

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

Local Development Plan Task Force

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **26 July 2022**

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

Membership:

Councillors Paul Arnold, Gary Collins, Maureen Pearce, Joycelyn Redsell, Lee Watson and Lynn Worrall

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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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

Agenda published on: **18 July 2022**

Information for members of the public and councillors

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DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

Non-pecuniary

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



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

Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

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

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

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

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

Minutes of the Postponed Meeting of the Local Development Plan Task Force of the 24 January 2022 held on the 21 March 2022 at 7.00 pm

- Present:** Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Gary Collins and James Thandi
- Apologies:** Councillors Martin Kerin (Vice-Chair) and Lee Watson
- In attendance:** Leigh Nicholson, Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection
Kirsty Paul, Local Plans Manager
Andrew Lowe, Turley
Antony Pollard, Turley
Ben Smith, Arup Representative
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer
-

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

18. Minutes

The minutes of the Local Development Plan Task Force meeting held on 29 November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

19. Items of Urgent Business

There were no urgent items of business.

20. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests declared.

21. Climate Change Presentation

This item had continued from the 29 November 2021 meeting and Ben Smith, Arup Representative, was in attendance to answer any further questions and sought the support and endorsement from the task force group to undertake a consultation to progress the strategy to its final place. This would form part of an internal consultation within Thurrock with different directorates on topics such as energy, transport and buildings and to also undertake an external consultation.

Councillor Redsell referred to the presentation, shortlisted actions, transport and questioned what was meant by "modal shift" and "freight modal shift" to which Ben Smith stated modal shift was moving people from one mode of transport to another. In this case moving people away from the private car into other forms of transport such as public transport, walking, cycling etc. He

explained further that freight modal shift was one of the areas they wanted to explore further with officers as part of the consultation on what was possible.

Councillor Redsell referred to electric vehicles in that more charging points were required before this could work successfully in Thurrock and commented on how dangerous electric bikes and scooters were. Ben Smith stated it was important to get electric vehicle charging stations right and close to where people needed them, and this was important not just in Thurrock but everywhere. Again, these were the items that would form part of the consultation and would identify what conversations officers have had already with UK Power Networks about the deployment of charging stations. He agreed that Councillor Redsell comments were valid on how dangerous electric scooters were and although they had to go on the road and abide by the road laws there was currently no regulations in place which was problematic. He commented that electric scooters maybe something that Thurrock did not promote but promoted the use of e-bikes instead. Again, these were the type of areas that form part of the internal and external consultations.

Councillor Redsell stated it was important that 106 monies were taken in to account as part of this consultation and Councillor Thandi agreed that technology was changing very fast, and the council were moving in the right direction of travel to ensure electric charging was safe and worked well for residents.

Councillor Collins referred to the current events in Ukraine and Russia and raised his concern on how the country still needed oil and gas to survive and stated there was not enough green technology and green power to keep countries going and there were currently not enough power stations to deliver this power. He also referred to food self-sufficiency and model building on arable land. To which Ben Smith stated although he respected Councillor Collins opinions it was time to increase the resilience and move towards renewable and green energy and by reducing the demand for oil and gas would make the country more resilient. That 20% of the country's land was used to grow crops and at this time was not worried too much about lack of food becoming an issue. Councillor Redsell agreed this was not such a concern at this time but commented that developers may need to include electric charges in new homes and asked for allotments also be included in the consultation. Leigh Nicholson stated it would be about getting the right balance, to look at the short-listed actions and to look at everything as a package.

Members discussed how wind power could be used more locally by schools, business or even residents.

Members also discussed how packaging, such as compressed cardboard could be disposed of and the options to reduce waste including food waste.

Members also discussed the use of batteries and how these were disposed of to which again these would form part of the actions of the consultation.

At 7.45pm, Ben Smith left the meeting.

22. South Essex Housing Needs Assessment Presentation

The item was presented by Andrew Lowe from Turley.

Councillor Redsell thanked officers for the report and made the following comments that developers in Thurrock were not building the right type of houses, the right infrastructure had not yet been carried out and needed to be to ensure Thurrock was not gridlocked for ever, addressed the traffic pollution levels especially down London Road, Thurrock needed quality homes not quantity and to include the building of bungalows, had never seen any self-builds in Thurrock, residents in the three tower blocks that were due to come down would need to be rehoused, good work on the new homes in Chadwell and that lakeside had been a bad design for commuting. Andrew Lowe stated that as the Local Plan developed it would be evidenced on how many houses were needed and identify the gaps in the housing stock profile and then down to transport and infrastructure.

