

KETTERING PARTNERSHIP

LSP EXECUTIVE BOARD

Meeting held: 12th April 2019

Present: Councillor Russell Roberts (Chair)
Councillors Ian Jelley and Lesley Thurland
Insp Scott Little (Police)
Sean Silver (Groundwork)
Debbie Egan (CAB)

Also Present: Martin Hammond (KBC)
Lisa Hyde (KBC)
Hazel Webb (KBC)
Julie Trahern (KBC)
David Pope (Committee Administrator)

18.LSP.26 APOLOGIES

None

18.LSP.27 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18.LSP.28 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

18.LSP.29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

18.LSP.30 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

A brief update was provided in relation to the current position of local government reform in the county.

It was heard that the decision of the Secretary of State (SoS) was still awaited and was unlikely to be communicated before Easter. Once a decision had been made the ensuing parliamentary process would take a number of months before an implementation order could be raised.

Preparatory works had been undertaken and local authorities in the county were in the best position to move forward once a final decision was reached by the SoS.

In relation to the Community Governance Review being undertaken in Kettering, to establish if a town council for Kettering should be created after 2020, the Local Government Reform Advisory Committee had considered the timetable for this process which could be disrupted as a result of the impending European Parliamentary Elections. The review would look at the boundaries of any future town council.

18.LSP.31 PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE AGENDA 2019

The meeting heard that 2019 Partnership Conference would take place on 26th September at Kettering Park Hotel.

It was considered that Local Government Reform be a key item for consideration at the conference, with discussion as to how partnership work may be undertaken in future. It was suggested that adjacent district authorities, the County Council, police and health partners all be invited to attend.

18.LSP.32 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The board heard that the Police and Crime Commissioner had recently approved a merger of the North Northamptonshire CSPs into one body. This would allow for better management of resources and could result in more engagement from countywide agencies. This merger would come into effect from 1st July 2019.

It was noted that a Countywide Community Safety Board had been created, with Martin Hammond acting as Chair. Priorities for the board were as follows:

- Domestic Abuse
- Serious organised crime and gangs
- Hate crime and anti-social behaviour

A recent conference held at Rockingham Castle in February had considered the issues of organised crime in relation to drug dealing and county lines activity.

KBC had received positive feedback from assessors in regard to the recent Purple Flag assessment, especially in relation to the focus on joint working.

It was reported that the town centre was feeling the pressure of county lines activity, with both KBC and police attempting to keep on top of incidents while identifying those individuals who may be vulnerable to cuckooing. The recent community response in the form of the Redeeming Our Communities group was welcomed.

Knife crime was a current issue both nationally and locally and had recently become more prevalent in the town centre. Police had undertaken an operation in the town centre using knife arches as part of the night time economy. Dispersal orders were in place and further patrols with KBC wardens and police officers had been undertaken. Pubwatch had donated two knife wands for use in identifying those carrying knives. Community Protection Notices had been served on the parents of some of the youths responsible for ASB in the town centre.

18.LSP.33 TOWN CENTRE DELIVERY PLAN – FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND

It was reported that KBC had submitted its expression of interest for involvement in the Future High Street Fund on 22nd March.

The meeting heard that the fund would be heavily subscribed and applicants were required to evidence a case for funding need as part of the initial submission. The Town Centre Delivery Plan had proved to be a useful document to form part of the submission. An indication as to whether the council had been invited to work its submission up further was anticipated to be received by the end of the summer. A further Town Centre Conference was desired later in the year to help update local businesses and to bring ideas together.

An update was provided regarding the Open Doors pilot project where private sector business landlords were invited to put forward buildings for use in helping to regenerate the high street and support community groups. The landlord for 44 High Street, Kettering had been confirmed as being part of the pilot scheme and through the Meanwhile Foundation proposals were being sought for community projects. A press release would be issued to advertise this project.

Other updates included:

- A new restaurant was set to open in the Market Place filling the unit formerly operated by Chimichangas
- Four planning applications had been received relating to the Night Time Economy, including one for the Market Inn
- Work was underway to increase trader engagement with the town centre delivery plan
- Work had commenced on improvements to Meadow Road Park with perimeter fencing installed and various tenders for further works awarded.

