

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 February 2023

Revenue Budget 2023/24, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Council Tax for 2023/24

Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the Revenue Budget for 2023/24, the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024/25 to 2025/26 and Council Tax for 2023/24.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Revenue Budget for 2023/24, the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024/25 to 2025/26 and Council Tax for 2023/24 was considered by the Executive at their meeting on 24 January 2023. The Executive made recommendations to the meeting of the County Council for approval.
- 2.2 The report that was considered by the Executive is at Appendix A.
- 2.3 Since the papers were published for the meeting of the Executive on 24 January 2023, a number of amendments and clarifications have been made to that report. These are as listed, pages 33 to 36.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL BY COUNTY COUNCIL

- 3.1 The following are the recommendations made in the report.

Revenue Budget 2023/24, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Council Tax for 2023/24

RECOMMENDATIONS (pages 76 to 77):

- a) That the Section 25 assurance statement provided by the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources regarding the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves (paragraph 8.12) and the risk assessment of the MTFS detailed in Section 9 are noted;
- b) An increase in Council Tax of 4.99% (basic 2.99% and Adult Social Care 2%) resulting in a Band D weighted average charge of £1,759.96 – an increase of £83.64 (paragraph 4.3.8 and Appendix D);
- c) That, in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by Section 74 of The Localism Act 2011), a Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 of £427,729,811.74 is approved;
- d) That a Net Revenue Budget for 2023/24, after use of reserves, of £623,458k (Section 5.0 and Appendix H) is approved;
- e) That in the event that the level of overall external funding (including from the final Local Government Settlement) results in a variance of less than £5m in 2023/24 then the difference to be addressed by a transfer to / from the Strategic Capacity Unallocated Reserve in line with paragraph 4.2.3 with such changes being made to Appendix F as appropriate.

f) That the Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service is authorised, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources and the Executive Members for Schools and Finance, to take the final decision on the allocation of the Schools Budget including High Needs, Early Years and the Central Schools Services Block (paragraph 3.1.16).

g) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2023/24 to 2025/26, and its caveats, as laid out in Section 3.0 and Appendix G is approved in line with the proposed council tax option.

h) That the Corporate Director – Environment is authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for Highways & Transportation and Open for Business, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where considered appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (ENV1 to 6).

i) That the Corporate Director – Community Development is authorised, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning for Growth, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where considered appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (CDS 1).

j) That the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services is authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for HAS, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (HAS 1 to 3).

k) That the Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Services are authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for CYPS, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (CYPS 1 to 5).

l) That the Chief Executive is authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for Central Services, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (CS 1 to 3).

m) That any outcomes requiring changes following Recommendations h), i), j), k) and l) above be brought back to the Executive to consider and, where changes are recommended to the existing major policy framework, then such matters to be considered by full Council.

n) That the proposed policy target for the minimum level of the General Working Balance is £62m in line with Appendix E.

o) That £900k be provided annually to provide for a Member Locality Budget at £10k per annum per Member as set out in paragraph 4.8.2.

p) That £50k be provided annually for each Area Constituency Committee to commission works they feel appropriate for their local areas as set out in paragraph 4.8.3 and to delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Community Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning for Growth to determine application of the scheme.

That the Executive notes and agrees the delegation arrangements referred to in Section 11 that authorise the Corporate Directors to implement the Budget proposals contained in this report for their respective service areas and for the Chief Executive in those areas where there are cross-Council proposals.

That the Executive confirms introduction of a council tax premium of 100% on second homes following consultation subject to the legislation receiving Royal Assent as currently drafted.

That the Executive have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (identified in Section 7 and Appendix J) in approving the Budget proposals contained in this report.

3.2 Council Tax Resolution Report

RECOMMENDATIONS (page 141)

That the Council Tax Resolution, as detailed at Appendix A, be approved.

3.3 North Yorkshire Council Capital Five Year Spending Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS (pages 189 to 190)

- a) Approve the consolidated Capital Plan summarised at Appendix A;
- b) Note the next steps in transitioning to the new unitary council; and
- c) Agree that no action be taken at this stage to allocate any additional capital resources (paragraph 6.7).

3.4 Treasury Management and Capital Strategy

RECOMMENDATIONS (page 195)

- a) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement at Annex 1, consisting of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy (Section 1), Capital Prudential Indicators (Section 2), Borrowing Strategy (Section 3) and Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 (Section 4), including in particular;
 - i. an authorised limit for external debt of £652.1m in 2023/24;
 - ii. an operational boundary for external debt of £631.1m in 2023/24;
 - iii. the Prudential and Treasury Indicators based on the Council's current and indicative spending plans for 2023/24 to 2025/26;
 - iv. a limit of £60m of the total cash sums available for investment (both in house and externally managed) to be invested in Non-Specified Investments over 365 days;
 - v. a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for debt repayment to be charged to Revenue in 2023/24;
 - vi. the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources to report to the Council if and when necessary during the year on any changes to this Strategy arising from the use of operational leasing, PFI or other innovative methods of funding not previously approved by the Council;
- b) The Capital Strategy as attached as Annex 2;
- c) The Debt Recovery Policy set out at Annex 3;
- d) That the Audit Committee be invited to review Annex 1, 2 and 3 and submit any proposals to the Executive for consideration at the earliest opportunity.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The financial implications were considered in the report that went to the Executive on 24 January 2023.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The legal implications were considered in the report that went to the Executive on 24 January 2023.

6.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The equalities implications were considered in the report that went to the Executive on 24 January 2023.

7.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The climate change implications were considered in the report that went to the Executive on 24 January 2023.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 That County Council adopt the Revenue Budget for 2023/24, the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024/25 to 2025/26 and Council Tax for 2023/24.

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall, Northallerton

14 February 2023

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

24 January 2023

Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Item 5 a. - REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2023/24 & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25 TO 2025/26

Context (Section 2)

1. Bringing together the budgets from the 8 predecessor councils in North Yorkshire, this report sets out the financial issues and risks for the new North Yorkshire Council and makes recommendations to the Council regarding the:
 - Revenue Budget for 2023/24; and
 - Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024/25 to 2025/26; and
 - Council Tax for 2023/24.
2. Like councils across the country the new NYC faces a large budget deficit. The deficits are a consequence of many factors – covid pressures; distressed markets; demand for services; high inflation levels; reduced income levels into the council; and the complexity of all of these factors, alongside preparation for unitarisation, making it difficult to produce sufficient sustainable savings in the short term and therefore the budget relies on the use of reserves to balance the budget. However, NYC has the opportunity to cash in the unitary savings to address this deficit over the medium term to ensure that the Council remains financially sustainable.
3. This is the first Budget for new unitary North Yorkshire Council with a net revenue budget proposed at £623.5m for 2023/24.
4. The pressures highlighted in paragraph 2 above are such that, even after some planned savings, reserves of £30m will be required in 2023/24. This provides for approximately £18m structural deficit from the 8 councils combined, plus a further £12m in-year deficit in 2023/24. Looking ahead the projected recurring shortfall of £30m builds to £44m by 2025/26.

Medium Term Financial Strategy (Section 3)

7. There are a significant number of pressures on service budgets as a result of a combination of factors including for example; extreme volatility and distress in the adult social care market; children's placement costs; home to school transport services impacted by increased number of SEND pupils and fuel costs; high energy costs impacting services such as leisure centres and income levels still not back to pre-covid levels; and workforce retention and recruitment challenges.

Corporate Financial Issues (Section 4)

Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement

8. The 2023/24 Finance Settlement included the following key headlines:
 - An increase in the Council Tax referendum principle from 1.99% to 2.99% in 2023/24 and 2024/25;
 - The ability to levy an adult social care (ASC) precept of up to 2%;
 - increase in funding for social care via including repurposing funding for the ASC charging reforms to support ongoing pressures. The NYC share for 2023/24 is £11.97m.
 - An ASC Discharge fund of which the NYC allocation is £2.43m.
 - A ring-fenced grant "to support capacity and discharges" from which NYC will receive £4.03m in 2023/24.
 - Rural Services Delivery Grant remains unchanged in cash terms at £11.0m and New Homes Bonus payments continue for at least a further year with the Council expected to receive £4.3m.
 - Services grant has reduced to reflect the diversion of some funding and the clawback of enhanced employer National Insurance contributions. The NYC allocation will be £3.3m in 2023/24.
 - The decision to freeze the business rates multiplier will be fully funded, but, from 2023-24 onwards, compensation to authorities for under-indexation will be paid based on the Consumer Price Index rather than the Retail Price Index.

Council Tax

9. Following consultation, the harmonisation of Council Tax over 2023/24 and 2024/25 is confirmed, with an increase of 4.99% (including the 2% ASC precept). This raises the average Band D council tax by £83.64 per annum (or £6.97 per month) and results in an overall average Band D level of £1759.96 in 2023/24.

10. The report also confirms, following consultation, the implementation of the 100% second homes premium although this remains subject to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill receiving Royal Assent.

Fees and Charges

11. The default inflationary uplift approved by Executive in November 2022 has been applied to income budgets with some notable exceptions - car parking and some commercial property rentals will be frozen pending a review of the approach to charging for these services. Fees and charges are not generally proposed for harmonisation for 2023/24, with the exception of green waste collection, taxi licensing fees, court costs and building control fees.

