

10 January 2019



BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

**DECISIONS BY THE BABERGH CABINET
CALL IN DEADLINE 5:00PM ON THURSDAY, 21 JANUARY 2019**

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet and will come into effect on 22 January 2019 unless the call- in procedure is activated:

BCa/18/54 DRAFT GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2019/20 AND FOUR YEAR OUTLOOK

Decisions Made by Cabinet:

- 1.1 That the draft General Fund Budget proposals for 2019/20 and four-year outlook set out in the report were endorsed for recommendation to Council on 19 February 2019, subject to further consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 7 February 2019.
- 1.2 That the draft General Fund Budget for 2019/20 was based on an increase to Council Tax of £5 per annum (10p per week) for a Band D property, which was equivalent to 3.15%, to support the Council's overall financial position, which will be considered further at the February Cabinet meeting.
- 1.3 That a further £25m was invested in CIFCO as set out in paragraph 8.18.
- 1.4 That a discretionary Care Leavers Council Tax discount of up to 100% was introduced from the 1 April 2019 as set out in section 11.
- 1.5 That the second empty property premium was increased as per the regulations set out in paragraph 12.9

Reason for Decision: To bring together all the relevant information to enable Cabinet Members to review, consider and comment upon the Councils General Fund budget before the February Cabinet review and recommendations to Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The General Fund Budget for 2019/20 and four-year outlook is an essential element in achieving a balanced budget and sustainable medium-term position. Setting a balanced budget for the coming year is a statutory requirement, therefore no other options are appropriate in respect of this.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/18/55 DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET AND FOUR YEAR OUTLOOK

Decisions made by Cabinet: -

- 1.6 That the HRA Budget proposals set out in the report was endorsed for recommendation to Council on 19 February 2019 subject to further consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 7 February 2019.
- 1.7 That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2022/23 and HRA Budget for 2019/20 was endorsed for recommendation to Council on 19 February 2019 subject to further consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 7 February 2019.
- 1.8 That the mandatory decrease of 1% in Council House rents, equivalent to an average rent reduction of £0.90 a week as required by the Welfare Reform and Work Act, was implemented.
- 1.9 That garage rents were kept at the same level as last year.
- 1.10 That Sheltered Housing Service charges was kept at the same level as last year.
- 1.11 That Sheltered Housing utility charges was increased by 5% (average £0.61 increase per week).

Reason for Decision: To bring together all the relevant information to enable Cabinet Members to review, consider and comment upon the Council's Housing Revenue Account budget before the February Cabinet review and recommendations to Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2019/20 and four-year outlook is an essential element in achieving a balanced budget and sustainable medium-term position, therefore no other options are appropriate in respect of this.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/18/56 HOMELESS PREVENTION FUND POLICY

Decisions made by Cabinet: -

That Cabinet approved the introduction of this policy for 2019/20.

Reason for Decision:

By approving the implementation of the policy, it will enable the Housing Solutions Officers to

prevent or relieve homelessness in more cases and reduce the demands on temporary accommodation.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

An alternative option is to not have a Homelessness Prevention Fund and use the money for alternative things such as staff salaries or temporary accommodation but the lack of one is likely to increase demands on temporary accommodation and increase budgetary demands due to accessing more Bed and Breakfast placements.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/18/57 JOINT COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

Decisions Made by Cabinet:

- 1.12 That Cabinet agreed the consultation approach and timetable for the Joint Communities Strategy described in paragraphs 10.5 and 10.6.
- 1.13 That the Assistant Director for Planning and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, was given delegated authority to make any minor changes as necessary to the consultation version of the draft Communities Strategy prior to the Strategy going out for consultation.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that Babergh District Council have an up to date Joint Communities Strategy which provided:

- Strategic leadership on the key community issues facing the districts;
- Coherent and joined up approaches to the way we work with our communities and with partners;
- Greater local accountability for decision making; and
- A more focused approach to community development which has the greatest impact.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 1.14 To create a Joint Communities Strategy and publish it for consultation.
- 1.15 To create a Joint Communities Strategy and not publish it for consultation.
- 1.16 Not to create a Joint Communities Strategy.
- 1.17 The Council has prioritised the creation of its Joint Communities Strategy and therefore the question is whether to consult with stakeholders or not. Given the nature of the Strategy it is considered vital that there is appropriate consultation prior to its formal adoption by Full Council.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/18/58 EXTENSION OF SERCO CONTRACT 2021 - 2028

Decisions Made by Cabinet:

- 1.1 That Cabinet approved to extend the current Household waste and Recycling contract with Serco for a further 7-year period from 2021 to 2028
- 2.1 That Cabinet agreed to delegate to the Assistant Director, Environment and Commercial Partnerships, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Environment, to finalise the extension agreement and enter into contract with Serco for an additional 7 years from 2021-2028

Reason for Decision:

The decision to extend the current contract offers good value to the Councils and has a lower cost than any other option.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 1.18 The options available to the councils are: -
- 1.19 Option 1 - Extension of the current Serco contract: based upon the extension proposal provided to MSDC and BDC by Serco.
- 1.20 Option 2 - Outsourcing: conduct a new procurement exercise and engage an external contractor to deliver the environmental services, this could of course be Serco again.
- 1.21 Option 3 - In-house: bring the services in-house, or in-sourcing, is another common service delivery model to deliver environmental services.
- 1.22 Option 4 - Local Authority Company (LAC): deliver the environmental services through a LAC (commonly referred to as a Teckal company), either by setting up a new company or use an existing company founded by another authority to deliver the services. This service delivery model is growing in popularity, although it is still relatively uncommon.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/18/59 THE ADOPTION OF A SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL OWNED TREES

Decisions Made by Cabinet:

- 1.23 That Cabinet approved the set of principles for the management of Council owned trees (Appendix A), subject to an amendment to clarify that the landowner has responsibility for maintaining any community planted trees.

1.24 That the Cabinet recommended the increase in operational budgets outlined in 6.3

Reason for Decision:

The decision to agree the principles will allow the Councils to adopt a fair and consistent approach to the management of Council owned trees enabling clear guidance on how the tree resource is to be more sustainably managed.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Both Councils have the option of not agreeing a set of principles or agreeing an amended set of principles subject to the direction of Cabinet.

Any Declarations of Interest declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None