18.LSP.34 KETTERING FUTURES PARTNERSHIP

It was reported that the second phase of job shadowing was being rolled out, with the Job Centre taking over responsibility for delivering the next tranche.

It was heard that there had been delays to the KFP customer website, however works were reaching a conclusion with a test site anticipated to go live on 1st May with an initial “soft” launch and a more high profile launch later in the year.

The KFP board was a little disappointed not to receive a greater take up of services offered to schools following the creation and promotion of the KFP service portfolio. A number of different approaches were being considered to increase engagement with a need to get information to the right person at the right time.

It was noted that a Universal Credit (UC) Forum had recently been created for partnership members whose customers had UC issues. There was work to understand what services were available and what common UC problems were being identified. The Citizen’s Advice Bureau was taking the lead with this forum.

It was reported that a big piece of work for KFP going forward was how to become representative for North Northamptonshire in light of the likely local government reform in the county. This work was currently in the formative stages, with a timeline to decide on actions being created. A consultation document was being worked up to go out to neighbouring areas, although it was noted that a lot of existing partner organisations already crossed district and borough boundaries. A meeting was being arranged in this regard with the Leader of East Northamptonshire District Council.

The meeting noted that the annual partnership day would take place on 5th November 2019. The board was considering the adoption of more formal Terms of Reference and membership requirements for board-level representations.

18.LSP.35 VOLUNTARY SECTOR UPDATE

It was heard that Kettering Voluntary Network (KVN) was also examining how its infrastructure could be a model for North Northamptonshire in future.

A funding fair based at KBC would be held on 17th October with attendance from a number of significant local, regional and national funders and KVN would be using that opportunity to look at how future operations may work in the north of the county.

It was reported that KVN continued to grow with a total of 63 organisations now part of the network, an increase of 15 during the current year with further groups encouraged to join.

The meeting heard that the Council had maintained and increased support going to voluntary sector organisations which was beneficial as it helped to deliver services where there was a need.

Social prescribing was growing in popularity as a viable alternative to pharmaceutical treatment options and this was an area that KVN could become more involved with in future. It was noted that funding was available should this be required.

Details were provided of the “Kettering Soup” model of microfinancing. Two sessions had already taken place and another was planned with four community organisations ready to pitch ideas to receive financing. A positive relationship had been developed with the Scouts and they had offered their hall as a base to use for the events with indications from other venues including the libraries that they would be keen to host further events.

The meeting noted that Volunteering Week was set to take place from 1st to 7th June. An application had been submitted to the Meanwhile Foundation for the opportunity to use a vacant shop unit in the town centre to celebrate the work of voluntary organisations and to use as a recruitment opportunity.

18.LSP.36 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD UPDATE

It was reported that the board was set to review its action plan for 2019 although there had been a delay in this regard while submissions were made for funding available from Public Health (PH).

As part of PH funding submissions, board priorities developed back in 2015 had been uncovered. There were plans to undertake a workshop to bring some of these priorities up to date. A Task & Finish Group had been convened to focus on bids for funding, with a

closing date for submissions of 25th April. It was anticipated that successful bids would be informed by early May. One bid had been made in relation to “Beat the Streets” an initiative designed to get people active, while KCU worked on two bids; “Food with Dignity” aimed at children aged 8 to 13 to teach them how to make a healthy meal at home and schemes for working with homeless individuals.

It was reported that a forum had been created in January for organisations to attend “Making Every Contact Count” training sessions at no charge.

It was noted that work was being undertaken to increase engagement with those children in receipt of free school meals to ensure they had access to proper meals during the summer holidays. Kettering by the Sea could provide a focal point for such engagement. In addition the “Saving Junk Food” project where edible food was saved from going to landfill could also provide a useful link.

18.LSP.37 AOB

None

18.LSP.38 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting was scheduled to be Friday 19th July 2019.

(The meeting started at 9:00am and ended at 10:08am)

Signed

Chair

DJP