

Notice of a public meeting of

Decision Session - Executive Leader (incorporating Finance & Performance)

To: Councillor Carr (Executive Member)

Date: Monday, 11 December 2017

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00pm on Wednesday 13 December 2017**.

*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any items that are called in will be considered by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee (Calling In).

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5:00pm on Thursday 7 December 2017**.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member is asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. **Minutes**

(Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 20 November 2017.

3. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. The deadline for registering is **5.00pm on Friday 8 December 2017**. Members of the public can speak on agenda items or matters within the Executive Member's remit.

To register to speak please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

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Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be filmed and webcast, or recorded, including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The broadcast can be viewed at <http://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts> or, if recorded, this will be uploaded onto the Council's website following the meeting.

Residents are welcome to photograph, film or record Councillors and Officers at all meetings open to the press and public. This includes the use of social media reporting, i.e. tweeting. Anyone wishing to film, record or take photos at any public meeting should contact the Democracy Officer (contact details are at the foot of this agenda) in advance of the meeting.

The Council's protocol on Webcasting, Filming & Recording of Meetings ensures that these practices are carried out in a manner both respectful to the conduct of the meeting and all those present.

It can be viewed at:

https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/11406/protocol_for_webcasting_filmig_and_recording_of_council_meetings_20160809

4. City of York Council's Response to the 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation
(Pages 5 - 12)

This report details the consultation response from City of York Council in relation to the technical consultation on 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement.

5. Inclusion of Land Adjacent to 17-21 Piccadilly in the Lease to SPARK:YORK
(Pages 13 - 18)

This report recommends the addition of a small piece of newly acquired land to the red line boundary of the lease of 17-21 Piccadilly to Spark:York.

6. Changes to the Spring Budget Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) Allocation Policy
(Pages 19 - 26)

To consider for approval an amendment to the Spring Budget discretionary rate relief (DRR) policy introduced in May 2017.

7. Group Reorganisation of Yorwaste and SJB Recycling

To consider for approval the proposed group reorganisation within Yorwaste and SJB Recycling following the purchase of Todd Waste Management Group (TWMG) by Yorwaste. This is in order for the company to remain Teckal compliant.

The report for this item will follow as a separate agenda supplement.

8. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Name: Angela Bielby

Telephone: 01904 552599

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For more information about any of the following, please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Leader (incorporating Finance & Performance)
Date	20 November 2017
Present	Councillor Carr

19. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Leader was asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests which he had in the business on the agenda. No additional interests were declared.

20. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Executive Leader (incorporating Finance & Performance) Decision Session held on 17 October 2017 be approved and then signed by the Executive Leader as a correct record.

21. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak and one written representation at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme. The written representation was from O'Neill Associates, Planning Consultants for Bootham Developments in support of the officer recommendation in relation to item 4.

22. Sale of Land at Bootham Row Car Park

The Executive Leader considered a report which sought confirmation of the Executive decision to continue with the disposal of land at Bootham Row to Bootham Developments LLP for the revised sum of £165,000.

In response to a request from the Executive Leader, Philip Holmes from O'Neill Associates summarised the points made in their written representation.

The Assistant Director for Regeneration and Asset Management outlined the options and recommendation for the sale of the land. The Asset Manager was asked and clarified how the value of the land was calculated based on rental income per car park space and confirmed that a residual valuation had been considered, but was not appropriate in this case.

The Executive Leader considered the following options for the sale of the land at Bootham Row Car Park:

Option 1 – Sale of the land to Mr Steve Hull for £180,000

This will achieve the highest capital receipt for the Council and provide environmental benefits by way of resurfacing, tree/shrub planting and repairs/replacement to kerb stones. However, the land will remain as a car park. This option will not achieve the level of improvements to the environment and public realm in the area offered by option 2, and may also mean that unsightly buildings in the vicinity will not be redeveloped. There is no logic to selling a car park for use as a car park by a private operator with no prospect of significant improvement to public realm and landscaping. Should this option be chosen, the matter will have to be referred back to the Executive for a final decision, because this will not be in accordance with the original decision made by the Executive, or the reasons for that decision.