Reserves & Balances

12. Given the level of risks facing the new unitary Council, it is proposed that the policy target for the minimum level of the General Working Balance is set 10% of the net revenue budget. Whilst at £53.5m, the opening balance is below this minimum threshold there are other reserves which will help to mitigate the shortfall until a full review of reserves is undertaken in 2023/24.
13. At 1 April 2023 the Council is forecasting to hold £83m in a Strategic Capacity Reserve – these funds are available to support the revenue budget.

Savings

14. Savings totalling £14.7m are proposed for 2023/24, leaving a budget shortfall of £30.4m.

Investments

15. New investments included in the proposed budget are: **Members Locality Budgets** - provision has been made for the life of the MTFs for a £10k annual Member Locality Budget. This Budget now provides for all 90 Councillors to access £10k per annum on an on-going basis subject to the rules of the scheme; and **Area Constituency Committees (ACCs)** - an annual sum of £50k has been provided for each ACC.

Revenue Budget Position in 2023/24 (Section 5)

16. The proposed net revenue budget for 23/24 is £623.5m.

Consultation (Section 6)

17. A range of initiatives have taken place to engage with stakeholders to consult on views on priorities and the Budget including the 'Let's Talk Money' public campaign.

Equality Implications (Section 7)

18. An overview of equality issues associated with the Council's budget proposals has been carried out and summarises the potential equality impacts in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Section 25 Statement (Section 8)

19. The Corporate Director, Strategic Resources is obliged to offer a view of the robustness of estimates used in the Revenue Budget 2023/24 and the associated level of balances/reserves. The Corporate Director, Strategic Resources is satisfied that the report meets such a requirement.
20. Attention is also drawn to the context of significant volatility including:
 - provision for demand and supply chain pressures within services impacting expenditure and income;
 - rising revenue and capital costs in a high inflation environment;
 - an uncertain outlook on government funding;
 - pump priming sufficient LGR transitional costs;
 - likely impacts of aggregation of services across the eight NY councils;
 - the impact of current and forecast interest rates on the expected returns from investment of cash balances;
 - the probability of achieving the savings targets during the MTFS period;
 - the availability of reserves and impacts of non-delivery of savings.
21. Members attention is particularly drawn to the following reference from the s151 officer – “While many councils are facing section 114 notices across the country, that is not the case in North Yorkshire at this stage. That is because the Council has sufficient Reserves and Balances to bridge the deficit of £30m in 2023/24. It cannot be ruled out that the North Yorkshire Council may well find itself in a situation where it has not been possible to develop a comprehensive savings programme over the next 3 years that largely eliminates any in-year deficit. The Council, its Members and officers therefore should carefully consider this Section 25 opinion and guard against complacency and the risk of a section 114 notice in the foreseeable future. The onus is on the Council to ensure that the time “bought” by the use of Reserves and Balances in 2023/24 is a valuable investment that delivers

lasting, sensible and deliverable savings proposals. These proposals can be brought forward at any time but the Budget report for 2024/25 will be a key acid-test of this approach.”

Risk (Section 9)

22. An assessment of the key financial risks to the County Council has been carried out noting that the current environment is highly uncertain.

Environmental Implications (Section 10)

23. Section 10 sets out the various initiatives and key budgets which support the Council ambition to be carbon neutral in its operational activities by 2030.

Item 5 b. - CAPITAL PLAN

24. As with the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Capital Plan for North Yorkshire Council up to 2025/26 is an aggregation of the current plans for the 8 predecessor councils.
25. The resulting Capital Plan for 2023/24 is put forward for approval. The new unitary Council is currently planning to invest £154.9m on capital schemes across the County in 2023/24 and £323.8m, in total, over the 4 year capital plan period (**paragraph 3.3 and Appendix A**).
26. A Capital Forward Plan and procedures for (i) proposing and subsequently approving new schemes for capital investment and for (ii) seeking approval to apply for and accept external funding are currently under development and will be included in a future report.
27. Financing of the Plan is also set out in **Appendix A**, with the majority from grants and contributions.

Item 5 c. - TREASURY MANAGEMENT

28. As with the preceding reports, the Treasury Management Strategy for the new North Yorkshire Council is an aggregation of the future projections of all 8 councils.

29. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 (**Annex 1 Section 1**) sets out the requirements for the overall Treasury, Borrowing, Investment and Capital Policies. It includes: the Capital Prudential Indicators (**Annex 1 Section 2**); Borrowing Strategy (**Annex 1 Section 3**); Annual Investment Strategy (**Annex 1 Section 4**) and associated the Treasury Management Strategy Appendices (**A – F**) which are put forward for approval in line with Code of Practice requirements.
30. The Capital Strategy is included at **Annex 2** of the report.
31. The Debt Recovery Policy is set out at **Annex 3**.
32. The key elements of the Treasury Management Strategy include the key limits relating to borrowing:
 - (a) an authorised limit (maximum amount that can be borrowed) for external debt of £652.1m in 2023/24;
 - (b) an operational boundary (the most likely level) for external debt of £631.1m in 2023/24.
33. The Prudential Indicators have been revised and updated in line with the latest CIPFA Code of Practice. The Estimated Ratio of Capital Financing Costs is no longer a required indicator and as a result has been removed along with the local indicator. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement is also included.
34. The Annual Investment Strategy details the Council's Investment Policy and approach to the investment of funds. The strategy is broadly in line with the North Yorkshire County Council policy which was unchanged from the previous year.

RICHARD FLINTON
Chief Executive
County Hall

GARY FIELDING
Corporate Director, Strategic Resources
County Hall

24 January 2023

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

24 January 2023

REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2023/24 & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO 2025/26

List of amends to original report

2.7 As a result of the position set out in the Table above there is a need to deliver a sizeable savings programme as part of the Council's broader transformation programme, seizing upon the opportunities of unitarization. There remains limited financial certainty beyond 2023/24 and it would be imprudent to **not** assume that further financial shocks are not only possible, but likely. As a result, savings of circa £70m need to be targeted over the next 3 years with an immediate focus on a very significant reduction to the in-year deficit in 2024/25. Much greater work and detail will be required to produce deliverable savings plans, albeit that many can build upon the LGR transitional work including the workstreams. While it is desirable to deliver savings that are efficiency related, the pace of savings needed may be such that savings of all kind will need to be considered (i.e. savings that impact upon services and / or service users). Priority should be given to efficiency savings but it is essential that the profile of savings is not back-loaded and riddled with optimism-bias.

3.1.9 The government has stated that the additional social care precept should only be used for that purpose. The Council's Section 151 officer is required to evidence that the additional council tax has been allocated to adult social care. The Council has been able to demonstrate that a combination of inflation provision and demand for the service are well in excess of funds raised by the social care precept (total projected budget increase of £**30.9m**).

3.1.31 The future scale and shape of services will be the subject of a strategic review early in the life of the new council but these income and cost pressures need to be recognised in the budget for 23/24 if services are to continue in the meantime. **In summary the following pressures have been included in the draft budget:**

4.0 CORPORATE FINANCIAL ISSUES

4.1 The following sections consider the key assumptions within the MTFS and their impact on the **County** Council's financial position over the next three years.

4.3.1 The Tax Base figures for North Yorkshire for 2023/24 is itemised at **Appendix D** - the total for NYC is 243,033.59. This represents a provisional increase in tax base from the current year of 1.37%. Given the current economic situation, the future tax base assumptions on growth rate have been retained at 1% for the remainder of the MTFS cycle.

4.5.2 Reserves are crucial to sustainable financial management but money set aside must be appropriate to the risks facing the organisation and must support delivery of corporate objectives. At this stage a wholesale review of reserves for the new Council has not been undertaken but this will be done over the coming year as the Council's priorities are refined and on-going financial issues and pressures become clearer. In broad terms however, the following categories of reserve are identified:

- **Earmarked £285m** – these reserves help to manage financial risk, commitments and support improvement and investment within service directorates. £83m is earmarked as 'Strategic Capacity' (net of £18m MTFS shortfall), £38m is earmarked for Local Government re-organisation (although only £21.1m remains uncommitted) and £31m is categorised as 'Business Rates and Council Tax Equalisation Reserves' which contain funds to equalise annual movements in business rates income as well as funds to support revenue budgets, generally; and £10m is earmarked for self-insurance;

5.0 REVENUE BUDGET POSITION IN 2023/24

5.1 A summary of the 2023/24 revenue service budget set out below with further detail (including initial forecast MTFS assumptions through to 2025/26 in **Appendix G**).

REVENUE BUDGET AT DIRECTORATE LEVEL			
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	2022/23 Budget/ MTFS £ '000	Changes	2023/24 Budget/ MTFS £ '000
Directorate Net Budgets			
Environmental Services	90,229	10,442	100,671
Children & Young People Services	90,725	17,106	107,831
Community Development Services	36,935	9,540	46,476
Health and Adult Services	199,970	30,951	230,921
Central Services	159,454	11,416	170,871
Corporate Miscellaneous	6,037	-26,903	-20,866
Net Expenditure	583,351	52,553	635,903

5.2 The 2023/24 Services revenue budget is balanced by a contribution from reserves, as detailed in paragraph 4.6.6.

8.12 Taking all of the above factors and considerations into account the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources is satisfied that the:-

- estimates used in the Revenue Budget 2023/24 are as realistic and robust as possible given the extremely challenging circumstances and that the provision of a £6m Corporate Risk Contingency plus the associated level of balances / reserves is adequate within the terms of the proposed revised policy.

