

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 14th November 2018

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

Also Present The Mayor, Councillor James Burton, Councillors Ash
Davies, June Derbyshire, Maggie Don, Andrew Dutton,
James Hakewill, Anne Lee, Mick Scrimshaw, Shirley
Stanton and Michael Tebbutt

18.EX.42 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David
Howes and the Managing Director, Graham Soulsby

18.EX.43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18.EX.44 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the
Committee held on 17th October 2018 be
approved and signed as a correct record.

18.EX.45 ISSUES REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was reported a presentation was received on Air Quality
Monitoring, in the borough at the Monitoring and Audit Committee
held on 6th November 2018. At the meeting it was agreed that in
future the annual monitoring report, after technical approval by
DEFRA, would be on the Monitoring and Audit annual work
programme which meant that this would now be under Monitoring
and Audit's annual scrutiny. Monitoring and Audit requested that
the profile of Air Quality monitoring be raised with the Executive.

The Leader thanked Monitoring and Audit for this, noted the
referral and would consider as to whether this would form part of
any future work programme.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and Environment also noted the points raised and as Portfolio holder for the Environment would give it some consideration.

18.EX.46 WORK PROGRAMME

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

18.EX.47 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT GRANTS REVIEW OF FUNDING FOR 2019-2021

A report was submitted which sought to make a decision about the Voluntary Sector Service Level Agreements (SLA) as to whether the level of funding should remain for years three and four of the SLA period, in line with the previous decision of the Executive Committee, at the halfway point of the four year SLA period.

The Mayor Councillor James Burton addressed the Executive and congratulated the Council on making sure the funds were available for the remainder of the term.

During The Mayor's address the Leader interrupted the meeting to deal with an issue regarding photographing of the meeting.

Councillor Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and was disappointed the option to increase the funding was not discussed in the report.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED That the Executive Committee extends the current levels of voluntary sector SLA funding provision for a further two year period (i.e. for 2019/20 and 2020/21) in line with its ambition for four year grant awards.

18.EX.48 TOWN CENTRE DELIVERY PLAN – MEADOW ROAD URBAN PARK – ART & CULTURE REVITALISED

A report was submitted to which sought to appraise members of the work being undertaken on two projects included in the Town Centre Delivery Plan 2018-2025, Meadow Road Urban Park and Art & Culture Revitalised, to proceed with the consultation proposed and approve the spend of Section 106 monies

specifically allocated to Town Centre improvements for the delivery of the projects.

Plans for Meadow Road Park

It was reported that the opportunities for the development of the park were initiated from the attendees of the Town Centre Conference.

The project would be split across two phases for delivery. Phase one could include measures to improve play, exercise, lighting, signage, planting, the creation of hard standing for refreshment concessions, space for events, seating and informal sporting use.

It was noted that various options for preventing access of unauthorised vehicles were currently being investigated.

Phase two related to the Northfield Avenue side of the park where the Slade Brook runs alongside the edge of the park. This part of the project would be subject to external funding for projects for green infrastructure improvements.

The proposal would be to enhance and make more of a feature of the Slade Brook corridor adjacent to Northfield Avenue, This would create new wildlife habitation and space for children's play. The time line would begin the various consultation exercises as soon as possible. This would allow time for the feedback to influence the plans to be drawn together and for work to begin on Phase One in the New Year, delivering the new park by Spring/Summer 2019.

Art & Culture Revitalised at the Gallery, Library and Museum (GLaM)

The Town Centre Delivery Plan included a project that commits the Council to work with local groups and artists on local outdoor public art and cultural events in key town centre locations, including the museum and gallery.

This Council and First for Wellbeing (Library / NCC) had been collaborating since the summer to try to strengthen the heritage, cultural and creative offer within the Town Centre. External funding opportunities were and would be explored.

Both projects are to be funded by Section 106 monies specified for Town Centre improvements.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and welcomed the comments regarding recognising the changing nature of the Town Centre.

Councillor Anne Lee addressed the Executive and detailed some

ideas for features in the park.

It was

RESOLVED that

- a) The consultation process on the improvement plans for Meadow Road Park are progressed as outlined above; and
- b) The S106 monies allocated for Town Centre Improvements are used for the Meadow Road Park improvements and the feasibility study for the GLaM project as part of the Town Centre Delivery Plan.

18.EX.49 HOMES FOR THE FUTURE – AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR HAMILTON HOUSE AND PROJECT OUTTURN FOR MONTROSE HOUSE

A report was submitted the purpose of which was

- a) To award a contract for the refurbishment of Hamilton House sited on the junction of Central Avenue and Windmill Ave Kettering, as part of the Homes for the Future programme; and
- b) To recommend to Full Council a variation to the 2018/19 HRA capital programme in the light of the out-turn expenditure relating to the refurbishment of Montrose House.

It was reported that works to the first block at Hampden Crescent, Montrose House, was completed in August 2018 and the block now provides 18 one and two bedroom fully refurbished and energy efficient homes.

The final cost of the works undertaken exceeded the initial budget by £480,000. This was due to additional unforeseen works being identified during the course of opening-up works and other items being added to the project with the aim of minimising revenue costs over the long term. In addition, a number of items in the original specification for the project had been omitted in error and some other items had been incorrectly designed.

The second block of flats, Hamilton House, currently contained 11 three bedroom flats which were originally constructed in the late 1920's. Hamilton House was amongst the oldest properties in the Council's housing stock and required refurbishment so it could provide 18 high-quality, affordable homes for the long term.

