

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

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **8 September 2022**

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL.

Membership:

Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), James Thandi (Vice-Chair), Daniel Chukwu, Sara Muldowney, Maureen Pearce and Elizabeth Rigby

Substitutes:

Councillors Alex Anderson, Paul Arnold, John Kent, Steve Liddiard and Graham Snell

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Minutes	5 - 18
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14 June 2022.	
3. Items of Urgent Business	
To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972. To agree any relevant briefing notes submitted to the Committee.	
4. Declaration of Interests	
5. Overview of responsibilities of Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sports and Leisure - Verbal Update	

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Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non-pecuniary

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



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

Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

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

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

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

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 June 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), James Thandi (Vice-Chair), Daniel Chukwu, Sara Muldowney, Maureen Pearce and Elizabeth Rigby

Apologies: None

In attendance:
Phil Carver, Strategic Lead Enforcement and Community Protection
Michelle Cunningham, Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager
Gavin Dennett, Strategic Lead - Public Protection
Daren Spring, Assistant Director – Street Scene & Leisure
Vincent Taylor, Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services
Rhiannon Whiteley, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Terry Fisher, Essex Police

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Cleaner, Greener, and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd February 2022 were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

2. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests declared

4. Off Road Nuisance Vehicles - Verbal Update

Terry Fisher updated members on the progress of Operation Ceasar. He explained that in the year 2022 they have issued 35 Section 59 warnings which is more than double the number that were issued in all of 2021. They have seized three vehicles and crushed one. They have also not identified any repeat offenders which is something they were not expecting and this

shows that some of their actions are acting as a deterrent as they are not seeing the same individuals being stopped over and over again and receiving the same warning. In 2021 they were mostly seeing offending mainly taking place on a Sunday, however from reviews of social media and responses this has now switched and most activities seem to be taking place on Saturdays. Five hotspot areas have been identified and the Police are ensuring that they are putting their resources where they need to be.

For June the top 5 areas are : -

1. Rainbow Lane, Stanford-Le-Hope
2. Rear of Essex arena /Davey Down Nature Reserve
3. Orsett Heath, Chadwell St Mary
4. Blackshots and Grays
5. Colne, East Tilbury

Terry Fisher further updated the members that: -

- The Off Road Vehicles team which is a quad bike team to be trialed in Thurrock is on track to launch in September.
- In relation to drones, it was confirmed that the Leader has offered his support in ensuring that they can use some of the Council's assets however they also have a meeting scheduled with their own drone single point of contact in Essex Police to hopefully obtain their own drone for the Community Police Team.
- The Police are also continuing to run pop-up engagement events at the areas of concerns.
- In respect of the potential application for a PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order), a meeting took place yesterday with the Council's Legal team and they are collating data and an evidence package to submit to the Legal team to review.

Terry Fisher also gave an update in relation to target hardening in the top 5 areas of concern as follows: -

- In Belhus Country park, the only work outstanding is a fence gap in Hamble Lane which they are looking to close.
- In Orsett Heath they are looking at a number of options, barriers have been erected in 4 locations and whilst it wont prevent access it will slow down bikes.
- Mobile CCTV is due to be erected on King George's Avenue at the end of the Bridleway.
- The Butts Lane fencing has been repaired, they are looking at a barrier at Butt's Lane to restrict access to the footpath.
- In Billet Lane they are looking to identify areas to target harden but this is likely to be a longer piece of work due to proposed work of 4G pitches in the area where potential restrictions would have been put up.
- In Blackshots, the site has been visited however due to it being very vast with many access points trying to restrict all of these would be incredibly expensive and difficult and they are not sure how efficient it would be at resolving the issue. The walk-way by the allotments will be closed off and barriers to restrict parking on the land at the end of Long Lane.

- Colne East Tilbury is a new area identified in the top 5 and a site visit has been conducted. The works to be conducted have been costed and this is currently in the stage of being reviewed.
- A further site visit is being arranged for Davey Down.

Councillor Redsell commented that they were riding on the golf course at Top Meadow yesterday. Councillor Redsell queried if dune buggys are allowed on the road.

Terry Fisher responded that they would need to be adapted to be on the road legally. For example, you can get quad bikes that are adapted to be on the roads. Drivers of these vehicles would need to have driving licenses and insurance. If not, they will be committing Road Traffic Offences and this can be addressed.

Councillor Redsell stated that from Woodside they are actually using the Persimmons site to come through on to Buxton Road and King Edwards Drive across the field and are not using the allotment anymore.

Councillor Redsell commented that she is sent a lot of pictures of number plates on Long Lane and they know they are from London because they have 020 stickers on the vans, she questioned whether the Police want residents to send them the pictures or whether she should just send them what she has received.

Terry Fisher responded that any engagement or assistance Councillors can give to help the public understand the ways they can report to the Police is helpful. Members can provide the pictures and any information directly to PC Priest and PC Brand. Members can send video evidence to Operation.ceasar@essex.police.uk . It helps them to build an intelligence picture of who the riders are. Terry Fisher commented that it came as no surprise to him that some of those riders are from London and this links back to the PSPO conditions and being able to sanction drivers bringing off-road vehicles in the back of their vehicles into Thurrock.

Councillor Redsell also commented that residents are telling her that the website (extra eyes) is not easy to go on to and put pictures on.

Terry Fisher responded that he had not used or designed the website so he could not comment. He advised the members to send the pictures to PC Priest and PC Brand.

Councillor Redsell commented that she appreciates the work they are doing and explained that whilst members know what they are doing and know what's coming the general public don't always know this. Councillor Redsell stressed that a couple of people have been hurt on Blackshots field and they are frightening people.

Councillor Muldowney questioned how having a quad bike team will address off road nuisance vehicles.

Terry Fisher responded that when he carried out his review in 2021 the issue they had is that the areas where drivers were riding in most cases were quite remote. In Stanford there was a quarry and it would take officers 25 minutes to walk to the location, in that time the riders knew they had been seen and had left the area. When the weather deteriorates in winter months on Blackshots for example there is no ability for marked police vehicles to drive off road. Quad bikes will allow officers to engage with them, detain them and ultimately impose sanctions. It will allow for far more use of enforcement under Section 59 of the Road Traffic Act and assist in vehicle seizure. The quad bikes are not going to be used to chase after bikes endangering the public. Terry Fisher explained that from the vast amount of research he has carried out people usually come from out of the area to ride off road and Thurrock was seen as an easy target. There are forums on social media and it will be noted that we have an off road vehicles team with quad bikes and he is confident once they know this they will go elsewhere.

Councillor Muldowney stated that having taken part in engagement activities with the police it is quite a theme that it is Essex Police's policy not to chase vehicles. Councillor Muldowney disagreed that the problem in Chadwell is coming from outside the Borough and that a proportion was from locals as residents have provided addresses of where those vehicles are coming from.

Councillor Muldowney asked for confirmation that it is not about chasing people around the Heath and questioned how the police are going to address the problem of riders from Thurrock.

Terry Fisher responded that it is not Essex Police's policy to not pursue vehicles, they will pursue criminals but it has to be proportionate. When pursuits happen there is a risk to officers, the subject and also to the public and drivers will do ridiculously dangerous things. Terry Fisher stressed that he will not allow his officers to endanger the public. He confirmed set tactics have been devised to detain people involving vehicles, quad bikes and drones but it would not be sensible to discuss these tactics in a public forum and he would happily discuss them privately with Councillor Muldowney. Terry Fisher confirmed that he is confident they will be effective but ultimately this is a trial period and there will be a review at the end of the trial period.

Councillor Muldowney confirmed she would welcome a private meeting. She questioned whether it would be cost effective as residents pay for these operations through taxation, she also asked for more information as to what areas the 3 vehicles were seized from.

Terry Fisher responded that he didn't have the data to hand but could obtain it fairly easily and that it could be looked at when they have their meeting.

Councillor Redsell also agreed to a meeting offline and recommended that Councillors should attend from the areas where the problem is the worst. Councillor Redsell highlighted that the Ron Evans field in Long Lane is council

land and has become part of where they congregate now on Saturdays and Sundays.

Councillor Thandi questioned whether the Council and Police can push for CCTV or ANPR cameras in those 5 hot spot areas.

Terry Fisher responded that cameras have been put on King Edwards Drive. He explained that ANPR cameras for off road vehicles are relatively useless as they don't have a registration. It is also a challenge as drivers are wearing crash helmets which causes difficulties when looking at identification. CCTV can be beneficial but drones are better than CCTV. As riders primarily use the same helmets and PPE and he confirmed the Police use the footage obtained to allow them to build an intelligence picture and seek prosecutions.

Councillor Rigby referred to the difficulties with target hardening in Blackshots and questioned whether there were any plans to put barriers at any access points on Hangmans wood.

Terry Fisher agreed Hangmans wood is used as a circuit to link up to Blackshots and Orsett Heath and it has several entrances and bushes that could be driven over and stated that if we are talking about spending 20, 30 or £40,000 of the Council's money on barriers we needed to make sure they were effective. The entire pilot for the quad bikes only cost £40,000. Barriers can be effective at times but there are legal implications when it comes to bridleways, scramblers can zip through them and they can get ripped out quickly. Terry Fisher stated that he is always open to reviewing areas.

Councillor Pearce asked if there had been updates of trouble in Aveley. There have been bikes in the Love Lane area fields previously although there is a school been built there now so this might change.

Terry Fisher clarified that they get calls from all over Thurrock and it is not limited to those 5 areas. They have a very small team with a large remit of responsibility. He encouraged Councillors to get messages out to residents to call the police as that's what decides which areas are in the top 5.

Councillor Redsell re-affirmed that members should encourage people to report these matters to the police.

Councillor Chukwu referred to the target hardening in Chadwell and commented that at the bridge he has seen the fence and there is a large gap in between which in his opinion wont slow bikes down.

Terry Fisher responded that he understood the concerns however there are legal issues as to why they cannot do more with those barriers such as the public right of way and therefore it is the only restrictions available to us. Councillor Chukwu stated he understood the legal implications but it looks like the whole idea is not working if the barriers and fences can't stop them and that it has not been effective so far.

Terry Fisher confirmed that they are not saying the barriers are the solution and stopping there, they are trying to make it a less desirable place to ride and it will help his officers to apprehend offenders. Over a 12 month period we can review what effect the barriers are having at the locations.

Michelle Cunningham (Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager) re-affirmed that there are limitations due to the bridle ways and we have to conform with these and Public rights of way limit what they can do.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services commented that when they looked at putting the barriers in there were concerns at the Heath and by Treetops that a moped going at speed could cause an accident, he agreed it wont stop a bike but it will slow it down sufficiently so that if there were to be an accident we are not looking at the worst case scenario.

Councillor Muldowney stated that there is a big wide open space to drive around the barriers and therefore it wont be effective in slowing down bikes. There has to be extra fences at the left side of the barrier otherwise they will come straight down and on to the heath with a slight turn to the left.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services agreed to look into it. Councillor Redsell commented that we can't fence off all of Blackshots field and hopefully what's coming now will make a difference.

Councillor Muldowney stressed the barrier in its current formation is not effective. She also asked for clarification as to where the location of the 4 lots of barriers on Orsett Heath are.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services clarified that there are 4 barriers at 2 locations. They are also looking at another and putting barriers in at the path through the underpass.

At 19.45pm, Terry Fisher left the meeting.

Michelle Cunningham responded to Councillor Thandi's point about CCTV and confirmed that they look at all areas, one has been put in at end of Long Lane to see when vehicles are pulling up. They have looked at Colne but it is not possible at that location. She explained that the areas are on rural land so it is not always easy to put cameras up but they are looking at areas where the vehicles park up.

Councillor Muldowney raised the issue of Greyhound Lane where individuals keep removing the barriers.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services responded that he is happy to visit any areas.

Michelle Cunningham clarified that she wasn't aware that they had been vandalised again.

Councillor Chukwu raised the issue of drones.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services noted that Terry Fisher was best placed to answer the question but had now left the meeting. It is however his understanding that they will use the drones to spot people and then follow them using the drones to where the vehicle is that transported the off-road vehicle to the area and it is then at that location the police will engage with them.

5. Terms of Reference - Overview of Services - PowerPoint

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure introduced the PowerPoint presentation.

Michelle Cunningham (Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager) presented the slides regarding Community Safety and Prevent Duties.

Councillor Redsell commented that she was pleased to note that on the first slide at point one that men and boys has been added as this issue had been discussed previously and she hoped that the same would be applied to men and boys.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure presented slide 3 about Waste and Recycling.

Councillor Redsell confirmed that she had a few complaints lately about the steps that residents have to use to dispose of their waste at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre and from her own previous experience she knows the staff at the HWRC are not always able to help as two women helped her take her rubbish up the stairs the other day as staff could not assist her. She stated that other Boroughs run it better than we do. Councillor Redsell explained that In Lincolnshire you can drive round and drop your rubbish off as you go round. She clarified that the Council workers are usually really helpful but she is concerned about the steps especially when wet and that they could be dangerous.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure responded that residents can ask the team for assistance when they enter the site, wherever possible the team provide assistance and he needs to know if members of staff are refusing to help. He confirmed he is aware of more modern sites that have areas you can drive up to and drop the waste off from the back of the vehicle. This was included in the design of the redevelopment of the site, unfortunately as those proposals have been put on hold, we are having to work with how the current site is configured. However, the site is much more organised and safer than it was when it was taken back from Essex County Council. The manager of the site is very insistent staff should be helping and he will pass this information back to her.

Councillor Thandi raised that he had a couple of complaints about traffic on the weekends where people want to turn right.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure responded that since they have been controlling the number of cars going into the site, the reports are that we don't appear to be seeing the same amount of traffic problems that took place before. He explained that there will of course be individual days where a lot of people decide to clean out their garages and shed, however the controls they have put in place seem to be helping with the traffic situation. He reiterated that he is happy to look at individual cases if traffic problems are raised.

Councillor Redsell highlighted that people have lost track of when the brown bins are collected and asked if there is something on the website. Councillor Redsell also noted they have a lot of elderly residents who might not be able to access the website.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure confirmed that the details are definitely on the website and updated regularly.

Councillor Muldowney raised that it has been a bad couple of years for waste collection and there had been some major service disruptions. She understands from the portfolio holder they will be bringing a report to committee and questioned when they can expect to receive this.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure responded that he is not aware of the timelines at this present time but he is happy to come back to her when he has a firm date.

Councillor Muldowney questioned when the recycling KPI will be reintroduced and reinstated.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure responded he has no firm date when that will be happening and will update everyone when he knows.

Councillor Chukwu raised that he had become aware there is only one street cleaner for Chadwell which has a population of 11,000.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services responded that to his knowledge there is 2 but one might be have been absent for a period of time, so he will check with the Team manager and come back to him.

Councillor Rigby raised what services were available to disabled people who couldn't get to the Waste and Recycling site and questioned if there any discount that could be offered to them.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure responded that there is a bulky waste collection service and there isn't a discount offered to disabled people. They have bench marked the current charge with what other Council's charge and they don't think it is an expensive service. He explained they can't go into the house to get items but the team will help where possible if it can be brought to an access point at the property.

Councillor Rigby queried whether an elderly person on their own could be helped by Council staff getting a fridge or freezer out of their property.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services confirmed that generally they collect items from outside the property and the person putting in the new fridge will take out the old one or members of family will assist with this. However, if a resident contacted them for assistance then they would of course look into how they could help.

Councillor Redsell commented that MIND or CVS have got people who will help elderly residents get things downstairs or outside their property.

Councillor Chukwu thanked the Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure and The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services and acknowledged that when issues are brought to them they attend to them. He questioned whether the proposed plan for fortnightly collection of green bins is still going to take place.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure responded that firstly they want to ensure that operations are running correctly before they start any communications to residents.

Councillor Chukwu questioned how larger families will cope with this.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure explained that he lives in Maldon and there are 4 adults and 1 child in his household and they have fortnightly collections for refuse and recycling and a weekly collection for food waste and the bin he has is smaller than the ones in Thurrock and that in his opinion once you separate out the food waste and recycle as much as you can, your refuse is reduced and he hasn't experienced any capacity issues.

Councillor Redsell asked if they could ask the Street cleansing team to enter garage turnings if there is rubbish down there. Councillor Redsell remarked that she knows that they will probably say that it is Housing land and not Highways but they need to join up.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services responded that they do clear from some parts of Housing land but they would assume if there is a care taker service that they would be doing this. They are also happy to report issues through to Housing.

Councillor Redsell noted the team work hard and she appreciates the work they do.

Councillor Thandi also commented that he sees the street cleaning team every day and notes the job they are doing and that the Borough is very clean compared to others. Councillor Thandi also noted the previous protests with bins not been collected and that it is back on track and thanked the Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure for this.

Councillor Redsell stated that most of the things that let us down is Essex County / highways and lorries coming off the M25 on to the A13 chucking out rubbish.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure confirmed it is National Highways that owns and maintains a fair portion of the A13 and that the Council has spoken to them about how untidy their section of the A13 is but he acknowledged that the terms of the contact National Highways has with their contractor means that it can get dirtier than we would like it to before they have to respond.

Councillor Pearce highlighted that there is little row of cottages on Aveley High street and they have been asked to put their black sacks on the edge of Dacre Avenue until they can get a recycling bin there. It is not a good place as its right near the high street and foxes are ripping the bags open and it is also now attracting fly tipping. Councillor Pearce confirmed that one of the Aveley Councillors has cleared the rubbish as it was getting so disgusting.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services presented the slides for Management of the Environment and Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries slide.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services clarified in response to Councillor Chukwu's earlier question that he has checked and there are two street cleaners in Chadwell.

Councillor Redsell asked how many cemeteries are locked at night and how many are not.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services responded that currently they are not locking cemeteries at night, a trial took place and it was established that it did not affect the levels of anti-social behaviour. He confirmed that they have never locked pedestrian walk-ways through cemeteries. If they get a spike in anti-social behaviour he is happy to look at that again and what measures can be put in place through engagement with the police, CCTV or gating and in particular he would like to look at automated gating. He would like to keep the cemeteries open as late as possible for those who work during the week to be able to visit the cemetery after work.

Councillor Redsell had complaints about Chadwell cemetery and that there were reports they had guns in there.

Councillor Muldowney confirmed two incidents have been reported. It has been reported that there are a group of friends who only like to go there at night to visit but this can be as late as 11pm. There have also been reports of a gun shot being heard and a woman screaming.

Councillor Muldowney questioned why the pedestrian gates cannot be locked.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services clarified that staff locking the gates would be required to do this at the end of their working day and that would be approximately 3.30pm Monday to Thursday and 3pm on Fridays and this would mean people who work during the week would not be able to visit their loved ones.

