

## **BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

at a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Kettering held at the Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Present:

Councillor	Scott Edwards (Mayor)	Councillor	Ian Jelley
"	James Burton (Deputy Mayor)	"	Shirley Lynch
"	Duncan Bain	"	Paul Marks
"	Cedwien Brown	"	Clark Mitchell
"	Lloyd Bunday	"	Cliff Moreton
"	John Currall	"	Russell Roberts
"	Ash Davies	"	Mark Rowley
"	Mark Dearing	"	Mick Scrimshaw
"	June Derbyshire	"	Jan Smith
"	Andrew Dutton	"	David Soans
"	Maggie Don	"	Margaret Talbot
"	Ruth Groome	"	Mike Tebbutt
"	Jim Hakewill	"	Lesley Thurland
"	Jenny Henson	"	Greg Titcombe
"	Philip Hollobone	"	Keli Watts
"	David Howes	"	Jonathan West

### **17.C.77      APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Adams and Anne Lee.

### **17.C.78      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### **17.C.79      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**17.C.80**      **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced that he was pleased to accept a painting depicting the Municipal Offices by local artist Reg Payne. Mr Payne had been the oldest attendee at the Remembrance Sunday parade and had visited to the Mayor's Parlour at the Mayor's invitation. The Mayor stated that the painting would be displayed in the parlour.

The Deputy Mayor addressed the meeting and spoke positively of the musical talent in the Borough having recently attended a number of local choral and band shows. In addition, the St George's Day parade had seen over 1,000 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from the Borough undertaking a march past and the Deputy Mayor extended his thanks to the leaders of the packs for their work.

**17.C.81**      **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**17.C.82**      **REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

None

**17.C.83**      **RIGHT TO SPEAK**

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

**17.C.84**      **INVITATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR A SINGLE TIER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

A report was submitted which sought to formally report to Council the invitation received from the Secretary of State 'to submit a proposal for a single tier of local government in Northamptonshire'; to remind members of the context and background to the above; and that in response to the invitation from the Secretary of State, Council agreement was sought to work up a draft high level submission (ideally in conjunction with other local authorities in the county) that;

- i) Sought to meet the criteria set out by the government;
- ii) Was in line with Council's previous resolution on the subject from April 2016;

- iii) That any submission be brought back to a meeting of Full Council for further debate to allow a final decision to be taken prior to any formal submission to the government.

John Padwick addressed the Council and noted that any new entity covering Kettering needed to include new structures and policies to meet the needs of the public, with particular focus on young people who were currently not getting the life chances they required in North Northamptonshire. It was further heard that finances in any new authority should be channelled into frontline services rather than funding top heavy senior management positions.

Cindy Wrighting attended the meeting and spoke, noting the immense impact of adult care costs on the County Council and the impact of budget cuts, particularly on young people. The Council was urged to think of innovative ways to address these issues, with a need to encourage local communities to be part of a solution and to help people help themselves. There was also a need to focus on engaging with young people and care for the elderly.

The Leader, Cllr Russell Roberts introduced the report and stated that the initial stage of the process had to be at a very strategic level and reminded the meeting of the Council's unanimous resolution passed in April 2016 which had stated that KBC recognised that people and places were more important than institutions and further recognised that existing council boundaries were not appropriate for any future unitary authority.

It was noted that there remained only 13 weeks to make a submission to government and the Council wished to commence work on the process as soon as possible. It was further noted that the people of Kettering relied on services provided by the council and there was a need to ensure that any successor authority could provide an even better and more robust service than was currently offered.

The Leader of the Opposition, Cllr Mick Scrimshaw spoke at length and stated that the report before members was the most important topic ever discussed by Council and the potential implications for Borough residents were huge. It was noted that KBC had been forced into the current position as a result of clear mismanagement at the County Council and the resultant governmental response. It was considered that having the potential solution and timescales dictated by central government was not helpful; even if all the relevant authorities involved in the process agreed a way forward, it would be difficult to meet the current proposed timescales. Given that the government was pushing for a shadow authority to be in place by May 2019, to take over fully by May 2020, it would be irresponsible not to raise concerns over these timescales due to the level of risk caused by rushing the process.

