

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 June 2022 at 7.00 pm

The deadline for call ins is Monday 27 June 2022 at 5.00pm.

Present: Councillors Robert Gledhill (Leader), Mark Coxshall (Deputy Leader), Qaisar Abbas, Shane Hebb, Deborah Huelin, Barry Johnson and Luke Spillman

Apologies: Councillors Jack Duffin, Andrew Jefferies and Ben Maney

In attendance: Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services and Governance Manager, and Interim Monitoring Officer

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

1. Minutes

The Leader and Deputy Leader thanked outgoing Cabinet Members for their hard work within their Portfolios and welcomed new Cabinet Members to their first meeting.

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 March 2022 and 23 March 2022 were approved as a true and correct record.

2. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests declared.

4. Statements by the Leader

The Leader began his statement and felt it had been good to see Thurrock come together to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee weekend, including community events across the borough such as street parties and five beacon lighting ceremonies, including one at Tilbury Fort. He stated that Thurrock had also been represented in the Thank-You Dance at the Mall on Sunday 5 June with fifty Thurrock volunteers included. He thanked residents for leading and participating in a variety of community events and felt that this proved the excellent and close-knit communities across the boroughs. He added that he had also attended the opening of the Little Thurrock Community Park in Delafields. He stated that the project had turned a stretch of scrubland that

had been little used for decades into an outstanding park. He stated that the work had been undertaken by community volunteers and financed through donors and local businesses in either money or materials, alongside a small input from the Council. He felt that the outcome was a brilliant new open space in Thurrock and provided an excellent example of a community-led project.

The Leader stated that last week planning permission had been granted for a new government funded primary school and nursery in Aveley. He stated that Harrier Primary School was due to be built on land adjacent to the A13 and Love Lane in Aveley, and would provide space for up to 420 prospective primary students and 52 nursery places. He commented that the school was targeted to open in September 2023. The Leader moved on and explained that in the last week Thurrock has seen how important resident reports were in directing action and helping the Council and its partners target resources effectively to deal with the issues affecting them. He stated that an operation involving Environmental Enforcement Officers, the Trading Standards team and Essex Police took place in Aveley, during which officers found stolen motorbikes and three containers of potentially unsafe goods, which were now being investigated by trading standards. He explained that the owners of the site had been issued a Fixed Penalty Notice and a notice to produce documents to prove the correct disposal of waste. The Leader stated that this operation, as well as the criminality it uncovered, proved how important it was that residents report their suspicions to the Council and the police. He explained that this could be done via Thurrock's website; through Essex Police's Digital 101 online service; by calling 101; through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111; or 999 in an emergency.

The Leader moved on and stated that following continued protests across Thurrock, the Council had been successful in extending the injunction that prevented fuel protestors from blocking public roads in the borough. He mentioned that their activities caused widespread disruption and more than £1,000,000 to emergency services, which took away vital services from where they were needed across the borough. He stated that the 222 people named in the injunction had been ordered to pay 50% of the costs of obtaining the injunction.

The Leader added that last week planning permission was approved for the Thames Enterprise Park. He stated that this would be one of the largest and most ambitious brownfield regeneration projects in the Southeast of England, and would breathe new economic life into the former Coryton Oil refinery site. He commented that this would create up to 5,500 new jobs and would add more than £350million per year into the economy. He explained that the site would be home to advanced manufacturing, next-generation energy, fuels, and storage businesses, and would therefore position Thurrock at the heart of logistics, distribution and decarbonisation. He added that the Thames Enterprise Park would also play a pivotal role in the long-term success of the Thames Freeport, which would see more than £4.5billion in new public and private investment centred around Thurrock.

The Leader updated Cabinet on the Clean It, Cut It, Fill It programme and stated that during 2021/22: 3,888 potholes had been filled, 99% within target time; 1,953 fly-tips had been cleared; 2,734 tonnes of waste had been removed; and 4,545 fixed penalty notices had been issued. He summarised and stated that Thurrock was expecting very high temperatures for the rest of the week, with forecasts reaching mid-30 degree Celsius on Friday. He urged residents to take good care of themselves during this time by staying well hydrated; cooling off indoors where possible; looking after vulnerable friends and family, particularly the very old and very young; and wearing sunscreen when outside.

