

# BOROUGH OF KETTERING

## A6 TOWNS FORUM

Meeting held: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Present** Councillor John Currall (Chair) (KBC/BLTC)  
Councillor Lloyd Bunday (KBC)  
Councillor Maggie Don (KBC)  
Councillor Andrew Dutton (KBC)  
Councillor Christopher Groome (BLTC)  
Councillor Ruth Groome (KBC/BLTC)  
Councillor James Hakewill (NCC/KBC/RTC)  
Councillor Michael Tebbutt (KBC)  
Councillor Allan Matthews (NCC)  
Councillor Dianne Miles-Zanger (BSPC)

**Also Present** Julie Trahern (Head of Customer Services)  
Dean Mitchell (Group Accountant)  
Jo Haines (Group Accountant)  
Jon Hall (Environmental Services Manager)  
Sgt. Robert Offord – Northamptonshire Police  
Anne Ireson (Committee Administrator)

### **18.A6TF.24 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ray Davies and Mark Cox (Rothwell), Karl Sumpter, Cedwien Brown and Margaret Talbot (Kettering) and Jason Urbani (Fire Service).

### **18.A6TF.25 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the A6 Towns Forum held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **18.A6TF.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**18.A6TF.27 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2019/20 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

A report was submitted which presented Kettering Borough Council's draft budget proposals for 2019/20, which had been endorsed for consultation by the Council's Executive at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January. The consultation period would end on 27<sup>th</sup> February, when the budget would be formally considered by full Council. Any comments made by the A6 Towns Forum would be submitted to the Executive at its next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Key points made at the Budget Consultation meeting, held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, were outlined. Members of the Forum were reminded of the imminent local government reform in Northamptonshire, which had recently been subject to consultation by the government. A final decision was expected to be made in March 2019. However, the Council must assume that the status quo would remain and make informed decisions on the budget, taking into account the financial estimates, pressures and business and funding risks in the medium term as outlined in the report.

Financial pressures and key issues were summarised, highlighting the significant pressures around recycling and homelessness. The Council had frozen the level of its Council Tax for the last eight years, which represented a significant achievement. Members of the Forum noted that draft budgets would also be presented to the Tenants' Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> February, when rent levels would be set.

Members of the Forum made the following comments:-

Item / Issue	Summary of Response Given
<p>On several occasions we have heard that recycling and homelessness are risk factors. What mitigating steps are being put in place to recover any recycling losses?</p> <p><b>(Councillor Maggie Don, KBC)</b></p>	<p>The Head of Environmental Care and his team, together with local providers, are looking at providing a more effective and efficient service. Where possible, this includes looking at tenders going out locally, working with other local authorities and partners in getting the best deal. We have included a recycling project in 2020/21 to 2022/23 in the capital programme and the purpose is to try to become more self-sufficient and provide a more effective service.</p> <p><b>(Officer Response)</b></p>

Item / Issue	Summary of Response Given
<p>When will the fair funding review come through?</p> <p><i>(Councillor Maggie Don, KBC)</i></p>	<p>The consultation closes on 21<sup>st</sup> February for the needs-based element, to be implemented by 2020.</p> <p><i>(Officer Response)</i></p>
<p>I would like to comment on the shared service with Corby. If there is a final budget for eight local authorities how much co-operation with between two authorities forms the nucleus of the new authority? If a shared service can operate in one aspect, it can work in other services too. How might this operate in other authorities? Are they waiting for the shadow authority?</p> <p>Northamptonshire County Council pointed out to its Leader that it would be advantageous to include the Boroughs and Districts in the County Council budgets, but there has been no meaningful effort. It will be left until the last minute and there are opportunities now for collaborative efforts to get things moving.</p> <p><i>(Councillor Allan Matthews, NCC)</i></p>	<p>It is for the members of Kettering Borough Council to set a budget assuming the Council will remain after 2020. However, we will continue to look at working with partners, for example Corby, wherever we can.</p> <p>Kettering Borough Council's Strategic Management Team is working with other authorities in readiness for local government reform and this type of thing will be looked at. Our statutory duties and legalities going forward are the most important consideration at the moment.</p> <p><i>(Officer Response)</i></p>
<p>I am surprised local government reform is not on the agenda. One of my primary concerns is that it will not be until after April 2020 that town and parishes might get their say, because we are not looking at this yet. It worries me that the big budget items, for example children's services and adult social care, will get carved up and town and parish councils might be asked to pay for things such as grass cutting.</p> <p><i>(Councillor Jim Hakewill, KBC)</i></p>	<p>On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, we will not fall off a cliff. NCC services will continue and will take a while to become part of any new unitary authority. Services will be working together and precepts will also continue. Towns and Parishes will not suddenly be told they will have to provide their own street lighting and cut verges.</p> <p>The new shadow authority will make decisions on continuation of services.</p> <p><i>(Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Portfolio Holder for Finance)</i></p>