Option 2 – Sale of the land to Bootham Developments LLB for £165,000

This option will provide improvements to the public realm and the setting of the conservation area and listed buildings. The redevelopment will entail the demolition of the unsightly buildings adjacent to the site and the creation of a 'frontage' to the rear facing the remaining car park.

The capital receipt achieved will be lower but, as was detailed in the original Executive report of 28th September

'The sale will provide the following improvements for local residents

- a) Provision of a new footpath where none exists at present.
- b) Attractive paved and landscaped open space.
- c) Trees
- d) Improved street design.

These improvements will enhance the environment of the immediate area by changing what is currently an unattractive access to the car park into an attractive landscaped area with the loss of only a small area of motorcycle and car parking space which can be absorbed into the remainder of the car park'

Following consideration it was:

Resolved: That the Executive Leader confirmed the Executive decision to continue with the disposal of land at Bootham Row to Bootham Developments LLP for the revised sum of £165,000.

Reason: To achieve a capital receipt and improve the environment and public realm of Bootham Row and the surrounding area.

Cllr D Carr, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 3.10 pm].

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**Executive Leader (Finance and Performance)
Decision Session**

11 December 2017

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Customer and Corporate Services

**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE 2018/19 LOCAL
GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT TECHNICAL CONSULTATION**

Summary

1. The Government issued a technical consultation paper on 14 September 2017 in relation to the 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement. The paper outlines how the Government proposes dealing with a number of technical issues in the 2018/19 settlement. Responses are required from local government by 26 October 2017.
2. On 20 October 2016 Council passed a motion to request that funding consultation responses are reported back to Executive. Due to the short timescale of the consultation, the earliest opportunity to report the consultation response within the public domain is this Decision Session of the Executive Leader (Finance and Performance).
3. The consultation response for City of York Council is included at Annexe 1.

Recommendations

4. The Leader is asked to note the consultation response from City of York Council in relation to the technical consultation on 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement.

Reason:

So that the public can see how the council is responding to local government funding consultations.

Background

5. The technical consultation paper is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2018-to-2019-technical-consultation>

6. There is very little new in this consultation paper, since most of the settlement for 2018/19 has already been announced and the Government is not proposing making any changes to the four year funding allocations that have already been announced and agreed with authorities which signed up to the four year funding settlement. City of York Council signed up to the four year settlement as agreed by Executive on 30 June 2016.
7. The consultation paper confirms that there will be a 'baseline' again for receipt of New Homes Bonus (NHB) grant. The grant will only be paid for increases in taxbase above the baseline. This is in line with current policy. The actual baseline amount will not be announced until the provisional settlement in mid December 2017. A significant proportion of the consultation questions relate to proposed methodologies for reducing or withholding NHB payments where houses were only built following an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.
8. The government is not proposing any change to Council Tax referendum limits.
9. In general policy terms, there is further confirmation that the Government wants to move towards a higher retention of business rates for local government, but at this stage there is no clarity on how and when that might happen.

Specialist Implications

Financial

10. The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

Human Resources (HR)

11. There are no HR implications to this report

One Planet Council/ Equalities

12. There are no specific equality implications in this report, however equality issues are accounted for at all stages of the financial planning process.

Legal

13. There are no legal implications to this report.

Crime and Disorder

14. There are no crime and disorder implications to this report.

Information Technology (IT)

15. There are no information technology implications to this report.

Property

16. There are no property implications to this report.

Other

17. There are no other implications to this report.

Contact Details

Author:

Sarah Kirby
Principal Accountant
(Corporate Finance)
Ext 1635

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Ian Floyd
Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of
Customer and Corporate Services

**Report
Approved**



Date 24 October
2017

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the authors of the report

Background Papers:

Executive 30 June 2016 - Financial Strategy Update 2016/17 to 2020/21
Council 23 February 2017 - Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2021/22

Annexes:

1 – City of York Council Consultation Response to 2018/19 Local
Government Finance Settlement

List of abbreviations used in this report

DCLG – Department of Communities and Local Government
NHB – New Homes Bonus

Annex 1 – City of York Council response to 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation

Question 1: Do you agree that the government should continue to maintain the certainty provided by the 4-year offer as set out in 2016-17 and accepted by more than 97% of local authorities?