5. Briefings on Policy, Budget and Other Issues

There were no briefings on policy, budget and other issues.

6. Petitions submitted by Members of the Public

No petitions had been submitted by members of the public.

7. Questions from Non-Executive Members

No questions had been submitted by non-Executive Members.

8. Matters Referred to the Cabinet for Consideration by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Other than those items already contained within the agenda, no items had been referred to the Cabinet for their consideration by an overview and scrutiny committee.

9. Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh 2022-2026 (Decision: 110610)

Councillor Huelin introduced the report and stated that the report included in the agenda did not contain the Chair's forward, so she requested that an updated version be sent to Cabinet and uploaded onto the website. She explained how the new strategy would form stronger alliances between the NHS and the Council, and would allow the Health and Wellbeing Board to hold bodies such as the NHS accountable. She commented that the Health and Wellbeing Board had a statutory duty to write a Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which the NHS had to take due regard of, and would be one of two high level strategic documents. She explained that the report in the agenda provided a high-level overview and was supported by a 140-page document, which went into more detail regarding areas such as health inequalities. Councillor Huelin added that the strategy sought to undertake a holistic approach to health and wellbeing as it considered other areas such as communities, housing, and the environment, which were outlined in the six domains. She thanked the volunteering sector for their hard work during the consultation phase of the strategy and felt their input had been invaluable. She also thanked the Public Health team and other officers for their hard work

in putting the report together. She summarised and invited Cabinet Members to make comment and review the document.

Councillor Johnson welcomed the report and felt it was detailed and would promote joint working across different areas of the Council. He stated that 26% of the population in Thurrock was under the age of 18 and queried how the strategy would include Thurrock's Local Safeguarding Children Partnership, as a report would be going to Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee later in the week on this issue. He felt that safeguarding children should be included in the strategy as vulnerable families were not isolated and multi-agency working was needed to ensure the health and wellbeing of vulnerable children. Councillor Huelin replied that the strategy in the agenda provided an overarching, broad picture and was supported by a variety of documents which went into the finer detail of the strategy. She stated that many directorates had worked on the strategy including Children's, and they had particularly focussed on how vulnerable children transitioned to adulthood. Councillor Huelin added that a report would be brought forward to Cabinet that would outline the holistic approach being taken to support young people and their familial relationships. She stated that she would take the feedback to officers to ensure that vulnerable children were re-emphasised in the strategy.

Councillor Spillman felt pleased to see that housing had been included in the strategy and felt that linked up working between the housing and public health departments would improve outcomes for Thurrock's residents. Councillor Huelin thanked Councillor Spillman and housing officers for their support putting together the strategy, and thanked Community Safety Partnership officers for their hard work. Councillor Coxshall highlighted page 26 of the report and felt pleased to see that approximately 750 consultation comments had been received. He also highlighted page 27 of the report and felt pleased that environmental impacts had been considered. He stated that this strategy would help to support the upcoming Local Plan, and would help local residents survive and thrive. Councillor Huelin felt that the consultation for the strategy had been good and had involved many local partners and residents, both online and in-person through events such as supermarket drop-ins.

The Leader drew Cabinet's attention to page 47 of the agenda and felt it was good to see many different communities being included in the strategy, alongside mental health. He queried page 46 and asked for the phrase 'tobacco control' to be amended to read either 'tobacco advice' or 'addiction help'. Councillor Abbas agreed that it was good to see diverse communities included in the strategy. He stated that he would be meeting with marginalised groups later in the month to ensure these communities were engaged with directly and had their issues heard.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and commented on the final draft Strategy at Appendix 1, considering the proposed Domain and Goals.

