

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

Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on **26 July 2023**

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

Membership of the Council:

Susan Little (Mayor)

Qaisar Abbas (Deputy Mayor)

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
James Halden
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: 18 July 2023

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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The Council are asked to agree any changes to the appointments made to committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels, as requested by Group Leaders.	

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In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

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13 Minutes of Committees

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Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee	21 February 2023
General Services Committee	7 February 2023
Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 February 2023
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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

Future Dates of Council:

27 September 2023, 25 October 2023, 29 November 2023, 31 January 2024, 28 February 2024 (Budget), 20 March 2023

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Information for members of the public and councillors

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- 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.

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

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

- Access the modern.gov app
- 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

- | | | | |
|-----------|----|--|----------------------------|
| A. | 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.		C.	
IF there is an AMENDMENT (please see Rule 19.23)		If NOT amended i.e. original motion	
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	THEN debate on the subject .	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.

July 1943

SEELEY William
WHITE Eric W
TAYLOR John H
MURRELL Arthur N
ADAMS Kenneth James
HUTCHINSON John H
NICHOLLS Wilfred W

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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.

July 2023

Mike Tarbard - Services to the local community

Kim Towlson - Services to the local community

Kevin North - Services to the Thurrock Stroke Project

Charlie Lawrence - Services to the local community



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Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 28 June 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Susan Little (Mayor), Qaisar Abbas (Deputy Mayor), John Allen, Alex Anderson, Deborah Arnold, Paul Arnold, Gary Byrne, Adam Carter, John Cecil, Daniel Chukwu, Gary Collins, George Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Tony Fish (*arrived 7.46pm*), Aaron Green, James Halden, 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, Kairen Raper, Joycelyn Redsell, Elizabeth Rigby, Sue Sammons, Sue Shinnick, Graham Snell, Neil Speight, Luke Spillman, James Thandi, Lee Watson and Lynn Worrall

Apologies: Councillor Robert Gledhill

In attendance: Dr Dave Smith, Chief Executive and Managing Director
Commissioner
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation
Mark Bradbury, Interim Director of Place
Claire Demmel, Interim Director Public Realm
Asmat Hussain, Director of Legal and Governance and
Monitoring Officer
Alix MacFarlane, Interim Director, Communications Advisor -
Intervention and Improvement
Steven Mair, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Patrick McDermott, Chief of Staff to the Thurrock
Commissioners
Kerry Thomas, Chief Executive Business Manager
Ian Wake, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health
Karen Wheeler, Director Strategy, Engagement and Growth
Jonathan Wilson, Interim Director Finance & S151 Officer
Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy
Monitoring Officer
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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.

14. Presentation of the Mayor's Consort Chains

The Mayor's consort, Brian Little, received his consort chains.

15. Minutes

Minutes of Annual Council held on the 24 May 2023 were approved as a correct record.

16. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

17. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

18. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council

Councillor Jefferies, Leader of the Council, made the following announcements:

- The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Abbas, had joined dignitaries at a ceremony to unveil a plaque celebrating the 75th anniversary of the arrival of MHT Empire Windrush in Tilbury.
- Ceremonies were held to raise flags for the Armed Forces Day and Pride Month in Thurrock.
- Celebrated the tremendous contribution of the borough's volunteers as part of the volunteer's week.
- Asked residents for their help to water the new trees that had been planted into the borough during the summer months.
- Thanked those members who had help deliver Fostering Leaflets.

19. Questions from Members of the Public

The public question fell as the questioner was not in attendance.

20. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors

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

Councillor Kelly presented his petition in regard to tree cutting at Fredrick Andrewes Court. In response to this Councillor Jefferies acknowledged the petition.

Councillor Cecil presented his petition regarding the closure of Lloyds Bank in Corringham. In response to this Councillor Jefferies acknowledged the petition.

21. Petitions Update Report

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

22. 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 Jefferies, made the following changes:

To replace Councillor Snell with Councillor Anderson on the Hidden and Extreme Harms Prevention Committee.

To replace Councillor Pearce with Councillor Polley on the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

To replace Councillor Sammons with Councillor Carter on the Corporate Parenting Committee.

To replace Councillor Spillman with Councillor Pearce on the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

To replace Councillor Thandi with Councillor Redsell on the Impulse Outside Body.

To replace Councillor Abbas with Councillor D Arnold on the Constitution Working Group.

To add Councillor Carter as a substitute on the Planning Committee.

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

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

23. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

The Mayor referred Members to the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022/23 as published in the agenda.