Councillor Muldowney asked if volunteer residents could lock the gates. The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services responded that if residents didn't open or close the gates, it would cause far more issues with complaints than leaving them open and unfortunately sometimes residents are not always reliable. He stated that if they are looking at the issue of locking gates, he would like to look at new technology such as automated gating if this was absolutely necessary and if it is cost effective to do so.

Councillor Rigby commented that she was interested to see that Langdon Hills comes under Thurrock.

The Strategic Lead for Public Protection responded that when Thurrock became a unitary authority we had to have a certain amount of Country Park so Langdon Hills was allocated.

Councillor Chukwu noted that the slide in Wickham park has been removed and parents have raised that it has not been replaced.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services stated that he will discuss this with the team manager for play and get back to Councillor Chukwu with a response on this matter.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure presented the Sports Development slide.

Councillor Redsell asked if some of the football teams could start playing on the heath as £350,000 of Section 106 money was used to put new changing rooms in there and football is overtaking Blackshots and problems arise with people parking over driveways. Councillor Redsell queried if people were aware of the Heath and the facilities that are there.

Councillor Muldowney highlighted that there are regular matches on the Heath, and they also have problems with parking and littering. Councillor Muldowney confirmed that she has reported incidents of littering.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure confirmed that they do write to the clubs and remind them of their responsibilities to take away litter.

Councillor Muldowney asked about proposals to develop play facilities in the Borough and highlighted the importance of this for children's development especially after covid and to fit in with the obesity strategy.

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure responded to clarify that there is some crossover in roles as the Strategic Lead for Clean and Green

Services carries out the maintenance of the areas and the Recreation and Leisure Services Manager looks at the development of parks and open spaces, additional funding and improving the sites.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services confirmed that he works closely with the Recreation and Leisure Services Manager and they are working on a document to go into the portfolio holder. Sites are being assessed for their play value, They are looking at the play value, what they have and if it is in the best place and if there is potential for redistribution.

Councillor Chuwku raised the issue of Grays Athletic football club and that they have no stadium or land and questioned if this issue could be raised at this Committee.

Councillor Redsell confirmed that Grays Athletic football club have asked if they can speak at this Committee so they can give their views on what they would like.

Councillor Thandi asked how many 3g pitches the Council own?

The Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure replied that at the moment none but they are looking at introducing 2 maybe 3.

The Strategic Lead Enforcement and Community Protection presented the Management of the Environment slide.

Councillor Muldowney questioned what constitutes a fly tipping hotspot that would trigger the use of CCTV.

The Strategic Lead Enforcement and Community Protection responded that they look at data and stats and for areas where they know regular fly tipping is occurring they will identify it as a hot spot.

Councillor Rigby asked about overgrowing hedges and if they are routinely checked.

The Strategic Lead Enforcement and Community Protection confirmed they deal with overgrown hedges when they receive complaints and they respond to those complaints and also if this is noted whilst the team are on other jobs but they are not routinely checked.

At 21.05pm, The Strategic Lead Enforcement and Community Protection left the meeting.

The Strategic Lead for Public Protection presented the Environmental Protection, Consumer Protection and Trading Standards, Licensing and Animal Welfare slides.

Councillor Redsell ask if the Council has employed an officer for air quality control.

The Strategic Lead for Public Protection confirmed that they have done this.

Councillor Chuwu left the meeting at 21.12pm and returned to the meeting at 21.15pm.

Councillor Thandi asked if Thurrock is the 4th or 5th worst Borough in the country for air pollution?

The Strategic Lead for Public Protection explained that it depends how you measure it and clarified that we do have some pollution areas due to the industrial heritage in the area.

Councillor Rigby queried in relation to the slide on animal welfare where it states that dead animals will be removed by the council and disposed of, if this was the case with cats who have been chipped.

The Strategic Lead for Public Protection confirmed they would try and notify the owner of a cat if it was chipped and would not dispose of the body and try and return it to the owner. He clarified that it is usually foxes and badgers that they are dealing with.

Councillor Rigby requested that the slide is amended in that regard.

At 21.22 the Committee agreed to raise Standing Orders so the meeting could continue beyond 9.30pm

6. Abandoned Trolley Cost Recovery Policy

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services introduced the report and confirmed that it is his recommendation that the Committee support his recommendation to Cabinet to adopt the abandoned Trolleys policy. He confirmed there will still be a number of processes to follow and there will be a consultation with stores and other interested parties and local retailers prior to consideration of the adoption of these powers.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services clarified that he hopes it will act as a mechanism to get compliance from stores and that it is not a money making scheme. It puts the onus back on the retailer and it is also beneficial for them as the trolley is worth more than the fee to recover them.

Councillor Pearce questioned where they would store the trolleys recovered.

The Strategic Lead for Clean and Green Services confirmed that they had a couple of sites in the area where they could store them. They would need to take pictures in situ, tag each trolley and notify the stores. Once they have agreement that this policy is going to be pursued these details would be clarified.

Councillor Muldowney commented that it is a sensible policy and she likes that it is putting the onus back on the stores to manage their trollies rather than it being down to the Local Authority.

RESOLVED

That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee support the recommendation to Cabinet, and the initiation of the process for the adoption of the new abandoned trolley cost recovery policy.

7. Work Programme

Councillor Muldowney requested a report on air quality.

The Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager agreed this could be prepared for the November meeting.

It was also queried whether this Committee would be the correct one to consider the issue of Grays Athletic Football club stadium.

The meeting finished at 9.37 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

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

8 September 2022		ITEM: 6
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Council Funded Police Officers		
Wards and communities affected: Tilbury Town Centre, and Purfleet	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Michelle Cunningham - Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Cheryl Wells - Strategic Lead, Community Safety, Emergency Planning and Resilience		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers - Director of Public Realm		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

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

This Town Centre Team, since their inception in 2019, have provided increased visible policing and their priority is to tackle ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) in our busiest areas, protect the vulnerable, and tackle crimes against businesses. Following the initial success of this team and the benefit to our local community the Council committed funding to extend the Town Centre Police team in January 2020 to Tilbury and Purfleet.

The roles are dedicated to work within the key town centers (see *Appendix 1*) to provide a proactive response to emerging crime trends and appropriate local issues as identified by the command team.

These teams directly support each of the Essex Police 4Vs priorities, namely: Victims, Violence, Visibility, and Vulnerability.

The key purpose is to promote public confidence and to take a dynamic and flexible approach to Community issues in our towns.

- 1. Recommendation(s)**
That the CGS Overview and Scrutiny Committee: -
- 1.1 Note the positive approach taken by this team to community engagement.**
- 1.2 Promote the work of Town Centre officers to their residents to improve public confidence in local policing and encourage reporting of concerns.**
- 1.3 Support the decision to carry out a review of the funded Town Centre Police Officers, as is good practise with all council contracts**
- 2. Introduction and Background**
- 2.1 The Council recognises that anti-social behaviour has always been a key priority for residents, and in January 2019, The Leader, within his annual Portfolio Holder Report announced that an additional revenue surplus funding of £750k be committed to provide additional police officers over a three-year period, recognising resident concerns and their request to have an increased visible police presence.
- 2.2 Initially the Council was planning to implement a team of officers, including a Sergeant for three years. Following the announcement from the Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner (PFCC), that a proportion of the uplift in front line police officers in Essex would be dedicated to town centre policing within the county, in consultation with Essex Police it was agreed to review plans and align them with the broader Essex Police structures.
- 2.3 In July 2019, Essex Police introduced the Thurrock Town Centre Team which consisted of 1 Sergeant and 7 Constables. The areas for Town Centre Policing were determined by the Essex Police Strategic Change Team. The criteria used for this determination was based on the recorded crime and ASB data per 1,000 residents of each town. Within this initial allocation the towns covered were Grays, South Ockendon and Stanford Le Hope.
- 2.4 In consultation with Essex Police it was agreed that the Council funded officers would be best placed complimenting the Town Centre policing team in the most vulnerable areas of the Borough at that time, Tilbury and Purfleet. The Thurrock Council funded officers, of which there are 4, joined the existing Town Centre Team in January 2020 and are funded until February 2024, within the £750k allocated budget.
- 2.5 Following a review of the data the officers for Stanford Town Centre area was expanded to cover Corringham Town Centre in March 2021.
- 2.6 This team reports to the Community Safety Inspector for Thurrock and are in addition to an establishment resourced Community Policing Team of 18

Community Police Constables, 10 Police Community Support Officers and 2 Sergeants. When fully resourced the Town Centre Team comprises of 1 sergeant and:

Grays	3 PC's
South Ockendon	2 PC's
Stanford Le Hope and Corringham	2 PC's
Purfleet	2 PC's funded by Thurrock Council
Tilbury	2 PC's funded by Thurrock Council

2.7 Main Duties of the TCT are:

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

2.8 Through these actions, the aim is to:

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

2.9 For the 3 months ending July 22 the Town Centre Teams all areas:

- Attended 106 incidents
- Made 26 Arrests
- Spent 717 hours on patrol

- Recorded 30 of investigations
- Conducted 74 stop and searches
- Had 44 results at court (excluding July data)

2.10 For the 7 months ending July 22 the funded Town Centre Teams achieved:

	Tilbury	Purfleet	Total
No of incidents attended:	110	34	144
No. of arrests made:	8	4	12
No of hours on patrol:	459	267	726
No of Investigations recorded:	21	18	39
No of Stop searches conducted:	47	6	53
Court results:	27	25	52

2.11 Public Perception

Key indicators from the Essex Police Public Perceptions Survey are shown below comparing pre TCT introduction to latest data. The results represent the combined sample of interviews across each year. The annual sample size for the survey is 7,710 Essex residents – approx. 550 annually from each of the 14 Districts.

Survey question	Q4 19/20	Q4 21/22	Change
Confidence in local policing (% strongly/tend to agree)	52 %	71%	+19%
Essex Police understand the issues that affects your community (% strongly/tend to agree)	58%	55%	-3%
Essex Police are dealing with crime & ASB (% strongly/tend to agree)	42%	50%	+8%
Confidence in receiving a good service from Essex Police (% very/fairly confident)	60%	72%	+12%

2.12 Case study provided by the Town Centre Team officer for Purfleet

Op Smile- Garrison Parade- PC PLOM

Op Smile was an ASB and drug dealing operation generated by PC PLOM on the Thurrock Town Centre Team.

The operation was designed to combat the ASB specifically around the Garrison parade shops, “The Green,” and surrounding roads.

The Thurrock Town Centre team worked multiple shifts in an attempt to reduce crime rates and ensure the Purfleet community felt listened to.

On the dedicated shifts, Op Smile had 2 arrests, multiple stop searches, traffic tickets, and Community Resolutions. PC PLOM issued 5 Community Protection Warnings and 2 Community Protection Notices for ASB. The operation also generated many more intelligence reports which were entered onto the police system. Although Op Smile was related to specific days, PC PLOM continued to patrol and assist the Local Policing Team and BTP (British Transport Police) with outstanding enquiries which were received from residents in Purfleet.

1 male has since been charged, early 2022, with possession and intent to supply class A & B X2 (cocaine and cannabis), Concern in the supply of drugs X2 and possession of a bladed article. This male will be going to trial in Crown Court next year.

The businesses and residents have seen a significant impact within the community from the response from the Thurrock Town Centre Team and feel that the spirit and safety has been restored.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 There are no comparable ASB or crime stats by ward at present due to the periods of enforced restrictions put in place due to the pandemic which resulted in a reduction in crime and an increase in ASB – due to the inclusion of reports in relation to breaches of lockdown restrictions.
- 3.2 Current issues:
- Currently the TCT Officers in **Tilbury** are working with the Roads Policing Unit to implement Op Savage to address the concerns being raised by residents and members in relation to the anti-social driving of motorbikes around Civic Square and surrounding area.
 - TCT Officers in **Purfleet** continue to work with Housing Officers to identify those causing a nuisance on the estate and particularly around the shops
- 3.3 Of the non-funded areas **Grays** Town Centre remains the area of highest footfall, business crime / ASB and risks in relation to gang related activity and violence against women and girls.
- 3.4 As of August 2022, the dedicated funded Police officers are:
- Purfleet: PC 80067 Alexander Grimsey and PC 81502 Callum Matthews
 - Tilbury: PC 76882 Adam Walker and PC 81492 Charis Moss
- 3.5 The contract and funding expire in February 2024, as with any contract, it is always good practise to review, considering changes over time in Essex Police and Thurrock Council to ensure it is still meeting the needs of Thurrock residents and presenting good value for money.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

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

1. Provide members with an insight as to the remit of the team, their progress and some of their key successes.
2. Enable members to understand the value they bring to our residents and promote their work to improve public confidence and provide reassurance.
3. To ensure continued need, best practise and value for money.

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

5.1 Residents and businesses alike continue to highlight a desire for more visible policing

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

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

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

This means:

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

6.2 This supports the following Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 22/23:

3. Violence and Vulnerability: tackling gang related activity and offensive weapons to reduce drug driven violence
6. Tackling Community Based Anti-Social Behaviour and Safeguarding Victims
8. Safer Streets through increased visibility and community engagement
9. Tackling offending

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

- Victims
- Visibility

- Violence
- Vulnerability

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

- Reducing drug driven violence
- Preventing business crime, fraud, and cyber crime

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

The additional police officers continue to be funded from the reserve created from the members' surplus until February 2024.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Mark Bowen**
Interim Head of Legal

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

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

9. **Appendices to the report**

1. Maps of areas policed

Report Author:

A/Chief Inspector Terry Fisher - Essex Police

Michelle Cunningham - Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager

Appendix 1: Maps of areas covered by TCT

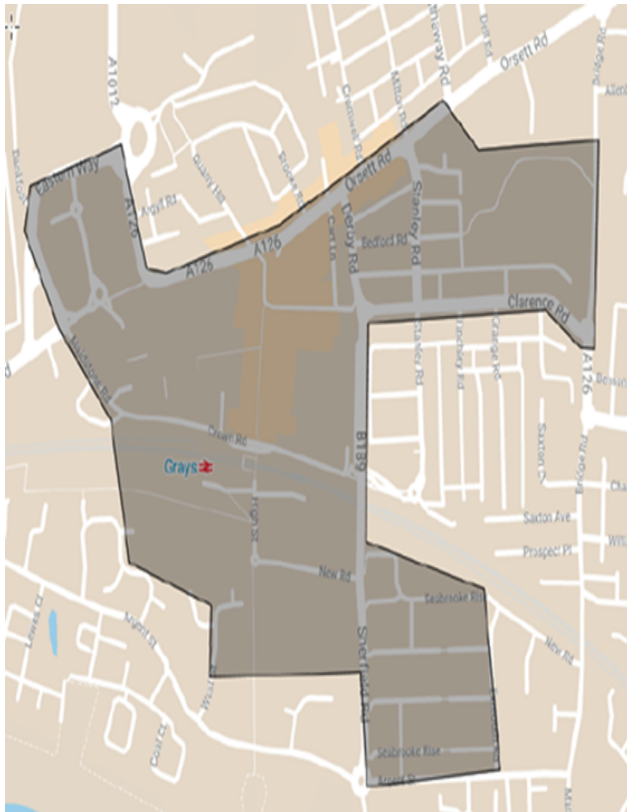
Purfleet: funded



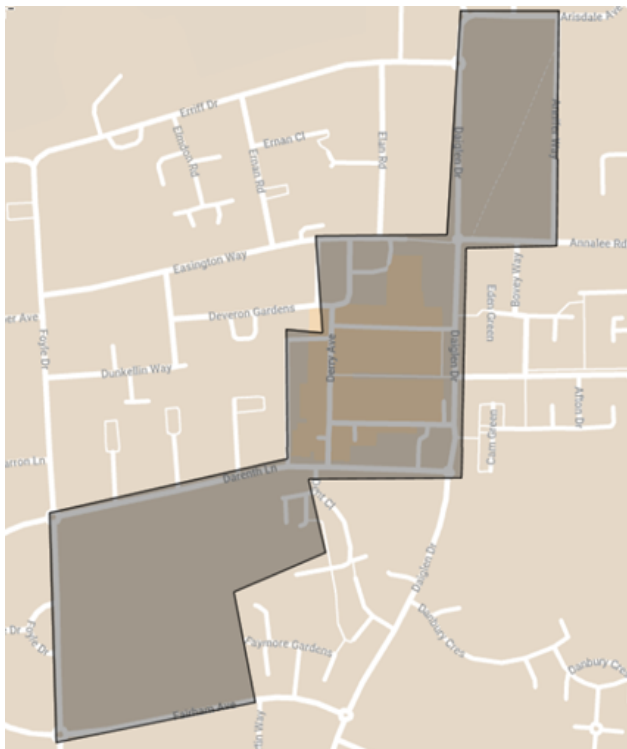
Tilbury: funded



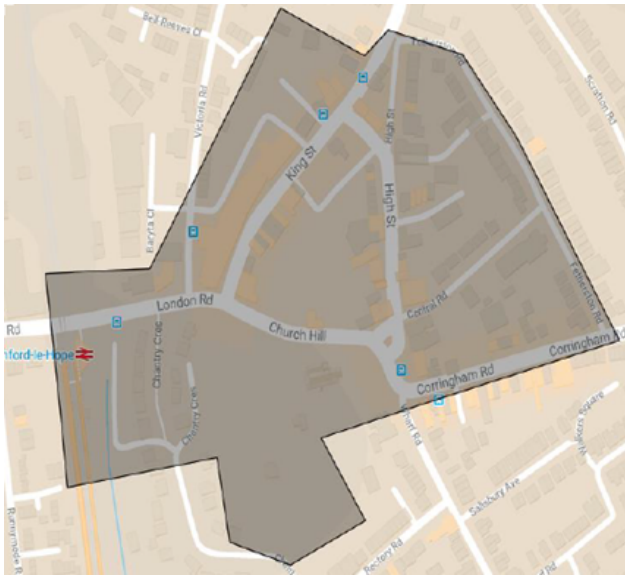
Grays:



South Ockendon:



Stanford Le Hope and Corringham:



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8 September 2022		ITEM: 7
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Update		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Michelle Cunningham – Community Safety Partnership Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Cheryl Wells - Strategic Lead, Community Safety, Emergency Planning & Resilience		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Public Realm		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to review the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) in 2021/22 and provides insight into the priorities and activities to address them for the Partnership for 2022/23.

The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body as laid out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This legislation places a joint responsibility upon specific agencies, namely the Local Authority, Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service, and the Integrated Care Body to work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer. These partners are required to formulate and implement strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area and to have in place a partnership plan for that area, setting out the CSP's priorities. (*Appendix 1*).