It is agreed that greater certainty in relation to funding is welcome to allow local government to plan strategically. City of York Council signed up to the 4 year settlement deal and supports the continuation of this and multi year settlements in future. As an authority in receipt of transitional grant in 2016/17 and 2017/18, the cessation of this grant is significant but has been managed through our budget setting process.

Question 2: Do you agree with the New Homes Bonus allocations mechanism set out above?

Whilst we recognise the need for the government to ‘sharpen the incentive’ to deliver more new homes, the major flaw with either of the reduction mechanisms proposed is that a local authority may have turned down a planning application for good reason, on the advice of a third party or because it was not of sufficient quality. Nationally, the current proportion of decisions overturned on appeal is low which suggests that there is not a significant problem with authorities being unsupportive of house building.

Question 3: Do you agree that the approach should be based on data collected by the Planning Inspectorate? If you disagree, what other data could be used?

The data collected by the Planning Inspectorate is a reasonable method to use.

Question 4: Do you agree with the proposed appeal/challenge procedure for the dataset collated by Planning Inspectorate? If you disagree, what alternative procedure should be put in place?

Notwithstanding the potential flaws in the process, as outlined in question 2, the data collected by the Planning Inspectorate is a reasonable method to use.

Question 5: Are there alternative mechanisms that could be employed to reflect the quality of decision making on planning applications which should be put in place?

We do not have any alternative suggestions.

Annex 1 – City of York Council response to 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation

Question 6: Which of the two mechanisms referenced above do you think would be more effective at ensuring the Bonus was focussed on those developments that the local authority has approved?

Although the 'per unit' methodology may be a greater administrative challenge to operate, it has the advantage that it is based on actual properties. Therefore, this is the preferred method.

Question 7: Do you think that that the same adjustments as elsewhere should apply in areas covered by National Park Authorities, the Broads Authority and development corporations?

City of York planning decisions are made independently of any of the above authorities. The ideal solution is that NHB reductions reflect actual decisions and these are allocated to the authority responsible.

Question 8: Do you think that county councils should be included in the calculation of any adjustments to the New Homes Bonus allocations?

As a unitary authority any decision would not affect City of York. As stated above, the ideal solution is that NHB reductions reflect actual decisions and these are allocated to the authority responsible.

Question 9: Do you have views on council tax referendum principles for 2018-19 for principal local authorities?

The current principles provide certainty on council tax increases in 2018/19 and these are in line with our expectations.

Question 10: Do you have views on whether additional flexibilities are required for particular categories of authority? What evidence is available to support this specific flexibility?

We do not wish to propose any changes to the current principles.

Question 11: What factors should be taken into account in determining an Alternative Notional Amount for Combined Authority mayors?

Although, this does not directly affect City of York, the use of alternative notional amounts for combining authority mayors is reasonable.

Question 12: Do you agree with the proposed approach to correcting the reduction in relevant county councils' income from the Adult Social Care precept?

Annex 1 – City of York Council response to 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation

As a unitary authority this does not directly affect City of York, but the proposals are reasonable.

Question 13: Do you have any comments on the impact of the proposals for the 2018-19 settlement outlined in this consultation document on persons who share a protected characteristic? Please provide evidence to support your comments.

No further comments.

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**Decision Session – Executive Leader
(including Finance and Performance)**

11 December 2017

INCLUSION OF LAND ADJACENT TO 17-21 PICCADILLY IN THE LEASE TO SPARK:YORK

Summary

1. This report recommends the addition of a small piece of newly acquired land to the red line boundary of the lease of 17-21 Piccadilly to Spark:York. The land will not be used for commercial purposes as it is outside of the boundary of the Spark:York scheme, but will formalise their existing right of access to 17-21 Piccadilly, and would also facilitate improved disabled access to the scheme. It would also transfer responsibility for its upkeep from the council to Spark:York for the duration of the lease, reducing the council's liability.

Recommendations

2. The Executive Member is asked to include the small plot of adjoining land identified in Annex 1 within Spark:York's lease of 17-21 Piccadilly.

