

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8th July 2020

(Meeting held virtually)

Present:-

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

20.EX.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Russell Roberts.

20.EX.15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mark Dearing and David Howes both declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 10 on the agenda and indicated they would leave the meeting during discussion and voting thereon.

20.EX.16 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16th June 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20.EX.17 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair indicated that Item 14 had been added to the agenda in order to respond to government legislation regarding pavement licensing.

20.EX.18 ISSUES REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None.

20.EX.19 ISSUES REFERRED FROM FORUMS

None.

20.EX.20 ISSUES REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

None.

20.EX.21 THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

The draft Work Programme to be published on 16th July 2020 was noted, having been previously circulated by email.

20.EX.22 KBC BUDGET UPDATE – JULY 2020

A report was submitted which:

- (a) provided an update to the budget monitoring figures that were presented to the Executive Committee last month;
- (b) provided draft outturn figures for last financial year (ie 2019/20) in relation to the General Fund/Housing Revenue Account/Capital Programme/Treasury Management; and
- (c) sought approval for a number of Capital Programme carry forwards from 2019/20.

It was noted that a further £500m to support Covid-19 activities at a local level had been announced by the government on 2nd July.

Councillor Jim Hakewill addressed the Committee under the Council's Right to Speak policy, requesting information on the following:

- Commercial returns for the first quarter of 20/21
- Production and distribution of pollinator cards
- Provision in the budget for traveller site preparation

The Portfolio Holder for Finance indicated that budget monitoring updates would be included in future reports. However, indications were that commercial returns were currently well ahead of the curve for 2020/21.

Updates on government funding in respect of Covid19 and caveats associated with such funding were given. Members noted that loss of car parking charges was considered to be a permanent loss, with a report being brought to the Executive Committee at a future meeting.

Information on the availability of pollinator cards and traveller site preparation would be provided separately to Councillor Hakewill.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the draft out-turn position for 2019/20 for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Capital Programme and Treasury Management be noted; and
- (ii) the Capital Programme carry forwards from 2019/20 (as detailed in Appendix 1) be approved.

(Voting: Unanimous)

Having declared disclosable pecuniary interests, Cllrs Howes and Dearing left the virtual meeting room during debate and voting on the following item.

Councillor Burton declared an interest in the following item.

20.EX.23 PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR ACCESS SCHEME

A report was submitted which sought approval for the new Private Rented Sector Access scheme and accompanying Private Rented Sector Offer (PRSO) policy which set out how and when the Council would work alongside private landlords to prevent and relieve homelessness.

Councillor Burton addressed the Committee under the Right to Speak policy. Councillor Mick Scrimshaw submitted a written statement, which was read out by Councillor Mitchell.

Assurance was sought, and given, that the two posts created would continue until 31st March 2021.

It was noted that officers would be monitoring outcomes and gathering performance information in terms of 36 pilot properties.

Landlord Improvement grants would only be paid on issue of a tenancy, which meant there was no scenario where grants were made without a tenancy being offered.

RESOLVED that the Private Rented Sector Access Scheme and accompanying PRSO policy statement be adopted with immediate effect.

(Voting: Unanimous)

Councillors Howes and Dearing rejoined the meeting.

20.EX.24 MARKING KETTERING'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT

A report was submitted which sought approval to the commissioning of public art, marking the involvement of Kettering people to the anti-slavery movement in the early nineteenth century.

Councillors James Burton, Anne Lee, Clark Mitchell and Jim Hakewill addressed the Committee under the Right to Speak policy. Councillor Scrimshaw submitted a written statement, which was read out by Councillor Mitchell. Members and speakers all welcomed the report and hoped to generate a long-term legacy from its proposals. Involvement of a wide spectrum of stakeholders was advocated and supported, and also that wider public consultation should take place once ideas were formulated.

