

Decision Notice

CABINET
TUESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2020



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

30. Council Tax Base 2021/22

Decision

Cabinet recommends to Council the approval of the Council Tax base for the financial year 2021/22 equating to 48,122.4 in accordance with the relevant legislation. This will form the basis upon which the Council will estimate Council Tax income for the 2021/22 budget.

Considerations/reasons for decision

- Report from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources on the Council Tax Base 2021/22.
- The Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by s84 of the Local Government Act 2003, which sets out the requirements allowing each local authority to make its arrangements for adopting the Council Tax Base.
- The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
- The proposed tax base for South Kesteven 2020/21 was 48,122.4 Band D equivalents and was an increase of 0.4% on the previous financial year 2020/21.
- The calculation of the tax base for parish purposes was based on the number of properties as at 14 September 2020 and the discounts and exemptions applicable on 5 October 2020, as prescribed by legislation.
- Adjustments for the reductions in the tax base as a result of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.
- The setting of a realistic and prudent collection rate for Council Tax in 2021/22 is an essential component of the overall budget strategy. It is anticipated that a collection rate of 98.68% will be achieved in 2020/21 and this will form the basis of the collection rate for 2021/22.

Other options considered

None.

31. Review of the Licensing Act 2003 Policy Statement

Decision:

Cabinet notes the feedback from the public consultation on the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026 and recommends to Council that the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026 be adopted.

Considerations/reasons for decision:

- Report from the Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations on the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026.
- Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires each licensing authority to prepare and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy every 5 years. The current policy was due for review in January 2021.
- The policy had been updated to reflect the latest statutory guidance published under the Licensing Act 2003 in April 2018.
- In accordance with the requirements of the 2003 Act, consultees included the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee, responsible authorities and the public.

Other Options considered

The Council was required to review its Statement of Licensing Policy every 5 years.

32. Food Waste Collection

Decision

1. That Cabinet agrees to continue the existing food waste collection service until at least March 2022, utilising the food waste financial reserve to fund and subject to the annual budget approval process.
2. That Cabinet supports in principle the ambition to expand food waste collections throughout the District, accepting that this will be dependent on future funding and/or the Government's proposals to make the service a statutory requirement.

Considerations/reasons for decision

- Report from the Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations on Food Waste.
- The success of the food waste trial initially funded by Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership.
- Customer support for the scheme.
- The increase in clean recyclable waste and less residual waste from properties taking part in the food waste trial.

- The food waste collection scheme supported DEFRA's ambitions to rollout mandatory food waste collections nationally and aligned with their 'Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England' publication.
- The decision taken by the Leader on 29 May 2020 to continue to deliver the food waste collection service to the existing area to 31 March 2021, following formal notification from Lincolnshire County Council that they were withdrawing support for food waste collection beyond the current year, which came to an end on 4 June 2020.
- The Council's recently approved Corporate Plan 2020-23 which included the key action to explore opportunities to build on the success of the food waste pilot and ensure the service is sustainable.
- An ambition to expand food waste collections throughout the District, accepting that this would be dependent on future funding and/or the Government's proposals to make the service a statutory requirement.
- Support for the continuation of food waste collection from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the positive feedback received from the Customer Survey.

Other options considered:

- 1) Continue using the waste reserve funding until March 2022 on the existing food waste collection service.
- 2) Expand the service incrementally as funding becomes available from other waste income streams. This would be subject to Council priorities and the annual budget process.
- 3) Stop the service. This was not considered appropriate as the authority had vehicles equipped with pod collection units, which could operate effectively for the next two years before needing to be replaced. There was potential for a mandatory service to be introduced by Government and SKDC funding had already been earmarked.

33. Public Realm Improvements, St Peter's Hill, Grantham

Decision

1. Cabinet approves the installation of the statue on St Peter's Hill Green, in accordance with the agreed planning permission.
2. Cabinet approves a budget allocation from the Local Priorities Reserve and authorise expenditure of up to £100k to underwrite the statue-unveiling event and any consequential works. Any fundraising from the public, businesses and others will go towards funding this budget allocation.
3. Cabinet approves the engagement of an external organisation, as part of the above allocation, to coordinate the unveiling, including event management, communications and fundraising campaign.

4. Cabinet delegates to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Monitoring Officer, the authority to enter into a deed of gift agreement with The Public Memorials Appeal to transfer the ownership of the statue to the Council from the point of installation.

Considerations/reasons for decision

- Report from the Leader of the Council on Public Realm Improvements, St Peter's Hill, Grantham.
- The statue project was the result of an agreement between Grantham Community Heritage Association (GCHA, aka Grantham Museum), South Kesteven District Council and The Public Memorials Appeal.
- The unveiling of the statue would provide an opportunity for Grantham's community to celebrate its heritage.
- The statue was expected to attract many visitors to the area, which would increase Grantham and South Kesteven's status as a destination for tourism both nationally and internationally and would contribute to the local economy.
- That the funding for the event would be underwritten by the Council with the intension that fund raising events and public donations would contribute to most of the costs.
- On-going maintenance costs for the statue would be met by existing maintenance budgets and would be reviewed by the Council as part of the annual budget setting process from 2022/23 onwards.
- All planning conditions following planning approval granted on 5 February 2019 had been met and discharged.
- Continued liaison with Lincolnshire Partnership's Safety Advisory Group about the unveiling event.

Other options considered

The Council could install the statue with little or no event to support it.

38. Acquisition of Land in South Kesteven

To approve the recommendations as set out within exempt report of the Leader of the Council.

The report and associated appendices contain exempt information under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Date decisions effective:

Decisions 30, 32 and 33 as made on Tuesday 1 December 2020 can be implemented on Thursday 10 December 2020 unless subject to call in by the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any five members of the Council from any political group.

Decision 31 stands referred to the next ordinary meeting of Council.

Decision 38 was taken under special urgency provisions. The decision is not subject to the call-in procedure and can be implemented from Wednesday 2 December 2020.