

**Decisions to be considered by
Full Council on 27 February 2018**

Decisions of the meeting of the CABINET held
at 9.30 am on Tuesday, 6th February, 2018 at
the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE,
STONE CROSS, NORTHALLERTON

Present

Councillor M S Robson (in the Chair)

Councillor	P R Wilkinson	Councillor	S Watson
	Mrs B S Fortune		D A Webster

Also in Attendance

Councillor	P Bardon	Councillor	K G Hardisty
	M A Barningham		J Noone
	Mrs C S Cookman		C Patmore
	C A Dickinson		Mrs J Watson

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs I Sanderson

CA.45 **COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT - EMPTY HOMES**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report sought agreement on changes to the Council's current Council Tax empty homes discounts.

Alternative options considered:

Cabinet gave consideration to recommending an alternative policy to the 'Major repair work' or 'structural alteration' discount on empty properties.

The reason for the decision:

Local Authorities had discretion to charge between 0% and 100% Council Tax on properties which were empty. Cabinet was satisfied that this decision would help encourage empty homes back into use as some owners may take action to improve or repair the property sooner thus preventing a negative impact on the neighbourhood.

THE DECISION:

That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council that:-

- (1) with effect from 1 April 2018 the 'Major repair work' or 'structural alteration' discount on empty properties will be reduced from 100% to 50% discount for 6 months with a possible further 6 months on review;

- (2) with effect from 1 April 2018 the discount in respect of unoccupied and substantially unfurnished discounts will be 1 month 100% discount followed by a full 100% charge as detailed in paragraph 1.4.1.2 of the report; and
- (3) with effect from 1 April 2018 the Empty Homes Premium is introduced at the maximum level of 50% where the property has been empty for 2 or more years as detailed in paragraph 1.4.1.3 of the report.

CA.46 **FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018/19 TO 2027/28**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report considered the Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2027/28.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To ensure there was a long term financial planning mechanism for the Council. The Financial Strategy supported all the Council's priorities to ensure that all services could be delivered in a way that was affordable and sustainable.

THE DECISION:

That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council the Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2026/27 attached at Annex A and A(1) of the report.

CA.47 **2017/18 Q3 CAPITAL MONITORING AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report provided the quarter 3 update at 31 December 2017 on the progress of the Capital Programme 2017/18 and the Treasury Management position. A full schedule of the Capital Programme 2017/18 schemes was attached at Annex A of the report, together with the relevant update on progress of each scheme.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

Capital expenditure was intrinsically linked with Treasury Management as the way that the Capital Programme was funded directly affected the Treasury Management arrangements of the Council.

THE DECISION:

That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council:-

- (1) the net decrease of £1,276,256 in the capital programme to £6,087,595 as detailed in Annex B and also in the capital programme attached at Annex A of the report;
- (2) the increase of capital expenditure is funded from earmarked reserves at £461,410 where £138,280 is funded from capital receipts, £95,130 is from the Economic Development Fund and £228,000 is from external grants/contributions;
- (3) the funding allocation to the capital programme as detailed in paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 of the report; and
- (4) the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators at Annex E of the report.

CA.48 **2017/18 Q3 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report provided an update on the Revenue Budget position of the Council and the reserve funds at the end of December 2017.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

It was a legal requirement under S25 of the Local Government Act 2003 to set a balanced budget and monitor the financial position throughout the year.

THE DECISION:

That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council:-

- (1) the budget increase at paragraph 3.2 of the report in Quarter 3 of £204,130 which results in a budget of £7,414,730;
- (2) the allocation of £23,850 from the Economic Development fund at paragraph 6.2 of the report and to note the remaining balance at paragraph 6.3 of the report is £564,725;
- (3) the transfer of £100,000 from the Council Tax Payers Reserve to the One-Off at paragraph 6.4 of the report;
- (4) the allocation from the One-off fund at paragraph 6.5 of the report of £24,412;
- (5) the transfer of £35,590 from salary savings in Planning Policy to the Local Plan Reserve at paragraph 6.10 of the report; and
- (6) to note the three waiver of procurement rules at paragraph 7.2 of the report.

CA.49 **REVIEW OF THE HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report provided feedback on the outcome of the consultation on the Council's Housing Assistance Policy and sought approval for Cabinet to recommend that the new policy be submitted to Council on 27 February 2018 for adoption.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

Cabinet was satisfied that the feedback received in response to the consultation did not warrant any further changes to the proposed policy and that the policy could be recommended to Council for adoption.

THE DECISION:

That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council that the Housing Assistance Policy be adopted on 27 February 2018.

