

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

## Annual Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **24 May 2023**

**Council Chamber, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex RM17 6SL**

### Membership of the Council:

James Halden (Mayor)  
Susan Little (Deputy Mayor)

Qaisar Abbas  
John Allen  
Alex Anderson  
Deborah Arnold  
Paul Arnold  
Gary Byrne  
Adam Carter  
John Cecil  
Daniel Chukwu  
Gary Collins  
George Coxshall  
Jack Duffin  
Tony Fish  
Robert Gledhill  
Aaron Green  
Vikki Hartstean

Mark Hooper  
Mark Hurrell  
Andrew Jefferies  
Barry Johnson  
Tom Kelly  
Cathy Kent  
John Kent  
Martin Kerin  
Steve Liddiard  
Ben Maney  
Jacqui Maney  
Cici Manwa  
Fraser Massey  
Valerie Morris-Cook  
Sara Muldowney  
Augustine Ononaji

Srikanth Panjala  
Maureen Pearce  
Terry Piccolo  
Georgette Polley  
Kairen Raper  
Joycelyn Redsell  
Elizabeth Rigby  
Sue Sammons  
Sue Shinnick  
Graham Snell  
Neil Speight  
Luke Spillman  
James Thandi  
Lee Watson  
Lynn Worrall



Dr Dave Smith  
Chief Executive

Agenda published on: 16 May 2023



# Agenda

Open to Public and Press

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1 Apologies for absence</b>	
<b>2 Minutes</b>	<b>11 - 50</b>
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 1 March 2023.	
<b>3 To elect the Mayor for the municipal year 2023-2024</b>	
<b>4 Items of Urgent Business</b>	
To receive additional items that the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
<b>5 To elect the Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2023-2024</b>	
<b>6 Declaration of Interests</b>	
To receive any declaration of interests from Members.	
<b>7 To elect the Leader of the Council for a four-year term of office</b>	
<b>8 Announcements on behalf of the Mayor and the Leader of the Council</b>	
<b>9 Update from Best Value Commissioners on the appointment of Head of Paid Service - <i>report to follow</i></b>	
<b>10 Appointment of Statutory Scrutiny Officer, Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer</b>	<b>51 - 56</b>
<b>11 Establishment and Composition of the Council's Committees, Panels and Boards - <i>appendices 3 and 4 to be tabled</i></b>	<b>57 - 70</b>
<b>12 Appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels</b>	<b>71 - 74</b>
<b>13 Schedule of Meetings 2023-24</b>	<b>75 - 90</b>
<b>14 Schedule of Elections and Order of Retirement of Councillors</b>	<b>91 - 96</b>

**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](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

**Provisional Future Dates of Council:**

28 June 2023, 26 July 2023, 27 September 2023, 25 October 2023, 29 November 2023, 31 January 2024, 28 February 2024 (Budget)

## **Information for members of the public and councillors**

### **Access to Information and Meetings**

#### **Advice Regarding Public Attendance at Meetings**

If you are feeling ill or have tested positive for Covid and are isolating you should remain at home, the meeting will be webcast and you can attend in that way.

Hand sanitiser will also be available at the entrance for your use.

#### **Recording of meetings**

This meeting will be live streamed and recorded with the video recording being published via the Council's online webcast channel: [www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/webcast)

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

#### **Guidelines on filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings**

The council welcomes the filming, photography, recording and use of social media at council and committee meetings as a means of reporting on its proceedings because it helps to make the council more transparent and accountable to its local communities. If you wish to film or photograph the proceedings of a meeting and have any special requirements or are intending to bring in large equipment please contact the Communications Team at [CommunicationsTeam@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:CommunicationsTeam@thurrock.gov.uk) before the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will then be consulted and their agreement sought to any specific request made.

Where members of the public use a laptop, tablet device, smart phone or similar devices to use social media, make recordings or take photographs these devices must be set to 'silent' mode to avoid interrupting proceedings of the council or committee. The use of flash photography or additional lighting may be allowed provided it has been discussed prior to the meeting and agreement reached to ensure that it will not disrupt proceedings.

The Chair of the meeting may terminate or suspend filming, photography, recording and use of social media if any of these activities, in their opinion, are disrupting proceedings at the meeting.

## Thurrock Council Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available throughout the Civic Offices. You can access Wi-Fi on your device by simply turning on the Wi-Fi on your laptop, Smartphone or tablet.

- You should connect to TBC-GUEST
- Enter the password **Thurrock** to connect to/join the Wi-Fi network.
- A Terms & Conditions page should appear and you have to accept these before you can begin using Wi-Fi. Some devices require you to access your browser to bring up the Terms & Conditions page, which you must accept.

The ICT department can offer support for council owned devices only.

## Evacuation Procedures

In the case of an emergency, you should evacuate the building using the nearest available exit and congregate at the assembly point at Kings Walk.

## How to view this agenda on a tablet device



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

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

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

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

# DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

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

## Helpful Reminders for Members

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

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

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



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

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

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

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

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

### Pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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

### Non- pecuniary

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



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

## PROCEDURE FOR MOTIONS

No speech may exceed 4 minutes without the consent of the Mayor [Rule 19.8], except for the proposer of any motion who shall have 5 minutes to move that motion (except on a motion to amend where the 4 minute time shall apply) [Rule 19.8(a)]

**All Motions will follow Section A and then either Section B or C**

- |           |    |  |                            |
|-----------|----|--|----------------------------|
| <b>A.</b> | A1 | Motion is moved                            | [Rule 19.2]                |
|           | A2 | Mover speaks                               | [Rule 19.8(a) (5 minutes)] |
|           | A3 | Seconded                                   | [Rule 19.2]                |
|           | A4 | Secunder speaks or reserves right to speak | [Rule 19.3] (4 minutes)    |

Then the procedure will move to either B or C below:

<b>B.</b>		<b>C.</b>	
<b>IF there is an AMENDMENT (please see Rule 19.23)</b>		<b>If NOT amended i.e. original motion</b>	
B1	The mover of the amendment shall speak (4 mins).	C1	Debate.
B2	The seconder of the amendment shall speak unless he or she has reserved their speech (4 mins).	C2	If the seconder of the motion has reserved their speeches, they shall then speak.
B3	<b>THEN</b> debate on <b>the subject</b> .	C3	The mover of the substantive motion shall have the final right of reply.
B4	If the seconder of the substantive motion and the amendment reserved their speeches, they shall then speak.	C4	Vote on motion.
B5	The mover of the amendment shall have a right of reply.		
B6	The mover of the substantive motion shall have the final right of reply.		
B7	Vote on amendment.		
B8	A vote shall be taken on the substantive motion, as amended if appropriate, without further debate.		



## Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

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

1. **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
  - High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
  - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
  - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together
  
2. **Place** – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
  - Roads, houses and public spaces that connect people and places
  - Clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
  - Fewer public buildings with better services
  
3. **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations
  - Attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy
  - Vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all
  - Commercial, entrepreneurial and connected public services

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## **WW2 in Memoriam**

### **Remembering Thurrock's Fallen : Civilian Deaths due to enemy action and Roll of Honour**

Today we share names on the Roll of Honour. These are people whose home address was shown as Thurrock who lost their lives during the Second World War whilst serving with the armed forces or merchant navy.

In recognition of the adversity and bravery experienced by ordinary people in Thurrock civilian deaths are also noted here in relevant months. 101 non-combatants were killed in Thurrock between 1939 and 1945 who will also be remembered.

A special thanks to Museum volunteer Pam Purkiss for compiling the Roll of Honour information. Civilians added by Valina Bowman-Burns from Thurrock Museum.

The names have been listed in date order.

#### **April 1943**

CROOKS Stanley E  
HOWARD Stanley V  
ARGENT Sidney John  
PLEASANCE Roy V C  
WAKELING Teddy

#### **May 2023**

RAY Charles S  
SAWKINGS Herbert W  
WOODLEY Alfred J  
WILSON Frank W  
BURLES Herbert W  
PULSFORD Charles D

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## *Mayoral Roll of Honour*

*The Roll of Honour has been introduced to recognise and celebrate charities, businesses, individuals, and community groups that have strived to make Thurrock a greater place to live, work, learn and play.*

### *March 2023*

*John Rowles - Services to the local community and forum  
Trevor Batchelor - Services to the local community and forum  
Maureen Baker - Services to the Royal British Legion and Poppy Appeal  
Roger Passfield - Services to neighbourhood watch and local forum  
Rod Oakley - Services to the Royal British Legion*

### *April 2023*

*Stanley Jackson - Services to the local community and fundraising  
Jumie George - Services to the voluntary sector  
Thurrock Community Health Champions - Services to improve the community's health and wellbeing  
Sian Chaplin - Services to the local community  
Peter Newman - Services to Ensign Bus  
Jothy Hettiarachchige - Services to YAZH Tamil School  
Christopher Talbot - Services to the voluntary sector  
1582 (Stanford-Le-Hope) Squadron - Services to young people in Thurrock  
Coffee and Chat Group - Services to the local community  
The Michael Charles Adams Memorial Trust - Services in supporting children with brain related cancers*



*May 2023*

*Allen Jones - Services to the local community*

*Wendy Barnard - Services to the local community and voluntary sector*

*Tom Flynn - Services to Thurrock Young People*

*Knit and Natter Group - Services to the local community*

*David Barton - Services to young people and 'Get Started Art'*

*Nas Thurrock Group - Services to the National Autistic Society Thurrock*

*Sylvia Smith and Maureen Cooke - Services to the Alzheimer's Society*



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 March 2023 at 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Councillors James Halden (Mayor), Susan Little (Deputy Mayor), Qaisar Abbas, John Allen, Alex Anderson, Deborah Arnold, Paul Arnold, Chris Baker, Gary Byrne, Adam Carter, Daniel Chukwu, Gary Collins, George Coxshall, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Shane Hebb, Victoria Holloway, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Ben Maney, Fraser Massey, Allen Mayes, Sara Muldowney, Augustine Ononaji, Srikanth Panjala, Maureen Pearce, Jane Potheary, Shane Ralph, Joycelyn Redsell, Sue Shinnick, Jennifer Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, James Thandi and Lynn Worrall

**Apologies:** Councillors Colin Churchman, Tony Fish, Robert Gledhill, Terry Piccolo, Georgette Polley, Kairen Raper, Elizabeth Rigby, Sue Sammons and Lee Watson

**In attendance:** Ian Wake, Acting Chief Executive  
Les Billingham, Interim Director Adult Social Care  
Mark Bradbury, Interim Director of Place  
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation  
Asmat Hussain, Director of Law and Governance  
John Jones, Director Law & Governance, and Monitoring Officer  
Gareth Moss, Chief Finance Officer  
Sheila Murphy (Corporate Director of Children's Services)  
Julie Nelder, Assistant Director of Highways, Fleet and Logistics  
Ewelina Sorbjan, Interim Director Housing  
Luke Tyson, Chief Intervention Officer  
Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

Items 11 and 17 fell prior to the meeting.

### 112. Minutes

Councillor Jefferies noted on item 109 of the minutes from the Council meeting held on the 25 January 2023 it had been recorded that Councillor Holloway had voted in favour of the motion whereas she had voted against. On that amendment being made, members agreed the minutes.

### **113. Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **114. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor J Kent declared a non-pecuniary in respect of item 22 as he was an employee at Lifestyle Solutions.

### **115. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council**

The Mayor made the following announcements in regard to his mayoral events:

- Saturday 11 March 2023, celebration of Commonwealth Day at the Purfleet Military Heritage Centre
- Monday 13 March 2023, raising the Commonwealth Flag at the Town Hall
- Friday 28 April 2023, Civic Dinner

The Mayor's events had raised over £19,000 for his mayoral charities.

The Mayor hoped members could support these events with further information available from the Mayor's office. The Mayor thanked the large business donors who had continued to support the Mayor's charities so generously.

Councillor M Coxshall, Leader of the Council, made the following announcement that over the last four to six months he had been proud in leading this council, working with the acting chief executive to secure a stable footing and a future for the borough of Thurrock.

### **116. Questions from Members of the Public**

One question was received from a member of public.

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be viewed under the relevant meeting date at <http://democracy.thurrock.co.uk/thurrock> and are attached at Appendix A at these minutes

### **117. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors**

The Mayor informed the chamber that two notices of petition had been received this evening.

Councillor Byrne presented his petition regarding the closure of Corringham Post Office. In response to this Councillor M Coxshall acknowledged the petition.



Mr Green presented his petition calling on Thurrock Council and the Police to work together to better support the community. In response to this Councillor Maney acknowledged the petition.

**118. Petitions Update Report**

Members received a report on the status of those petitions handed in at Council meetings and Council offices.

**119. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels**

The Mayor enquired whether there were any changes to be made to the appointments previously made by committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor M Coxshall, stated he had one change to replace Councillor Abbas as substitute on the Planning Committee with Councillor Mayes.

The Leader of the Labour group, Councillor J Kent, stated he had no changes to make.

Councillors Byrne, Massey and Allen stated they had no changes to make.

**120. Appointment of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer**

Councillor M Coxshall presented the report by stating under Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 required the Council to appoint a Returning Officer and under Section 8 of the same Act the Council must appoint an Electoral Registration Officer. The purpose of the report was to make appointments to these roles.

**RESOLVED**

**That Ian Wake be appointed Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.**

**121. Interim Appointment - Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)**

Councillor M Coxshall presented the report by stating that in accordance with the relevant legislation and constitutional requirements the report sought Council's approval to appoint to the Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) role. Councillor M Coxshall thanked John Jones for his contribution whilst at Thurrock. Councillor J Kent echoed this comment and welcomed Asmat Hussain to her new role.

**RESOLVED**

**Approved in accordance with the Council's Constitution the appointment of Asmat Hussain as Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer).**

**122. Independent Remuneration Panel**

Councillor M Coxshall stated the report had set out the new arrangements for the Independent Remuneration Panel including the appointment of a new panel member set-up with the first meeting taking place in July. Councillor M Coxshall recommended to Council that recommendation 1.3 be approved.

Councillor J Kent stated he had been offended in that the remuneration of councillors was being undertaken given the financial backdrop of the authority and therefore would not be supporting the recommendations.

Councillor M Coxshall stated that once the panel had met, their views could then be presented back to Council for members to decide but at this point the legal obligations would have been met.

A vote was undertaken, with 24 votes in favour and 16 against recommendation 1.3 was carried.

**RESOLVED**

**Council agreed to a fee for panel members that this fee be £250 per day of attendance per panel member.**

**123. Annual Pay Policy Statement 2023/24**

Councillor Snell presented the report which sought the approval of the Council's Annual Pay Policy Statement, this Statement included a pay policy for all categories of employees which reflected existing employment terms and conditions.

Councillor J Kent stated with the caveat there would be a report when the senior manager pay had been determined, he would be happy to support the recommendation.

Councillor Spillman stated his support for a pay increase for staff working on lower bands, emphasised to members of the public that councillors would not see any increase in their allowances for some time. Councillor Spillman was also not of the opinion that senior staff should get an increase considering the position of the Council had been placed in.

