

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 **5 December 2022**

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

### Membership:

Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Paul Arnold (Vice-Chair), Gary Collins, Maureen Pearce, 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](mailto:direct.democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

Agenda published on: **24 November 2022**

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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 Local Development Plan Task Force held on 26 September 2022 at 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Councillors Joycelyn Redsell (Chair), Paul Arnold (Vice-Chair), Maureen Pearce, Lee Watson and Lynn Worrall

**Apologies:** Councillor Gary Collins

**In attendance:**  
Mat Kiely, Transportation Services Strategic Lead  
Leigh Nicholson, Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection  
Kirsty Paul, Local Plans Manager  
Richard Latcham, Latcham Consultants  
Owen Reading, David Lock Associates  
Robert Hayward, David Lock Associates  
Tom Van Vuren, Veitch Lister Consulting  
Rhiannon Whiteley, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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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.

### **10. Minutes**

The minutes of the Local Development Plan Task Force meeting held on 26 July 2022 were approved as a correct record.

### **11. Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **12. Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared

### **13. Thurrock Strategic Transport Model Presentation**

The Chair agreed that item 6 should be heard first due to an external speaker giving the presentation.

Tom Van Vuren from Veitch Lister Consulting provided members with a presentation on the Thurrock Strategic Transport Model. The presentation can be found on the following link:

Tom confirmed that the transport model will produce transport evidence to inform the preparation of the Local Plan and to support potential business case development for transport interventions related to the Local Plan.

Tom explained that they look at the current travel patterns and estimate how these will evolve in the future. They predict how new developments and new transport projects will affect these travel patterns.

In order to prepare the transport model they have to collect a lot of data and since February 2022 they have mainly focused on data collection. They will now be starting the model development.

Councillor Worrall asked why they were using data from the 2011 Census as Thurrock has changed a lot in the last 11 years.

Tom clarified that at the current time they only have partial access to information from the 2021 Census. However, the information they use from the Census is only a small part of the data they collect as they are using mobile phone data which will be the most up-to-date data.

Councillor Redsell commented that the Borough has 3 big roads and she cannot see people wanting to use bicycles.

Tom confirmed that two thirds of travel journeys in Thurrock are made by a driver or a passenger so other models of transport cannot be ignored as there is a significant population in the Borough who don't have access to a car.

Councillor Redsell noted that new developments such as the one in Lakeside have no car parking spaces and she is concerned people will not buy them for this reason.

Tom confirmed that the Transport model will try to supply the evidence of the implications of such decisions and what interventions might be needed to make Thurrock a thriving place.

Councillor Pearce stated that she is worried about the number of cars on the road and in particular the traffic problems caused by the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge and Dartford Roundabout. Ideally, she would like to see a train station in Aveley.

Councillor Redsell questioned if they had been asked to look at a lorry park.

Tom confirmed they had not.

The Strategic Lead for Transportation Services explained that if a lorry park site was identified the transport model would give them the ability to understand the impact of a lorry park on the current transport network.



*Tom Van Vuren left the meeting at 19.33*

#### **14. Transport Strategy Presentation**

The Strategic Lead for Transportation Services gave the Committee a presentation on the Thurrock Transport Strategy. The presentation can be found on the following link:

[\(Public Pack\)Thurrock Transport Strategy Presentation Agenda Supplement for Local Development Plan Task Force, 26/09/2022 19:00](#)

The Strategic Lead for Transportation Services explained that his team with support from consultants are preparing an interim transport strategy. The current strategy runs until 2026 but was written back in 2011. They need to refresh the strategy so it aligns with the Local Plan. They need to consider how people will travel in the future.

The Strategic Lead for Transportation Services highlighted that they wanted to promote non-car journeys such as using the river more for freight and commuter journeys, increasing rail capacity and rail freight and improving walking and cycling routes. The Strategic Lead for Transportation Services also explained to the meeting about Electric vehicle car clubs which would allow residents to hire a car for an hour or a day which could reduce the need for residents to own a car in the future.

Integrated ticketing is also being looked at so commuters only need one bank card to use on all modes of transport as opposed to purchasing separate tickets.

Councillor Redsell thanked the Strategic Lead for Transportation Services for the presentation and noted the hard work that goes into it. Councillor Redsell stated that she was pleased that using the river more was mentioned and that she would like to see more images of Thurrock in future presentations.

Councillor Worrall commented that she liked the idea that you might not need to own a car in the future as it is very costly but currently she would not feel safe walking to a train station at night.

The Strategic Lead for Transportation Services explained that as they bring forward the local plan and build new developments they can ensure that things are put into the design to promote safety.

The Local Plans Manager confirmed that the Local Plan looks at all these issues holistically and if you create a vibrant High Street and early evening economy this can make places seem more welcoming and safer at night. The Local Plans Manager clarified that they wont just be looking at new developments but also how to improve current places.

Councillor Redsell highlighted that many people still need to make long journeys to visit family who live far away and using a car remains the easiest and quickest way to travel as with trains you need to travel into London to change trains.

The Strategic Lead for Transportation Services responded that electric vehicle car hire has real potential for people who want to use a car for infrequent long journeys.

