

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting held: 18th January 2017

Present: Councillor Lloyd Bunday (Chair)
Councillors James Burton, David Howes, Ian Jelley, Mark Rowley, Jan Smith and Lesley Thurland

Also Present Councillors Maggie Don, Anne Lee, Clark Mitchell,

16.EX.61 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Russell Roberts and Councillor Mark Dearing.

16.EX.62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16.EX.63 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7th December 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record

16.EX.64 WORK PROGRAMME

The Council's draft work programme to be published on 7th February 2017 was noted.

16.EX.65 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2017/18 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

A report was submitted which: -

- a) Outlined the draft budget figures for the Council's three main accounts for 2017/18, to start the formal budget consultation process;

- b) Considered the main issues that were likely to impact on the Council's budgets in the medium term; and
- c) Provided an illustration of the Council's medium term financial projections.

The report introduced the draft budget figures for the Council's three main accounts, so that a period of formal consultation could commence. It also, at the same time, highlighted some key budgetary issues and challenges both national and local.

It was noted that the combined budget for 2017/18 was £92.4m and was made up of the following:

- General Fund - £51m
- Housing Revenue Account - £15.6m
- Capital Programme - £25.8m

The formal budget consultation period was from 18th January 2017 to 1st March 2017, when the Council would set its Council Tax for 2017/18. Comments from the consultation process would be reported to the Executive for consideration at its meeting on 15th February 2017.

Members heard that the Council's application for a multi-year settlement had been accepted and the settlement, which was announced on 16th December 2016, was in line with those that the Council had been modelling.

Ian Watts addressed the Executive and requested clarification on the income from car parking charges. The Head of Resources referred to the Highway Services section in appendix A for clarification.

Councillor Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and in relation to the budget and the council's new plans to generate revenue from capital.

Councillor Lee addressed the Executive and inquired if the £326,000 savings for fees and charges outlined in the budget was due to an increase of services or charges. It was confirmed that this figures was calculated in relation to a rise in usage of council services.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance thanked the speakers for their comments and assured them they would be taken into consideration along with all consultation responses.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Executive

- a) Refer the draft budgets for 2017/18 (as contained in the separate budget booklet) to Scrutiny for comment in accordance with the Council's Constitution;
- b) Note the current budget position for 2016/17;
- c) Recognise that the task of balancing the budget in future years is becoming increasingly difficult especially in the light of increasing service pressures, reduced national funding and changes to New Homes Bonus funding; and
- d) Note that the budget consultation period will run from 18th January 2017 to 1st March 2017. The budgets and level of Council Tax for 2017/18 will be set at a meeting of Full Council on 1st March 2017.

16.EX.66 REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HOGS HEAD SITE AND DISPOSAL OF THE QUEEN STREET CAR PARK

A report was submitted which sought the approval to dispose of the freehold interest in Queen Street Car Park, Kettering to Green Print Homes to facilitate the development of the former Hogs Head site. The Executive noted the background to the current situation regarding the site.

The Executive received representations from members of the public regarding the future of the site and the lack of consultation prior to the proposed sale.

Mr Beddows, a local resident and business owner addressed the Executive and stated he asked to be contacted in the past if the car park was available for sale. He presented the Executive with a formal offer to purchase the site for £450,000.

The Executive was advised by the Head of Democratic & Legal Services to defer the decision to sell the site to allow the offer to be properly evaluated.

Following discussions it was

RESOLVED

That the Executive Committee defer the decision for further investigation of the new offer submitted and bring back a report to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.25 pm)

Signed
Chair