

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

BUDGET CONSULTATION

Meeting held: 23rd January 2020

Present:

Georgina Ager (Tresham College)
Gloria Moore (Kettering Borough Tenants' Forum)
Councillor Nick Richards (Wilbarston Parish Council)
Mike Sawford (Independent Member – Kettering Borough Council)
Councillor Simon Sheldrick (Weston-by-Welland Parish Council)
Councillor Robin Shrive (Broughton Parish Council)
Steven Soper (Kettering Borough Tenants' Forum)
K N Thurland (Resident)
Councillor Fred West (Harrington Parish Council)
Councillor Oliver Wyeth (Broughton Parish Council)

Kettering Borough Councillors

Councillor Linda Adams
Councillor Lloyd Bunday
Councillor Ash Davies
Councillor June Derbyshire
Councillor Maggie Don
Councillor Andrew Dutton
Councillor Scott Edwards
Councillor Ruth Groome
Councillor Philip Hollobone
Councillor David Howes
Councillor Ian Jelley
Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Paul Marks
Councillor Russell Roberts
Councillor Mark Rowley
Councillor Shirley Stanton
Councillor Michael Tebbutt
Councillor Lesley Thurland
Councillor Greg Titcombe

Officers:

Martin Hammond (Executive Director)
Lisa Hyde (Executive Director)
Mark Dickenson (Head of Resources)
Dean Mitchell (Group Accountant)
Jo Haines (Group Accountant)
Anne Ireson (Committee Administrator)

Apologies: Hilary Chipping (SEMLEP)
Soleri Himazouri (Resident)
Helen King (Northants PFCC – Chief Finance Officer)
Alan Meninick (Ise Lodge Community Centre)
Councillor Rex Moore (Cranford Parish Council)
Supt Dennis Murray (Northamptonshire Police)

20.BC.01 WELCOME

The Portfolio Holder for Finance welcomed members of the public and councillors to the meeting.

The meeting was informed that Kettering Borough Council must fulfil its statutory duties in setting a budget within a medium-term financial strategy, notwithstanding the future of local government in Northamptonshire. It was noted that legislation had now been laid before parliament in respect of a unitary council for North Northamptonshire and was expected to become law during the early part of 2020.

A presentation was given outlining the Council's Current Budget Position (2019/20) the Draft Budget Proposals for 2020/21 and the key issues facing local government in the medium term. The presentation covered the :-

- General Fund
- Housing Revenue Account and
- Capital Programme

Following the presentation, the Portfolio Holder for Finance summarised the current financial position regarding local government reorganisation in Northamptonshire. The Council along with all the Northamptonshire authorities, is due to contribute up to a further £1.9m to the Future Northants Programme in the next financial year (2020/21), making a total contribution of up to £2.4m when added to this year's contribution. It should be noted that this would be funded from reserves and not from the Council's General Fund budget. If the Structural Change Order for Northamptonshire was approved, the financial and operational environment would need to change as the year advanced. The Portfolio Holder for Finance summarised some of these changes and it was noted that Council's guiding principles may also need to be revisited.

It was stressed that climate change considerations were now threaded through all activities of the Council.

The meeting was informed that comments from the budget consultation process including this meeting and meetings of the Geographic Forums, the Monitoring and Audit Committee, the Research and

Development Committee and the Tenants' Forum would be reported back for consideration by the Executive at the meeting on 19th February – these would also be reported to the Full Council meeting on 26th February.

An opportunity for individual questions was then given and attendees advised that written comments may also be sent to the Council for consideration by the Executive at the February meeting. It would be preferably if these were submitted early to allow these to be sent out with the Executive papers prior to the Executive Committee meeting on 19th February.

It was noted that the presentation slides would be available on the Council's website from tomorrow (24/01)

Questions asked, answers given and comments made are summarised below:-

20.BC.02 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Item / Issue	Summary of Officer Response Given
<p>I understand the High Street Action Zone will be funded by the government and the Council. Does the Council get anything back? What is the position regarding ownership of flats above properties?</p> <p>Cllr Andrew Dutton</p>	<p><i>Part of the scheme is match funded. Historic England and land/property owners in the zone would also make a contribution.</i></p> <p><i>Table 18 of the Executive report gives a summary of the funding position.</i></p> <p>Councillor Lloyd Bunday Officer Response</p>
<p>Where can we send budget responses? No email address is given on the Council's website.</p> <p>Cllr Anne Lee</p>	<p><i>Comments to be sent to (markdickenson@kettering.gov.uk). Comments will form part of the report to the Executive on 19th February</i></p> <p>Officer Response.</p>

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.54 pm)