The plan must also have regard for the police and crime objectives set out in the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) Police and Crime Plan.

The local delivery plan sets out how the CSP will deliver on the priorities as identified in the Strategic Assessment for 2021. (*Appendix 2*) A Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to complete on an annual basis. The aim and purpose of the strategic assessment is to assist the CSP to determine the strategic priorities. These priorities inform the Partnership's 2022/23 Delivery Plan, which will assist in the allocation of appropriate resources to tackle the issues identified. Areas of risk and vulnerability are highlighted, and based on intelligence, priority issues are identified, alongside recommendations to address.

These priorities assist in identifying what the CSP should collectively work towards over the following year.

To ensure that all partnership data is managed in a consistent way, and that the right priorities are identified, a Risk Matrix is carried out before the Strategic Assessment is written. Using this process ensures that partnership issues can be compared against each other in an intelligent and structured way to determine the Priorities for the CSP which are detailed at 2.2.

The Community Safety Partnership has a responsibility to deliver on Domain 6 'Community Safety'. Of Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022/26. A key focus of this strategy is: ***Levelling the playing field.***

The aims and ambitions of Domain 6 are:

- **Thurrock is a place where people feel and are safe to live, socialise, work and visit.**
- **We will also ensure that victims/survivors of crime are able to access support to cope and recover from their experiences, should they need it.**

The CSP has a role to play in preventing and safeguarding the most vulnerable in our society from being victims of crime, abuse, and exploitation. In the tragic instances where this does occur, we want to ensure that victims/survivors are able to access appropriate support to cope and recover from their experiences.

In summary levelling the playing field for community safety will be achieved through:

- Preventing crimes, particularly abuse and exploitation, occurring in the first instance
- Consulting with the community to understand resident's concerns with regards to community safety and for residents to know what we are doing to address their concerns
- Strengthening approaches to safeguarding those who are vulnerable and face additional risk of experiencing abuse or exploitation
- Ensuring victims/survivors of abuse or exploitation are able to access appropriate services and support to cope and recover
- Ensuring the support and services available to victims/survivors of abuse or exploitation are holistic and trauma informed where appropriate.

This will level the playing field by:

- Reducing the number of victims locally, and therefore preventing the physical and mental impacts they might experience
- Preventing those who already experience vulnerabilities from facing further inequalities
- Ensuring victims/survivors are supported to cope and recover from their experience and are able to live safe, happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

Ahead of the Serious Violence Duty we have recognised that a Public Health approach is required and have established a Violence and Vulnerability Board to coordinate the response by our 5 Boards (namely the Health and Wealth Being Board, Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Adult Safeguarding Board, Youth

Crime Governance Board and Community Safety Partnership) to implement the recommendations from the Annual Public Health Report 2020 on Serious Youth Violence. This will recognise youths from 11- 24 as well as recognising that children as young as primary school age can be exploited and drawn into gangs. To deliver this we work in close partnership with the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit.

Whilst hidden harms and exploitation are a key focus of our priorities and delivery plan we have recognised and included our communities' priorities in relation to tackling Anti-social Behaviour and increased opportunity for public engagement.

We continue to work alongside Essex Police and in particular:

- Local Community Safety & Engagement Officers (CSEO's) to engage with residents to promote the work they are undertaking and improve confidence in the local area
- The Modern-Day Slavery, Human Trafficking and Organised Immigration Crime team, who are supporting us with prevention through awareness raising and through Portswatch sharing information and intelligence widely amongst statutory and law enforcement agencies to make our communities and ports safer
- The Business Crime Team who are working to tackle and prevent Crime and Anti- Social Behaviour so that Businesses feel safe, without the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour committed by the minority.
- The continued support through our Town Centre Team, including an additional 4 officers funded by Thurrock Council

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for the year 2021/22 and satisfy themselves that the Community Safety Partnership priorities agreed for the year 2022/23 respond to the community safety issues raised by their residents

1.2 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognise the collaborative working across our priorities with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to keep the community of Thurrock safe.

1.3 That Overview and Scrutiny understand the impact on the Council of the Serious Violence Duty

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) has a statutory duty to reduce crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour, and other behaviour affecting the local environment, including the misuse of drugs and alcohol. The TCSP has an integral role in delivering Thurrock's community strategy in relation to the priority "*Build pride, responsibility and respect.*" and the Health and Wellbeing strategy for Thurrock 22/26 in relation to Community Safety.

2.2 The Priorities for the CSP for 2022/23 were agreed as:

1. **Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims
2. **Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with the Domestic Abuse Duty and needs assessment
3. **Violence and Vulnerability:** Tackling gang related activity and offensive weapons to reduce drug driven violence
4. **Counter Extremism and Terrorism:** Preventing Violent Extremism locally
5. **Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime** – including Sex/Gender based hate crime
6. **Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims** - including off road motorbike nuisance
7. **Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime**
8. **Safer streets through increased visibility and community engagement**
9. **Tackling offending** – reducing high volume crimes e.g., burglary

Why are these a priority for Thurrock?¹:

2.3 **Priority 1. Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

- Thurrock recognises that women are disproportionately affected by sexual violence and abuse. We also recognise and acknowledge that many of these types of crime remain unreported. Rooted in gender inequality VAWG is a systemic and pervasive human rights abuse stifling the lives and well-being of women and girls and preventing them from accessing opportunities.
- In our risk matrix sexual offences ranked number one, other sexual offences 4th and stalking and harassment 12th
- 451 females are currently accessing the specialist support services of SERICC and 49 males. There are more survivors who report to these services than Essex Police.
- We have seen an increase of 22.4% in relation to stalking and harassment in reports to Essex Police across 12 months. There has been a 23% increase in relation to Honour Based Abuse.

2.4 **Priority 2. Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:**

- In our risk matrix Domestic Abuse (DA) overall ranked at number 4, with High risk being ranked 1st, medium risk 9th and standard risk 10th.
- Our strategy identified that over 50% of females accessing mental health services have experienced domestic violence / abuse and over 35% of abused women have experienced depression and anxiety orders.
- 34.6% of all reported violence against the person offences in Thurrock had a domestic abuse marker
- Thurrock is ranked as the 5th highest district in Essex in relation to Domestic Abuse offences

¹ Data taken from the 2021 Strategic Assessment which covers the period 1/10/20 to 30/9/21

2.5 **Priority 3. Violence and Vulnerability:**

- As part of the youth focused listening project Thurrock young people told us their no. 1 concern was knife crime/getting stabbed. 50% of respondents said they were worried about being exploited by gangs.
- Violent Crime ranked 4th on our risk matrix and is on an upward trajectory, although our crimes /1,000 residents remain lower than the average of our most similar family group.
- Possession of weapons ranked as our 11th highest risk and has seen an increase of offences against last year
- Of the 11 localities identified across Essex for action by the Violence and Vulnerability Unit 3 of them are in Thurrock
- We have an emerging gang in Thurrock with young people at risk of being exploited by them

2.6 **Priority 4. Counter Extremism and Terrorism:**

The terror attacks in October and November 2021 are clear reminders that this is an ever-present threat. No matter what the ideology that inspires the threat is, the aim is to inflict fear, harm, and damage on our communities.

By this remaining as a priority for the CSP it provides the framework for outlining how partners will continue to work with our communities to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation and to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, however it should be noted that there is no greater threat to Thurrock than anywhere else.

2.7 **Priority 5. Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime**

- In 2021 Thurrock saw a 33% increase in reported hate crime, which is higher than that seen across Essex.
- There were 1.8 crimes per 1,000 residents, which is higher than the average of our most similar family group.
- This is a crime which often goes unreported, so we are unlikely to be looking at the full scale of the problem.
- In response to the national interest and activity that is taking place around violence, abuse and intimidation against women and girls Essex Police have made a change in the recording of Hate Crime in Essex where the primary motivation of the perpetrator is directed toward the sex/gender of the victim and that gender-based hate crime will now be recorded by Essex Police and an investigation commenced. By prioritising this we will be better placed to understand the issues faced by women and girls in Thurrock.

2.8 **Priority 6. Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims - including off road motorbike nuisance**

- Essex Police have seen a 5.7% year on year increase in reporting – however it should be noted that this data is impacted by inclusion of COVID breaches.

- Although an improvement on previous year's 28% of residents surveyed as part of the public perception survey still feel that crime and ASB have become more of a problem in the last year.
- Members, businesses, and residents continue to report that this is a concern across the borough, and in particular in relation to off road motorbike nuisance.

2.9 **Priority 7. Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime**

The full scale of modern-day slavery and human trafficking is unknown. Human trafficking is a crime against humanity, it is global, affects men and women, children and adults, UK nationals and migrants and as we know from Op Melrose in 2019 where 39 Vietnamese lost their lives this is happening in Thurrock.

2.10 **Priority 8. Safer streets through increased visibility and community engagement**

"The Government is clear that everyone in this country should have the security and confidence that comes from having a safe street and a safe home, and this is central to the mission of levelling up."² The Government's strategic approach to cutting crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), reducing the number of victims of crime, and making the country safer is set out in the Beating Crime Plan. This priority sets out how Thurrock will focus our efforts on 'hotspot' areas where crimes are disproportionately concentrated.

The public perception survey (Q2 21/22) highlighted that only around a third of Thurrock residents (34%) feel well-informed about what police are doing in their area, down from 43% - joint second lowest District.

2.11 **Priority 9. Tackling offending**

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have a statutory duty to assist with reducing reoffending. Partners must therefore work together to prevent offenders from re-entering the criminal justice system and creating potentially more victims, as well as ensure that offenders are given the opportunity to engage within the Restorative Justice process where appropriate.³

We have started to see an increase in our reoffending rates of the cohort managed by our Youth Offending Service.

2.12 In addition, anecdotally we have identified as Emerging Areas of Concern:

- E-scooters – concerns raised by members and residents.
- Drink spiking – whilst not seen in Thurrock yet this is an issue being reported across the Country.

2.13 These priorities will all support the Chief Constables vision with regards to a focus on the four V's, namely:

- Violence

² "Safer Streets Fund Round 4 Prospectus - GOV.UK

³ SET Reducing reoffending strategy 2021

- Vulnerability
- Visibility
- Victims

2.14 Our priorities for 22/23 consider the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) priorities which are laid out in the 2021/24 plan⁴ :

1. Further investment in crime prevention
2. Reducing drug driven violence
3. Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
4. Reducing violence against women and girls
5. Improving support for victims of crime
6. Protecting rural and isolated areas
7. Preventing dog theft
8. Preventing business crime, fraud, and cyber crime
9. Improving safety on our roads
10. Encouraging volunteers and community support
11. Supporting our officers and staff
12. Increasing collaboration

2.15 Within the Crime Prevention Strategy for Essex 2021/25⁵ , Essex Police have identified 14 thematic strands which pose the greatest potential threat, harm and risk to our people and communities, as well as the greatest opportunity for prevention. These are:

1. Knife Crime
2. Rape
3. Night-Time Economy
4. Child Abuse / Child Sexual Exploitation
5. Domestic Abuse
6. Drugs & Alcohol
7. Mental Health
8. County Lines / Exploitation
9. Serious Organised Crime
10. Cybercrime & Fraud
11. Places - targeting persistent problem places and people within a geographical area
12. Burglary / Robbery
13. Prevent (radicalisation)
14. Hate Crime

2.16 **Governance to deliver the plan:**

The Statutory partners meet quarterly through the CSP Strategic Board which is chaired by the Director of Public Realm, Thurrock Council and the Vice Chair is the Chief Superintendent Essex Police.

Reporting directly to the CSP Board are:

⁴ <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/>

⁵ Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

- CSP Executive – chaired by the District Commander
- Prevent Strategic board – chaired by Asst Director for Adult Social Care
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Partnerships – chaired by the Asst Director for Housing
- Violence and Vulnerability Board – chaired by the Director of Public Health

Reporting into the CSP Executive are the:

- Multi-agency locality action groups dealing with cases in relation to ASB and hate crime
- Operational Gang Related Violence Group
- Integrated Offender Management
- Task and Finish groups in relation to off road motorbike nuisance and car cruisers

2.17 Summary of **crime performance** for 1/4/2021 to 31/03/2022 compared to 2020/21

This crime data comes with the caveat that it reflects against non-comparable data due to varying degrees of restrictions being in place 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

Offence	12 months April 21 to March 22	
	Total	% Change
All Crime	16,846	12.5
Violence Against Person	6562	5.9
Sexual Offences	558	40.2
Robbery	171	4.3
Burglary	646	-9.3
Vehicle Offences (incl. interference)	1969	30.1
Shoplifting	1176	30.7
Criminal damage (incl arson)	1676	13.9
Hate Crime (HO def)	544	26.5
ASB	3233	-48.9

We continue to see a downward trajectory of ASB which is due to being compared against data which included COVID breaches.

All crime, except for burglary is showing an increase year on year.

33% of crimes in the year had a Domestic Abuse marker against them.

2.18 Essex Police monitor **public perception** of crime by regularly surveying residents across the County to gather and evaluate efforts to address crime.

Key Insights

- The proportion of Thurrock residents surveyed who think crime and ASB has become more of a problem increased significantly from 22% to 33% - second highest District.
- Around half (55%) agree EP understand issues affecting their community – down significantly from 71% in 2020/21.
- Over three-quarters (76%) think a regular uniformed police presence is very important – joint highest District.

Thurrock Q4 2021/22 Public Perception Survey Results ⁶

Question	Year ending Mar 2021	Year ending Mar 2022	% Change
Confidence in local Policing (% strongly/tend to agree)	72%	71%	- 1%
Importance of a regular uniformed police presence in the area (% very important)	71%	76%	5%
Essex Police understand the issues that affect your community (% strongly/tend to agree)	71%	55%	-16%
Feel informed about what the Police are doing in my local area (% very/fairly informed)	35%	40%	5%
Police in this area are doing a good/excellent job	74%	78%	4%
Essex Police are dealing with Crime and ASB (% strongly/tend to agree)	53%	50%	-3%
Feel Crime and ASB have become more of a problem in your area in the last 12 months	22%	33%	11%
Confidence in receiving a good service from Essex Police (% very/fairly confident)	74%	72%	-2%

Key highlights of activity by priority in 2021/22 (full detail of activity is within the strategic assessment, section 4).

2.19 Priority 1: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

⁶ Source: Thurrock Community Safety Engagement Officer

- The terms of reference for the strategic VAWG board were updated to reflect the duties of the new Domestic Abuse Act. The VAWG Strategic Board is the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board for Thurrock Council. The VAWG Strategy and action plan were updated to reflect changes in duties.
- Amended training offer: new product covers Domestic Abuse and Stalking.
- Community J9 sessions promoted and linking with Alpha Vesta to raise awareness with businesses. All training continues via online delivery.
- Reaching out to Traveller sites resumed as restrictions were lifted.
- Thurrock commenced the first joint Domestic Homicide Review / Safeguarding Adult Review (DHR/SAR).
- Funding contribution towards perpetrator intervention work saw the Change Project return to Thurrock in October 2021.
- Community liaison officers within the Housing Safeguarding Team were involved in increased outreach work in partnership with many services
- 16 day's events /communications included offer of training to businesses.
- Annual promotion of initiatives such as '16 days of activism', including a 'Safer Streets' community engagement event where 800 personal alarms were handed out while asking communities to complete a Safer Streets questionnaire on police website. The SET wide stalking awareness campaign, International Women's Day, and Ask for Angela.

2.20 **Priority 2: Tackling Violence and Vulnerability**

- 29 individuals across Thurrock have been trained to deliver individual, or group work to parents/carers to reduce violence within the home and multi-agency operational gang related violence group continues to meet with to identify, monitor and share information regarding identified gang nominals residing in Thurrock.
- Operational plan implemented by Essex Police – alongside Op Grip targeting 11 micro areas of concern in relation to violence across borough.
- Meetings held with schools, actions in place to support those at risk, including CREW mentoring project & youth at risk.
- Operational Gang Group continues to identify nominals, and actions to put in place to either safeguard or take appropriate enforcement action.
- Areas identified in relation to contextualised safeguarding actions in place.
- 256 trained hate crime ambassadors have made 1,168 contacts from January to September to raise awareness of hate crime and an overview of hate crime is included within our Prevent training offer.
- National Hate Crime awareness week was celebrated with events, training and sharing of case studies and supported Thurrock's Safeguarding Adults Board pop-up event on hate crime in Grays as part of Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week.
- Disability hate and mate crime training has been well received across 4 sessions; This is now being offered out to Thurrock colleges and special needs schools.

2.21 **Priority 3: Local Community and Visibility**

- The top 5 areas for off road motorbike nuisance were identified and plans developed to target harden.
- An interim injunction has been obtained to prevent unauthorised encampments.
- The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in West Thurrock was renewed in respect of car cruising activity.
- Training sessions were delivered to all partners on Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO).
- 179 HMO licenses granted under Mandatory and Additional HMO Licensing, encouraging residents to report complaints about poor housing conditions, noise, rubbish, overgrown gardens, rodents, and pests.
- Street meets held in Op Caesar (response to motorbike nuisance) hot spots, Tilbury, and Ockendon due to high reports of ASB and 12 events held in Grays High Street as part of Safer Streets.
- Coffee with cops held in all areas across the borough.
- Young People engaged through Youth Council and hosting coffee with cops at both colleges.
- Weekend walkabouts held to address concerns over ASB in relation to motorbikes and cruisers.

2.22 Priority 4: Tackling Offending and reducing Residential Burglary

- The new Probation Service has been in place since 26 June 2021, they are responsible for managing all those on a community order or licence following their release from prison in England and Wales.
- There has been a continued focus on the promotion of Restorative Justice with 29 referrals in the year ending Sept 21. 35% of referrals were in relation to neighbour nuisance. There was a 92% victim satisfaction survey rate. We are working on a Community Justice Panel to consider if we can impact HGV issues.
- The Public Health funded Well Homes project provides temporary housing accommodation to prolific ex-offenders and works closely with IOM and Thurrock Inclusions to provide employment and training interventions to increase their employment opportunities. This project has successfully housed 5 ex-offenders in the Thurrock area.
- Opportunity to engage with users when drug supplies disrupted through Op Cloud - a police-led initiative to text details of treatment services to those identified as being customers of a county line phone number that Essex Police has intercepted.

2.23 Priority 5. Counter Extremism and Terrorism

- We have continued to attend quarterly briefings and respond to the Counter Terrorism Local Profile, revise our action plan to reflect any emerging risks and threats, and update and share as appropriate the situational risk assessment for Thurrock.
- We drafted our Event Policy which is being trialled across community premises.
- Guidance on event bookings and speaker booking form has been shared with educational settings and licensed premises.

