

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 18th April 2018

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

Also Present Councillors James Burton (Deputy Mayor), June
Derbyshire, Andrew Dutton, Shirley Lynch, Mick
Scrimshaw and Michael Tebbutt

17.EX.71 APOLOGIES

None.

17.EX.72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mark Dearing and David Howes declared an interest
in item 13 as private landlords

17.EX.73 MINUTES

RESOLVED

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

17.EX.74 WORK PROGRAMME

The Council's draft work programme to be published on 19th April
2018 was noted.

17.EX.75 TOWN CENTRE DELIVERY PLAN

A report was submitted which sought members to note the
consultation feedback on the Draft Kettering Town Centre
Delivery Plan 2018-2025 and to approve the final plan.

It was reported that the Draft Town Centre Delivery Plan was approved for consultation at its meeting held on 14th February 2018.

A list of all the projects in the plan as well as a section on general items, a summary of the feedback received alongside any proposals for changes to the final plan was included in Appendix A of the report.

The committee heard that no comments had been received regarding the overall vision, but most comments had focused on different aspects of individual projects. Members were asked to note the responses and the changes made to the plan as a result.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the committee and stated he supported most of the plan, but requested clarification on some points within it.

In response to Councillor Scrimshaw's requests the committee heard that the term 'Multi-use' referred to a vibrant town made up of a mix of housing, retail and entertainment. It was noted that the Council had applied for a grant from the Government to install electric charging points in carparks in the town centre.

Mr John Kellett addressed the committee and shared his observations on the plan, including multi-use, refurbishment of the police station, electric charging points and online retail.

RESOLVED

that the Executive committee;

- a) noted the consultation responses outlined in Appendix 1 and,
- b) Approved the recommended changes as outlined in Appendix 1 to form the final version of the Kettering Town Centre Delivery Plan 2018 to 2025 for publication.

17.EX.76 **OXFORD – MILTON KEYNES – CAMBRIDGE ARC GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

A report was submitted which sought approval for the Council to become a member of the Central Corridor Growth Board.

The National Infrastructure Commission, (NIC) had been engaged on a study into the economic potential of the southern midlands, described as an arc from Oxford to Cambridge, which encompasses Northamptonshire. The NIC Interim report on the

Cambridge-MK-Oxford growth corridor identified that one factor holding the area back from achieving its full potential as the UK's 'Silicon Valley' is the lack of joined-up planning of housing, jobs and infrastructure across traditional local authority boundaries.

The terms of reference for the Central Area Growth Board were attached to the report and set out what its purpose is,. It would therefore be a single coordinating voice for the region.. No powers were being ceded from member authorities to the Growth Board. If members of the Growth Board agreed to vest powers into it, this would be agreed by individual councils via their decision making processes. Hence Kettering Borough Council will only cede powers to the Growth Board if it and all other member authorities choose to.

In the visioning document 'Helping the Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford corridor reach its potential' published at Autumn Budget, government announced its ambition to work with the central area on housing and growth deals throughout 2018. Whilst any potential housing and growth deals will not cover the whole geography of the Central Area, the Growth Board will have an important role to play in coordinating these at the sub-regional level.

Since the NIC report was published, it had been established with government that a housing and growth deal could be negotiated with North Northamptonshire as an area; and that this would be separate from, although clearly linked to, any sign up to the Central Area Growth Board.

A joint meeting of the North Northamptonshire Joint Delivery committee and the Joint Planning Committee was held on 15th March 2018, the outcome of which was detailed in the report and reflected in the recommendations to the Executive.

RESOLVED that the Executive agreed

- a) That the Council becomes a full member of the Central Area Growth Board, adopting the Terms of Reference (Annex A);
- b) That the Council commits to a contribution of £5000 of ongoing revenue support to help fund the work of the Growth Board;
- c) That the Leader of the Council or the Deputy leader be appointed to represent the Council on the Growth Board; and

- d) That the Committee note and endorse the proposal to enter into a discussion with government about a housing and growth deal for North Northamptonshire.

