

**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Present:** Councillor Russell Roberts (Chair)  
Councillors Lloyd Bunday, Scott Edwards, David Howes, Ian Jelley and Mark Rowley

**Also Present:** Councillors Anne Lee, Mick Scrimshaw and Mike Tebbutt.

**18.EX.70    APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Dearing and Lesley Thurland.

**18.EX.71    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**18.EX.72    WORK PROGRAMME**

The Council's draft Work Programme to be published on 20<sup>th</sup> March was noted.

**18.EX.73    FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

A report was submitted which apprised members of, and sought endorsement for, work being undertaken to develop an Expression of Interest to the Future High Street Fund in respect of Kettering Town Centre.

Simon Cox (Chair), Alison Holland (Community and Transport lead) and Donna French (Retail lead) represented Kettering Town Centre Partnership and addressed members under the Council's Right to Speak Policy.

An update on progress made by the Town Centre Partnership over the last six weeks was given and it was noted that a letter of support from the Business Network had been passed to the Leader of the Council. The aims and objectives of the group were outlined, and a summary of the issues facing the retail sector in the town centre was given.

The Town Centre Partnership suggested that a regular agenda item, focusing on the high street and collaborative working in the town centre, be placed on the agenda for each Executive Committee meeting.

The Leader of the Council thanked the speakers for their comments and suggestions and offered to arrange a separate meeting with representatives of the Town Centre Partnership with a view to developing and taking forward the issues raised.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Committee, indicating support for the report, stating that he was pleased the Council was able to respond quickly to develop a bid to access the fund. He also commended the partnerships that were being built with the business community and urged further links to be developed in future.

During debate, members welcomed the development of a partnership which would create a voice for town centre businesses. The role of the Kettering Futures Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in helping to deliver town centre initiatives was recognised, and it was suggested that a representative of the Town Centre Partnership should be invited to the next meeting of the LSP.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) progress in the development of an Expression of Interest for Kettering Town Centre to the Future High Street Fund be noted; and
- (ii) the letter of support for and Expression of Interest as set out in the report be endorsed.

(Voting: Unanimous)

#### **18.EX.74      COMMERCIALISATION STRATEGY**

A report was submitted which presented the draft Commercialisation Strategy 2019 to the Executive for consideration and approval.

The Head of Commercial and Economic Development delivered a short presentation summarising the context and background to the Strategy. The presentation also outlined how the strategy would enable the Council to reinvigorate and reflect how services could maximise delivery on all aspects of the budget delivery framework, all of which were essential if the Council was to continue to meet its financial challenges. A team of officers had been identified as commercialisation champions and worked together across the authority in this respect.

Councillor Anne Lee addressed the Committee, welcoming the interactions with the Council's customers and businesses. However, she

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drew the committee's attention to an APSE newsletter in relation to risk and commercialisation, stressing that the terms of reference should be clear and the importance of effective scrutiny. Councillor Lee also made reference to the Council's golden rules in comparison with the policies of other local authorities in Northamptonshire and suggested that officers should look at these in relation to asset management.

During discussion, members noted that it was important to bear in mind that the strategy under consideration was only one part of the Council's overall priorities and represented a framework for the future. Kettering was now working closely with other local authorities, in particular Corby Borough Council, in order to deliver services. It was felt that it was important for the Council to continue to deliver a balanced budget, efficiency savings and maintain services, notwithstanding the plans for local government reform in Northamptonshire. Reference was made to the Flexible Resources Working Group, which had brought together the leadership of the Council to place a greater emphasis on efficiency and income generation. It was felt that the strategy set out the vision, framework and culture for the future, supported by the commercial champions who would support implementation of the strategy, feeding into workstreams as the Council moved forward with local government reform.

Members expressed pride at the work done to date, which had resulted in £1.358m benefit to the Council's revenue account in 2019/20 through commercial investment work.

Members commended the Commercialisation Strategy and thanked officers for their work.

**RESOLVED** that the Commercialisation Strategy 2019 be approved and adopted.

(Voting: Unanimous)

*(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.10 pm)*

Signed .....  
Chair

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