- ii) associated level of balances / reserves for the MTFS period is adequate within the terms of the policy noting the extremely challenging financial position in 2023/24 and beyond with great levels of uncertainty on all key moving parts of the Budget. This view is offered, however, with the strong proviso that the new Council will need to develop the comprehensive savings plan as set out in this report and specifically in paragraph 8.11 above.

12.3 The Council is facing the compounding factors of high levels of inflation, strong demand for some high cost services, reduced income levels, distressed supply chains and an extremely challenging labour market. Against this backdrop the Council is facing a revenue budget deficit in 2023/24 of £30m and that is after additional government funding as announced in the Autumn Statement; additional savings proposals; and a proposal to set council tax (including the social care precept) at a 4.99% increase. This Budget proposes that this deficit is funded by the use of Reserves.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 That the Executive recommends to the County Council:

- b) An increase in Council Tax of 4.99% (basic 2.99% and Adult Social Care 2%) resulting in a Band D weighted average charge of £1,759.96 – an increase of £83.64 (paragraph 4.3.9 and Appendix D);
- d) That a Net Revenue Budget for 2023/24, after use of reserves, of £623,458k (Section 5.0 and Appendix H) is approved
- g) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2023/24 to 2025/26, and its caveats, as laid out in Section 3.0 and Appendix H is approved in line with the proposed council tax option.
- l) That the Chief Executive is authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for Central Services, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in Appendix B (CS 1 to 4).
- n) That the proposed policy target for the minimum level of the General Working Balance is £62m in line with Appendix G.

24 January 2023

**SCHEDULE OF APPENDICES TO MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/24 TO
2025/26 & REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2023/24**

Appendix	Title	Section Colour
A	Objectives	Cream
B	Savings Schedule	Lilac
C	Service Spending Analysis	Mid Green
D	Calculation of Council Tax Requirement	Light Blue
E	Charging Policy	Orange
F	Reserves Schedule	Buttercup
G	Reserves & Balances Policy	White
H	Summary of MTFS to 2025/26	Pink
I	Budget Consultation	Dark Blue
J	Equalities Impact Assessment	Mint
K	Risk Assessment	Cream
L	Corporate Risk Register	Lilac

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

24 January 2023

REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2023/24 & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO 2025/26

Joint Report of the Chief Executive and Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 For the Executive to make recommendations to the Council regarding:-

- a) the Revenue Budget 2023/24;
- b) the Council Tax for 2023/24; and
- c) the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024/25 to 2025/26.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

2.1 This is the first Budget for the new North Yorkshire Council (NYC). It has been produced by bringing together the known financial positions of the eight predecessor councils following excellent cooperation from all of those bodies. The start of any new council will bring great uncertainty but the production of this Budget and MTFS has been at a time of significant financial pressure and uncertainty due to external factors including:-

- The highest levels of inflation since 1981;
- Distressed adult social care markets;
- Workforce challenges with recruitment and retention;
- High demand for some key, high cost services; and
- Adapting to a post-covid environment.

2.2 Like councils across the country the new NYC faces a large budget deficit. Indeed many councils have recently received “notices of financial distress” from their section 151 officers as they struggle to bridge the financial gaps. The deficits are a consequence of many factors – covid pressures; distressed markets; demand for services; high inflation levels; reduced income levels into the council; and the complexity of all of these factors, alongside preparation for unitarisation, making it difficult to produce sustainable savings plans in time to fend off any deficit. However, unlike most of the country, NYC has the opportunity to cash in the unitary savings to address this deficit **over the medium term**. This will still require time, planning and hard work to achieve the savings and the scale of the gap is such that other difficult measures are likely to be needed in parallel to ensure that the Council remains financially sustainable.

- 2.3 The Budget for 2023/24 and the high-level MTFs both depend very heavily upon a high level of reserves to balance the deficit. Reserves can only be used once whereas there is little to suggest that the deficit is likely to improve of itself (excepting a possible reduction in energy costs at some indeterminate time). The position for 2023/24 therefore needs to be seen as a “one-off” in that reserves are used to buy time to deliver the necessary savings, recognising that the transition to the new NYC has been a period in which it has been difficult to deliver the scale of savings required to achieve medium term financial sustainability. NYC inherits a good level of reserves so this is very helpful: it can not, however, be seen as anything other than a device to buy time to deliver wholesale savings in 2024/25 and beyond. This situation is explained in more detail in **Section 8** where the section 25 notice is provided – Members are urged to read and digest the import of this advice.
- 2.4 The new Council inherits a greater range of risks, albeit with the opportunities presented by the unitary dividend, as it faces the challenges of high costs in social care alongside the pressures of energy in leisure provision and depressed income levels in response to the cost of living crisis. Risk has been a permanent feature of local government finance but the current environment is probably the most risky and uncertain in modern times. More detail is set out in **Section 9**.
- 2.5 Along with savings and efficiencies, the new NYC provides an opportunity to apply our considerable combined asset base to both rationalise and facilitate local economic growth and regeneration and drive improved outcomes for residents, businesses and visitors to our area.
- 2.6 The Table below outlines a projected recurring shortfall of £30m in 2023/24 which then builds to £45m by 2025/26.

	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Starting Budget	583,351	623,458	644,475
Added Pressures			
- Pay Inflation	19,035	11,451	8,589
- Non Pay Inflation	46,914	14,500	8,000
- Savings	-14,695	-4,599	-2,575
- Other	1,298	-1,579	2,663
Net Revenue Budget	635,903	643,231	661,152
Funded by			
Grants	76,275	85,330	80,998
Business Rates (NNDR)	119,453	109,902	96,626
Council Tax*	427,730	449,244	467,302
In-year shortfall	12,446	-1,245	16,226
Cumulative Shortfall	30,350	29,105	45,331
Cumulative use of reserves	30,350	59,455	104,786

*Please note council tax figures are based on 4.99% (as per Recommendation in this report) in 2023/24 and then 3.99% in 2024/25 followed by 2.99% in 2025/26 (both are for illustrative purposes at this stage).

- 2.7 As a result of the position set out in the Table above there is a need to deliver a sizeable savings programme as part of the Council's broader transformation programme, seizing upon the opportunities of unitarization. There remains limited financial certainty beyond 2023/24 and it would be imprudent to assume that further financial shocks are not only possible, but likely. As a result, savings of circa £70m need to be targeted over the next 3 years with an immediate focus on a very significant reduction to the in-year deficit in 2024/25. Much greater work and detail will be required to produce deliverable savings plans, albeit that many can build upon the LGR transitional work including the workstreams. While it is desirable to deliver savings that are efficiency related, the pace of savings needed may be such that savings of all kind will need to be considered (i.e. savings that impact upon services and / or service users). Priority should be given to efficiency savings but it is essential that the profile of savings is not back-loaded and riddled with optimism-bias.
- 2.8 The Budget and MTFs also includes proposals and assumptions relating to the equalisation of council tax alongside a new Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme that seeks to increase the net level of support for the most financially disadvantaged residents in North Yorkshire, in recognition of the cost-of-living pressures. It also considers the proposal to charge an additional premium on council tax for second home owners following public consultation and the Executive

consideration of the issue on 20 September 2022 and Council on 16 November 2022.

- 2.9 The MTFs and the Council Plan are presented to the Executive and full Council as a coherent package. The MTFs continue to provide the financial underpinning to deliver the core objectives as articulated in the Council Plan, recognising that next year is the first year of the new Council and that both are likely to change significantly as the new organisation matures.

3.0 THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

3.1 SERVICE PRESSURES

- 3.1.1 There are a significant number of pressures on service budgets as a result of a combination of factors. The following paragraphs seek to identify the greatest areas of financial risk and explain the issues at play within those areas.

Health and Social Care Funding

- 3.1.2 The Autumn Statement confirmed that the major reforms proposed for how people access, and pay for, adult social care have been delayed until at least October 2025. However, expectations raised by these around rates paid by the council to care providers have increased the financial pressure on a market which was already overheating.
- 3.1.3 That Statement and subsequent provisional financial settlement recognised these pressures with funding which had been earmarked for the reforms remaining in place to help with pressures in both Adults' and Children's Social Care. Additional funding has also been allocated to support hospital discharge and market sustainability issues at least in the short term.
- 3.1.4 Social care continues to be funded from multiple different funding sources (grants, council tax, social care precept, charges, money passported from the NHS). While the new grants recognise the increasing pressures of discharge and market sustainability, it should be noted that the increased grants add up to a sum which is lower than the costs of stand-still inflation for care.
- 3.1.5 This approach of cumulative and different funding sources brings with it many unwelcome complexities and does not provide for longer term sustainable planning.
- 3.1.6 The Table below identifies the various tranches of external funding that have been provided by government to support adult social care in the current and next year. It does not include Adult Social Care Precept (an increase in council tax) but it demonstrates that current spending within the Council depends upon circa £76m of on-going funding from government. The government has indicated that all of the current sources of funding will continue into 2023/24 and the MTFs has assumed that they will continue in perpetuity at this stage, as any reduction in funding will have a profound impact both locally and nationally. Clearly this assumption will

need to be tested regularly and if there are reductions then further savings will be required possibly in very short timescales.

