

## **BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kettering held at the Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Present:

Councillor	Scott Edwards (Mayor)	Councillor	Anne Lee
"	James Burton (Deputy Mayor)	"	Shirley Lynch
"	Linda Adams	"	Paul Marks
"	Duncan Bain	"	Clark Mitchell
"	Cedwien Brown	"	Cliff Moreton
"	Michael Brown	"	Russell Roberts
"	Lloyd Bunday	"	Mark Rowley
"	John Currall	"	Mick Scrimshaw
"	Ash Davies	"	Jan Smith
"	Mark Dearing	"	Margaret Talbot
"	Andrew Dutton	"	Mike Tebbutt
"	Maggie Don	"	Lesley Thurland
"	Ruth Groome	"	Greg Titcombe
"	David Howes	"	Keli Watts
"	Ian Jelley		

*Prior to commencement of the meeting children from Greenfields Primary School performed festive songs*

### **17.C.46 MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN COMPETITION AWARDS**

The Mayor presented awards and congratulated the winners of the Mayor's Christmas Card Design Competition, Oliver aged 5 and Aron aged 7.

### **17.C.47 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors June Derbyshire, Jim Hakewill, Jenny Henson, Philip Hollobone, David Soans and Jonathan West

**17.C.48**      **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**17.C.49**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**17.C.50**      **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor offered thanks to all those who had been involved in his Civic Ball held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, noting that a total of £2472 had been raised on the night for the Mayor's charities.

The Mayor invited all Members to the Mayor's Parlour for refreshments after the conclusion of the meeting.

**17.C.51**      **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader addressed the meeting noting that the Council sought to be outward looking and positive in its approach while keeping the needs of its residents and businesses ahead of its own.

This was exemplified in two of the reports before members in relation to the building of new council housing which would assist those most in need in the borough and the investment in assets that would allow for income generation to assist in the delivery of services at the level members wished to see.

The meeting also heard that Disabled Facility Grants would now be paid directly to the Council from central government allowing for more efficient use of funding.

It was announced that KBC's Refuse and Recycling Service had recently won the "Best Performing Service" award at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Awards, which offered a great lead-in to the partnership work with Corby Borough Council in 2019.

**17.C.52**      **REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Managing Director, on behalf of all the staff of the council, wished everyone the compliments of the season.

A brief update was provided regarding recruitment into the senior management structure. It was noted that the recruitment processes had been completed, with Helen Edwards appointed as Head of Democratic and Legal Services and Rochelle Mathieson appointed as Head of Commercial Development.

It was further noted that a formal report would be submitted to the February meeting of Council to re-designate the role of Monitoring Officer from Martin Hammond to Helen Edwards.

**17.C.53**      **RIGHT TO SPEAK**

Five members of the public registered their intention to speak on items on the agenda.

**17.C.54**      **CAPITAL PROGRAMME AMENDMENT**

A report was presented in accordance with the Council's Constitution to seek Council approval for a change in the capital budget for Commercial Investments.

It was noted that the Council had a number of live investment opportunities that had been assessed by the Asset Management Board. If all of these were to be delivered a re-profiling of the 2018/19 capital programme for commercial investments would be required.

Members were asked to approve the bringing forward of £20m into the current financial year from 2018/19, with the total budget for commercial investments increasing in the current year from £22.3m to £42.3m.

The Council considered that when originally setting the annual capital investment programme budget of £20m it had been understood that this was a flexible figure. Therefore, the proposal to bring additional funds forward to the current financial year to allow for the completion of investment opportunities was a sensible step.

It was

**RESOLVED**

- i) That the changes to the Council's Capital Programme as outlined in paragraph 2.6 of the report be approved; and
- ii) That the changes to the Council's Prudential Indicators as outlined in paragraph 2.8 of the report be approved.