The following points were raised:

- The report presented only “good new stories”, should also have included those projects that had not been so successful or had experienced issues.
- The report had not identified any flaws in the overview and scrutiny process.

- That next year's report should identify the changes being made to the scrutiny function.
- A waste review was required on the Cleaner Greener & Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- The good work to reinstate the brown bins was acknowledged.
- The fostering programme had been recognised as good work undertaken by the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny committee.
- The good work of the Planning Transport & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been recognised in setting up a group to look at the Integrated Transport Block and the Area Intervention Programme.
- A point was made that there had been two attempts to reform the scrutiny process over the past two years which had been stopped by the opposition.
- A further point was made that the focus of scrutiny should be on those items that were important rather than urgent, fewer committees, larger membership and had until January 2024 to undertake this work.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 were noted.

24. Best Value Inspection Report

The Leader introduced and welcomed the Best Value Inspection report which highlighted the serious and significant failings in terms of leadership of administration of the past, all members had to agree to the recommendations and understand where all 49 members had failed in their duties. The report had laid bare the poor scrutiny, lack of challenge to officers and overall poor governance. Identified other areas in the council where mistakes had been made and the overall culture of Thurrock council and would seek to make improvements to these. He thanked all councillors who had stepped up to contribute to the improvements in the council culture and who were seeking to improve their own skills. Thurrock had remarkable potential and would continue to see it thrive and believed Thurrock had a bright future.

At 7.46pm, Councillor Fish entered the chamber.

Some of the main themes of the debate made by the Labour Group were:

- Members agreed to the recommendations.
- Millions of pounds of the council's money had been gambled, information had been covered up and the report had highlighted the council was not well led by the administration.
- Welcomed the Best Value Inspection report.
- Issues had to be listened to.
- Best Value Inspection report had highlighted red flags, questioned what had been shared and when questions were asked why no answers were forthcoming.

- Recognised the culture of the council had to change.
- Concern that backbench members would not have enough oversight and have a say in the way forward for Thurrock.
- Angry as Chair of Standard and Audit Committee had been lied to on reports presented.
- The Council's money had been gambled.
- Shame on the administration.
- How to make sure this never happened again.
- Shame that the report had been published following the elections.
- Residents should be given the opportunity to decide in their vote.
- The ex-Leader and Cabinet Member had got away lightly, no officer accountability who were not fit for office or to serve the residents of this borough.

Some of the main themes of the debate made by the Conservative Group were:

- Members agreed to the recommendations.
- All members should accept responsibility.
- Failures have been acknowledged.
- Culture of the council had been a concern.
- Constitution will need to be changed so that all members are heard.
- There was a bright future for Thurrock.
- There had been a lack of understanding.
- It was important to understand where the Council was now and how it could move on.
- Prevent further damaging the council financially.
- Recognised the culture of the council had to change, blame culture was not good, everyone made mistakes.
- Confidence from residents that members could now make a change.
- Reflect from the Best Value Inspection report and move on towards what needed to be put right.
- Grateful to officers.
- Need to ask where and what can be done better.
- Member training being offered was good.
- All 49 members had to work together to get through this.
- The Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny committee will pick up some of the projects, so this does not happen again.

Some of the main themes of the debate made by the Independent Members were:

- Members agreed to the recommendations.
- Welcomed the Best Value Inspection report.
- The Leader and Officers had been helpful, committed and willingly open to speak to members.

- Not for all 49 members to take responsibility as some had only taken up office in May 2023.
- Concern over the diversity and equality implications written within the report.
- Not accept any onus on the failures that had taken place.
- Members were under a false understanding and were misled.
- Use the expertise of all opposition members.

RESOLVED

1. That Council noted the publication of the Best Value Inspection report on 15 June 2023.
2. Agreed to incorporate the recommendations of the report within the Council's Improvement and Recovery Plan.

25. Questions from Members

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

Asked by	Asked to	Subject
Councillor Byrne	Councillor Johnson	Police investigation into Thurrock's financial affairs.
Councillor Worrall	Councillor Jefferies	What openness and transparency mean to the leader
Councillor J Maney	Councillor Jefferies	ULEZ extension
Councillor J Maney	Councillor Jefferies	Findings of the Best Value Inspection report
Councillor J Kent	Councillor Jefferies	Overspend of widening of the A13
Councillor Byrne	Councillor Jefferies	About the money in preventing a bin weekly collection service
Councillor Pearce	Councillor Carter	New school site in Love Lane, Aveley
Councillor Pearce	Councillor Coxshall	Environmental extremists – Police and Council deal with any future disruptions in the borough
Councillor Redsell	Councillor Jefferies	Concern on serious fires occurring in Hangman's Wood
Councillor Redsell	Councillor Coxshall	Community safety tackling nuisance off road motorbikes
Councillor Ononaji	Councillor Coxshall	Anti-social behaviour at