Adult Social Care Grant – Dependency upon Government Funding

	2022/23 £ m	2023/24 £ m	Ongoing £m
Better Care Fund (BCF)	17.3	17.3	17.3
Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)	11.5	11.5	11.5
iBCF (£1.9bn)	3.4	3.4	3.4
Winter Funding	2.4	2.4	2.4
Existing Social Care Grant	20.0	20.0	20.0
New Social Care Grant	0	12.0	12.0
Independent Living Fund	1.4	1.4	1.4
Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	0	2.4	4.0
Existing Market Sustainability Fund	1.6	1.6	1.6
New Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund	0	4.0	6.8
	57.7	76.1	80.3

3.1.7 The Council has committed to deploying elements of the funding to reduce delayed transfers of care within health and social care as well as to increase social care capacity and to stabilise the social care market. The impact of any sudden end to this funding would therefore be felt in the wider health and care sectors.

Adult Social Care Precept

3.1.8 2023/24 will be the eighth year in which the government have allowed those councils who provide social care the opportunity to generate an additional “social care precept”. For 2023/24, that amount has been set at a maximum addition of 2%. This sum is set as an increase on the whole council tax base (i.e. including both the general council tax base and the adult social care precept).

3.1.9 The government has stated that the additional social care precept should only be used for that purpose. The Council’s Section 151 officer is required to evidence that the additional council tax has been allocated to adult social care. The Council has been able to demonstrate that a combination of inflation provision and demand for the service are well in excess of funds raised by the social care precept (total projected budget increase of £32.7m).

Public Health

3.1.10 Public Health is funded by a ring-fenced grant (£23.0m in 2022/23 with future years not yet confirmed) and therefore has no impact on the Council’s net budget. However, the grant does fund work across the council (for example, the bulk of the Stronger Communities programme) that improves and protects the health of people, as well as services mandated by Government (children’s health, sexual health and substance misuse services) and recent uncertainties about its future and one-year allocations adds to the complexities mentioned above.

Schools Funding

3.1.11 The Council will continue to receive a specific ring-fenced grant, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which funds all school-related responsibilities, including delegated budget shares. It is a ringfenced grant and should therefore be treated very similarly to High Needs and Housing Revenue Account in that it is not possible to move money freely between DSC and core council funding (the General Fund).

3.1.12 The amount currently allocated for 2023/24 shows an increase in the baseline figure of £31m to £534.4m. This is due to the following factors:

- Additional funding allocated due to the new school funding settlement of £18.8m
- An increase in High Needs Block funding estimated to be in the order of £7.4m
- An increase in the Local Authority early years funding rate of 26p per hour for 3 & 4 year olds and 13p per hour for vulnerable 2 years olds providing an estimated funding increase of £1.7m
- An overall net increase in the mainstream school pupil population and increases in the take up of early years funded places providing an estimated funding increase of £2.9m.

3.1.13 In summary, therefore, the change in DSG (before deductions for Academies and other direct funding of High Needs Places by the Education and Skills Funding Agency) shows:

	£'000
2022-23 base*	503,403
New funding settlement – NFF	28,011
Primary and Secondary schools – population	1,362
Universal 3 & 4 yr. old numbers	759
Working parents (3 & 4 yr. olds) numbers	824
Entitlement for 2 year olds	4
Other	219
Central School Services Historic Commitments Reduction	-183
Sub-total	534,399
High Needs deduction**	-6,366
National Non-Domestic Rates Deduction for Academies	-995
Total DSG Allocation (after High Needs deduction)	527,038

* Original DSG baseline as at December 2021. Total DSG amounts change throughout the year based on academy conversion, high needs recoupment and import/export adjustments.

**High Needs Recoupment as per the ESFA is currently £5.8m, but the final figure is not confirmed until a later date. NYCC internal calculations estimate the figure at £6.4m.

3.1.14 After the deductions for High Needs and NNDR, the DSG figure is revised to £527,038k. The final allocation is dependent on final early years' numbers and academy recoupment and therefore the total DSG will change throughout the financial year.

3.1.15 The Autumn 2022 Spending Review confirmed a net additional £2.0 billion funding increase for schools and high needs for the 2023/24 financial year, above the funding settlement announced in the 2021 Spending Review that year. Nationally, £1.6 billion of the additional funding has been allocated to schools via the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant and £400 million has been allocated as additional high needs funding within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block allocations. The indicative additional funding allocations for the Council are £13.94m for the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant and £3.23m additional funding for high needs.

3.1.16 As in previous years, the DSG will be recalculated regularly throughout the year to take account of future Academy conversions, finalising High Needs and changes in Early Years numbers. For this reason, **it is recommended that the Executive agrees that the Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources and Executive Members for CYPs and Finance, are authorised to take the final and any subsequent decisions, as a result of continuing amendments to the DSG, on the allocation of the Schools Budget including High Needs, Early Years and the Central Schools Services Block.**

High Needs

3.1.17 The financial pressure associated with the rise in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has resulted in a projected overspend of c.£0.5m in 2022/23. If confirmed, this will increase the accumulated deficit on High Needs from £9.6m to £10.1m by March 2023. The financial pressure is expected to continue in 2023/24 despite an estimated additional £4.2m in High Needs DSG funding and the £3.3m of additional funding announced in the Autumn budget statement.

3.1.18 Despite the additional funds announced by DfE, High Needs funding for North Yorkshire remains insufficient to meet the statutory obligations arising from legislative reform in 2014. The reforms extended the age range of children and young people supported from 0-18 up to 25 years old. It also increased parental expectations about the packages of support that could be delivered through EHCPs. Since 2014, there has been a 148% increase in the number of EHCPs and this trend is expected to continue in 2023/24 and beyond.

3.1.19 The Council is currently refreshing the Strategic Plan for SEND which will seek to deliver efficient and effective services across the county. Additionally, the Council is due to commence engagement in Tranche 3 of the DfE's Delivering Better Value in SEND programme from April 2023.

3.1.20 Any accumulated overspend on the High Needs budget will be required to be repaid from future High Needs Block funding allocations. In 2020, the government introduced a statutory override for a period of three years (up to end of March 2023) that meant that local authority DSG deficits could be separated from their wider accounts. The government has agreed an extension of the DSG statutory override for a further three years (up to end of March 2026) to provide time to work with local authorities to implement sustainable change, underpinned by (i) wider reform through the publication of the Department for Education's (DfE) SEND and AP Improvement Plan in early 2023, and (ii) Safety Valve and Delivering Better Value in SEND intervention programmes. The Statutory Instrument (SI): Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2022 came into force in December 2022.

3.1.21 Until this year the Council has sought to provide a matching fund to offset the deficit. However, given the sharp financial pressures in 2023/24 this approach has been paused for 2023/24 and this approach will need to be reviewed as we navigate our way through the more immediate financial pressures.

Home to School Transport

3.1.22 In 2022/23 there are 190 transport days. The daily rate for transport has continued to rise during 2022/23 and as at November 2022 represented a cost increase of an additional 7.2%. This is, in part, due to a rapid increase in demand for transport for SEND pupils. In September 2022, there were 1,372 pupils receiving SEN transport which has increased 9.3% year-on-year. Contract pressures remain arising from inflationary pressure, fuel costs and driver shortages.

Pooled Budget

3.1.23 This budget provides for the cost of caring for children with multiple vulnerabilities who often have care, education, and health-funded components in their care package. Whilst the overall number of children in these very expensive placements has remained broadly static, the level of need and cost of placements has continued to rise. Market failure and supply and demand pressures have added to price pressures in a tight provider market. Although growth provision has been made within the 2023/24 budget and MTFs, management action to address the cost pressures will be undertaken during 2023 to identify alternative accommodation and support options.

Disabled Children's Services

3.1.24 Budget and MTFs provision of £1m has been made to address the immediate cost pressures facing the Disabled Children's Service arising from staff pressures and use of agency workers. During 2023, the CYPS Directorate will review service

delivery models within the social work assessment team and the Children's Resource Centres to ensure efficient deployment of resources. A review of contributions to funded care packages will also be undertaken in order to reduce the net budget requirement in the medium-term.

School Improvement

- 3.1.25 In November 2021, the Department for Education undertook a consultation "Reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded". The consultation proposed the full withdrawal of the LA School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant by April 2023. This has now been confirmed and the full grant amount will be withdrawn for 2023/24. North Yorkshire received £843k of grant funding in 2021/22 which was used to fund statutory service provision for core school improvement activities for maintained secondary, primary, and special schools and PRS.
- 3.1.26 De-delegation applies only to LA-maintained schools and is the process by which schools can "hand-back" elements of funding should they choose to as the budget is technically initially delegated to schools. The Council consulted the North Yorkshire Schools Forum in November 2022 and agreed de-delegation of funding to address the full grant removal from April 2023.

