2,500 running repairs / defects whilst monitoring Government updates on statute requirements and vehicle exemptions.
- 11.6 Fleet stores have, since the pandemic, sourced approximately £180,000 of COVID PPE items and issued over 65,000 items to council departments to enable continued service delivery and COVID-19 secure compliance for all our frontline staff.

12. South Essex Active Travel

- 12.1 The Council, working collaboratively with Southend Borough Council and Essex County Council have continued to successfully deliver the South Essex Active Travel Fund. Initially worth £3.3m over three years, the Department for Transport extended the project by a further year and an additional £1.1m to encourage and enable sustainable and active travel trips to work, training and education. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has been able to utilise existing underspend into a fifth year, and will end late 2021. Thurrock has been able to secure sums greater than proportion of this underspend through supporting walking and cycling.
- 12.2 One area of success which has managed to thrive during periods of lockdown and the COVID-19 crisis has been the cycle hub in Tilbury. Opened in mid-2019, lockdown presented an opportunity for the hub to be open more frequently during the week, and the demand for cycling in March saw sales significantly increase. Cycle donations to the hub also increased, with the staff taking collections from across the South Essex region to upcycle and resell low cost bicycle to the members of the community, enabling supply when new bicycles became unavailable. Thurrock Council has now taken over responsibility for the cycle hub, and has secured additional funding to extend the project until at least March 2022.
- 12.3 With the Access Fund winding down through till late 2021, focus is being directed towards continuing some of the successes of the project. The Forward Motion branding developed as part of the project is available for the Council to utilise to promote transport related themes. This is being trialled in a new communications project with the boroughs school to promote sustainable travel to school.
- 12.4 The challenges of the 2020 have meant that delivery of the project has had to be altered, with all face to face engagement being withdrawn, but the project has sought to utilise digital channels to engage with stakeholders. This has resulted in an underspend, and Officers intend to utilise any available monies

to deliver further wayfinding projects in South Ockendon and Aveley into summer 2021.

13. Capability Fund

- 13.1 Thurrock Council has been allocated a sum of c.£200,000 and these funds will be utilised against the objectives of the Capability Fund. The Transport Development team will utilise the funding to support the development of infrastructure projects to the new standards, promote increased levels of physical activity through walking and cycling for everyday journeys and support access to new and existing employment, education and training through cycling and walking.
- 13.2 Funds will also be used to raise the profile of cycling and walking within Thurrock and to develop our Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan.

14. Wayfinding

- 14.1 The Council has expanded its programme of delivering wayfinding schemes across the borough. Last year, the Council was able to deliver a new scheme in Stanford le Hope funded by the DfT's Access Fund. This year schemes have been delivered in Tilbury in collaboration with the Port of Tilbury, and a scheme in Grays funded by the Accelerated Towns Fund. A further two schemes are set to be delivered in South Ockendon and Aveley in the remainder of the year, funded by underspend from the Access Fund.

15. Travel Plans

- 15.1 Within the past year, Officers have updated the charging schedule to reflect the need to seek funds from developers to ensure approved travel plans continue to be monitored. A monitoring fee will be sought for each year of the life of the plan, ensuring new developments deliver on their commitments within the travel plans. Within these travel plans, the Council is continuing to seek the appropriate measures are provided for developments based on their nature and size, with a heavy focus on car club provision where new dwellings are being delivered to help discourage car ownership. In the next year, Officers will seek to procure a single source car club operator to deliver these planning obligations across the borough. The Council is also exploring further opportunities to work with developments to ensure travel plans are implemented as stated, utilising the expertise within the Council to deliver these commitments, providing additional funds to support the wider transport agenda.

16. Transport Strategy

- 16.1 The team are progressing the Thurrock Transport Strategy and a Vision for Connectivity / Movement that will ensure future growth is supported by transport infrastructure, providing sustainable travel options whilst reducing congestion and improving air quality in the borough. The Transport

Development (TD) Team continue to work with Highways England, encouraging them to progress a business case that will enable greater focus and commitment for various key infrastructure projects through the HE Road Investment Strategy (RIS) gateway process.