		Chafford Hundred train station
Councillor P Arnold	Councillor B Maney	School Crossing Patrol officers being withdrawn
Councillor Worrall	Councillor Jefferies	Tackling grass verges
Councillor J Kent	Councillor Carter	Priorities for the municipal year as Portfolio Holder
Councillor J Kent	Councillor B Maney	Introduction of residents parking in Richmond Road Grays
Councillor Fish	Councillor Johnson	Window replacement scheme in high rise flats in South Grays

The recording of the questions and responses can be found from the following link:

[Council - Wednesday 28 June 2023, 7:00pm - Thurrock Council committee meeting webcasts \(public-i.tv\)](#)

26. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies

No reports were presented.

27. Minutes of Committees

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

28. 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.

29. Motion submitted by Councillor J Kent

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

Council recognises the refuse service has failed the residents of Thurrock for too long and calls on Cabinet to ensure the regular collection of all three bins.

Councillor J Kent presented his motion by stating until relatively recently the council had a refuse service to be proud of and paid tribute to all those that work in the service. Over the last few years the quality of the service had deteriorated to such a degree that was now clearly failing residents of the borough and had never received so many complaints. Residents had questioned if the council could not even empty bins how they could be trusted in leading the recovery of the council's financial catastrophe. Referred to the brown bin service which had been a disaster with many residents not having their bin emptied for months on end. Pleased that cabinet had decided to

alternate the blue and brown bins but had concerns this was only an interim measure pending another review of the service, which would be the third review in so many years. Summed by up stating this chaos had to stop as residents want their bins emptied on the day it was promised to be emptied.

The following points were made:

- There was a fundamental lack of understand of a basic council service.
- The portfolio holder had listened and agreed to the alternative collections of recycling and garden collections.
- The Cleaner Greener Safer Overview Committee would continue to engage with the portfolio holder openly and with respect but would continue to fulfil the scrutiny function and expect to be taken seriously.
- Engagement must take place with all front-line staff with an end to unproductive confrontation.
- Disappointment to read the proposed full bin service presented and signed off as part of the budget was not want was going to happen and pleased that Dr Smith and the portfolio holder had turned this around.
- Await with interest to see the latest edition of the waste strategy plan.
- The waste management working group had been set up in 2019 to look at services and recycling but since that time the service had deteriorated.
- Thought needed to be given to those residents who received assisted bin collections.
- Some of the comments made this evening were hurtful towards staff and bin crews who over the last six months had worked incredible hard.
- Praise was given to the portfolio holder and the refuse crew.
- To look at the mechanism of the “Report It” and on-line system to ensure this worked satisfactory when residents used it.

The Mayor extended time by 20 minutes to allow the remaining business to be heard.

Councillor J Kent summed up by requesting a show of hands when voting.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

With 48 votes in favour, the motion was carried.

30. Motion submitted by Councillor Speight

The Motion, as printed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Speight and seconded by Councillor Halden. The Motion read as follows:

Residents get nine, or at best ten, opportunities a year to see their council in full action. Far too often vital matters are not discussed because of the guillotine regulations which foreshorten debate and discussion. This has led, in the past, to political filibustering and spurious questions to ensure that matters are not discussed in public because of the time limitation. This is not democracy in action. For full meetings only, councillors and officers should be

expected to give whatever time is necessary to discuss matters. This motion does not seek to remove the limits of time individual councillors get to speak, but to remove the guillotine on separate sections of the meeting; henceforth this council calls on cabinet and/or the constitution working group to review the constitution as a matter of urgency and subsequently allow monthly full council meetings to run their full length without the need to invoke standing orders for an extension.

The following points were made:

- There had been improvements made to the process over the last couple of years by extended the guillotine time, provided more time for questions and motions, and moved portfolio holder reports to scrutiny committees.
- There were plenty of other changes that could be introduced, but there were only certain ways to change the constitution to achieve a better democratic level of debate.
- All members should become more actively involved to strengthen and broaden the debate in the constitution.
- The call-in process could potentially stop the art of decision making.
- The Mayor was asked to allow unlimited time at council meetings to allow time for questions and motions to ensure the business could be concluded until the consultation had been completed and had been reflected in the constitution.
- Point was made that all officers and members should remain in committee meetings until all business had been completed.
- Point raised that there had to be a sensible time for meetings to finish.
- Need to look at the type of questions coming forward particularly those that could be asked directly to officers outside of the meeting.

