

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 16 APRIL 2014

Present: Councillor Russell Roberts (Chair)
Councillors Michael Brown, Mark Dearing, Ian Jelley,
Christopher Lamb, Jan Smith and Derek Zanger.

Also Present Councillors David Bishop, Lloyd Bunday, Terry Freer,
David Howes and Michael Tebbutt

13.EX.70 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Steve Bellamy and
Julia Beckett (Deputy Chief Executive).

13.EX.71 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the
Committee held on 12th February 2014 be
approved and signed as a correct record.

13.EX.72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

13.EX.73 THE COUNCIL'S WORK PROGRAMME

Members noted the contents of the Work Programme published
on 9th April 2014.

13.EX.74 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

A report was submitted which

- (a) reported on the delivery of a new Traffic Regulation Order and rising bollard scheme for Kettering town centre;
- (b) provided information on the improvements planned to be made to Newland Street; and
- (c) highlighted the proposed Northampton Road/Sheep Street junction improvements.

Councillor David Bishop addressed the Committee in support of the proposals and improvements, commenting on outstanding planning permissions which had not come to fruition, having expired.

Councillor Mike Tebbutt addressed the Committee, informing members of the Women's Cycle Race which would be routed through Desborough town centre on 7th May.

During debate, members discussed ways of improving the street scene in Kettering town centre. The question of enforcement regarding litter in the Newland Street bus shelter area was discussed. However, it was noted that it would not be possible to prevent people from smoking in this area. However, the new bus shelters would ensure the smell dissipated into the air more easily.

Further discussion was held on signage, enforcement of traffic orders, skateboarding and littering on the Market Place and provision for disabled people to access the town centre.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the proposals for the new Traffic Regulation Order and rising bollard scheme be endorsed as an important step towards delivering a characterful, distinctive and fun town centre;
- (ii) the improvements to Newland Street be welcomed as evidence of the benefits inherent in delivering responsible growth that benefits existing communities; and

- (iii) the importance of improving pedestrian access between the train station and town centre as well as improving traffic flow around the town centre, be recognised.

13.EX.75 MAINTAINING A DURABLE BUDGET

A report was submitted which:

- (a) provided members with a case study on partnerships;
- (b) provided members with a reminder of the Council's medium term financial strategy and associated guiding principles;
- (c) sought agreement to the high level budget process for 2015/16; and
- (d) provided an update of the delivery of efficiency savings for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the success the Council has achieved from the shared legal service be noted;
- (ii) the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated guiding principles be noted;
- (iii) the budget process for 2015/16 be approved as outlined in Section 4 of the report; and
- (iv) the delivery of efficiency savings for 2013/14 and 2014/15 be noted.

13.EX.76 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PROSPECTS

A report was submitted which:-

- (a) reminded members of the current Medium Term Financial Forecast and the challenges the Council has faced;
- (b) provided members with an overview of the main financial challenges; and

- (c) sought to establish a mechanism for considering new spending pressures.

The Chief Executive summarised the pressures predicted to affect the Council's budget over the medium term, stressing that maintaining a durable budget would require some thought over the coming months. Additionally, it would be necessary to develop a strategy for prioritising capital projects.

In discussion, members welcomed the report and stressed that Kettering Borough Council was in a much better financial position than many other local authorities. It would be necessary to maintain pressure with partners to ensure Kettering's ambitions were realised in the future.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the significance of changes facing the authority beyond April 2014 continue to be recognised;
- (ii) a piece of work be undertaken to scan the horizon and prioritise spending pressures; and
- (iii) a high level strategy be established in line with the approach outlined in paragraph 6.9 of the report.

13.EX.77 STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLANS – NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (NEP) AND SOUTH-EAST MIDLANDS LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (SEMLEP)

A report was submitted which advised the Executive of the contents of both Strategic Economic Plans produced by SEMLEP and NEP and which sought the Executive's endorsement of them.

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced the report, informing members that the government wanted all 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships to prioritise their priorities and demonstrate the primary sector leverage for all schemes. A shortlist of schemes had been arrived at for funding in 2015-16 and a longer list for funding in 2016-17. It was expected that Kettering would score well in the bidding process in respect of Junction 10A of the A14 and the Weekley-Warkton Avenue.

Councillor David Bishop addressed the Committee in respect of anticipated funding, stressing that Kettering was a major growth area and needed the funding that was due to it in order to ensure the planned growth was delivered.

Officers were thanked for their work in connection with the LEPs.

RESOLVED that the contents of the two Strategic Economic Plans be endorsed.

13.EX.78 **CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION – VOTING ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET**

A report was submitted which advised the Executive on the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2014 and the amendments required to the Constitution to implement the Regulations.

RESOLVED that it be agreed and recommended to Council that paragraph 19.4 of the Council Procedure Rules be amended to include the following provision:

"A recorded vote shall be taken at any budget decision-making of the Council, as defined by The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, including any amendments to the motion, and there shall be recorded in the minutes the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting."

13.EX.79 **CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION – TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TENANTS' FORUM**

A report was submitted which sought endorsement of the Executive to a series of amendments to the constitution of the Tenants' Forum.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) it be agreed and recommended to Council that the revision constitution of the Tenants' Forum as set out in Appendix A to the report be adopted with effect from 24th April 2014; and
- (ii) the Tenants' Code of Conduct be endorsed.

13.EX.80 **SUPERFAST BROADBAND PROVISION IN THE BOROUGH – FINANCIAL SUBSIDY**

A report was submitted which considered a request from Northamptonshire County Council for the Borough Council to make a financial contribution towards extending superfast broadband beyond the current planned roll-out.

It was noted that there was some uncertainty about what any funding offered by Kettering Borough Council would buy. In addition, if Northamptonshire County Council secured all the funding it had asked for, there could be a surplus. However, it was noted that the Council's objective of securing "higher density, higher quality" jobs would clearly be assisted by better broadband connectivity.

Councillors Michael Tebbutt and David Bishop addressed the Committee in respect of technical issues and delivery speed,

In discussion, it was felt that a better understanding of what the funding would buy, the competitive procurement process to be adopted and the expected experiences of the end user was required, as well as a clearer understanding of some of the technical issues involved. In addition, it was noted that £10.3m for superfast broadband was included in the SEMLEP Strategic Economic Plan discussed earlier on the agenda and there may be some benefit in holding discussions with both Local Enterprise Partnerships on this issue.

RESOLVED that the Executive makes a provisional (in principle) offer to the County Council for a sum up to £225,000 (to be spread over three financial years starting in 2015-16) to support superfast broadband connectivity, on the basis that:-

- (a) it is match funded by the County Council (excluding BDUK contributions);

- (b) the priorities for connectivity are (in order):
 - (i) Employment estates
 - (ii) Kettering Town Centre
 - (iii) Residential urban and rural areas shaded light blue on the map attached to the report (the most cost-effective clusters).
- (c) the County Council will engage the Borough Council on the extent of connectivity and the prioritisation of areas, as information is ascertained (subject to commercial confidentiality requirements).

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.40 pm)

Signed
Chair

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