

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 14th March 2018

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

Also Present Councillors James Burton (Deputy Mayor), John Currall, Andrew Dutton, Ruth Groome and Keli Watts

17.EX.64 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Dearing.

17.EX.65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

17.EX.66 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14th February 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

17.EX.67 WORK PROGRAMME

The Council's draft work programme to be published on 15th March 2018 was noted.

17.EX.68 MAINTAINING A DURABLE BUDGET

A report was submitted which sought to

- a) Remind Members of the context / background to the council's budget and medium term financial strategy;

- b) Illustrate the latest budget model, the delivery of efficiency savings for 2018/19 and the estimated level of budget savings that may be required over the next few years;
- c) Agree the high level budget process for 2019/20;
- d) Recommend three debts for write off in accordance with the Council's constitution; and
- e) Provide an update on the Government's Fair Funding Formula Consultation.

It was reported that the Council's 2018/19 budget was approved by Council at its meeting on 28th February 2018. The Council had successfully set a balanced budget for 2018/19 which had been sent within the parameters approved by the Executive. Given the success of the strategy to date members were recommended to continue using the existing budget delivery framework for the preparation of future budgets.

Members heard that savings of £1.473 million had been identified and needed to be delivered in 2018/19, with a further £3.6 million to be identified and delivered over the next four years. The indicative savings required for 2020/21 were subject to high level assumptions regarding the Business Rates Retention Scheme and Government grants.

As previously reported to the Executive the Government issued a consultation paper on the Fair Funding Review in December 2017. The consultation closed on 12th March 2018, which looked at what factors should initially drive the allocation of government core funding to each local authority, principally looking at factors which drive need.

The Fair Funding review was intended to set new baseline funding allocations for local authorities by delivering an up to date assessment of their relative needs and resources, using the best evidence available.

The review proposed a foundation formula based on three key cost drivers population, rurality and deprivation. The Council feels that the number of households should form part of the foundation formula, as population alone would not fully reflect the cost of delivering services and the number of households could better reflect service demand in certain areas such as waste collection and disposal.

The Council would be assisting the District Councils Network to work up a response to the consultation. A copy of the Council's

own response was included in the report for endorsement by the Executive.

Councillor Keli Watts addressed the Executive in relation to the debt write offs detailed in the report and requested to know which financial year they related to. It was noted that the debts related to a number of financial years, which the Council were looking to write off as a result of them being irrecoverable due to companies going into liquidation.

RESOLVED

that the Executive

- a) Approved the budget process for 2019/20 as outlined in Section 2.5;
- b) Approved the debt write off (as detailed in section 7.2);
- c) Noted the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated guiding principles; and
- d) Endorsed the key points contained in the draft Fair Funding Review consultation response at Appendix C.

17.EX.69

STREET SCENE PARTNERSHIP WITH CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A report was submitted which sought to update the committee on progress in respect of the shared street scene service with Corby Borough Council and to agree some next steps.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been signed on 13 March 2018 and this would be replaced with a more contractually binding agreement at a relevant point.

Regular communication continued to take place with staff at KBC, CBC and Kier via "Streets Ahead" newsletter, staff sessions and Core Briefs. Regular meetings have also been held with Unions across the three organisations.

Staff/Human Resources/TUPE

As part of the regular meetings between KCB/CBC/Kier, the Council had received initial Employer Liability Information (ELI) which Human Resources and Finance were currently working through. The ELI would be considered during March, a challenge exercise would be completed during April and consider any measure implications following this, all of which

would be fed through the Communications cycle with partners, staff, unions, JWPB and the JWSG.

The steering group had also asked that we develop an enhanced apprenticeship offer and initial work with Kettering Training Services had begun.

Fleet

Work had commenced on progressing the extension of the current fleet contract from September 2020 for a further seven years. Initial consideration for the requirements for fleet for both KBC and CBC was currently taking place. The value for money exercise with APSE had been completed which validated extending the contract.

IT (infrastructure)

The IT project team were looking at both the IT infrastructure required at the CBC depot Lamas Road. They were also progressing work around “in-cab technology” which would enable to pass jobs direct from Customer Services to terminals within vehicles enabling real time information to be fed two ways.

Service Standards/Operational Management

The project team were currently reviewing policies in each of the service areas in order to align Corby and Kettering services. This also involved looking at resource requirements and future plans.

A summary of the proposed recommendations and decisions reached by the JSWG for each of the key service standards were included at Appendix 1 of the report. As an overview the majority of the service standards used were based on KBC’s current practices.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental and Strategic Delivery outlined the financial and legal issues to be taken into account.

The officers and members involved were commended.

RESOLVED

that the Executive approved

- a) The recommendations of the Joint Working Steering Group on revised service standards for Waste Collection and Street Cleansing be accepted for implementation as part of the future shared service offer; and
- b) The recommendations with respect to Grounds Maintenance be noted as

these would be subject to further review and discussion and a report to committee at a later date.

17.EX.70 BURTON LATIMER TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

A report was submitted, the purpose of which was to

- a) Inform members of the plans to improve Burton Latimer Town Centre using available Section 106 funding;
- b) Approve the overall objectives for the project; and
- c) Approve the proposed consultation process.

It was reported that there was £248,000 of Section 106 funding available for the provision of improvements to the public realm and for regeneration projects in Burton Latimer town centre. The funding would need to be spent or fully committed by January 2020.

A number of objectives had been set out for the project that link to the relevant planning policies, and both the Borough Councils; and Burton Latimer's own priorities. These included

- Improving the look and feel of the town centre, being sympathetic to the existing local heritage;
- Increasing parking provision in or near the town centre
- Providing better quality open space and play area provision;
- Enhancing movement around the town centre;
- Improving the community safety in the town centre;
- Protecting and enhancing the local environment;
- Enhance the town centre vitality and viability.

A close and meaningful dialogue had been maintained with Burton Latimer Town Council in order to refine the options available for the use of the available funding. A number of options had been considered and a preferred scheme had been developed and was included in draft outline plan form in Appendix 1 of the report.

The key features of the preferred scheme included:

- Extending the car park at Churchill Way
- Improving the safety of the car park

- Improving parking for the disabled, families with young children and drivers of electrical vehicles
- Enhancing the Paddock's play area
- Provision of higher quality green and open spaces
- Removing unattractive and unused facilities

It was noted that the proposals were subject to planning permission and the results of technical feasibility studies that would be carried out in due course.

The following activities were proposed in order to deliver the scheme within the required time frame and within budget:

- Drawing up of more detailed plans;
- Submission of a planning application;
- Carry out more detailed technical surveys;
- Public consultation on the proposals;
- Develop a specification, tender and procure a contractor;
- Delivery of the works.

Consultation with local businesses and residents on the proposals could begin in the next few weeks Information would also be placed on the Council's website and on a large public display in a suitable location at the proposed site of works.

It was noted that there were some existing users of the facilities who would also be affected.

Councillor Ruth Groome addressed the Executive and thanked the team for all their collaborative work.

The Deputy Leader indicated that this work was an indication of the support intended to be provided over time to all the A6 town centres, and referenced the recent HIF award in respect of Desborough as another indication of investment in towns outside Kettering.

RESOLVED

that the Executive

- a. Note the proposals for improving Burton Latimer Town Centre using available Section 106 funding;
- b. Approve the overall objectives for the project; and
- c. Approve the proposed consultation process.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 7.00pm)

Signed

Chair