

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

Extraordinary Council

To the Members of Thurrock Council

The next meeting of the Council will be held at **7.00 pm** on
14 September 2023

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

Membership of the Council:

Susan Little (Mayor)
Qaisar Abbas (Deputy Mayor)

John Allen	Mark Hooper	Srikanth Panjala
Alex Anderson	Mark Hurrell	Maureen Pearce
Deborah Arnold	Andrew Jefferies	Terry Piccolo
Paul Arnold	Barry Johnson	Georgette Polley
Gary Byrne	Tom Kelly	Kairen Raper
Adam Carter	Cathy Kent	Joycelyn Redsell
John Cecil	John Kent	Elizabeth Rigby
Daniel Chukwu	Martin Kerin	Sue Sammons
Gary Collins	Steve Liddiard	Sue Shinnick
George Coxshall	Ben Maney	Graham Snell
Jack Duffin	Jacqui Maney	Neil Speight
Tony Fish	Cici Manwa	Luke Spillman
Robert Gledhill	Fraser Massey	James Thandi
Aaron Green	Valerie Morris-Cook	Lee Watson
James Halden	Sara Muldowney	Lynn Worrall
Vikki Hartstein	Augustine Ononaji	



Dr Dave Smith
Chief Executive

Agenda published on: 6 September 2023

Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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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 2024

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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

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Democratic Services at 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 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

Non- pecuniary

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

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

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

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

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 A2 Mover speaks A3 Seconded A4 Seconder speaks or reserves right to speak	[Rule 19.2] [Rule 19.8(a) (5 minutes) [Rule 19.2] [Rule 19.3] (4 minutes)
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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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Agenda Item 3

Member Questions to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Andrew Jefferies

1. From Councillor Fraser Massey

Training for members who serve on the planning committee has, over a lengthy period of time, been woefully inept with comparative regard for the responsibilities placed on members. What additional help is going to be made available at planning meets (for instance access to a legal officer at the meeting, which has not always been available) and what is the council doing to mitigate this issue in the long term?

2. From Councillor Gary Byrne

Members of the council have not been briefed on the recent decision to dismiss the Assistant Director – Planning, Transport and Public Protection. He was removed from office immediately, suggesting something untoward. Members get asked questions about these things from our residents, and it is embarrassing when we have to say, “I don’t know”, it’s a secret, we haven’t been told”. Can the Leader give any details of the reasons behind the decision to dispense with this long-serving officer’s services?

3. From Councillor Neil Speight

Resources are at an all-time low in the planning department, putting extreme pressure on the current staff, with the appointment of a new interim chief planner. What is the Chief Planner’s brief with regard to resources over the next three months?

4. From Councillor John Kent

What is the remit of the Planning Development Agency Peer Review (we have seen nothing yet!) and when does it commence?

5. From Councillor Lee Watson

Planning meetings are more contentious, especially in the last few months, with the residents and some councillors calling for the resignation of the Chair and Vice Chair, what is the Leader’s response?

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Agenda Item 4

Motions Submitted to Council

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

Motion

Submitted by Councillor Speight

This chamber calls on Thurrock Council to commission a fully independent inquiry into the management and achievements of Thurrock Council's planning department since 2015 – with its remit to produce a year-by-year performance analysis indicating the number of applications received, the number dealt with by delegation, the number progressed to committee and the number passed or rejected that have been contrary to officer recommendation. The report should produce a subjective judgement on the performance of the planning department over each of those years. In addition the remit will include a full and detailed investigation into how and why the council has not been able to formulate a new local plan over the same period of time.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

Should the motion be supported, the Council would assist in implementing any recommendations arising from inquiry.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

Should the motion be supported then the Council would be required to fund the inquiry. Any wider financial implications would be considered as part of the assessment of conclusions from the associated reporting.

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

Yes

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