

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9th December 2020

(Meeting held virtually)

Present:-

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

20.EX.25 APOLOGIES

None.

20.EX.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mark Rowley declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 9 on the agenda (Covid-19: Additional Restrictions Grant) and indicated that he would leave the Zoom meeting during discussion and voting on this item.

20.EX.27 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 14th October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20.EX.28 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

20.EX.29 ISSUES REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None.

20.EX.30 ISSUES REFERRED FROM FORUMS

None.

21.EX.31 ISSUES REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

None.

20.EX.32 THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

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

(Councillor Mark Rowley left the meeting)

20.EX.33 COVID-19: ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANTS

A report was submitted which apprised members of the Small Business Grants schemes and sought delegated authority to amend the scheme, if required.

Councillor Anne Lee addressed the Committee in support of the report, seeking assurances regarding communication to businesses of the availability of the grants. She also asked for a breakdown of grants made in each of the A6 towns and the rural area, as well as in Kettering itself.

It was noted that, in terms of communication, the process was similar to the previous discretionary grants round. Businesses that appeared on the Council's contact lists were contacted directly to make them aware of where information about the additional restrictions grants could be found online. The Council had developed a section on its website specifically dedicated to coronavirus support for both businesses and residents. A number of posts regarding the grants had been posted on the Council's social media pages and also information given through business networks. Additionally, the grants had been publicised by the government through the national media.

It was agreed that data on the geographical breakdown of grants awarded in the Borough would be circulated to Councillor Lee and members of the Executive when available.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance addressed the committee, commending the Council's swift performance in supporting businesses. It was noted that Kettering Borough Council was in the top five Councils in the country for getting support to people who needed it during the pandemic, including paying invoices promptly as soon as they were received.

In answer to a question regarding an appeal process, it was noted that during the first tranche of grants this was mainly in the form of clarification and verification, which was an audited process.

RESOLVED that the previous action of the Council regarding the criteria and processes for the administration of phase one of the Additional Restrictions Grants (Discretionary) be endorsed, and authority be delegated for the Head of Commercial and Economic Development, Rochelle Mathieson (in consultation with the Finance Portfolio Holder), to further develop future phasing of the Additional Restrictions Grant programme to ensure that it continued to fit local circumstances and business need.

(Councillor Mark Rowley rejoined the meeting)

20.EX.34 THE GREEN PATCH, VALLEY WALK, KETTERING

A report was submitted which sought approval to grant Groundworks Northamptonshire a lease of The Green Patch, Kettering, at an undervalue rent.

The Mayor (Councillor James Burton), Councillor Anne Lee and Councillor Clark Mitchell addressed the Committee in support of the report, drawing Members' attention to the range of initiatives provided by Green Patch, which made a huge contribution to the Council's priorities in promoting health and well-being in the Borough. Assurances were sought in connection with the proposed WeWa link road to East Kettering, which was planned to be routed through the site.

In discussion, Members commended the cross-party commitment to Green Patch and thanked officers for the report.

RESOLVED that Groundworks Northamptonshire be granted a 99-year lease of The Green Patch, Kettering, at a peppercorn rent on terms outlined in the report.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.27 pm)

Signed
Chair

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