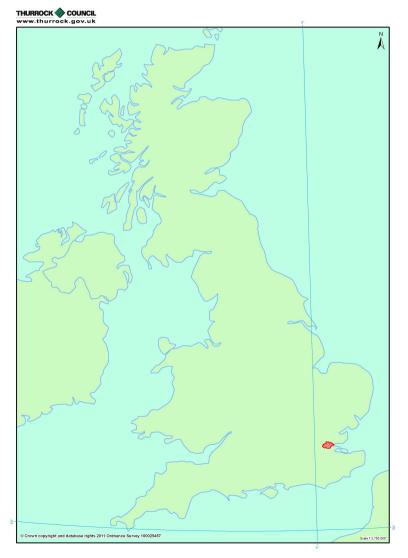
# Thurrock: Youth Unemployment - Issues and Challenges

#### June 2012



### Where is Thurrock?



#### **Thurrock Coat of Arms c.1956.**



#### **Communities and businesses flourish**

The Borough Coat Of Arms depicts;

Long sea journeys – Albatross.

Industry – including heavy oil refinery, soap, margarine, cement, ship repair, docks, agriculture.

The Knight - Rendulphus Knevington of Aveley d. 1381

Tudor Rose – Queen Elizabeth I visit to Tilbury in 1588.

**River Thames.** 

#### By Thames to all peoples of the world



## Thurrock - Place

- The heart of the Thames Gateway
- 18 miles of river frontage
- 60% of the borough Green Belt with historic villages
- At the heart of major transport infrastructure ports, roads and rail
- Key industries transport, logistics, port functions and retail
- Number of VAT registered business grown by 40% since 1997 – double the national rate (21%)



# Thurrock - People

- Thriving population 157,200 forecast to grow to 203,900 by 2031
- 26% of the population between 0 19 years
- Non-white population 12.6% (2001: 4.7%)
- Largest BME group 2009 Asian/Asian British 4.6%
- Indicators of deprivation are improving but still problems in parts of Tilbury, Grays, Belhus, Chadwell, Ockendon and West Thurrock.
- Rates of adult obesity and smoking are higher than average.



# Unemployment

- Unemployment rate Jan-Dec 2010, 8.1% (East 6.5%, GB 7.7%)
- 77.2% of working age in employment Jan-Dec 2010, (East 78.7%, GB 76.2%)
- JSA Claimants (Aug 11) 4.2% 4439 (3.9%)
- Proportion of JSA claimants per age group (Aug 2011)
  - Aged 18 24: 9% (7.9%)
  - Aged 25 49: 4.1% (3.9%)
  - Aged 50 64: 2.5% (2.1%



# Youth Unemployment - Britain

- Very high levels of youth unemployment in Britain – more than one million young people
- Unemployment rate 16-24 age group 22.2% (Dec 2011)
- Long term unemployed (more than six months) 16-24 up by 17% (March 2012)

THURROCK

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- 5.7 unemployed people for every vacancy (March 2012)
- NEETS 6.1% of 16-19 year olds

## Youth Unemployment - Thurrock

- 8.8% unemployment (Sept 2011)
- 25.9% unemployment 16-19 year olds
- 11.9% unemployment 20-24
- NEET 6.7% (March 2012) of 16 -19's
- Forecast to take 8-10 years (from 2010) for unemployment to fall close to prerecession levels.
- Public sector spending cuts further job losses in private firms

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## **Development Strategies**

#### 26,000 new jobs by 2021!



Our Vision: We want Thurrock to be at the dynamic heart of the Thames gateway, a place of ambition, enterprise & opportunity, where communities and businesses flourish