*Reason for decision: as outlined in the report
This decision is subject to call-in*

10. Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) (Decision: 110611)

Councillor Huelin introduced the report and stated that in July 2021 the government had proposed new legislation to increase the level of joined up working between the NHS and local authorities. She explained that this had received royal assent in April 2022, and the report therefore outlined how Thurrock would implement this legislation through the introduction of both an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and Integrated Care Board (ICB). She mentioned that both the NHS and local authorities would be equal partners on the ICP, and would be meeting next month to finalise governance arrangements. She felt that Thurrock were already working well with the NHS and hoped that the new ICP would encourage closer working. She stated that recommendation 1.2 asked Cabinet Members to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to act as a founding representative on the Mid and South Essex ICP, as the partnership required professional experience and knowledge. She added that the Director of Public Health also sat on the Health and Wellbeing Board, so Members would have the chance to discuss the ICP at this forum. Councillor Huelin highlighted page 59 of the report and sought confirmation that the relevant Portfolio Holders had been consulted with. The relevant Cabinet Members confirmed they had been consulted.

Councillor Coxshall felt concerned that there would be no elected Members sitting on the Mid and South Essex ICP, as he felt that partners needed to recognise the democratic nature of local authorities. He asked if the Terms of Reference could come back to Cabinet. Councillor Huelin reassured Councillor Coxshall that she had raised similar concerns with the NHS and been assured that the Health and Wellbeing Board would work with the ICP.

Councillor Johnson highlighted page 76 of the report and felt it was good to see closer partnerships and faster financial alignments to achieve better outcomes. Councillor Huelin echoed these comments and felt that Covid had affected many peoples access to primary care, which had then affected people's health to a greater degree. She stated that the NHS were aware of this issue and were working with Thurrock on the Better Care Fund.

The Leader also felt concerned that regarding the democratic aspects of the Integrated Care Partnership and Integrated Care Board and wanted to ensure that the new boards included elected member participation. He asked that the report be brought back to Cabinet once governance arrangements had been agreed and asked for this to be included at recommendation 1.2

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the key elements of the Health and Care Act 2022 as set out in Section 2 of the report.

2. Agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to act as

the Council's founding representative to the Mid and South Essex ICP in order to establish the proposed governance arrangements with health and local authority partners. Agreed that the report be brought back to Cabinet once governance arrangements are agreed.

3. Agreed the draft Terms of Reference at Appendix 2 and delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to make minor changes to these Terms to ensure appropriate governance requirements are met.

4. Noted that the Corporate Director Adults, Housing and Health will sit on the Shadow NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) to represent the Council's views and interests, and shall continue to sit on the Board as the Council's representative when the Board is formally established as a statutory body.

*Reason for decision: as outlined in the report
This decision is subject to call-in*

11. Statement of Community Involvement (Decision: 110612)

Councillor Coxshall introduced the report and stated that it outlined good consultation practice and would help therefore help to increase the number of people engaging with the Local Plan, which was a critical document for the future of the borough. Councillor Hebb felt that it was important to build homes in Thurrock in the right way, and this document would help residents contribute their views. He stated that it would approve the approach of involvement and would make the consultation process easier for residents. Councillor Coxshall added that officers would be working to ensure that the Local Plan consultation was as quick and simple for residents as possible. He felt that the Local Plan would improve outcomes for local communities, as it would not just outline the future of housebuilding, but also open spaces, education, and employment opportunities in Thurrock.

Councillor Huelin felt that the Local Plan and Health and Wellbeing Strategy were intertwined and highlighted the importance of both online and in-person consultation. Councillor Abbas added that consultations should seek to reach people in communities that were typically disengaged, and needed to be in simple English to ensure that everyone could understand.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the draft Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix A) for public consultation, and agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Public Realm, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder to make any changes resulting from that consultation and to adopt the final version.

*Reason for decision: as outlined in the report
This decision is subject to call-in*

12. Appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels

The Leader introduced the report and stated that it was a statutory duty for Cabinet to nominate Members to sit on a variety of Outside Bodies, and the report outlined Councillors who had sat on Outside Bodies last year. He stated that all Cabinet outside bodies nominations would remain the same, other than Impulse Leisure where Councillor Jefferies would be nominated; and the Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors where Councillor Polley would be nominated.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels, as set out in Appendix 1, to this report.

The meeting finished at 8.10 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**