(Voting: For 27; Against 0)

17.C.55

**NEW BUILD COUNCIL HOUSING AT SCOTT ROAD AND CHANGES TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

A report was submitted to Council requesting approval for changes to the capital programme to take forward delivery of Housing Revenue account (HRA) new builds at Scott Road and Albert Street. It was noted that these projects that would build on the development delivered at Laburnum Crescent earlier in 2017.

As the proposed change to the capital programme was greater than £250,000 it required approval by Council.

Members welcomed the report.

It was

**RESOLVED**

That the changes to the Council's Capital Programme as outlined in the report be approved.

(Voting: For 27; Against 0)

17.C.56

**LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

A report was submitted which asked Council to consider the recommendation (*set out below*) made by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December in relation to the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2018/19:-

**RESOLVED**

*that the Executive Committee:-*

*a) Noted the comments that were submitted as part of the formal consultation process; and*

*b) Having considered the responses from the*

(Council No. 4)  
13.12.17

*public consultation and the information contained within the report, recommended to Council Option 2 as the preferred option*

Council noted that “Option 2” referred to in the resolution would be to freeze the Council Tax Support taper at 45% for a period of two years covering 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Four speakers addressed the meeting under the Council’s Right to Speak policy prior to debate on the item.

Kirsty Woods spoke on behalf of Kettering Mind, noting that a letter and individual comments had been submitted as a result of the consultation document not including space for comments. In addition, had Kettering Mind chosen either of the available consultation options there would be an implication that the organisation agreed with the 45% taper rate, which was not the case.

Joe Matland spoke to confirm his personal circumstances and the impact the current Council Tax Support taper had on his finances. He noted that setting the taper at the national average would provide great assistance to not just himself, but all those on low incomes, suffering from illness or unemployed.

Barbara Turner provided taper rate comparisons with other local authorities and asked Council to consider its decision.

Gareth Coe noted that the taper rate would impact on the capability for a good standard of living for residents across the Borough and would place a major strain on public services and foodbanks.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw proposed an amendment to the recommendation as follows:-

*“That the maximum amount that eligible people would have to pay towards the cost of their overall Council Tax bill be set at 25%”*

Councillor Scrimshaw noted that the level as proposed in his amendment was more in line with the national average, with Kettering being only one of four councils nationally requiring claimants eligible for Council Tax Support to contribute more than 30% of the total charge.

Having been proposed by Councillor Scrimshaw and seconded by Councillor Don that the Council Tax Support Taper rate be set

at 25%, a recorded vote was taken on the amendment as follows:-

Those Voting for the Amendment

Councillors Adams, Michael Brown, Don, Dutton, Groome, Lee, Mitchell, Scrimshaw and Watts

Those Voting Against the Amendment

Councillors Bain, Cedwien Brown, Bunday, Currall, Davies, Dearing, Howes, Jelley, Lynch, Marks, Moreton, Roberts, Rowley, Smith, Talbot, Tebbutt, Thurland and Titcombe

9 For; Against 18;

Therefore the amendment was lost.

It having been proposed by Councillor Thurland and seconded by Councillor Jelley that the report as presented be approved by Council

It was

**RESOLVED**

That Council, having considered the responses from the public consultation and the information contained within the report agreed that Option 2 (freeze the taper of 45% for a period of 2 years) be approved and implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

18 For; Against 9

**MOTIONS**

17.C.57

**NCC BUDGET PROPOSALS AND RESULTING CHALLENGES**

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor Russell Roberts and seconded by Deputy Leader, Councillor Lloyd Bunday that:-

*“Kettering Borough Council is thankful for the valuable and vital services that Northamptonshire County Council provides for the residents of our borough.*

*Kettering Borough Council notes the budget proposals from NCC announced on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 which, if implemented, would result in savings of £9.6m effective as of next year; we also note that there is a requirement for further substantial savings.*

*It is the view of this Council that reductions in funding for key services such as libraries, children's services and subsidised transport would create major challenges not only to the Council but also to the residents of our borough.*

*The Council has already reflected this in its first consultation response and will do so again in its response to the next stages of the county council's consultation. The council would urge members of the public to take part in these open consultations and have their say on the future of service provision in Northamptonshire."*