Reason: To formalise access arrangements, enable better disabled access to the Spark:York scheme and reduce the council's maintenance liability for the duration of the lease.

Background

3. In November 2016 the Executive approved the lease of 17-21 Piccadilly on a 3 year lease from Spring 2017 to a community interest company called Spark:York. The completed scheme will provide start-up space for new businesses, whilst helping to drive footfall and the vibrancy of the Castle Gateway regeneration area in advance of a permanent use for the site being identified through the masterplan process. Work is progressing on the Spark:York site with an anticipated opening of the scheme in March 2018.

4. In October 2015 the Executive Member for Finance and Performance approved the acquisition of a small triangle of land that is adjacent to the site. The council benefitted from a right of access over this land to 17-21 Piccadilly, but it was in the ownership of Yorkshire Housing. The acquisition of the land increases the size of the site and removes third party ownerships, increasing the long term development value of the total land package. Following negotiations with Yorkshire Housing over the final terms of the contract the purchase completed in September 2017 for £38k, the price approved by the Executive Member in 2015.
5. This small piece of land was not initially included in the Executive decision to offer Spark:York a tenancy for 17-21 Piccadilly as at that point it was not in the council's ownership. The council did however have a right of access over the land to 17-21 Piccadilly and it was always intended that this right of access would be used for access to the entrance of the completed scheme. Now that the land is in the council's ownership it is proposed to include it within the lease to Spark:York to formalise the existing access agreements.
6. The small size of the plot and the right of access it will provide to Spark:York means that it has very limited alternative use. Whilst Spark:York benefit from the right of access now, its inclusion in the lease will allow this arrangement to be formalised, and also transfer responsibility to maintain the land to Spark:York until the expiry of the lease. It will also facilitate a level disabled access in to the Spark:York scheme and may potentially accommodate cycle parking or landscaping to improve the visual appearance of what is currently an unused plot of tarmac.
7. As the council had already agreed to grant Spark:York a right of access across the land, and given that it will not contain any built form or any commercial premises, its inclusion in the lease would carry little or no market rental value to Spark:York. Leasing the land to another third party would interfere with the access rights of Spark:York and be detrimental to the look and feel of the whole scheme. As a consequence it is proposed that it is included within the current terms of the lease, which involves a basic rent to repay any investment in utilities and enabling works to the site in addition to a 30% profit share. Due to the profit share agreement in place any positive impact the land has on Spark:York's commercial returns will also benefit the council.

Consultation

8. The recommendations have been agreed in consultation with officers in property and legal services.

Council Plan

9. The recommendations would help create a prosperous city for all by facilitating a scheme where local businesses can thrive, creating start up space for new enterprise. Spark:York are also a community interest company providing a venue and investment to local community groups.

Implications

10. The following implications have been identified and considered:
- **Financial** - there is no financial implication arising from including the additional piece of land in the lease
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – Considered to be no implications
 - **One Planet Council / Equalities** - Considered to be no implications
 - **Legal** –The Council has power to grant a lease of general fund/non-HRA land without obtaining the Secretary of State’s specific consent provided that either:
 - (i) full market value/best consideration is being obtained
 - Or
 - (ii) the difference between the consideration/price obtained and full market value is less than £2 Million and the Council considers that the disposal is for a purpose which will contribute to the improvement of the economic, environmental or social well-being of the area).
 - **Crime and Disorder** - Considered to be no implications
 - **Information Technology (IT)** - Considered to be no implications
 - **Property** – covered in the report

Risk Management

12. The recommendation is of low risk as it simply seeks to include a small piece of adjacent land in to the lease agreement for 17-21 Piccadilly. This

land was not initially included in the Executive decision to provide Spark:York a three year tenancy of the site as it was not in the council's ownership at that stage. The land would now be included on the same terms of the lease of the whole site, the risks of which were outlined and accepted by the Executive in agreeing to lease Spark:York 17-21 Piccadilly.

