

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 16th November 2016

Present: Councillor Russell Roberts (Chair)
Councillors Lloyd Bunday, James Burton, David Howes,
Ian Jelley, Mark Rowley, Jan Smith and Lesley Thurland

Also Present Councillors Maggie Don, Anne Lee, Ruth Groome, Mick
Scrimshaw, Michael Tebbutt and Keli Watts

16.EX.43 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Dearing.

16.EX.44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jan Smith declared a Personal and Pecuniary interest in item 12 – Voluntary Sector Service Level Agreements as an employee of Groundworks.

16.EX.45 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19th October 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

16.EX.46 WORK PROGRAMME

The Council's draft work programme to be published on 13th December 2016 was noted.

16.EX.47 MAINTAINING A DURABLE BUDGET

A report was submitted which: -

- a) Provided Members with a reminder of the Council's medium term financial strategy and associated guiding principles;

- b) Illustrated the latest budget model, the delivery of efficiency savings for 2016/17 and the estimated level of budget savings that may be required over the next few years; and
- c) Gave an outline Budget Timetable for 2017/18.

It was reported that good progress was being made on 2017/18 budget using the same framework as previous years. It was noted that £735k of savings had already been identified leaving £460k to be found.

A summary budget timetable was provided at Appendix B of the report and members were reminded that the formal budget consultation period would run from 18th January 2017 to 22nd February 2017. The Council was due to set Council Tax for 2017/18 on 22nd February 2017, but as Northamptonshire County Council would be setting their Council Tax on 23rd February 2017 a new date needed to be arranged to set the Council's Council Tax which would be advised in due course.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance gave an update on the key issues and budget projections as set out in the report.

Members heard that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be announcing the Autumn Statement on 23rd November.

After discussions Councillor Lesley Thurland proposed and it was

RESOLVED that the Executive noted the following:

- a) The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated guiding principles;
- b) The Council's current Medium Term Financial Forecast and the progress being made for the delivery of efficiency savings for 2016/17 and future years; and
- c) The summary budget timetable for 2017/18 (as outlined in Appendix B).

16.EX.48 DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

A report was submitted which sought approval on the proposed Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order, as permitted by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, and set out in the report.

It was reported that Kettering Borough Council currently had three separate Dog Control Orders in place, two of which had been in force since 2011 and one since 2013. With the introduction of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Dog Control Orders must be phased out and replaced by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). The deadline for this transition was October 2017.

As part of the process of changing from one set of legislation to another a consultation process had been carried out. This included writing to the parish and town councils, all borough council members, a web based questionnaire, promotion on the Council's website, libraries, the police, publicised on BBC Radio Northampton, and on the screens in customer services as well as two reports to Research and Development Committee.

The proposed items for inclusion in the Order were a mix of items already within the existing dog control orders as well as new measures discussed at the Research and Development Committee on the 7th June 2016. As a result of the discussions at this Committee the Market Place was added to the list of areas where dogs would be kept on a lead. Members of the Committee considered that the exclusion of dogs in enclosed playgrounds would be a welcome addition.

The public consultation started at the beginning of July 2016 and ended on 30 September 2016. There were a total of 163 responses received, which were collated and taken back to the Research and Development Committee on the 27th October. At this meeting members were supportive of all the measure proposed items except for the areas where dogs should be kept on leads.

Shona Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and suggested that it would have been a good idea to put notices on park gates with details of the consultation. The benefits of being a dog owner were outlined, along with the need for dogs to be able to run free. It was suggested that a compromise could be reached regarding the five areas where dogs should be kept on leads and the exclusion of Jubilee Gardens was put forward as a suitable option.

Paul Robinson addressed the Executive and outlined his concerns regarding dogs being kept on leads and stated owners should be held accountable for dog mess and behaviour.

Tim Ellis addressed the Executive and stated he felt very sad that the Council were looking to exclude dogs from parks and felt that other issues arising in parks in the town needed to be dealt with.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and stressed that he felt that the outcome of the Research and Development Committee was the hope that the Executive would debate the contentious issue outlined in question 5 and compromise and allow dogs to be off leads in some parks.

Members heard that information from Grounds Maintenance was used to decide the parks where dogs should be kept on leads due to evidence of plant damage and complaints received from members of the public.

During debate details of dog friendly parks were given to members. It was considered very important to have different areas for dogs in these parks.

Members stated if Jubilee Gardens was removed from the order, the situation would need to be monitored.

Councillor Burton proposed and Councillor Thurland seconded and it was

RESOLVED that the Executive

- a) Agreed that the following control measures were included in the proposed Public Space Protection Order relating to dog control:
 - (i) Continue with existing powers that make it an offence if a person in charge of a dog fails to clean up its faeces.
 - (ii) Continue with existing powers that make it an offence to allow a dog into any of the Council's eight cemeteries', without being on a lead.
 - (iii) Continue with existing powers making it a requirement for owners to put their dog(s) on a lead(s), when asked to do so by an authorised officer.
 - (iv) Introduce a new offence prohibiting dogs being allowed into fenced-in or enclosed play areas.
 - (v) Introduce a new offence requiring dogs to be kept on leads in additional areas, as shown on the map at Appendix A. (Manor House Gardens, Garden of Rest, Parish Church Yard, Market Place and Municipal Gardens excluding Jubilee Gardens).

- (vi) Introduce a new offence prohibiting any one person walking more than six dogs at any one time.
- b) Authorise the Head of Democratic & Legal Services to make any necessary amendments to the draft Dog Control Public Space Protection Order as set out at Appendix B and to sign the Order and agree the commencement date; and
- c) Jubilee Gardens should be excluded from the order and be monitored closely

(Councillor Jan Smith declared an interest in the following item as an employee of Groundworks and left the meeting room during discussion).