- Ongoing promotion of ACT Early to increase awareness within communities.
- Prepared and presented a report to the Hidden and Extreme Harms Committee to support Members to reach out to communities on this agenda.
- Continued to offer training sessions in conjunction with my learning for professionals.
- Briefed the Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police to maintain their knowledge.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

Key areas of work planned to deliver on priorities in 2022/23

3.1 **Priority 1. Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims

- Refresh the multi-agency VAWG strategy to drive effective partnership working.
- Refresh frontline training to improve identification understanding and responses to Honour Based Abuse (HBA) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Ensure that victims/survivors are signposted to specialist safe spaces to be able to speak out.
- Explore methods to engage survivor's voice across the VAWG agenda.
- Continue roll out of DA & stalking training for professionals and community and sexual violence and abuse awareness training. Pilot training in relation to sexual violence/abuse against men and boys and promote the sexual violence and abuse e-learning product.
- Continue to recognise and respond to the public interest in VAWG and men's violence against women, promote reporting to Safer Streets and respond to Op Minerva – identifying areas of risk.

3.2 **Priority 2. Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with the Domestic Abuse Duty and needs assessment.

- Continue to deliver on the priority areas identified within the needs assessment for victims who are resident within safe accommodation.
 - Support around financial inclusion for victims supporting access to education, training, and employment in preparation for moving on from the refuge.
 - Support to increase staff knowledge and working practices around victims with physical and learning disabilities and mental health issues.
 - Specialist drug and alcohol support for resident adults & children.

- Support to speed up moving on from refuge to independent accommodation when safe to do so and to ensure support is continued once victims are settled.
- Implementation of trauma informed psychological support for resident adults and children.
- Specialist sexual violence counselling support
- Increase in capacity of the existing children's worker to support parenting work.
- Tutoring for resident children who due to moving into refuge have additional identified learning needs.

In addition:

- Training for businesses will be delivered following promotion of Alpha Vesta at Thurrock Enterprise Week.
- Progress the DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Association) accreditation.
- Ensure method of hearing DA survivor voices is implemented as part of DA Act.
- Respond to recommendations from any Domestic Homicide Reviews as appropriate.
- In order to direct services, obtain a full year of data by ward to ensure services are aligned to need and the top 5 wards should be targeted for community engagement including wider services e.g., drug and alcohol.

3.3 **Priority 3. Violence and Vulnerability:** Tackling gang related activity and offensive weapons to reduce drug driven violence

- Continued preventative work focused in the Grays area including:
 - Op Grip – hot spot policing, which has been evaluated as having on average a 14% reduction on violent crime and 17% on overall crime.
 - Termly meetings with our secondary schools who have had funding for the SOS Project delivered by St Giles Trust.
 - Violence and Vulnerability funding has also supported Red Balloon to provide outreach work in Seabrooke Rise, Grays as well as Koala Park in Tilbury.
 - Operation Overwatch which has led to 6 arrests on the GTM Gang members, offences varying from Drug Supply, Knife crime and Robbery. Since the arrests, one individual has been issued a Youth Referral Order, one is awaiting sentence with an application for an additional Criminal Behaviour Order that will last 5 years. The others arrested have been charged and await court hearings.
- Embed and develop the role of the Child Exploitation (CE) and gangs lead and exploitation worker, currently delivering drop-in sessions at secondary schools, delivering awareness training for professionals, termly meetings with schools in identified locality areas and managing 45 nominals through the Operational Gang Related Violence Group. Data for 21/22 identified the average age is 17 – 22, predominantly from the Grays area and 67% have attended gang intervention/knife prevention programme.

- Our Young Person's Exploitation Support Worker provides direct support to young people who are at risk of, or who have experienced sexual and/or criminal exploitation. Intensive intervention is provided to deliver effective support and reduce the risk of harm. Currently working with 8 young people.
- Focused campaign to raise awareness in relation to offensive weapons alongside knife bin launch campaign.
- A deep dive of all non-domestic violent crime is produced for action by the Drivers of Violence Task and Finish group.
- Support implementation of the Youth Justice Plan 21/24 to deliver an effective youth justice service in Thurrock, including implementation of Reroute to support offenders released under investigation.
- Outreach project delivered by Olive Academy to continue to work with young people at risk of exclusion.

3.4 Priority 4. Counter Extremism and Terrorism: Preventing Violent Extremism locally:

- Continue to promote actearly.uk to parents, friends, and family.
- Respond through action plan to current risks in relation to vulnerabilities due to mental health and those aged under 18.
- Identify prevent champions across directorates in Local Authority partners and increase their knowledge in relation to prevent and identification of potential tensions.
- Focus on young people and developing them as champions.
- Strengthen communication locally through implementing a communication plan in line with the handbook, including work with NHS colleagues.
- Continue to offer programme of training across partners.
- Brief the Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police to maintain their knowledge.
- Review and refresh Thurrock's Prevent strategy for 2023/26.

3.5 Priority 5. Priority 5. Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime – including Sex/Gender based hate crime:

- Promote and monitor the reporting of gender-based hate crime, where Essex Police now record Hate Crime where the primary motivation of the perpetrator is directed toward the sex/gender of the victim by delivering refresh training for our ambassadors.
- Continue to encourage reporting, in particular of disability, homophobic, religious, and transgender.
- Host pop up events/ coffee with cops at our Hate Incident Reporting centres and faith-based locations.
- Utilise calendar of events to target all strands across the year.
- Review the advice and information on our web site and include gender.
- Offer a drop in coffee with cops in our care homes and sheltered housing schemes.

- Continue with our Hate Crime Ambassador training (we currently have 220) and share our training and information with foster carers and taxi drivers.
- Share the Safer Streets e-learning with businesses which includes hate crime.
- Improve the recording of self-defined ethnicity of victims.
- Continue to monitor for any community tensions in relation to race.

3.6 **Priority 6. Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims** - including off road motorbike nuisance

- To continue to target off road motor vehicle nuisance through Op Caesar and expanding through drones, Police off road response, implementation of target hardening programme and consideration of a PSPO.
- To continue through multi-agency work and funding to target enforcement of the West Thurrock PSPO in relation to cruisers through Op Irish lions. To end of July 22 55 PSPO tickets have been issued in respect of the PSPO. The Grays PSPO continues to be enforced and 18 tickets have been issued.
- To consult on a PSPO in relation to dogs in cemeteries.
- That the map of secondary fires is reviewed quarterly, and any areas of concern flagged to the CSP Executive for awareness and action.
- To continue to use our Locality Action Groups (LAG) to work in partnership to safeguard victims. In July we had 11 referrals open to the LAGs of which 1 is racially motivated, 1 learning disability and 8 vulnerable due to mental health and or alcohol issues.
- To promote ASB case reviews and respond according to findings. For the year ending March 22 we received 11 requests of which 6 met the threshold and were accepted. All were responded to within the given timescales.
- To implement the Action plan for Corringham including review of street lighting in the area and consultation on shop safe radio.

3.7 **Priority 7. Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery (MDS) and Immigration Crime**

- Offer training to partners on MDS – 64 have attendees so far and 4 more sessions planned.
- Develop Thurrock MDS pathway.
- Complete an awareness raising toolkit for MDS.
- Develop communications and a consistent message across all sectors and for the public.
- Updated information on MDS on the partners websites.
- Ensure strategic oversight and joint leadership through the CSP/Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Board and Thurrock Local Safeguarding Childrens Partnership.
- Finalise our statement in relation to MDS and encourage local businesses to adopt.

- Undertake and promote appropriate, targeted MDS campaigns (Make reporting channels easy to use and well known by promoting local and national helplines and services).

3.8 **Priority 8. Safer Streets through increased visibility and community engagement**

- Enable people to report confidently where they do not feel safe through promotion of **Safer Streets** www.essex.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe
- To implement measures to improve people's safety in areas recognised within the Street Safe project (Op Minerva).
- Host regularly Coffee with cops across the borough.
- Host monthly partnership street pop ups in areas of concern.
- Sustain the surgeries being held monthly in Grays as part of Safer Streets legacy.
- That Grays remains a focus area for prevention activity with regards fire. A show and tell event is planned in Seabrooke Rise on 2/9/22.

3.9 **Priority 9. Tackling offending**

- The Thurrock re-offending action plan in line with the SET strategy 22/24 is implemented.
- Public Health are commissioning a detailed needs assessment in relation to drugs and alcohol. Once completed the re-offending plan for Thurrock should be reviewed to address any identified gaps.
- Wider partner involvement in monthly IOM meetings as per refreshed terms of reference.
- Data required against each of the 9 pathways to shape services locally and to know what success looks like.
- That concerns around disproportionality in relation to BAME cohort are shared and actions identified within re-offending plan.
- Continue to promote the use of Essex Restorative Justice Mediation Services in relation to ASB, neighbour disputes and hate crime.

3.10 In addition, anecdotally we have identified as emerging areas of concern:

E-scooters: continuing to raise awareness in high footfall areas and through schools that this is illegal and advise of the potential consequences.

Drink Spiking: Promote the Essex wide Safe Night Out Campaign with a focus on our colleges and sexual health services.

Key risks to the Partnership

3.11 The following risks outlined in the Home Office Delivery Plan

2021/22 ⁷ are applicable to Thurrock:

- Unemployment, poverty, and income inequality could lead to upward pressure on crime and increased support for extremist groups or political parties; both factors are heavily influenced by the duration and scale of impacts from Covid-19
- An increasingly online and connected world is more vulnerable to cyber-attacks and changing patterns of criminal behaviour; law enforcement agencies are in a technological arms race with organised crime groups and hostile states
- Police and support services need to be ready to respond to additional demand that could arise from increased reporting of crimes that have been traditionally under-reported, like modern slavery, violence against women and girls, and domestic abuse.

Other key risks identified by the partnership are detailed in section 8.1 of the Strategic Assessment (horizon scanning – PESTELO) with members of the overview and scrutiny committees' attention drawn to the following areas of local change / risk.

- Thurrock has 3 ports and borders National Road network and has been identified as a hot spot for Organised Immigration Crime
- Off road motorbikes continue to damage open spaces and are a concern for resident safety
- The National issue of gang related violence continues to be a risk to the communities of Thurrock and there is local gang activity in Grays
- The National concerns raised in relation to the murder of Sarah Everard and the testimonies provided through the Everyone's Invited regards male violence against women

3.12 New Legislation:

Section 1.2 Legislative changes in the Partnership Delivery plan outlines all forthcoming impacts on community safety. Of note for Thurrock Council are:

3.12.1 Within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 ("PCSC Act 2022" which received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022 is the **Serious Violence Duty**. This Duty is being introduced as Serious Violence has a devastating impact on victims and their families, instils fear in communities and is costly to society. To combat this the Serious Violence Duty has been introduced and aims to take a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence through a Public Health approach focused on prevention and early intervention.

The Local Authority is one of the specified authorities required to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-outcome-delivery-plan/home-office-outcome-delivery-plan-2021-to-2022>

and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

In addition to the Local Authority the other specified authorities are Police, Fire Service, Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, and the Integrated Care Body. They are required to consult with education and prison and youth custodies. We aim to have the first draft of our strategic assessment by September and will develop and consult on the strategy to respond to identified need from April 23. This will replace the current action plan developed in response to the Annual Public Health Report and will be aligned to the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit (*Appendix 3*)

3.12.2 **The PROTECT Duty** legislation and the changes it brings, will enhance the protection of the UK's publicly accessible places from terrorist attacks and ensure that businesses and organisations are prepared to deal with incidents. All publicly accessible buildings should now be completing a risk assessment. (*Appendix 4*)

3.12.3 In addition, with Public Health, we are in the process of setting up a **Combating Drugs Partnership** to develop a local plan of action to reduce drug-related harm.

3.13 **Equality Impact Assessment**

Our Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) reflects the need to:

- Consider issues relating to age, disability, sex, race, religion & belief and sexual orientation, gender reassignment
- Obtain a clearer understanding of how different groups may be affected
- Develop responses to address the issues and identify good practice

3.13.1 In addition, the issue of women's safety has become a focus following a number of high-profile deaths and we seek to understand this issue better through Safer Streets, Op Minerva profiling areas of risk and response, and recording of gender-based hate crime.

3.13.2 In summary the Community Safety EqIA continues to highlight:

1. There is a need to focus on the vulnerable within our communities as they are at greater risk of serious harm
2. Older people are at greater risk of distraction burglary and rogue traders
3. Young people are at greater risk of exploitation – including sexual and trafficking, cyber bullying, radicalisation & gang related violence.
4. Hate crime within the disabled, transgender, and sexual orientation communities continues to have low rates of reporting.
5. Learning disabled are at risk of mate crime and being “cuckooed” in relation to gang violence
6. Females are more likely to be a victim of domestic and sexual violence/abuse and that a gendered approach is required to tackle safety on our streets.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to update the committee on why the priorities of 2022/23 are important for our communities and enable members to be assured that the CSP are responding to the community safety issues raised by their communities.
- 4.2 The response to “Community Safety” requires a multi-agency coordinated both proactive and reactive approach across Essex.
- 4.3 Members of the CGS O & S need to be aware of the implications of the Serious Violence Duty on the Local Authority – a responsible authority.

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

- 5.1 Thurrock CSP Strategic Assessment 2021 was developed with input from partners and informs the CSP about the scale and scope of crime and community safety issues in Thurrock and has determined our priorities for the forthcoming year.
- 5.2 The CSP must pay due regard to the The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) priorities. Our priorities for 22/23 take into account the new priorities as laid out in The Police and Crime Plan 2021/24.
- 5.3 Following a presentation to the Hidden and Extreme Harm Committee, at their suggestion, we now have a standalone Modern-Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy and Delivery Plan.

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

- 6.1 The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is central to delivering Thurrock Council's priority of:

People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live, and stay. (“Vision and priorities for Thurrock | Our vision and priorities ...”)

This means:

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

6.2 The Community Safety Partnership has responsibility to deliver on Domain 6 of Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022/26 in relation to 'Community Safety'.

The aims and ambitions of Domain 6 are:

- **Thurrock is a place where people feel and are safe to live, socialise, work and visit.**
- **We will also ensure that victims/survivors of crime are able to access support to cope and recover from their experiences, should they need it.**

6.3 The Community Safety Partnership priorities take account of the Duties placed on the Local Authority in relation to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, the Prevent Duty 2015, and the Duty to reduce re-offending.

6.4 The Community Safety Partnership Plan also links to and impacts on:

- Youth Justice Plan 21/24
- Safer Essex Violence and Vulnerability Framework - Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (pfcc.police.uk)
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2020/23 outlines Thurrock's commitment to this agenda
- Thurrock's draft Housing Strategy 22-27 including providing safe accommodation for those fleeing domestic and sexual abuse
- Essex Hate Crime Prevention Strategy 2018/21 (currently being refreshed)
- Thurrock's Annual Public Health Report on Serious Youth Violence 2020
- The Sexual Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2019

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

The CSP has a grant from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner of £24,976, the same as last year and an £18,343 contribution from Thurrock Council. These funds have been allocated to support delivery of the priorities.

The PFCC and partners have been successful in obtaining additional funds to support targeted work to tackle violence and vulnerability.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Gina Clarke**

Corporate Governance Lawyer & Deputy Monitoring Officer

The new legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence - the Serious Violence Duty is referred to in the main body of the report, including the requirement for specified agencies, to work together to formulate an evidence-based analysis of serious violence in a local area and then formulate and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those issues.

Consultation on draft statutory guidance on the Serious Violence Duty which will be issued by the Secretary of State under section 19 of the PCSC Act 2022, has taken place. Once the final version of the guidance has been published, the Serious Violence Duty and associated secondary legislation will be commenced in early 2023. Local partnerships will be required to work towards publication and dissemination of their strategies. The Government propose that local partnerships should publish their first strategy within 12 months of the duty's commencement.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

Section 3.13 details the Equalities Impact Assessment and the gaps identified in 3.13.2 with regards to equality are addressed within the action plans.

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

This report outlines the Council and its Partners commitment to ensuring they are delivering on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act legislation.

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):

- **Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024**
- www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-factsheets/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-serious-violence-duty-factsheet
- [Drugs strategy guidance for local delivery partners - GOV.UK](#)

9. Appendices to the report

- 9.1 Partnership Delivery Plan 2022/23
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/tcsp-plan-2022-v01.pdf>
- 9.2 Partnership Strategic assessment 2021
www.thurrock.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership/thurrock-community-safety-partnership
- 9.3 www.essexvvu.co.uk
- 9.4 Protect Duty: [Risk management recorded template and examples | Protect UK](#)

These appendices can be found online at the above web addresses, but have not been included in the agenda.

Report Author:

Michelle Cunningham
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Manager
Public Realm

8 September 2022		ITEM: 8
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Cemetery and Burial Strategy		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Vince Taylor – Strategic Lead – Clean and Green		
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring – Assistant Director Street Scene and Leisure		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers – Director Public Realm		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report introduces the proposed Cemetery and Burial Strategy that outlines the aims and aspirations for Thurrock Burial Grounds for the next ten years.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet to formally adopt the Cemetery and Burial Strategy and its associated policies.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Thurrock Council has not previously had a formalised Cemetery and Burial Strategy. The benefit of the strategy is that it not only outlines the aims and ambitions relating to the maintenance and improvement of burial grounds but, provides an opportunity to look at the broader long-term possibilities including crematoria and natural burials.

2.2 The ethos and aims of the strategy have been based both on research by the Registrar of Burials and an understanding of best practise.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Adoption of the strategy and the associated policies /procedures will address the fact that there is currently no Cemetery strategy in place, cemeteries are important spaces. In developing this strategy Thurrock Council are keen to ensure that we share the aims and ambitions for cemeteries and burials for

the next ten years. We also want to ensure that policies relating to burials and memorials are clear, well communicated, and consistent. Providing a framework which enables the service to effectively manage our cemeteries and provide future focus.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 A strategy that provides a clear direction of travel and guidelines for current management, helps to ensure that burial grounds are maintained and developed well. It also ensures consistency and provides an opportunity for strategic aims to be explored. The aim is to provide cemeteries for Thurrock residents that are beautiful, peaceful and well used. To offer burial spaces that support a diverse range of cultural and individual needs. To ensure that our policies relating to burials and memorials are clear, well communicated, and consistent and to ensure that procedures for the purchase and use of burial sites and memorials are clear, efficient, and compassionate

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

- 5.1 From June to August 2022, a public consultation took place, covering a number of key aspects of burial ground maintenance and facilities, safety and memorial management and strategic developments. During the period of consultation circa 500 individuals accessed the consultation and reviewed the questions. The public consultation was extended by a week and additional communication messages were sent out to try to encourage more participants. 88 respondents completed the survey. All responses have been considered as part of the proposed strategy.

