

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kettering held at the Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering on 28th February 2018

Present:

Councillor	Scott Edwards (Mayor)	Councillor	Anne Lee
“	James Burton (Deputy Mayor)	“	Shirley Lynch
“	Duncan Bain	“	Paul Marks
“	Cedwien Brown	“	Clark Mitchell
“	Michael Brown	“	Cliff Moreton
“	Lloyd Bunday	“	Russell Roberts
“	John Currall	“	Mark Rowley
“	Ash Davies	“	Mick Scrimshaw
“	Mark Dearing	“	Jan Smith
“	June Derbyshire	“	Karl Sumpter
“	Andrew Dutton	“	Mike Tebbutt
“	Maggie Don	“	Lesley Thurland
“	Ruth Groome	“	Keli Watts
“	Philip Hollobone	“	Jonathan West
“	David Howes		

The Mayor stated that since the last Full Council meeting, former Kettering Borough Council Mayor, Ken Bacon had passed away. A minute silence was held in his honour.

17.C.62 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Adams, Jim Hakewill, Jenny Henson, Ian Jelley, David Soans, Margaret Talbot and Greg Titcombe.

17.C.63 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13th December 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

17.C.64 **MINUTES OF THE BUDGET CONSULTATION MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Budget Consultation meeting held on 25th January 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

17.C.65 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

17.C.66 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reminded members that tickets were currently available for the forthcoming Mayoral Charity Gala evening, scheduled for 28th April at the Park Hotel in Kettering.

17.C.67 **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader announced that a grant of £3.6million had been secured that would enable work on the development of Phase 2 of the Grange Estate in Desborough to recommence. The grant would be utilised as a loan to the developer and once repaid could provide forward funding for further developments in the Borough. Details of projects associated with Phase 2 of the development were supplied to the meeting.

It was reported that the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit had also secured grant funding from government of £220,000 that would be used to further enhance joint planning work, embedding the sustainability of the unit and placing the council in a better position to take advantage of government deals relating to infrastructure in this part of country.

It was heard that KBC had been shortlisted in Housing Initiative category for the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) awards for 2018. The LGC awards recognised efforts to reduce tenancy breakdown in council housing with the Council utilising a variety of initiatives to reduce the number of tenancies ending in the first year. Award winners would be announced at a ceremony in London on 21st March.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr James Burton reported that he and the Deputy Mayoress had attended the Finals of the County Amateur

Swimming Championships in Corby, presenting three Kettering swimmers with two gold and one silver medal.

17.C.68 **REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

The Managing Director advised that both the Head of Democratic and Legal Services and the Head of Commercial Development were now in post and both were welcomed to the meeting.

Executive Director, Martin Hammond was thanked for fulfilling the role of Interim Monitoring Officer for the previous six months.

17.C.69 **NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2018/19**

Councillor Russell Roberts announced and Councillor Mick Scrimshaw seconded the nomination of Councillor Keli Watts as Deputy Mayor for 2018/19.

16.C.71 **NAMED VOTE**

The Mayor advised Council that, in accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (Statutory Instrument No.165) (the Regulations) which came into effect on 25th February 2014, a named vote would be taken on the Council's budget.

17.C.72 **BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018/19: GENERAL FUND, CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**

A report was submitted which reported to Council the recommendations from the Executive Committee to enable the Council to make a formal decision in relation to each of the following:-

- The Revised General Fund budget 2017/18;
- The General Fund budget 2018/19;
- The Capital Programme 2017 – 2023;
- The Council Tax level for 2018/19;
- The Housing Revenue Account budget 2018/19

A balanced draft budget was presented to Council. The Portfolio Holder for Finance noted the level of work that had gone into

producing a balanced budget and that a formidable level of savings had been achieved since 2010, which was testament to the hard work of the officers of the Council.

Members had considered the professional advice of officers when reaching a decision in regard to Council Tax levels, which the Executive had recommended remain frozen for the eighth year in succession. Despite the freeze on Council Tax rates, no frontline services had been cut and the Council continued to support the voluntary sector.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance referenced positive comments made by the Council's independent auditors, KPMG in relation to the council's accounts and noted the successful cross-party working of the Asset Management Board, stating that a move towards self-sufficiency as an authority was vital given the reductions in grant funding from central government. It was noted that commercial investments would form part of the drive towards self-sufficiency.