(Voting on the Motion: Unanimous)

### **17.C.58 FORMER KETTERING TOWN FC FOOTBALL STADIUM**

It was proposed by Councillor Mike Brown and seconded by Councillor Ruth Groome that:-

*"This Council notes, with sadness, the loss of the Rockingham Road football stadium, which has previously been an important green space for sports in the town and remains a needed space for sports. It looks forward to a suitable replacement facility being provided within Kettering in the future. This Council will seek meaningful contributions from developers where public, sporting or community green space is lost, in order to provide replacement facilities, recognising the requirements of the law that the contributions sought have to be lawful and justified."*

Councillor Mark Dearing proposed an amendment to the original motion as follows:-

*"This Council is pleased to see movement on the redevelopment of the Rockingham Road football stadium which has previously been an important green space for sports in the town but which has lain neglected for too long. It looks forward to the club proposing a suitable replacement facility being provided within Kettering in the future. This Council will continue to seek meaningful contributions from developers where public, sporting or community green space is lost, in order to provide replacement facilities, recognising the requirements of the law that the contributions sought have to be lawful and justified."*

Councillor Michael Brown proposed a further change to the amendment put forward by Councillor Dearing, which was accepted by Cllr Dearing as the mover of the amendment, whereby the motion would read as follows:-

*“This Council notes the movement on the redevelopment of the Rockingham Road football stadium which has previously been an important green space for sports in the town but which has lain neglected for too long. It looks forward to the club proposing a suitable replacement facility being provided within Kettering in the future. This Council will continue to seek meaningful contributions from developers where public, sporting or community green space is lost, in order to provide replacement facilities, recognising the requirements of the law that the contributions sought have to be lawful and justified.”*

(Voting on the Amendment to the Amendment:  
Unanimous)

(Voting on the Substantive Motion: Unanimous)

### **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

#### **17.C.59 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING**

Councillor Clark Mitchell asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and the Environment the following question:-

*“Having read with interest the article in the Evening Telegraph regarding electrical charging points in council run car parks, could some more information be provided on this?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and the Environment responded as follows:-

*“I refer you to the Research and Development Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> November which received a report setting out the way forward for a project on Electric Vehicle Charging.”*

#### **17.C.60 EAST KETTERING LIAISON FORUM – DEVELOPER ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Anne Lee asked the Deputy Leader the following question:-

*“What will KBC do to prompt the developers involved in Kettering East to attend the quarterly East Kettering Liaison Forum, given the fact that not a single developer bothered to attend the most recent forum?”*



The Deputy Leader responded as follows:-

*“A letter signed by myself as the Chair of the East Kettering Liaison Forum (EKLf) and the Leader of the Council has already been sent to the developers conveying our extreme disappointment that they failed to send any representation to the meeting last Thursday. A request has been made for them to provide a written update that may be circulated by email to all the attendees.”*

Councillor Lee asked the following supplementary question:-

*“I welcome that answer. Can we have assurance from the developers that every time they don’t attend, a report is submitted to the forum?”*

The Deputy Leader replied as follows:-

*“As the meeting is a forum, we cannot compel people to attend. I did as the forum asked when writing to developers to express its concerns and will continue to encourage all interested parties to attend meetings or provide a written report if they cannot”*

## **17.C.61**

### **ESTABLISHING A LOCAL ENERGY COMPANY**

Councillor Michael Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and the Environment the following question:-

*“What progress is being made on establishing our own local energy company?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure responded as follows:-

*“This remains an ambition however, after detailed analysis in 2015/16, market conditions mean that due to the considerable amount of investment required, levels of risk and return are not favourable. However, this remains under review.”*

Councillor Brown asked the following supplementary question:-

*“The World Bank is changing its strategy on energy towards green energy, can we see if we can tap into this?”*

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Leisure replied as follows:-

*“We are reviewing and considering a number of things; we will consider this and report back”*

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 8.00 pm)

Signed .....

The Mayor

DJP