Leisure

- 3.1.28 The leisure service across North Yorkshire is currently a mixed economy model, with services provided in-house in Craven and Hambleton; outsourced to external providers in Richmondshire, Scarborough, Selby, and Ryedale, and via a local authority owned Teckal company in Harrogate. The diversity of provision makes budgeting more challenging with visibility of issues varying across the different types of provision.
- 3.1.29 However, what is clear is the leisure sector has been particularly impacted by events over recent years. Covid lockdowns have seen income severely impacted and as the country continues through recovery, demand has not returned to pre-Covid levels – a situation exacerbated by some local competition on gym memberships and of course the current cost of living crisis.
- 3.1.30 Staffing shortages are also impacting and whilst there are obvious vacancy savings, the lack of staff in critical areas such as swimming lessons, is putting further pressure on income generation. In addition, inflation on gas and electricity is driving significant cost rises across all facilities. A number of operators have also experienced service interruptions and closures as capital improvements have been made to facilities, e.g. carbon reduction schemes. This range of variables, and their interrelationships, make accurate financial estimating more challenging than normal.
- 3.1.31 The future scale and shape of services will be the subject of a strategic review early in the life of the new council but these income and cost pressures need to be

recognised in the budget for 23/24 if services are to continue in the meantime. In summary the following pressures have been included in the draft budget:

Planning

- 3.1.32 Budget provision of £0.75m has been made to address the immediate cost pressures facing the Planning Service arising from challenges with recruitment of staff and backlogs of applications, both of which are requiring the use of agency staff at additional cost. This is a reduction on the additional budget requirement identified across the district councils in an earlier exercise in consolidating the new Council's planning budget when growth of c.£1.1m had initially been identified. The Planning Service will continue the drive to recruit to vacant posts, work to reduce the backlogs and review service delivery models to ensure efficient deployment of resources.
- 3.1.33 The proposed service budgets for 2023/24 are set out in **Appendix C**. It should be noted that these are draft allocations and further work will need to be undertaken to align the budget with the new organisational structure in 2023/24.

4.0 CORPORATE FINANCIAL ISSUES

- 4.1 The following sections consider the key assumptions within the MTFs and their impact on the County Council's financial position over the next three years.

4.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT

Provisional Settlement

- 4.2.1 The 2023/24 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was announced by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on 19th December 2022. The key headlines of the announcement for NYC were as follows:
- The Government confirmed that the referendum principle will allow local authorities to raise basic Council Tax by up to 2.99% in 2023/24 and 2024/25;
 - The ability to levy an adult social care (ASC) precept has been further extended. Authorities can apply a precept of up to 2%.
 - As well as the roll forward of existing ASC funding, the provisional settlement confirmed a significant cash increase in funding for social care via three separate grant streams:
 - Funding for the ASC charging reforms will be re-purposed to fund ongoing pressures. The NYC share for 2023/24 is £11.97m.
 - An ASC Discharge fund of which the NYC allocation is £2.43m.
 - A ring-fenced grant "to support capacity and discharges" from which NYC will receive £4.03m in 2023/24.
 - Rural Services Delivery Grant remains unchanged in cash terms at £11.0m

- New Homes Bonus payments continue for at least a further year with the Council expected to receive £4.3m. Although the Government haven't yet confirmed the position for later years the MTFs assumes the same figure for 2024/25.
- Services grant has reduced to reflect the diversion of some funding and the clawback of enhanced employer National Insurance contributions. The NYC allocation will be £3.3m in 2023/24.
- The decision to freeze the business rates multiplier will be fully funded, but, from 2023-24 onwards, compensation to authorities for under-indexation will be paid based on the Consumer Price Index rather than the Retail Price Index.

Final Settlement Announcement

- 4.2.2 At the time of writing it is still unclear when the Final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24 will be announced although it is expected to be no later than early February 2023.
- 4.2.3 It is envisaged, as in previous years, that there will be little or no difference between the final and provisional settlements. However, there remains the possibility of late adjustments. Such adjustments are unlikely to have a recurring impact and it is therefore **recommended that any difference in overall funding is merely reflected in a transfer to / from the Strategic Capacity Unallocated Reserve so long as the value is no greater than £5m in 2023/24.**
- 4.2.4 Should the Recommendations in this report be compromised by any aspect of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement, then alternative recommendations would need to be formulated. Every attempt will be made to ensure that Members are advised of the implications of the Final Settlement and any proposed amendments on the part of the Executive.

4.3 COUNCIL TAX

Tax Base

- 4.3.1 The Tax Base figures for North Yorkshire for 2023/24 is itemised at **Appendix C** - the total for NYC is 243,033.59. This represents a provisional increase in tax base from the current year of 1.37%. Given the current economic situation, the future tax base assumptions on growth rate have been retained at 1% for the remainder of the MTFs cycle.

Council Tax Harmonisation

- 4.3.2 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires local authorities to set a single basic ["Band D"] rate of Council Tax for their area. Where local authorities merge or unitarise this means setting a single level of Council Tax that applies across the whole local authority area. In the case of local government re-organisation the legislation allows for an extended period of up to eight years to achieve this harmonisation.
- 4.3.3 A members working group explored the options for harmonisation and concluded that the most appropriate option for North Yorkshire was a straight-line harmonisation over two years. This approach was approved by Executive on 18th October 2022 and then Full Council on 16th November 2022, subject to consultation. This means for 2023/24 the Band D rate will vary depending upon which former district or borough council area the Council Taxpayer resides in.

Band D Charge

- 4.3.4 The provisional settlement confirmed the maximum allowable increase in the basic council tax rate (before triggering a referendum of residents) as 2.99%. In addition, the Government extended the option to levy a special precept for Adult Social Care (ASC) of up to 2%. In light of the exceptionally difficult financial environment for local government and the pressures outlined above the Executive is recommending an increase of 4.99% (2.99% general council tax and 2% for adult social care precept). Over the last decade, council tax has proven to be the most important source of council funding and once in the base it is secure unlike government grant and business rates.
- 4.3.5 A 4.99% increase in 2023/24 would raise the average Band D council tax by £83.64 per annum (or £6.97 per month). The calculation is set out at **Appendix D** and would result in an overall average Band D level of £1759.96 in 2023/24. Details of the individual area rates are also contained in this appendix.
- 4.3.6 It should be noted that the basic amount includes special expenses of £90,000 relating to the new charter trustee arrangements for Harrogate and Scarborough towns together with an historical arrangement whereby Ryedale district council undertake the management of street lighting in the areas of the former Malton and Norton Urban District Councils and Pickering Rural District Council. The special expenses must be included in the calculation of the Band D figure for referendum purposes but are a specific charge to the residents of the parishes concerned
- 4.3.7 Based on the Tax Base assumptions at **paragraph 4.3.1** and applying a 4.99% increase in the Band D charge in 2023/24, council tax income is forecast to rise to £427.7m in 2023/24 (including an additional £8.7m for Adult Social Care).

Alternatives

4.3.8 The alternatives to the recommended 4.99% aggregate increase in Council Tax (i.e. 2.99% for general council tax plus 2% for adult social care precept) in 2023/24 would be to:

- i) set the aggregate Council Tax increase at somewhere between 0% and 4.99% - each additional or lesser 0.1% equates to + / - £427k. Any unused element of the social care precept would not be available to be applied in the Budget for 2024/25;
- ii) increase the aggregate Council Tax increase at more than the 4.99% referendum trigger which would require planning a second budget and incur the costs of undertaking a referendum (estimated to be £1m unless combined with an existing election by no later than the first Thursday in May of the year concerned).

Proposed Council Tax 2023/24

4.3.9 In accordance with the proposed MTFs and 2023/24 Revenue Budget, the following Council Tax Requirement and Band D Council Tax Charge are proposed. More detail, including the specific area rates and other Council Tax Bands, is provided in **Appendix D**. A formal Council Tax Resolution Report will accompany this budget report at full Council on 22 February 2023.

COUNCIL TAX 2023/24	
	4.99%
Council Tax Requirement	£ 427,729,812
District Council Tax Base (equivalent number of Band D properties)	243,033.59
Basic Amount of Council Tax per Band D property	£ 1,759.96
Increase over 2022/23 (£ 1,676.32)	
£ increase	£ 83.64
% increase	4.99%
Of which:	
Adult Social Care Precept (2.00%)	£ 50.12
Council Tax Precept	£33.52

4.3.10 From the total council tax requirement in 2023/24, £379m relates to the basic amount of council tax and the remainder (£49m) is made up by the Adult Social Care Precept.

Council Tax Premiums on Second Homes

4.3.11 On the 16th November 2022, Full Council approved, in principle, the introduction of a 100% premium on council tax for properties in North Yorkshire that are second homes. The issues were set out in the report to the Executive on 20 September 2022. This issue has been considered within the Council's consultation exercise and 79% of responses agreed with the proposals to introduce a 100 per cent

council tax premium for second home owners with 14% disagreeing (see **Section 6** for more detail).

4.3.12 The proposal is dependent upon the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill receiving Royal Assent. The recommendation included in this report to introduce the second homes premium is therefore consistent with the previous decision of 20 September 2022; supported by the findings of the consultation with the public; and is dependent upon the Bill being progressed as currently drafted.