**Priorities:** 

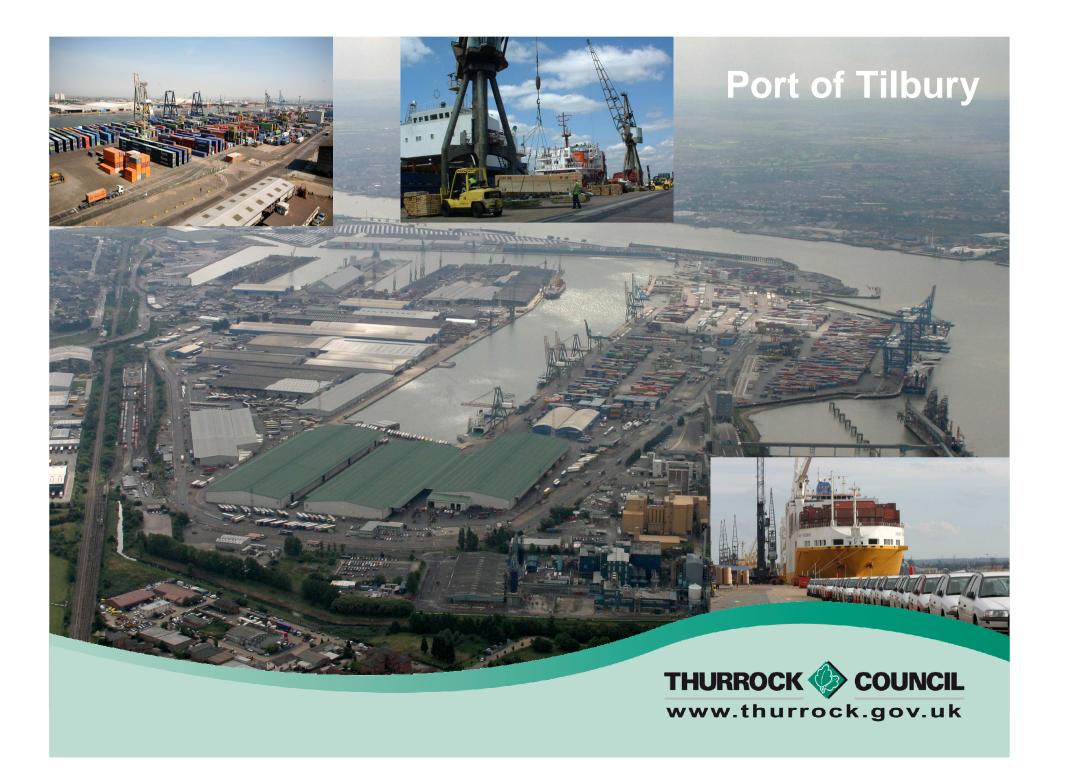
- 1 Improve the education and skills of local people
- 2 Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity
- 3 Ensure a safe, clean and green environment
- 4 Provide and commission high quality & accessible services that meet, wherever possible individual needs
- 5 Build pride, respect and responsibility in Thurrock's communities and its residents











#### Purfleet Pride





## Partners

- Employers DP World, Canute
- Umbrella organisations Federation of Small Businesses, Thurrock Business Association, Thurrock Business Network Group
- Educational Institutions Gateway Academy, South Ockendon Academy, South Essex College, University of Essex, Anglia Ruskin University, University of East London
- Employment agencies/jobcentres Job Centre Plus, National Apprenticeship Service, National Skills Academy – Creative and Cultural
- Youth Outreach services CVS, ngage, Childrens Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, Community forums

ww.thurrock.gov.uk

## Situations and challenges



# Situations

- Youth unemployment high
- High levels of NEET
- Low wage levels average wage
- Low skills base amongst the Thurrock population
- 44% of new jobs will require Level 3 qualification
  only 36% of the population have this level
- Levels of job related training low only 15%
- Low levels of aspiration

THURROCK OCUNCIL

# Challenges

- Make sure Thurrock young people benefit from the opportunities in Thurrock – creating a lot of jobs but will Thurrock people benefit?
- Need to improve skill levels
  - In education
  - On the job
- Need to raise aspiration
- Better community engagement and more active citizenship
- Partners work better together



# What we'd like from URBACT

- Expert help to prepare a baseline report on youth unemployment in Thurrock.
- Support to bring together the partners we need to tackle the issues.
- Learning from other partners what worked and what didn't!
- An action plan
- Access to funding structural funds

## Questions