- 5.2 Key messages and views from respondents were: -

- Strong support for the development of a crematorium and for provision of natural burials.
- Agreement that the level of maintenance of the burial grounds is good with a clear desire to see more trees planted as well as areas of meadow.
- There is understandably concern relating to the enforcement relating to memorial items on graves, with ambiguity amongst respondents if the enforcement should be restricted to new items.
- There is a strong view that when unstable head stones are required to be laid down, notification of the reason or action should be published both at the cemetery entrances as well as adjacent to the memorial itself.
- The potential refurbishment of chapels was strongly advocated.
- There is a strong consensus that memorials in terms of benches and trees should be offered.

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

- 6.1 Maintenance standards in burial grounds should reflect the respect and care due to those resting there, as well as for loved ones visiting. The strategy proposes the ongoing use of an assessment tool from The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Land Audit Management System (LAMS). This is to ensure that maintenance levels are to the standard required.
- 6.2 The strategy also includes a Burial Ground and Memorial Management policy, clearly outlining the permitted memorials in different areas of the cemeteries. This is an up-to-date version of Thurrock Cemetery Regulations, which was originally in place. The policy also details the approach that is required by law to be taken regarding memorial stones identified as unsafe.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

Whilst the strategy outlines plans for the future development of burial facilities in the Borough. All proposed developments will be subject to the approval of full business cases prior to progressing. Financial implications will be fully outlined and addressed in those documents. As such the adoption of the Burials Strategy has no direct financial implications.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Mark Bowen**
Acting Head of Legal

The Burials Strategy has been developed with the legislation and guidelines relating to burials and burial sites firmly in mind. A consultation exercise has been undertaken and regard has been given to the feedback. All proposed developments will be subject to the approval of business cases prior to progressing. Legal implications will be fully outlined and addressed in those plans. As such the adoption of the Burials Strategy has no direct Legal implications.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report. The strategy contains information relating to accessibility and diversity of burial options available to all residents. There is also an aim to offer burial spaces that support a diverse range of cultural and individual needs.

- 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):

Not Applicable

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 – Cemetery and Burial Strategy
- Appendix 2 – Potential Future Cemetery Extension
- Appendix 3 – Draft Thurrock Cemetery Regulations
- Appendix 4 – Draft Thurrock Memorial Safety Policy and Procedure

Report Author:

Vincent Taylor

Strategic Lead for Clean and Green

Public Realm

Thurrock Council Cemetery and Burial Strategy 2022 to 2032

Introduction

Cemeteries are important spaces. In developing this strategy Thurrock Council are keen to ensure that we share the aims and ambitions for Cemeteries and Burials for the next ten years. We also want to ensure that policies relating to burials and memorials are clear, well communicated, and consistent.

Our vision is to ensure that all cemeteries in the Borough are maintained to a standard that reflects the respect due to those buried there. That the valuable green space created by burial grounds are pleasant quiet environments that can be used for remembrance, relaxation and reflection. It is also important that Thurrock's burial grounds reflect and support the diversity of the Borough, creating spaces for all faiths.

Thurrock Council manages 9 cemeteries and 4 closed church yards. In addition to ensuring the beauty of the sites, burials in Thurrock need to be sustainable. We need to ensure that we have sufficient capacity to accommodate the needs of residents.

Aims and Ambitions

The following are the key aims of the service. These are focused on ensuring clarity of process, quality of environment and inclusivity.

1. To provide cemeteries for Thurrock residents that are beautiful, peaceful and well used
2. To offer burial spaces that support a diverse range of cultural and individual needs
3. To ensure that our policies relating to burials and memorials are clear, well communicated, and consistent
4. To ensure that procedures for the purchase and use of burial sites and memorials are clear, efficient, and compassionate

Future ambitions for Thurrock Burial Services are:

- To improve levels of accessibility for all cemeteries and closed church yards managed by Thurrock
- To undertake a feasibility study to assess the practicality and need for a crematorium in Thurrock
- To open a green burial site in Thurrock, further increasing the diversity of burial options available to residents
- To assess the use and condition of the chapels that are located within some of our burial sites and ensure that they are maintained appropriately.

Consultation

Engagement with and feedback from stakeholders including residents and communities is important in ensuring that the Cemeteries and burials grounds in Thurrock meet the needs of communities. To this end a public consultation was undertaken commencing in June 2022.

There were 88 responses to the consultation and the key messages from respondents were:

- Strong support for the development of a crematorium and for provision of natural burials
- Agreement that the level of maintenance of the burial grounds is good with a clear desire to see more trees planted as well as areas of meadow

- There is understandably concern relating to the enforcement relating to memorial items on graves, with ambiguity amongst respondents if the enforcement should be restricted to new items
- There is a strong view that when unstable head stones are required to be laid down, notification of the reason or action should be published both at the cemetery entrances as well as adjacent to the memorial itself.
- The potential refurbishment of chapels was strongly advocated
- There is a strong consensus that memorials in terms of benches and trees should be offered.

In addition to engagement with residents, we work closely with Undertakers and memorial masons within the Borough. The close communication with those organisations helps to ensure that burials proceed as efficiently and smoothly as possible.

Legislative Framework

Whilst the views and requirements of communities and that those using the burial grounds is very important. The policies and procedures that are in place relating to burials and memorials are required to be compliant with legislation.

There is currently no statutory duty for Local Authorities to provide burial spaces for residents, however, it is a requirement that existing burial grounds are well maintained.

The key legislation that applies to Burials and Burial grounds includes:

- The Local Government Act (1972)
- The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order (1977)
- The Public Health Act (1857)
- Ecclesiastical Laws
- National Planning Policy

Included in the legislation is a requirement that the Council provide Public Health Burials for those deceased who do not have relatives or where relatives have not been able to be traced.

The Planning Policy provides guidance regarding the number of plots that should be made available by Local Authorities. This is linked to population levels and burial patterns, in terms of the proportion of burials and cremations evidenced within that population group.

The legislation also requires that headstones within burials grounds are assessed for safety through routine inspections. Those memorial stones found to be unsafe are required to be laid down to avoid risk of injury or damage.

Policies

To ensure compliance with the legal framework as well as to ensure that Thurrock Cemeteries are maintained to a high standard and accessible for all, Thurrock specific policies relation to Burials and Memorials have been developed. The table below provides a summary of those policies with the full documents included as appendices to this strategy.

Policy	Appendix	Overview
Potential Future Cemetery Extensions	1	Identification for potential sites for the extension of existing cemeteries to ensure sufficient capacity to meet demand.
Thurrock Cemetery Regulations	2	<p>Overview of all aspects of Cemetery and Burial Management including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites • Opening hours • Plot and Section types • Maintenance regimes • Purchasing of burial plots • Installation of memorials
Memorial safety policies and procedures	3	Guidelines regarding safety testing and permitted memorials within different sections of cemeteries

Appendix 2 Potential Extension options to Current Cemeteries

Natural Burial site

Potential Extension Areas shown bordered in red and highlighted

Chadwell St Mary – This option would be a very simple extension of the current cemetery onto ground that is in good condition and well maintained making it ideal for burials.



West Thurrock – There is a potential option of extending into the memorial ground, however this would eat into an area of much needed recreation space within this area.

Corringham / Fobbing – This would add burial space to this side of the borough. The original site was given to Thurrock Council as a traditional grave space only, which is more expensive than lawn grave therefore puts off some of the local people. Extending onto this field could give the option of lawn graves and a cremated remains section.

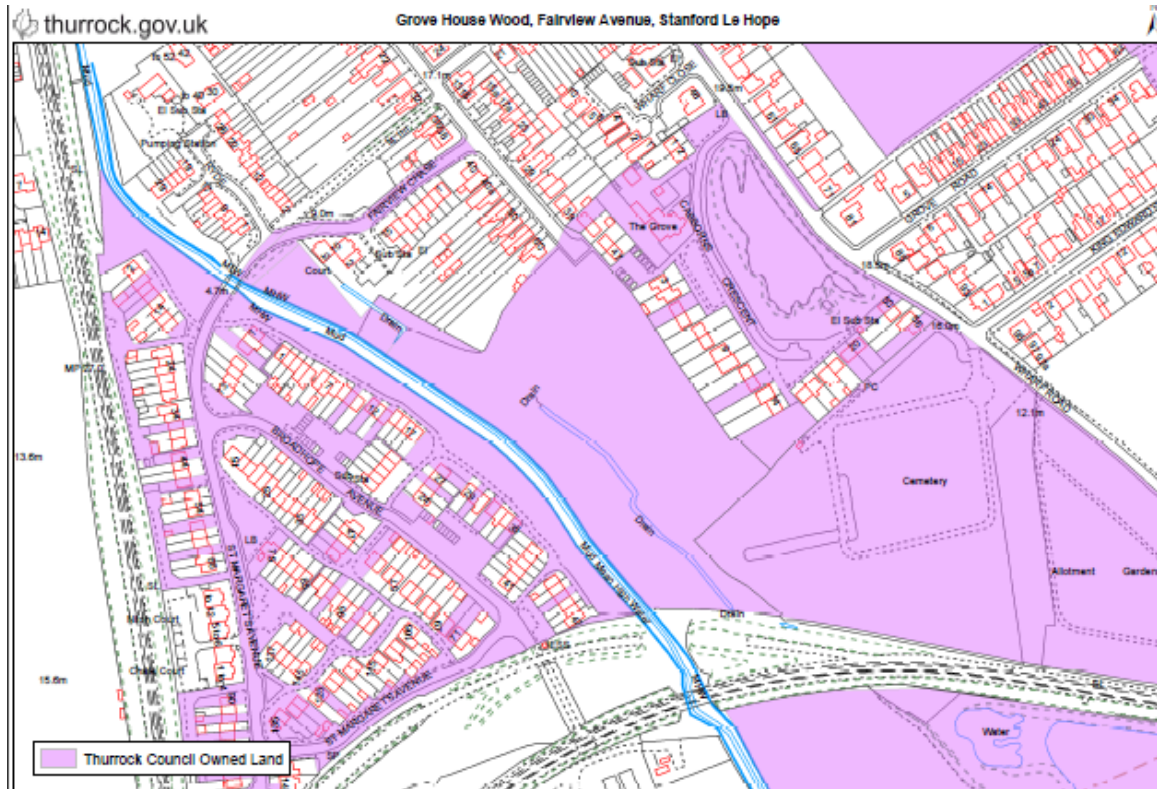
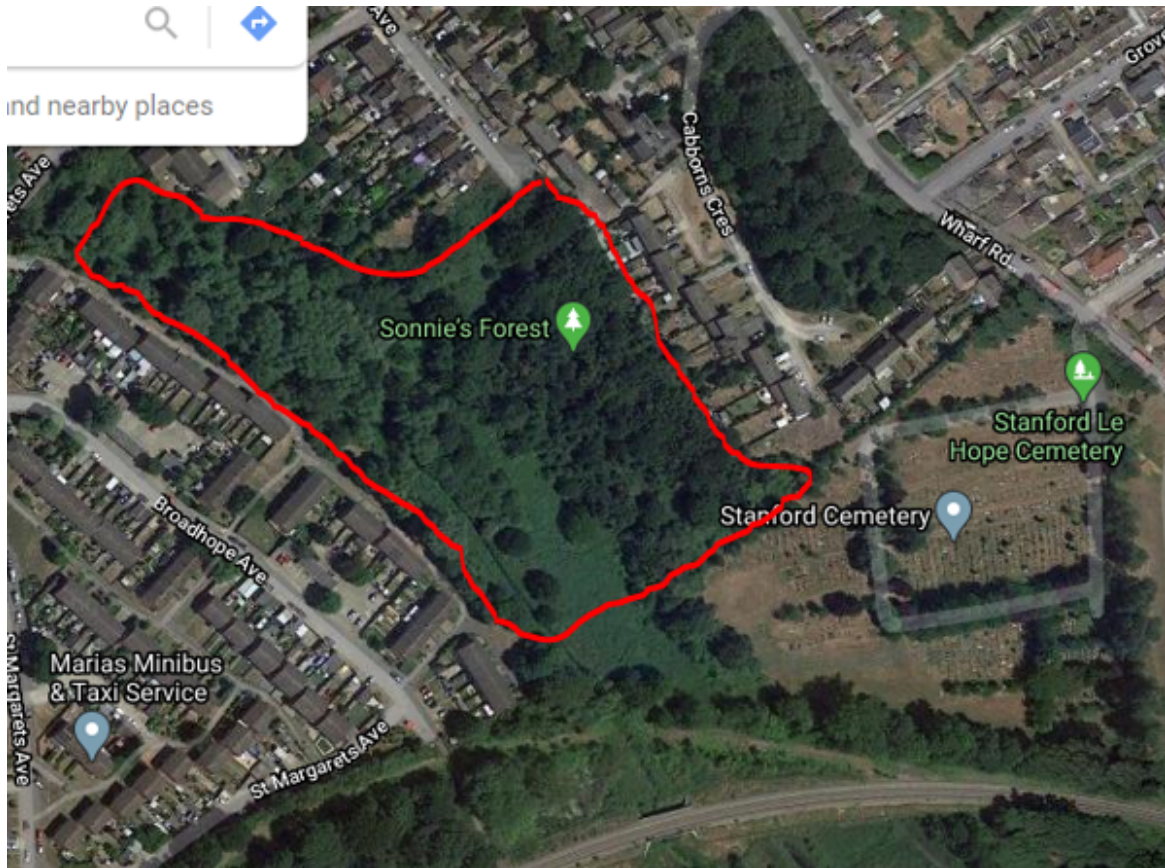


Grays New – Would give a large increase in burial provision in the centre of the borough.



Potential Location for a Natural Burial site

Grove House Wood, adjacent to Stanford Le Hope Cemetery, the ownership has been checked (Map 2) and this is TBC Owned land



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Thurrock Council

Cemetery Regulations

Burials Office or the Registrar of Burials
Thurrock Borough Council
Oliver Close Environment Depot
Oliver Close
West Thurrock
RM20 3ED

Tel: 01375 652304

Email: burial.cremation@thurrock.gov.uk

Website: www.thurrock.gov.uk

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 - 8.8 Public Graves
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 - 9.1 Erecting a Memorial
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- 10. Memorial Safety – In line with the Memorial Safety Policy
- 11. Memorial Tree
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 - 11.2 Adopt a planted Tree scheme
- 12. Memorial Bench

All queries or comments regarding the cemeteries should be sent to:
Burials Office or the Registrar of Burials
Thurrock Borough Council
Oliver Close Environment Depot
Oliver Close
West Thurrock
RM20 3ED

Tel: 01375 652304

Email: burial.cremation@thurrock.gov.uk

For further information on the Services we provide please visit our website www.thurrock.gov.uk

Definition of Terms

Throughout these Regulations:-

“The Council” means Thurrock Borough Council

“Cemetery” means any Cemetery provided and maintained by Thurrock Borough Council

“Purchased Grave” means any grave, where ‘The Deed of Grant for the Exclusive Right of Burial’ (subject to regulations) has been granted by the Council.

“Un-purchased Grave” means any grave, where the Council has not granted ‘The Deed of Grant for the Exclusive Right of Burial’.

“Memorials” means all memorials that are authorised to be permitted within the Cemetery

Foreword

Thurrock Council welcomes all visitors to our cemeteries and asks that visitors respect the peace, dignity and reverence of these facilities as well as other users. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

The Council respects the rights and needs of the individual and these Regulations have been prepared with a balance that will enable us to manage the Cemeteries effectively and maintain the highest possible standards. We aim to continue to improve our systems to develop the Cemeteries and their facilities for the benefit of visitors and maintain an environment where the bereaved can pay their respects and remember their loved ones. We offer advice and guidance on a range of issues relating to graves, funerals and maintenance.

We work closely with national organisations such as the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) to enable us to access a wide range of up-to-date information including the Charter for the Bereaved.

DRAFT

1. Cemeteries Regulations

The rules and regulations for the control and proper management of the Cemetery are made under the provisions of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (as amended) and replaces the cemetery and Burials Policy dated April 2006. The council reserves the right to alter add to or amend the Regulations from time to time as necessary for the proper Management of these Cemeteries.

We hope you find the regulations informative, if you cannot find the information you are looking for or would like further explanation please contact the Cemetery Office.

2. Burial Authority

The Burial Authority is Thurrock Borough Council, located at Oliver Close Environment Depot, Oliver Close, West Thurrock RM20 3ED

Burials Office Tel: 01375 652304 or email burial.cremation@thurrock.gov.uk

It must be noted that none of the following can take place without specific permission of the burial authority:

- a) Burials or exhumations
- b) Burials of ashes
- c) Erection or fixing of a memorial, including trees and plants
- d) Inscription on a memorial
- e) Renovation of a memorial
- f) Removal and/or replacement of a memorial
- g) Laying of plinths
- h) Installation of any items including benches
- i) Installation of fencing around a grave

3. Our Cemeteries

- **Chadwell St Mary Cemetery**
Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Essex RM16 4JH
- **Corringham Cemetery**
Fobbing Road, Corringham, Essex SS17 9BJ
- **Grays New Cemetery**
Chadwell Road, Grays, Essex RM17 6SY
- **Stanford-le-Hope Cemetery**
Wharf Road, Stanford le Hope, Essex SS17 0BA
- **West Thurrock Cemetery**
Sandy Lane, West Thurrock, Essex RM20 4BH

Semi Closed Cemeteries

- **South Ockendon Cemetery,**
South Road, South Ockendon, Essex RM16 5SD
The Cemetery is closed to new graves.
A new memorial garden is planned for the interment of Cremated Remains only.

- **North Stifford Cemetery**
High Road, North Stifford, Essex RM16 5SD

Note:

The section of North Stifford church yard managed by Thurrock Council is full and no new graves will be allowed including within the cremated remains section.

However new graves may be available via the Diocese:-
St Mary's Church
High Road
Grays
Essex, RM16 5UE
Tel: 01375 372733

Closed Churchyards

- St Michaels, Aveley
- St Nicholas, South Ockendon
- St Peters and St Pauls, Grays
- St Mary, North Stifford
- St Mary the Virgin, Little Thurrock
- St Mary, Chadwell St Mary
- St James, West Tilbury

3.1 Opening Hours

The Cemeteries are open to the public every day of the year. Vehicles may only enter the cemeteries at any time to allow their occupants to visit their loved ones

Cemeteries will be open as stated above, however, the Council has the right to close, limit entry or vary the opening times. Please be aware, from time to time, the Cemeteries may be patrolled.

3.2 Management of Cemeteries

Conduct of Visitors

At any Cemetery Visitors are welcome and are requested to treat the Cemetery with respect.

