

Monday, 6 February 2023



BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

**DECISIONS BY THE BABERGH CABINET
CALL IN DEADLINE 5:00PM ON 15 FEBRUARY 2023**

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet and will come into effect on 16 February 2023 unless the call-in procedure is activated. For clarity, where an item is 'to be noted', 'received' or recommended to Council for a decision, this is deemed not to be a formal Executive decision and so the call-in provisions will not apply.

BCa/22/39 GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2023/24 AND FOUR-YEAR OUTLOOK

It was **RESOLVED**: -

- 1.1 That the General Fund Budget proposals for 2023/24 and four-year outlook set out in the report be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 20 February 2023.**
- 1.2 That the General Fund Budget for 2023/24 is based on a 2.99% increase to Band D Council Tax, which is equivalent to £5.30 per annum (10p per week) for a Band D property, be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 20 February 2023.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To bring together all the relevant information to enable Cabinet Members to review, consider and comment upon the Council's General Fund budget for endorsement and recommendation to Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Setting a balanced budget is a statutory requirement, therefore no other options are appropriate in respect of this.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/22/40 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 2023/24 BUDGET

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That the HRA Budget proposals for 2023/24 set out in this report, be endorsed for recommendation to Council on 21 February 2023.**
- 1.2 That an increase of 7% for council house rents, equivalent to an average rent increase of £6.68 for social rent and £9.41 for affordable rent, a week be implemented.**
- 1.3 That the CPI increase of 10.1% in garage rents, equivalent to an average rent increase of £4.86 or £4.91 (private rental), a month be implemented.**
- 1.4 That an increase of 7% for sheltered housing service charges, equivalent to £12.19 a month, be implemented.**
- 1.5 That an increase for sheltered housing utility charges, equivalent to £7.42 a month (8% for heating and 11% for water), be implemented, following no utility increase for 3 years (since 2019/20).**
- 1.6 That in principle, Right to Buy (RTB) receipts should be retained within the Housing Revenue Account, to enable continued development and acquisition of new council dwellings.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To bring together all the relevant information to enable Cabinet Members to review, consider and comment upon the Councils Housing Revenue Account budget for recommendations to Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023/24 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 Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/22/41 BUSINESS RATES RELIEF POLICIES

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 That Cabinet approves the introduction of the discretionary Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and Supporting Small Business rate relief policies as set out in appendix 1 & 2 for the 2023/24 financial year.**
- 1.2 That Cabinet give authority to the Director for Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree future changes to the discretionary Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and Supporting Small**

Business rate relief policies for the life of the 2023 rating list.

REASON FOR DECISION

To provide discretionary reliefs to support ratepayers in Babergh.

To enable the implementation of the discretionary schemes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 1.1 Option 1 - Cabinet approve the introduction of the discretionary Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and Support Small Business rate relief policies as set out in appendix 1 and 2 for the 2023/24 financial year and;
- 1.2 Delegate authority to the Director for Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree future changes to the discretionary Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and Supporting Small Business rate relief policies for the life of the 2023 rating list.
- 1.3 Option 2 - There is no mandatory requirement on billing authorities to provide retail, hospitality and leisure and support small business reliefs, however the Government is funding the scheme. It would be an opportunity missed to support local retailers.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/22/42 CONSULTATION OF A REVISED TABLE OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

It was RESOLVED: -

That Cabinet agreed a new tariff table of maximum fares. Members were asked to approve a new tariff table of maximum fares with the following changes:

- i. Miles & 1/10th Mile, replacing yards.
- ii. Tariff 1 reverts to tariff 2 (+50%) at 22:30 hrs each day instead of 23:00 hrs.
- iii. Tariff 4 is shown as an extra, due to size of vehicle/time of day, usage over 365 days of the year.

REASON FOR DECISION

To decide on the preferred option and to undertake a public consultation exercise on a revised tariff table of maximum fares for Hackney Carriages within the District and to decide on the most concise, transparent fare table for the public to interpret.

It is widely understood that the cost of living has increased with higher transportation costs since the last rise in fares in June 2021.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

1.1 Consider whether to:

- i. Modify the tariff table of maximum fares and proposed changes or;
- ii. Make no modification to the tariff table of maximum fares.

1.2 Members may choose to modify the current tariff table of maximum fares. The date upon which the modifications to the maximum fares take effect shall be one month after the end of the fourteen-day statutory consultation period if no adverse representations are received.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

Officer Decision made under the scheme of delegation by the Director of Operations – Key Decision Call-in Deadline on 15 February 2023

That Option 2: *To vary the tariff table of maximum fares that may be charged by Hackney Carriage proprietors using a new table – miles & 1/10th Mile*, and as detailed in the report number BCa/22/42 and recommended by the Licensing & Regulatory Committee be approved.