

Decisions of the meeting of the CABINET held
at 9.30am on Tuesday 17 July 2012 at the
Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton

Present

Councillor N W Huxtable (In the Chair)

Councillor	R Kirk	Councillor	M S Robson
	B Phillips		T Swales

Also in Attendance

Councillor	P Bardon	Councillor	Mrs J Griffiths
	K Billings		N A Knapton
	D Blades		J Noone
	Mrs C S Cookman		M Rigby
	S P Dickins		Mrs I Sanderson
	Mrs B S Fortune		Mrs M Skilbeck
	B Griffiths		P G Sowray

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P R Wilkinson and M J Prest)

CA.10

FINAL ACCOUNTS 2011/12 – OUTTURN POSITION

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report presented the outturn position on the revenue, capital and reserve fund accounts for the year ending 31 March 2012. Approval of the Statement of Accounts was the responsibility of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee which would meet on 26 September 2012 for this purpose.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To enable the 2011/12 outturn to be used to inform the financial programmes for the current year.

THE DECISION:

That Council be recommended to:-

- (1) transfer the under spend of £560,413 on the 2011/12 revenue budget to the Service Improvement Reserve; and
- (2) approve the adjustments to Capital and Reserve programmes in Annexes B and C of the report.

CA.11

WELFARE REFORM APRIL 2012

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report informed Members of the impact on the Council's Budget, the Council's Collection Rates of Council Tax & Benefit Claimants following the introduction of changes to Welfare Reform from 1 April 2013. It was noted that the District Council was required to adopt a local scheme by 31 January 2013. If it failed to do so it would default to the current national scheme at a substantial cost to the Council.

Alternative options considered:

The report set out 4 options for consideration.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of changes to the Welfare Reform from 1 April 2013.

THE DECISION:

That Council be asked that:-

- (1) subject to a full and comprehensive period of consultation, the following be included in the Local Council Tax Discount Scheme:
 - (i) A cap on the maximum eligible benefit payable to claimants to 80% of the liability.
 - (ii) A full removal of all 2nd Adult Rebate Calculations.
 - (iii) A limit on the amount of benefit payable to that equivalent to a Band 'D' property.
 - (iv) Inclusion of Child Benefit as income in the assessment of entitlement.
 - (v) Inclusion of maintenance as income in the assessment of entitlement.
 - (vi) Altering the non-dependant bands and charges to £10.00 for claimants in work and £5.00 for claimants out of work.
 - (vii) All War-Widows continue to be fully protected from the above.

- (2) in addition to those mentioned above, Council also be asked to implement the following changes in respect of Council Tax liability:
 - (i) The removal of a 10% discount from a 2nd home.
 - (ii) Empty Properties are to be awarded 50% discount for 6 months from the date the property meets the criteria (unoccupied & substantially unfurnished).
 - (iii) A Local Discount is created under Section 13a of The Local Government Finance Act 1992 at 50% for 1 month from the date the property meets the criteria (unoccupied & substantially unfurnished) and the financing of any local discount is shared with the precepting authorities in proportion to the Council Tax charged.

CA.12

ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report set out a proposal on Warding arrangements to be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission. Revised copies of the annexes to the report were circulated prior to commencement of the meeting.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To respond to consultation regarding the Warding arrangements.

THE DECISION:

That Council be recommended to support the Warding arrangements contained in the revised Annex to the report and that Officers be given delegated powers to include supporting evidence in the submission if appropriate.

The meeting closed at 10.45am.

Leader of the Council

AGENDA ITEM NO:

**(CA.13 to CA.17)
Decisions taken under Cabinet
authority to take effect on 30 July 2012)**

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Councillor Mrs J Griffiths
N A Knapton
J Noone
M Rigby
Mrs I Sanderson
Mrs M Skilbeck
P G Sowray

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor P R Wilkinson)

CA.13 **MINUTES**

THE DECISION:

That the decisions of the meeting held on 12 June 2012 (CA.1 – CA.9), previously circulated, be signed as a correct record.

CA.14 **POLICY REVIEW – MARKETS**

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report presented the final report from Scrutiny Committee 1 on the Policy Review on Markets for consideration.

Alternative options considered:

Cabinet suggested that recommendation (4) be widened to include food waste and include Thirsk.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of the findings of Scrutiny Committee 1.

THE DECISION:

That:-

- (1) a clear management structure be established which includes defined responsibilities and training for the Market Superintendent;
- (2) advertising and promotion of the markets be made a priority to encourage tourism within the district;
- (3) the Farmers Market be included in any future promotion and advertising campaign;
- (4) options for waste removal (including food waste) in Northallerton and Thirsk be considered;
- (5) the formula for charging be reviewed with specific emphasis on the calculation of market rents, payment charges and discounts, to ensure that a standardised system is in place;
- (6) consideration be given to the layout of Northallerton Market and a clear definition of stall boundaries established;
- (7) the cost of electricity provision for market stalls be investigated;
- (8) the Market Trading Conditions be reviewed and amendments identified by the Task and Finish Group be incorporated.

CA.15

POLICY REVIEW – PARTNERSHIPS

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report presented the final report from the Scrutiny Committee 2 on Partnerships for consideration.

Alternative options considered:

Cabinet suggested that consideration of recommendation (4) would not be appropriate at this time as work was underway regarding the future operation of the Boards and a report would be submitted to a meeting of Cabinet regarding this issue.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of the findings of Scrutiny Committee 1.

THE DECISION:

That:-

- (1) the Register of Significant Partnerships and the existing methodology of monitoring and evaluation of these Partnerships be noted as satisfactory;

- (2) the North Yorkshire Building Control Partnership; Audit Partnership; Hambleton Strategic Forum and Community Safety Partnership are cost effective and represent good value for money; and.
- (3) Cabinet Members provide regular updates on each of the Significant Partnerships as part of their reports to Council.

CA.16

GRANTS

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

Between June 2010 and February 2011 the Prosperity and Places Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a review of Hambleton District Council Grant Funding. This report determined the way forward so that the recommendations from the Scrutiny committee could be implemented.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

THE DECISION:

That:-

- (1) the single pot guidance/application form and process be adopted;
- (2) the Council contact all organisations in receipt of grants and advise them of the revised process;
- (3) grants be solely funded from the Revenue Grants Reserve from April 2013 using a single process for all organisations;
- (4) the core grants within service budgets be reviewed as part of the annual budget process; and
- (5) the revenue grants reserve be reviewed during 2014/15 to determine an appropriate level of investment.

CA.17

FORWARD PLAN

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

This report sought approval of a Forward Plan of items for the period from August – November 2012. The plan would be updated as further items arose or other amendments became necessary.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To comply with the Council's constitution.

THE DECISION:

That the Forward Plan for the period August – November 2012 be endorsed.

The meeting closed at 10.45am.

Leader of the Council