- 16.2 Working with the Safer Essex Roads Partnership, the Council has identified its commitment to working towards a reduction in fatal and serious road collisions on the Thurrock and wider south Essex road network.
- 16.3 The TD team have developed a procurement brief for a Strategic Transport Model and are currently testing the market to understand resource and cost implications. A robust transport model will be a vital component in understanding the impact of growth and other pressures on the Thurrock road network.
- 16.4 A suite of documents to assist the Council in determining suitable parking standards across the borough now and in the future were approved by Cabinet. The Parking Policy, Design & Development Standards and Parking Enforcement Policy documents inform how the Council will manage parking demand in the future and how decisions on parking and enforcement arrangements can be taken across Thurrock.
- 16.5 Success stories this year include funding for feasibility and design for the A1013 access scheme as well as funds to deliver improvements to the N13 cycle route in and round Tilbury. Additional funding has been secured to support the delivery of the A1013 scheme in 2021.
- 16.6 The team have successfully launched a consultation which enables local people to have their say and identify, through an interactive map, where they feel improvements can be applied to the walking and cycling network. This has and will continue to be influential as we work towards enhancing the walking and cycling network and developing the LCWIP in line with recently circulated Government Guidance (Local Technical Note LTN1/20 and Gear Change).
- 16.7 A Bus Investment Plan (BIP) is also under development. This will identify where network and service improvements need to be applied in order to ensure buses continue to represent a viable alternative mode of travel. The BIP will inform the production of our longer term Bus Strategy, the improvements that need to be delivered to support growth and the funding that is required from Government to deliver those improvements.
- 16.8 The Council has been awarded a total of £2.4m to deliver the Safer Roads Fund programme on the A126. Funding was formally awarded in March 2021 and the TD team are actively progressing delivery of the SRF programme over the next 3 years.

17. Development Management

- 17.1 I am pleased that my Portfolio has been expanded this year to include Planning. Like my Cabinet colleagues who have had Planning in their portfolio before me, I am enormously proud of our Development Management (DM) service who continue to top the league table nationwide as well as operating commercially to deliver the best for Thurrock. How a Local Planning Authority performs is a key driver in developer deciding where to invest and our ability to maintain high standards puts us in a good position to attract inward investment, something that is even more important in these difficult economic times.
- 17.2 Notwithstanding the difficulties presented by the global pandemic, the DM team have been able to continue to operate largely unaffected, relying on their established agile working practices. This has meant that our businesses and residents have not experienced any loss of service and can continue to have confidence in Thurrock as a place to invest.
- 17.3 Through a robust pre-application offer, applicants are able to work with the Team to 'dry run' their proposals ahead of a formal submission to ensure wherever possible, the scheme is of the highest quality and has the maximum benefit to existing communities. During the pre-application discussions, the Team will draw upon a range of specialists from across the organisation to help shape and influence the scheme, to ensure that the right development takes place in the right place at the right time.
- 17.4 The team has developed strong relationships with the development industry, championed forward thinking and commercial awareness, and created a culture which helps drive investment and growth in the Borough. This has significantly boosted investor confidence and stability in commercial decisions in an area where there are major challenges around the viability of development. It has resulted in an overall uplift in 'place value' through improvements to design and quality delivered through effective developer partnerships, maximising the contributions made from new development.
- 17.5 The DM team has continued its Managed Service arrangement with Brentwood Borough Council, whereby we provide management support to Brentwood's Development Management team. The relationship has continued to be successful, resulting in an improved service at Brentwood (both in terms of quality and performance) and by providing an income stream for Thurrock which protects jobs and services locally.

18. Gritting

- 18.1 Last winter we experienced unprecedented weather conditions weather monitoring commenced in October and the gritters were on standby for action. Last season we completed 55 runs in total, with 21 gritting runs being undertaken in January alone.

18.2 Thurrock now has its very own Weather Station which provides more accurate and localised data. This potentially saved 16 gritting actions from being undertaken last season.

19. Finance

19.1 The table below summarises the budgets and 2019/20 outturn

19.2 Variances are as a consequence of medium term financial strategy growth and savings as well as movement of budget between services. The budgets for Fleet and Logistics and Parking Enforcement are balanced by recharges and revenue respectively.