Councillor Speight summed up by urging all members for their support.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

With 47 votes in favour, the motion was carried.

31. Motion submitted by Councillor J Kent

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

Council welcomes the release of the Best Value Inspection report, endorses its recommendations, and resolves to move to all out elections from May 2024.

Councillor J Kent presented the motion by stating in the past he had been a supporter of elections by thirds but given the catastrophic failure of the council's finances and the findings from the Best Value Inspection report it was clear the move to all out elections must be undertaken as soon as possible. It was important not to allow this decision to be stalled as the Best Value Inspection report had noted the work to bring member attention to the

big strategic issues was only possible a few months each year before they entered into election mode the following year. The improvement and recovery plan needed to be delivered as quickly as possible without any distraction of having two sets of elections within the next two years. Costs would also be incurred twice if delaying the all out elections. Councillor J Kent summed up by stating residents needed to have their say as quickly as possible and urged members to move to all out elections from next year.

An amendment to this motion had been received from Councillor Jefferies and seconded by Councillor Coxshall and read as follows:

Council welcomes the release of the Best Value Inspection report, endorses its recommendations, and resolves to request the independent boundary review be sped up to allow for an all-out election as soon as possible.

Councillor Jefferies presented the amended motion by endorsing the Best Value Inspection that all out elections were needed but did not want to see the public purse having to carry out and pay for election after election. The boundary review was required to be completed as quickly as possible and then go for all out elections.

The following points were made:

- The current offering of thirds, all out and then another all out for boundary review was not acceptable.
- Understood the council in its state required to have a secure administration going forward.
- Concern that if the boundary review took place in 2024, could mean a triple hit of elections with no sense of recovery.
- Members needed to get together to find a sensible resolution.
- All out elections would save money.
- It was important to get the boundary review underway as soon as possible before moving to all out elections.
- There were no pending boundary reviews on the boundary commission website for Thurrock.
- The council needed to be reset and change was welcomed.
- Thurrock residents deserved forthright representation in the chamber and proposed two elections one 2024 and one in 2025.
- Point made that all out four elections provided continuity between members and officers.
- Members previously agreed the Best Value Inspection report recommendations, one of those recommendations was a four-year election.
- There was no mention of a boundary review in recommendation 6.
- Residents had the right to judge by voting in an all out election, this was the right time for this to take place.

At 10.18pm, Councillor J Kent raised a standing order to allow the meeting to continue until the close of business. All members agreed.

The Mayor called a vote on the amended Motion to which Councillor J Kent requested a requisition vote.

For: Councillors Abbas, Anderson, D Arnold, P Arnold, Carter, Collins, Coxshall, Duffin, Halden, Jefferies, Johnson, Kelly, Little, B Maney, J Maney, Ononaji, Pearce, Piccolo, Redsell, Rigby, Sammons, Snell, Spillman and Thandi (24)

Against: Councillors Allen, Byrne, Cecil, Chukwu, Fish, Green, Hartstean, Hooper, Hurrell, C Kent, J Kent, Kerin, Liddiard, Manwa, Massey, Morris-Cook, Muldowney, Panjala, Raper, Shinnick, Speight, Watson and Worrall (23)

Abstain: (0)

The Mayor announced the amended motion was carried.

The Mayor called a vote on the substantive motion to which Councillor J Kent requested a requisition vote.

For: Councillors Abbas, Anderson, D Arnold, P Arnold, Carter, Cecil, Chukwu, Collins, Coxshall, Duffin, Fish, Green, Halden, Hartstean, Hooper, Hurrell, Jefferies, Johnson, Kelly, C Kent, J Kent, Kerin, Liddiard, Little, B Maney, J Maney, Manwa, Morris-Cook, Muldowney, Ononaji, Panjala, Pearce, Piccolo, Raper, Redsell, Rigby, Sammons, Shinnick, Snell, Spillman, Thandi, Watson and Worrall (43)

Against: Councillors, Allen, Byrne and Speight (3)

Abstain: Councillor Massey (1)

The Mayor announced the substantive Motion carried.

The recording of this meeting can be found from the following link:

[Council - Wednesday 28 June 2023, 7:00pm - Thurrock Council committee meeting webcasts \(public-i.tv\)](#)

The meeting finished at 10.55 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

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

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

2 questions received from members of the public.

1. From Mr Groves to Councillor B Maney

Bearing in mind the last local plan for Thurrock was published in 1997, when will the new Local Plan be published?