Under the local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977, it is an offence to wilfully:

- Create any disturbance in a cemetery
- Commit any nuisance in a cemetery
- Camping within a cemetery
- Interfere with any burial taking place in a cemetery
- Interfere with any grave or vault, any tombstone or other memorial, or any flowers or plants in any such matter
- Play any game or sport in a cemetery
- Enter or remain in a cemetery when it is closed to the public, unless authorised by the council to do so
- It is prohibited for people to gather in any cemetery other than for the purpose of a funeral service.
- Vehicles (other than maintenance vehicles and grass cutters) shall not be allowed on any grassed area of the cemetery or pedestrian walkway.
- All vehicles entering the cemetery shall abide by the 10mph speed restriction and drive only on approved vehicular routes.

The council reserves the right to refuse access to a cemetery if anyone is intoxicated or showing signs of drug abuse that could lead them to cause a public nuisance or disorder. Alcoholic drinks shall not be consumed in any cemetery.

All visitors should enter and exit the cemeteries using the main entrances and pedestrian gates only

Children under the age of 12 are not authorised to visit our cemeteries unless under the supervision of a responsible adult.

No person is to display any printed paper, notice or sign without the authorisation of the burial authority.

No person may canvass, promote or sell their services to visitors in a cemetery.

No person shall take commercial photographs or film within the Cemetery without the express permission of the Council in writing.

Dogs are only allowed within the cemeteries when kept on the lead.

3.3 Maintenance

The Council reserves the right to prune, cut down or remove any shrub, tree, plant or flowers if, in the opinion of the Cemeteries Officer, they have become unsightly, overgrown or dangerous an any area of the cemetery.

Grass cutting, leaf and litter clearing, upkeep of trees, shrubs, flower beds and hedges will be carried out by the Council or their contractor, at a frequency determined by the Council.

The Council reserves the right to disconnect the water supply when notice has been given that there is a risk of drought, freezing condition or the water supply is abused.

The Council has the right to remove from graves: flowers, wreaths, weeds, rubbish, fencing, border edging, glass objects and other decorations which have either perished and/or are a hazard or encroach on an adjacent grave space and dispose of such items without prior notice to the owner.

Consideration should be given to wildlife in cemeteries and be aware that they can cause damage to tributes on graves such as flowers and plants. The nature of their activity can also cause the ground to be uneven and small holes may appear therefore it is recommended that flat shoes should be worn, and attention should be given for any trip hazards whilst visiting the cemetery.

3.4 Regulations for Cemeteries

Items NOT permitted

- Fences, edging stones, surrounds on a lawn section grave
- Planting of any kind on a lawn section grave
- Glass porcelain, brittle plastics, fragile items
- Noisy items
- Electronic or light emitting items
- Food and drink (not permitted because it can attract vermin)
- Balloons
- Toys or ornaments

(Many for the above items often end up on the surrounding grass and can cause injury or damage to machinery and the operator. Wildlife will often take items away, causing distress to owners.)

Weathered artificial flowers or mementos will be removed at the discretion of the Registrar.

Glass is a major hazard to people, animals, machinery and other memorials and should not be left on or around a grave.

Trees, shrubs or large plants are not permitted and will be removed by the Council without notice.

Thurrock Council will keep all grassed areas tidy, however, the memorials will not be cleaned or maintained by the Council. Memorials are the responsibility of the grave owner.

4. Fees and Payment

Fees and Charges for all Cemetery related matters are set out in the Thurrock Council Website, a copy of which is available upon request or by visiting <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/deaths-burials-and-cremations/fees-and-charges>

5. Arranging a Burial

The majority of burials will be arranged by a Funeral Director of your choice, although you can arrange a funeral yourself.

The council reserves the right to delay or cancel any interment where, in its opinion, ownership of the Exclusive Right of Burial is disputed.

Reservations for burial services must be made to the Cemeteries Office providing a minimum of 4 working days notification.

Reservations are considered “provisional” until the formal document the ‘Notice of Interment’ is received.

No interments will be permitted on Saturday, Sunday, Public Holiday or other council approved holiday.

5.1 Notice of Interment Form

It is important that the ‘Notice of Interment’ is completed clearly and checked by the applicant before signing as the Council will not be responsible for any misunderstandings which may arise as a result of any telephone instructions.

The completed ‘Notice of Interment’ document should be received no later than two full working days before the proposed date of the funeral, this excludes Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

Note:

No Interment can take place unless the council has received a “Certificate of Disposal” from the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages or an “Order for Burial” from the coroner. No interment of ashes can take place without a “Certificate of Cremation”. Failure to provide this will result in a delay of the burial until the certificate can be produced. Any additional expense incurred by the Council as a result of incorrect or missing information/paperwork will be charged to the person making the application.

No body may be buried or cremated remains interred unless the grave owner signs the 'Notice of Interment form' except where the deceased is the grave owner. The order of interment will then be signed by the person making the funeral arrangements.

We accept notice of burial as 'confirmed' when we receive all forms and certificates to fulfil both Statutory and the Burial Authority requirements.

5.2 The Interment

To organise a date for an interment, contact the Burials Office.

The owner of the grave or his/her representative or the appointed funeral director should advise the council if the deceased to be buried has died of an infectious disease which may require special arrangements.

- The body of a person who has died from an infectious or contagious disease under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 must be taken directly to the grave in a sealed coffin. Information regarding the circumstances must be given at the time of booking the interment.

A burial can take place with or without a religious service. It is the responsibility of the bereaved family or funeral director to arrange for a recognised Minister or other persons authorised to officiate at the burial.

The time booked for a funeral must be when the procession is to arrive at the cemetery. The time stated for a funeral must be strictly adhered to, to prevent inconvenience to other services. If a funeral arrives late there may be an additional fee to be paid. Services in the Cemetery Chapels are limited to thirty minutes, unless otherwise previously arranged with the Registrar.

We require prior notice for extraordinary funeral processions. For example, the use of a horse drawn hearse, a military funeral, a cortege of vehicles exceeding 10 cars or when a police escort is to be in attendance.

The person arranging the funeral, or the funeral director is responsible for providing sufficient bearers to transfer the coffin from the hearse to the graveside. Cemetery staff are not permitted to assist with bearing.

Interments may only take place between the following hours:

Monday to Thursday	09:00 - 14:00
Friday	09:00 – 13:00

The council may amend these times for recognised religious reasons.

Excavation of all graves shall be carried out by staff employed by or on behalf of the council. No grave shall be excavated beyond such a depth as the council may determine.

The grave will be excavated by the council in accordance with the Cemeteries Act, and all current applicable Health and Safety Legislation. If any health and safety issue is compromised on excavation, the excavation will be discontinued until all issues relating to health and safety are resolved to a satisfactory conclusion. If this results in any delay or postponement of a funeral there will be no compensation for this and on occasion, this may necessitate a new grave being excavated by the council to replace the allocated grave. Where the allocated space was a reserved plot, a new Exclusive Right of Burial Deed will be issued by the council at no cost to the owner but will be for the same lease period as originally issued.

Graves will be of a sufficient size to admit coffins or caskets to the dimensions specified on the "Notice of Interment" form submitted by the funeral director or the person arranging the funeral. If the grave has to be enlarged, the Cemeteries Officer may add an extra charge.

For any oversized grave, the council has the right to charge for two grave spaces.

All coffins/caskets must be made of perishable materials. Coffins/caskets made of or lined with materials such as metal or plastic are not permitted.

Grave digging staff will backfill the grave following the burial, normally once mourners have left the cemetery. If mourners wish to backfill the grave, please notify the cemetery office prior to burial. The cemetery office will arrange for a small quantity of soil to be made available for the symbolic backfill of the grave, in accordance with Health and Safety regulations.

6. Purchasing a Private Grave Space

You can purchase the burial rights to the grave at the time of an interment.

When a grave is purchased, this refers to the purchase of the Exclusive Right of Burial in the grave space and not the purchase of land itself. This means that you do not own the land but have the Exclusive right to say who can be buried in the grave during the lease period.

In accordance with The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 all burial rights are issued for a fixed period, from the date of issue, and you have the option to renew the rights at the end of the period.

Thurrock Council currently issue the lease for the Exclusive Right of Burial for a maximum of 50 years for a grave and 25 years for a cremated remains grave.

The allocation of a new grave space is managed by the Burials office and will normally be in strict rotation. If there is availability and you wish to select a grave, a selection fee may be charged.

Families may purchase one additional adjacent grave at the time of purchasing a grave for burial.

A pre-purchased grave with no interments may be bought back by the Council if it is no longer needed by the owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial. The refund will be 75% of the fee originally paid.

6.1 The Deed of Grant for the Exclusive Right of Burial

Owning The Deed of Grant for the Exclusive Right of Burial does not give ownership of the actual land (grave) but does give the owner the Exclusive Right to:

- Be buried in the grave, if space is available
- Authorise further burials in the grave, if space is available, or the interment of cremated remains in the grave.
- Place a memorial on the grave, subject to a permit application being authorised by the cemeteries office
- Have inscriptions added, maintenance, cleaning or other work to a memorial subject to permit application being authorised by the cemeteries office

The Deed of Grant for the Exclusive Right of Burial, like any other deed, is an important document and should be kept in a safe place. Thurrock Council will not issue duplicate deeds.

Following the death of the owner of the Deed for the Exclusive Right of Burial the grave space must be transferred to a new owner before the grave can be further re-opened or any memorial/headstone erected on the grave or any existing memorial be repaired, altered or removed.

The Deeds of Exclusive Right of Burial cannot be registered in the name of a funeral director, firm of funerals directors or a partner director or employee of such firms: neither will a Deed be registered in the name of a monumental mason.

7. Cemetery Grave Sections

This section covers the various sections of the cemeteries and the rules relating to each section.

7.1 Graves

General rules for all sections of the cemetery:

- Any open grave is a potential danger and should not be entered by anyone other than authorised staff of the council or their contractor.
- Without exception all graves must be dug by employees of the Council
- The removal of a memorial or kerb set including the fee's associated with the removal, to facilitate an interment, shall be the sole responsibility of the funeral director or persons organising the funeral. These items are not to be stored on neighbouring graves.
- Pre-leased grave spaces which may have been purchased for three burials will need to be tested for sufficient depth and then permission may be given for a third interment. The top coffin must be at least three feet below the surface of the ground.
- The Council cannot be held responsible if, due to factors outside their control, the full number of interments in a grave cannot be achieved.
- Grave digging staff will backfill the grave following the burial, normally once mourners have left the cemetery. The cemetery staff will mound the grave and place the floral tributes on the grave. If mourners wish to backfill the grave please notify the cemetery office prior to burial.
- When a grave is reopened it is not always possible to remove surplus soil. Soil boards or a soil box may be placed on neighbouring grave to store the soil until the interment has taken place
- Any containers left on the grave must be of a non-breakable material
- Any items left on a grave are at the owners own risk
- The council cannot be held responsible for any breakages however caused
- The council may remove any articles from any grave that are likely to cause risk, damage or offence or which may interfere with the council's maintenance of the site.
- Memorials cannot be erected on a grave without a memorial permit being in place
- Memorial Benches must not to be installed on a grave.

Note:

(Thurrock Council offers a sponsorship scheme for memorial benches please, if you wish to participate in the scheme, please contact the Cemetery Office.)

The council reserves the right to retain any grave space for its own purposes.

The council and any contractor appointed by the council has the right to place soil on graves when digging an adjacent plot for a burial without any notice. Cemetery staff will remove the soil immediately following a funeral and leave the area tidy.

The authorised officer will determine the method of excavation of a grave taking into account the location, access and health and safety.

7.2 Floral Tributes

On the day of the funeral, flowers and wreathes may be placed upon the grave in which the burial takes place and may remain there for up to fourteen days after which they will generally be removed at the discretion of the cemetery officer.

8. Lawn Grave Sections

A lawn grave is a grave that remains as grass with the exception of the area at the top end of the grave where a headstones may be erected with the council's permission.

A headstone and base will be allowed at the top end of the grave the remaining grave area must be maintained as grass lawn.

- No additional planting is allowed on the grave space
- Artificial grass is not allowed on the grave space.
- Kerbs/fencing or any other memorial/artefact placed on the lawn section of the grave are not permitted and the council has the right to remove any such items without prior notice to the owner.

The following cemeteries have lawn grave sections:

- **Chadwell St Mary Cemetery**
- **Stanford le Hope Cemetery**
- **West Thurrock Cemetery**

Lawn Area – Grave Space for full Interment	<p>The surface of every grave will be grassed and maintained at ground level after settlement in order to achieve the Council's aim to keep the Cemetery in an attractive, tidy and safe condition.</p> <p>The Council provides an area for the erection of an approved memorial.</p> <p>Kerb sets/traditional memorials are not permitted</p> <p>Items NOT permitted on lawn area graves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fences, wooden borders, railings or any type of surround• Edging Stones, loose chippings, pebbles or wood chippings• Breakable items such as glass vases, jars or bottles• Artificial Grass• Ornaments, large garden plant pots• Noisy Items• Electronic or Light emitting items• Food and drink (can attract vermin)• Balloons
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toys • Ornaments • Planting of trees, flowers or any kind of shrub is not permitted <p>The Council has the right to remove any such items without prior notice to the owner.</p>
--	---

8.1 Non Lawn Sections

Non lawn grave (otherwise known as traditional/full kerb graves) are normally in the older sections of the cemeteries and are permitted to have both a headstone and a kerb memorial placed on the grave.

The planting of annual and seasonal bulbs or miniature shrubs to the height of 12” (30cm) are permitted within the kerb area of the grave space but must not be allowed to encroach on any neighbouring grave space.

The following cemetery have non lawn grave sections:

- **Chadwell St Mary Cemetery** – Mixed sections
- **Corringham Cemetery** – Non Lawn Cemetery (covenants on the land state traditional cemetery only, graves are purchased at traditional grave fee)

<p>Traditional/Full kerb graves – Headstone and Kerb memorial</p>	<p>A kerb set memorial differs from lawn memorials because it can cover the full grave. The central area of the kerb set memorial can also be filled with either plants, chippings or a matching natural stone cover slab.</p> <p>Planting of annual and seasonal bulbs or miniature shrubs to the height of 12” are permitted within the central area of the kerb, but must not encroach on any neighbouring grave space.</p> <p>Items NOT permitted on Traditional/Full kerb graves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fences, wooden borders, metal railings • Edging Stones, loose chippings, pebbles other than those within the central area of the kerb • Breakable items such as glass vases, jars or bottles • Artificial Grass • Ornaments, large garden plant pots • Noisy Items • Electronic or Light emitting items • Food and drink (can attract vermin) • Balloons • Toys • Ornaments • Planting of trees, flowers or any kind of shrub is not permitted other than those planted within the central area of the kerb
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8.2 Muslim Burials

The provision of Muslim Burials is currently offered in the dedicated Muslim Section at West Thurrock Cemetery full details for this can be found via the Thurrock Council Website.

8.3 Cremated Remains Graves

Cremated remains grave spaces are smaller than that of full graves, but can hold up to four individual caskets of ashes. The Exclusive Right of Burial for a cremated remains grave is granted for a period of 40 years.

Memorials within the cremated remains sections are smaller and within a designated concrete/wooden plinth section, memorials must not exceed the plinth section
The following cemeteries have cremated remains sections:

- **Grays New Cemetery**
- **Stanford le Hope Cemetery**
- **West Thurrock Cemetery**

Cremated Remains Graves	<p>A small upright memorial may be permitted in the designated concrete/wooden plinth area.</p> <p>The remaining area will be grassed and maintained to achieve the Council’s aim to keep the Cemetery in an attractive, tidy and safe condition.</p> <p>No items are allowed outside of the designated concrete/wooden plinth area.</p> <p>Items NOT permitted outside the within or outside the plinth area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fences, wooden borders, railings or any type of surround • Edging Stones, loose chippings, pebbles or wood chippings • Breakable items such as glass vases, jars or bottles • Artificial Grass • Ornaments, large garden plant pots • Noisy Items • Electronic or Light emitting items • Food and drink (can attract vermin) • Balloons • Toys • Ornaments • Planting of trees, flowers or any kind of shrub is not permitted
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8.4 Memorial Gardens

Thurrock Council has designated memorial gardens where ashes can be loosely interred. The burial of cremated remains takes place in the grassed area behind the kerb. The plot allows up to two interments of loosely interred cremated remains. Memorial plaques are provided for a fixed term lease of 7 years which can be renewed.

The plaque allows for an inscription of 56 characters, plaques must be purchased through the cemeteries office. We do not allow flower vases, pot plants or other memorialisation on the lawn area.

The following cemeteries have memorial garden sections:

- Chadwell St Mary Cemetery
- Corringham Cemetery
- South Ockendon Cemetery (A new memorial garden is planned for the interment of Cremated Remains only)
- West Thurrock (A new memorial garden is planned for the scattering of Cremated Remains within the Nepalese section)

Note:

The scattering of cremated remains over graves, or in any area of the cemetery is not permitted. The unauthorised disposal of cremated remains within the Council’s cemeteries is deemed a criminal offence and those found to be carrying out this act will be prosecuted.

Memorial Gardens	<p>A memorial plaque will be fixed to the kerb within the grassed area.</p> <p>Items NOT permitted on lawn area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fences, wooden borders, railings • Edging Stones, loose chippings, pebbles or wood chippings • Breakable items such as glass vases, jars or bottles • Artificial Grass • Ornaments, large garden plant pots • Noisy Items • Electronic or Light emitting items • Food and drink (can attract vermin) • Balloons • Toys • Ornaments • Planting of trees, flowers or any kind of shrub is not permitted
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8.5 Vase blocks

Vase blocks are being planned for the interment of Cremated Remains only at South Ockendon Cemetery. These will be of a sloping granite design allowing for a larger inscription than a kerb and will be purchased for a lease period of 10 years.

8.6 Scattering of Ashes within a Scatter Garden at South Ockendon Cemetery (A new memorial garden is planned for the interment of Cremated Remains only)

The scatter garden provides relatives with an alternative to other cremation services currently offered in the cemetery.

A record is kept of where the ashes have been laid to rest but the precise location is not recorded. If you wish to know the exact spot where the ashes have been strewn, you can attend to witness the scattering.

If you wish to purchase a memorial plaque after the ashes have been scattered we cannot guarantee that the plaque will be located near to where the ashes have been strewn.

8.7 Green burial of Ashes within Designated natural burials areas

Burial of Ashes in a Bio-degradable urn in our unmarked woodland area

This is a green choice and is available for those who want to bury Ashes in an urn in an unmarked area. The urn dissolves after a short period of time and the ashes form part of the soil, it is important to note that the Ashes cannot therefore be moved from this area at a later date.