Councillor Byrne stated his support to the recommendation.

**RESOLVED**

**The Annual Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 was endorsed in line with the Council's obligations under the Localism Act 2011.**

## **124. Capital Strategy 2022/23**

Councillor Snell referred to the report in the agenda and requested this went straight to the vote.

Councillor J Kent stated this item would be the one that would prove to have been at the centre of Thurrock's difficulties, he continued to state the care that had been taken to put this together this year with scrutiny, external experts and the validation undertaken had been exemplary. Councillor J Kent stated he had more confidence in supporting this, this year, than he had in many previous years.

Councillor M Coxshall stated it had been a hard few months but had enjoyed going through this and other items with the opposition, this was the way forward in making sure of openness as the Council moved forward, with some hard decisions to be made in the capital programme to enable these to be delivered.

### **RESOLVED**

**That Full Council:**

- 1. Approved the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 including approval of the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement for 2023/24.**
- 2. Considered the current assumptions (set out on page 3 of the strategy) underpinning the Treasury Management Strategy and note that this will be subject to further updates in 2023/24.**
- 3. Considered the strategy in the context of the directions issued by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities and specifically the need for a strict debt reduction plan.**
- 4. Noted the increase in the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) in 2022/23 as a result of the expected support from DLUHC in the form of a capitalisation direction, as set out in section 3.16.**
- 5. Noted the divestment of investments and the sale of property assets are required to repay the Exceptional Financial Support from DLUHC and this is a key assumption supporting the strategy.**
- 6. Noted the Council's borrowing level will exceed the CFR in 2022/23 but is planned to be managed within this from 23/24 and onwards, as set out in section 3.17.**
- 7. Noted the Prudential indicators included within the strategy that show commercial capital investments are generating net losses to the Council in the context of the revised MRP charges and current and projected interest rates, as set out in section 3.6.**

8. **Noted that the borrowing strategy supporting the commercial investment portfolio will be reset alongside wider revisions to the strategy in 2023/24.**

## 125. **General Fund Budget Proposals**

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council, Councillor M Coxshall, to introduce the budget and advised he had 20 minutes to do so. The Mayor agreed that Councillor Snell, Portfolio Holder for Finance, could speak as part of the Leader's 20-minute allocation.

### Councillor M Coxshall

*Tonight, is the most important decision we will ever make in this chamber as elected councillors. Let me be even clearer on this decision for you not to vote for the budget before us tonight means then there is no future for Thurrock as a standalone council. That's what you see in the letter. Now some may want that, and some may say we should not survive but I and the Conservatives this side love the borough and believe there is a future for Conservatives here. This budget gives us a chance. This is about a new start. This is about correcting errors from the last 25 years, not the last six and setting us on a path for the next 25. This budget was always inevitable but a budget that Thurrock needs. The budget moves us towards to being a council with still a below average council tax, but much improving. While still adding funds to the budget that we need to deliver those people's services. Thurrock has always been, had, a tax that is too low to pay for the services we need to deliver for local people. Some of that is about the fact that our average home is a band c and not an average band d that the rest of the country works on. Some of that was about successive administrations unwilling to increase council tax, some of that was about the government incentive for us not to increase Council Tax. But that is the past. Our decision tonight is a simple one, do we make a modest increase and keep the cheapest council tax in Essex and nearly second in the nation and definitely the second in a unitary authority after the budget increase, or do we repeat the mistakes and have to have another £8.5m worth of service cuts on top of what you see in front of you. Now, I understand Labour have pledged to fight the council tax. So, what are they going to do, repeat the same mistakes of the past 25 years. Keep us a council tax too low to maintain services, have a fire sale and extra cuts. In the past this has led us to the ill thought our investment strategy to just keep the lights on here. We can't do that again and I realise that and that's why we have got to make tough decisions and I said that when I became leader here and this is one of them. I am on the side of making tough decisions to fix this. If that means the issue, and its hard choices, this means we will grow the tax base and therefore make our public services that we want to see delivered, bins, elderly care services, children's services, the things we value, that I value. I live in the borough, I moved to the borough in the last 15 years, and I do hope you can all support me tonight.*

*Councillor Coxshall invited Councillor Snell as Portfolio Holder for Finance to speak. Councillor Snell stated he was pleased to confirm that we had received the confirmation of Exceptional Financial Support on the 1 March 2023. This had come in the form of a minded to agreement from the minister. The request has been through a process of approval including with the Department LUHC and Treasury. The EFS is £632.66m of which £180.17m is support for 2023/24. The £180.17m is the support we require to meet the 2023/24 deficit in the budget as presented to you today at page 72 of the budget report. Acceptance of this support will enable us to set a balanced budget. Let's be clear that the EFS support you have received is based on the budget that you see presented here tonight. Any increase to the EFS would need to go back to the Minister, which he may or may not be minded to approve. The EFS support is a minded to support and as you would expect, there is a considerable process to undertake before the secretary of state can approve any capitalisation directions in respect of the above years. The council will need to demonstrate that it continues to take the necessary steps towards improvement and the department and ministers will require assurance from the commissioners that the council is making good progress against the improvement and recovery plan, as per the directions issued. At section 4.4 the progress against the directions is summarised. In some areas, there has been good progress, not least the production of a treasury management strategy and compliant minimum revenue provision policy. However, there remains considerable challenges ahead. Specifically, whilst balanced for 2023/24 this budget does not enable Thurrock to get to financial sustainability from 1 April 2024 nor the years ahead. Considerable further work and creativity will be required within Thurrock Council to ensure it achieves the position we are all working towards which is that of financially sustainability. It is also the case that given the scale of the challenge, inevitably it will be necessary to continue to seek exceptional financial support from the Minister to Government beyond this request to 2023/24. Those discussions with Government for that period will commence if this budget is approved. Thank you.*

The Mayor then invited the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor J Kent, to respond and advised he had 15 minutes to do so.

#### *Councillor J Kent*

*Mister Mayor I am suddenly starting to feel really old, I'm old enough to remember when the Conservatives used to think that being a low council tax authority was a good thing. This year's budget setting council meeting is very different. Different both in tone and substance, to that we've had in previous years. For instance, for the last six years we have been asked to agree the level of council tax and the global budget envelope for the council. Every other decision on the budget had been deleted to the cabinet. This year we're asked to do a little more for instance were asked to vote in support of a range of savings proposals, saving proposals that come to just over £8m. Unfortunately, Mister Mayor we only learnt that we would be asked to vote on those savings package at 6.45pm last night. There are 70 proposals here, and it may be that there are specific proposals that we would be able to support,*

*but there is a very little detail as to just what each proposal entails. There's no impact assessment for any of the proposals, and neither are there any risk assessments. Without any of that information, we cannot support recommendation number 8. Mister Mayor when I went to cabinet last week, the leader made a great play of telling us that this budget is somehow a fresh start that somehow, he and his cronies are nothing to do with the council's catastrophic financial situation. So, let's be clear, they have overseen the greatest financial crash of any council in Britain, ever. Their toxic tory debt stands at very nearly one and a half billion pounds, the losses on their dodgy investments stand at £275m, there's a funding gap of £469m in this year's budget. The shortfall for next year's budget is more than £180m and we will be spending £49m next year on debt interest payments. And we've learned tonight we can only set the budget relying on £632m of exceptional funding from government, which is like to be a capitalisation direction, in other words, treated as a further loan. Far from being a fresh start, Councillor Coxshall and his deputy have sat in the cabinet for every single day since May 2016. They've been at that top table and taking crucial decisions as this financial disaster was unfolded. Frankly Mister Mayor his claims that he is somehow a fresh start is like the arsonist who set fire to your house reappearing saying its ok I'm back and I've brought a bucket of water with me. Mister Mayor it just won't wash. The leader also last week made a plea for all members to, as he put it, to be responsible and I agree with that, I've always taken my responsibilities as a councillor extremely seriously. I led the council for six years, and in that time, we set a balanced budget and returned a surplus every year, despite government funding being cut by around £64m over that period. At the same time, we increased reserves by 300%, council tax low left office council borrowing stood at £345m. It is practically goading to be lectured of responsibility by Councillor Coxshall. When we did the responsible thing and raise at an extraordinary council meeting our very real concerns that their design as borrow investment activities rather than act in that responsible way, they did nothing but ridicule and try to belittle us for having the temerity to question them and raise our concerns. We were told we were sanctimonious and disingenuous. We were a complete embarrassment and a disgrace. Councillor Coxshall himself told us that he really enjoyed the meeting saying that he loved sitting here. I couldn't chuckle to myself enough. There is scarcely acting in a responsible way. They sanctioned spending £70,000 in fighting through the courts to keep the details of their investments secret by refusing to answer freedom of information requests, that wasn't acting in a responsible way. They continually voted to end council meetings before all business had been completed to avoid answering difficult questions or allowing motions to be debated. That wasn't acting in a responsible way, they removed opposition chairs from scrutiny committees in year, refused to offer so much as the vice chair of a scrutiny committee. Again, that is not acting in a reasonable way and whilst we await the outcome of the best value inspection, the progress report that was published on the 13 December last year also takes a view on just how irresponsible they've been. On their borrowing and investments, it says the income from this strategy allowed local political leaders to forestall or void difficult decisions on raising council tax for several years. It said that Thurrock council built the revenues from high-risk investment into its base budgets and allocated surpluses to fund short term*

political priorities and it said that clean it cut it fill it regularly dominated the attention of leading members and senior officers and had become a yardstick for how success is measured and whilst these matters are, of course, important they have provided distraction from more challenging concerns. None of that Mister Mayor suggests that this has in any way been a responsible administration. But now they lecture us on the importance of acting in a responsible manner and of supporting a 10% increase in council tax a modest increase according to the leader of the council. That 10% increase would bring in around £8m, £1.6m of that is the adults social care precept, which we support, leaving £6.4m extra for services. However, Mister Mayor we're told at paragraph 11.2 of tonight's agenda that the costs of intervention come to £6.2m a year, so practically every penny raised by their 10% council tax hike will be swallowed up by the costs of dealing with their failure and it isn't the residents of Thurrock that crashed the council and they shouldn't be penalised with a 10% hike in their council tax and alongside that punitive council tax increase over £8m worth of service cuts and increases to fees and charges the cuts increases listed aren't enough to balance the books so were told we would have to find a further £4m of cuts by the summer and fees and charges will have to be increased again almost immediately. Mister Mayor I will close by saying this we all live here in Thurrock; we all care about the place and most importantly we all care about the people who live here. We all want Thurrock to be best that it can be, but the truth is the Conservatives have broken Thurrock council with their catastrophic management of finances, which has resulted in bankruptcy and the largest ever financial crash of any council in Britain. We cannot change history and the people of Thurrock will have to live with the consequences of this conservative disaster through higher council tax and few and diminished frontline services for years to come.

The Mayor invited Councillor M Coxshall to respond to Councillor J Kent and advised he had 10 minutes to do so.

Councillor M Coxshall

Thank you. I will respond on some of them before I let in all the members to speak tonight because I think it needs to be all 49 still need to hear us. Let's be clear that it's not cabinet that decides the investment strategy, that was in a budget in 17, 18, 19 and 20 and three, maybe four, of that years that the Labour party voted with us to revive that, that all members here voted with that and that's my point it didn't come to cabinet, it wasn't cabinet that decided that, it was members d that decided that. At one point I think it was less than two minutes in 2019 we decided. That is what I am talking about, how we have to look at ourselves and what we did at that point or how we asked and that 49 of us, all of us, all of us voted for that not just the Conservatives, we all voted for that and that is the problem. Now I understand that, and he makes the point about me and cabinet, I think Councillor Kent knows that he wasn't the leader then, I understand that, and it wasn't the leader of your group then. What we want is to be working together inside these groups and you abide by what we were doing. That was the decisions then and quite rightly the cabinet member for finance made some decisions, recommended decisions, under

*the right authority. If you look at what there was, we have now found out the MLP was not correct. All of us voted on that, three times, now that's what we have to look at and why did that happen and that's the important thing and turning into throwing a partisan and making this. I completely understand its six weeks to go to an election, he wants to do that that's fair enough, but that's not going to solve the issue here and I take responsibility for the decisions I made. Let's make sure you take decisions you made on this meeting.*

The Mayor asked Members for any questions.

Councillor Kerin referred to the brand-new start and correcting errors and stated the same errors were still being made and this was not the way things should be run. It was not fair to be running the council like this. He referred to the modest 10% council tax increase and stated this was not a modest rise for the residents of Thurrock and that decisions being made would affect all residents. Councillor Kerin summed up by stating if this continued, Thurrock Council would cease to exist.

Councillor Spillman stated he was not a cabinet member when decisions were made but took responsibility of the decisions that had been made during that period; all members had voted on the investment strategies and members had been repeatedly misled in reports presented; appealed to Councillor J Kent to do the right thing to vote to close the structural deficit otherwise the Council would have no future.

Councillor Ralph stated Conservative and Labour members had been in the same meeting with the commissioners when they were informed the low option council tax was not on the table and 9.9% was the minimum increase that could be undertaken otherwise there would be consequences.

Councillor Worrall stated Labour had not agreed the borrowing strategy they had agreed borrowing limits and had been promised transparency of no investments of more than £10m; no information had been shared with members and stated the Conservatives had hidden their investments. Councillor Worrall referred to a press statement made by Councillor Spillman. Councillor Worrall stated it had been a political decision to raise the council tax by 10% and would not be supporting; the financial disaster had not been caused by Thurrock residents who should not be asked to pay back those debts. With mistakes and errors still being made by cabinet members on recommendations presented at cabinet. Councillor Worrall summed up by stating she would not support recommendation 8 as she was not confident that sufficient impact assessments on the cuts to services had been undertaken.

Councillor Spillman called a Point of Order requesting that Councillor Worrall withdraw the statement she had made as this was incorrect and had misled the chamber.



Councillor Mayes confirmed this was not residents' fault and ultimately the blame fell to members, and they would take responsibility for that. The consequences, which he had regarded as threatening, would be local government reform, pushing Thurrock into Essex or London, both would be £400 more council tax. There was year on year financial pressures to be met and he questioned without raising council tax what services could be delivered to Thurrock residents. Councillor Mayes concluded that he would be supporting the 10% increase as 5% increase would be the end of Thurrock Council.

Councillor Massey stated he did not believe we would have had this budget if it was not for the failure of the investments. He recognised there were still challenges and with other investments into companies the amount invested would still be close to an entire year of annual budget. He had questions unanswered on those investments, some from two years ago. The scale of the financial issues was alarming and shared the concerns of residents on the increase of council tax without a referendum. Councillor Massey summed up by stating he would support the adult social care as those services needed to be protected in the community. He would also be supporting the increase in normal referendum limits and not one that had been specially arranged by the Government.

Councillor Collins questioned the Labour group on their alternative budget proposals.

