

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 26th July 2017

Present: Councillor Russell Roberts (Chair)
Councillors Lloyd Bunday, David Howes, Ian Jelley and
Lesley Thurland

Also Present The Deputy Mayor Councillor James Burton, Councillors
Andrew Dutton, Anne Lee, Clark Mitchell, Mick
Scrimshaw, Michael Tebbutt and Keli Watts

17.EX.09 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Dearing and
Mark Rowley.

17.EX.10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17.EX.11 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the
Committee held on 14th June 2017 be
approved and signed as a correct record.

17.EX.12 WORK PROGRAMME

The Council's draft work programme due to be published on 5th
August was noted.

17.EX.13 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) Provided a revised medium term budget model illustrating
the levels of savings that may be required over the coming

years and highlight the significant financial challenges facing the Council; and

- c) Provided an update on Business Rates.

It was noted that the Medium Term Financial Strategy had been updated to reflect changes agreed at the June Executive Committee relating to the News Homes Bonus Strategy.

Members heard that as the necessary legislation for the 100% Business Rates Retention Scheme did not make it through the parliamentary approval process before the General Election announcement, the new arrangements would not be operational by April 2019 as previously thought.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the following be noted:
- a. the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy and the estimated level of savings required in the medium-term.
 - b. the updates relating to Business Rates following the Queen's speech.

17.EX.14 FIRE SERVICE GOVERNANCE

A report was submitted which sought the committee's views in responding to a consultation on changes to fire governance in the county.

It was reported that in recent years, the Fire and Rescue Service and the Police had been working more closely, sharing back office resources, developing common estate and carrying out functions for each other.

Following the passage of legislation in the last Parliament the option now existed for fire and police functions to be combined in one of several ways. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire was now consulting on utilising one of these options, proposing that the fire and rescue services would transfer from the County Council to the PCC, who would become the Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner for the County.

A video explaining the changes was shown at the meeting.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and shared his thoughts regarding the proposal. Although he felt the

proposal was a great idea he had reservations regarding democratic accountability and financing.

During discussion Members noted the points made by Cllr Scrimshaw and responded to the consultation accordingly.

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee support the proposals subject to clarification of accountability, finance and adequate scrutiny arrangements.

17.EX.15 **ASSET MANAGEMENT: SHEERNESS HOUSE, 41 MEADOW ROAD, KETTERING**

A report was submitted which sought approval for the lease of Sheerness House to Kettering General Hospital for a term of up to 15 years.

It was reported that in 2015 the Council acquired the freehold for Sheerness House in Kettering and the Executive had considered various options for the building.

At its meeting held in April the Executive approved a framework agreement governing the Council's relationship with Kettering General Hospital (KGH) through a memorandum of understanding (MoU). This supported collaborative working between KGH and the Council.

Sheerness House required works to be undertaken to bring the property up to a lettable standard. The Council had instructed external quantity surveyors to undertake a costing exercise and it was estimated capital works in the region of £400,000 were required.

Whilst the utilisation of Sheerness House did not strictly fall under the Property Investment Strategy, it provided useful guidelines to assess the business case for granting the lease. The risk and return consideration were set out in the report and showed that this opportunity provided the Council with a good business case. Furthermore this would enable a significant number of people to be based in a Town Centre location which would help with investment into the local economy and demonstrated good partnership working between KGH and the Council.

KGH at the board meeting of 30th June had agreed to lease the property, however there was still some negotiation to conclude on the draft Heads of Terms and rent levels.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and reiterated his support for revenue making schemes.

(Councillor Howes arrived at 6.55 pm)

RESOLVED that the Executive:-

- a. agree in principal to lease Sheerness House to Kettering General Hospital subject to: -
 - i. Delegation of authority to the Head of Resources in consultation with the Finance Portfolio Holder to finalise the draft Heads of Terms;
 - ii. Delegation of authority to the Head of Resources to finalise the lease agreement with KGH.

17.EX.16 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)

17.EX.17 FUTURE PROVISION OF STREET SCENE SERVICES

This is an exempt minute (see Appendix A)

RESOLVED that: -

- a) the option for the future provision of street scene services as set out in the report be agreed in principle
- b) Update reports be brought back to members on a regular basis throughout the process, and as key decision points are reached.

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.10 pm)

Signed

Appendix A to the Minutes

This minute is no longer exempt as of 29th August 2017

EXEMPT VERSION

17.EX.17 FUTURE PROVISION OF STREET SCENE SERVICES

A report was submitted to inform members of the outcome of Corby Borough Council's review of options for the future delivery of their Street Scene Services functions, and to seek approval in principle to develop a shared service for the delivery of Street Scene Services for Kettering Borough Council (KBC) and Corby Borough Council (CBC).

It was reported that Corby Borough Council's Street Scene services were currently provided under contract by Kier. The current contract between CBC and Kier comes to an end on 31st December 2018. In light of this, CBC have for some time been considering the options that are available to them for the delivery of Street Scene service post-December 2018. To that end, CBC commissioned APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) to help them undertake an analysis of the options that were available so that a preferred option could be identified.

APSE produced a "Final Options" report which concluded that the preferred option/proposal was for a shared service with KBC – this scored highest against the key strategic objectives for the future delivery of the service. On the 11th July, the One Corby Policy Committee unanimously agreed this recommendation. Other recommendations that received endorsement were that further reports, with detailed implementation plans, business cases and a memorandum of understanding, be worked up for final approval and agreement.

Members heard that if they were minded to agree in principle to setting up a shared service with Corby, then this would represent a major project for this Council, with some consequent re-distribution of responsibilities between services to accommodate the workload falling on Environmental Care. These activities would need to be undertaken over a relatively short period. The new shared service would need to be available for operational delivery by the beginning of January 2019, a period of approximately 17 months, which represents a tight deadline given the work-streams that have to be delivered.

Further reports would need to be brought back to members as the draft agreements are worked up and the operating model developed. This would need to include looking at the risks

involved as well as identifying the opportunities and benefits.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and expressed support for this service.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Executive Committee agree in principle to pursue a shared service option with Corby Borough Council for the provision of street scene services;
- b) a draft Memorandum of Understanding be worked up between KBC and CBC and brought back to the Committee for further consideration.
- c) Update reports be brought back to members on a regular basis throughout the process, and as key decision points are reached.
- d) Staff within environmental care be consulted on the possibility of a shared service being developed.