4.4 KEY SPENDING ASSUMPTIONS

Inflation

4.4.1 The last twelve months have seen a significant rise on the general rate of inflation (CPI) with CPI reaching 11.1% in October 2022. All eight former councils have seen inflationary pressures impact upon their respective budgets over the last 12 months, with a higher than budgeted pay award for local government staff, high energy costs and a number of contingency budgets being deployed to support pressures within adult social care. To demonstrate the impact, last year's aggregated MTFS assumed an additional £21m would be required for inflation in 2023/24 whilst this Budget report now provides for £66m.

4.4.2 Inflation has been applied consistently across most budget heads and a general rate of 10.1% has been used based on the increase in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) in the year to September 2022. This national index does not necessarily reflect the local price pressures faced by local government but it is regarded as a reasonable general indicator.

4.4.3 Inflation provision has been reviewed and applied according to need on other more specific budget heads. This includes Highways (25%), Electricity (100%), Gas (100%), Fuel (26.5%) and Children and Adult Social Care (up to 10.24%).

Fees and Charges

4.4.4 Following the adoption of the Fees and Charges Strategy, which was approved by Executive Members in November 2022, income budgets have been reviewed and updated in accordance with the strategy. Given the historically high levels of inflation that the UK is currently experiencing, a minimum inflationary increase of 6% was approved for 2023/24 budget setting. The default charging policy, which is set out at **Appendix E**, is full cost recovery and for those services following an alternative approach, a clear rationale has been provided:

Car Parking - car parking charges are frozen for 23/24. Car parking charges (and any increase) will be reviewed as part of an overarching parking strategy. Charging can be used, not just to generate income, but also influence/stimulate local visitor economies and also to encourage environmentally beneficial travel choices. The impact of this proposal is an

estimated loss of income of £437k which has been included in the draft budget as an income pressure.

Commercial Property Rentals – no increases are proposed from April 2023. Charges are subject to specific agreements and some are linked to market valuations. A review of charges will be undertaken during 23/24. The impact of this proposal is an estimated loss of income of £0.2m which has been included in the draft budget as an income pressure.

Allotment Holders – holders require 12 months notice of increases in charges. An increase of 2.85% has been previously agreed for 23/24. Notice will be given to holders to enable a 6% fee increase from 24/25. With only £16k generated from allotments in the Harrogate area the marginal impact is minimal.

Harmonisation of Fees and Charges – as a general approach the majority of fees and charges are not proposed for harmonisation for 23/24. Fees and charges will be considered as services are reviewed from vesting day onwards. There are some services however, where early harmonisation is considered important – green waste collection, taxi licensing fees, court costs and building control fees are under review but all will take into account the default 6% inflationary increase in income overall.

Pay and the Living Wage

4.4.5 Pay award assumptions are included within the MTFs at 6% for 2023/24, 4% for 2024/25 and 3% for 2025/26.

4.4.6 The government have also confirmed the National Living Wage (NLW) will rise from £9.50 to £10.42 per hour from 1st April 2023, as recommended by the Low Pay Commission. As per the local government NJC pay award, the lowest spinal point 1 will be dis-established from the 1st April 2024. From the 1st April the new local government NJC pay spine starts at £10.60 an hour.

4.4.7 A number of factors, including the NLW have put further pressure in certain markets such as the care sector and has led to other measures being considered and funding approved as part of this budget

4.5 RESERVES AND BALANCES

4.5.1 The Council uses reserves to manage spending and savings delivery over the longer term. As part of the initial budget process the various legacy council reserves have been collated to identify those earmarked for specific initiatives/projects, those that are restricted in use (for example s106 sums) and those that are effectively unallocated and available to help support the revenue budget and manage risk.

4.5.2 Reserves are crucial to sustainable financial management but money set aside must be appropriate to the risks facing the organisation and must support delivery of corporate objectives. At this stage a wholesale review of reserves for the new Council has not been undertaken but this will be done over the coming year as the Council's priorities are refined and on-going financial issues and pressures become clearer. In broad terms however, the following categories of reserve are identified:

- **Earmarked £285m** – these reserves help to manage financial risk, commitments and support improvement and investment within service directorates. £83m is earmarked as 'Strategic Capacity' (net of £18m MTFS shortfall), £28m is earmarked for Local Government re-organisation and £31m is categorised as 'Business Rates and Council Tax Equalisation Reserves' which contain funds to equalise annual movements in business rates income as well as funds to support revenue budgets, generally; and £10m is earmarked for self-insurance;
- **Restricted £78m** - some reserves are restricted in use due to legislative requirements or specific legal/funding agreements – examples include: ring-fenced Housing Revenue Account reserves (£24m); Community Infrastructure Levies/s106 sums for specific investments (£14m); capital receipts (£12m); and capital grants (£7m);
- **Unallocated £61m** forecast at 31 March 2023 of which **£53.5m of this held as General Fund Working Balances**. The General Fund Working Balance is the Council's funding of last resort. It provides the contingency to manage risk across the Council and is subject to a proposed minimum 10% policy requirement. The current balance is below this minimum level but there are other reserves which can mitigate in the short-term, pending a full review of reserves in 23/24.

4.5.3 All 8 legacy councils had on-going investment plans and a schedule of reserves is set out at **Appendix F** along with their planned movements based on current spending plans and the proposed budget/MTFS.

4.5.4 **Appendix G** sets out the proposed reserve policy and also includes a set of "good practice rules".

4.6 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK TO 2025/26

4.6.1 The MTFS included in this report includes up to 2025/26 in full. It should be noted, however, that only 2023/24 is based upon "firm" government announcements. The government has made some pronouncements about 2024/25 which are helpful for planning purposes and are included in the MTFS but the single biggest impact upon the Council's finances is likely to be the impact of inflation – i.e. what we need to increase our spending by to deliver the same level of service.

- 4.6.2 The future financial prognosis for local government therefore remains unclear beyond 2023/24 but the same may be said for the whole of the public sector and the private sector. The government has indicated that it expects councils to use its own reserves in order to bridge the deficits predicted in 2023/24. This Budget does that but the key challenge is to identify how that deficit is met when reserves are depleted. This Council, as explained earlier, has the advantage of being able to target unitarization savings so needs to grasp this advantage to cement financial stability in the midst of national and international uncertainty.
- 4.6.3 The Secretary of State for DLUHC has indicated that the next two years will, more or less, stick with the base funding position for each council. Whilst there is an admission that the current methodology of council funding is outdated, the current environment does not lend itself to introducing change. The prospect of the Fairer Funding Review has always been attractive to places like North Yorkshire but it now looks less likely that this will be introduced within the current parliamentary timetable, if at all. Financial planning cannot therefore be predicated on an improved distribution of government funding, regardless of the perceived inequities.
- 4.6.4 The single biggest area of spending for the Council remains adult social care. The government has delayed its proposed reforms to the cost cap but it has helpfully provided the earmarked funding to deal with some of the fundamental issues impacting upon social care. This area has been set out earlier in **Paras 3.1.2 to 3.1.7**. Should the government revisit the cap on care costs and other associated changes then this is likely to result in further significant costs for the Council. For the purposes of this Budget / MTFs it is assumed that any such implementation will be met by equal funding from government.
- 4.6.5 It should also be borne in mind that there remains a systemic shortfall in the Dedicated Schools Grant funding for SEND and demand is continuing to increase. The deficits are currently ringfenced as negative reserves but this remains an unsustainable approach. In parallel, there remains a shortfall on capital funding particularly for schools and a lack of availability of special schools provision given rising demand.
- 4.6.6 This year's proposed Budget relies upon Reserves to ensure a balanced position. The MTFs as set out in this report assumes that the funding gap will again be supported by the use of one-off Reserves pending implementation of a comprehensive savings programme. In the meantime, **para 2.6** illustrates that £30m of reserves are needed to balance the budget in 2023/24 alone and this could rise to £45m by the end of 2025/26 should no further savings be forthcoming. This would deplete Reserves and corrective action would be required prior to this position.
- 4.6.7 The recurring annual savings from establishing a unitary council for North Yorkshire were estimated to range from £31.9m to £68.5m. Given the scale of the financial deficit it is clear that savings will need to be towards the top-end of this range and

other savings will need to be found to supplement LGR inspired savings. It is very possible that many of the savings will be hard to attribute towards LGR or otherwise – the key requirement is that savings are identified and delivered regardless of the catalyst.

4.7 SAVINGS

Savings Programme

4.7.1 The previous Medium Term Financial Strategies of the individual authorities included some savings plans for future years. These plans have been reviewed and although a lot of resource is being focused on transitioning to the new council, there has been some new savings captured, including some early LGR savings linked to transition. The table below sets out the savings for the new council.

Directorate Savings	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	Ongoing £m
Children and Young People's Services	0.4	3.0	2.3	5.7
Environment Services	1.6	1.4	-	3.0
Central Services /Corporate Savings	7.1	-	-	7.1
Health and Adult Services	1.3	1.3	0.3	2.9
Community Development Services	1.1	-	-	1.1
LGR Savings	3.2	-		3.2
Shortfall	30.4	-1.2	16.2	45.4
Total	45.1	4.5	18.8	68.4

4.8 INVESTMENTS

4.8.1 Given the scale of the financial challenge and the need for reserves to bolster the revenue budget there is very limited scope for investments. There are two areas, however, where additional funding has been proposed:

Members Locality Budgets

4.8.2 Provision has been made for the life of the MTFs for a £10k annual Member Locality Budget. This was in place for NYCC Members previously and Craven DC also had a similar scheme. This Budget now provides for all 90 Councillors to access £10k per annum on an on-going basis subject to the rules of the scheme.

