

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 23rd May 2018

Present: Councillor Russell Roberts (Chair)

Councillors Lloyd Bunday, Mark Dearing, Scott Edwards,
David Howes, Ian Jelley, Mark Rowley and Lesley
Thurland

Also Present Councillors Andrew Dutton, Anne Lee and Keli Watts

18.EX.01 APOLOGIES

None.

18.EX.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18.EX.03 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the
Committee held on 18th April 2018 be
approved and signed as a correct record.

18.EX.04 WORK PROGRAMME

The Council's draft work programme to be published on 24th May
2018 was noted.

18.EX.05 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) Consider a suite of budget guiding principles for the Housing Revenue Account
- d) To update members on the vehicle fleet procurement for the shared street scene service and approve the procurement of Corby's fleet.

It was reported that the budgeted income expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2018/19 amounted to around £1.5m. The HRA is a ring fenced account with rents paid by tenants being reinvested back into the landlord function associated with managing around 3.800 properties.

In previous years the focus on golden rules and guiding principles had been more focussed towards the General Fund. A suite of guiding principles for the HRA was set out in the report. These guiding principles could be used in the 2019/20 budget process and were reported and discussed at the Tenants Forum meeting held on 10th May 2018.

The Executive received a report in October 2017 regarding extending KBC's fleet contract for the proposed shared street scene service with Corby Borough Council (CBC).

To benefit the shared street scene service arrangement KBC had the option to call off additional vehicles so that the fleet could be used across both boroughs. The Council undertook a value for money review with APSE in November 2017 which provided an independent external assessment that procuring Corby's fleet requirement by utilising KBC's option to call off additional vehicles provided good value for money. The additional fleet orders would need to be placed in the summer so the requirements could be met when the shared service goes live early in 2019.

As the existing contract had been produced by KBC, this Council as part of the existing contract would be required to procure Corby's fleet and then recharge Corby for their cost for the fleet. The two Councils have an agreed MoU which would be further supplemented with a legal agreement between the two authorities ensuring that CBC meets their shared cost.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Executive committee;

- a. Approved the Guiding Principles for the Housing Revenue Account as set out in 2.6 in the report

- b. Approved the procurement of Corby's fleet requirements in accordance with the existing fleet contract;
- c. Noted the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated guiding principles; and
- d. Noted the Council's current Medium Term Financial Forecast and the progress being made for the delivery of efficiency savings for 2019/20 and future years.

18.EX.06 KETTERING COLLECTIVE ENERGY SWITCH SCHEME

A report was submitted which sought to inform members of the opportunity to implement a new energy switch scheme and highlight the benefits it could create for our residents and the council, and to seek approval of the overall principles and objectives of the scheme.

It was reported that fuel poverty was an issue present across the country. The Economic Deprivation statistics provided by Northamptonshire Analysis included in the report indicated that Kettering has the third highest levels of fuel poverty within the county of Northamptonshire, with 12.4% of Kettering households experiencing fuel poverty. This was higher than the England average of 11%.

Several organisations offer a service whereby households can join a 'consortium' of domestic energy buyers, effectively giving them the opportunity to secure a better deal through economies of scale by utilising collective purchasing power to attract the lowest energy tariff deal, for both metered and pre-payment metered users. This could provide an average saving on a first energy switch of between £250-£300 per year.

Implementing a local scheme in Kettering would help to realise two key outcomes; to support our residents to generate a saving on their annual energy bills, and to support the Council to generate income to further support and benefit public service delivery.

Members heard there would be a cost implication of around £5,000 to implement the scheme in terms of a marketing budget, plus the staff resources required to manage the scheme. This however would be offset by income received by the Council via the referral fee.

Councillor Anne Lee addressed the Executive and welcomed the positive initiative to tackle fuel poverty.

During discussion members felt this was a great scheme which would support to generate savings on household fuel bills and help to relieve fuel poverty, whilst generating an income to support Council services.

It was

RESOLVED that the Executive approved

- a) The principle of setting up a Kettering Collective Energy Switch Scheme on a two-year trial until March 2020; and
- b) Delegated powers to the Head of Commercial Development, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to undertake an appropriate procurement process to establish a suitable provider.

18.EX.07 CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2020

A report was submitted which sought to:

- a) Outline the Corporate Plan's role in the overall process of planning and delivering services, including the context of the potential reform of public services;
- b) Present a draft Corporate Plan for Member's approval; and
- c) Set out the process and timescale for the Plan's future development and approval.

It was reported that the Corporate Plan was a document which set out the Council's high level vision, strategic objectives and key priorities for the future. It was supported by more detailed plans such as service plans, the plans of partners such as Kettering Futures Partnership, and other statutory plans.

The Council formally approved its vision, strategic aims and objectives in June 2010 when a framework of aims and objectives were agreed that have remained largely unchanged and served the Council well.

The intention of the plan is not to be a 'catch all' for everything important to the Council and its customers, therefore there are many services and activities that are very important but not included in the Corporate Plan.

Members heard that given the potential for fundamental change in the way public services are structured, coupled with an immediate need to continue to do the job of providing services well, it seemed an appropriate time to take stock of the Council's vision, strategic objectives and key priorities. The suggested timescale for the Plan was included in the report.

Councillor Anne Lee addressed the Executive with concerns that the Labour Group were not being kept up to date with the current Council position regarding the new governance arrangements.

Councillor Lee was assured that the Labour group were receiving regular updates and there were no current updates at this time. An update to all members would be published when information became available, along with a Member Information Session before the consultation begins.

The portfolio holder for Regeneration proposed an additional recommendation as follows:

"That the Council undertake an ambitious programme of council house building following the completion of five new homes at Laburnum Crescent and starting a further 27 new homes to be built at Scott Road and Albert Street subject to obtaining planning permission".

It was

RESOLVED

That the Executive

- a) Noted the Corporate Plan's role in the overall process of planning and delivering services, including the context of potential reform of public services;
- b) Approved the content of the draft Corporate Plan;
- c) Approved the process and timescale for the Corporate Plan's future development and adoption by the Council; and
- d) Approved that the Council undertake an ambitious programme of council house

building following the completion of five new homes at Laburnum Crescent and starting a further 27 new homes to be built at Scott Road and Albert Street subject to obtaining planning permission.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 7.05pm)

Signed

Chair