Councillor Potheary stated the Labour group, during this six-year period, had fought and asked for greater transparency and openness for an investments board so that investments could be scrutinised and have an oversight of investments. With vice chair positions being taken away from Labour members and requests for information being denied. Councillor Potheary stated that the administration had to take responsibility and not expect Thurrock residents to pay for those mistakes.

Councillor Byrne stated the financial issue was now with Thurrock for decades to come with the revenue stream coming from residents, businesses, and the Government. The 10% increase was not a one-off with Thurrock never seeing their council tax go below 4.9%. He referred to the decisions expected to come from this evening's budget and compared services of other local boroughs but due to the incompetence of members and officers, residents were now expected to pay more.

Councillor Duffin stated there were two options that would come out of tonight's budget, one was to support the 9.9% increase or take a step into the unknown. Not supporting would mean the exception support would be gone and likely that Thurrock Council would no longer exist. He questioned whether this scenario had been explained to residents that moving to Essex Council would mean a 20% council tax increase or an increase of 40% as part of London.

Councillor Abbas stated his support for the budget as this was a practical and responsible decision and Thurrock would still remain the lower council tax in Essex. This would enable more funds to help and support those who would be able to pay and provide better support for vulnerable residents.

Councillor D Arnold stated that Labour had started the investment in solar farms, and it had been publicly noted that they were glad the Conservatives had continued their borrowing to invest policy. Councillor D Arnold stated she was sorry for her part she had played and every day since had continued to make things better. All members were responsible for the too low tax base to work which Thurrock now found itself in, with not enough income from council tax to pay for services. Even after the increase, Thurrock would still have the lowest tax rate in Essex and second lowest in England. With Councillor M Coxshall having to make some very difficult decisions to keep Thurrock viable, he deserved the support, faith, and trust in his leadership.

Councillor Redsell agreed the 4.9% increase would not provide a balanced budget and agreed with Councillor Collins, Labour group had not provided an alternative budget to solve this. Over past years the Council had tried to help residents by having the lowest council tax, which was where this may have gone wrong, increasing 1% each year may have prevented this. Councillor Redsell agreed with the 2% social care as this would be required by all at some point. Councillor Redsell summed up by stating members needed to pull together.

Councillor Allen stated he would not be supporting the 9.9% increase as this would cause more pressure on resident's outgoings and health. The Council should have undertaken more due diligence on the solar farm investment as this would have highlighted as not a good investment strategy. He asked why the administration and cabinet members had not questioned senior officers more on the transfer of large amounts of money and stated the statements made by the administration had been misleading. Councillor Allen summed up by asking who would be accountable for this.

Councillor Carter stated the second lowest council tax in England was not sustainable and it was all 49 members, who had voted three times, on this decision therefore all members should bear the responsibility.

Councillor Jefferies stated only being elected five years ago he stood here this evening and took responsibility for what had happened and emphasised that there were members in the chambers this evening who had been elected members for much longer who needed to take some responsibility. Councillor Jefferies stated nobody was blaming residents. He echoed comments previously made, that stark choices had to be made this evening, members had to be sensible and responsible. Councillor Jefferies summed up by stating he would not vote on a rate that would see the abolition of the council and its residents with a 20%, 30% or 40% increase and the ULEZ charge.

Councillor Johnson stated the question members had to ask was "do we want Thurrock to survive as a sustainable council and be sustainable going

forward". The income lost over a decade of both Conservative and Labour administrations, both failing to make good decisions on council tax, had cost the council tens of millions of pounds. Although Thurrock would still be the second lowest in Essex this would be the opportunity to put Thurrock back on a financial footing by ensuring the increases embedded cumulative growth in pace with services. This would reset Thurrock and make it fit for purpose in future years. Councillor Johnson echoed the comments previously made that if the budget was not agreed, Thurrock Council would fall, and council taxes would increase immediately by some 20%. Councillor Johnson stated a hardship fund would be created to support those most vulnerable residents. Councillor Johnson summed up by stating he would be supporting this budget but would continue to work to find a solution to the proposed stop of bus services in his ward. Councillor Johnson urged all members to agree to the necessary budget and to stop playing political games.

Councillor Holloway stated that nobody believed a word that the Conservative group had said.

Councillor G Coxshall stated he deliberately took on responsibility for what had happened even though he had only been elected a member last year, this had to be the decision for all 49 members. With members voting against the 9.9% this evening could be seen as giving up on Thurrock, Thurrock Council would be gone and come under either Essex or London. This was the only option on the table and would be proud to support the Leader on his budget this evening. He referred to the hardship fund of over £600,000 on discretionary funding for those who could not afford to pay the increase. Councillor G Coxshall summed up by stating the tough decision had to be made as this was the start for Thurrock to move on.

Councillor Chukwu stated the cost of living, energy, inflation, and food costs were all high and now the proposal to increase council tax was not fair on residents, who should not have to pay for the mistakes that had been made.

Councillor Shinnick stated she would not be supporting the 9.9% increase of council tax as this was a Conservative mistake and they should own it and not put it on the Labour group.

Councillor Snell stated there were two different approaches this evening, mistakes should be acknowledged, realise what had been done and move on. Councillor Coxshall had apologised numerous times on behalf of the Conservative group for the errors that had been made, nobody was in the position they wanted to be in, but those problems had been acknowledged. Emphasised to members of the public that the opposition had the opportunity to come up with an alternative budget, which had not been received. Reiterated that the investment strategy had been agreed by all members for three years on the trot. Councillor Snell agreed with Councillor Massey's comment that there were questions still to be answered.

*At 8.44pm the meeting was suspended due to a disturbance in the public gallery.*

*At 8.45pm the meeting reconvened.*

Councillor Snell stated if the 9.9% was not voted on this evening, Thurrock Council could not continue as it had done previously, the budget deficit would get worse if the 4.99% was voted upon, with services not being provided as they currently were. The 9.9% increase needed to be agreed to put Thurrock in the right direction to put that deficit right. This needed to be undertaken to guarantee the exceptional financial support from Government to help solve the problems. Councillor Snell summed up by stating the mistakes had been acknowledged and a plan had been put forward to resolve the issues.

Councillor Maney stated from conversations he had with residents was very clear they wanted answers, but they actually want solutions. He referenced that no alternative budget, plans or solutions had been presented this evening. Councillor Maney summed by stating the administration would explain themselves to the residents of Thurrock who were owed answers and offer them a solution.

Councillor Smith echoed some the comments made this evening and did not want to see the demise of Thurrock and was here this evening to represent those Thurrock residents who were not in favour of this 9.9% increase as they saw this as paying off a Tory debt. Councillor Smith believed that residents had not been properly informed and deserved some explanation or even offered a referendum. Therefore, on behalf of her residents and without a referendum Councillor Smith would not be supporting the increase this evening.

Councillor M Coxshall summed up by thanking and welcoming members for their comments and views this evening. In turn he replied to some of the issues raised. Apologised for the late note of the recommendations and moving forward agreed that members should have the information available to them to make decisions. That using overview and scrutiny to ensure a good council for residents and changes made to the constitution through the constitution working group had been welcomed. Agreed to be open and transparent as secrecy had been a concern and to talk about all issues and referred to the youth provision as being a very important provision. For the survival of the council would be to agree the 9.9% increase. Referred to the great opportunity of the £8m project in Tilbury with no costs to the council. Referred to the group's whip and agreed there had been some issues in the Conservative group. When the investment strategies started, this could not be taken through as a Conservative administration, work had to be undertaken with all parties to work through that with the previous portfolio of finance continuously working with groups and leadership groups. Councillor Coxshall stated this was the start of the problem and had owned up to that and his party had questioned him why he was not confronting the opposition. This was for the opposition to understand the realities of what they had done wrong and how they should be helping. This evening was about the plan to move forward. Referred to Councillor Massey comment about unanswered questions and stated these would come, there may still be issues to come and

regardless of answers it was important they were heard. To make sure this did not happen again, there were learnings to take away not just for Thurrock but for other councils. Thanked Councillor Byrne for his comment and agreed work still needed to be done to ensure members had the right information. Compared the 9.9% increase to a previous Labour proposed increase of 20% which had not been ringfenced. The proposed 9.9% increase was actually 7.9% in council tax and 2% of adult social care, he continued to state that the 2% would not cover the adult social care bill because the most vulnerable residents needed that money. Councillor Coxshall stated the hardship fund was really important with £600,000 in the budget, ringfenced for that fund. Councillor Coxshall summed up by stating this had been a helpful and important debate, would have happily listened to a budget from the opposition and believed could have worked through this with the opposition groups. Councillor Coxshall stated this was disappointing and questioned how those groups proposed to pay for social care and vulnerable adults if they did not agree to the budget this evening. Questioned how they would pay and keep the theatre open and following some misinformation there had been no decision to close the theatre. Questioned how bins would continually be emptied and to make sure a better bin service be provided, how would they pay for frontline staff, care for the homeless and those on the street. Councillor Coxshall stated none of that could be done without the finances and stability of the council.

The Mayor moved to the recommendations.

A non-recorded vote took place en-bloc on recommendations 1.1. 1.2 and 1.3. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendations 1.1. 1.2 and 1.3 was unanimously carried.

A recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.4, the result of which was:

For: Councillors Qaisar Abbas, Alex Anderson, Deborah Arnold, Paul Arnold, Adam Carter, Gary Collins, George Coxshall, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Susan Little, Ben Maney, Allen Mayes, Augustine Ononaji, Maureen Pearce, Shane Ralph, Joycelyn Redsell, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman and James Thandi (24)

Against: Councillors John Allen, Chris Baker, Gary Byrne, Daniel Chukwu, Victoria Holloway, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Fraser Massey, Sara Muldowney, Srikanth Panjala, Jane Potheary, Sue Shinnick, Jennifer Smith and Lynn Worrall (16)

Abstain: (0)

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.4 be carried.

A recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.5, the result of which was:

For: Councillors Qaisar Abbas, John Allen, Alex Anderson, Deborah Arnold, Paul Arnold, Chris Baker, Gary Byrne, Adam Carter, Daniel Chukwu, Gary Collins, George Coxshall, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Victoria Holloway, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Susan Little, Ben Maney, Fraser Massey, Allen Mayes, Sara Muldowney, Augustine Ononaji, Srikanth Panjala, Maureen Pearce, Jane Potheary, Shane Ralph, Joycelyn Redsell, Sue Shinnick, Jennifer Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, James Thandi and Lynn Worrall (40)

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.5 be carried

A non-recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.6. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.6 was unanimously carried.

A non-recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.7. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.7 was unanimously carried.

A recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.8, the result of which was:

For: Councillors Qaisar Abbas, Alex Anderson, Deborah Arnold, Paul Arnold, Adam Carter, Gary Collins, George Coxshall, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Susan Little, Ben Maney, Allen Mayes, Augustine Ononaji, Maureen Pearce, Shane Ralph, Joycelyn Redsell, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman and James Thandi (24)

Against: Councillors John Allen, Chris Baker, Gary Byrne, Daniel Chukwu, Victoria Holloway, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Fraser Massey, Sara Muldowney, Srikanth Panjala, Jane Potheary, Sue Shinnick, Jennifer Smith and Lynn Worrall (16)

Abstain: (0)

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.8 be carried.

A non-recorded vote took place en-bloc on recommendations 1.9 and 1.10. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendations 1.9 and 1.10 was unanimously carried.

A recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.11, the result of which was:

For: Councillors Qaisar Abbas, Alex Anderson, Deborah Arnold, Paul Arnold, Adam Carter, Daniel Chukwu, Gary Collins, George Coxshall, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Victoria Holloway, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve

Liddiard, Susan Little, Ben Maney, Allen Mayes, Sara Muldowney, Augustine Ononaji, Srikanth Panjala, Maureen Pearce, Jane Potheary, Shane Ralph, Joycelyn Redsell, Sue Shinnick, Jennifer Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, James Thandi and Lynn Worrall (36)

Against: Councillors John Allen, Chris Baker, Gary Byrne and Fraser Massey (4)

Abstain: (0)

Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.11 be carried.

A non-recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.12. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.12 was unanimously carried.

A non-recorded vote took place en-bloc on recommendations 1.13 and 1.14. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendations 1.13 and 1.14 was unanimously carried.

A non-recorded vote took place on recommendation 1.15. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendation 1.15 was unanimously carried.

Finally, a non-recorded vote took place en-bloc on recommendations 1.16 to 1.19. Whereupon the Mayor declared recommendations 1.16 to 1.19 was unanimously carried.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. Considered and acknowledged the Acting Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer's s25 report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves, as set out in Appendix 8, including the factors which underpin the budget and specifically the need for exceptional financial support to balance the budget.**
- 2. That Council commented on the proposed updates to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.**
- 3. That Council noted on 6 February 2023 Thurrock Council was granted permission by the levelling up minister to raise council tax by an extra 5% to 10% without the need for a local referendum.**
- 4. That Council supported the paper assumes a council tax increase of 7.99%, as per paragraph 9.6.**
- 5. That Council supported a 2% Adult Social Care precept increase as per paragraph 9.6 and note that this will be used to fund increased demand and provider fees within older people care services.**

- 6. That Council agreed the council tax requirement of £82.354m as per Appendix 9.**
- 7. That Council noted the net cost of services requirement is £327.647m as per paragraph 8.1.**
- 8. That Council supported the proposed savings as per section 12 and Appendix 4 and note these are insufficient to address the funding gap without the need to seek exceptional financial support from Government.**
- 9. That Council noted that exceptional financial support is required to balance the 2023/24 budget and that discussions with Central Government are ongoing, as per Appendix 3.**
- 10. That Council noted the budget had been set based on the assumption that the request for exceptional financial support in respect of the 2022/23 budget deficit is granted.**
- 11. That Council supports the changes to the capital programme as set out in this report and associated Appendices.**
- 12. That Council agreed the impact of new Prudential Borrowing on the debt levels of the Council as set out in Appendix 5.**
- 13. That Council noted the capital programme will be subject to a further review as set out in the report and following the issue of a Section 114 Notice.**
- 14. That Council noted the projected revenue impact of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) costs as set out in Section 14.25.**
- 15. That Council supported the proposed delegation to Cabinet to approve additions to the programme based on the criteria set out in section 14.24.**
- 16. That Council noted the Dedicated School's Budget is set at £51.258m as per paragraph 15.13.**
- 17. That Council noted further reviews have been commissioned into the fees and charges policy and the pay policy as per paragraph 9.23 and 10.4 respectively.**
- 18. That Council noted the Council's position on Reserves, recognising the unique situation the Council faces and a need to revisit the adequacy of Reserves as savings and service transformation are affected during 2023/24.**
- 19. That Council noted that work on the budget will continue during 2023/24, with more savings required to Council services.**



*At 9.20pm, Councillor J Kent called a Point of Order to extend standing orders, this was seconded by Councillor M Coxshall and agreed by all members.*

**126. Questions from Members**

The Mayor informed the chamber that two questions to the Leader had been received and ten questions to cabinet members.

