

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 12th April 2017

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

Also Present Councillors Maggie Don, Clark Mitchell, Mick Scrimshaw
and Anne Lee

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a minute's silence was held in memory of former Councillor David Bishop and former Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Derek Zanger, who had both recently passed away.

16.EX.74 SHEERNESS HOUSE

The Chair informed Members that Item 15 in relation to Sheerness House (Property Investment Strategy) had been withdrawn from the agenda.

16.EX.75 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jan Smith.

16.EX.76 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lloyd Bunday declared a Personal Interest in Item 17 on the agenda (Partnership Agreement with Kettering General Hospital), as his wife was employed by a NHS Trust.

Councillor Lesley Thurland declared a Personal Interest in Item 16 on the agenda as Ward Councillor.

Councillor James Burton declared a Personal Interest in Item 12 on the agenda as a town centre market trader.

Councillor David Howes declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 14 on the agenda and stated he would leave the meeting room during discussion thereon.

16.EX.77 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15th February 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillor Mark Rowley to the list of those present at the meeting.

16.EX.78 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Council's draft work programme to be published on 25th April 2017 was noted.

16.EX.79 **LOCAL POLLINATOR STRATEGY**

A report was submitted which sought approval of the Local Pollinator Strategy and the recommendations of the Local Pollinator Task and Finish Group.

It was noted that the Research and Development Committee had recommended approval of the Local Pollinator Strategy, alongside five other recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.

In discussion on the recommendations, it was felt that the Strategy should not be put before Council as an item of report and any other recommendations should be cost neutral or contained within existing budgets.

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group was thanked for the work undertaken and it was

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Local Pollinator Strategy be approved;
- (ii) an online toolkit be introduced;

- (iii) the strategy be reviewed annually through the Monitoring and Audit Committee;
- (iv) the strategy be embedded, wherever possible, within the planning system at Kettering Borough Council;
- (v) information cards be produced with packets of seeds attached, themed on Kettering Borough Council's pollinator strategy; and
- (vi) any costs associated with (v) above should be contained within existing budgets.

16.EX.80 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 2017/18 and the estimated level of budget savings that may be required over the next few years;
- c) provided a more detailed update in relation to the Government's March Budget announcement;
- d) provided an update on consultations relating to the implementation of '100% Business Rates Retention' scheme.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and indicated that he welcomed the proposals to refresh the Council's guiding principles before the next budget process.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance advised the Executive that details of any changes to New Homes Bonus was still awaited from the government.

The Head of Resources and his team were thanked for their work in association with the budget.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated guiding principles be noted;

- (ii) the key updates made in the Budget 2017 and the continued uncertainty this brings to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy be noted, especially in relation to potential changes to local government funding;
- (iii) it be noted that the Council will be responding to the Government's formal consultation on '100% Business Rates Retention Scheme'; and
- (iv) the Government's timetable for implementing '100% Business Rates Retention Scheme' be noted.

16.EX.81 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL

A report was submitted which sought approval for a framework agreement governing the Council's relationship with Kettering General Hospital and the project work that we intend to do together.

Kirsty Woods of Kettering Mind, Mark Ingram and Councillors Mick Scrimshaw and Anne Lee addressed the Executive. All speakers welcomed the proposed partnership agreement and some questions were asked regarding the cost of any pilot schemes and car parking at Kettering General Hospital.

It was noted during debate that proposals in the report regarding increasing the use of existing clinical space at Kettering Borough Council offices and the need for short term temporary facilities in the short term may initially result in the temporary loss of a small number of car parking spaces. .

Discussion was held on Kettering General Hospital's proposals to install a car park deck on the site, and it was noted that the Trust was keen to finalise arrangements for enforcement of on-site car parking in partnership with the Council following the ending of the current contract for enforcement later this year.

RESOLVED

that

- (i) the work-streams set out in the report be endorsed; and
- (ii) the Partnership Agreement be approved.

16.EX.82 TOWN CENTRE DELIVERY PLAN

A report was submitted which sought agreement to the process for developing and consulting upon a delivery plan for Kettering Town Centre.

Members noted the outcomes of the previous Suite 16 Programme, which had run from 2008. This programme had now run its course and it was felt the time was right to replace the programme with new suite of activities with a view to embarking upon an engagement and consultation process this year.

