

# Public Document Pack



## Doncaster Council

### EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on Tuesday, 14th January, 2020 by Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Wednesday, 15th January, 2020

The end of call in period for this decision expires at 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 24th January, 2020. The decision cannot be implemented until after this date and time.

Present:

Chair - Mayor Ros Jones (Mayor of Doncaster with responsibility for Budget and Policy Framework)

Vice-Chair - Councillor Glyn Jones (Deputy Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities)

#### **Cabinet Member for:**

Councillor Nigel Ball	Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture
Councillor Rachael Blake	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care
Councillor Nuala Fennelly	Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Councillor Chris McGuinness	Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector and the Environment
Councillor Bill Mordue	Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic Development
Councillor Jane Nightingale	Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate Services.

Apologies:-

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Joe Blackham, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services.

### **PUBLIC MEETING – SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS**

#### Public Questions and Statements

Mayor Ros Jones read out the following question submitted by Councillor Nick Allen:-

“I am pleased reference has been made to a local discount for people who were affected by the recent flooding. I welcome and fully support a council tax discount for homes affected by flooding. I would like to know if this discount will apply to every home affected? How long will the discount last for?”

Mayor Ros Jones gave the following response:-

“We remain fully committed to supporting the people affected by the floods of November 2019. Following a key decision that I took on the 20th November 2019 under Rule 16 for Special Urgency, we will award a 100% Council Tax Discount to all properties where flood water entered the habitable area of the property; or where flood water did not enter the habitable area, but the authority considers the property was unliveable for any period of time.

The Council Tax Discount is awarded for a minimum of 3 months, but will continue for longer whilst anyone is unable to return home as a result of the flooding. Also, where someone is unable to return to their main home, they will receive a 100% parallel Council Tax Discount at any temporary accommodation where they have Council Tax to pay.

So far, discounts have been awarded to 685 properties affected by the flooding, with a further 51 parallel discounts awarded on temporary accommodation. The total value of discounts to date is £266,661.54, and we will be reimbursed by Government, for the value of discounts awarded.”

Decision Record forms from the meeting held on 17th December, 2019 (previously circulated), were noted.

## DECISION 1

### 1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

6. Calculation and Approval of the Council Tax Base for 2020/2021.

### 2. DECISION TAKEN

Cabinet:-

- (1) approve the calculation of Doncaster Council's Tax Base for the 2020/2021 year as 84,141 band D equivalent dwellings, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) approve the calculation of Doncaster Council's Tax Base for the 2020/2021 year for each part of its area at Parish level, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

### 3. REASON FOR DECISION

Mayor Ros Jones introduced a report which sought approval of the Council Tax Base for Doncaster for 2020/21, as required by Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Council Tax Base provides the basis for setting the amount of Council Tax payable for the forthcoming year.

The Council Tax Base must be set using a prescribed formula which is set out in national legislation, and represents the number of properties that will be subject to

Council Tax after allowing for exemptions, discounts, premiums and reliefs.

The legislation requires that properties are expressed in terms of their Band D equivalent. There are just under 139,000 domestic properties in Doncaster, however, over 87% are in Bands A, B or C. This has the effect of considerably lowering Doncaster's Council Tax Base.

Over the past 3 years, 3,946 new domestic properties have been built in Doncaster. Over 63% of these properties are in Bands A or B, and a further 14% in Band C.

The proposed Council Tax Base for Doncaster for 2020/2021 is 84,141 Band D equivalent dwellings. This is an increase of 1,365 dwellings from the current year's Tax Base.

Based on the Band D charge for the current year and an estimated 1.99% Council Tax increase for 2020/2021, the increase in the proposed Tax Base is estimated to bring in additional Council Tax of just under £1.9 million next year for the DMBC element of the charge.

The Mayor concluded by stating that the Council budget will be considered by Full Council on 5th March.

In commenting on the report, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Glyn Jones, spoke of how he was pleased to see that the Council continued to maintain a 25% discount for people living in properties on their own. He pointed out that Doncaster has many more Band A properties compared to other affluent Local Authorities, and cited York City Council as an example, where the majority of properties were in Band D, and the Council Tax therefore generated a substantial amount of revenue for the Council.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, prescribe how the calculation of the Council Tax Base must be carried out. There are no other options.

#### **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

#### **6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION**

Not Exempt.

#### **7. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Debbie Hogg, Director of Corporate Resources.

Signed.....Chair/Decision Maker

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