

The 'Better Decision Making' tool has been designed to help you consider the impact of your proposal on the health and wellbeing of communities, the environment, and local economy. It draws upon the priorities set out in our Council Plan and will help us to provide inclusive and discrimination-free services by considering the equalities and human rights implications of the decisions we make. The purpose of this tool is to avoid decisions being made in isolation, and to encourage evidence-based decision making that carefully balances social, economic and environmental factors, helping us to become a more responsive and resilient organisation.

The Better Decision Making tool should be used when proposing new projects, services, policies or strategies, or significant amendments to them. The tool should be completed at the earliest opportunity, ideally when you are just beginning to develop a proposal. However, it can be completed at any stage of the decision-making process. If the tool is completed just prior to the Executive, it can still help to guide future courses of action as the proposal is implemented.

**The Better Decision Making tool must be attached as an annex to Executive reports. A brief summary of your findings should be reported in the One Planet Council / Equalities section of the report itself.**

Guidance to help you complete the assessment can be obtained by hovering over the relevant question.

Please complete all fields. If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'.

**Introduction**

<b>Service submitting the proposal:</b>	Corporate Finance
<b>Name of person completing the assessment:</b>	Sarah Kirby/ Janie Berry
<b>Job title:</b>	Principal Accountant/ Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
<b>Directorate:</b>	Customer and Corporate Services
<b>Date Completed:</b>	01/12/2019
<b>Date Approved (form to be checked by head of service):</b>	

**Section 1: What is the proposal?**

1.1	<b>Name of the service, project, programme, policy or strategy being assessed?</b> Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2024/25
1.2	<b>What are the main aims of the proposal?</b> The Strategy sets out the revenue and capital expenditure plans for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25. The revenue budget includes proposals for 2020/21 and sets out savings/ efficiencies of £4m in order to set a legally balanced budget.
1.3	<b>What are the key outcomes?</b> 1. Confirm the council tax increase for 2020/21 2. Identify revenue savings for 2020/21 3. Ensure a financially prudent budget is set, addressing known pressures, including pay awards and inflationary pressures 4. confirm changes (increase/decrease) to fees and charges 5. Confirm the HRA budget and HRA rents 6. Confirm capital expenditure plans for 2020/21 to 2024/25

**Section 2: Evidence**

2.1	<b>What data / evidence is available to support the proposal and understand its likely impact?</b> (e.g. hate crime figures, obesity levels, recycling statistics) There were 825 respondents to the budget consultation referred to below in 2.2. Individual savings proposals are too numerous to comment on but are based on service specific customer data. Each individual saving proposal will undergo an assessment of the impact based on details bespoke to that specific service area/ identified saving
	<b>What public / stakeholder consultation has been undertaken and what were the findings?</b>

2.2	<p>The budget consultation was launched on 15 November and closed on 31 December for paper surveys and 12 January for online surveys. Further details are included in the main body of the budget report. All views and data gathered during the consultation will be published on the York open data platform <a href="http://www.yorkopendata.org">www.yorkopendata.org</a> and the summary will also be appended to the financial strategy report. During January 2020, a series of Executive Member decision sessions were held and served as an additional opportunity for members of the public to raise concern, comment and observations in respect of the various budget proposals.</p>
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2.3	<p><b>Are there any other initiatives that may produce a combined impact with this proposal?</b> (e.g. will the same individuals / communities of identity also be impacted by a different project or policy?)</p> <p>The Capital Strategy 2020/21 to 2024/25 report proposals will produce a combined impact with the Financial Strategy and therefore both are covered within this assessment.</p>
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