

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

KETTERING TOWN FORUM

Meeting held: 27th January 2020

Present: **Kettering Borough Councillors**

Councillor Lloyd Bunday (Chair)
Councillor Linda Adams
Councillor James Burton (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Maggie Don
Councillor Scott Edwards
Councillor Jenny Henson
Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Paul Marks
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Shirley Stanton
Councillor Margaret Talbot
Councillor Greg Titcombe
Councillor Lesley Thurland
Councillor Keli Watts (Mayor)

Northamptonshire County Councillor

Councillor Eileen Hales (NCC)

Representatives of Member Organisations

Jane Calcott (Churches Together)
Superintendent Dennis Murray (Northants Police)
Inspector Scott Little (Northants Police)

Also Present

Shirley Plenderleith (Kettering Borough Council)
Rochelle Mathieson (Kettering Borough Council)
Hazel Webb (Kettering Borough Council)
Dean Mitchell (Kettering Borough Council)
Pearl Nathaniel (Kettering Borough Council)
Callum Galluzzo (Forum Administrator)

19.KTF.19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Ash Davies, Phillip Hollobone, Clark Mitchell Jonathan West and County Councillor Bill Parker.

Apologies were also received from Simon Cox (Kettering Business Network)

19.KTF.20 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Kettering Town Forum held on 30th September 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

19.KTF.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr James Burton declared an interest in 7 as a Kettering market trader within the town centre.

19.KTF.22 BEAT THE STREET

A presentation was provided to the meeting by the Community Services Manager following the successful conclusion of the Beat the Street, active living initiative in the borough of Kettering.

Statistics were provided to the forum which stated that Public Health data for Kettering showed 24.5% of children starting reception were classified as either overweight or obese with 30.4% by Year 6. The Public Health Outcome Framework showed levels of inactive adults in Kettering was at 22.3%

Members were informed that the target for the scheme was to get approximately 18 primary schools involved with a total involvement figure around 6,700 people. It was confirmed that on conclusion of the Beat the Street scheme there was 21 primary schools involved with a total reach of 8,629 people. 85,000 miles were covered during the course of the initiative.

It was stated that 50% of the participants were children and that 29% of the adult participants were inactive at registration. Before the start of the scheme 32% of adults admitted to using a car everyday, following the scheme this figure had dropped to 25%. Likewise 30% of children travelled by car to and from school before the start of Beat the Street, this figure was then reported to be at 10% following the conclusion of the

Beat the Street.

Members then heard that follow up questionnaires to track the legacy and progress of the scheme would take place at 6 months and 12 months after the event.

19.KTF.23 POLICE ISSUES AND STATISTICS

Superintendent Dennis Murray attended the meeting and provided members with a presentation regarding recent and ongoing changes to the policing model in Northamptonshire and especially North Northamptonshire.

Members heard that in October 2019 Northamptonshire Police had changed their model from a functional one to a place model to enhance the levels of responsibility and accountability of the force. Recorded crime was forecasted to increase over the next four years, in the region of 24%.

It was heard that as part of the new model additional police officers and staff are being recruited including response officers which as of March 2020 will be at 360 officers presenting a significant growth for the force.

It was reported that Northamptonshire Police was to be structured into 2 separate policing areas to bring the force in line with upcoming local government structures at unitary level. Additional resources would then be made available to the North Northamptonshire Local Policing Area (LPA) bringing additional surveillance and covert enforcement capabilities.

As part of the restructure there would be a local tasking partnership problem solving that enables a bespoke Northamptonshire North tasking, identification and forecasting of local series, targets, hotspots and threats. Enhanced training and equipment would also be introduced to improve the forces capability and not have to rely on other resources.

19.KTF.24 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2020/21 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Principal Accountant Pearl Nathaniel and Group Accountant Dean Mitchell attended the meeting to answer member's questions and to provide a supplementary presentation that detailed:-

- The budget consultation timetable
- The composition of the General Fund (£60.7m), HRA (£15.4m) and Capital Programme (£39.2m) budgets that totaled £115.3m
- Main service pressures and risks (recycling, homelessness, local government grant funding)
- Four key funding streams and forecast changes to these (Fair Funding Review, Business Rates Retention, Council Tax and New Homes Bonus)

Members of the forum heard that the Executive Committee had started the formal consultation period for the Council's budget on 15th January, and that the public Budget Consultation had been held on 23rd January. Members noted that the views of all three Geographic Forums would be sought during the consultation period which would conclude on 26th February when the budget would be formally considered by Full Council and rent levels and Council Tax set.

Members of the forum asked the following questions in relation to the draft budget proposals for 2020/21:

Question	Answer
<p><i>At last year's budget proposals for a reduction in parking charges were rejected due to the fact it would result in a loss of income for the council. Car parking usage has decreased significantly over the last year so the question is, will the council review its assumptions around car parking charges and car parking income?</i></p> <p>(Cllr Mick Scrimshaw)</p>	<p><i>Parking charges have been a pressure in 2019/20 where we have seen a reduction in fees. This reduction has been reflected in the 2020/21 draft budget.</i></p> <p>Officer Response</p> <p><i>Two years ago, the Executive agreed not to alter or change the car parking charges for a period of two years. Currently there is a review taking place in which proposals for a new pilot scheme will be presented to members of the Executive Committee in February.</i></p> <p>Cllr Response</p>
<p><i>The number of Cremations has reduced, are we likely to see figures continue to fall in 2020/21?</i></p> <p>(Cllr James Burton – Deputy Mayor)</p>	<p><i>A number of new and similarly functioning facilities have opened in the area which naturally has had an effect on business, but we are expecting this to level out. A reduction has been reflected in both the revised and draft budgets.</i></p> <p>Officer Response</p>
<p><i>Are the HMO Fees on Page 38 paid annually?</i></p> <p>(Cllr James Burton – Deputy Mayor)</p>	<p><i>The HMO fees are set by the CLU. The fees for HMO's are paid every five years.</i></p> <p>Officer Response</p>

19.KTF.25 TOWN CENTRE UPDATE

Members were presented with an update with regards to the ongoing work being undertaken as part of proposed Heritage Action Zone in Kettering.

On 14th September, Historic England announced that Kettering was one of 69 towns nationally that had been successful and that the Council

would, following the development and approval of a Stage 2 Programme Design, receive an indicative external funding amount of up to £1,985,000 over the next four years.

The proposed programme included major public realm and street scene improvements as well as shopfront/frontages grants, residential conversion grants, historic building improvement grant which was all to be accompanied by a culture programme lead by community and cultural organisations to celebrate what is unique about Kettering. The next phase of the process was currently underway with a decision to be made by the strategic board by late March 2020. An update was to be provided to members at the next meeting of the Kettering Town Forum.

It was also reported to members that the next Kettering Town Centre Conference would take place on Thursday 27th February 2020 in the Council Chamber, Kettering Borough Council and would consist of both an afternoon and evening session featuring a number of different workshops including the Town Centre Delivery Plan 2018-2025 as well as workshops to shape the future, networking and idea generation.

19.KTF.26 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

An update was provided in relation to local government reform in the county.

The Structural Changes Order was scheduled for parliamentary time in the House of Commons and House of Lords during February and included legislation regarding the elections to take place on 7th May 2020.

A summary of work currently being undertaken through the Future Northants Programme, including the Joint Committees, was given. It was noted that the next meeting of the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee was due to take place at 6.30 pm on 10th February at East Northamptonshire Council.

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended 9:00pm)

Signed.....

Chair