It was heard that the level of work required would be daunting and examples of complex areas for consideration were provided, including Council Tax equalisation, asset management and housing stock. It was heard that the recently published Deloitte report indicated that there was a need to do more than just reorganise local government. Social care was a major area of concern and sustainable funding was required, with integrated health and social care a consideration.

It was noted that public consultation was required prior to the submission being made to the government in July. It would be difficult to ask the public to make an informed choice without being able to provide details regarding service provision or the potential impact on the public. Conversation with the public needed to extend right across the period of reorganisation.

The issue of the possibility of cancelled Borough elections in 2019 was raised. It was noted that members had been elected to serve until May 2019, with none having a mandate to remain after that date. Given that the reorganisation timeline could not be assured, there was a need to know sooner rather than later whether the 2019 elections would take place.

The Leader of the Opposition proposed an amendment as an additional resolution, seconded by Cllr Maggie Don as follows:-

*“d) The council asks the R&D Scrutiny Committee to use its recently constituted Unitary Working Group to investigate the options for the future role of our Town and Parish Councils, including options for Parish status for the town of Kettering. The result of this scrutiny to feed into the wider debate on the future of local government in the county”*

Following debate a vote was taken on the amendment as follows:-

Voting: 6 For; 22 Against; 2 Abstentions

Therefore the amendment was lost.

Debate took place in regard to the original recommendations, with members raising points in relation to:-

- Embedding long-standing Council principles such as The Golden Rules in reorganisation work
- Requesting clarification regarding the possible cancellation of 2019 Borough elections
- Requesting flexibility of timescales to avoid rushing the process
- Raising the issue of Social Care funding with government

It having been proposed by Cllr Russell Roberts and seconded by Cllr Lloyd Bunday that the report as presented be approved by Council, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Council;

- i) Acknowledged the invitation from the Secretary of State 'to submit a proposal for a single tier of local government in Northamptonshire';
- ii) Noted the updates provided in the report; and
- iii) In response to the invitation from the Secretary of State, agreed to work up a draft high level submission (ideally in conjunction with other local authorities in the county) that;
  - a) sought to meet the criteria set by the government;
  - b) was in line with the Council's previous resolution from April 2016;
  - c) that any submission be brought back to a meeting of Full Council for further debate to allow a final decision to be taken, prior to any formal submission to the government.

(Voting: Unanimous)

17.C.85

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES: ADOPTION OF A NEW SCHEME OF MEMBER ALLOWANCES**

A report was submitted which requested that Council considered the findings of the Independent Review Panel (IRP) alongside the recommendations from both the Research and Development and Executive Committees and adopt a new Scheme of Members' Allowances.

It was noted that the IRP had recommended a 2% increase in the annual Members' Allowance and an increase in the annual Ward Initiative Fund (WIF) from £625 to £1000 per councillor, to be

achieved in one of two ways, either as a straight increase or as a pooled resource to be shared between members.

The Research and Development Committee had recommended that Members' Allowances be frozen at current levels, with the Ward Initiative Fund being increased to £1000 per councillor annually with no pooling arrangements and that the WIF not form part of the Members' Allowances review going forward.

The Executive Committee recommendations were that both Members' Allowances and the Ward Initiative Fund be frozen at current levels.

Cllr Maggie Don proposed an amendment as an additional resolution, seconded by Cllr Mick Scrimshaw that in line with the Research and Development Committee recommendation:-

*"The Ward Initiative Fund not be included in the Members' Allowances review going forward"*

Following debate a vote was taken on the amendment as follows:-

Voting: 23 For; 7 Against

The amendment therefore became the substantive motion.

During debate on the substantive motion concerns were raised concerning the possible disregard of the IRP findings and the need to attract candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds. There was also some support for the idea of increasing the WIF.

