

DECISION NOTICE
CABINET 22 JANUARY 2025

ITEM 11

Shared Lives Scheme

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet Supported the decision that the Council go out to tender for the Shared Lives contract. The proposed start date of this contract would be October 1st, 2025, until March 31st, 2031, with an option to extend for two years in one-year increments. If growth targets are met total during the life of the 7.5-year term the total contract value will rise to £3,920,250.

2.2 Cabinet approved the delegation to award the contract to the Executive Director of Adults and Health in consultation with the Lead Portfolio Holder.

ITEM 12

Thurrock Plan for Culture

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet approved the Thurrock Plan for Culture

2.2 Cabinet approved the Action Plan as the first phase of further collaboration with Thurrock's cultural stakeholders.

ITEM 13

Restructure of Community Protection & Enforcement Services

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet agreed the changes being proposed and approve the future development of this area in a phased approach.

ITEM 14

Adoption of Thurrock Council Enforcement Policy

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet approved to adopt the Thurrock Council Enforcement Policy

ITEM 15

Local Council Tax Support Scheme

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 Cabinet noted the analysis and review of the current Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme for Working age people.**
- 2.2 Cabinet recommended to Council the approval of the current Local Council Tax support scheme for working age people for 2025/26 which has been in place since 2017/18 with no changes:**
 - to ensure work pays, the first £25 per week of earned income is disregarded when calculating levels of council tax support;**
 - the maximum capital limit is to be set at £6,000. This means anyone who has savings over £6,000 may not receive support with their council tax;**
 - for working age claimants, the maximum support allowed is set at 75% of their full council tax bill;**
 - to assist those with families, the Child Benefit and Child Maintenance received is not included as income in the calculation of council tax support;**
 - the maximum period a claim can be backdated under the scheme is one calendar month. To qualify for this, the claimant will need to provide good reason for not claiming earlier;**
 - there is a full disregard of military compensation payments, including War Disablement Pensions, War Widow's Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments;**
 - Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payments are fully disregarded;**
 - the number of dependants assessed in the calculation of claimants' needs is a maximum of two;**
 - the maximum period of an award when temporarily absent outside the United Kingdom is four weeks.**

ITEM 16

Council Tax Discounts and Premiums

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 Cabinet noted the additional income generated from the 'Long term Empty and Unfurnished' premium year to date in 2024/2025 as detailed in 4.12.**
- 2.2 Cabinet noted the statutory exceptions/exemptions that have now been finalised in regulations and will apply to both premiums from April 2025.**

2.3 Cabinet noted the work that has been undertaken in 2024/25 to validate properties that will be potentially subject to the 'Second Homes' premium from 1st April 2025.

2.4 Cabinet recommended to Council that the council continues to charge the 'Long term Empty' council tax premium in line with the existing determination on:

- **Properties empty after 12 Months and up to 5 years = 100% Premium**
- **Properties empty between 5 and 10 years = 200% Premium**
- **Properties empty over 10 years = 300% Premium**

2.5 Cabinet recommended to Council that as per the existing determination, the Council proceeds to implement the 'Second homes' premium from 1st April 2025.

ITEM 17

Dedicated Schools Grant 2025-26

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet agreed that Thurrock's 2025/26 Schools funding formula to be implemented as stated in 1.3 above. This being consistent with previous Cabinets decisions made since 2020/21.

ITEM 18

Fees and Charges Policy and Schedule 2025-26

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet agreed the proposed discretionary fees and charges to be levied by the Council with effect from 1 April 2025, as detailed in Appendix 1.

2.2 Cabinet noted the statutory fees and charges to be levied by the Council with effect from 1 April 2025 as detailed in Appendix 1.

2.3 Cabinet agreed the Thurrock Council Fees and Charges Policy 2025 as attached at Appendix 3.

2.4 Cabinet agreed that any changes required during the 2025/26 year are delegated to the Chief Finance Officer (s151) in conjunction with the Lead Member Resources and the relevant Portfolio Holder.

ITEM 19

National Investigation Service (NATIS) Contract Extension

RESOLVED:

2.1 Cabinet agreed the Council submits a tender to the Department of Business & Trade on or before 31 January 2025 for a contract for the provision of fraud investigation services by the Council through its traded service, the National Investigation Service (NATIS) for three years from 1 April 2025 and up to three extensions of six months, subject to agreement of the terms and conditions of the contract.

2.2 Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director, Corporate Services (or his nominees) to agree the submitted tender and to then negotiate the terms and conditions of contract in consultation with the Cabinet member for resources.

Published 23.01.2025