Contact Details

Author:

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Neil Ferris

Corporate Director Economy and Place

Report

Approved

Date 29/11/17

Tracey Carter

Assistant Director
Regeneration and Asset
Management

Specialist Implications Officer(s) List information for all

Financial

Patrick Looker
Finance Manager
Tel: 01904 551633.

Legal

Gerard Allen
Senior solicitor
Tel: 01904 552004

Wards Affected: Guildhall

All tick

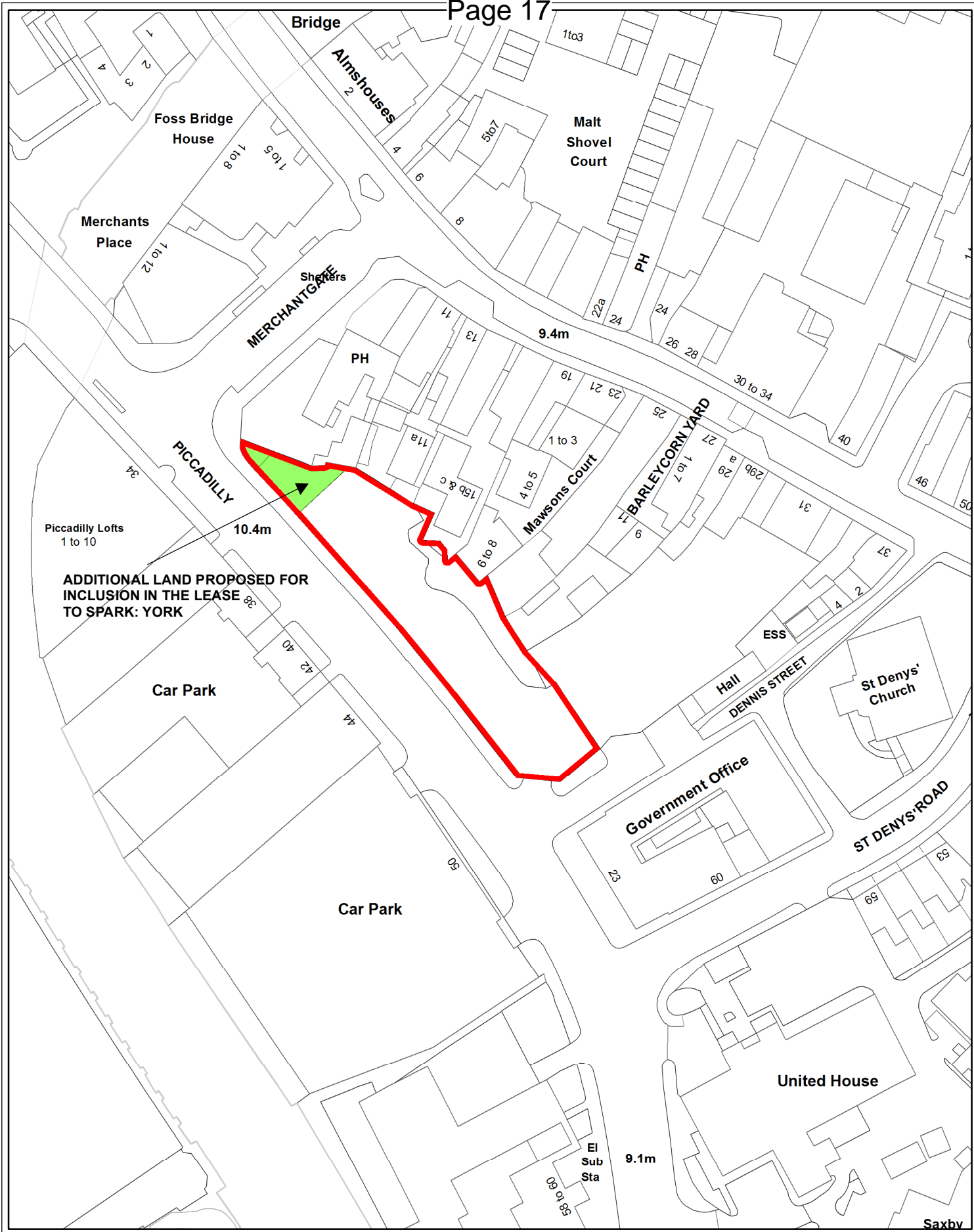
For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ielIssueDetails.aspx?IId=46706&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI42542>

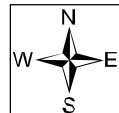
Annexes

Annex 1 - Site Plan



**Asset & Property
Management**

17-21 Piccadilly, York



SCALE 1:909

DRAWN BY: CC

DATE: 06/11/2017

Originating Group:

Asset & Property Management

Drawing No.