It was noted that the Civic Society was raising funds to reinstate the mosaic from the former Grammar School onto Tresham College

Members noted the need to align these proposals with the Heritage Action Zone development plan, and supported proposals to engage local BAME community groups in the thinking about the form public art and exhibitions might take.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the proposals from the community that some form of public art be commissioned to mark this area's historic contribution to the anti-slavery movement and to feature those local people who worked to abolish slavery be supported;
- (ii) public/cultural art be commissioned through a design competition, jointly determined with local stakeholders, and funds of up to £10,000 be provided to support the design competition process;
- (iii) with Historic England, consider how this project can best sit alongside the High Street Heritage Action Zone planning and delivery, and how the work could be funded; and
- (iv) Black History Month be celebrated via a newly developed interactive digital presence which aligned to local history

through different 'lenses' leading to a full exhibition and launch of the public art commission in Spring 2021, at an estimated cost of £30,000.

(Voting: Unanimous)

20.EX.25 WELLAND WANDERER BUS SERVICE

A report was submitted which sought the Committee's views on continuing support for the "Welland Wanderer" community bus service.

It was noted that member approval was required to fund the service for a second year. Additionally, other areas of the Borough had been seeking support for community transport provision, and the budget provision was sufficient to fund one or two other schemes in 2020/21. Consideration of schemes would fall to the unitary authority after this financial year.

Councillors Burton, Mitchell and Hakewill addressed the Committee under the Right to Speak Policy.

Councillor Nick Richards of Wilbarston Parish Council was commended for his work in connection with the Welland Wanderer Service.

During debate, it was noted that Market Harborough or Corby were the closest town centres and were of preference for some rural residents, and some travelled to Market Harborough to attend medical appointments. The Welland Wanderer Scheme had been considered by the Rural Forum last year and a few other parishes had expressed an interest in setting up their own schemes. It was agreed that services that brought people into Kettering town centre would be considered where an opportunity existed.

It was agreed that the relevant ward councillors would be invited to be involved in any discussions with parishes on rural bus services.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the budgetary provision for bus subsidies be redefined to enable the co-funding, with parish and other councils, of bus services linking otherwise isolated communities to nearby towns and service centres, alongside the existing purpose of enabling access to work; and
- (ii) a grant of £2,660 be provided to the Welland Wanderer service for 2020/21.

(Voting: Unanimous)

20.EX.26 **COUNTYWIDE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY**

This report was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

(Councillor James Burton declared an interest in the following item)

20.EX.27 **SEATS ON STREETS – PAVEMENT LICENCES**

A report was submitted which sought approval to a change to the scheme of delegation to enable officers to progress the issue of pavement licences by the Council, and which sought agreement to the terms on which licences would be issued.

It was noted that the council needed to act quickly in order to respond to legislation. As such, timescales were very short, with little information at the present time.

Councillors James Burton and Clark Mitchell addressed the Committee under the Council's Right to Speak policy to support the proposals, the £0 fee recommendation and other aspects of the scheme, asking that applications should be processed as quickly as possible, especially as a large number of premises did not have private beer gardens

In discussion, members welcomed the proposals as pavement licensing would allow businesses to recoup some of the trade lost during lockdown. The scheme would also apply to A6 towns and parishes.

In regard to enforcement action, it was noted that this was currently NCC's responsibility as highway authority, and therefore discussions should be held with NCC on any individual cases where a business had pre-empted the legislation.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) authority to determine and issue pavement licences be delegated to the Head of Public Services;
- (ii) a fee of £0 be applied to licence applications made in the 2020/21 financial year;
- (iii) a licence issued during 2020 be valid for 12 months from the date of issue or until September 2021, whichever was the longer;
- (iv) a licence approval include the Council's agreement to the proposed layout, the means of marking the boundary of the

allocated space, associated signage, and the exact dimensions of the allocated space; and

- (v) it be noted that revocation of a licence by the Head of Public Services could occur if the premises were not adhering to licensing conditions, including those relating to social distancing, littering or anti-social behaviour.

(Voting: Unanimous)

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.35 pm)

Signed
Chair

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