

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2018

Report Title	NOTIFICATION OF AN URGENT DECISION - BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT BID
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Purpose of report	In accordance with the Council's Constitution, to formally report that the Cabinet has taken a decision which was considered to be urgent and, if delayed, the Council's interests would be seriously prejudiced.
Council priorities	Business and Jobs, Value for Money
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	Financial implications were taken into account by Cabinet in reaching its decision.
Link to relevant CAT	None
Risk Management	To comply with Rule 13 (call-in urgency) of Part 4.6 of the Council's Constitution, that urgent decisions made by Cabinet are to be reported to Council.
Equalities Impact Screening	Not applicable
Human Rights	Not applicable
Transformational Government	Not applicable
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory.
Comments of Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory.
Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory.

Consultees	The Chairman of the Council The Chairman of the Policy Development Group
Background papers	Report to Cabinet on 17 October 2017
Recommendations	THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REPORT.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As set out in Rule 13 (call-in urgency) of Part 4.6 of the Council's Constitution, the call-in procedure does not apply where a decision being taken by the Cabinet is urgent. A decision is considered urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.
- 1.2 In all circumstances, the Chairman of the Council must agree that the decision is reasonable and must agree to the decision being treated as a matter of urgency.
- 1.3 Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be recorded in the minutes and be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

2.0 SUMMARY OF THE DECISION MADE BY CABINET

- 2.1 An urgent executive decision was taken by Cabinet at its meeting on 17 October 2017. A summary of the decisions is detailed below:-

Business Rates Retention Pilot Bid

- 2.2 On 1 September 2017 DCLG published an invitation to Local Authorities in England to submit a bid to pilot 100% Business Rates Retention in 2018/19. The invitation was specifically aimed at new pooling arrangements and tier-split models of authorities.
- 2.3 The report sought Cabinet's approval to submit a bid to become a business rates pilot for 2018-19 as part of a Leicestershire-wide business rates pilot bid. The report also sought delegated authority for the Director, in consultation with the Corporate Portfolio Holder, to agree the detail of the bid in conjunction with other Leicestershire local authorities and to enter into a pilot scheme if the bid was successful.
- 2.4 As the deadline for bids was Friday, 27 October 2017, the approval of the Chairman of the Council was sought for an exemption to the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules in relation to call-in. Any call-in would have prevented the ability to submit the bid by deadline of 27 October, and given that the application was on a combined Leicestershire basis, would have removed the opportunity for all Leicestershire Authorities to participate.
- 2.5 In December 2017, the successful pilots were announced as part of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2018/19. Unfortunately, the Leicestershire bid was not successful. London and 10 areas outside of London (including our neighbours in Derbyshire) were selected out of 23 bids. The Department for Communities and Local Government have indicated that there will be further opportunities to become a pilot in 2019/20.