



CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2012

DECISIONS

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| PRESENT: | Councillor Mackintosh (Chair); Councillor Caswell (Deputy Chair); Councillors Hadland, Bottwood, Eldred and Markham . |
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Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 19 December 2012. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

These decisions will come into force and then may be implemented on the expiry of three working days after the publication of this list.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Emma Garratt.

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| THIS LIST OF DECISIONS PUBLISHED: | <u>20th December 2012</u> |
| DATE OF EXPIRY OF CALL IN: | <u>28th December 2012 AT 17:00 HOURS</u> |

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| Agenda Item No | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: None |
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7. REVIEW OF COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS 2013-2014

Cabinet recommended the following changes in Council Tax discounts and exemptions to Council take effect from the 1st April 2013:

- That Class A (vacant properties undergoing alterations as defined by the regulations) attract a 100% charge from the day they become vacant
- That Class C (empty unfurnished properties as defined by the regulations) attract a 100% charge from the day they become vacant
- That Second homes (as defined by the regulations) to be charged at 100%
- That Class L (repossessed properties) attracts a 100% charge from the day of repossession should the necessary legislation be in place to allow this from the 1st April 2013.
- That the long-term empty property premium of 150% is implemented

for properties vacant for over two years.

- That the above policy position in respect of discretionary discounts and exemptions be kept under review in respect of future years

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| Agenda | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: |
| Item No | None |

8. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

- 2.1 Cabinet noted the results of the consultation process undertaken.
- 2.2 Cabinet noted the financial implications and analysis associated with the chosen scheme.
- 2.3 Cabinet approved the design of the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme detailed in paragraph 3.4.6 of the report and the associated protection the scheme provides for the residents of Northampton
- 2.4 Cabinet recommended the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for approval at Council on the 21st January 2013.

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| Agenda | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: |
| Item No | None |

9. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2013/14

- 2.5 Cabinet recommended to Council to approve the tax base for 2013/14 at 58,074.34 Band D equivalent properties and associated parish tax bases within this report.

| | 2013/14 | (2012/13) |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Billing | 2,394.26 | 2,702 |
| Collingtree | 443.35 | 515 |
| Duston | 4,748.13 | 5,486 |
| Great Houghton | 246.80 | 287 |
| Hardingstone | 658.39 | 767 |
| Upton | 1,687.65 | 1,566 |
| Wootton & East Hunsbury | 5,442.79 | 6,357 |
| West Hunsbury | 1,447.71 | N/a |
| Hunsbury Meadow | 369.95 | N/a |
| Northampton (Unparished) | 40,635.31 | 49,520 |
| Total tax base | 58,074.34 | 67,200 |

- 2.2 Cabinet delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Cabinet member for Finance to make any technical adjustments necessary arising out of the Local Government draft settlement which impacts on the taxbase.

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| Agenda | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: |
| Item No | None |

10. NNDR DISCRETIONARY RELIEF SCHEME

1. Cabinet approved the changes to the Discretionary Scheme for National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) Relief as detailed in paragraph 3.2.1 of the report.
2. Cabinet agreed that the revised scheme will come into effect from 1 April 2013.

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| Agenda | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: |
| Item No | None |

11. NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES 2013-14

1. Cabinet recommended the approval of the NNDR1 form for 2013/14 to Council as attached in appendix 1 of the report.
2. Cabinet delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for finance to make any technical adjustment necessary arising from the draft local government settlement.

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| Agenda | Declaration/Conflict of Interests: |
| Item No | None |

12. COUNCIL WIDE BUDGET 2013-16

- 2.1 Cabinet agreed that the General Fund draft budget proposals for 2013/14, and indicative budgets for 2014/15 and 2015/16, as summarised in Appendices A and B of the report be approved for public consultation.
- 2.2 Cabinet agreed the proposed Council Tax freeze for 2013/14 be approved for public consultation.
- 2.3 Cabinet agreed that the draft Capital Programme and financing, as detailed in Appendices D1, D2, and E of the report, be approved for public consultation
- 2.4 Cabinet approved the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget including charges and rents for public consultation.
- 2.5 Cabinet delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance the authority to make any technical changes arising from the draft Local Government Finance Settlement.
- 2.6 Cabinet noted the decision to enter into a pooling arrangement with other authorities across Northamptonshire with regard to the localisation of business rates.
- 2.7 Cabinet approved the consultation leaflet be delegated to the Director of Customers and Communities in consultation with the Leader and Accountable Cabinet Member for Finance.

- 2.8 Cabinet agreed the Chief Executive and Management Board, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet members, undertake the preparatory work in relation to the savings and efficiencies built into the draft budget proposals, subject to any actions being rescinded should any budget options not be approved at Council on 25 February 2013.
- 2.9 Cabinet noted that Council's response to any Formula Grant settlement consultation will be prepared by the Director of Resources in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Accountable Cabinet Member for Finance and the Leader of the Council.