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be found at Appendix A to these minutes.

Questions 8, 9 and 10 were not heard due to timing of this item.

**127. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies**

No reports were presented.

**128. Minutes of Committees**

The minutes of committees as set out in the agenda were received.

**129. Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year**

Members received an information report updating the progress in respect of motions received at Council.

**130. Motion submitted by Councillor J Kent**

The Motion, as printed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor J Kent and seconded by Councillor Worrall. The Motion read as follows:

*Council calls on cabinet to retain the Thameside Complex as a hub for arts, culture, and heritage for the community of Thurrock to own.*

Councillor J Kent presented the motion by stating that Thameside had opened its doors in 1971, was a professional theatre and was a great opportunity for those performing in there. Alongside the museum gallery there were thousands of artifacts that were not on display but stored within the complex. The library was the borough's central library with a purpose-built children's library and moving that into another building filled him with dread. Councillor J Kent welcomed the comments made by Councillor M Coxshall in that he was passionate about Thameside and would not want Thameside lost to the borough of Thurrock and saw this as a sign that there was a future for Thameside.

Councillor Potheary acknowledged the number of Thurrock residents outside the building this evening saying they want the Thameside complex to be

retained and saved for the community. The residents of Thurrock deserved a theatre, museum, art space and a central library. That closing the Thameside would send the message that the cultural learning heritage and arts were not for the likes of Thurrock residents. The Thameside complex was for the community, should be given to the community and that each member had a choice.

Councillor Kerin stated residents wanted a purposeful theatre for Thurrock and had concerns that once the theatre had gone, it would be gone for ever. He referred to the purpose-built children's library and questioned whether following all the budget cuts a new dedicated library would be built if it were to close. The library was equal to all and requested that when cabinet make any decision on Thameside they make that decision for future generations and libraries were a key part of the rise of new generations.

Councillor M Coxshall recognised the passion and stated outcomes for the community were better services, fewer buildings and gave a guarantee there was a need for a cultural hub with a central library and a good museum. There were monies in the capital programme for a library and a new museum and needed to look how this could be achieved through the process alongside the live, work and play agenda of the Local Plan. To use this as the opportunity to understand the best place, what it should look like and what could be undertaken to deliver the cultural offering in the centre of Grays with a good leisure facility. Councillor M Coxshall stated he could not support this motion this evening but promised Cabinet would move forward on this and deliver.

Councillor Redsell stated the current Thameside complex was not fit for purpose and residents of Thurrock needed a better building with better facilities and would not be supported the motion this evening.

Councillor Abbas stated Thameside complex was on the agenda for Corporate Overview and Scrutiny next week and requested that committee undertook the appropriate scrutiny on the report. Councillor Abbas stated the Thameside complex was 50 years old and required significant repairs and maintenance with costs that would total over £18m. He was opposed to the motion as this did not value transformation or innovation.

Councillor C Kent stated her support for the motion and all members were here this evening to make the lives of Thurrock residents better and all members should have engaged with those residents outside the building this evening to understand why they want the Thameside complex to remain open. Councillor C Kent stated, from experience, she did not have confidence in the promise of a new theatre being built and urged members to support the motion to keep the Thameside complex open.

Councillor Ralph stated the recommendation proposed for Corporate Overview and Scrutiny next week did not include the decision to close or sell the Thameside building which he felt was a great step forward. For 20 years he had been campaigning for a better area to enable those artifacts to be on display. That plans would need to be worked on for the proposal to move the

library to the CO2 building and stood by his comment that Thameside should remain as a theatre but as the motion this evening had moved on following statements made this evening he would not be in support.

Councillor Byrne questioned why the community and culture portfolio holder was not prepared to speak with residents this evening to understand their views and questioned as portfolio holder what he done for residents of Thurrock.

Councillor D Arnold stated the administration were being accused of not listening, open and transparent but herself and Councillor M Coxshall, as part of cabinet, when a paper was presented on the closure of Thameside, had stood up to challenge and to seek options. Councillor Snell had been part of working group looking at the maintenance and repairs required of the Thameside complex. Herself had spoken to groups at the theatre explaining the process being undertaken, formed a round-the-table discussion group where other conservative members had attended, helped those submit community bids and stated members wanted to see a better offer for the community with better arts and culture facilities and therefore would be supporting the leader in his decisions and would continue to listen and talk to residents.

Councillor Maney stated there was a reoccurring theme from the Labour group with impassionate pleas and displays of emotion but with no substance, he referred to the Section 151 comments of the motion that maintenance costs would be around £18m to £20m and asked the Labour group where they expect that money to come from and asked that they come forward with a plan that made this economically and sustainable viable.

Councillor Worrall stated that the recreation of the facilities offered by the library could not be recreated in civic offices. The museum artifacts, some gifted to the library needed to be preserved properly and not just boxed up and moved but more importantly she wanted to give every child that experience of walking through the theatre front door and feel that excitement. Councillor Worrall questioned where the money would come from to pay for a new cultural hub and the effects of shutting the theatre on all those groups was not acceptable, the theatre should be given to the community as they cared and urged all members to do the right thing this evening and vote for the motion. Councillor Worrall also stated that until an alternative building had been identified, Thameside should remain open.

Councillor J Kent summed up by stating his disappointment and had clearly noted Councillor M Coxshall comment that he was “passionate about it and did not want it lost to the borough of Thurrock”; Councillor J Kent remembered the time when Councillor Abbas had stood outside with the protestors; agreed with Councillor Ralph’s comments but stated having the library, museum and theatre together would give extra capacity in this type of cultural hub. In regard to Councillor Arnold’s comment, he stated we had a better arts and culture offer coming with million pounds coming through the creative people and place bid. Although much of that bid would be based around having

Thameside as that base. Referred to the comments made by Councillor Maney and did not accept the estimate of £18m to £20m of capital works needed with much of those costs did not need to be done, for example lifting and raising of the roof. The pantomime this year had taken over a quarter of million pounds, although not profile had demonstrated that a proper run building, proper run bar, proper concessions and extra big shows a year could drive the revenue which would make the theatre complex work. Councillor J Kent summed up by stating there were business plans and bids on the table that would not need a subsidy, and these should be looked at more closely.

Councillor J Kent requested a requisition vote.

For: Councillors John Allen, Chris Baker, Gary Byrne, Daniel Chukwu, Victoria Holloway, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Fraser Massey, Sara Muldowney, Srikanth Panjala, Jane Potheary, Sue Shinnick, Jennifer Smith and Lynn Worrall (16)

Against: Councillors Qaisar Abbas, Alex Anderson, Deborah Arnold, Paul Arnold, Adam Carter, Gary Collins, George Coxshall, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Susan Little, Ben Maney, Allen Mayes, Augustine Ononaji, Maureen Pearce, Shane Ralph, Joycelyn Redsell, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman and James Thandi (24)

The Mayor announced the motion lost.

**The meeting finished at 10.45 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)**

## Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 1 March 2023

### QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC

1. **From Sam Byrne to Councillor M Coxshall**

Sam Byrne

Councillor Coxshall, in your new era of openness and transparency and your calls at many meetings for all 49 councillors to be included in the important decisions ahead, may I please request that you allow the very important decision on the future of the Thameside Complex to be voted on, not only by the nine members of your party who sit on the Cabinet but indeed by all 49 councillors at a full council meeting.

Councillor M Coxshall

Thank you, this is an executive decision and as such to stay with the cabinet, but a cabinet serves the request of this council as it sits tonight and makes the ultimate decisions and can direct the executive if it chooses. But what you see though in my openness and transparency I don't know if you mentioned the recommendations to O&S next week, cabinet would make the decision the following week, does not include to close or sell the Thameside complex and buildings. Cabinet will be asked to submit new bids and neither bid submitted were a financially sustainable solution and can be recommended to cabinet and O&S will be looking at it next week. Members are asked to consider the recommendations and a formal consultation, and an alternative delivery of a culture options. Any decision on the future on the Thameside complex will follow that. I understand you met Mark Bradbury, the director, on Monday and you explained the concerns of your proposal and if you were able to fully address your concerns would still have an assurance authority opportunity to present alternative new proposals. I would encourage you to do that, please, and with that with the consultation. There is a clear and a lot of knowledge that you have, and I am passionate and I don't want to see that missing from the borough of Thurrock and I would like to work with you to have a financially sustainable solution to harness that energy.

Mayor

Ms Byrne would you like to pose a supplementary question.

Sam Byrne

Thank you, Mister Mayor, again in the name of openness and transparency and ahead of the local elections in May as the residents of Thurrock, your electorate, protest outside to save your Thameside for future generations of Thurrock, can I please ask every member in this chamber to rise or raise their hand to show they stand with the people of Thurrock to save your Thameside.

## QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

### 1. From Councillor Allen to the Leader

#### Councillor Allen

Following your recent approach to being both 'Open & Transparent' in all aspects of how council work takes place. Please may I request that all four Elected Tilbury Councillors be included on The Tilbury Town Fund Board to ensure full openness & transparency?

#### Mayor

Leader

#### Leader

The membership of the Town's Board, Tilbury Town's Fund Board, or any board including Grays Board is a matter of the board to decide that, in accordance with its guidance provided by the Government and its not for the leader to demand that. But I will say is that members of the board do regularly look at the composition and I will raise that as a board member at the next meeting because I think that could be well worth it as we move into the areas. But I must say there is a very large advisory board which all councillors do sit on.

#### Mayor

Councillor Allen do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

#### Councillor Allen

Thank you, Mister Mayor. Leader, don't you feel that in the pursuit of both openness and transparency which we've heard quite a lot of in the last so many weeks in how Tilbury Town receives its improvements from the government funding that all councillors should be a part of how these improvements are delivered. Because leader in the past it's been a closed ship in decision making and any ideas from other elected councillors have been side-lined or cancelled out. Also, I feel that more interaction and inclusion with our local residents giving local people, the electorate, more choice or to have a say in what they would like to see happen and delivered in their town without once again cancelling them out and taking away their voice. So, leader your either open and transparent or closed and hiding something.

#### Mayor

Leader

## Leader

It's a bit disappointing, hiding something, were not hiding something and no one is intending in hiding something. The board was set up when I was a cabinet member, I'm entitled, I sit on the board as the cabinet member for that, we have, you are entitled to as a councillor in the area, there is actually four councillors in the area at that time. I think Councillor Mayes who wasn't in this group at that time deliberately chosen from the group and he was the person who is interested in turning up at them. We tried to make a board as small and an advisory board as a larger board, there is a local residents community group sitting on there and large businesses, there was only a small composition to deliver a board, what we've seen with the boards and what the government has seen is to try and deliver these projects at pace and speed instead of giving them money to the council and making sure exactly what the problem was that this council, lets have a look 50 years ago, let's use the example of Thameside Complex was designed and I remember an am-dram society, someone in the amateur dramatics said to me when I was talking to the Thameside it was designed by officers and not by the people who used it. And that's what we don't want for Tilbury, and I've tried to make sure that and that's why there's a large advisory group with community groups, there's been a huge community engagement process. If you think that the board is inappropriately set up at this point as it goes to that, I am welcomed as I said, to do that but what I do say you know I am surprised that your vote at the last one, the capital, maybe you can correct that but obviously you voted against capital programme that spends money in Tilbury, the capital programme does include, are you saying you don't want any funding to come from this council into Tilbury because that is what you've just vote for in the capital programme.

## Mayor

Councillor Allen do you wish to pose a second supplementary question.

## Councillor Allen

No, I reserve my right – thank you.

## Mayor

No that's the end of your question time.

## 2. From Councillor Byrne to the Leader

### Councillor Byrne

January's Cleaner Greener elephant in the room was the totally unnecessary pink paper. Are officers and members on board with your promise of an openness and transparency going forward?

Mayor

This item fell as Councillor Byrne was not in the chamber.

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

1. From Councillor Allen to Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Allen

Please can I ask what steps you personally are willing to make to address the concerns of many Tilbury residents regarding the ongoing dirt and dust fallouts which plight the lives of many people in Tilbury and the surrounding area?

Mayor

Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Jefferies

Thank you, Mister Mayor, and thank you Councillor Allen for your question. I know since you've been elected you, along with my colleague Councillor Mayes have campaigned on this issue. Councillor Mayes, portfolio holder regularly challenged the environment agency and the port health authority about the dust. However the fact of the matter is Thurrock Council is not responsible for the monitoring and reporting of dust from the ports so does have limited powers, but I do understand the concerns of Tilbury residents which is why today I asked the officers to write to the environment agency seeking further assurance that any dust or other emissions are fully monitored and that there are no health risks to the Thurrock residents and I have also asked for our website to be updated with details of how to contact the environment agency and I would encourage all residents to report any concerns.

Mayor

Councillor Allen do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

Councillor Allen

Thank you. I did ask if I could show videos of supporting evidence of the dirt and dust fallouts which I've got quite a few of that have been gained by residents over the time where you can clearly see plumes of dust in certain sites in around Tilbury, Tilbury 2 but I was denied to show them, I can post them out to all members if they would like to see that but I think you should see it and what I need to put across tonight is that whenever we put complaints in regarding the dirt and dust fallouts, all we get back from officers and EAs is that it's the Sahara desert and it's the Sahara dust that we are experiencing and it is simply isn't that, you know this has been going on for some time now. So, you



know, you being the portfolio holder, Councillor Jefferies, I would like to see you challenging such people as EA and port of health to ensure that you know the health and wellbeing of the people of Tilbury is considered. I would like the portfolio holder to do more to challenge this, this dirt and dust, its not Sahara desert Mister Mayor its clearly a problem and I do think its detrimental to health so I would appreciate if you could challenge the people that regulate, please.

Mayor

Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Jefferies

Thank you, Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Allen for your question. So as I said in my answer I have asked officers to go back to the environment agency and challenge and find out if the dust is causing or could cause harm to the residents of Thurrock. I'm sure you're aware the port health authority covers all the London ports not us, not Thurrock Council, we can challenge them, but we have to believe what they send to us but like I say I have asked officers to challenge again. Council officers to meet with the port authorities and other operators in Tilbury where there are operations that give rise to dust and we do work with them to try and implement mitigation measures, so I know previously there has been dampening down of areas to try and bring that dust under control but I'm not trying to play down on but there is an issue of dust from the Sahara, dust that has been created elsewhere, that does come into this area so that is a genuine answer but happy to meet him, happy to look at the videos and you know will ask officers to always challenge the environment agency and the port authorities when residents report concerns.

Mayor

Councillor Allen do you wish to pose a second supplementary question.