Service	Budget 19/20 (£000s)	Outturn 19/20 (£000s)	Revised Budget 20/21 (000s)
Fleet and Logistics	(484)	(484)	(373)
Highways Infrastructure	7,638	7,638	7,620
Passenger Transport	1,766	1,766	1,805
Transportation Development	834	834	877
Parking Enforcement	(506)	(506)	(494)
Planning	1,017	1,017	1,063
Total	10,265	10,265	10,498

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30 June 2021	ITEM: 14
Council	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing	
Report of: Councillor Luke Spillman, Portfolio Holder for Housing	
This report is public	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report presents an overview of the range of Housing services and provides details of the department's performance in 2020/21.
- 1.2. This document also identifies a range of key external factors which have affected and shaped service delivery throughout the 2021/21 financial year. Finally, it sets out the financial position for the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund budgets within Housing.

2. Service Overview

- 2.1. The Housing service provides a range of statutory and landlord functions, utilising rental income through the Housing Revenue Account and smaller General Fund budgets. The Housing service interacts with around 10,000 households in the borough directly through the provision of tenancy and leasehold management services and additional households through the housing advice and options, homelessness and private sector housing functions.
- 2.2. The key functions which the Housing service are responsible for delivering include:
 - Tenancy management activities, including tenancy audits, sign-ups and exit inspections, and other day-to-day interactions with the council's tenants for both general needs and sheltered housing properties.
 - Caretaking and estate services for many of the blocks and communal spaces across the borough.
 - Rent collection, financial inclusion and welfare advice.
 - Ongoing repairs and maintenance of Housing stock and assets.
 - Monitoring and maintaining over 300 CCTV cameras across the borough.
 - Tackling domestic abuse, hate crime and other safeguarding issues.
 - The investigation, management and implementation of enforcement action for anti-social behaviour issues.
 - Capital investment programmes delivering improvements to Housing stock and assets, such as the Transforming Homes programme.
 - Homeownership services, including the administration of Right to Buy applications and leasehold management.

- Tenant and leaseholder engagement through forums, community activities and other events.
 - The administration of the Council's Housing Register and the allocation of properties in line with the Allocations Policy.
 - The prevention and relief of homelessness in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, as well as the provision of temporary accommodation for households.
 - Management of three council-run Travellers' sites, including rent collection.
 - Mediation, enforcement and licensing activity for private sector landlords and tenants.
- 2.3. The majority of Housing services use the Northgate Housing Management System as the central system for administering, managing and monitoring the range of functions.

3. Performance in 2020/21

- 3.1. The performance dashboard for Housing is designed to ensure that key objectives are identified for reporting across three distinct sections:
- Corporate Performance Indicators (CPI) – Captures the contribution of the Housing service to the corporate suite of performance indicators, including measures such as budget variance, complaints received and upheld, and sickness absence. The targets for these indicators mirror the corporate targets.
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPI) – A suite of service critical performance indicators designed to measure key outputs of the Housing service, including measures such as gas check compliance and tenant satisfaction with primary functions of the service.
 - Local Performance Indicators (LPI) – An extensive suite of service level indicators that measure the outputs of individual teams within the Housing service and tenant satisfaction with specific services such as repairs, caretaking, and grounds maintenance.
- 3.2. The Housing performance scorecard is updated monthly, and performance is reviewed at management team and directorate performance management meetings. In addition, the suite of key performance indicators and corporate performance indicators are reported at Performance Board, forming part of the quarterly performance report taken to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3. Tenant satisfaction surveys are completed by an independent research contractor who specialises in satisfaction surveys for the Housing sector.

3.4. Performance Indicators

- 3.4.1. The Housing Revenue Account continued to balance through the 2019/20 financial year. The final outturn position of the Housing General Fund was also balanced.

The Housing service recorded a slight increase (6.6%) in the number of Housing-related complaints received during 2020/21 compared with the 2019/20 financial year; however, the overall percentage of upheld complaints reduced from 35.7% to 27.2%, meaning that the number of upheld complaints reduced by an average of three upheld complaints per month in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20.

