

1. **Business Rates Pool** (Pages 2 - 6)

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY OFFICERS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

This is a record of a decision taken by an officers under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

Delegated Power

Cabinet 1 October 2013. Record of Decision CAB80.

That subject to the approval of the detailed pooling and governance arrangements the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and the Leader of the Council, be given delegated authority to enter the Borough Council into a business rates pooling arrangement for Norfolk.

Decision Taken

Agreement to enter into Business Rates Pool arrangement with other Norfolk authorities for 2022/2023 under the Business Rates Retention Scheme.

Reasons for the Decision

Under the business rates retention scheme, local authorities are able to voluntarily form a business rates retention pool. The main aim of the pool is to maximise the retention of locally generated business rates and to ensure that it further supports the economic regeneration across the Norfolk area.

Authorities in Norfolk collectively decided not to enter a business rates pool in 2021/2022 due to the uncertainty of the impact of the pandemic on the economy and business rates growth. However, forecasts of business rates for 2022/2023 have now been provided by all Norfolk authorities. These indicate that all Districts expect to be in a levy position for 2022/2023, with a total retained levy of £5.9m forecast.

The scheme allows for local autonomy to distribute these additional resources amongst pool members. How the additional amount is split between the members of the respective pool is determined by the pool, through its governance arrangements.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have issued an invitation to enter a pool for 2022/2023 with an outline governance agreement to be submitted by the lead authority (Norfolk County Council) by 8 October notifying them of our intent to enter a pool. This sets out the following principles:

- Each individual authority, will receive at least the same level of funding they would have received without the Pool. The remaining amount will be the "Net Retained Levy".
- Any additional resource that is generated will be shared by pool members using the basis of allocation below. This allocation methodology looks to reward members of the pool for achieving business rate growth.
- The rationale for the Pool is to encourage economic growth therefore Pool Members are encouraged to use the additional resource to promote further economic growth.

The basis of allocation sets out that 50% of the net retained levy (after running costs have been deducted) will be allocated to Norfolk County Council and the remaining 50% will be split amongst the remaining authorities. As this is a deviation to previous arrangements within Norfolk, it is proposed to submit this as a provisional position, with a view to agreeing alternative governance arrangements following submission on 08/10/2021. A revised MOU will need to be agreed by 22 October 2021. After this point, if any authorities wish to revoke the pooling arrangements, there is opportunity to do so during the 28 day period after the provisional settlement is made. This will mean

the entire pool would be revoked and no local authorities in the revoked pool will be able to pool in 2022/2023.

The following authorities are anticipated to be part of the pooling arrangement subject to their own decision making processes:

- Norfolk County Council
- Breckland District Council
- Broadland District Council
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council
- North Norfolk District Council
- Norwich City Council
- South Norfolk District Council

Options considered

By not entering the pool, the levy would instead be paid to Central Government rather than be retained in Norfolk for the benefit of Norfolk.

Options for how the net retained levy will be split are being explored and will be subject to further approval.

Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests.

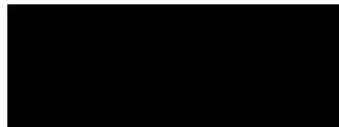
None known.

List of Background papers

Cabinet Report of 1 October 2013 Business Rates Pooling

Authorisation by Lorraine Gore, Chief Executive

Signature



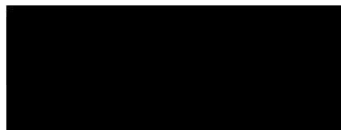
Date 08 October 2021

Consultation with members/officers

If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:

Consultation with Chief Financial Officer Michelle Drewery

Signed by Officer as consulted:

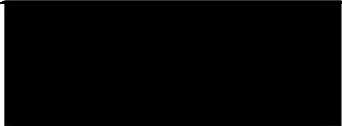


Michelle Drewery

Date 07 October 2021

Consultation with Council Leader Cllr Stuart Dark

Signed by Member as consulted:



Councillor Stuart Dark

Date 08 October 2021

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function		Business Rates Pool Arrangement for 2022/2023				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?		Existing (although opted not to pool in 2021/2022)				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations		By entering a pool arrangement with other Norfolk authorities, the council will benefit from access to additional funds retained from business rates revenue rather than pay it back to central government.				
Question		Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>			Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
		Age			X	
		Disability			X	
		Gender			X	
		Gender Re-assignment			X	
		Marriage/civil partnership			X	
		Pregnancy & maternity			X	
		Race			X	
		Religion or belief			X	
		Sexual orientation			X	
Other (eg low income)			X			
Question		Answer	Comments			
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?		No	This decision is regarding entering a pool arrangement. Decisions on what the funding will be spent on will need to be undertaken separately.			
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?		No	As above			
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?		No	As above			
5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section		N/A	Actions: Actions agreed by EWG member: Name			
Assessment completed by: Name		Michelle Drewery				

Job title Assistant Director Resources	Date 07 October 2021
Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.	