Councillors Mick Scrimshaw and Anne Lee addressed the Executive, welcoming the proposals to develop a new town centre delivery plan, stressing the importance of the town centre to the Borough.

In relation to a question relating to the timing of a review of the safety of the Northampton Road/Sheep Street junction, it was noted that this would be passed onto the County Council.

It was felt that consultation and engagement on any new delivery plan should involve as many local businesses as possible, and the Council should encourage town centre businesses to consider longer opening hours for events held in the town centre.

RESOLVED

that:-

- (i) the proposals in the report be endorsed; and
- (ii) an engagement and consultation programme be embarked upon for a new Kettering town centre delivery plan, centred around the themes set out in the report (para. 2.5), with frequent reports back to the Executive on progress made.

16.EX.83 PROPERTY INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2017-2011

A report was submitted which presented the Property Investment Strategy 2017-2022 to the Executive for consideration and approval and which sought to formalise the delegated authority for the acquisition process.

It was noted that an Asset Management Board had been set up as a cross-party group of members to consider investment opportunities following recommendations made to Council in April 2016.

The Asset Management Board had met on several occasions during 2016 and 2017, and had considered a Property Investment Strategy which incorporated all of the agreed parameters, which were:-

- Ethical
- Location
- Risk and Returns

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Executive, indicating his support for the proposed Strategy.

Debate was held on the Assessment Matrix and it was noted that the matrix would be used by decision-makers, with location being only one consideration during the assessment, whilst maintaining a preference for local investment. Full records of assessments would be kept.

RESOLVED that:-

- a) the Property Investment Strategy be approved; and
- b) the Executive delegate responsibility to the S151 officer to purchase assets within the approved capital budget, subject to the following parameters:
 - Acquisition costs from £250,000 up to £3 million, delegation to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Finance Portfolio Holder.
 - Acquisition costs from £3 to £10 million, delegation to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Finance Portfolio Holder and Leader of the Council.

- Acquisition costs from £10 to £20 million, delegation to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Asset Management Board.
- Acquisition costs above £20 million would be outside the budgetary framework and would be determined by Executive and/or Council.

(Having declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, Councillor David Howes left the meeting room during discussion and voting on the following agenda item)

16.EX.84 6 STATION ROAD, KETTERING (PROPERTY INVESTMENT STRATEGY)

The Executive had resolved at its meeting on 16th November 2016 that the above property be marketed for sale/lease. Following the marketing of the property, a report was submitted which considered the financial offers received, and Members were asked to consider if they wished to sell either the Freehold or Leasehold interest in 6 Station Road.

Councillor Clark Mitchell addressed the Executive, urging Members to consider the future implications of selling a property in an area which was in close proximity to the railway station and easy access to St Pancras Station in London, which could increase its value over time.

Having considered the options outlined in the report, it was

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the freehold interest at 6 Station Road be sold for £375,000; and
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Head of Democratic and Legal Services to conclude the sale of 6 Station Road, Kettering.

16.EX.85 **GATING ORDER MADE UNDER THE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER LEGISLATION**

A report was submitted which sought the consent of the Executive to the implementation of a Gating Order made under the Public Spaces Protection Order legislation.

Councillor Maggie Don addressed the Executive and welcomed the proposed Order. She sought and received assurance from the Executive that Ward Councillors should be consulted in all future proposals to gate alleyways.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the gating of the alleyway between Wood Street and Havelock Street, as set out in the draft Order and map attached to the report, be approved; and
- (ii) delegated authority for the making of future gating orders under the provisions of a Public Space Protection Order be granted to the Head of Public Services.

16.EX.86 **MERGER OF TRESHAM AND BEDFORD FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES**

A report was submitted which considered the Council's response to a consultation on the merger of Tresham and Bedford Further Education colleges.

RESOLVED that the Executive agree to the draft responses to the questions contained in the consultation document, as set out in the report; and gives its overall support for the merger of Bedford and Tresham Colleges.

16.EX.87 **WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

A report was submitted which presented the revised Whistleblowing Policy to the Executive for consideration and approval.

It was noted the Standards Advisory Committee had considered the policy at its meeting on 27th February 2017.

RESOLVED that the Whistleblowing Policy be approved and recommended to Full Council for adoption as part of the Constitution.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 7:50 pm)

Signed
Chair

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