

North East Derbyshire District Council

Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee

6 April 2017

<p><u>Key Decision Levels</u></p>

Report of the Chair of Standards Committee, Cllr Brian Ridgway

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To give consideration to the Key Decision Levels for the Council as referred to Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee by the Constitution Working Group.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 Council is required to set the level for executive Key decisions at the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- 1.2 The Standards Committee Constitution Working Party has been considering this as part of its review of the Constitution.
- 1.3 The level is currently £50,000 and there is a non financial limit of a matter which significantly affects 2 or more wards. The financial limit has not been reviewed since 2000 when it was introduced.
- 1.4 The affect of this is that:
 - decisions above this financial level may be called in by Scrutiny;
 - the intention to take such decisions has to be publicly advertised 28 days before the meeting; and
 - many decisions below this level will be decided by officers in accordance with the delegation scheme.
- 1.5 The Constitution Working Group met on Monday 13th March to consider the level of Key Decisions as part of their remit for reviewing the constitution for presentation to Annual Council.
- 1.6 At their meeting they considered the levels of Key Decisions agreed by other neighbouring Local Authorities. This information is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.7 After due consideration, the Working Group agreed in principle for the Revenue Key Decision Level to be set at £100k and the Capital Key Decision Level to be set at £250k, but agreed to refer the matter for further consideration at the next meeting of Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee.

- 1.8 It is therefore put to this meeting for Members to give consideration to the proposed Key Decision levels of:

Capital - £250,000

Revenue - £100,000

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 Whilst the Constitution Working Group (comprised of Members of the Standards Committee) consider the levels proposed to be adequate, they wish for the relevant Scrutiny Committee to also give consideration to these proposals.
- 2.2 Standards Committee would welcome the input and advice of the Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee, and will consider those views at the next meeting of Standards Committee on 12th April 2017.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee are consulted on this decision that will be eventually recommended to Council for final approval.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee may wish to make recommendations for different levels of Key Decisions.
- 4.2 Any recommendation made by the Committee will be considered by Standards Committee as part of the formulation of the Review of the Constitution Report to be presented to the Annual Meeting of Council in May for approval.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 There would be no financial implications to the Council as a result of consideration of this matter.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 None

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 None

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee give consideration to the levels proposed for Key Decisions by the Constitution Working Party.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is an executive decision which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	N/A
District Wards Affected	N/A
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	N/A

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Comparison of Key Decision Levels
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
N/A	
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APPENDIX 1

Comparison of Key Decision Levels

Authority	Revenue limit for key decisions £	Capital limit for key decisions £
Chesterfield	50k	50k
Blaby	150k	150k
Charnwood	100k	100k
Hinkley and Bosworth	20k	20k
North Kesteven	50k	100k
Erewash	10k	10k
Bassetlaw	100k	100k
Rushcliffe	100k	250k
Nottingham City	1m	1m
Derby City	250k	250k
Birmingham City	250k	250k