

**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

**Present:** Councillor Russell Roberts (Chair)  
Councillors Steve Bellamy, Michael Brown, Ian Jelley,  
Christopher Lamb, Jan Smith and Derek Zanger

**Also Present** Councillor Lloyd Bunday

**14.EX.10 APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The Chair announced that, in accordance with the provisions contained in Part 8 of the Council's Constitution, Councillor Lloyd Bunday had been appointed to the Executive with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014.

**14.EX.11 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**14.EX.12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**14.EX.13 THE COUNCIL'S WORK PROGRAMME**

The draft Work Programme to be published on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014 was noted, having been previously emailed to members.

**14.EX.14 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION**

A report was submitted which provided an update to the Executive in relation to the following:

- Summer celebrations and events
- Investment activity in the town centre
- Progress with the Purple Flag initiative
- Freedom of the Borough march
- Progress with public realm improvements

Discussion took place on publicity for events during the summer and free parking on Fridays in August. It was noted that the programme of publicity activities included the potential use of NCC digital road signs, as well as making full use of the Council's Twitter and Facebook accounts. Events and free parking would also be publicised. on the Council's website.

Members commended officers for their vision and highlighted what had been achieved through the setting of goals over the last few years. The increasing popularity of the Market Place restaurants was welcomed and it was felt that Kettering had remained vibrant and successful throughout the recession. The initial vision had now resulted in the establishment of a high class restaurant/café culture in the town centre and a better night time economy. Government ministers had recently praised and recognised Kettering for its success.

It was noted that the County Council were now undertaking design work for Eskdall Street.

**RESOLVED** that the Executive:-

- (i) the hard work and preparation being done to deliver a programme of events over the summer that cements Kettering Town Centre as the place to be, be endorsed;
- (ii) the development of the Healthy High Street

Campaign alongside Business in the Community be supported; and

- (iii) the investment being planned in the town centre be welcomed.

#### **14.EX.15     MAINTAINING A DURABLE BUDGET**

A report was submitted which:

- (a) established a high level strategy to assist in the future prioritisation of spending (as requested by the Executive Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014)
- (b) provided Members with a further case study on partnership working
- (c) provided a reminder of the Council's medium term financial strategy and associated guiding principles
- (d) highlighted the success of the Council's financial strategy, in particular through the delivery of efficiency savings for 2013/14
- (e) illustrated the medium term financial modelling and the estimated levels of efficiency savings required for future years
- (f) provided Members with an update on the draft outturn figures for 2013/14 in relation to:
  - General Fund
  - Housing Revenue Account
  - Capital
  - Treasury Management

A presentation was given by the Acting Head of Finance.

A revised section 4.6 to the report was circulated at the meeting which contained an amendment to Golden Rule No. 1 (Revenue Impact).

Discussion was held on the high level and strategic nature of the golden rules, which would help deliver a self-sufficient budget and financial stability for the future, given the prospect of continuing reductions in government grant. It was felt that the

Council would need to future-proof projects and recognise and understand risks in order to stay ahead of the game.

Debate ensued on the freedom to consider projects that would bring a cultural or community benefit to the town. It was noted that the prioritisation golden rules were about new capital expenditure. Historic decisions that already existed would not change as a result of the adoption of the golden rules, which would provide a framework and guiding principles for future decision-making.

Members noted that the golden rules were not about individual propositions, but rather "navigation beacons" by which to judge capital decisions in the future. It was noted that the Executive was a custodian of public assets and members were required to consider and balance choices in accordance with duties on decision-makers to consider the long-term fiscal interests of the taxpayer. A value could be ascribed to a community or cultural benefit, but this would not always be fiscal.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) the 'prioritisation golden rules' contained in Section 4.6 of the report (as amended) be endorsed;
- (ii) the Capital Programme carry forwards from 2013/14 (as detailed in Appendix A of the report) be approved;
- (iii) the following be noted:-
  - (a) the success the Council has achieved in partnership working
  - (b) the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated guiding principles
  - (c) the Council's current Medium Term Financial Forecast and the progress being made for the delivery of efficiency savings for 2014/15 and future years
  - (d) the draft out-turn position for 2013/14 for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Capital Programme and Treasury Management.

**14.EX.16**      **CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE**

A report was submitted which informed Members of the Council's successful re-accreditation to the Customer Service Excellence Standard.

A presentation was given by the Council's Head of Corporate Development and IT.

Members welcomed the re-accreditation of Customer Service Excellence, noting staff at all levels delivered customer service at a higher standards than elsewhere. It was noted that some elements of the service had been scored as "compliant plus" which was the highest level possible.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the report be noted and the accreditation of the Customer Service Excellence Standard be commended; and
- (ii) all those concerned be commended for not only preserving but enhancing customer care against a back-cloth of rising demand and financial constraints.

*(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.30 pm)*

Signed .....  
*Chair*

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