17.EX.77 KEYWAYS HOUSING ALLOCATIONS SCHEME

A report was submitted which sought approval to the revised Keyways Allocations Scheme.

In September 2017, the Executive Committee agreed to adopt a revised Keyways Housing Allocation Scheme for social and affordable rented homes across our Borough. A review is carried out annually to ensure that the scheme remains relevant in meeting local housing needs and responds to changes in the legal framework governing the allocation of social housing.

Due to the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 on 3rd April 2018, a review had been carried out somewhat sooner than the normal annual review.

Whilst the changes made in September 2017 were still relevant, the need for a small number of additional changes had been identified during preparations for the implement of the Homelessness Reduction Act. These would help to ensure that the Housing Allocation Scheme would remain legally compliant in light of the new legislation. All proposed amendment were included in Appendix A of the report.

The proposed revisions were subject to confirmation from the Council's legal advisors that the modified scheme complies with all legal requirements.

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee agreed to adopt the revised Housing Allocation Scheme attached to the report with immediate effect.

17.EX.78 HOUSING OPTIONS – SPEND TO SAVE POLICY

A report was submitted which sought the approval of the revised Spend to Save policy, which would help Housing Options Advisors when delivering the Council's new prevention and relief duties being introduced by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Members heard the Spend to Save Policy had been in operation for a number of years. It was designed to support the homelessness prevention work of Housing Options Advisors by enabling them to prevent homelessness through the providing of funds to cover the initial costs of deposit and rent in advance of renting a property in the private sector.

Elsewhere on agenda, a report on the proposed changes to the Keyways Housing Allocations Scheme highlighted the significant increase in homelessness applications since August 2015. The number of homelessness applications from local residents has almost trebled over the three years since 2014/15.

Linked to the rise in homelessness was a substantial rise in the use of costly and often unsuitable temporary accommodation. The number of homeless households currently accommodated in temporary accommodation was more than five times higher than three years ago.

As the private rented sector had become more unaffordable to many local residents, the current Spend to Save policy had become less useful in supporting the homelessness prevention agenda of the Housing Options team.

Revisions to the Spend to Save policy were therefore proposed. This would help to ensure that the policy is of greater assistance to Housing Options Advisors in their day-to-day work and reduce the need to use temporary accommodation. The revised Spend to Save policy document was included at Appendix A of the report.

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee agreed to adopt the revised Spend to Save Policy attached to the report with immediate effect.

17.EX.79 **REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL – MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES: ADOPTION OF A NEW SCHEME OF MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES**

A report was submitted for the Executive to consider the findings of the Independent Review Panel and to make recommendations to Council for consideration at its meeting on 25th April 2018.

Councillor Andrew Dutton addressed the committee and shared his views on attracting a wider range of candidates for election and the monitoring of the Ward Initiative Fund.

Councillor James Burton, The Deputy Mayor addressed the committee expressed his concerns regarding potential issues if the Ward Initiative Fund was raised as it was already a struggle

to spend the whole fund.

Members heard that a Members Information Session was due to be held, which aimed to advise members of acceptable uses for the Ward Initiative Fund.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance thanked the Independent Remuneration Panel for their report and advised that due to the current climate it would be beneficial if Members' Allowances and the Ward Initiative Fund remained the same until such a time as new Governance arrangements were in place.

During discussion it became apparent that Councillors in Rural areas found the Ward Initiative fund was very easy to spend due to the amount of parishes with in each ward, whereas Councillors within the town sometimes struggled to find projects to spend the fund on.

RESOLVED

That having considered the findings of the Independent Review Panel and the recommendations of the Research and Development Committee held on 4th April 2018, the Executive Committee recommends to Council, a 0% increase to Members' Allowances and the Ward Initiative Fund until a new governance arrangement was put in place by the Government.

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

Signed

Chair