2. From Mr Austin to Councillor Jefferies

In the interests of openness and transparency, and to alleviate concerns the Tilbury Towns Fund plan even fulfilled the required criteria, can the new leader of the council update Tilbury residents on the current status of the Towns Fund including what funding has already been approved and received?

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Petitions Update Report

Petition No.	Description	Presented (date)	Presented (at)	Submitted (by)	Status
574	We feel that the sudden end of garden waste collections is unfair. While we understand that all councils need to make difficult decisions in the current economic climate but ending the service without notice will cause difficulties to many people. Many residents have full brown bins, and these will be incredibly difficult for people to empty into bags to take to the dump, particularly those who have physical disabilities. We ask that the council consider emptying all brown bins in the borough and then remove the bins before people start dumping them everywhere. If the council is considering introducing a paid for service, in line with other councils, then this will give residents an option to continue having their garden waste collected.	June 2023	On-Line	Resident	Resident was advised that following a temporary suspension of the garden waste kerbside collection service, the Clean and Green Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet considered options for green waste collection at their respective meetings on 13 th and 14 th June. It was resolved to introduce Biweekly Recycling collections to facilitate Biweekly Green waste collections with effect from 26 th June. This was in addition to the provision of a garden waste disposal option for residents at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre in Linford.
575	We the undersigned call on Anglian Water the relevant owners to fully crown and maintain the trees on their land at the area of Fredrick Andrewes Court and Silverlocke Road. This will enable the residents to fully enjoy the sun from the south facing aspects of their properties, help prolong the life of the trees and allay the safety concerns of residents.	June 2023	Council	Cllr Kelly	The trees, that are beyond the South Boundary of the complex are as mentioned not in the ownership of Thurrock Council. This matter was raised a few months ago by the local councillors and at that point we searched via HM Land Registry which showed ownership by an offshore holding company. The council's tree officer visited the location, and considered what powers, if any, could be exercised in relation to these trees.

Petitions Update Report

					<p>The conclusion is that we do not have any powers that we may exercise in this case. The tree officer subsequently wrote to the landowners, requesting attention on behalf of the residents, but it should be appreciated that the owner has no legal obligation to prune the trees at our request, and unfortunately on this occasion there is no relevant legislation that could be used to compel maintenance relating to these trees. It would be down to good will on the part of the owner. Following this petition the team have again checked the Land Registry details to ensure that there have been no changes and have written to the landowner to again ask them to be a considerate neighbour and to maintain the trees.</p>
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26 July 2023		ITEM: 9
Council		
Revised Political Balance		
Wards and communities affected: East Tilbury	Key Decision: Not Applicable	
Report of: Dave Smith, Chief Executive		
Accountable Assistant Director: N/a		
Accountable Director: Asmat Hussain, Interim Director of Law and Governance		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

This report requests the Council confirm the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees following Councillor Sammons becoming an independent councillor on 13 July 2023.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the political balance and allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The political balance of the Council was confirmed at its annual meeting on 24 May 2023 following the local elections. Following Councillor Sammons becoming an independent member for East Tilbury the new political balance of the Council is:

Conservatives: 25
Labour: 19
Independents: 5

New Political proportionality

2.2 Appendix 1 of this report shows the impact of this change of party membership to the political balance. In summary the Conservatives reduce their overall seat entitlement from 46 to 44. These two seats are left

unclaimed through the calculations and are assigned to ungrouped Members. The Labour group is unaffected.

- 2.3 The Conservative group are required to identify two seats they wish to release. Ungrouped Members may wish to claim these seats accordingly.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Full Council have the authority to agree and endorse the allocation of committee seats. The political balance calculations contained in the appendices represent a mathematical and objective way of assigning those seats.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 In the spirit of transparency the Council is encouraged to have sight of any changes to political balance and agree or note them.

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 can be put before Council for approval.

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

- 6.1 Appointing members to committees 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

There are no direct financial implications related to the change in political balance. The cost of servicing committees will be met through the existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Assie Hussain**
Interim Director of Legal and Governance

The duties on Councils (under sections 15- 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) are to review the representation of different political groups on Committees and, as soon as practicable after such reviews, determine the allocation to different political groups and give effect to allocations. This is so as to ensure that the overall political composition of the Council is, so far as reasonably practicable, reflected in the appointment of Members to Committees and Sub-Committees.