KPI	Performance Indicators	Target	2019/20	2020/21
KPI01	% General Satisfaction of Tenants With Neighbourhoods / Services Provided by Housing	75%	74.9%	75.5%
KPI02	% Satisfaction of Tenants With Transforming Homes (Contractor & Programme)	85%	86.9%	86.5%
KPI03	% of Repairs Completed Within Target	95%	98.3%	98.3%
KPI04	% Rent Collected	98%	98.5%	98.3%
KPI05	Average Time to Turnaround / Re-let Voids (in days)	28	25.6	47.5
KPI06	% of Gas Service Checks Carried out Within Statutory Timescale	100%	100%	99.2%
KPI07	Number of Applicants with Family Commitments in Bed & Breakfast for Six Weeks or More	0	3	0
KPI08	Number of Category 1 & 2 Hazards Removed as a Direct Result of Private Sector Housing Team Intervention	1000	1000	746

3.4.2. KPI01

The 2020/21 financial year continued the significant improvement seen in recent years in overall tenant satisfaction with Housing services. Through the monthly tenant satisfaction surveys carried out in 2020/21, 75.5% of tenants reported being "very satisfied" or "fairly satisfied" with the neighbourhoods and services offered by Housing, exceeding the target of 75%.

The 2020/21 financial year was also the strongest performing year for overall tenant satisfaction with Housing since the Housing department began measuring tenant satisfaction in 2013/14, surpassing the performance from 2019/20. In addition, tenant satisfaction with individual Housing services and service elements increased against final outturns for 2019/20 and against their 2020/21 targets.

3.4.3. **KPI02**

Satisfaction with Transforming Homes remained high at 86.5%, above its target of 85%. Satisfaction with the responsive repairs service continued the consistently strong performance of recent years, improving by 1.1% against the outturn of 2019/20 to reach 91.6% against a target of 90%.

3.4.4. **KPI03**

The percentage of repairs completed on target has maintained consistent performance levels against the contractual target of 95%, achieving an outturn position of 98.3%, in line with the performance from 2019/20.

3.4.5. **KPI04**

Despite significant challenges faced by the Rents and Welfare team relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, increases in Universal Credit claimants, and reduced rent paid by Housing Benefit against previous financial years, rent collection remained strong. The final outturn position was 98.3% of rent collected, above the target of 98%.

The Financial Inclusion Officers within the team continue to work alongside tenants to maximise their income. As a result, throughout the 2020/21 financial year, 1449 tenants were supported to increase income or reduce rent arrears through financial inclusion – almost double the target for 2020/21 (750), and more than the number of tenants supported in 2018/19 (585) and 2019/20 (936) combined.

The total additional income achieved through the support of Financial Inclusion Officers in 2020/21 was £498,369.05.

3.4.6. **KPI05**

The average time to re-let empty properties was impacted by the suspension of the Choice Based Lettings process between 23 March 2020 and 11 June 2020 due to Government guidelines and restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As an average across the whole of 2020/21, it took 47.5 calendar days to re-let an empty property. Although performance towards the end of the financial year improved, the effect of a near-total suspension of lettings due to COVID-19 guidance had a significant impact.

3.4.7. **KPI06**

The COVID-19 pandemic also impacted the percentage of gas safety checks undertaken within target timescales. Attempts to undertake planned gas servicing, water testing and other essential communal repairs were made in line with the council's obligations as required by law to ensure the continued safety of residents. However, in some instances, it was impossible to gain access to carry out annual gas safety tests due to self-isolating or shielding residents. In these cases, the council delivered carbon monoxide detectors through its contractors, along with simple instructions for use until operatives could gain access and complete the servicing.

3.4.8. KPI07

The number of homeless applicants with family commitments whom the council placed in bed and breakfast accommodation for six weeks or more was zero for the 2020/21 financial year, reflecting an improvement against the performance in 2019/20

3.4.9. KPI08

The Private Sector Housing Team removed 746 category 1 and 2 Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) hazards from private sector properties in 2020/21 against a target of 1000. Although restrictions due to COVID-19 limited the ability to inspect properties in person, the team utilised technology to identify new ways to ensure landlords comply with their legal obligations, support tenants in the private rental sector, and keep these properties safe.