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Decision Session - Executive Leader
(Incorporating Finance & Performance)

11th December 2017

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Customer & Corporate Services.

Change to Spring Budget DRR Allocation Policy

Summary

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Executive Leader with an amendment for approval to the Spring Budget discretionary rate relief (DRR) policy introduced in May 2017.

Recommendations

2. The Executive Leader is asked to consider and approve changes to the May 2017 DRR policy that will see all qualifying local businesses and charities see no increase from the recent business rate revaluation exercise and put over £700K of support into the local economy.

Reason: To help support local businesses, charities and employment by providing rate relief in respect of the recent business rate revaluation exercise.

Background - Discretionary Business Rate Scheme

3. The Government's Spring Budget 2017 introduced a new temporary discretionary rate relief grant to help mitigate the effect on businesses of the increased rateable values arising from the business rates revaluation exercise undertaken by Central Government (Valuation Office Agency - VOA). Each council was required to develop its own scheme to administer the grant funding and York's was launched in May 2017.

4. The scheme was intended to support those local businesses that faced the steepest increases in their business rates bills as a result of the revaluation. The Government provided some further guidance in terms of businesses that should be supported; they have not been prescriptive and have issued no more than general guidance that mirrors how the grant was calculated. It assumed that, by and large, more support would be provided to:

- local ratepayers or localities that face the most significant increases in bills;
- ratepayers occupying lower value properties;
- the rateable property has a rateable value for 2017/18 that is less than £200,000;
- the increase in the rateable property's 2017/18 bill is more than 12.5% compared to its 2016/17 bill (before reliefs).

5. State Aid rules apply to all payments. The De Minimis Regulations allow an undertaking to receive up to €200,000 of De Minimis aid in a rolling three year period (consisting of the current financial year and the two previous financial years).

6. The council introduced its scheme in May 2017 promoting it across local businesses in York using:

- the council's website
- Make it York
- York Press
- direct mailing to local businesses meeting the criteria to qualify.

7. The funding provided by Central Government for 4 years is:

Year	Value
2017/18	£788K
2018/19	£383K
2019/20	£158K
2020/21	£23K

8. The promotion of the scheme, including direct mail shots to all local business with a rateable value below £200K, has not seen a significant number of businesses apply (98). Those that have

account for very little of the £788K of support available and the number of small local businesses within the city (less than 10%).

Discretionary Business Rate Scheme Amendment

9. In consultation with other local authorities in the Yorkshire region the council now believes that the best approach to distributing the funding, supporting our local business and the economy in the city is to automatically provide the discount. This will mean that each affected business is equally relieved of the increase. Locally East Riding and Hull Councils have both applied a percentage decrease to those businesses who meet their criteria without an application process. These authorities excluded council buildings and national chains.
10. This approach has also been promoted more recently by the Government:
“We are aware that many councils are running application based processes. If you are undertaking this approach and are seeing a lower than expected uptake or are forecasting an underspend on your allocation, we encourage you to take all necessary steps to publicise the scheme and ensure all available relief is distributed as soon as possible. For example, exploring options around automatically applying discounts to eligible businesses.”
11. In calculating the value of the grant the Government applied the following as the base for their calculation:
“Distribution based on the bill increases of properties given the following criteria: their business rates bill is increasing by more than 12.5% following revaluation, and their 2017 rateable value is less than £200k. Bill changes were calculated using a multiplier after inflation and with adjustment for appeals (0.466). Central list properties are excluded from this analysis. Based on the VOA's draft 2017 rating list (September 2016).”
12. This calculation was applied nationally but took no account of the make up of businesses in each local authority area. The impact in York is that when national businesses are removed along with any local government buildings there is adequate grant funding to support both local businesses and charities with their full 2017/18

business rate increase leaving a residual balance of approximately £80K.