Item / Issue	Summary of Response Given
<p>Homelessness and recycling takes up a large part of the budget. With regard to recycling and sorting by residents on the doorstep. I understand recycling is sold more easily if it is sorted rather than comingled.</p> <p><b>(Councillor Jim Hakewill, KBC)</b></p>	<p>We are taking action to mitigate homelessness and recycling. A fire at the recycling plant has caused pressures, which have been increased by China no longer taking plastics. I will talk to Portfolio Holder for Environment about the current position with recycling.</p> <p><b>(Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Portfolio Holder for Finance)</b></p>
<p>When looking at the budget papers in relation to 2018/19 budgets, commercial investment is not an efficiency; new homes bonus and an increase in planning fees is also not an efficiency. The terminology is wrong because this is money we have coming in anyway, not by doing things better or differently.</p> <p><b>(Councillor Jim Hakewill, KBC)</b></p>	<p>I agree the word “efficiencies” is not quite the right word to use. At the budget consultation meeting we displayed pie charts comparing how we saved money in 2011/12 and how we save money today. We have to make ourselves self-sufficient over the coming years. Next year, the amount of money we will get from capital investments is £1.385m and this will go a long way to making sure we become more self-sufficient.</p> <p><b>(Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Portfolio Holder for Finance)</b></p>
<p>In the budget we pay for two PCSOs. Who commands and directs PCSOs, given most residents are not in the town centre?</p> <p><b>(Councillor Jim Hakewill, KBC)</b></p>	<p>We do fund two PCSOs, and do have a say on where they are deployed in the Borough. There times the police put them in certain areas. They allocate about half their time to Kettering Town Centre. If there are issues in other areas they will allocate time to other places in the Borough, for example recently Desborough and Geddington. They can go anywhere within the Borough and are funded as such.</p> <p><b>(Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Portfolio Holder for Finance)</b></p>

Item / Issue	Summary of Response Given
<p>Central government has concerns about Brexit in terms of civil unrest, but we still don't have anything in our budget that makes provision for Brexit. Where will this money be coming from?</p> <p><b><i>(Councillor Jim Hakewill, KBC)</i></b></p>	<p>There is a contingency fund set up and there are plans, but I am not in a position to say what they are.</p> <p><b><i>(Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Portfolio Holder for Finance)</i></b></p>
<p>Our financial golden rules state that the Council will not substitute funding for a withdrawal of services from elsewhere. How does provision of two PCSOs fit in with the Police Commissioner? This was never scrutinised.</p> <p><b><i>(Councillor Jim Hakewill, KBC)</i></b></p>	<p>The provision of two additional PCSOs for the Borough is an additional service paid for by Kettering.</p> <p><b><i>(Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Portfolio Holder for Finance)</i></b></p>
<p>There are no plans for a Kettering Town Council. Burton Latimer has been told to increase its precept this year and other towns and parish councils have to increase what they charge too. This leads to unfairness for lots of people in a unitary council. Kettering would get its services delivered at a lower price than the rural area and A6 towns. Wellingborough are setting up a town council and will levy a precept. Rushden has a town council, Corby and Kettering are not tackling this subject. It is relevant to the A6 Towns Forum because we are adversely affected.</p> <p>Burton Latimer Library will double our precept.</p> <p><b><i>(Councillor Christopher Groome, BLTC)</i></b></p>	<p>The Council's Local Government Reform Advisory Committee discussed parishing of unparished areas of Kettering Borough. Nothing suggests that rural areas and towns and parishes should be increasing their precepts this year in relation to local government reform. There is no reason for cost bases to change.</p> <p>The Local Government Reform Advisory Committee will recommend to Council that we commence a Community Governance Review which will involve consultation around potential parishing of currently unparished areas.</p> <p>The future provision of library services in Burton Latimer was a decision of Burton Latimer Town Council.</p> <p><b><i>(Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Portfolio Holder for Finance)</i></b></p>

Officers were thanked for their work in connection with the budget and their input into the debate.

**RESOLVED** that the comments, questions and answers discussed as outlined above be submitted to the Council's Executive.

## **18.A6TF.28 POLICE STATISTICS**

Sgt Rob Offord presented the Crime and Antisocial Behaviour Statistics for the 12 month period to December 2018. A poster showing policing priorities was circulated. Posters were available upon request from the Police.

The Forum were told that crime statistics for Kettering Borough as a whole had risen by 11% for a number of reasons, including drug offences, possession of weapons and violence against the person, some of which was due to the way such offences were now recorded.

### Barton Seagrave

Increases were recorded in respect of theft and violence against the person. There were many instances of door handles being tried and access being gained to insecure premises, which had resulted in a campaign letter being issued. Officers were continuing with patrols.

### Burton Latimer

Overall crime had risen by 2.26% with a slight increase in burglaries, some of which was from unoccupied houses.