Councillor Allen

Thank you, Mister Mayor. Independent testing in the past has shown that there was a serious element of one of the substances that was captured which was arsenic, now we certainly don't want to be ingesting arsenic however small the amount is now it was said that it was a small amount but if you've got prolonged exposure to such an element its certainly going to be detrimental to health and again I don't think that arsenic comes from the Sahara so I would appreciate again with your challenging the likes of EA and the port health and there will be I hope more independent testing on a wider scale too to capture the substance and again test it thoroughly to determine whether the health and wellbeing of the people of Tilbury is at risk but again I would hope that you challenge that the governmental environmental agency and finally put the health and wellbeing of people of Tilbury above big business. Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Jefferies

Thank you, Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Allen. I can only just repeat what I've said. It's not the responsibility of Thurrock Council, we do challenge, I find it slightly difficult to believe the environmental agency can't be classed as independent, they are independent, they are there to monitor the health and look into reports and I would just repeat if you've got evidence, if residents are concerned about dust, they need to report it straight away so that the environmental agency can look into it, can act to ensure whatever dust is there isn't a danger to the people of Thurrock and in particular, Tilbury.

2. From Councillor Byrne to Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Byrne

The day after January's full council, you put out propaganda claiming the opposition voted in favour of ULEZ, was there an actual vote on ULEZ charges or did we vote for our preferred option on the two motions presented?

Mayor

Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Jefferies

Thank you, Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Byrne for your question. I have to say I was rather surprised that this question had been allowed. I put forward the ULEZ motion as a ward councillor for Ockendon not as a portfolio holder and I was not aware that members could ask portfolio holder questions about their activities as a ward councillor rather they should be about their responsibilities as the cabinet member. This puts to bed, I believe, the notion that we, the cabinet, decide on what questions are allowed. Having said that the motion we vote on at last council was to oppose the ULEZ charge, something which most residents in my ward oppose. Indeed, more residents in the borough oppose. My letter to residents simply pointed out that the Independent Labour councillors voted with their sister party, the Thurrock Labour party, in not supporting the motion opposing ULEZ. Will the councillor now admit he voted the wrong way and unlike the real independence. So will you admit you made a mistake and condemn the ULEZ charge. A charge that will cost residents in Thurrock, which you claim to represent hundreds of pounds a year or does he need to get permission from this group leader, Councillor Kent.

Mayor

Councillor Byrne do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

Councillor Byrne

Let's have another go, can you show me in the minutes where we actually voted, I voted to talk to the Mayor of London you voted to send a stiff letter, was there an actual vote on ULEZ. It's the same question did we vote on ULEZ.

Mayor

Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Jefferies

Thank you, Councillor Byrne, for your supplementary question and this man here for getting you elected I think but I would hold it against him. The point of the motion was to send a clear message to the Labour Mayor of London that we don't want ULEZ charge being imposed on outer London because they will have an impact on the residents in Thurrock, the residents that we represent, you voted against that motion, you voted against that motion but you voted in favour of the motion from your sister party, yes it was political, we weren't being political we wanted to protect the Thurrock residents that will get this £60 a week charge. We talked this evening a lot about being political but that was political previously yes, we were thinking of residents so I challenge you again, will you admit, you got it wrong, and you should have voted in favour of residents and not in favour of ULEZ and a £60 a week charge to residents.

Mayor

Councillor Byrne do you wish to pose a second supplementary question.

Councillor Byrne

If you want to clear it up do it now, with no inner agenda, all 49, we go through all named, Matthew can sort it, the Mayor can approve it and actually ask the question are you for or against ULEZ coming onto the doorstep of Thurrock.

Mayor

Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Jefferies

Thank you, Councillor Byrne for your question. Just a little bit of advice perhaps you might want to meet with the monitoring officer to learn how democracy within this chamber works. Once you've done that, I suggest you put a motion forward to full council just like I did and ask members to support it or not

support it. You've had three opportunities now, three opportunities to say that you condemn the ULEZ charge, you failed on each occasion, we are opposed to it, you're in favour of it, the residents in your ward will have their say very shortly and I hope they are listening to this debate this evening.

3. From Councillor Worrall to Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Worrall

Following several public apologies and restarts of the waste collection services can the cabinet member for environmental services advise when residents will get the full service that they pay for?

Mayor

Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Jefferies

Thank you, Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Worrall for your question. Councillor Worrall is right there have been several apologies and restarts to the bin service and I am pleased to say that for the general waste that's the green and grey bins and the recycling the blue bins we are now providing services that our residents would expect. Missed bins are being collected the next day, complaints blocked access are being resolved and crews are being listened to when they have difficulties in collecting bins and they have the solution to the problem. This has been made possible by tough action we've taken replacing the office of management team at all levels. However, the garden waste service is still failing this is largely part to poor management of the service last year, failure to manage sickness levels, holiday requests resulting in too many people being absent at the same time and a failure to recruit enough staff and to reduce our dependency on agency. This is despite being told by me to reduce the number of agency staff so that we employed local people. With poor management comes poor morale amongst our hard-working bin crews, it will take time to change the culture, but I am confident that we have the right team in place, we have a rolling advert to recruit both drivers and loaders, we've recruited four drivers and 12 loaders since the 1 January, and we've reduced the number of agency staff to just over 21% down from 25% still too high. But I hope it get it down, I'm confident with these changes and more to come we will see a huge improvement in the service.

Mayor

Councillor Worrall do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

Councillor Worrall

Of course, I want to talk about brown bins. My brown bin has been at the end of my drive for four weeks and it's still there today, its bin day today still there. Spoke to the bin men and said brown bin and no they only had a team out

yesterday there weren't one out for today. So, this is across the borough there is residents in my ward I'll take you there tomorrow they've still got their turkey carcass in their brown bin its nearly easter, it's not good enough and I know you've said sorry, I know you've said you're going to put it right. So, when can these residents, you know like, got lots of little cul de sacs, they're tod the ring up and say the bins had not been collected, black bins, green bins whatever leave them out to this time next week we'll pick them up again, little, tiny cul de sacs can't leave their bins out for a week. Ok. Councillor Massey's ward is a nightmare if you were to go on there for bin collections every single week, sometimes three, four, five, six weeks there black and green bins are not getting picked up, brown bins, brown bins are terrible you know they are the worst bins, when can we expect to see, were paying for it we talked about council tax tonight, when can we have a proper bin collection and when can that resident expect their turkey giblets to be picked up.

Mayor

Councillor Jefferies

Councillor Jefferies

Thank you, Mister Mayor. I agree, I agree entirely. The brown bid service is rubbish were not collecting brown bins, it's appalling yes absolutely appalling, agree. But I've just given you reasons why the brown bin service is so poor. We don't have enough crews, that's both drivers and loaders to be able to provide that service to the level that we want to be able to do so. We've prioritised the green and blue bins, the general waste and the recycling and as I've said that is now performing well. As for leaving bins out for a week, I hope residents aren't being told that, the way the system, then I'm appalled if they are being told to do that and I will take that up with officers tomorrow morning and they can take that up with a call centre because that's not what they should be being told. The way the system works is that if your bin is missed on the day of collection, we come back the next day to collect those bins. Now with the green and blue bins that is now happening. It hasn't in the past it is now happening that service it has improved still improving and is where we want it to be, the brown bins however, were not collecting we shouldn't be promising to collect them the next day because we can't guarantee that because we just simply can't. I agree it is frustrating, it has been frustrating for a long time. I'm very frustrated that's why I've just told the reasons why it's happening, trust me, I've been doing this for a long long time and I am, we're trying to get it right, we've got it right with the green and blue bins sadly we still haven't got there with the brown bins but we are working on them, when we've got the crews the service will be more regular but at the moment what we're trying to do on a daily basis is collect as many brown bins as possible. If they're not collected, they shouldn't be left out, people should move them back in and then wait for the next collection and agree cul de sacs, you can't have bins piling up.

Mayor

Councillor Worrall do you wish to pose a second supplementary question.

### Councillor Worrall

Yes, thank you. I don't live in a cul de sac and mine's staying right at the end of my drive until you can get it next week but I do need to cut my grass as it is nice out there and its full up so it will have to go into the black bin now. So I've spoken to bin men you know, stopped and spoke to them and they told me that they spend, they got two days coming in on a Saturday a little while ago and that you did a brown bin round-up, you know pretty much collected a lot of the bins and mine that must have been a month ago, because that's when mine got collected and thought yippee we've got brown bin collection again as you had said put your brown bins out, you haven't put a press release out to say don't put your brown bins out and we've stopped again, so there's the confusion, but you must have done something as Grays are still getting, Councillor Potheary has still got her Christmas tree in it, so you haven't done a full round anywhere so just looking at the bin collection and I read a paper that said its up for renewal, the contract and the renewals you know we do need to get on top of this and I spoke to the bin men and they said if they spoke to us we could tell them but they're refusing to speak to the men that could put this right. When or if can you promise the residents that your going to get it right, your going to make sure that you are going to get this right, you know, you must have the same problems on the doors for your re-election because I'm getting them so you must be getting them, can you tell me whether the bin collections are going to say two weekly or is that something that you know are now looking at, are we going to two week collections, we was, we wasn't, we was well now we've got to find some money are we going to stay with weekly or are we going to two weekly.

### Mayor

Councillor Jefferies

### Councillor Jefferies

Thank you, Mister Mayor and thank you Councillor Worrall. I talk to bin men regularly in fact on Tuesday I did a whole round with them in the orange suit, I was out loading the bins onto the back of the lorry talking to the bin crews to find out what they were thinking. No, I didn't actually come down your road as I would have had great pleasure in emptying your bin for you, I didn't, I was in a different part of the borough. As regards grass cutting, I'm glad you mentioned that because I'm pleased to say that we've actually started cutting grass earlier in the borough. Our guys are out cutting grass at the moment earlier than they've ever been. So yes, can I give an assurance. Yes, I am working hard to make sure we get this situation resolved. We have resolved the green and the blue bins. They are now being collected on a regular basis, if they are not collected on the day of collection, we go back the next day and we collect them. Brown bin service isn't working, I admit that, I've said that yet what we do do is when you've got sufficient crews they go out and it may well be that its Councillor Kerin day to have his bins collected so he gets his brown bin collected the next day when it's your turn to get your bin collected, we don't

have enough crews in to be able to do the brown bin collection. Sadly, we clearly haven't been able to get to Councillor Pothecary's Christmas tree or giblets, but I'm hoping that we will finally get around and collect them and if I can go out and do another round with them, with the guys, I promise I will come and collect your bins. I can't give you a time frame afraid on that's going to happen all I can say is that were working hard to recruit drivers, to recruit loaders to make sure we've got sufficient staff.

4. From Councillor Pearce to Councillor Spillman

Councillor Pearce

Tenants of the Airey houses in Central Avenue, and Love Lane, Aveley, were decanted from their properties whilst essential works were completed by the council. They were told that they would be out of their homes for a matter of weeks, but after more than 12 months they are yet to return as works are still ongoing. Does the Portfolio Holder agree this is both unacceptable and unfair and what is being done to ensure the works are now completed?

Mayor

Councillor Spillman

Councillor Spillman

Thank you for that question, Councillor Pearce and firstly I would like to apologise for the inconvenience to those residents, obviously having to leave your home for such a great length of time this is not ideal. We've obviously decanted them into suitable alternative accommodation but it's not their home and we shouldn't pretend it is. Now these properties are particularly difficult, they're actually classified as defective under 1985 Housing Act due to their structure, if you see a picture of these homes, you just, it's hard to fathom how anyone would have come to the conclusion that we should be building in that way, they were prefabs only meant to be up 10 or 30 years and have been up a lot longer. The other problem that we had was when we tried to underpin them there were further complications and there was a level of underpinning that wasn't foreseen. Further to that the new PAS 2035 regulations happened halfway through the project which had meant that the energy efficiency requirements have changed substantially but the main problem which we've got is that when we stripped back these properties, we found that the concrete lintels actually go into neighbouring properties. Now if these properties were all in the same areas as a block, we would have knocked them down and rebuilt them. But the problem is that they're attached to properties that have been brought and owned by people and this means that we are now in a legal negotiation to try and get some party wall agreements and is, as you know anything about the sort of disputes, they can take much longer than we would like so yes, it is very difficult. I would like to add we are doing everything we can to progress this, and I've asked officers if they could assist you and do a site visit and if I'm available I would also very much like to attend that with you. We've been in regular consultation with the residents but consultation although

you know the right to do keeping them up to date is not the same as taking them back to their homes that they live in but yes these are really really problematic homes. If it was possible, we would knock them down and rebuild them and provide these tenants with new homes but as I say because they have got owner occupied properties next to them, that's not possible. But most importantly I would like to apologise to those residents because it's not their fault it's just a series of technical and legal problems that have led to this situation.

Mayor

Councillor Pearce do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

Councillor Pearce

Thank you, Mister Mayor and thank you for that answer. However, could the portfolio holder ensure that the ward councillors are updated by officers about progress in these homes as previously stated in the future and also, I would like the site visit. If you could be there as well, right, also considering these families have been inconvenienced for 15 months, that's a long time, are you prepared to offer them a token of compensation to the tenants, recognising the distress, the lengthy process that its caused and also it's not just those that had to be moved out its those that are living next door still listening to the drilling, the banging, everything, the loud talking it's been going on 7 or 5 days week, early in the morning to quite late at night, so could something be happening quite soon please.

Mayor

Councillor Spillman

Councillor Spillman

Yes of course, we need to continue consultation with ward members, I mean looking at the pictures I don't understand how they were, where they were, you know, the energy efficiency in these properties must have been absolutely horrendous so god knows what sort of bills they were paying. I mean, there is just this thing, the walls are liberally just thin concrete rows that you could literally punch through, I mean these were built in most bizarre manner and I can assure you that you know no one is building like that anymore but yes, I'll be more than happy to attend a visit with you. It might even be good to bring some of the residents to that site visit as well. In terms of compensation, I can't stand here today as portfolio and say that were going to offer compensation that would be an ongoing discussion. But a discussion I am willing to listen to so not a problem at all.

Mayor

Councillor Pearce do you wish to pose a second supplementary question.



Councillor Pearce

Just to ask the portfolio not just Aveley but is there other homes like this in the rest of the borough as well that might need attention and if so, perhaps a whole lot need coming down.

Mayor

Councillor Spillman

Councillor Spillman

Yes, there are the whole reason why this project started was because we sought a survey of all of these properties. There were other properties some in Belhus and there are others obviously non-traditional properties along in Tebet Road as well. So, there are a number of these prefab structures that are just bizarre and are a real challenge. If they are in one group again just knock them down and rebuild them but it's just so problematic when you've got an owner occupier next door because you're damaging their property and they have to have a lot of legal reassurances. There has to be all sorts of different text, lawyers, surveyors and it's just becoming difficult but it's not acceptable for those residents and let's not pretend it is.

5. From Councillor Pearce to Councillor M Coxshall

Councillor Pearce

Residents of the Hall Estate are suffering as a consequence HGV movement to and from the new school development site in Love Lane, which in itself is not needed. Mud and debris are being strewn on residential roads, HGVs appear to be accessing the site outside of permitted hours and driving along inappropriate routes, asking residents to move their vehicles in the early hours on one such occasion so that they could pass. What action can the council take to address these issues with the developer?

