

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

General Services Committee

The meeting will be held at **7.00 pm** on **15 September 2022**

Committee Room 2, CO3, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex RM17 6SL

Membership:

Councillors Robert Gledhill (Chair), Mark Coxshall (Vice-Chair), Deborah Huelin, Barry Johnson, John Kent, Fraser Massey and Lynn Worrall

Substitutes:

Councillors Jack Duffin, Tony Fish, Shane Hebb, Andrew Jefferies, Kairen Raper and Luke Spillman

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

	Page
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Minutes	5 - 12
To approve as a correct record the minutes of General Services Committee meeting held on 6 July 2022.	
To approve as a correct record the minutes of General Services Committee meeting held on 11 July 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.	
4 Declarations of Interests	

Exclusion of the Public and Press

Members are asked to consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

5 Employment Matter

13 - 16

Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:

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

Agenda published on: **7 September 2022**

Information for members of the public and councillors

Access to Information and Meetings

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- Enter the password **Thurrock** to connect to/join the Wi-Fi network.
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Members of the Council should ensure that their device is sufficiently charged, although a limited number of charging points will be available in Members Services.

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

- Access the modern.gov app
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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 General Services Committee held on 6 July 2022 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors Robert Gledhill (Chair), Mark Coxshall (Vice-Chair), Deborah Huelin, Barry Johnson, John Kent, Fraser Massey and Lynn Worrall

In attendance: Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Helen McCabe, TRL Development Manager
Roger Harris, Director of Thurrock Regeneration Limited
Mykela Pratt, Strategic Lead HR, Resourcing and Improvement
Julie Towers, Penna Recruitment Consultants
Helen Anderson, Tile Hill Recruitment Consultants
Anthony Lewis, Tile Hill Recruitment Consultants
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

6. Minutes

The minutes of the General Services Committee held on the 14 June 2022 were approved as a correct record.

7. Items of Urgent Business

There were no urgent items of business.

8. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

9. Independent Remuneration Panel - Options

The report presented to Members set out the options for Members to consider regarding the future implementation of Independent Remuneration Panels at Thurrock.

Councillor Worrall questioned with the proposed changes of the constitution working group, scrutiny panel, possible changes to committees and membership of those committees whether there would be a risk to the interview process that roles could change before any decision had been made.

Councillor Gledhill stated that one of the reasons would be to make this process more independent for Thurrock to agree those changes which would allow the council to move forward.

Councillor J Kent agreed to maintain the four yearly cycle for the Independent Remuneration Panel, that the panel should be locally based looking at Thurrock's needs and therefore recommended that option 3 of paragraph 3.1 be moved forward.

Councillor Gledhill agreed the future operation of an Independent Remuneration Panel should be solely for Thurrock and with that recommended that paragraph 3.1, option 3, "Establish a new panel solely for Thurrock" be approved. Councillor Gledhill also agreed to maintain a four yearly cycle for the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RESOLVED

- 1. To establish a new Independent Remuneration Panel solely for Thurrock.**
- 2. To maintain a four yearly cycle for the Independent Remuneration Panel.**

10. Thurrock Regeneration Limited Progress Report

Councillor Coxshall welcomed Roger Harris, Director and Chair of Thurrock Regeneration Limited Board who provided members with the following update:

A progress report will be provided every six months to the General Services Committee on the up-to-date progress of Thurrock Regeneration Limited. Thurrock Regeneration Limited are in a better position in terms of wider governance, having appointed two additional directors, both had extensive experience in terms of housing development, having worked for local authorities and had brought a high degree of both private and public sector housing experience to the board. There were still two vacancies on the board with recruitment starting soon with the board keen to extend the local representation on the board and to look at wider issues around diversity. Thurrock Regeneration Limited has one scheme in operation in St Chads with the Board of Directors being fully independent of the council which would put Thurrock Regeneration Limited in a much stronger position. Belmont Road was also owned by Thurrock Regeneration Limited with the planning application process being resubmitting. Lessons had been learnt in terms of consulting with and working closely with the community as part of that development. Cabinet had agreed that the Culver Centre should be a Thurrock Regeneration Limited scheme and was pleased to announce that planning permission had already been agreed with the design team in place and referred Members to the timetable in the report. Keen to see Thurrock Regeneration Limited being a close partner for Thurrock in terms of the housing development options going forward, become a stronger organisation with a much stronger independent board with separate financial and legal advice. Roger Harris concluded that Thurrock Regeneration Limited was in a

very strong position and looked forward to working with the council over the next few years.