8.8 Burial of Ashes loosely in an unmarked woodland area

This is an option where one of our team bury the Ashes loosely in an unmarked woodland area for you and it is not witnessed by any family or friends. It is important to note that the Ashes cannot therefore be moved from this area at a later date.

8.9 Public Graves

A public grave is an unpurchased grave where no Exclusive Right of Burial exists. There is usually no family connection with those buried in this type of grave.

The Council reserves the right to reuse any Common Grave for future interment

There are no memorial rights on unpurchased graves so no headstone or other memorial can be erected unless an Exclusive Right of burial is purchased.

Thurrock Council do allow a tablet to mark the grave:-

There are no memorial rights on unpurchased graves, any permission would be at the discretion of the Registrar and in accordance with Regulations.

- Where permission is granted, it is subject to the right of the representation of other persons interred in the grave to be commemorated on the memorial.
- Where permission is granted it will allow a memorial tablet to be placed on the unmarked grave not exceeding:
50cm (20") x 45cms (18") x 15cms(6")
- As there is no right to a public grave, any permission given to mark the grave with a memorial does not in itself give any rights to the grave and the grave remains the property of the Council

9. Memorials

Memorials may only be placed on grave in which The Deed of Grant for the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased.

All memorial work carried out in any Thurrock Borough Cemetery must conform to the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) or National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM).

Qualified Memorial Masons erecting a memorial within any of Thurrock Councils cemeteries must have public liability insurance. All lawn/cremation memorials and/or kerb set must conform to the standards sizes as set out in the Councils memorial regulations. The stonemason will be required to supply to the Cemeteries Service a copy of their NAMM/BRAMM certificate along with their current insurance certificates before any permits will be issued.

Every grave that has a current Deed of Grant for the Exclusive Right of Burial with a memorial placed on the grave, must be kept in good repair and condition by the owner and remains at the owner's sole risk. The Council is not responsible for any damage or injury which may occur to the memorial or caused by the memorial to a person visiting or working in the cemetery grounds.

The Council may remove, without notice, any monument, memorial, stone, tree, shrub, plant or item erected or placed in the cemetery in contravention of these regulations or reaches a condition that can be a health and safety risk. This is covered in our Memorial Safety Policy and procedures

Only one memorial is allowed per grave space or cremated remains plot.

The Council may refuse permission for any memorial of any type or inscription of which it does not approve.

All Stonemasons will need to register to Thurrock Councils Memorial Registration Scheme before being allowed to work within Thurrock Cemeteries.

9.1 Erecting a Memorial

An application for permission to carry out any type of work including Erecting a Memorial shall be made to the Council on the Council's "Memorial Application Form" and shall contain full and accurate details of the proposed work. The application must be signed by the registered owner of the grave on which the memorial is to be placed.

The Memorial application must be approved by the Registrar prior to any memorials being erected, repaired, altered or cleaned in any of Thurrock Council's cemeteries.

A memorial application form can be obtained from Thurrock Council website www.thurrock.gov.uk or via the cemetery office. All fees must be paid prior to a memorial being placed on a grave. The application must be signed by the registered owner i.e. the owner of "The Deed of Grant" for the grave on which the memorial is to be placed.

The plot number and cemetery section must be engraved on the reverse of memorials whether in a lawn or traditional section and on the front of a memorial within the cremated remains section.

A memorial must be cut from the best quarried natural stone and must be durable and sound.

No memorials or materials may be taken into a cemetery before 09.00 am on any working day or at any time on Saturdays, Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas Day, or Bank Holidays unless with the prior consent of the Registrar.

The structure must be ground anchored by an approved method and most suitable for the soil condition. Fixings generally shall be in accordance with the current Code of Working Practice of Memorial Mason i.e. NAMM/BRAMM.

The Memorial Masons shall inform the Council of the date when an approved memorial work is complete by completing and returning the appropriate section on the Memorial Application Form.

All surplus materials, rubble and rubbish must be removed from the cemetery grounds immediately following any work undertaken and where a removal of a memorial has been required prior to an interment the area should be cleared in time for the funeral cortege arrival.

9.2 Dimension and Construction of Memorials

9.2.1 Lawn Grave Memorial/Headstone

Only one Memorial/headstone will be allowed on any one grave space

A memorial shall consist of a headstone with base only

The following dimensions apply

- Maximum overall height of 90cm (3ft) which includes the depth of the base
- Maximum width 76cm (2ft 6inches)
- Maximum thickness of 12.5cm (5inches)
- Minimum thickness 7.5cm (3inches)
- The plot number and cemetery section must be engraved on the reverse of memorials whether in a lawn or traditional section.

A space of 12" (30cm) deep is allowed in front of the memorial as a personalisation area.

9.2.2 Traditional/Kerb Memorial/Headstone

The Memorial/Headstone must be contained within the grave space

The following dimensions apply

- Maximum overall height 120cm (4ft)
- Maximum width 76cm (2ft 6inches)
- Maximum base 196cm x 76cm (6ft 6inches length x 2ft 6 inches wide)
- The plot number and cemetery section must be engraved on the reverse of memorials whether in a lawn or traditional section.




9.2.3 Cremated Remains Memorial/Headstone

The Cremated Remains Memorial/Headstone are smaller than a lawn grave memorial, all cremated remains memorials/headstones must stay within plinth area and must not encroach lawn space.

The following dimensions apply

- Maximum overall height 76cm (2ft 6inches)
- Maximum width 61cm (2ft)
- Base: A maximum depth (front to back) of 30cm (12inches)
- The plot number and cemetery section on the front of a memorial

9.3 Memorial Measurements and Type

								
Cemetery	Address	New Lawn Graves	New Traditional/kerb Graves	Cremated Remains Plots	Re-open Existing Graves Only	Chapel available	Lapsed Graves	Memorial Gardens
Chadwell St Mary	Brentwood Rd Chadwell St Mary RM16 4JH	√	√			√	√	√
Corringham	Fobbing Road Corringham SS17 9BJ		√					√
Grays New	Chadwell Road Grays RM17 6SY			√	√		√	
North Stifford	High Road North Stifford RM16 5UE				√			
South Ockendon	South Road South Ockendon RM16 5SD				√			
Stanford le Hope	Wharf Road Stanford le Hope SS17 OBA	√		√				

West Thurrock	Sandy Lane West Thurrock RM20 4BH	√		√		√	√	
Information and Maximum Memorial Size		Headstone: Height 90cm (3ft) Width 76cm (2ft 6 ins) Base 30cm (12 ins) Personalisation area 30cm (12 ins) in front of Headstone	Headstone: 120cm (4ft) high x 76cm (2ft 6ins) wide Base: 196cm (6ft 6ins) length x 76cm	Headstone: 76cm (2ft 6 ins) x 61)cm (2ft) x Base 30cm (1ft)				

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10. Memorial Safety

In line with the Memorial Safety Policy

The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 required all burial authorities to ensure that memorials are safe so the potential for injury to those visiting and working in the cemetery is reduced.

Memorials remain in the ownership of the grave owner i.e. the grantee of the Exclusive Right of Burial who is responsible for all future maintenance.

The council will undertake a programme of inspections rolling over a 5 year period and will categorise headstones as follows:

- A. Category 1 – immediate action is required to make the memorial safe or to stop the public accessing the memorial
- B. Category 2 – the memorial is not an immediate danger but is not fully stable and will, therefore, need to be monitored every 12 months to assess any further deterioration.
- C. Category 3 – The memorial is stable and will need to be re-inspected in 5 years.

If a memorial is identified as a Category 1 this may result in the memorial being laid down or other means of making safe

Notification will be sent to the owner of any headstone/memorial that is identified during the inspection or at any other time that it has been graded as at Category 1 or Category 2 risk and requires remedial works.

If the name and/or address of the owner is not known where records have not been updated, a notice shall be considered properly served if placed upon the grave space, monument or memorial.

It is illegal for anyone to remove, alter or disturb a monument, headstone, tombstone, flat stone, gravestone or memorial inscription which has been erected, placed or made in any cemetery without the council's consent.

If the owner or another person removes any protective banding or barriers without approved repairs being carried out they will be responsible for any injury or death caused by unsafe memorials.

11. Memorial Trees

Trees are a living part of our landscape and enhance the cemeteries.

A New Memorial Tree section has been created at Stanford le Hope Cemetery, and we will look at other areas where appropriate.

11.1 Adopt a Tree

The Council will order the tree on your behalf, trees that fail within the first year of planting will be replaced at the Council's expense and any further replacements will be at the expense of the customer.

11.2 Adopt a planted New Tree

The Council will be planting a number of new trees within section A of Stanford le Hope Cemetery that can be adopted for the lease period.

A tree can be dedicated to the deceased for a lease period of 10 years

(Please contact the Cemeteries Office for an application form).

The Cemeteries where we currently allow a memorial tree is

- Stanford le Hope

All applications for a memorial tree must be agreed by the Council and private installations are not permitted within any of the Council's Cemeteries.

Sponsorship will entitle you to have a memorial plaque placed on a stake at the base of the tree, which can be inscribed with an epitaph of approximately 100 characters.

Thurrock Council requires that you do not surround or attach objects to the memorial tree as this may hinder the growth of the tree.

Note: Under no circumstances are trees allowed to be planted within Council cemeteries that are not purchased through Thurrock Council.

12. Memorial Bench

Thurrock Council offers the opportunity of sponsoring one of our memorial benches for a lease period of 10 years. A quality Memorial Bench dedicated to the deceased and to be placed at a choice of locations within the grounds of a cemetery. The exact location of the bench will generally be agreed in consultation with you but will depend on the availability of an appropriate vacant site.

(Please contact the Cemeteries Office for an application form).

The Cemeteries where we currently allow memorial benches are.

- Chadwell St Mary
- Corringham
- Stanford le Hope
- West Thurrock

Sponsorship will entitle you to have a memorial plaque placed on the top rail of the bench, which can be inscribed with an epitaph of approximately 100 characters.

Thurrock Council requires that you do not surround or attach objects to your memorial as this may hinder grounds maintenance or raise health and safety issues.

All applications for a memorial bench must be agreed by the Council and private installations are not permitted within any of the Council's Cemeteries.

The bench will remain the property of Thurrock Council who will take responsibility for reasonable maintenance for a period of 10 years but cannot unfortunately undertake to replace benches which are vandalised beyond economic repair or stolen.

The sponsor at the expiration of the term of the arrangement will be offered the opportunity to re-sponsor the memorial bench, subject to it being in good condition, for a further term, at an additional cost to be determined at that time.

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Thurrock Council

Memorial Safety Policy

Environment Department
Oliver Close Environment Depot
Oliver Close
West Thurrock
Essex RM20 3ED

Tel: 01375 652304

Email: burialcremations.admin@thurrock.gov.uk

www.thurrock.gov.uk

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Memorial Safety Policy

Over the last 30 years, eight people in the UK have been killed when a memorial has fallen on them and many more significant but less serious injuries.

As a result, guidelines were developed for local authorities to ensure that suitable inspection procedures were put in place to inspect memorials and take appropriate action for the safety of the public. Where applied in a sensitive manner there have been improvements in safety with little concern from members of the public. However, due to more of an emphasis on health and safety and with little consideration to a proportional and sensitive approach to the issue, some authorities were subject to considerable criticism, public concern was also raised about the methodology employed by some authorities. This resulted in a review of the memorial safety guidance carried out by the Ministry of Justice. The review was led by the Health and Safety Executive with a sub-group comprising burial ground operators, memorial masons and cemetery managers as well as the Health and Safety Executive. The insurance industry and the Local Government Association were also consulted.

In January 2009 the Ministry of Justice issued the new memorial safety guidance with emphasis placed on a proportional approach to any actions, based on the level of risk posed. The guidance was supported by most organisations on the subgroup and represents good practice on the standard expected in the risk management of memorials in all types of burial grounds, public or private. It is likely that such good practice will be used by the Health and Safety Executive throughout the UK. This policy is based on the Ministry of Justice guidance* (see link below) but provides details on how this Council will follow the guidance.

The Council has systems in place to control the risks from memorials to their employees, contractors, friends' groups, volunteers and members of the public. We owe a general duty of care to all those who use our cemeteries and closed churchyards

This policy now sets out a risk-based approach to help authorities and other operators develop a proportionate approach to managing the risk associated with memorials, based on good practice, this is now in place within the Council cemeteries and closed churchyards

*https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/326725/safety-burial-grounds.pdf

Risk assessment

The Council will:

- Carry out a documented risk assessment to develop a profile of risks on each burial site - Each cemetery will be assessed using a risk assessment process that will ensure consistent results across all the Council's cemeteries and closed churchyards whilst incorporating memorial safety as part of the Council's overall approach to health and safety on each of their sites. Each section within the burial sites will be assessed to identify areas of high, medium and low risk, which will then be recorded on a site plan for each burial site.
- Identify hazards in relation to memorial safety - Any memorials within the Council's burial grounds that are potentially hazardous to the public will be identified by following the 2009 Memorial Safety Guidance.
- Decide who might be harmed and how - Will carry out all assessments in accord with the HSE's 5 steps to risk management and will properly assess the risks to all users of the Council's burial grounds
- Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions - All risks posed by memorials will be properly evaluated through both the risk assessment and memorial inspection processes. A range of suitable precautions shall be considered and utilised in a way that is proportional to the level of risk posed.

Risks will be evaluated using the following criteria, although the list is not exhaustive:

- Areas with memorials near main paths and drives
 - Well visited areas or memorials
 - Areas that attract anti-social behaviour
 - Areas with memorials on sloping or uneven ground
 - Areas with many large multi-part memorials
 - Areas with monolith memorials
 - Areas with badly weathered memorials
 - Areas with more recent memorials fitted to National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) standards
 - Condition of ground around memorials
- Record findings and implement them - Every memorial within the Council's burial grounds will be inspected and full records maintained. All memorials will continue to receive an inspection of some sort, ranging from only a visual inspection, through to a full visual and hand inspection. Where a memorial fails the inspection, the appropriate actions will be recorded, and a priority allocated.

Review memorial risk assessments and update if necessary – Burial ground risk assessments will initially be reviewed once every 12 months. Memorials will be inspected at least once every five years

Communication

The Council will:

- Ensure notices are displayed within the Cemetery grounds. This is to warn the public of the potential dangers of memorials, advise the public who to contact with any queries or concerns, advise of inspections taking place and, where necessary, fulfil any other obligations under existing health and safety legislation
- Issue press releases - to advise the public and the press of all inspection work and why it is necessary to undertake it in accordance with the 2009 Guidance.
- When memorials are found to be unstable, letters to grave owners will be issued, wherever this is possible – where they can be contacted owners will be informed that the Council are currently carrying out an inspection of memorials, in accordance with the 2009 Memorial Guidance and to meet statutory duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. They will be informed that their memorial has been found to be unstable and will be given the opportunity to have it repaired to NAMM standards current at the time of repair. If a grave owner is unhappy about the authority's decision to identify their memorial as being unstable a meeting can be arranged at the burial ground where they can witness a further inspection of the memorial.

If a memorial poses a serious risk, then, in the interests of public safety, the Council retains the ability to lay the memorial down immediately or take other action to make the memorial safe. A notice will be placed on the memorial informing the grave owner of the action taken and providing a contact number for the Council. Attempts will be made to contact the grave owner as soon as possible if current contact details are available.

Inspection

The Council will:

- Carry out a visual check on all memorials – this will be carried out irrespective of the level of risk on the section, or type of memorial.

Examples – Different types and style of memorials



Lawn Memorial



Ledger - Flat



Ledger - Shaped



Book and Rests



Kerb Set



Headstone and Kerbset



Cross



Table Memorial



Pinnacles / Obelisk



Monolith



Footstone



Foot Plaque

- Carry out a hand test – the test will be used in accordance with the assessed level of risk.
- If required, a mechanical device may be used to measure the force at which a memorial has failed the inspection – occasionally it may also

be used, when absolutely necessary, to check the accuracy of a hand inspection. The mechanical device will also be used as a training tool to ensure the consistency of staff inspections

- Inspections will be proportionate to the level of risk identified in the section on which they stand - Each section of the cemeteries will be identified as high, medium or low risk. The areas will be inspected as follows

Low risk

A visual test will be sufficient, unless an individual memorial is identified to have a defect, obvious during the visual test. In such cases a hand test will then be undertaken in addition to the visual test.

Medium Risk

Where an initial inspection has not been carried out, this first inspection will include a visual and a hand test. In the majority of subsequent inspections, a visual test and hand test will also be undertaken, unless an individual memorial is considered to pose a lesser risk following the visual test. In such cases a visual test may be deemed sufficient.

Some memorials in medium risk areas may need specialist inspection and advice so appropriate procedures are in place to call on such specialist assessors.

High Risk

Where an initial inspection has not been carried out, this first inspection will include a visual and a hand test. In the majority of subsequent inspections, a visual test and hand test will also be undertaken, unless an individual memorial is considered to pose a lesser risk following the visual test. In such cases a visual test may be deemed sufficient.

Some memorials in high-risk areas may need specialist inspection and advice so appropriate procedures are in place to call on such specialist assessors. In a section considered to be a high risk, particular attention should be paid to memorials that could pose a significant risk to members of the public. An early decision should be made on any action needed to make the memorial safe, this should be proportional to the level of risk.

Prioritisation

A simple priority will be given to memorials when inspected, whether in a high, medium or low risk area. The priority indicates the level of risk the inspector considers is posed to the public based on the area in which the memorial lies and the inherent risk of the memorial itself. The priorities to be applied by the inspector are as follows:

- Priority 1 (Red) – Is considered to be an immediate risk of toppling and causing serious injury. Requires immediate attention to protect the public, employees and other visitors to the cemetery. Action: Immediate action will be required to significantly reduce the risk by using the appropriate means of making the memorial safe.
- Priority 2 (Amber) – Is considered to have potential of becoming a danger to the public, employees and other visitors to the cemetery, but

is not in immediate risk of toppling and causing serious injury. Action: Re-inspect in 12 months

- Priority 3 (Green) – Is considered to be of little risk to the public, employees and other visitors to the cemetery. Action: Re-inspect in 5 years

Frequency of Inspection

Inspections of all levels of risk will be carried out on a minimum frequency of once every 5 years. As indicated above, any memorials showing early signs of instability will, in the interests of public safety, be monitored every 12 months, where this is considered necessary. Any memorials considered to be in such a condition where there is an immediate risk of them toppling and causing serious injury to members of the public will be immediately assessed and a decision taken on how the memorial will be made safe or repaired. Decisions on whether to invoke the 12 monthly monitoring or the immediate action to make safe or repair, will be taken in relation to the perceived level of risk of the individual memorial and the level of risk allocated to the section in which it lies, as identified from the site risk assessment.