This review has to be done at or as soon as practicable after the annual meeting of full Council. A review should also be done where the overall political balance of the Council changes during the course of the municipal year. Following any change in the overall political balance, the authority is required to undertake a review and consider any implications for representation on Council Committees and Sub-Committees. This would include following a Member(s) stating that he or she wishes to join a political group (reg. 17 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990).

If following a review it's considered that any changes need to be made to Committee and/or Sub-Committee allocations then a report needs to go to full Council setting out the recommended changes.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Lee**
Team Manager – Community Development and Equalities

There are no direct implications for this report.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

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

There are the following appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Revised Political Balance Calculations – July 2023

Appendix 2 – Political Balance Calculations agreed at Annual Council – May 2023

Report Author:

Matthew Boulter

Head of Democracy, Scrutiny and Member Services

Legal Services

Thurrock Council
Proportionality

Party Group	Committee	Size of Committee	Conservative		Labour		Ungrouped / Seats to allocate	Total
			Strict entitlement	Rounded Entitlement	Strict entitlement	Rounded entitlement		
Number of members			25		19		5	49
Overall proportionality			0.510204082	51.02%	0.387755102	38.78%		
Total strict entitlement			44.3877551		33.73469388			
Total rounded entitlement			44		34		78	9
Children's O&S		6	3.06	3	2.33	2	5	1
Cleaner & Greener O&S		6	3.06	3	2.33	2	5	1
Corporate O&S		6	3.06	3	2.33	2	5	1
Health O&S		6	3.06	3	2.33	2	5	1
Hidden & Extreme Harms		6	3.18	3	2.33	2	5	1
Housing O&S		6	3.06	3	2.33	2	5	1
Planning, Transport & Regeneration O&S		6	3.06	3	2.33	2	5	1
Planning		9	4.59	5	3.49	3	8	1
Licensing		15	7.65	8	5.82	6	14	1
General Services		7	3.57	4	2.71	3	7	0
Corporate Parenting		8	4.08	4	3.10	3	7	1
Standards & Audit		6	3.06	3	2.33	2	5	1
Total seats		87		45		31	76	11
Adjustments				-1		3		

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
- 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

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Thurrock Council
Proportionality

Party Group	Conservative		Labour		Ungrouped / Seats to allocate	Total	
	Number of members						
Number of members	26		19		4	49	
Overall proportionality	0.530612245	53.06%	0.387755102	38.78%			
Total strict entitlement	46.16326531		33.73469388				
Total rounded entitlement	46		34		80	7	
Committee	Size of Committee	Strict entitlement	Rounded Entitlement	Strict entitlement	Rounded entitlement	Total Rounded Entitlement	
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
Total seats	87		45		31	76	11
Adjustments			1		3		

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
- 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

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Questions from Members to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Members appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee in accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.

There were 3 questions to the Leader and 7 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

1. From Councillor Byrne to Councillor Jefferies

Five and a half years ago your party promised to deliver a SOTA train station for Stanford le Hope. Is it not about time you delivered on that promise?

2. From Councillor Byrne to Councillor Jefferies

Last year the excuse was not enough time to organise a resident referendum to vote on an above 5% council tax increase, plenty of time now to organise, will you go to referendum this time or just vote it through again as you did this year?

3. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Jefferies

Will the Leader of the council give an update on progress with the Boundary Commission in securing an early review of boundaries for Thurrock?

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

1. From Councillor Polley to Councillor B Maney

Would the Portfolio Holder please give an update on the current plans for the former Culver Centre site in Belhus.

2. From Councillor Green to Councillor Jefferies

What is the Portfolio Holder doing to tackle the increase in fly tipping in the borough?

3. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Kelly

At the Planning Committee held on 13th of July, the item "Land adjacent Watts Wood" was deferred because, in the words of the committee chair, there was conflicting advice from the Monitoring Officer in terms of the membership numbers. Will the chair of the Planning Committee set out that advice from the Monitoring Officer?

4. From Councillor Polley to Councillor Coxshall

I would like to ask Portfolio Holder for Communities if we have a Local Event Organisers Network?

5. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Carter

Will the Portfolio Holder set out his strategy for school improvement?

6. From Councillor Speight to Councillor B Maney

Hopefully the Portfolio Holder is aware of the continuing problems of lack of convenient parking in Stanford-le-Hope and the problems that shortage exacerbates through bad behaviour of drivers. If so, what are his plans to alleviate the situation?

7. From Councillor Speight to Councillor Jefferies

Is the Leader and Portfolio Holder happy with the current state of the borough's council administered cemeteries and sure that the service is equitably resourced?

This report lists all motions from the previous twelve months which still have updates forthcoming. All Motions which have been resolved or the actions from officers have been completed are removed.

