

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 16th October 2019

Present: Councillor Russell Roberts (Chair)

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

Also Present Councillors Jim Hakewill, Paul Marks, Mick Scrimshaw,
Mike Tebbutt and Greg Titcombe

19.EX.21 APOLOGIES

None.

19.EX.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

19.EX.23 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the
Committee held on 18th September 2019 be
approved and signed as a correct record.

19.EX.24 WORK PROGRAMME

The Council's draft work programme to be published on 18th
October 2019 was noted.

19.EX.25 MAINTAINING A DURABLE BUDGET

A report was submitted which:-

- i) Reminded members of the context/background to the
Council's budget and medium term financial strategy;
- ii) Provided a mid-year update on Treasury Management, in line
with best practice

The meeting noted that of the £1.464m of savings required to deliver a balanced budget for 2020/21, a total of £798,000 had been identified, requiring a further £666,000 to be found. The Local Government Finance Settlement consultation had been announced and would run for four weeks until 31st October. The Council would be responding to this consultation, however, implication for local authority budgets would not be known until later in the year.

Councillor Hakewill addressed the committee seeking assurances that there were sufficient financial and personnel resources available to the Council to defend against a recent unauthorized encampment near Loddington. He requested that a web page be created to assist the public with situation updates and answers to frequently asked questions.

Councillor Scrimshaw addressed the meeting and asked questions in relation to the annual forecast for fees and charges and the make-up of anticipated shortfalls for parking and crematorium fees. Cllr Scrimshaw also asked questions in regard to capital borrowing requirements and interest rates linked to these loans.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance referred to a number of key points in the main report and noted that the Housing Revenue Account was on budget although the capital programme showed a timing variance with regard to new build scheme at Scott Road and Albert Street and the Community Leisure scheme at Burton Latimer.

RESOLVED

That the Executive Committee;

- a) Noted the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy and associated guiding principles; and
- b) Noted the Treasury Management performance for the period 1st April to 30th September 2019

19.EX.26

COUNTYWIDE DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY

The Committee received a report that sought approval to adopt the countywide Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy drawn up and adopted by the Northamptonshire Community Safety Board (CSB).

Members heard that the CSB had requested endorsement from all of the constituent authorities and agency members with board membership. The strategy formed one of the priorities of the CSB

as a widely under-reported crime that had a significant impact on both the victims and the spend and workloads of agencies that formed the board. An action plan had been drawn up, although it still required amendments and it would be the role of the CSB to monitor implementation of the work detailed in the strategy.

Cllr Scrimshaw addressed the committee seeking clarification regarding the relationship between community safety boards and the potential for member involvement. He welcomed the introduction of the strategy as a tool to assist members and officers in tackling the issue of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee adopted the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy

19.EX.27 COUNTYWIDE ACTION AGAINST HATE (CRIME) STRATEGY

The Committee received a report that sought approval to adopt the countywide Action Against Hate (Crime) Strategy drawn up and adopted by the Northamptonshire Community Safety Board (CSB).

It was noted that the draft strategy replaced an earlier strategy adopted four years previously. The strategy provided a platform on which to build on work already underway to identify victims of hate crime, to focus on prevention and education and to improve the service offered to victims.

There remained a small amount of work to undertake in relation to the strategy's action plan and performance framework, and this would be undertaken by a delivery group convened for that purpose. It would be the role of the CSB to monitor implementation of the work detailed in the strategy to ensure its delivery and that stated objectives were achieved.

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee adopted the Action Against Hate (Crime) Strategy

19.EX.28 CLIMATE CHANGE – ACTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

A report was submitted which sought to:-

- Appraise members of the positive actions the Council already undertook to make a positive impact on climate change

- Recommended a range of new actions that would be undertaken by the Council over the next 18 months; and
- Recommended a process of community engagement throughout the delivery of these commitments

The committee heard that at a meeting of Council in July, a motion had been approved in relation to climate change that had committed KBC to place climate change implications on all committee agendas, to take a bi-annual update report to the Monitoring & Audit Committee (with an annual report to Council) and develop a system to update both members and the public on work undertaken in regard to the motion.

The report before members provided background on the existing work of the Council in tackling climate change and outlined a number of new initiatives that could be undertaken over the following 18 months, the likely remaining lifespan of KBC before local government reorganisation took effect.

It was noted that a number of the proposed new initiatives, if approved, would require further costing and would be brought back to future meetings of Executive and Council dependent on the costs involved. It was further noted that the Council could only act within its legal powers in executing actions to promote the climate change agenda and could not undertake functions where it was not a direct service provider. In addition, the Council could not act alone and there were a range of stakeholders, groups and organisations that could enhance and support the programme outlined in the report.

Four members of the public addressed the committee under the Council's Right to Speak Policy and broadly welcomed the contents of the report while offering additional suggestions for consideration. In addition, increased communication on the subject with the public was highlighted as being necessary to promote engagement and understanding. Details of feedback from the public received by members of Extinction Rebellion from the public was provided to the meeting and suggestions made as to how public engagement could be enhanced.

Cllr Scrimshaw also addressed the Committee, welcoming the report on behalf of the Labour Group, but noting this was only the first step on a longer journey. Cllr Scrimshaw echoed calls for some form of forum to be created and suggested that quantifiable data on existing work carried out by the Council could be obtained through the Monitoring and Audit Committee.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Delivery and the Environment thanked members of the public for attending and speaking and

stated that all of their comments would be taken into account going forward. He reaffirmed KBC's commitment to achieving a positive impact on climate change and considered that the report before members represented an honest assessment and declaration of what could be achieved in the time remaining to the Council with strategies and policies around climate change merging to form a strategy for the future North Northamptonshire unitary authority.

Following debate it was

RESOLVED that the programme of actions in the report be approved, for delivery or, where necessary, for more detailed plans to be developed and submitted to future meetings of the Executive Committee.

19.EX.29 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that it involved items of business included the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraphs 1-7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

19.EX.30 73-75 HIGH STREET, KETTERING

A report was submitted which sought a decision as to granting a two-year lease on 73-75 High Street, Kettering to a local charitable organisation at an undervalue rent.

The meeting noted that the property had remained empty for approximately 18 months since the previous tenant had exercised a break option in its rental agreement and although marketed by the shared property service had only attracted two offers in that time, one of which had subsequently been withdrawn and a second that had been deemed unsuitable.

The short tenancy proposal in front of members, if granted, would mitigate void costs currently being incurred by the Council and would enable a community service to be continued in the town centre while alternative options for the future of the property were considered.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

that the Executive Committee granted a local charitable organisation a two-year lease of 73-75 High Street, Kettering at a peppercorn rent on terms outlined in the report.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 7.44pm)

Signed

Chair

DJP