CA.50 **2018/19 CAPITAL PROGRAMME BUDGET, TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report sought approval for the Capital Programme for the financial years 2018/19 to 2027/28; the 2018/19 Capital Programme and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To comply with the requirements as set out under the Local Government Act 2003 and the CIPFA Prudential Code.

THE DECISION:

That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council that:-

- (1) the 10 year Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2027/28 at £27,740,093 be approved, as detailed in paragraph 2.2 and attached at Annex 'A' of the report;
- (2) the Capital Programme 2018/19 at £1,744,830 detailed in Annex 'B' of the report be approved for implementation;

- (3) the Treasury Management Strategy attached at Annex 'C' of the report be approved;
- (4) the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement attached in the body of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement Annex 'C' of the report be approved;
- (5) the Prudential and Treasury Indicators attached at Annex 'C' of the report in the body of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement be approved;
- (6) the Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation at Annex 'D' of the report be approved; and
- (7) the Treasury Management role of the S151 Officer attached at Annex 'E' of the report be approved.

CA.51 **REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report presented at a strategic level the revenue budget proposals for the next financial year 2018/19.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of the requirements of the Local Government Finance act 1992 to set a balanced budget and monitor the financial position throughout the year.

THE DECISION:

That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council the revenue budget for 2018/19 at £8,096,170.

CA.52 **COUNCIL TAX 2018/19**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report considered for level of Council Tax for 2018/19 and the policy on reserves. In addition, it provided details of the Council's formula grant settlement for 2018/19 and the Business Rates target for the Retained Business Rates funding mechanism, which was operated as a pool across North Yorkshire.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To maintain the long term viability of the Council's finances and ensure sustainability by investing in community projects as determined by the Council's priorities and supporting the maintenance and enhancement of service delivery. To maintain the integrity of the Council's financial strategy.

THE DECISION:

That Cabinet recommends to Council:-

- (1) That it be noted that on 15 January Hambleton District Council calculated the Council Tax Base for 2018/19:-
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 36,033.05 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Annex 'A'(1).
- (2) That the Council has calculated the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/19 (excluding Parish precepts) as £3,764,733.06
- (3) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
 - (a) **District/Parish Gross Expenditure**
£48,371,737.76 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils
 - (b) **District/Parish Gross Income (including Government Grants, use of Reserves and Collection Fund Surpluses etc)**
£43,153,866.94 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act
 - (c) **District/Parish Net Expenditure**
£5,217,870.82 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act)
 - (d) **Basic Amount of Tax (including average Parish Precepts)**
£144.8079 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts)

(e) **Parish Precepts**
£1,453,137.76 being the aggregate of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Annex 'A')

(f) **Basic Amount of Tax (Unparished Areas)**
£104.4800 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates

(4) **Major Precepting Authorities** That it be noted that the North Yorkshire County Council, the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire will issue precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area and this will be as indicated in the table below and at Annex 'A'(1).

(5) **Council Tax Bands for All Councils**
Figures for North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Police and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire are yet to be determined and will be reported at Council on 27 February 2018.

That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2018/19 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of the dwellings.

Hambleton District Council

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
69.65	81.26	92.87	104.48	127.70	150.92	174.13	208.96

North Yorkshire County Council – excluding Adult Social Care

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

North Yorkshire County Council – Adult Social Care

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Police and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

(6) **Excessive Council Tax**

That the Council determines that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 (at 3(f) above) is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(7) The appropriate amount is transferred to the Council Taxpayers Reserve to support the decision at (3) above.

(8) The policy on Balances and Reserves at Annex 'C' is approved.

CA.53 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

THE DECISION:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business at minute no CA.54 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as the Cabinet was satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

CA.54 **VAT - PARTIAL EXEMPTION POSITION**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report provided an update on the Value Added Tax partial exemption position of the Council.

Alternative options considered:

The options considered were detailed within the report.

The reason for the decision:

Monitoring the Value Added Tax partial exemption limit contributed to the overall financial position of the Council which assisted in ensuring the Council's service requirements were met which supported the achievement of the priorities set out in the Council Plan.

THE DECISION:

That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council that:-

- (1) external advice is sought on the Value Added Tax and tax implications of the Council's partial exemption limit to understand how to achieve the Council's optimal Value Added Tax position;
- (2) there is the intent to investigate the potential of placing leisure centres into a vehicle;
- (3) £15,000 is allocated from the One-Off Fund; and
- (4) a further report is brought back to Cabinet to report on progress.

The meeting closed at 10.20 am

Leader of the Council