A total of four contractors, all of whom were registered on the Contracts Finder procurement portal, were invited to tender for the project. Following a three stage procurement process Contractor B was assessed as being financially viable and having the highest score overall for cost and quality. Accordingly it was recommended that the Council award the contract for refurbishment of Hamilton House to Contractor B.

Councillor Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and raised concerns regarding the over spend on the project. He requested that the decision be deferred and a Task and Finish Group be set up to scrutinise the over spend. The Head of Housing confirmed that the lead officers, the consultant architect and the procurement specialist had looked at the reasons for the over spend and were confident that this was due to the issues discussed above.

Councillor Anne Lee addressed the Executive and felt it was shocking that the over spend had been taken out of the HRA account when other tenants needed works to be completed. The Head of Housing stated that there was no alternative but to do these works as the properties were a major drain on the Council's resources. The project would now generate ten times the income it was achieving beforehand.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing reported that the properties were not suitable for modern day living and delaying the next phase of the project would only generate more revenue cost and reduce the council's ability to address the rising levels of housing need in the Borough.

During discussions it was confirmed that the consultant architect used in phase one of the project would not be used by the Council again.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Executive

- a) Accepted the tender from Contractor B in the sum of £1,653,058.33 to undertake Homes for the Future works to Hamilton House subject to Full Council approving a variation to the HRA capital programme as set out in paragraph 6.1.2;
- b) Delegated authority to the Head of Democratic and Legal Services in consultation with the Head of Housing to

conclude and sign the contracts with Contractor B; and

- c) Recommended that Full Council approve budget variations set out in 6.1.2 and 6.2.3 to facilitate the works at Montrose and Hamilton House

18.EX.50 FUTURE PROVISION OF STREET SCENE SERVICES

A report was submitted which sought

- (a) To update members on the progress of the shared street scene project between Corby Borough Council (CBC) and Kettering Borough Council (KBC);
- (b) To confirm a commencement date of 2nd February 2019; and,
- (c) To recommend to Full Council a variation to the 2018/19 General Fund capital programme for the purchase of grounds maintenance equipment for the Shared Street Scene Service.

It was reported that the commencement date of the Shared Service would be 2nd February 2019 with the exception of seven staff transferring at the beginning of January 2019.

It was noted that a joint budget had been developed and prepared by the Project Team with finance officers from both CBC and KBC. CBC at the One Corby Policy Committee (OCPC) meeting on 23rd October 2018 approved a working budget of £4.285m for 2019/20.

A Members Information Session would be taking place on 26th November and all members were encouraged to attend.

Following CBC's OCPC meeting on 23rd October 2018, a formal process commenced in respect of changes to staff terms and conditions from all three employments (Kettering, Corby and Kier). This would take the form of "Measures" that would be consulted on with the relevant Unions and transferring staff from both CBC and Kier. Running parallel with the measures process would be a separate consultation process with Unions and staff from KBC who are affected.

Councillor Anne Lee addressed the Executive to enquire about the possibility of a green electric fleet. The Head of Environmental Care assured the Executive that this was a consideration but the technology was not yet affordable.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and the Environment reported that the MoU was signed on 13th March 2018. The framework document to replace the MoU Shared Service Agreement was being progressed and this agreement was currently being drafted with input from colleagues from CBC's and KBC's Legal, HR, Finance, Operational and Technical teams.

During discussions it was reported that the in cab technology would be provided free of charge by the existing contractor.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Executive;

- a) Noted the updates and service enhancements achieved on the shared service arrangement, as set out in the report at Section 2;
- b) Endorsed the commencement date of the new shared service on the 2nd February 2019; and
- c) Recommended that Full Council approve budget variations set out in Section 5.3 for the purchase of Grounds equipment

18.EX.51 MAINTAINING A DURABLE BUDGET

A report was submitted, the purpose of which was 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) Provide an outline Budget Timetable for 2019/20.
- d) Provide an update following the Government's Budget Announcement.

It was reported that £1.8 million of ongoing savings were required to deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20. Of this £353,000 of savings were still to be identified.

Members were reminded that the formal budget consultation period was from 16th January 2019 to 27th February 2019 when the Council sets its Council Tax for 2019/20. Comments from the consultation process would be reported to the Executive for consideration at its meeting on 13th February 2019. The formal budget process remained unchanged from the previous year. The budget process at Kettering Borough Council was an ongoing process throughout the year that has been evidenced by the ongoing consideration of the durable budget report at each meeting of the Executive.

The Chancellor made his formal Budget announcement on 29th October, the headlines of which were set out in the report.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and raised concerns regarding changes in the budget since the last report which were clarified by the Head of Resources and the Head of Environmental Care.

Councillor Anne Lee addressed the Executive and requested clarification on Business Rates Retention for 2020 onwards.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance urged members to engage in the budget consultation period.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Executive noted the following;

- a) 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; Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated guiding principles;
- b) The Treasury Management performance for the period 1st April – 30th September; and
- c) The financial challenges that are facing Northamptonshire County Council in both 2018/19 and 2019/20 and the potential implications to the Districts and Boroughs in Northamptonshire.

Prior to the closure of the meeting the Leader of the Council stated that he had no objection to meetings being recorded in whatever way, however common courtesy dictated that this should be signalled in advance.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 7.50pm)

Signed

Chair