The Opposition put forward an alternative budget as an amendment to the draft budget, the main points being: -

General Fund proposals

- Increase Council Tax by 3% (representing an increase of 8p a week for a Band B property)
- Utilising the receipts from returns on Commercial Investment of £285,000
- Additional revenue generated from changing the Council Tax Support taper rate from 25% to 45% to be allocated to a newly created Hardship Fund
- Provision of a 24 hour rough sleepers shelter to be funded by KBC and operated under a voluntary sector SLA
- Car park charge reduction of 20%
- Young entrepreneurs "Dragon's Den" Fund
- Employment of a Town Centre Manager to work with the business community in Kettering and the A6 Towns
- Funding of an additional Traffic Warden until the decriminalised parking issue was resolved
- Increased grit stocks and gritting in pedestrian areas, car parks and around sheltered housing schemes
- Increased homeless prevention funding
- The Ward Initiative Fund to be increased from £625 to £1,000 per member annually
- Making a contribution of £59,100 to reserves as a consequence of the above actions.

Various aspects of the alternative budget were discussed including the potential impact of increasing Council Tax rates by 3%.

The Leader of the Opposition stated that continued freezing of Council Tax was not sustainable and left the Council relying on future income from commercial investments and that a moderate increase in rates would be financially prudent. He also noted that by not increasing Council Tax there could be the risk of the Council being penalised under the Fair Funding Review.

Members also discussed car parking charges and costings for the alternative budget.

Having being proposed by Councillor Scrimshaw and seconded by Councillor Don that the alternative budget be approved by Council, a vote was taken as follows: -

(For; 8 Against; 19 Not voting 0)

Therefore the amendment was lost.

It having been proposed by Councillor Thurland and seconded by Councillor Bunday, that the budget as presented be approved by Council, a named vote was taken as follows.

(For; 21 Against; 7 Not voting 0)

Those Voting For the Motion

Councillors Bain, Brown C, Brown M, Bunday, Burton, Currall, Davies, Dearing, Derbyshire, Groome, Hollobone, Howes, Lynch, Marks, Moreton, Roberts, Rowley, Smith, Sumpter, Tebbutt and Thurland

Those Voting Against the Motion

Councillors Dutton, Don, Lee, Mitchell, Scrimshaw, Watts and West

Those Not Voting

None

RESOLVED that Council approved:-

- (i) The General Fund Revised Budget (2017/18) and the General Fund Budget (2018/19) (as detailed at Appendix A Section 1);

- (ii) The HRA budget for 2018/19 (as detailed at Appendix A Section 2);
- (iii) The Capital Programme for 2017 – 2023 (as detailed at Appendix A Section 3);
- (iv) The Council Tax Resolution for 2018/19 (as detailed at Appendix D); and

That Council received:-

- (v) The Medium Term Financial Forecast (as detailed in Table 2)
- (vi) The report of the Statutory Officer (as detailed at Appendix C).

The Council Tax resolution itself is attached to the minutes as **Appendix A**.

17.C.73 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19

A report was submitted which:-

- (a) Reported the Council's Prudential Indicators for approval (in accordance with statute and the Council's Constitution); and
- (b) Reported the Council's updated Treasury Management policy and Strategy for 2018/19 to full Council as background to the consideration of the Prudential Indicators – the Policy and Strategy were formally approved by the council's Executive Committee at its meeting of 14th February 2018

It was noted that approval of the Prudential Indicators was a statutory requirement.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Prudential Indicators (as detailed in Appendix A to the report) be approved; and
- (ii) the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy (as detailed in Appendix B to the report) be noted.

(Voting: Unanimous)

17.C.74 **THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 – PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

A report was submitted which sought approval for the Pay Policy Statement 2018/19.

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement (2018/19) be approved.

(For; 26 Against; 0 Not voting 1)

17.C.75 **DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER**

A report was submitted which sought formal approval to appoint Helen Edwards at the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 1st March 2018 and to approve the allocation of Proper Officer functions.

RESOLVED that the Council:-

- (i) Appoint Helen Edwards as the Council's Monitoring Officer under the provisions of s5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989) with effect from 1st March 2018; and
- (ii) Approve the allocation of Proper Officer functions as set out in the report, to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

(Voting: Unanimous)

17.C.76 **COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT CHARTER – STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

A report was submitted which sought reaffirmation of the Council's Statement of Commitment in relation to the Councillor Development Charter prior to the commencement of the reaccreditation process.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Council's Leader and Managing Director sign the Statement of Commitment to the East Midlands Regional Councillor Development Charter; and

- (ii) the Head of Democratic and Legal Services be authorised to make the final submission for reaccreditation of the Councillor Development Charter to East Midlands Councils as soon as is practicable in 2018.

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 8.53 pm)

Signed

The Mayor

DJP