

Tuesday, 9 January 2024



BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISIONS NOTICE

**DECISIONS BY THE BABERGH CABINET
CALL IN DEADLINE 5:00PM ON 18 JANUARY 2024**

The following decisions have been taken by the Babergh Cabinet and will come into effect on 19 January 2024 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/23/32 FEES AND CHARGES 2024/25

It was **RESOLVED**: -

- 1.1 That, the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024/25 as shown in Appendix A of the report, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure that the Council achieves sufficient income and thereby reduces the subsidy on non-essential services which may compromise the Council's ability to fund statutory services.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

To make no change, leave them at the current year's level.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/23/33 FEES AND CHARGES 2024/25 - PARKING CHARGES

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 To carry out engagement and consultation with town and parish councils within Babergh, and with Babergh Councillors and with any other recognised groups making representation over the engagement period.**
- 1.2 That a proposal for varying car parking charges and road traffic orders across Babergh Council car parks will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their examination and advice to Cabinet.**
- 1.3 That proposals will be brought to Babergh Cabinet (after presenting to O&S) for varying car parking charges and off-street road traffic orders across Babergh Council car parks.**

REASON FOR DECISION

Varying car parking charges had previously been agreed by Cabinet. To deliver the approved parking strategy and remove the budget burden of subsidising this service from other non-parking income, varying charges must now be urgently considered.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Options that have been considered and shared with cabinet include outsourcing of car parks to an external provider, not varying the charges and varying the charges.

Outsourcing to another provider has been rejected based on factors such as diminished control of tariff setting and road traffic order requirements, distracting focus on contract management and contract value versus strategy delivery, and incompatibility between on-street and off-street enforcement delivery not leading to any perceived savings.

Not varying the charges has been rejected as this will make delivery of the agreed strategy unaffordable, and this option was previously rejected by cabinet in 2021.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/23/34 OUR PLAN FOR BABERGH

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 To consider the feedback from engagement and endorse the final plan setting out the vision and strategic priorities for Babergh District Council for 2023-2031, as set out in Appendix A of the report.**

REASON FOR DECISION

To enable adoption of Our Plan for Babergh by Council on 23rd January 2024.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Options considered include:

No plan: This was not pursued as there are new challenges for our districts that the Council needs to respond to within its refreshed plan.

Plan adopted with no amendments from draft version: This option was not chosen as valuable feedback and insight was provided by stakeholders during the engagement that we wish to reflect in the final plan.

Joint plan with Mid Suffolk: It is important for our communities to see how we are reacting to the challenges facing our district. Whilst there are commonalities with Mid Suffolk and their published priorities, we first want to ensure we have a representation of the challenge and opportunities facing Babergh.

Respond to feedback from the engagement and amend plan to reflect, to ensure the priorities identified consider the valuable insight shared during this engagement.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/23/35 EMPTY HOME PREMIUMS

It was **RESOLVED:** -

1.1 That Cabinet approve the empty homes and second homes premiums policy for 2024-25 attached in appendix A of the report.

1.2 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to make technical amendments to the policy to ensure it meets the criteria set by Government and the Council

REASON FOR DECISION

To maximise revenue, but more importantly to incentivise owners to bring empty and under-utilised properties back into use.

To ensure the policy is kept in line with Government regulations.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Implement only one of the proposed changes.

Implement only one of the proposed changes. This could be either implementing a premium of up to 100% for second homes and leaving the current long term empty qualifying time period for the premium at 2 years. Alternatively, it could just be reducing the long-term empty premium qualification time from two years to one, and not implementing any change for second homes. This would have the same benefits as option 1 but to a lesser scale.

Do Nothing

Do nothing, leave existing premiums in place for long term empty properties, namely that they would be applied after the two-year period. Do not introduce a premium for second homes.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None

BCa/23/36 2022/23 GREENHOUSE GAS REPORT

It was **RESOLVED:** -

1.1 That the contents of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2022-23 at Appendix A to the report be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION

Since 2011, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has required local authorities to measure and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from their estate and operations. Each Local Authority has been requested to publish their Greenhouse Gas reports locally online each year.

The Council is therefore required to note this report prior to publication on the Councils website.

Over 4 years ago the Council declared a climate emergency and produced their first Carbon Reduction Management Plan a refresh of this Plan is also nearing completion.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Do nothing.

Any Declarations of Interests Declared: None

Any Dispensation Granted: None