Date	From	Motion	Status	Director
21 September 2022	Cllr Carter	The Council calls for the building operationally known as C03 to be renamed as the Town Hall and to be referred to as such in all communications.	A design for new signs for the building is being discussed with planning officers as planning consent will be required. A programme for securing consent and erecting signs will be shared with members in due course. An application to the Royal Mail for a new postcode has been made.	Mark Bradbury
25 January 2023	Cllr Jefferies	This Council condemns plans by the London Labour Mayor to extend the Ultra-Low Emission Zone to all Greater London and notes with concern the impact this would have on many Thurrock residents if implemented. Members also note the campaign by our Member of Parliament Jackie Doyle-Price to oppose the said extension and calls on Thurrock residents to sign her on-line petition.	<p>Thurrock Council has recently written to the Mayor of London stating that the authority has not been suitably engaged in the ULEZ consultation and therefore has not had the opportunity to work with the Mayor of London's office to devise strategies to mitigate negative impacts of ULEZ proposals. In view of the lack of engagement and in the absence of a response to our consultation submission, the council has no option but to state its objection to the current ULEZ proposals that will impact our road network and users.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the Council has highlighted that it would welcome an opportunity to discuss concerns in more detail.</p>	Mark Bradbury

25 January 2023	Cllr Massey	Members may be aware that National Highways have recently submitted, and had approved, their Development Consent Order for the Lower Thames Crossing scheme, to move forward to the next stage in the Planning Inspectorate process. The LTC Task Force seeks assurances that the Council is committed to opposing the scheme as currently presented and promote this message through Council communications channels.	Officers have been in negotiations with National Highways regarding their contribution towards the cost incurred by Thurrock in submitting representations and engaging with the Examination process. This is to ensure as little of the cost as possible is borne by Thurrock residents.	Mark Bradbury
25 January 2023	Cllr J Kent	Thurrock Council resolves to use the Local Plan process to support the retention of Speedway in Thurrock and identify a new home for Grays Athletic, in the Grays area.	The Council will support proposals for the retention of Speedway in Thurrock and the development of a new home for Grays Athletic through the Local Plan process where it can be demonstrated that the uses are viable and appropriate for the sites proposed.	Mark Bradbury
28 June 2023	Cllr J Kent	Council recognises the refuse service has failed the residents of Thurrock for too long and calls on Cabinet to ensure the regular collection of all three bins.	Recent changes introduced on 26 th June to the waste and recycling collections have managed to stabilise the service and deliver significant improvements. These changes, which were considered by the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee and agreed at Cabinet resolved to maintain weekly general waste collections and introduce biweekly recycling collections to enable biweekly green waste collections to be undertaken. It is intended that the current collection arrangements be in place until a fully costed Waste Implementation Plan has been	Claire Demmel

			<p>completed. It is recognised that further changes to the collection service will be required to accommodate the statutory requirement to provide weekly food waste collections in 2024 and the service is currently undertaking a trial of the food waste collection methodology and modelling potential deployment with a view to bringing forward options for consideration towards the end of the year. Cabinet requested a full strategic review of the waste service be undertaken to provide for a sustainable service in the context of reducing budgets, increasing costs, demographic and other pressures, changes in legislation. The scope of the strategic review will be developed for members consideration, but will include the type, levels, and forms of delivery of service. This will be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration not less than one month before Cabinet.</p>	
28 June 2023	Cllr Speight	<p>Residents get nine, or at best ten, opportunities a year to see their council in full action. Far too often vital matters are not discussed because of the guillotine regulations which foreshorten debate and discussion. This has led, in the past, to political filibustering and spurious questions to ensure that matters are not discussed in public because of the time limitation. This is not democracy in action. For full meetings only, councillors and officers should be expected to</p>	<p>This motion will be referred to the Constitution Working Group.</p>	Asmat Hussain

		<p>give whatever time is necessary to discuss matters. This motion does not seek to remove the limits of time individual councillors get to speak, but to remove the guillotine on separate sections of the meeting; henceforth this council calls on cabinet and/or the constitution working group to review the constitution as a matter of urgency and subsequently allow monthly full council meetings to run their full length without the need to invoke standing orders for an extension.</p>		
28 June 2023	Cllr J Kent	<p>Council welcomes the release of the Best Value Inspection report, endorses its recommendations, and resolves to request the independent boundary review be sped up to allow for an all-out election as soon as possible.</p>	<p>This will form part of the improvement and recovery plan and be overseen by the improvement and recovery board.</p>	<p>Dr Dave Smith</p>

Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor J Kent

Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling for an independent inquiry into the financial collapse of Thurrock Council - along with similar collapses in Woking, Croydon, Slough and Northamptonshire. The inquiry should look at, amongst other things - the impact of austerity on council budgets, the impact of scrapping of independent oversight bodies such as the Audit Commission, the impact of government encouragement of councils to pursue a commercialisation agenda, the role of councils' external auditors, the role of council Monitoring Officers, Section 151 Officers and Chief Executives, and the apparent absence of central government oversight of local government.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

Rule 15.2 of the Council Procedure and Rules states that a notice of motion must relate to a matter which affects the authority or the authority's area and must relate to a matter in respect of which the authority has a relevant function. The motion relates to the Council's financial affairs. Councillors are responsible for the financial control and decision making of the Council. Section 151 Local Government Act 1972 states that every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. Public inquiries are initiated and funded by Government on matters of public concern about a particular event or set of events.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

There are no specific financial implications arising from the request for an independent inquiry.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes

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Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 2

Submitted by Councillor Watson

Thurrock Council notes with concern the news that the Department for Transport and the 13 train operating companies it manages have announced plans to close almost all staffed ticket offices in England, totalling nearly 1000, following changes to the Government's guidance relating to ticket office opening hours and operation. Statutory Consultations began on 5th July and will close on 26th July.

Thurrock Council believes that ticket offices provide a vital service to residents using the stations at Stanford le Hope, Ockendon, Purfleet, Tilbury and East Tilbury and support passenger safety, security and accessibility. Having a central place in the station for people requiring advice and assistance provides certainty and confidence for customers who may struggle to otherwise locate station staff and also acts as a point of safety for passengers. At many stations, access to facilities such as toilets and waiting rooms is reliant on ticket office staff.

Thurrock Council is concerned the closure of ticket offices will disproportionately affect disabled, deaf and older residents in Thurrock – as well as those with poor literacy and IT skills or on lower incomes. Council also notes the possible implications for current station staff and believes that the closure of ticket offices could lead to a de-staffing of rail stations.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Instruct the Managing Director/Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, expressing Thurrock Council's opposition to the possible closure of staffed rail ticket offices – and in particular the offices at Ockendon, East Tilbury, Tilbury, Stanford Le Hope and Purfleet
- Instruct the Managing Director/Chief Executive to write to C2C expressing the Council's opposition to any plans to close the staffed ticket offices at those stations

Monitoring Officer Comments:

Rule 15.2 of the Council Procedure and Rules states that a notice of motion must relate to a matter which affects the authority or the authority's area and must relate to a matter in respect of which the authority has a relevant function. The motion relates to the Council constitution and procedures rules.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

C2C have direct responsibility for the staffing of the station ticket offices and consequently there are no specific financial implications to the Council arising from the motion.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes

Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 3

Submitted by Councillor Speight

This chamber has previously welcomed creation of the Thames Freeport and the benefits it may bring. Freeport comes with a commitment to improve quality of life and opportunities for Thurrock residents and a budget to back up its intentions. A project that would help quality of life of residents in Stanford-le-Hope would be the creation of a relief road to mediate impact of Stanhope Industrial Estate. A route was envisioned by Thurrock Thames Gateway DC. It was not taken forward in 2011's Thurrock Core Strategy created when council took back planning. Nor is it in the emerging Local Plan process. I have established senior figures at Freeport including chair, Ruth Kelly, and DP World representatives have tacit support for the relief road if possible, subject to the council's view. It is a complex issue, not least because it's in Green Belt. Freeport, and DPW would be reticent to commit without TBC support in principle. This road is the only way to solve all the problems.

Would members of this council join me in calling on the appropriate and requisite TBC to revisit the possibility of the relief road linking up with the Manorway and produce a timely outline project plan.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

Rule 15.2 of the Council Procedure and Rules states that a notice of motion must relate to a matter which affects the authority or the authority's area and must relate to a matter in respect of which the authority has a relevant function. The motion relates to Thames Freeport. The Council is a Thames Freeport Partner and the Accountable Body for the Freeport. Any proposed projects relating to Thames Freeport do not fall within the remit of Council. Matters relating to Thames Freeport are an executive function for the Council's Cabinet to consider and take decisions relating to proposed Thames Freeport projects.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

As noted by the Monitoring Officer, any proposed project would require support from the Thames Freeport Governing Body (TFGB) on which the Council is represented. Should the proposed project be supported by the TFGB then the Council will further consider the financial implications as part of the business case process.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes

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