**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held: 10th April 2013**

**Present:** Councillor Roberts (Chair)

Councillors Brown, Dearing, Jelley, Lamb, Malin, Smith and Zanger

**Also Present:** The Mayor

Councillors Bishop, Derbyshire, Moreton and Tebbutt.

**12.EX.102 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bellamy and Freer.

**12.EX.103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ian Jelley declared a personal interest in Item 11 as a member of Rothwell Town Council.

**12.EX.104 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 13th March 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**12.EX.105 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Work Programme published on 8th March 2013 was noted. It was noted the Work Programme for April would be published on 16th April.

**12.EX.106 MAINTAINING A DURABLE BUDGET**

A report was submitted which:

* Provided Members with a case study on attracting external funding;
* Provided a reminder of the Council's medium term financial strategy and associated guiding principles;
* Highlighted the success of the Council's financial strategy;
* Provided an update of the delivery of efficiency savings for 2012/13 and 2013/14;
* Provided an update following the recent national budget announcement; and
* Provided Members with an update on the Council's Empty Homes Strategy

The report was supported by a presentation by the Acting Head of Finance. The presentation outlined the key points of the report.

During discussion members commended the case study and the early realisation of savings for this year.

The bid to attract external funding through the Empty Homes Strategy, which had been approved at the meeting of the Committee held on 16th January, was welcomed.

It was noted that prospects regarding the Comprehensive Spending Review were that it would be at least as difficult as last year. Members agreed that the Council should continue to stimulate a prosperous local economy, as this had the potential to impact on the Council's budget through the Business Rates Reform.

**RESOLVED** that:-

(i) the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated guiding principles be noted;

(ii) the success of the Council's financial strategy be noted;

(iii) the delivery of efficiency savings for 2012/13 and 2013/14 be noted;

(iv) the success the Council has achieved in attracting external funding be noted;

(v) the announcements regarding future levels of funding made by the Chancellor in his budget statement be noted; and

(vi) the Council's external funding bid of £206,000 for bringing empty properties back into use be endorsed.

**12.EX.107 ROTHWELL TOWN PLAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATION**

A report was submitted which informed Members of the consultation on the Rothwell Town Plan Area Designation and which asked Members to designate the Rothwell Parish as the Rothwell Neighbourhood Plan Area.

The Mayor attended the meeting and commended the report, stating that the process should be applied to other towns and villages in the Borough.

During discussion Members commended the report and congratulated Rothwell on its achievement as a pilot for the Neighbourhood Planning Process. It was noted that a grant of £20,000 had been awarded to Kettering Borough Council to support the preparation of the Rothwell Town Plan. It was also noted that designation of this area would not impact on the ability of surrounding parishes to designate neighbourhood plan areas.

Debate was held on the definition of a relevant body for the purposes of making an application to the local planning authority to designate a Neighbourhood Plan Area. It was noted that a relevant body could (a) be a parish council, or (b) an organisation or body which was, or was capable of being, designated as a neighbourhood forum (on the assumption that, for this purpose, the specified area was designated as a neighbourhood area).

It was noted that the Executive Committee had the power to approve the designation of the area.

**RESOLVED** that:-

(i) the consultation on the Rothwell Town Plan Area be noted; and

(ii) the Rothwell Parish be designated as the Rothwell Town Plan area as shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

**12.EX.108 FLEET PROCUREMENT – AWARD OF CONTRACTS**

A report was submitted which sought approval to award the contracts for the provision of fleet vehicles to the Council following a formal procurement process in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Councillor Cliff Moreton addressed the Committee in relation to the efficiency and economy of fuel in relation to the vehicles procured.

It was noted that alternative fuels had been investigated as had the fuel efficiency of different vehicles.

**RESOLVED** that subject to the completion of the necessary legal documents, it be agreed that:-

(i) the preferred bidder for the Specialist Fleet Vehicles Contract be Company A;

(ii) the preferred bidder for the Light Motor Vehicles Contract be Company A;

(iii) authority be delegated to the Head of Democratic and Legal Services in consultation with the Head of Environmental Care to conclude and sign the contracts with Company A.

**12.EX.109 RECYCLING BIN PROCUREMENT**

A report was submitted which sought approval to award the contract for the provision of recycling bins following a formal procurement process in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

It was noted that the Council had been successful in securing additional funding of £200,000 towards the project from Northamptonshire County Council.

Councillor Cliff Moreton addressed the Committee in respect of the quality of the products procured, and suggested that selling advertising space could potentially bring in additional revenue and reduce the costs of the bins.

It was noted that old bins could be recycled or made use of by residents. A members' information night would be held later this year to inform members of the arrangements for the new recycling process.

**RESOLVED** that subject to the completion of the necessary legal documentation, it be agreed that:-

(i) the preferred bidder be Company 1;

(iii) authority be delegated to the Head of Democratic and Legal Services in consultation with the Head of Environmental Care to conclude and sign the contracts with Company 1.

*(The meeting started at 7:00pm and ended at 7.55 pm)*

Signed­: …………………………………………………….

(Chair)

AI