3.5. Tenant Satisfaction Indicators

- 3.5.1. Concerning specific service provision, tenant satisfaction increased with Grounds Maintenance by 9% on the previous year, achieving a satisfaction rate of 85.3% against a target of 75%. Satisfaction with the Caretaking service increased to 79.8%, an improvement of 3.7% compared to 2019/20 and above the 75% satisfaction target. New tenant satisfaction with the process of moving into their home increased by 18.3%, reaching satisfaction levels of 92% against a target of 75%, and 78.3% of tenants reported that they were satisfied with the quality of their home, also exceeding the target of 75% and reflecting a year-on-year increase of 5.3%.
- 3.5.2. The Housing service also introduced a range of new satisfaction measures for 2020/21. These were:

Performance Indicators	Target	2020/21
Tenant satisfaction with keeping tenants informed	75%	77.7%
Tenant satisfaction that home is safe and secure	75%	84.4%
Tenant satisfaction that the Housing service is easy to deal with	75%	74.4%
Tenant satisfaction with their neighbourhood	75%	80.4%
Tenant satisfaction that rent provides value for money	75%	89.4%
Tenant satisfaction that service charges provide value for money	75%	79.8%
Tenant satisfaction with the Sheltered Housing service	75%	82.8%

Of these seven new indicators, six exceed the satisfaction targets which had been set.

4. Housing Development – New Build

4.1. HRA New Build Programme

- 4.1.1. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) new build programme will deliver 119 new Council homes for rent in total. The properties will be a mix of houses, low rise flats, maisonettes and bungalows. The budget for the programme is £32.53m, as agreed within the HRA Capital Programme. HRA rents are being set at 70% of local market rents under the affordable rent regime and subject to a local housing allowance cap.
- 4.1.2. Cabinet agreed on 13 March 2019 that a housing development pipeline would be prepared to seek to deliver up to 500 new Council homes for Thurrock over the next 5 to 10 years, to be funded within the Housing Revenue Account. A process to identify potential sites for Housing Development was agreed upon by Cabinet in January 2020. It is proposed that a review of that process is agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Housing in consultation with the Chair of Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with any proposals brought back to a future meeting of that committee.
- 4.1.3. Individual Housing Revenue Account schemes that are funded and on-site or have been recently completed are listed below.

4.2. Alma Court, Argent Street, Grays

Alma Court, formerly known as the Tops Club scheme, was handed over in July 2020 and provided 29 units of 1, 2, 3-bed flats and maisonettes all at affordable rent levels within the HRA, together with an enhanced playground for residents. The Housing service let all properties successfully.

A 12-month new tenant satisfaction survey will be undertaken to identify areas for improvement, learn for future developments, and identify positive outcomes delivered through this project.

4.3. Heathlyn Close, Chadwell St Mary

This is a 53-unit scheme consisting of a mix of bungalows, houses and low rise flats, all at affordable rent levels within the HRA. All properties have been handed over in February 2021 and have successfully been let. Work to finalise the landscaping and open areas of the site is now underway. An initial new tenant satisfaction survey will be completed during June and July, followed by a final survey 12 months after completion.

4.4. Calcutta Road, Tilbury

This development of 35 flats is to be used as sheltered housing. The scheme accords with the 'HAPPI' principles ('Housing our Ageing Population – Panel for Innovation'), ensuring good design appropriate to the age group. Work continues on-site, with completion currently planned for October 2021.

5. Financial Summary

5.1. General Fund

5.1.1. The 2021/21 financial position for the Housing General Fund is shown below on 31 May 2021.

Service Area	2021/22 Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast variance
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Homelessness	1,404	1,504	1,000 -
Private Sector Housing	326	326	-
Travellers Site Provision	0	0	-
	895	895	-

The housing general fund budget is forecasting a budget pressure of £1m at the end of the financial year, which is a prudent estimate based on the possible medium-term ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a considerable backlog of enforcement action to be undertaken nationally, coupled with the effect of the end of the furlough schemes ending and the risk this poses of additional homelessness cases. However, provision was made in the 2021/22 financial position for an additional £1m of funding to be used if required.

At this stage of the financial year, the remainder of the Housing General Fund budget is forecast to be online.

5.1.2. An additional £0.150m of Homelessness Grant funds was received in 2021/22 as part of the Local government finance settlement. As this is a demand-led budget, it will be used to manage, where possible, within the overall budget provision. There are no forecast variances in relation to the budgets for the provision of Travellers sites for the financial year. However, these budgets are dependant on the collection of fees and charges income for rent and operating costs relating to the 64 plots dispersed across the sites.