16.EX.49 VOLUNTARY SECTOR SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

A report was submitted to decide on the award of Service Level Agreements for the period 2017-2021.

The Executive heard that the Research and Development committee commissioned a process to decide and set priorities for the funding of services from the Voluntary Sector, through Service Level Agreements for the period 2017 – 2021. A timetable and process was agreed by the committee at its meeting on February 16th 2016.

A Task and Finish Group was set up by the Research and Development Committee. After a process which involved six meetings, to which representatives of the voluntary sector and statutory partners were invited, recommendations of that group were made by the Research and Development committee to the Executive.

Broad outcomes and requirements of specifications and the amount of grant attached to these work streams were agreed. There then followed a commissioning process which lasted from July to September 2016. The specifications were advertised on the Council's website, in the media, and through voluntary sector networks. The application process made it clear the outcomes the Council required, key performance indicators and the assessment criteria.

Fifteen applications were submitted. Applications were scored at an officer evaluation panel on the 30th September with recommendations going to an Executive sub-group which met on 24th October and 3rd November.

All the applications met the scoring levels necessary for them to be considered for funding. There were bids made for each one of the categories with five specifications only having one bidder. In these circumstances, all of those applicants were awarded the funding available as they met the required standard.

However, there was competition in five of the categories where more than one organisation submitted bids for the same specification. Scoring levels were considered where competition existed, with the highest bidder being recommended to receive all the funds. This occurred in three of the five categories.

In two of the categories, there were exceptions to this. The officer panel found that under the Independent Living Specification (£40,000) the highest bidder (Vine Community Trust) had only requested half of the funds available for this specification (£20,000). The panel therefore decided to recommend to the Executive sub-group that a pragmatic way forward was to grant Vine Community Trust £20,000 but to give Age UK (the other bidder) the balance of funds of £20,000. This recommendation was subsequently accepted by the Executive sub-group

At the first meeting of the Executive sub-group there was agreement that the decision process previously agreed, had been followed and ratified the scoring of the bids. It was at this stage that the second category for deviation of the original process was suggested by the members.

The submissions for the Activities for Young People had been scored in the same way as others however, it was such a close score that the sub group felt that a pragmatic approach needed to be made in that the two organisations could be asked to consider working together to deliver the required outcomes. As a result of this direction from the Executive sub-group, both Groundwork and Youthworks CIC made a proposal for a joint delivery of the specification.

Rachel Bradshaw-Wilson from Accommodation Concern addressed the Executive and expressed disappointment at not receiving the grant for Housing Options for the period 2017-2021 after years of delivering this service, which she considered was due to a low score achieved as a result of the size of their team.

Councillor Maggie Don addressed the Executive and expressed concerns that Citizens Advice was a general advice service.

Councillor Ruth Groome addressed the Executive and reiterated Councillor Don's concerns and requested that the grant for Housing Options be looked at again.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and before speaking reminded members that he was a Trustee of Kettering Centre for the Unemployed and the Council's representative for Accommodation Concern. He advised members that whilst on the Voluntary Sector Task and Finish Group they did not scrutinise who would be awarded the grants.

It was noted that feedback on the process had been given to Accommodation concern and that further information could be provided if needed.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance assured members that the decisions had been made using a robust and comprehensive process.

During discussions members expressed pride in keeping the same budget for the voluntary sector and were confident that the procurement process had been carried out fairly and legally.

Following discussions it was

RESOLVED that the Executive

- a) Award the Service Level Agreements to the organisations as outlined in the report and highlighted in bold at Appendix D; and
- b) Agree that the funding for Service Level Agreements will initially be confirmed for 2017/18 and 2018/19 only. Funding for 2019/20 and 2020/21 will be assessed in the light of the Council's financial position at that time

16.EX.50 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDRY REVIEW

A report was submitted which considered the recommendation of the Council's Research & Development Committee relating to the Boundary Commission for England's (BCE) proposals in respect of the review of Parliamentary Constituencies in the United Kingdom published on 13th September 2016, as it relates to the Kettering Borough area, and to formulate a response on behalf of the Council for submission to the BCE.

At its meeting on 19th October the Executive Committee agreed to forward the matter to the Research and Development Committee in order to formulate a response. Consequently the members of the Research and Development Committee received a report at its meeting held on 27th October and having considered the matter, agreed that it should be:

'recommended to the Executive Committee that the constituency of Kettering be made up of the wards of the Borough of Kettering and the Finedon Ward of the Borough Council of Wellingborough'

Members were reminded that the Council needed to submit its response by 5th December 2016.

Following discussions it was

RESOLVED To agree the proposal that the Constituency of Kettering be made up of the wards of the Borough of Kettering and the Finedon Ward of the Borough Council of Wellingborough.

16.EX.51 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that it involved items of business included the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraphs 1-7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Govern Act 1972 (as amended)

16.EX.52 6 STATION ROAD

A report was submitted the purpose of which was to report back the financial findings of a preferred option agreed at the Executive Committee held on 14th October 2014 so that members could consider if this was still the preferred option or if other options should be pursued.

Following discussions it was

RESOLVED that the Executive

a) Noted the contents of the report;

- b) Agreed that the preferred option for 6 Station Road was to market the property for sale/lease; and
- c) A report be brought back to the Executive Committee in due course

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 8.30 pm)

Signed
Chair