Councillor Massey questioned the timescale on the recruitment of the two additional vacancies to which Roger Harris hoped to go out to recruitment in September.

Councillor J Kent stated there was a lot to welcome from the report and had been glad to see the recruitment of the two new directors and the appointment of the other two directors in due course. Thanks were given for the update on St Chads but referred to the previous attempt to develop on Belmont Road and asked for some confidence that with the same amount of housing, in the same area and same place what would be undertaken differently this time. Councillor J Kent was glad to see that a community consultation would take place and questioned who would be undertaking that and how this time would this development be acceptable for the people who lived around Belmont Road. Roger Harris stated that a lot had been learnt from the previous experience and agreed that Belmont Road would not be easy for development but was well aware of the concerns that residents had during the building stages of that site and access. An independent company would be appointed to conduct some of the consultation. Helen McCabe stated that on the next board meeting an item on the agenda was the consultation of Belmont Road and confirmed the consultation would be undertaken by a third party.

Councillor Coxshall stated that Thurrock Regeneration Limited were wholly independent and should bring forward a planning application the right way, how the consultation was undertaken would be critical and to ensure a reputable company would be selected to deliver this. Had concerns over the timings but there would be plenty of time if the consultation and timetable were undertaken before the planning application to ensure residents had the opportunity to have a good view of access plans during and after the construction.

Councillor J Kent welcomed the proposed consultation and with the independent company putting forward a planning application would allow the Planning Committee to be truly independent. Councillor J Kent concluded that he could not see what would be different this time with the same issues with the siting of the compound, narrow access routes, problems with the school and day to day problems and at this time he still had no confidence in the plans. Councillor Coxshall stated those issues were known but as part of the consultation these would be dealt with in a sympathetically way before the application came to the Planning Committee. The lesson learnt had been independence, had listened and made the decision that a full planning application starting from scratch would need to be submitted.

Councillor Huelin questioned what Thurrock Regeneration Homes Limited, the housing management team, were currently doing now as there was nothing to sell. Roger Harris stated there were two companies, Thurrock Regeneration Limited was the parent company, the development arm, and Thurrock Regeneration Homes Limited was the housing management arm who

managed the properties on behalf of the development company. Councillor Huelin questioned as there were no properties to sell what they were doing at this time to which Roger Harris stated Thurrock Regeneration Homes Limited only employed one member of staff which was Helen McCabe, the other staff were all employed by the council. That Thurrock Regeneration Homes Limited was just the company with no other staff apart from Helen McCabe and for any work on the collection of rents, issues around anti-social behaviour or for any other issues such as tenancy management is contracted out. Helen McCabe reiterated that Thurrock Regeneration Limited was the strategic arm looking at development with Thurrock Regeneration Homes Limited was the operational arm.

Councillor Gledhill thanked Roger Harris and Helen McCabe for attending this evening.

Councillor Coxshall thanked everyone for attending this evening and agreed the committee should be updated on progress every six months.

RESOLVED

The contents of the report were noted.

At 7.52pm the committee agreed to enter into exempt session in order to discuss the personal details of applicants.

At 7.52pm, Councillor J Kent and Councillor Worrall left the meeting.

11. Shortlisting - Assistant Director Legal and Monitoring Officer & Assistant Director Regeneration & Place Delivery

The Committee considered the shortlist for the roles of Assistant Director Legal and Monitoring Officer, as well as the Assistant Director Regeneration & Place Delivery.

RESOLVED:

- 1. Two candidates for Assistant Director Legal and Monitoring Officer to be progressed to interview.**
- 2. Four candidates for Assistant Director Regeneration & Place Delivery to be progressed to interview.**

The meeting finished at 8.11 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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Minutes of the Meeting of the General Services Committee held on 11 July 2022 at 9.00 am

Present: Councillors Robert Gledhill (Chair), Mark Coxshall (Vice-Chair), Deborah Huelin, Barry Johnson and Fraser Massey

Apologies: Councillors John Kent and Lynn Worrall

12. Items of Urgent Business

There were no urgent items of business.

At 9.32am the committee agreed to enter into exempt session in order to undertake interviews.

13. Assistant Director Legal and Monitoring Officer & Assistant Director Regeneration & Place Delivery - Interviews

The Committee interviewed candidates for the Assistant Director Legal and Monitoring Officer and the Assistant Director Regeneration & Place Delivery roles.

RESOLVED

No appointment was made to the post of Assistant Director Legal and Monitoring Officer.

That Council be recommended to appoint Kevin Munnelly to the post of Assistant Director Regeneration & Place Delivery.

The meeting finished at 3.20 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

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