It having been proposed by Cllr Lesley Thurland and seconded by Cllr Mark Rowley, and with the addition of the amendment detailed above, a further vote was held on each element of the recommendation as follows:-

**RESOLVED** that:-

- i) There be a 0% increase in the Member' Allowance Scheme, until at least May 2020 or until a single tier of local government is introduced in Northamptonshire, whichever is earlier

*Voting: 28 For; 2 Against*

- ii) There be a 0% increase in the Ward Initiative Fund, until at least May 2020 or until a single tier of local government is introduced in Northamptonshire, whichever is earlier; and

*Voting: 22 For; 6 Against; 2 Abstentions*

- iii) The Ward Initiative Fund not be included in any future reviews of the Members Allowances system.

*Voting: Unanimous*

**17.C.86**      **PROTOCOL ON JOINT RESPONSE TO ISSUES OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL SAFETY AND SECURITY**

A report was submitted which sought Council adoption of the Protocol on Joint Response to Issues of Local and National Safety and Security developed in partnership with the Kettering Interfaith Forum.

It was noted that the report erroneously referred to Kettering Multifaith Forum when the organisation's title was in fact Kettering Interfaith Forum.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**                      that the Protocol on Joint Response to Issues of Local and National Safety and Security developed in partnership with the Kettering Interfaith Forum be endorsed by Council.

*(Voting: Unanimous)*

**17.C.87**      **REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

A report was submitted which sought the approval of revisions to the Councillor Learning and Development Policy.

It was noted that the Member Development Working Group had recommended that, as Council had originally approved the Councillor Learning and Development Policy in 2007, the reviewed document should be re-submitted to Council for endorsement.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**                      that:-

i)      the draft Councillor Learning and Development Policy be approved; and

- ii) the revised Policy be circulated to all members and be made available on the Council's website.

(Voting: Unanimous)

**17.C.88**      **RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE**

During the debate on the previous item (17.C.87), with the meeting closing on the two-hour guillotine, it was

**RESOLVED**      that the meeting be extended until 9.30pm in order to conclude the remaining business on the agenda.

(Voting: Unanimous)

**17.C.89**      **STANDARDS – APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSON**

A report was submitted which sought Council approval for the extension of the term of the current Independent Person, Mr Mike Sawford, for a further period of up to two years.

It was

**RESOLVED**      that Mr Mike Sawford be appointed as the Council's Independent Person for a period of two years commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

(Voting: Unanimous)

**17.C.90**      **ADOPTION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

A report was submitted to which sought approval of an update to the council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) that would satisfy legal requirements in terms of development plan regulations and set out a timetable against which the documents making up the Council's Development Plan could be viewed.

It was therefore



**RESOLVED**

that the draft Local Development Scheme as attached at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted and for it to have effect from 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

(Voting: Unanimous)

**17.C.91 TWINNING WITH FALMOUTH, JAMAICA**

It was proposed by Cllr Philip Hollobone and seconded by Cllr Mick Scrimshaw that:-

*“This Council calls on the Mayor (a) to invite Falmouth, Jamaica to enter into a town twinning arrangement with the town of Kettering to celebrate our shared heritage of the life and works of the Revd. William Knibb, and (b) to provide the civic leadership for local engagement with this twinning arrangement.”*

Both John Padwick and Cindy Wrighting addressed the meeting, welcoming potential new developments in making links with Falmouth, Jamaica. Mr Padwick made a further request that signage at the gateways to Kettering, when renewed, contain reference to William Knibb.

With the agreement of the Mayor, Cllr Hollobone supplemented the motion with a brief presentation of photos which detailed important landmarks, organisations and connections to the Revd. William Knibb across Falmouth, Jamaica

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Council called on the Mayor (a) to invite Falmouth, Jamaica to enter into a town twinning arrangement with the town of Kettering to celebrate our shared heritage of the life and works of the Revd. William Knibb, and (b) to provide the civic leadership for local engagement with this twinning arrangement.

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.17 pm)

Signed .....

The Mayor

DJP