Memorials over 2.5.m

Due to the diverse nature and complexity of these memorials, a visual check of all joints and any other areas of weakness will be carried out in accordance with training provided. The visual inspection will include a decision on whether further professional advice is needed.

- Priority 1 - will require more professional advice, i.e. a structural engineer. The area will be cordoned off and appropriate safety notices put in place until specialist advice can be obtained.
- Priority 2 – will require more professional advice within the next 12 months but does not pose an immediate danger to the public
- Priority 3 – will not require specialist advice as the structure appears sound.

During the visual assessment the trained inspector will assess whether the memorial is safe enough to warrant him/her doing a hand test.

Temporary Measures

Irrespective of whether a memorial lies within a high, medium or low risk area, if a memorial is considered to pose a significant risk and is likely to topple and cause serious injury to a member of the public, then a warning notice giving details of a contact number for the Council will be placed and an assessment of the need for repair or make safe will be carried out on an individual basis, in accordance with the training provided and in consideration of the following options. All action will be based on the likelihood of injury and will be proportionate to the level of risk.

Temporary measures will generally include consideration of the following:

- Warning Signs will be placed on or near the memorial found to be unstable.

- Mechanical support to the memorial (i.e. either metal or wooden supports). These will be placed discreetly to help support the memorial whilst the Council attempts to contact the grave owner.
- Re-fixing the memorial using an M3 polymer fixing compound
- Setting the memorial into the ground
- Laying down only if absolutely necessary.

Where a memorial has been temporarily supported, supports will remain in place for (a maximum of 12 months after this the memorial will be set in the ground, laid down or refixed using an M3 polymer jointing compound.

Recording

Records will be kept as follows:

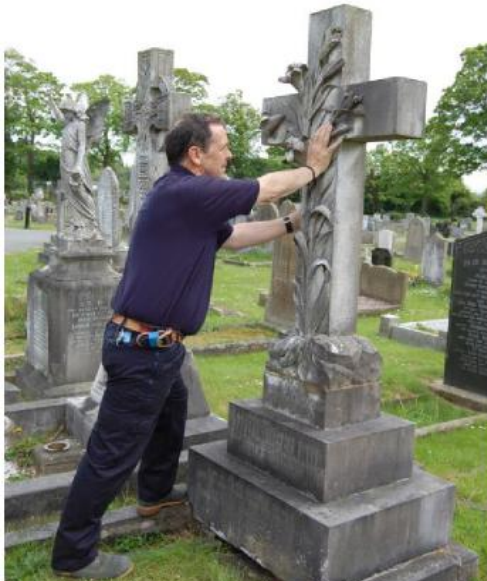
- Record of cemetery risk assessments and plans identifying the profile of risks on each site.
- Record of all visual and hand tests undertaken with detailed information on individual memorials tested.
- Record of any significant risks to be dealt with, taking account of the numbers of people who may be exposed, and the likelihood of the risk.
- Record of any reasonable precautions taken to ensure the remaining risk is acceptable.

Memorial Safety Procedures

1. Memorial safety inspections will generally be carried out by two operatives working as a team although a single operative may carry out inspections in accordance with a suitable risk assessment that takes account of lone working. Only officers trained to the industry best practice standards shall be eligible to carry out safety inspections on headstones/memorials.
2. Personal Protective Equipment (P.P.E.) must be worn at all times, this will include safety footwear and hard hats as required for larger memorials.
3. On entering the burial ground with the intention of carrying out an inspection of Headstones/Memorials it is essential that all operations be carried out in a manner that shall take cognisance of hazards and potential dangers within the whole site. A documented site risk assessment, together with a current 'Memorial Inspectors' risk assessment should be in place prior to inspection. Operatives should also be particularly aware of dangers in the immediate location where they are working or where members of the public may have access.
4. If a documented site risk assessment has not been completed, then one will be carried out prior to starting the memorial inspection as the risk assessment provides focus for the inspection. This should be carried out in accordance with the training given in compliance

with industry best practice standards and using the Council's assessment form attached to these procedures as Appendix 1.

5. All memorial inspections should be recorded on the Council's software database 2. Each memorial should firstly receive a visual check to identify if there is obvious danger and shall also indicate the safest approach to carry out a hand test if required.
6. Operatives must always be aware of Headstones/Memorials that are made-up of more than one section or blocks. Operatives must always examine the top section first and work down the memorial, this will avoid such elements of the memorial falling and potentially causing injury during any inspection. Suitable hard hats will be worn when inspecting memorials that extend above head height.
7. Any ornament on the top of the stone should be inspected with extreme care as these objects may create a great risk to the safety of the memorial inspector and others.
8. The hand test should be carried out standing in front, but to one side, of the headstone where possible and a gentle pressure/force should be gradually increased until a force approximating 25kg (250 Newtons) is applied. This force should be exerted in one direction, away from the body and should be repeated from the back of the memorial. Other hand tests from the sides of the memorial may also be required. On certain designs the force should be applied at the apex of the memorial or a high up the memorial as can comfortably be reached.



Correct testing stance – Larger memorial



Correct testing stance - Smaller memorial

9. A memorial should only fail the safety inspection if it will move and continue to move until it falls to the ground under an initial firm but reasonable force approximating 25 kg. Memorials that do not freely move following the 'initial' force should not be considered unsafe unless in an area of high risk.
10. Should a memorial fail the hand test a mechanical measuring device may be used, simply to confirm the force at which the memorial had failed. When using this device, it should be noted that the memorial will be unstable and great care should be taken. The measuring device should be used in a similar way to the hand test with the force being applied at the apex of the memorial, or just below shoulder height on taller memorials up to 1.5m. The mechanical measuring device is not suitable for memorials taller than 1.5m
11. The routine use of staking to make a memorial permanently safe is not recommended. If a memorial is found to be unsafe following the above inspection process consideration should be given to the following options:
 - A warning notice will be placed on every occasion a memorial is considered unsafe
 - Setting in the ground
 - Refixing using M3 polymer jointing compound
 - Staking
 - Laying flat

The decision on the type of make safe procedure to use will be based on an assessment of the risk based on the site risk assessment and the Council's Memorial Safety Policy.

Should a temporary measure be used to make the memorial safe this should be inspected on a regular basis whilst it remains in place.
12. All headstones should be inspected, categorised and recorded on the Council's inspection sheets in accordance with the training given in compliance with industry best practice, to determine the risk factor for each headstone/memorial.
13. All recorded inspections are to be passed to the Team Manager and thereafter entered into the Council's dedicated computer systems for Burials

Thurrock Council**Memorial Safety Risk Assessment Form**

Cemetery Section/Area				
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	Memorials		Access/Traffic		Environment
1	Monolith memorials	1	Inaccessible/ No visitation,	1	New lawn section, well maintained
2	NAMM Fix Memorials or	2	Away from roads/paths, seldom visited	2	New lawn section, average maintenance
3	Lawn memorials - back to	3	Accessible, reasonable numbers	3	Older lawn section
4	Lawn memorials – not back to back	4	Signs of misuse in area	4	Older section no kerbs
5	Kerbed Memorials under	5	Accessible, well visited	5	Older section with kerbs
6	Memorials from 1m to 1.5m	6	Adjacent to well used roads	6	Old section, kerbs, vaults – reasonable maintenance
7	Old jointed memorials over 1.5m	7	Very well visited ongoing burials in section	7	Old section, kerbs, vaults poor

Activity rating number: (memorial+access/traffic+environment)

Additional comments:

Action required to be taken:

Date of assessment:

Validated by (Print)

Assessors signature:

Signed

Print name

Date

Scoresheet - please see overleaf

Council Memorial Safety Assessment

SCORE SHEET

- Note:** A memorial should only be considered as unsafe if it moves and will continue to move until it falls to the floor under an initial firm but reasonable force (suggest a force approximating 25kg)
- 3 - 10 **Low risk** - Visual inspection only. Place notice only if a memorial is found to be unstable unless the memorial is considered an immediate danger and could cause a serious injury, should this be the case then alternative making safe methods should be considered and implemented. If individual memorials are considered a higher risk, then these should be inspected using a visual followed by a hand test.
- 11 - 16 **Medium Risk** - The area has an initial visual and hand test on every memorial using experienced/trained staff. Some memorials may need specialist inspections.
- A full inspection on a minimum frequency of 5 years is recommended. Any memorials showing early signs of instability should be monitored every 12 months. Memorials that are found to be unstable should have notices placed and should be set in the ground, cordoned off, temporarily supported, repaired, or laid down immediately. All action must be based on the likelihood of injury and should be proportionate to a medium risk area.
- 17+ **High Risk** - Area will need a visual and hand test on every memorial using experienced/trained staff. Some memorials may need specialist inspections.
- Memorials will require full inspection on a minimum frequency of 5 years. Any memorials showing early signs of instability should be monitored every 12 months. Memorials that are found to be unstable should have notices placed and should be cordoned off and should be set in the ground, cordoned off, temporarily supported, repaired, or laid down immediately. All action must be based on the likelihood of injury and should be proportionate to a high-risk area.

8 September 2022		ITEM: 9
Cleaner, Greener, and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Flats Recycling Update		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: David Bloomfield, Recycling Project Officer		
Accountable Assistant Director: Marcelle Puttergill – Performance and Support Manager, Environment and Highways		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers – Director of Public Realm		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

A new recycling scheme for flats is being rolled out to properties in Thurrock which comprises of a resident's information pack (including reusable recycling bag and guide), new recycling bins with a specially designed restrictor plate to reduce contamination and improved signage.

The project has been divided into several phases, the first phase, which included council housing locations, was completed in 2020. The second phase, which started in August 2021, is to roll out this scheme to all private flats. This phase is approximately 75% complete and due to conclude in September this year. After these two phases, properties that have been identified as 'challenging' mostly because they are above shops and do not have a dedicated bin area with enough space for recycling bins, will be targeted. It is expected that the project will complete in October 2022.

This document is intended as an update to the report which was presented to the Committee in December 2019.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee review this report as an update on the Flats Recycling Project.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 As part of Thurrock Council's commitment to ensure all its residents have access to recycling facilities and therefore can contribute to reducing the

human impact on the global environment, a new recycling scheme was developed for all flatted properties in the borough.

2.2 The objectives of the new scheme are to:

- Ensure that there is equal access to the recycling service for all residents within the borough and to decrease the amount of contamination presented in recycling bins.
- Educate residents about recycling in our borough.

2.3 A small pilot was conducted in 2019 across 3 locations in Thurrock (The Echoes, Worthing Close and St. Leonards Close) to compare the effectiveness of the new recycling scheme to the original scheme and concluded that the new scheme reduced contamination and generally received a positive response from residents (Reference CGS Report 5 Dec 2019 Recycling for Communal Buildings).

2.4 The new scheme draws significantly upon guidance and tools made available from Resource London and comprises of:

- A new style of communal bin with a restrictor plate to prevent contamination with bulky items and black rubbish bags. The main lid is fitted with locks that will automatically lock itself when the lid is closed.
- Improved image-based signage for the bin stores which carry information on what can be recycled and what should be done with bulky waste. For many residents, English may not be their first language and therefore these signs make extensive use of pictures.
- Recycling Welcome Pack which includes a recycling guide, a fridge magnet to attach the recycling guide to their fridge, a letter explaining the new scheme and a reusable recycling bag. The recycling bag can be hung on a door handle, placed on the kitchen floor or in a cabinet under the sink. The bag has been designed so that it will not fall over when filled up with recyclables.

2.5 Following the pilot, the new scheme was rolled out to Thurrock owned flats. Phase 1 completed in 2020.

2.6 Due to delays relating to COVID, rollout out of the scheme to private owned properties (Phase 2) started in Aug 2021.

2.7 Project Metrics

Phase 1 – Number of bin stores:144

Phase 2 – Number of bin stores: 610 (this includes private flats with communal bins, flats above shops and assisted living).

Phase 2 – Approx. number of Managing Agents: 76 (however, typically there are multiple managers covering allocated blocks).

Phase 2 – Approx. number of 1100 L Recycling Bins: 800 (this is still an estimate as all the reviews are not yet complete).

2.8 Key Challenges

	Challenge	Response
1.	Lack of response from Managing Agents	Initially the approach was to meet and discuss recycling with all the managing agents (MA). However, in many cases their responses were slow or evasive. As a result, the project changed to a communication approach to inform MAs of our proposal and intention to implement and then to invite a response.
2	Identifying the correct Managing Agent	Identifying the correct MA can be difficult and time consuming as there is significant churn and often tenants cannot identify their MA.
3.	Managing Agents declining the recycling service – siting mainly cost implications as the key barrier	<p>Recycling in Thurrock is mandatory wherever practicable. Most managing agents are willing to discuss options and possibilities. However, a few, have refused any dialogue with the local authority.</p> <p>Mitigation actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legal advice was sought and established that sections 45 and 46 of the EPA does require occupiers to present their recycling as specified by the council and therefore the council can insist. <p>Whilst rare, on occasion this legal advice has been utilised to persuade the MA and has resulted in the successful placement of the recycling bins.</p>
4.	Lack of bin store volume/fly tipping	Notwithstanding that recycling should be made available for all residents, in a few instances, we have agreed with MAs not to deploy recycling because it is not practicable to do so. For example, in Grays, some bin stores were too small to accommodate recycling bins and leaving them outside was likely to cause fly tipping issues.
5.	Problems emptying reverse lidded bins	<p>The design of the original recycling bins was chosen to restrict fly-tips and inappropriate items being placed in the bin. The bin apertures were becoming blocked where they had been overfilled and where there were large deposits of cardboard.</p> <p>Recognising the learning from Phase 1 and the issues being experienced, at the beginning of phase 2, the recycling bin was changed to a 'lid in lid' design which avoids this issue. The project</p>

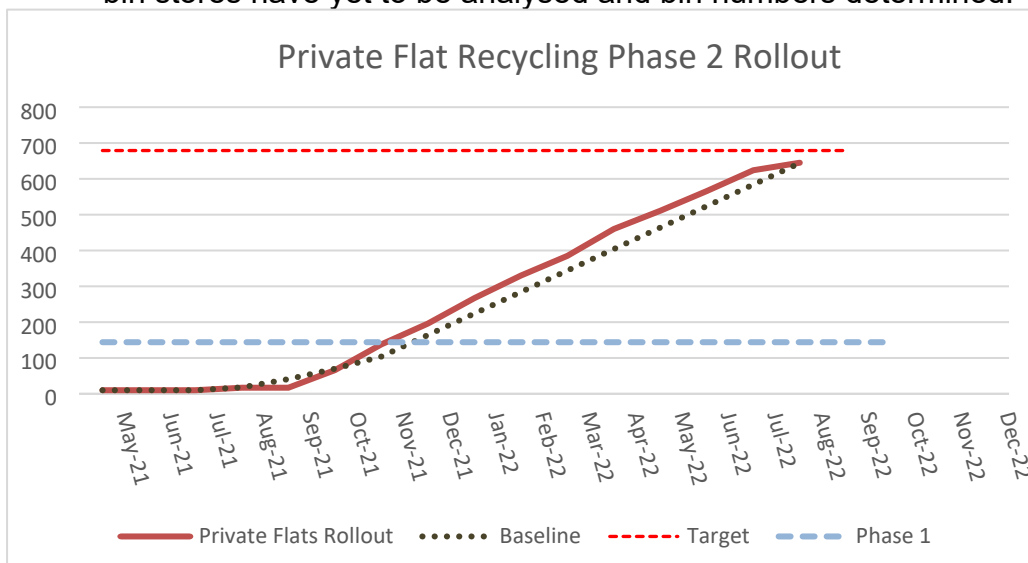
		has also undertaken an exercise to retrofit all the existing reverse lidded bins delivered in phase 1 with a 'lid in lid' design.
6.	Bin deliveries from suppliers were delayed	Issues with delayed delivery of bins, which was exacerbated by Covid/petrol shortage/driver shortages impacted the project. These issues were discussed with the contractor to remind them of the importance of their service delivery and contractual obligations.
7.	Business as usual	As the project completes, a business-as-usual strategy is being developed to ensure that new flats that come on board are following the parameters of the project.

2.9 Phase 2 Approach and Status

At the outset of this phase of the project, officers assumed delivery speed of 60 bins per month, this increased to 65 as further experience was acquired.

The graph below is driven directly from the data in the list of bin stores and shows the rollout progression by month since the start of phase 2. The dotted blue line is the original rollout base line, the brown line is the progress (actual and planned) delivery rate, the dashed red line represents complete, and the dashed blue line is the equivalent number of deliveries in phase 1 (for comparison).

The progress line doesn't intersect the completion line as the final tranches of bin stores have yet to be analysed and bin numbers determined.



3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 This report is for information only.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 This report is for information only.

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

5.1 Not Applicable.

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

6.1 This will have a positive impact on recycling performance with increasing recycling tonnage and reduced contamination

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

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

The project is being delivered within the agreed budget

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Mark Bowen**
Acting Head of Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report

7.3 Diversity and Equality

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

There are no diversity and equality implications arising from this report

All information regarding Community Equality Impact Assessments can be found here: <https://intranet.thurrock.gov.uk/services/diversity-and-equality/ceia/>

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

Not Applicable

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):

Not Applicable

9. **Appendices to the report**

Not Applicable

Report Author:

David Bloomfield

Project Officer

**Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme
2022/23**

Dates of Meetings: 14 June 2022, 8 September 2022, 8 November 2022 and 24 January 2023

Topic	Lead Officer	Requested by Officer/Member
14 June 2022		
Abandoned Trolley Cost Recovery Policy	Vince Taylor	Officers
Terms of Reference – Overview of Services - PowerPoint	Officers	Officers
Off Road Nuisance Vehicles – Verbal Update	Terry Fisher, Essex Police	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Members
8 September 2022		
Overview of responsibilities of Portfolio Holder for Environment, Sports and Leisure	Councillor Jefferies	Members
Council Funded Police Officers	Cheryl Wells	Members
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Annual Overview	Michelle Cunningham	Members
Cemetery and Burial Strategy	Daren Spring	Members
Flats Recycling Update	Marcelle Puttergill	Officers
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Members
8 November 2022		
Air Quality Report	Gavin Dennett	Members

Work Programme	Democratic Services	Members
24 January 2023		
Annual Report on Underage Sales	Charlotte Edwards	Members
Thurrock Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Refresh 2023/26	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Thurrock's Prevent Strategy Refresh 2023/26	Michelle Cunningham	Officers
Single Use Plastics Update	Marcelle Puttergill	Officers
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Members

Add to 2023/24 Work Programme:

Clerk: Rhiannon Whiteley
Last Updated: July 2022