Mayor

Councillor M Coxshall

Councillor M Coxshall

It sounds truly terrible, and I know your passionate and some of the conservative councillors there have been passionate about not making sure an opposition and making sure that they keep their green and pleasant land around Aveley, and I understand that, and I understand the passion around the school and how you wanted a school but not in that place and planning is now moving forward. There is a need for builders to actually abide by the residents be conscientious about the residents and the mess of the road and I will come down with you shortly within the next week to see this myself and make sure that the planning team, we can put in a planning enforcement in, there is a

enforcement against that. You do know as a long serving councillor here in Aveley and across Thurrock how the development management team will regularly attend to make sure that their residents are protected.

Mayor

Councillor Pearce do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

Councillor Pearce

Thank you, Mister Mayor and thank you for your answer. Many of the issues I have referred to in my question have already been reported to the planning enforcement, but their response is yet to be forthcoming. I have escalated the matter to you as leader of the council. Would the leader please use his position to ensure that I have received the full written update from the planning enforcement department explaining what steps have been taken to ensure the development complies with these planning obligations because to me they are taking the micky again. Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor M Coxshall

Councillor M Coxshall

We have had this numerous times across the area and it may not be this site and there might not be developers but as we have issues in planning development and that and be of no doubt the planning enforcement team will take action of any infringements and I will come down with you and visit the site to see what is there and we will do an action plan to talk to the planning officers accordingly. Thank you.

Mayor

Councillor Pearce do you wish to pose a second supplementary question.

Councillor Pearce

Just to ask how soon is possible, thank you.

Mayor

Councillor M Coxshall

Councillor M Coxshall

Let's say next week.

6. From Councillor P Arnold to Councillor Maney

Councillor P Arnold

With the proposed introduction of parking permit charges, will the Portfolio Holder confirm, that the monies raised, will be ring fenced for increasing enforcement and for consultations within other areas of South Ockendon, that may wish to have permit parking. For example, the Peartree Estate. Also, that the residents on the Flowers Estate, who will now have to pay these charges, will get an opportunity to decide if they wish the parking scheme to continue or not?

Mayor

Councillor Maney

Councillor Maney

Thank you, Mister Mayor and thank you, Councillor Arnold for your question. Mister Mayor the revenue generated from the new modest charges will be used to help fund the existing schemes which have become difficult to sustain on a cost neutral basis following increased service and maintenance costs. It's unlikely therefore that this new revenue stream can be used to fund additional permit parking areas at this time. I do. However, agree that the parking of the public parking arrangements in Ockendon should be reviewed as there are some roads which continue to suffer from commuter parking. It is clear that Ockendon has not been given the same attention as other communities in Thurrock with rail stations. I can advise that I have had conversations with officers over how this can be addressed, and we continue to explore all options. I do agree in principle that permit parking arrangements should be extended if there is a case for this or residents agree. In terms of residents in Thurrock who already live in a PPA, I do believe they should have a say on the schemes. To this end, I have asked the service to undertake an engagement exercise, and this is currently being designed. Mister Mayor it is worth bearing in mind however that the consultation with residents prior to the introduction of the schemes did make clear that the annual cost and charging arrangements would be reviewed annually. There was never a commitment that the schemes would be free of charge for ever more. The proposed charges will also be considerably less than those levied by other neighbouring local authorities, meaning residents will continue to receive a good deal. Thank you, Mister Mayor.

Mayor

Councillor Arnold do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

Councillor P Arnold

Yes please, Mister Mayor. Will the portfolio holder also confirm that the consultation will start as soon as practically as possible so that residents can have their say.

Mayor

Councillor Maney

Councillor Maney

Thank you, Mister Mayor. I think it has to start as soon as possible because of course the charges have been approved and I think it's only right that residents have a say on that before they come into play so yes I'm committed to getting this up and running as quickly as possible finding out what it is residents want, what they think of the scheme, can they be improved, it is important to know what they want and of course ward councillors will be included in that exercise. Thank you, Mister Mayor.

Mayor

Councillor Arnold do you wish to pose a second supplementary question.

Councillor P Arnold

No thank you, Mister Mayor.

7. From Councillor G Coxshall to Councillor Maney

Councillor G Coxshall

One of the cruellest consequences of the proposed ULEZ expansion will be that Thurrock residents with non-compliant vehicles will incur the charge when attending Corbetts Tey Crematorium and/or Upminster Cemetery. Will the Portfolio Holder make representations to the Mayor of London and seek a dispensation for such residents?

Mayor

Councillor Maney

Councillor Maney

Thank you, Mister Mayor, the council's response to the ULEZ consultation identified a number of concerns regarding the lack of consideration afforded to neighbouring boroughs, including the impact that the zone's expansion would have upon residents in Thurrock. Our view of the impact of Labour's new tax has been poorly considered. The omission of a dispensation for those visiting

the crematorium and cemeteries, an example of the concerns already raised in our response. Since we debated the ULEZ extension at the last full council the transport team has had further dialogue with TFL and was due to meet with representatives yesterday, but the terms of the meeting had been narrowly defined. It seemed the mayor of London only wishes to engage on this matter when it is in TFL interests and not when neighbouring boroughs or concerned parties wish to highlight their own needs. Nonetheless, we will take the opportunity to press Thurrock's concerns. That said, the council has still to receive any reply to its consultation response and request for further information. The leader of the council wrote to the mayor directly last month stating this council's opposition to the ULEZ extension and similarly received no substantive reply to the points he raised. In respect of people driving to cemeteries in the expanded zone TFL's position is that those affected by the new tax may be able to access grants under the scrappage scheme. What it fails to recognise however is that such funding is not available to residents outside of London. As we now, Corbetts Tey is relatively remote for many Thurrock residents and can only be accessed by private vehicle. Your right, therefore, Councillor Coxshall to highlight how this will unfairly hit many residents including those in Belhus. Even in the face of the London mayor's refusal to engage in his contempt for those immediately outside of the zone I can assure you that the Council Authority, Conservatives will continue to press the case for all residents who will be unfairly hit by the ULEZ expansion. This includes those travelling to Corbetts Tey crematorium and Upminster cemetery

Mayor

Councillor Coxshall do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

Councillor G Coxshall

Thank you, Mister Mayor, thank you Councillor Maney for your response. I am somewhat pleased and disappointed I should say perhaps I am pleased that we are speaking with our commitment following the motion at the last full council into opposing this charge and the effect it will have on our residents. I'm just disappointed the mayor is yet to respond and think it's some semantics. Really the question is, can the portfolio holder, I know you had the meeting yesterday, can you please provide me with an update from officers on how that meeting went because it's just so disappointing that the London mayor has failed to engage with a neighbouring borough.

Mayor

Councillor Maney

Councillor Maney

Thank you, Mister Mayor. You know Labour and Independent Labour they just will not come out against their mayor. It is shameful, give the mayor time, people don't have time, they're worried, do they need to buy a new car, can they afford to buy a new car, how they're going to get to the graves of their

relatives untaxed. These are all the things they need to know, and we know you're not on this side, you're on the side of the London mayor, these are real questions. Like I said earlier go on the doorsteps and these are the things that people are raising. They are concerned about being taxed off the road by the London mayor. Somebody you and the independent Labour party have supported, so the answer is yes if we ever get a reply, were not the only ones, other local authorities have been ignored as well, as I said the London mayor isn't interested. All I can assure you is that us on this side of the chamber will fight to the last to see off this new tax and residents need to know they are complicit, they are in the mayor's pocket, thank you Mister Mayor.

Questions 8, 9 and 10 were not heard due to the timing of this item.

<b>24 May 2023</b>	<b>ITEM: 10</b>
<b>Annual Council</b>	
<b>Appointment of Statutory Scrutiny Officer, Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-Key
<b>Report of:</b> Asmat Hussain, Interim Director of Law, and Governance & Monitoring Officer	
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Not Applicable	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Asmat Hussain, Interim Director of Law, and Governance & Monitoring Officer	
<b>This report is public</b>	

## Executive Summary

The Council must appoint individuals to particular roles, including the role of Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the Council to appoint a Returning Officer and under Section 8 of the same Act the Council must also appoint an Electoral Registration Officer.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 To note the appointment of Matthew Boulter (Democratic Services Manager) as the authority’s Statutory Scrutiny Officer.**
- 1.2 That Dave Smith (Chief Executive) be appointed Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.**
- 1.3 That the (Interim) Director of Law, Governance and Monitoring Officer be appointed as the Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.**

### 2. Introduction and Background

#### Statutory Scrutiny Officer

- 2.1 Originally introduced by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the requirement for English councils to designate a “statutory” scrutiny officer can now be found at s9FB of the Local Government

Act 2000 (the legislative framework having been altered by the Localism Act 2011).

- 2.2 The statutory scrutiny officer's role is (these points paraphrase the precise wording of the Act, which can be found at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/schedule/2>):
- To promote the role of the authority's overview and scrutiny committee(s);
  - To provide support to the authority's overview and scrutiny function and to local councillors;
  - To provide guidance to members and officers of the council in relation to overview and scrutiny functions.

Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.

- 2.3 The Council is required under section 8(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to appoint an officer of the Council to be registration officer for any constituency or part of a constituency coterminous with or situated in the Borough known as the Electoral Registration Officer.
- 2.4 The Electoral Registration Officer is the person with statutory responsibility amongst other things for the creation and maintenance of the register of electors and the absent voters list. This person takes responsibility for publishing a revised electoral register and issuing monthly alterations notices.
- 2.5 To facilitate the smooth running of the Electoral Registration process it is recommended that a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (DERO) is also appointed.
- 2.6 The Council is required under section 35(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to appoint an officer of the Council to be the Returning Officer for local elections i.e. county, borough and parish elections.
- 2.7 The Returning Officer for local elections may by writing under his hand appoint one or more persons to discharge all or any of his functions.
- 2.8 Under section 28(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 the duties of the Returning Officer for a parliamentary election registration officer is discharged as Acting Returning Officer by the registration officer.
- 2.9 An Acting Returning Officer also has power to appoint deputies to discharge all or any of those duties (see Section 28(5) of the Representation of the People Act 1983).
- 2.10 The Council therefore needs to formally appoint to these posts of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Returning Officer (RO) (for local elections), and it is recommended that Dave Smith be duly appointed, with the (Interim) Director of Law, Governance and Monitoring Officer as the Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.



### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 3.1 The statutory scrutiny officer cannot be the authority's Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer or the Chief Finance Officer.
- 3.2 The Full Council is asked to note the appointment of Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager, as the authority's Statutory Scrutiny Officer.
- 3.3 The appointments of ERO and RO are legally required in order that the Council can continue to meet its statutory responsibilities in respect of electoral administration
- 3.4 The ERO is an officer of the Council, but the role of Electoral Registration is a personal responsibility, independent and separate from their duties as an employee of the Council. The roles of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer are typically combined and performed by a single person. These Officers are appointed by Full Council. It is proposed to make the appointment as set out in the recommendations to have immediate effect in order to comply with legislative requirements.

### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Council are required to appoint appropriate officers to undertake these statutory roles.

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

- 5.1 The Leader and group leaders have been consulted on this appointment prior to this report being published.

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

- 6.1 Appointment to this statutory role ensures that the Council complies with legislation to have an appropriate officer in place to undertake the duties of the role. The role will be key in delivering and supporting the activities relating to the proposed review of Overview and Scrutiny, as part of the Improvement and Recovery Plan.
- 6.2 Electors in the Borough have a statutory right to be able to vote at any election or referendum, but to be able to do this, they need to be on the Electoral Register, and they need to have confidence that their personal data is safeguarded in accordance with the appropriate legislation. It is essential that voters have complete trust in the electoral process, and it is the personal responsibility of the ERO and RO to that this is the case.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Rosie Hurst**

#### **Interim Senior Management Accountant**

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer is a strategic level role that will require the officer currently identified to receive pay that is equivalent to the responsibilities and requirements of the post. Any change to salary will be met through the improvement and recovery budget.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Asmat Hussain**

#### **Director of Law and Governance**

The report ensure that the Council complies with its statutory duties as set out in the report to appoint an officer of the Council as the Statutory Scrutiny Officer and the requirements under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to appoint an Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer. to be made. Under the Council's Constitution, electoral matters are reserved to Full Council.

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**

#### **Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer**

There are no direct diversity implications relating to this report.

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

None.

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

- None

**9. Appendices to the report**

- None

**Report Author:**

Asmat Hussain

Interim Director of Law and Governance

Legal Services

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<b>24 May 2023</b>	<b>ITEM: 11</b>
<b>Annual Council</b>	
<b>Establishment and Composition of the Council's Committees, Panels and Boards</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> Not Applicable
<b>Report of:</b> Dr Dave Smith, Chief Executive	
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> n/a	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Dr Dave Smith, Chief Executive	
<b>This report is</b> Public	

## Executive Summary

This report requests the Council to formally establish those committees it considers necessary to fulfil its functions in the ensuing municipal year, in accordance with the requirements of both legislation and the Council's Constitution. It also requests Council to approve the membership of these Committees and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Boards as referred to in this report and the accompanying appendices be established for the 2023 / 2024 municipal year.
- 1.2 That the terms of reference for the new Strategic Investment Advisory Panel outlined in paragraph 3.6 and in Appendix 1 are endorsed.
- 1.3 That the allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix 2, be approved.
- 1.4 That the nominations of the political groups to seats on committees be approved, as set out in Appendix 3 (to be tabled when nominations are received).
- 1.5 That the non-voting co-opted members of the Planning Committee, the Standards and Audit Committee, the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee be appointed, as set out in Appendix 3 (to be tabled when nominations are received).

**1.6 That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees be appointed, as set out in Appendix 4 (to be tabled when nominations are received).**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

2.1 The Council must establish:

- (a) At least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (b) A committee under the Licensing Act 2003;
- (c) A Health and Wellbeing Board.

and may establish other committees.

2.2 Chapters 4 and 5 of the Constitution contain information regarding the committees that have been established, together with their specific terms of reference.

2.3 Political Groups on the Council are formed in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 when two or more councillors notify the Chief Executive, as Proper Officer, of their wish to be treated as a group.

2.4 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 imposes a duty on the local authority at the annual meeting, or as soon as possible after it, to review the allocation of seats on the committees of the Council between the political groups. The Council may carry out such a review and any other time and may do so if requested by a political group.

2.5 The following principles apply to the allocation of seats:

- (a) That not all the seats on the body to which appointments are being made are allocated to the same political group;
- (b) That the majority of seats on each committee are allocated to a particular group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
- (c) That, subject to (a) and (b), when allocating seats to a political group, the total number of their seats across all the ordinary committees of the Council, must reflect their proportion of the authority's membership;  
and
- (d) Subject to (a) to (c), that the number of seats on each committee is as far as possible in proportion to the group's membership of the authority.

2.6 Sub-committees, with the exception of the Licensing Sub-Committee, are also governed by the political balance rules, but it is not necessary to add up all the sub-committee seats and then allocate them in proportion. As far as this is practicable, the allocation of seats on each sub-committee should reflect the proportional representation of the political groups on the Council.