Councillor Collins questioned the number of empty private houses to which Andrew Lowe stated he did not have this figure to hand but could be calculated from council tax data and could be included in the report.

Councillor Collins requested that ex service personnel be added to the list of needs of different groups of housing that had been identified by the council.

Councillor Thandi commented that housing should look nice and appealing for those that would live there and questioned why two-bedroom homes were not being built as not all residents could afford to buy four-bedroom homes. Councillor Redsell agreed that different options needed to be investigated to make good quality community places for residents to live. Andrew Lowe stated that work would be undertaken to look at the different sizes of properties as part of the local plan which would evidence the demand, the need and how these could be integrated. Leigh Nicholson agreed this needed to evidence based and studies undertaken on how each individual piece of evidence could be support by the local plan to meet the demand of high-quality homes as part of the community and place making.

At 8.22pm, Andrew Lowe and Anthony Pollard left the meeting.

23. Local Plan Update

This item was presented by Kirsty Paul.

Councillor Redsell thanked officers for the report but stated this had felt like “deja-vu” as the council had been in this place before and nothing had progressed and hoped now was the time for the local plan to have a way forward and to come into fruition. Councillor Redsell stated that Thurrock was so far behind in developing the borough for example how the riverside was

still not being used to its full potential, questioned whether the council were speaking with the Grays Yacht Club as more could be done in that area, also stated the ferry and cruise terminal in Tilbury were outdated. She also questioned why new developments were being built in polluted areas, areas such as London Road and areas that continued to get gridlocked. The local plan should focus on the right style of homes and the right quality, focus on employment and enhance areas that were better for the community and for the health of residents. That social elements should also be picked up within the local plan, such as local pubs or restaurants. Councillor Redsell concluded the local plan should not just focus on housing it should be more balanced, with higher expectations and have higher ambitions.

Councillor Thandi questioned when Grays Beach would be complete to which he was informed no specific details were to hand this evening but would speak with the relevant teams and report back to members.

Councillor Collins questioned whether there were any plans for bringing industries into the borough to which Leigh Nicholson stated there needed to be a balanced plan, not one that just focused on jobs or housing. This was the opportunity to look at how the council could be innovative in researching and developing all the ideas spoken about this evening. To also look at how the opportunities of upskilling could be available for school leavers to enable them to hopefully live in the borough, work in the borough and to build up community spirit.

Councillor Collins referred to the Local Plan Update and questioned what was meant by “sustainable development” to which he was informed this covered economic sustainability, environment sustainability and social side and would mean the balancing of those three strands that would form a key piece of evidence of the local plan.

Kirsty Paul thanked members for their contributions this evening and stated the planned summer events would be a good way to engage with residents, look at some of the more creative consultation methods to try and draw in those residents who would not normally engage on planning consultations.

24. Work Programme

Members signed off the work programme for 2020/21.

The meeting finished at 9.19 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact

Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk

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Work Programme

Committee: Local Development Plan Task Force

Year: 2022/2023

Dates of Meetings: 26 July 2022, 26 September 2022, 5 December 2022, 30 January 2023, 23 March 2023.

| Topic | Lead Officer | Requested by Officer/Member |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 26 July 2022 | | |
| Nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair | Democratic Services | |
| Thurrock Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Presentation | LUC | Officers |
| Thurrock Strategic Transport Model Presentation | City Science | Officers |
| Thurrock Local Plan Update Presentation | Kirsty Paul | Officers |
| Work Programme | Democratic Services | Standing item |
| 26 September 2022 | | |
| Climate Change | Sean Nethercott | Officers |
| Strategic Housing Market Assessment Presentation | Sean Nethercott | Members |
| Impact of Covid 19 on the Plan | Sean Nethercott | Members |
| Work Programme | Democratic Services | Standing item |
| 5 December 2022 | | |

Work Programme

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| Number of homes to be delivered | Sean Nethercott | Members |
| Briefing Paper – ARUPS Energy Strategy | Sean Nethercott/ Arup | Members |
| Work Programme | Democratic Services | Standing item |
| 30 January 2023 | | |
| Update on designating local green spaces | Sean Nethercott | Officers |
| Flooding and Drainage | Sean Nethercott | Members |
| Work Programme | Democratic Services | Standing item |
| 23 March 2023 | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Work Programme | Democratic Services | Standing item |