13. To ensure all businesses receive this support as quickly as possible in line with Government guidance this paper recommends that the council adopts the approach of automatically awarding the business rate support to local businesses and charities. This will see no local business or charity with a rateable value below £200K having to pay an increase in their business rates in 2017/18 and will put over £700K of Central Government money back into the local economy.
14. It is recommended that the residual grant funding should be held as a contingency in case any further business rate hardship cases are identified before the end of the financial year. Also as any grant under spend has to be repaid to the Government and in the ethos of the grant to support local business consideration should be given to supporting any local businesses who are already in recovery for business rates arrears.

Consultation

15. Central Government did consult briefly on their scheme for fund distribution following the Spring Budget. It was clear at this point that the approach been taken was not efficient and would lead to complications and costs for local authorities trying to administer the scheme. They have since issued further guidance around automatically making the awards as set out at paragraph 10 above.
16. City of York Council has consulted with neighbouring unitary authorities (Hull, East Riding, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire), in bringing this scheme amendment forward.

Options

17. The Executive Leader can choose to approve the revisions to the council's scheme as set out at paragraph 9 – 14 above or reject the revisions.

Analysis

18. The new discretionary rate relief scheme established in the Spring Budget 2017 is designed to provide financial support to local business. The local economy is the bedrock of the city providing income to the council through business rates as well as employment opportunities for citizens.
19. The Government's response to consultation on the DRR scheme at the point of publication was brief and limited due to Purdah and the then imminent General Election. The speed at which the Government wanted the support rolled out also meant there was very little time to discuss consistent schemes with neighbouring local authorities in May 2017. When the original policy report was approved, it was acknowledged that once rolled out, and following consultation with other local authorities, there may be a requirement to implement further minor changes initially and possibly greater changes in the future. The report stated that any amendments (that do not substantially change the purpose of the Policy) be delegated to the Director of Customer & Corporate Services in consultation with the Executive Member Finance & Performance. The recommendation of this report, whilst not substantially changing the purpose of the scheme, is considered to be outside of the scope of this delegation in terms of how the grant will be distributed.

Council Plan 2015 - 19

20. The recommendations of this report will help support a prosperous city for all. The financial support will help small companies to both sustain their business and maintain a thriving economy in the city providing sustainable employment opportunities.

Implications

21.
 - a. **Financial** – The cost of any support for the discretionary scheme is met by Central Government.
 - b. **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no implications.
 - c. **Equalities** – There are no direct implications.

- d. **Legal** – The powers for the scheme are set out in Statute. The key legal implication is ensuring the application process ensures businesses benefiting declare they have received no other State Aid and that the council does not provide more support than the State Aid limit on an annual basis.
- e. **Crime and Disorder** - There are no implications.
- f. **Information Technology (IT)** - There are no implications.
- g. **Property** - There are no implications.

Risk Management

22. The key risk associated with discretionary reliefs is a financial one relating to state aid rules. The risk is Low and is in the control of the authority through the implementation of proper policies and procedures.

Contact details:

Author:	Executive Member and Chief Officer responsible for the report:		
David Walker Head of Customer & Exchequer Services Phone No. 01904 552261	Cllr David Carr Leader & Executive Member for Finance & Performance		
	Ian Floyd Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Customer & Corporate Services Telephone 01904 552909		
	Pauline Stuchfield Assistant Director Customer & Digital Services Telephone: 01904 551706		
	Report Approved	√	Date 27th November 2017
Specialist Implications Officer(s) None			
Wards Affected: All			√
For further information please contact the authors of the report			

Background Papers

Budget 2017 Discretionary Rate Relief Policy& Enterprise Zone Policy which can be found at this link:

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=9313&Ver=4>

Annexes

None

Glossary

State Aid - State aid is any advantage granted by public authorities through state resources on a selective basis to any organisations that could potentially distort competition and trade in the European Union (EU).

Abbreviations:

DRR	Discretionary Rate Relief
K	Thousand
VOA	Valuation Office Agency

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