5.2. Housing Revenue Account

5.2.1. The HRA Reserve position as of 31 March 2021 is shown below:

Reserve	Provisional Opening Balance 2021/22
HRA Balances	(3,834.28)
Decant Reserve	(2,000.00)
Housing Zones Funding	(860.08)
RTB Attributable Debt	(3,513.64)
Transforming Homes	(743.69)
RTB 1-4-1 Receipts	(21,447.78)

- 5.2.2. The HRA General Reserve is £3.8m, and it is now at the previously reported aspirational level to ensure that there is funding to support the financial viability of the HRA.
- 5.2.3. During 2020/21 there were 44 Right to Buy sales, and the balance of retained right to buy receipts is £21.447m. These will be deployed and used as a part of the HRA stock acquisition and development plan. Changes made to legislation last year means that the council has an extended period in which to spend these receipts, as well as an increase to 40% of the amount it can invest into an eligible project.
- 5.2.4. In the 2020/21 financial year the council entered into a partnership agreement to purchase and lease properties to be used within the council's housing stock. This project has enabled the council to maximise its Right to Buy receipts, increase levels of housing stock and avoid returning any unspent receipts with compound interest payments to central government. Through this approach, the council is currently aiming to increase its housing stock by approximately 90 properties.
- 5.2.5. Transforming Homes planned works from 2020/21 have been reprogrammed into 2021/22 and will continue to be delivered.

5.3. HRA Revenue Position 2021/22

- 5.3.1. The 2021/22 budget for the HRA is shown below.

Service	2021-22 Budget	£'000
Development		235
Financing and Recharges		24,176
Repairs and Maintenance		12,096
Operational Activities		13,765
Rent and Income		(50,272)

- 5.3.2. There are no adverse or positive variances forecast on the year-end outturn position at the time of writing.

The level of rent arrears and bad debts continues to be monitored closely as this poses a potential risk as the financial and economic impacts of the pandemic emerge. However, there are reserves available to help mitigate pressures if they should materialise.

5.4. HRA Capital – Existing Stock

- 5.4.1. The allocated budget for Transforming Homes in 2021/22 is £10.540m. Works that were delayed during 2020/21 due to COVID-19 restrictions are being rescheduled for the current financial year.

In addition, investment is planned into new carbon-neutral heating systems within the council-retained tower blocks, representing a forward-thinking programme to address carbon reduction legislation anticipated to come into

force in the future.

Funding for an updated stock condition survey has also been identified in the Capital Programme for 2021/22.

5.5. HRA Capital – New Build

- 5.5.1. The HRA New Build schemes at Alma Court and Heathlyn Close/Claudian Way are now complete and have been let to tenants. The final project of the original development programme, Calcutta Road, is on schedule to complete later in the year.

The council continues to explore and consider options for increasing the stock level within the HRA, including the acquisition of open market and targeted properties and development and regeneration schemes.

6. Homelessness and ‘Everyone In’

- 6.1. Following the Government guidance on 26 March 2020 to 'bring everyone in', the council worked to identify and provide accommodation to all known rough sleepers. As a result, by mid-June 2021, temporary emergency accommodation had been provided to 76 individuals (73 'households' comprised of 70 single people and three couples) who were rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping.

- 6.2. Each individual accommodated by the council received an assessment by the team's Senior Mental Health Practitioner and has been offered robust care, housing and support assessments undertaken by the council's support provider to generate a clear understanding of each individual's support needs.

- 6.3. Tailored offers of support were provided, including with Thurrock Mind, and the team have had a high rate of success in the levels of engagement in this process.

Support has also been provided to individuals to make positive transitions into independent living. To date, more than 40 individuals have moved on to alternative accommodation with council support, including the private rental sector. Regular contact continues to be made to all those whom the council is providing ongoing accommodation as part of this work.

- 6.4. The ban on bailiff-enforced evictions came to an end on 31 May 2021. While eviction notice periods have been set at four months from 1 June 2021, the Government has indicated that this will return to the two-month notice period which was in place before the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 6.5. The full impact of COVID-19 and evictions ban ending is challenging to predict. Likely, the extent of the challenge will only become apparent as households at risk of homelessness approach local authorities across the country for assistance.