Councillor Redsell commented that more electric car power points were needed.

Councillor Arnold queried if there had been any discussions with Kent County Council about getting more ferries.

The Strategic Lead for Transportation Services confirmed that there was no specific work being done with Kent on this at the current time.

Councillor Watson raised concern for transport links for the elderly residents in villages especially as three bus routes are currently out for consultation to be cut.

The Strategic Lead for Transportation Services responded that it is difficult to get bus services to accommodate all areas and especially rural areas. It is hoped that there may be improvements to the MRT network funded through new developments which can then be extended to rural areas.

## **15. Creating Successful Places Presentation**

Owen Reading and Robert Hayward of David Lock Associates gave members a presentation on Creating Successful Places. The presentation can be found on the following link:

[\(Public Pack\)Creating Successful Places Presentation Agenda Supplement for Local Development Plan Task Force, 26/09/2022 19:00 \(thurrock.gov.uk\)](#)

Owen Reading explained that they are working on a new Thurrock Design Strategy which will essentially be a guide to set out to developers the expectations as to what designers need to do to get quick planning permission so they can get building. It will help designers, developers and planning officers to understand what will be considered as good design in Thurrock.

Owen talked about the key design principles, creating pride in Thurrock, Healthy places for all, Connected to Opportunity and a Sustainable Future.

Owen explained that the Design Strategy is in its early stages and they are currently engaging with Officers at the Council. This will include consulting with the Planning officers as to what issues are coming up again and again in planning applications.

Councillor Redsell queried how many PPA's are currently being received.

The Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection confirmed that the number of applications has slowed down due to the economy however as the local plan progresses it is envisaged that numbers are likely to increase. The Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Public Protection highlighted that they want to ensure only the best planning applications make it through.

Owen Reading added that developers that come to the Council with poor designs should have a hard time in the planning process and designs that are good should be sped through the planning process.

Councillor Watson expressed concern about engagement with residents and commented that there are already going to be consultations for the local plan and transport strategy and if there are too many consultations with residents they will get to the point where they don't care.

The Local Plans Manager responded that the Local Plan does overlap with other areas such as transport and design and they are trying to coordinate with other teams where possible so as not to overwhelm residents with consultations. However, they do have to follow statutory processes and some things must be done separately.

Councillor Watson queried whether current applications with poor design can currently be stopped.

The Local Plans Manager confirmed that there is a National Design Guide which they can apply weight to. The current Thurrock Design strategy is also still relevant but is not progressive enough.

Robert Hayward presented the second half of the presentation regarding the site assessment study. He explained they are assessing sites for their potential for allocation.

Councillor Watson requested a copy of the locations of the sites.

The Local Plans Manager confirmed the PDF copy is very large and so they will be breaking it down into ward maps which will be more manageable to look through.

Councillor Redsell queried how long it will be until they receive details of the specific sites chosen.

The Local Plans Manager confirmed this will be in July 2023.

**16. Thurrock Local Plan Update Presentation (including review of Covid-19 impact on plan making)**

The Local Plans Manager provided members with a presentation with an update on the local plan. The Presentation can be found on the following link:

[\(Public Pack\)Thurrock Local Plan Update Presentation Agenda Supplement for Local Development Plan Task Force, 26/09/2022 19:00](#)

The Local Plans Manager confirmed the proposed plan for roadshow events in November 2022 and the updated work programme for the Local Plan.

*At 21.29 the Committee agreed to raise Standing Orders so the meeting could continue beyond 9.30pm*

The meeting discussed how Covid 19 and the increase in people working from home has altered what people want from their homes and local area.

## **17. Work Programme**

No items were added to the programme.

**The meeting finished at 9.50 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](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)**

# 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
<b>26 July 2022</b>		
Nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair	Democratic Services	
Thurrock Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Presentation	LUC	Officers
Thurrock Strategic Transport Model Presentation (postponed)	City Science	Officers
Thurrock Local Plan Update Presentation	Kirsty Paul	Officers
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item
<b>26 September 2022</b>		
Transport Strategy Presentation	Mat Kiely	Officers
Thurrock Strategic Transport Model Presentation	City Science	Officers
Creating Successful Places Presentation	David Lock Associates	Officers
Thurrock Local Plan Update Presentation (including review of Covid 19 impact on plan making)	Kirsty Paul	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item

## Work Programme

<b>5 December 2022</b>		
Local Plan Update Presentation	Kirsty Paul	Officers
Infrastructure Delivery Plan – Baseline Presentation	Sean Nethercott	Officers
Climate Change Strategy Presentation	Sean Nethercott	Officers
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item
<b>30 January 2023</b>		
Update on designating local green spaces	Sean Nethercott	Officers
Number of homes to be delivered	Sean Nethercott	Members
Strategic Housing Market Assessment Presentation	Sean Nethercott	Members
Briefing Paper – ARUPS Energy Strategy	Sean Nethercott/ Arup	Members
Flooding and Drainage	Sean Nethercott	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item
<b>23 March 2023</b>		

# Work Programme

Work Programme	Democratic Services	Standing item
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