- 2.7 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that, once the Council has determined the allocation of committee places between the political groups, the Council must then appoint the nominees of the political groups to the committees.
- 2.8 Any non-aligned members are to be appointed to available seats on committees by the Council.
- 2.9 The Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board are not required to be proportional and so are outside of the political balance calculation.
- 2.10 The Leader of the Council appoints the Cabinet and, in accordance with the Terms of Reference, will also make nominations to the 5 places available on the Health and Wellbeing Board, with the latter to be agreed by the Council.
- 2.11 It is open to the Council when carrying out a review to adopt some arrangement other than that prescribed by the Act and the Regulations. Notice of such a proposal would have to be given in the Summons, and a decision would need to be made with no one voting against it. The remainder of this report therefore assumes that the Council will not want an alternative arrangement to that prescribed by law.

### **Political proportionality**

- 2.12 The political balance of the Council can be calculated by using the simple formula below (to two decimal places):

$$\frac{\text{No. of Group Members} \times 100}{49}$$

- 2.13 Following the elections on 4 May 2023 the political proportionality of the council is as follows:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>%</b>
Conservative	26	53.06%
Labour	19	38.78%
Thurrock Independents	1	2.04%
Independent	3	6.12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>

- 2.14 The calculation to determine the strict entitlement of political groups to seats on committees is as follows:

$$\frac{\% \text{ from Table 1}}{100} \times \text{Total No. of seats available (87 seats)}$$

- 2.15 Those Members who are not members of political groups have no legal entitlement to an allocation of seats on committees. However, the political groups are entitled to their proportion of seats and once their entitlement has been reached, the remaining seats may be filled by members not belonging to a political group. Such Members are classed as being non-aligned.
- 2.16 The LGA Independent Group has taken the view that in the true spirit of the Act, that morally or democratically, non-aligned councillors are entitled to fair representation. Groups are not entitled to have more than their share and thus they cannot exclude councillors that are not grouped i.e. single party councillors or non-aligned Independent councillors. For example in an authority of 49 councillors with one non-grouped councillor, the council must make 1/49 of the places available.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

#### **Overview and Scrutiny:**

- 3.1 The Constitution currently makes provision for six Overview and Scrutiny committees, as follows.
- Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
  - Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
  - Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
  - Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
  - Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
  - Planning, Transport, Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 The terms of reference for each of the six committees mentioned in paragraph 3.1 above are set out in Chapter 4, Part 2 of the Constitution.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Structure has been under review by the Constitution Working Group since 2022. In addition the role, operation and structure of the function is a key part of the recent intervention and features significantly in the Council's Improvement and Recovery Plan. As a result the Council will review the Overview and Scrutiny function in collaboration with the Centre for Governance Scrutiny (CfGS) in the 2023/24 year. It will report findings within the municipal year, with a view to introducing new processes and structure for the 2024/25 year at the latest.

#### **Other committees and sub-committees of the Council:**

- 3.4 Provision has been made within the Constitution for the following committees of the Council:
- Planning Committee;



- Licensing Committee (and a Licensing Sub-committee);
- General Services Committee;
- Standards and Audit Committee;
- Corporate Parenting Committee;
- Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee.

3.5 The terms of reference of each committee above are set out in Chapter 5 of the Constitution.

3.6 The Strategic Investment Advisory Panel is a new sub-committee of Cabinet which will be introduced to provide advice to the Leader/Cabinet on strategic investments. The creation of the Panel was agreed at Cabinet on 22 February 2023 on the condition that Full Council endorsed the terms of reference, which are attached at Appendix 1. Nominations for the Panel are contained within this report.

**Changes to the number of committees or terms of reference:**

3.7 Any changes to the number of committees, or their terms of reference, will have to be reflected in the Constitution and therefore will require the approval of the Council.

3.8 Should the Council seek to establish or discontinue a committee that is currently included within the Constitution, it would be necessary to calculate the allocation of seats on committees to political groups. This too would require the approval of the Council, as would any nominations to committees that may be made as a result. Any significant changes to be made to the Constitution should first be considered by General Services Committee.

**Calculating political proportionality**

3.9 The number of seats on committees that are available to be allocated amongst the political groups represented on the Council is 87.

3.10 Each of the political groups (formed when 2 or more councillors notify the Chief Executive, as Proper Officer, of their wish to be treated as a group) are entitled to a certain number of seats on committees. This is based upon their percentage representation on the Council as a whole, as detailed in Table 1 at paragraph 2.11 above.

3.11 The calculation to determine the entitlement of political groups to seats on committees is as follows:

$$\frac{\% \text{ from Table 1}}{100} \times \text{Total No. of seats available (87 seats)}$$

3.12 After undertaking the above calculation for each of the political groups represented on the Council, the entitlement to seats is as follows:

- Conservative 46 seats
- Labour 34 seats
- Ungrouped seats to be allocated 7 seats

3.13 Each of the political groups and the non-aligned Members are only entitled to their proportion of seats.

3.14 In order to ascertain the number of seats to be allocated to political groups on each committee, the following calculation is required to be undertaken:

$$\frac{\% \text{ from Table 1}}{100} \times \text{No. of committee places available}$$

3.15 After applying the above calculation to each of the committees that have been established, a 'strict seat entitlement' is arrived at for each party.

(a) 6 member committee – applies to all **Overview & Scrutiny committees, the Standards & Audit Committee and the Hidden & Extreme Harms Prevention Committee**

- Con  $53.06 / 100 \times 6 = 3.18 =$  **3 seat(s)**
- Lab  $38.78 / 100 \times 6 = 2.33 =$  **2 seat(s)**

(b) 7 member committee – applies to the **General Services Committee**

- Con  $53.06 / 100 \times 7 = 3.71 =$  **4 seat(s)**
- Lab  $38.78 / 100 \times 7 = 2.71 =$  **3 seat(s)**

(c) 8 member committee – applies to the **Corporate Parenting Committee**

- Con  $53.06 / 100 \times 8 = 4.24 =$  **4 seat(s)**
- Lab  $38.78 / 100 \times 8 = 3.10 =$  **3 seat(s)**

(d) 9 member committee – applies to the **Planning Committee**

- Con  $53.06 / 100 \times 9 = 4.78 =$  **5 seat(s)**
- Lab  $38.78 / 100 \times 9 = 3.49 =$  **3 seat(s)**

(e) 15 member committee – applies to the **Licensing Committee**

- Con  $53.06 / 100 \times 15 = 7.96 =$  **8 seat(s)**
- Lab  $38.78 / 100 \times 15 = 5.82 =$  **6 seat(s)**

- 3.16 Ungrouped Members –The Independent Members, as shown in Appendix 2, have the opportunity to claim 7 seats across committees. This is dealt with in the manual adjustment set out below.
- 3.17 **Appendix 2** and 3.15 above shows the rounded and strict (statistical) allocation of seats to each political group. Manual adjustment is required to ensure that each group reaches (or does not exceed) its rounded entitlement through the strict statistical allocation.
- 3.18 Manual adjustments are required to bring both the Conservative and Labour groups up to their seat entitlements and to clarify which seats are available to the ungrouped Members. Group Leaders have been consulted on this requirement, which will be reflected in Appendix 3. The manual adjustments are calculated as follows:
- The Conservative Group to claim 1 seat to bring them up to their 46 seat entitlement.
  - The Labour Group to claim 3 seats to bring them up to their 34 seat entitlement.
  - The Ungrouped Members may appoint to the remaining 7 seats.
- 3.19 Group Leaders have been consulted in respect of the calculations set out at **Appendix 2**, together with the manual adjustments that are required in order to ensure that seats on committees are correctly allocated to each of the political groups.
- 3.20 Group Leaders have also been requested to provide nominations to the places on committees to which their respective groups are entitled.
- 3.21 The nominations of political groups to seats on committees and the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of committees will be circulated at the meeting.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Council is recommended to establish the committees detailed in this report for the 2023-24 municipal year in order to facilitate the efficient discharge of its functions and that their terms of reference be those contained with the Constitution. The Council is also required to make the required appointments to those committees that have been established to facilitate the efficient discharge of its functions.

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

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken in respect of this report with the Leaders of each of the political groups represented on the Council. Their agreement has been obtained to the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees and their respective nominations are put before Council for approval.

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

- 6.1 Establishing those committees it considers necessary to fulfil its functions, in accordance with the requirements of both legislation and the Constitution, should enable the Council to discharge those functions in a timely, open and transparent manner for the benefit of the residents of the Borough. Appointing members to those committees established, in accordance with the political balance of the Council and associated allocation of seats on committees, will enable the Council to properly discharge its functions.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

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

The cost of servicing these committees will be met through existing budgets. Member special responsibility allowances, which are connected to these committees, will be considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in the summer of 2023 and its recommendations will be considered by Full Council in due course.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Asmat Hussain**  
**Director of Law and Governance**

The report complies with the Council obligations as set out in the Constitution and the legislation contained in the report.

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

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

The Council is under a statutory duty to ensure that equality and diversity is a key part of the decision making process of the Council. Therefore, attention is drawn to the importance of ensuring that appointments to committees are underpinned by appropriate training on the statutory equality framework. The introduction of essential member training provides the assurance that members of committees will be able to fulfil their obligations with a full understanding of equality and diversity issues. This is fundamental to the Council being able to meet its statutory responsibilities. However, consideration must be given to members not completing the training or not

attending, and the steps to be taken in these circumstances, once the member has been appointed.

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

None.

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

None.

9. **Appendices to the report**

**Appendix 1** – Strategic Investment Advisory Panel Terms of Reference.

**Appendix 2** – Allocation of seats

**Appendix 3** – Nominations of political groups to seats on Committees (to be circulated at the meeting)

**Appendix 4** – Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (to be circulated at the meeting)

**Report Author:**

Matthew Boulter

Democratic Services Manager

Legal and Democratic Services

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<b>1.</b>	<b>Strategic Investment Advisory Panel</b>	
<b>Appointed by:</b>	<b>Number of Elected Members:</b>	
The Leader/Cabinet under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972	Seven	
<b>Chair and Vice-Chair appointed by:</b>	<b>Political Proportionality:</b>	
The Council	The elected Members shall be appointed according to Political Proportionality.	
<b>Quorum:</b>	<b>Co-opted Members to be appointed by Council:</b>	
Three	The Panel may wish to appoint co-optees (without voting rights) to fulfil the terms of reference.	
<b>Terms of reference:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitoring the financial position of the council`s investments and borrowings and to make recommendations to the Leader /Council.</li> <li>2. Receiving regular reports on the performance of the Council`s investments.</li> <li>3. Reviewing the Council`s Treasury Management and investment Strategies and making recommendations.</li> <li>4. Reviewing all new investment decisions (including where investments are made in companies where the council already holds investments or where existing investments are refinanced) and making recommendations on the suitability of the investment to the Leader or to an officer acting under delegated powers.</li> <li>5. Receiving regular reports on and reviewing the performance, effectiveness and efficiency of the Council`s income generating and sold services and making recommendations to the Leader relevant Portfolio Holder or an officer acting under delegated powers on all options including but not limited to change, improvement or discontinuance of any of those services.</li> <li>6. Receiving reports on and reviewing the Councils disposal programme and making recommendations to the Leader relevant Portfolio Holder or an officer acting under delegated powers.</li> <li>7. Reviewing the performance of the Council`s property assets including any income generated and making recommendations to the Leader relevant Portfolio Holder or an officer acting under delegated powers.</li> </ol>		
<p><i>Members of this will panel have an advisory role only and the panel will not exercise any delegated executive or Council decision making powers.</i></p>		

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		Conservative		Labour			Ungrouped / Seats to allocate
Party Group							
Number of members		26		19			4
Overall proportionality		0.530612245	53.06%	0.387755102	38.78%		
Total strict entitlement		46.16326531		33.73469388			
Total rounded entitlement		46		34		80	7
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Size of Committee</b>	<b>Strict entitlement</b>	<b>Rounded Entitlement</b>	<b>Strict entitlement</b>	<b>Rounded entitlement</b>	<b>Total Rounded Entitlement</b>	
Children's O&S	6	3.18	3	2.33	2	5	1
Cleaner & Greener O&S	6	3.18	3	2.33	2	5	1
Corporate O&S	6	3.18	3	2.33	2	5	1
Health O&S	6	3.18	3	2.33	2	5	1
Hidden & Extreme Harms	6	3.18	3	2.33	2	5	1
Housing O&S	6	3.18	3	2.33	2	5	1
Planning, Transport & Regeneration O&S	6	3.18	3	2.33	2	5	1
Planning	9	4.78	5	3.49	3	8	1
Licensing	15	7.96	8	5.82	6	14	1
General Services	7	3.71	4	2.71	3	7	0
Corporate Parenting	8	4.24	4	3.10	3	7	1
Standards & Audit	6	3.18	3	2.33	2	5	1
<b>Total seats</b>	<b>87</b>		45		31	76	11
Adjustments			1		3		

Total  
49

Notes:

- 1 The total rounded entitlement of each party group is compared with the total number of seats allocated to that group. The allocations are then adjusted manually to ensure that the number of seats allocated to a particular group
- 2 Compare total rounded entitlement of each party group (Row 7) with the total number of seats allocated to that group in Row 21. Then adjust the allocations manually to ensure that the number in Row 21 matches that in Row 7

3

4

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<b>24 May 2023</b>	<b>ITEM: 12</b>
<b>Annual Council</b>	
<b>Appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> Not Applicable
<b>Report of:</b> Dr Dave Smith, Chief Executive	
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> n/a	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Dr Dave Smith, Chief Executive	
<b>This report is</b> Public	

## Executive Summary

This report requests the Council to consider the nominations made by Group Leaders to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels for those appointments that are to be made by Full Council.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

**1.1 That the nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels be approved (to be tabled when nominations are received).**

### 2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Both the Full Council and the Cabinet have powers to appoint Members, officers and others to serve on Outside Bodies in a variety of capacities.

### 3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Nominations have been sought from Group Leaders for the appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels that are required to be made by the Council.

3.2 Those nominations will be tabled when nominations have been received from Group Leaders.

3.3 For certain outside bodies, statutory and other panels, it is considered to be a requirement that those Members appointed should be DBS checked before they take up their role. This position is considered to be best practice and will specifically apply to the following:

- Fostering and Adoption Panel

### **Voting on appointments**

- 3.4 The Constitution contains a procedure to be followed if there are more people nominated for any position(s) than there are position(s) to be filled (Chapter 2, part 2, Rule 20.9) and this will be applied in the event of any places on Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels being contested.
- 3.5 If there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of the required number of people, then the name of the person with the least number of votes will be taken off the list and a new vote taken. The process will continue until there is a majority of votes for one person.
- 3.6 Where there is an equality of votes for a person to continue in the appointment process, a vote shall be taken between those candidates having an equality of votes to determine which candidate shall continue in the appointment process.