### Desborough

Overall crime had risen, but the population had also increased. The police were working with the manager of a local garage to reduce fuel theft. Desborough St Giles had recorded an 8% drop in crime. Leicestershire police had raided a house in Desborough, four arrests had been made and stolen goods recovered.

### Rothwell

Thefts from vehicles had risen in October, 17 cases from the same lay-by on the A14. Offenders had been caught in the act. It was expected that the lorry park would help as long as people used it.

### Antisocial Behaviour

Antisocial behaviour across the Borough had reduced by 14%, but remained constant in Barton Seagrave, where there was an ongoing

problem with motorcycles, which did not display number plates. Work was being done with the Community Safety Officer to try to deal with the problem. There were difficulties with using CCTV due to the RIPA regulations. Members of the public and councillors were urged to email or call the Police with details of incidents.

Burglaries, speeding and drugs were locally identified priorities, and others would emerge. A visit from HM Inspectorate of Fire and Rescue Services went well, but feedback was awaited. Other points of note were:-

- PCSO Margaret Lawson was heading up the Blue Butterfly project for primary school students.
- The team in Kettering Borough were using community protection warning notices
- A supervisor in the Corby Neighbourhood Team was away, resulting in time being split at the moment
- Sgt Offord was thanked for help with the late night shopping and Christmas Lights Switch-on in Burton Latimer
- There was a problem with stray horses around the Pocket Park in Burton Latimer resulting in issues of safety and animal welfare
- A number of burglaries had been reported on the Redrow Estate in Barton Seagrave and it was felt estate planning provided escape routes for criminals
- Neighbour disputes over parking on Redrow Estate had been reported

### **ACTIONS AGREED**

Sgt Offord asked Councillor Ruth Groome to email details of the problem with stray horses so that he could work with the Council's Environmental Services Unit to look at this jointly. Additionally, he would review the Police's policy as offences may have been committed.

Sgt Offord was thanked for his attendance.

### **18.A6TF.29 CASUAL VACANCIES ON TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS**

A report was submitted which notified members of the Forum of the impact of the Northamptonshire (Changes to Years of Elections) Order 2016 on the filling of vacancies on Town/Parish Councils.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **18.A6TF.30 WARDEN UPDATE**

The Environmental Services Manager was welcomed to the meeting.

An overview of the warden team, its duties and priorities, was given in the form of a presentation. Statistics on prosecutions and some recent cases were outlined.

Debate was held on proposed residents' parking schemes currently under consultation and discussion held on the potential for any new schemes to impact on the team in terms of resources. It was felt that social media was an excellent way of reporting fly-tipping, and the speed at which fly-tipped rubbish was dealt with was a credit to the authority which could be used as a model for the new unitary council.

It was noted that good practice was being collated across the county and the Council was keen to ensure that good work carried out by local districts was included in service delivery by the new unitary council.

The Environmental Services Manager was thanked for his presentation.

### **18.A6TF.31 NEWSROUND**

#### **Burton Latimer**

The Library would now be community-managed, with community meetings backing the Town Council for taking over library services.

Discussion was held on the Symmetry Park development and the process of decision-making and potential appeal, which was causing significant concern to local residents.

**AGREED** That the concerns regarding Symmetry Park be recorded.

A Community Speedwatch would be carried out in Burton Latimer in March.

#### **Rothwell**

A plan was going forward for community management of Rothwell library. The link road was due to join the old A6 and the new A6 with a meeting being held with Persimmon. It was planned for the road to be 40 mph through a housing estate. The issue was ongoing with a petition being circulated.

There was a need to find out when the planned lorry park would open and put in place measures to stop overnight parking in lay-bys.



**AGREED** that the Head of Public Services look at the issue of parking in lay-bys in terms of legislation before the opening of the lorry park.

### **Desborough**

Desborough Motors had opened a new petrol station with an M & S shop, which was well used and popular. Issues with the legal agreement in respect of a footpath link to an existing footway had now been resolved.

The Health Authority was now moving forward on community hubs, which would provide lots of potential for co-location of services. This represented a major change to the way health services would be delivered in future.

### **Barton Seagrave**

Concerns were expressed regarding the potential for traffic problems in Barton Road due to simultaneous road works at Warkton Lane and Polwell Lane junctions.

**AGREED** that the concerns be passed on to the NCC.

## **18.A6TF.32 FEEDBACK FROM OTHER FORUMS**

### **Rural Forum**

At its last meeting the Rural Forum had discussed the potential for parishing of non-parished areas and the loss of rural bus services. Work was only on rural bus services.

## **18.A6TF.33 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Update on Local Government Reform in Northamptonshire (to every meeting)
- Recycling Update (to next meeting)
- Allotments (to next meeting)
- Possible devolution of services to town councils
- Community toilets
- Wildlife Corridors

**18.A6TF.34 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**18.A6TF.35 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

*(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.45 pm)*

Signed .....  
Chair

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