The homelessness service will remain responsive to the needs of those requiring assistance, providing support and advice in line with its duties and

obligations whilst aiming to identify opportunities to improve the service and provision for homeless households or those at risk of homelessness.

- 6.6. These opportunities include the development of a transformation plan which aims to increase the level of temporary accommodation in the borough which is owned and managed by the council. Through this approach, the council will be able to deliver better support and improve outcomes for those who are homeless and reduce the costs associated with temporary accommodation sourced through the private rental sector.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. The council continues to provide many key Housing services for tenants and residents across the borough. Performance and tenant satisfaction have improved in several areas, building on recent years' success and good progress.
- 7.2. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the delivery of Housing services throughout the 2020-21 financial year and continues to do so in the current year, officers from across Housing have minimised and managed this wherever possible.
- 7.3. As future requirements for delivering Housing services shift due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department will continue to identify areas for refinement and improvement, aiming to continue to provide value for money, high levels of satisfaction and a positive experience for those using Housing services.

8. Appendices to the report

None

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 2 questions to the Leader and 10 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

1. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Gledhill

A recent judge-led tribunal says the public has a right to know the detail of how Thurrock Council borrowed and invested £1bn in taxpayers' money - so why is the Council spending even more public money trying to fight that decision?

2. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Gledhill

The Council recently sold a parcel of land, 64 - 82 Agent Street, in Grays. Will the Leader of the Council tell us the sale price?

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

1. From Councillor Holloway to Councillor Maney

What HGV mitigation measures are planned in West Thurrock and South Stifford?

2. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Jefferies

During the recent strike by refuse crews, what was the total cost of operating seven bring sites, hiring additional agency staff and using private contractors?

3. From Councillor Byrne to Councillor Huelin

Why has the Council not supported or given any recognition to Pride by not raising the flag on the 1st June at the Civic Offices?

4. From Councillor Worrall to Councillor Spillman

Following recent local elections where all political parties pledged to provide more social homes for Thurrock residents could the Cabinet Member for Housing provide the chamber with his plans for tackling this election pledge?

5. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Coxshall

Will the Portfolio Holder set out the plan, and target dates, for reopening each element of the Thameside Complex?

6. From Councillor Muldowney to Councillor Jefferies

The play equipment in Chadwell St Mary's parks and green spaces is inadequate, old and deteriorating. When will the Council commit to investing in new equipment for Chadwell?

7. From Councillor Muldowney to Councillor Maney

Will the Council consider traffic calming measures to combat speeding and dangerous driving on Heath Road, Chadwell St Mary?

8. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Spillman

Given the on-going problems with damp and mould in Council homes, will the Portfolio Holder agree to deliver a new programme of External Wall Insulation?

9. From Councillor Byrne to Councillor Mayes

Does the Portfolio Holder for Health agree with the comments made by the Chair of HOSC last week that the proposed plans for the IMCs were rubbish?

10. From Councillor Piccolo to Councillor Huelin

There appears to be a conflict of understanding with regards to the physical layout of Kynoch Court. Can the Portfolio Holder please explain further the current layout of the resident and day centre provision?

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
27 January 2021	Cllr 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.	The substantive response to this motion is set out in a report to Council at this meeting.	Ian Hunt

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Motions Submitted to Council

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

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor Worrall

Thurrock Council recognises the huge problems that residents of Ward Avenue, Bradleigh Avenue, College Avenue and Cresthill Avenue caused by parents, and others, dropping off and picking up children attending the three schools in this area. Council calls on cabinet to endeavour to work with the three schools recommending they create a single, sustainable travel plan covering these schools to try and ease the problems. Council further calls for Cabinet to increase parking enforcement around these schools and calls for the drop off zone, at St Thomas of Canterbury School, to be reinstated in accordance with their planning obligations.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

The motion relates to a matter which affects the authority and its area. The Council has relevant functions in respect of planning and highways safety. Whilst the Cabinet can seek to secure the agreement of the three schools to create a unified travel plan it cannot force them to do this. Matters of parking and planning enforcement are discretionary powers, and Cabinet will need to consider all material factors including the matters highlighted in this motion before undertaking action.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

The motion itself does not have any financial implications. Cabinet will need to consider financial implications of implementation in a more detailed report.

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

Yes

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