### **Changes to appointments made**

- 3.7 Any changes to the appointments made will require the approval of the appointing body, be this Full Council or Cabinet.

### **Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies**

- 3.8 There is an expectation that Members appointed to represent the Council on Outside Bodies will report back to the Council at least annually.

## **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Council should ensure that it continues to nominate representatives to sit on Outside Bodies, Statutory and other Panels so that its interests can be properly represented, together with those of the wider community.

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

- 5.1 In the course of seeking nominations, consultation has been undertaken with the Leaders of each of the political groups represented on the Council.

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

- 6.1 It is important for the Council to nominate to such bodies in order to ensure that it continues to represent the interests of both the Authority and the wider community.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

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

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Asmat Hussain**  
**Interim Director of Legal and Governance and  
Monitoring Officer**

It is important that Members are correctly appointed, through the relevant Council meeting as this ensures that they can be indemnified in certain circumstances.

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

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

The Council is under a statutory duty to ensure that equality and diversity is a key part of the decision making process of the Council. Therefore attention is drawn to the importance of ensuring that appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels are underpinned by appropriate training on the statutory equality framework.

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

None.

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

None.

**9. Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 – The nominations of political groups to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels will be circulated at the meeting.

**Report Author:**

Matthew Boulter

Legal and Democratic Services

<b>24 May 2023</b>	<b>ITEM: 13</b>
<b>Annual Council</b>	
<b>Schedule of Meetings 2023/24</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> Not Applicable
<b>Report of:</b> Dr Dave Smith, Chief Executive	
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> n/a	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Dr Dave Smith, Chief Executive	
<b>This report is</b> Public	

## Executive Summary

This report requests the agreement of the Council to the schedule of ordinary meetings of the Council, Cabinet and those committees that have been established at Agenda Item 9 for the 2023/24 municipal year.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

**1.1 That the Calendar of Meetings for 2023/24 be approved.**

**1.2 That Members note there may be a need to convene additional meetings of committees as and when to comply with Government Directions and improvement activities.**

### 2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Constitution requires the Council, at its annual meeting, to agree the schedule of ordinary meetings for the coming municipal year.

### 3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 A schedule of ordinary meetings for 2023/24 has been prepared and is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.

3.2 It should be noted that some committees and sub-committees will meet on an “as and when required” basis. This is due to the nature of the business they are required to consider and as such they feature infrequently, for example, General Services Committee.

- 3.3 Once the schedule of ordinary meetings has been approved, a notice is published 5 clear working days before the beginning of the month to which it refers and contains details of the date, time and venue of each meeting to be held during that month. Information relating to all meetings to be held is available on the Council's website.
- 3.4 If any changes are made to the agreed schedule of meetings during the course of the year, such as a new meeting being arranged or a meeting being cancelled, further notices will be issued and information will be updated on the Council's website.
- 3.5 There may be a requirement to accommodate additional meetings of committees to comply with Government Directions and the improvement process. All changes would follow the constitutional rules in relation to the organisation of meetings.
- 3.6 In exceptional circumstances, an "Extraordinary Meeting" can be called in accordance with those provisions contained within the Constitution. In any such cases, notice of the meeting will be provided in accordance with requirements.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Council is required to approve the schedule of ordinary meetings for 2023/24 and this will ensure that arrangements can be put in place for effective and efficient decision making throughout the municipal year.

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

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Leaders of each of the political groups represented on the Council.

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

- 6.1 The Council should have a schedule of meetings in place to ensure that arrangements can be put in place for effective and efficient decision making.

#### **7. Implications**

##### **7.1 Financial**

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

The cost of supporting the meetings contained within the Appendix to this report can be met from existing budgets.



Any increase in the number of meetings will have a direct resource implication on the officer support structure, particularly the Democratic Services team. Officers will endeavour to ensure that costs are contained within the budgets available.

If additional resources are required, then compensating savings will have to be found within the Council's budget.

## 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Asmat Hussain**  
**Interim Director of Legal and Governance and**  
**Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific 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 implications noted in this report.

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

None.

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

None

## 9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Ordinary Meetings for 2023/24.

## Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Legal and Democratic Services

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# May 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Early May Bank Holiday			Elections			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
King's Coronation Bank Holiday						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Labour Group Meeting 7pm Conservative Group Meeting 7pm		Annual Council 7pm				
29	30	31				
Spring Bank Holiday						

# June 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Conservative Group Meeting 7pm</i>		SACRE 6.30pm	Planning Committee 6pm			
Page 2	13	14	15	16	17	18
Page 80	Cleaner, Greener and Safer O&S 7pm	Cabinet 7pm	Children's Services O&S 7pm			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Lower Thames Crossing TF 6pm	Housing O&S 7pm	Licensing Sub-Committee 7pm	Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee 7pm			
26	27	28	29	30		
<i>Labour Group Meeting 7pm</i>	General Services 7pm	Full Council 7pm	Licensing Committee 7pm	Health and Wellbeing Board 10.30am		

# July 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Conservative Group Meeting 7pm</i>	Planning, Transport, Regeneration O&S 7pm	General Services 7pm				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Page 17	Corporate O&S 7pm	Investment Advisory Panel 5pm Cabinet 7pm	Planning Committee 6pm			
	18	19	20	21	22	23
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 6pm	Corporate Parenting 7pm	Standards and Audit Committee 7pm Health and Wellbeing O&S 7pm	Licensing Sub Committee 7pm			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>Labour Group Meeting 7pm</i>	Local Development Plan Task Force 7pm	Full Council 7pm				
31						

# August 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Planning Committee 6pm	Health & Well-being Board 10.30am		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 6pm		Licensing Sub Committee 7pm				
28	29	30	31			
Summer Bank Holiday			Health and Wellbeing O&S 7pm			

# September 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Conservative Group Meeting 7pm</i>	Corporate Parenting Committee 7pm	Standards and Audit Committee 7pm	Cleaner, Greener and Safer O&S 7pm			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Page 83	Children's Services O&S 7pm	Investment Advisory Panel 5pm Cabinet 7pm				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 6pm	Local Development Plan Task Force 7pm	Licensing Sub-Committee 7pm	Planning Committee 6pm			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
<i>Labour Group Meeting 7pm</i>		Full Council 7pm	Housing O&S 7pm			

# October 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
						Conservative Conference
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Conservative Conference Conservative Group Meeting 7pm	Conservative Conference Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee 7pm	Conservative Conference	Corporate O&S 7pm		Labour Conference	Labour Conference
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Labour Conference	Labour Conference General Services 7pm	Cabinet 7pm				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 6pm	Planning, Transport, Regeneration O&S 7pm	Licensing Sub Committee 7pm		Health & Well-being Board 10.30am		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Labour Group Meeting 7pm		Full Council 7pm	Planning Committee 6pm			
30	31					



# November 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		SACRE 6.30pm	Health and Wellbeing O&S 7pm			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Conservative Group Meeting 7pm</i>	Cleaner, Greener & Safer O & S 7pm	Investment Advisory Panel 5pm Cabinet 7pm	Licensing Committee 7pm			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 6pm			Children's Services O&S 7pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Housing O&S 7pm		Standards and Audit Committee 7pm			
27	28	29	30			
<i>Labour Group Meeting 7pm</i>		Full Council 7pm	Planning Committee 6pm			

# December 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Local Development Plan Task Force 7pm	Planning, Transport, Regeneration O&S 7pm		Corporate O&S 7pm			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 6pm	Licensing Sub-Committee 7pm	Cabinet 7pm	Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee 7pm	Health & Well-being Board 10.30am		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						Christmas Eve
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day	Boxing Day	Office Closed				New Year's Eve

# January 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4 Planning Committee 6pm	5	6	7
8 <i>Conservative Group Meeting 7pm</i>	9 Housing O&S 7pm	10 Cabinet 7pm	11 Health and Wellbeing O&S 7pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18 <i>Local Development Plan Task Force 7pm</i>	19 Children's Services O&S 7pm	20 SACRE 6.30pm				
22 <i>Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 6pm</i>	23 Cleaner, Greener and Safer O&S 7pm	24 Licensing Committee 7pm	25 Corporate Parenting 7pm	26	27	28
29 <i>Labour Group Meeting 7pm</i>	30 Licensing Sub-Committee 7pm	31 Full Council 7pm				

# February 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Corporate O&S 7pm			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Conservative Group Meeting 7pm</i>		Investment Advisory Panel 5pm  Cabinet 7pm	Planning Committee 6pm			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	General Services 7pm	Licensing Sub-Committee 7pm				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 6pm	Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee 7pm	Planning, Transport, Regeneration O&S 7pm		Health & Well-being Board 10.30am		
26	27	28	29			
<i>Labour Group Meeting 7pm</i>		Full Council 7pm	Standards and Audit Committee 7pm			

# March 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Conservative Group Meeting 7pm</i>	Housing O&S 7pm		Health and Wellbeing O&S 7pm			
Page 89	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Children's Services O&S 7pm	Cabinet 7pm	Planning Committee 6pm			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 6pm	Corporate Parenting 7pm	Licensing Sub-Committee 7pm	Local Development Plan Task Force 7pm			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>Labour Group Meeting 7pm</i>				Good Friday		

# April 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Easter Monday	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Conservative Group Meeting 7pm	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Page 90	16	17 Licensing Sub- Committee 7pm	18 Planning Committee 6pm	19	20	21
22 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force 7pm	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Labour Group Meeting 7pm	30					

<b>24 May 2023</b>	<b>ITEM: 14</b>
<b>Annual Council</b>	
<b>Schedule of Elections and Order of Retirement of Councillors</b>	
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> Not Applicable
<b>Report of:</b> Dr Dave Smith, Chief Executive	
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> n/a	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Dr Dave Smith, Chief Executive	
<b>This report is</b> Public	

## Executive Summary

This report informs Council of the schedule of elections to be held between 2024 and 2027 and also sets out the order of retirement of Councillors.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

**1.1 That the Schedule of Elections from 2024 to 2027 and Order of Retirement of Councillors be noted.**

### 2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This report advises Council of the schedule of elections from 2024 to 2027, in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Borough of Thurrock (Electoral Changes) Order 2002.

2.2 In accordance with the Order, approximately one-third of the seats on the Council come up for election each year, with a break in the fourth year of the cycle when no elections are held.

### 3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 This report complies with the Borough of Thurrock (Electoral Changes) Order 2002.

3.2 The order of retirement of Councillors is set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Council are requested to note the schedule of elections and the order of retirement of councillors.

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

- 5.1 No consultation has been undertaken in respect of this report.

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

- 6.1 The production of a schedule of elections to 2027, together with the order of retirement of Councillors, underscores the Council's commitment to both good governance and timely communication of the requirements of the Borough of Thurrock (Electoral Changes) Order 2002.

#### **7. Implications**

##### **7.1 Financial**

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

The cost of administering election by thirds is built into the current budget. Any changes to this arrangement in future would require a re-profiling of budgets and would be set out in specific reports.

##### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Asmat Hussain**  
**Interim Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer**

The report complies with the requirements of the Borough of Thurrock (Electoral Changes) Order 2002. There are no direct legal implications.

##### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

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

There are no direct diversity implications arising from this report.



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

None.

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

The Borough of Thurrock (Electoral Changes) Order 2002. This is available online at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2234/contents/made>

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 – Order of Retirement of Councillors

**Report Author:**

Matthew Boulter

Legal and Democratic Services

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Schedule of Elections 2024-2027	2024 Local (17) 2 May 2024	2025	2026 Local (16) 4 May 2026	2027 Local (16) 6 May 2027
<b>Aveley &amp; Uplands</b> A / B / C / D	<b>Maureen Pearce</b> Conservative	<b>Fallow Year / No elections scheduled</b>	<b>Srikanth Panjala</b> Labour	<b>Jacqui Maney</b> Conservative
<b>Belhus</b> E1 / E2 / F / G	<b>Georgette Polley</b> Conservative		<b>George Coxshall</b> Conservative	<b>Mark Hurrell</b> Labour
<b>Chadwell St Mary</b> H / I / J / K	<b>Adam Carter</b> Conservative		<b>Sara Muldowney</b> Labour	<b>Daniel Chukwu</b> Labour
<b>Chafford and North Stifford</b> L / M / N	<b>James Thandi</b> Conservative		No election	<b>Vicki Hartstean</b> Labour
<b>Corringham and Fobbing</b> O / P / Q (SBET)	<b>Graham Snell</b> Conservative		No election	<b>Deborah Arnold</b> Conservative
<b>East Tilbury</b> R / S / T (SBET)	<b>Sue Sammons</b> Conservative		No election	<b>Fraser Massey</b> Independent
<b>Grays Riverside</b> U / V / W	<b>Tony Fish</b> Labour		<b>Martin Kerin</b> Labour	<b>Valerie Morris-Cook</b> Labour
<b>Grays Thurrock</b> X / Y / Z	<b>John Kent</b> Labour		<b>Lynn Worrall</b> Labour	<b>Cathy Kent</b> Labour
<b>Little Thurrock Blackshots</b> AA / AB	<b>Joy Redsell</b> Conservative		<b>Ben Maney</b> Conservative	No election
<b>Little Thurrock Rectory</b> AC / AD	No election		<b>Rob Gledhill</b> Conservative	<b>Tom Kelly</b> Conservative
<b>Ockendon</b> AE / AF / AG1 / AG2	<b>Luke Spillman</b> Conservative		<b>Paul Arnold</b> Conservative	<b>Andrew Jefferies</b> Conservative
<b>Orsett</b> AH / AI / AJ / AK (SBET)	<b>Sue Little</b> Conservative		<b>Barry Johnson</b> Conservative	No election
<b>South Chafford</b> AL / AM	<b>Augustine Ononaji</b> Conservative		<b>Sue Shinnick</b> Labour	No election
<b>Stanford East and Corringham Town</b> AN / AO / AP (SBET)	<b>Jack Duffin</b> Conservative		<b>Alex Anderson</b> Conservative	<b>John Cecil</b> Labour
<b>Stanford le Hope West</b> AQ / AR / AS (SBET)	<b>Terry Piccolo</b> Conservative		No election	<b>Neil Speight</b> Independent
<b>Stifford Clays</b> AT / AU	No election		<b>Elizabeth Rigby</b> Conservative	<b>Mark Hooper</b> Labour
<b>The Homesteads</b> AV / AW / AX / AY (SBET)	<b>Gary Collins</b> Conservative		<b>James Halden</b> Conservative	<b>Gary Byrne</b> Thurrock Independents
<b>Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park</b> AZ / BA / BB	No election		<b>John Allen</b> Independent	<b>Cici Manwa</b> Labour
<b>Tilbury St Chads</b> BC / BD	<b>Kairen Raper</b> Labour		<b>Steve Liddiard</b> Labour	No election
<b>West Thurrock and South Stifford</b> BE / BF / BG / BH	<b>Lee Watson</b> Labour		<b>Qaisar Abbas</b> Conservative	<b>Aaron Green</b> Labour and Co-operative

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