Area Constituency Committees (ACCs)

4.8.3 An annual sum of £50k has been provided for each ACC. This is to allow ACCs to commission works they feel appropriate to their local areas. This may, for example, involve a feasibility study for transport / regeneration which means the Council is then well placed to attract funding (external or core funding).

4.8.4 Previous investments made as the County Council continue to exist:

- environmental schemes to target net zero for the Council (balance currently standing at £518k)

- LGR Transition Reserve to fund the one-off work to deliver the unitary NYC and the associated savings / benefits (balance currently standing at £21.1m).

4.8.5 There are no other proposed investments set out in this Budget / MTFs. Future investment decisions will be able to be made once there is greater certainty about the medium term financial position, including confidence about the deliverability of key savings initiatives.

5.0 REVENUE BUDGET POSITION IN 2023/24

5.1 A summary of the 2023/24 revenue service budget set out below with further detail (including initial forecast MTFs assumptions through to 2025/26 in **Appendix G**).

REVENUE BUDGET AT DIRECTORATE LEVEL			
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	2022/23 Budget/ MTFs £ '000	Changes	2023/24 Budget/ MTFs £ '000
Directorate Net Budgets			
Environmental Services	93,928	10,345	104,273
Children & Young People Services	90,725	17,106	107,831
Community Development Services	30,580	8,896	39,476
Health and Adult Services	199,170	30,951	230,921
Central Services	151,549	10,617	166,166
Corporate Miscellaneous	16,599	-25,362	-8,763
Net Expenditure	583,351	52,553	635,903

5.2 The 2023/24 Services revenue budget is balanced by a contribution from reserves, as detailed in paragraph 4.5.10.

5.3 An analysis of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget at Directorate level is attached at **Appendix C**.

6.0 CONSULTATION

Partners

6.1 There have been unprecedented levels of consultation with the public, partners, businesses and communities over the last 12 months principally as a result of LGR. These include:

Health partners – The creation of the Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership has provided further opportunity for the Council and health partners to work together on areas of common interest such as health and social care workforce, the social care market, complex care and wider health and wellbeing needs of residents.

Business – significant engagement has take place with the business sector over the least year particularly as part of the consultation on devolution. This builds upon

the strengthening relationship with local businesses through the Covid pandemic alongside the on-going relationship with a number of SMEs, the Federation for Small Business, Chamber of Commerce and the York & North Yorkshire LEP.

Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) – the last three years has seen strengthened arrangements between the County Council, the seven district councils and the VCS as the VCS was at the forefront of the community responses to covid and the cost of living crisis. This was building on the strong foundations of the Stronger Communities Programme and a mature and well established network of relations that will continue to help shape priorities and plans. Future priorities across a range of issues of shared interest were explored in detail at the Wider Partnership Conference in September 2022 and through the Thriving Communities Partnership. In addition two well-attended webinars were held relating to LGR.

Town and parish councils – four well-attended webinars have been held with Town and Parish Councils building upon the earlier areas of engagement relating to LGR. A joint working group has also developed a revised Parish Charter.

LGR – following the decision by Government to undertake LGR a wide range of stakeholders including local residents have continued to be engaged through regular briefings and eight webinars, which have provided an opportunity to better understand the priorities of all stakeholders.

- 6.2 The engagement as described above means that the Council feels well placed to understand the priorities of a range of partners as it seeks to bring together the Council Plan and the Budget.

General Public

- 6.3 Let's Talk Money was launched on 31 October 2022 and ran until 23 December 2022. The survey included questions on spending, council tax, people's priorities and the impact of the cost of living crisis. The survey was hosted on 'Commonplace', our digital engagement platform. It was run alongside the Let's Talk Local campaign for which there were engagement events across the county and at which the survey was also promoted. The work was supported by a marketing campaign using owned, earned and paid for print, digital, broadcast and social media channels, directing people to the platform. Hard copies and alternative formats were available on request.
- 6.4 2,654 valid responses to the survey were received. Responses were received from people who live and work within all districts across North Yorkshire, although people from Harrogate were over represented in the responses as where people aged 50-64.
- 6.5 The survey asked people to allocate a budget of £100,000 across 12 council services. The top ranked services, based on the services which people allocated most budget to, were:
- Education – average allocation of 15% of the budget

- Adult social care– average allocation of 15% of the budget
 - Highways and transport– average allocation of 12% of the budget
 - Children’s social care– average allocation of 11% of the budget
- 6.6 More than three-quarters of responses (79%) agreed with the proposals to introduce a 100 per cent council tax premium for second home owners.
- 6.7 People were asked what they thought about how the new council plans to make council tax rates the same for all of North Yorkshire across two years. Around half the responses (51%) supported the approach of harmonising council tax rates over two years, around one-in-five (21%) thought it should happen sooner and a similar proportion (19%) thought it should take longer. However, results varied across districts. People in Harrogate and Richmondshire, who will see a reduction in their bills, were much more likely to agree that this should happen over two years (60% of responses in both districts). Scarborough people were much more likely to say it should happen sooner than two years (33% of responses). A higher proportion of people in Hambleton, Craven and Selby felt that this process should take longer than two years (Hambleton 31%, Craven 23%, Selby 22%) and a higher proportion said other (Hambleton 17%, Craven 18%, Selby 15%).
- 6.8 People were asked how much they would be willing to increase council tax by to help deliver critical services across North Yorkshire on a scale of 0% to 5+%. A quarter of responses (25%) in the survey stated that they would be willing to pay a 2% increase in council tax to help deliver critical services across North Yorkshire. A further 22% would support a 1% increase and 15% a 3% increase. Around one-in-five responses (18%) would not support an increase of any amount.
- 6.9 In addition, people were asked how much extra they would be willing to pay to fund the demand for adult social care services across North Yorkshire on a scale of 0% to 5+%. A third of responses (33%) would be willing to pay a 1% increase in council tax to fund adult social care services. A further 20% would support a 2%. Around one-in-five (22%) would not support an increase of any amount.
- 6.10 Further detail, including feedback on comments received and questions on the cost of living crisis can be found in Appendix

Members Involvement

- 6.11 A number of Member’s Seminars have been carried out (or are due to be) during the year to include the Budget and MTFs in the run up to consideration of the Budget at County Council on 22 February 2023. These include:-
- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 7 December 2022 | Update on Autumn Statement and latest projected Revenue Budget position |
| 4 January 2023 | Update on Budget / MTFs including Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement followed by sessions to discuss directorate financial issues |

5 – 16 Jan 2023 Updates at all 6 Area Constituency Committees with discussion on possible local financial impacts

1 Feb 2023 Update on Budget/ MTFS following the Executive recommendations from 24 January 2023

6.12 In addition there was a Members' Working Group which considered the issue of council tax harmonisation and met three times culminating in a report to the Executive on 18 October 2022 with subsequent recommendations.

Overview and Scrutiny and the Budget / MTFS

6.13 The Council's five thematic overview and scrutiny committees undertake regular scrutiny of policies and strategies that have significant budgetary implications. The committees also have ongoing dialogue with Corporate Directors, Portfolio Holders, Spokespeople and partners about departmental and service finances, budgetary pressures and what action is being taken to address them.

6.14 At the meeting of the County Council on 20 July 2022, the Transition (Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)) overview and scrutiny committee was constituted for the period July 2022 to March 2023. The role of the committee is to scrutinise significant decisions made by the Executive regarding the creation of the new unitary authority.

6.15 As part of the engagement of all members in the development of policies and approaches relating to the new unitary council, 7 member working groups were established. Whilst these were private meetings and not part of a formal scrutiny process, they did enable members to review proposals ahead of them going to the Executive, the Member Working Group on the Constitution and formal scrutiny. The working groups typically met 3 times each over the period August to October 2022.

6.16 The formal scrutiny of the budgets for Children and Young People's Services and Health and Adult Services is now well established and was undertaken throughout 2022 by the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was in response to known demand and cost pressures being faced by services.

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6.17 Some of the areas that the committee has reviewed that have a significant budgetary implication are as below:

- The development of the Customer Portal as the first point of access to some Council services and the progress being made with the channel shift to online services
- The management of the Council's property portfolio, the impact of inflationary pressures and the potential for future savings following the creation of the new unitary council

- The contribution that volunteers make to the Council and the delivery of key aspects of some services
- Workforce data and statistics, including vacancy levels and its impact upon service delivery
- An analysis of insurance claims, including trend data and how risks are managed
- The delivery of the Council Plan and progress against key objectives and performance indicators.

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6.18 Some of the areas that the committee has reviewed that have a significant budgetary implication are as below:

- Financial pressures and the departmental budget position, taking into account increasing demand for services, the impact of inflation and adult social care charging reforms
- The Local Account for North Yorkshire Health and Adult Services, which details how services have supported people across the county, how public money has been invested, and what the aims are for the following year
- The care market and the cost and availability of care placements.

Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6.19 Some of the areas that the committee has reviewed that have a significant budgetary implication are as below:

- Children and Young Peoples Services department financial position, taking into account increasing demand for services, the impact of inflation and the cost of living crisis
- School finances and the actions undertaken to support schools in financial difficulty
- The financial pressures arising from an increasing number of children with Education Health and Care plans in schools.

Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6.20 Some of the areas that the committee has reviewed that have a significant budgetary implication are as below:

- The management of waste and recycling and the performance of the Allerton Waste Recovery Park
- The performance of NY Highways
- North Yorkshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the work underway to prevent and/or reduce the impact of flooding
- The Council's climate change strategy and the work underway to meet carbon reduction targets
- An update from Highways England on the maintenance and improvement of strategic road routes and networks.

Scrutiny of Health Committee

- 6.21 The Scrutiny of Health Committee has also undertaken key aspects of overview and scrutiny work looking at changes to health service commissioning and provision in the county, which in turn impacts upon a range of services provided by the Council, particularly adult social care. This has included:
- The development of Integrated Care Systems and Partnerships and what this means for the commissioning and provision of health and social care services in the county
 - A review of CQC reports and follow up on improvement action plans for York and Scarborough Hospitals and the Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
 - An update on the maintenance of Airedale Hospital and progress with the proposed build of a new hospital on the site.

Transition (LGR) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 6.22 Some of the areas that the committee has reviewed that have a significant budgetary implication are as below:
- The proposed countywide Strategic Leisure Services Review and the proposals for leisure services in Selby
 - Proposals for Council Tax harmonisation
 - Customer services in the new unitary council
 - An update on the HR matters relating to the transition from 8 local authorities to 1
 - The consultation on the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
 - Economic development and tourism and the support for small and medium enterprises in the new unitary council.

Scrutiny Board

- 6.23 Scrutiny Board brings together the Chairs of the six overview and scrutiny committees at the Council and the Older Peoples' and Young People's Champions. It provides an opportunity for a whole council view of scrutiny activity, which avoids gaps and overlaps and helps establish a lead committee for areas of joint interest.
- 6.24 Scrutiny Board has formally reviewed the quarterly Performance and Budget Management report and attended the meetings of the Executive to raise queries and/or issues of concern.

Member working groups

- 6.25 Some of the areas that the working groups have reviewed that have a significant budgetary implication are as below:

- Council Tax Harmonisation
- Planning and licensing functions/decision making in the new unitary council
- Support for members in their division based work
- The role and remit of the Area Constituency Committees
- Waste collection and disposal
- Parish and Town councils and double devolution
- Customer services and the approach to 'one front door' for the new unitary council.

6.26 In addition, the six Area Constituency Committees reviewed the Council's annual budget proposals at their January 2023 round of formal, public committee meetings.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

General Legal Duties in respect of Budget

- 7.1 The legal duties upon the Council to calculate the budget, consider savings proposals, calculate council tax requirement and the amount of council tax are set out in the report and in the remainder of this section.
- 7.2 The Council has statutory duties to set a balanced budget pursuant to section 31 (A) Local Government Finance Act 1992. Section 151 Local Government Act 1972 requires a suitably qualified named officer to keep control of the Council's finances. It is a legal requirement that the Chief Finance Officer, our Corporate Director Strategic Resources, has to report to Full Council on the robustness of the estimates provided and the adequacy of financial reserves allowed in the budget in accordance with Section 25 Local Government Act 2003. The estimates must be sufficient to cover any regular recurring costs, accounting for any reasonable risks and uncertainties, and in the event of unexpected expenditure there are adequate reserves to draw upon.

7.3 Further General Legal Implications

Equality Implications

- 7.3.1 The Council must demonstrate that it pays due regard in developing its budget and policies and in its decision-making process to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities with regard to the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. This includes taking account of the additional compounding factors such as the rural nature of the county and the cumulative impact of proposals on groups with protected characteristics across the range of services. The impact of proposals and decisions on the Council's activities as a service provider and an employer must be considered.

- 7.3.2 At the earliest possible opportunity, significant proposed changes in service provision and budget are considered to identify whether there are likely to be any equality implications.
- 7.3.3 If potential equality implications are identified, the Council follows an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process to enable the collection of data and analysis of impacts and to try to reduce and mitigate any impact. EIAs are developed alongside savings proposals, with equalities considerations worked into the proposals from the beginning.
- 7.3.4 If a draft EIA suggests that the proposed changes are likely to result in adverse impacts, further detailed investigation and consultations are undertaken as the detailed proposals are developed. Proposed changes will only be implemented after due regard to the implications has been paid in both the development process and the formal decision-making process.
- 7.3.5 Where the potential for adverse impact is identified in an EIA, services will seek to mitigate this so far as it is possible to do so in a number of ways including developing new models of service delivery, partnership working and by helping people to develop a greater degree of independent living.
- 7.3.6 The Council has also carried out a high-level equality assessment to highlight which protected groups may be affected by the budget proposals in 2023/24, identify any emerging themes and cumulative impacts, and consider them within evidence gathering and more detailed EIAs. The high-level equality assessment can be found at **Appendix J**. Members are required to read the individual EIAs to inform their decision making and ensure legal compliance with the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010. There must be conscientious consideration by Members, as decision makers, of the impact upon the proposals on the relevant groups. This duty cannot simply be discharged by officers and due regard must be paid by Members.
- 7.3.7 Pursuant to Section 149 Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between person who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

7.4 Overview

- 7.4.1 This section provides an overview of equality issues associated with the new unitary Council's budget proposals for 2023/24. It summarises potential equality impacts identified in relation to the budget, and the steps taken to minimise any potentially adverse impact on protected groups during the development of the budget.
- 7.4.2 Individual equality impact assessments have been carried out for specific proposals identified as having potential equality implications.

7.4.3 The establishment of the single unitary council for North Yorkshire means that savings for 2023/24 are concentrated on increased efficiency and the reduction of duplication. There will be fewer councillors, reducing the cost of local democracy while also providing a clearer, stronger and more accountable political voice for our county. Consolidating eight local authorities into a single organisation is also enabling significant immediate and ongoing savings to be made from the rationalisation of senior management posts. Further savings are being made through managing vacant posts.

7.5 Information used to analyse the effects on equality

7.5.1 This assessment is based on a process of consultation and equality impact assessment built into the Council's overall budget development process. This has included:

- Equality impact assessments (EIAs) for specific budget proposals where a potential equality impact has been identified
- On-going discussions between colleagues, partners and Executive councillors
- Additional consideration of cumulative equality and wider community impact of the proposals
- Responses to public consultation through a number of channels, including our comprehensive Let's Talk engagement programme which was launched in September 2022. This programme is designed to help to shape priorities for vital services for everyone across the county through face-to-face events and use of our digital engagement platform.

7.5.2 Statistical information and research such as demographic data have been referenced where appropriate. Other information has informed equality impact assessments for specific proposals where appropriate.

7.6 Summary of impact

7.6.1 Funding provided by central government to local authorities to deliver services has been reduced significantly in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic and current cost of living rises have only exacerbated this and we know that the long term financial position remains uncertain and difficult.

7.6.2 However, moving to unitary status, combined with an ambitious transformation programme, will enable the new council to refocus its operating model around its key priorities and outcomes, redesigning its interactions with customers and partners and front and back-office functions. This will provide initial savings in the cost of democracy and senior management and there will be opportunities for further efficiency savings going forward such as Property Rationalisation and the implementation of New Ways of Working that align to the new authority's implementation of Modern Council Principles. The rationalisation will result in the transformation of the Councils property portfolio to achieve an annual reduction of £1.5 million. We will remain focused on maintaining a strong financial grip on delivering further financial savings and income growth.

7.6.3 The Council are aware that raising council tax may have an adverse impact upon household budgets particularly for those of working age with protected characteristics e.g. disability and sex, and especially during the current cost of living crisis. In the current financial climate, however, a lower council tax increase would require greater

cuts to frontline services. The likely impact may be higher where the households are reliant upon social security benefits. More details of how protected characteristics may be affected are included in **Appendix J**.

- 7.6.4 North Yorkshire Council is proposing to recommend to Executive and if they agree recommend to Full Council to take up the government's offer to raise an additional social care precept. This can only be used to fund extra costs of adult social care. Without this precept, the Council would have to find additional savings as demand for adult social care is increasing and the costs of care packages are increasing.
- 7.6.5 There is a legal requirement to harmonise council tax base level across the county and, to get the right balance of fairness for everyone, the recommendation is that council tax levels are made the same over a period of two financial years starting from 1 April 2023. This avoids the sharp and sudden increase that would happen by making council tax the same in a single year, but means that people are paying the same amount for the same services more quickly than they otherwise might. For people in some areas this will mean an increase in their council tax bill and for others it will mean they pay less.
- 7.6.6 Some potential adverse impact may occur as supporting vulnerable adults is a very high cost to the Council and more and more people require the Council's support. Around a quarter of the county's adult population is over the age of 65. This is considerably higher than the national percentage of 18.6%. Every year the population of older people increases, and with it the demand for the care and support which the council provides. By 2035, 32.60% of North Yorkshire's total population will be aged 65+ and 5.97% will be aged 85+. (Nationally 23.26% will be 65+ and 4.05% will be 85+ by 2035).
- 7.6.7 The rurality and sparsity of population in some parts of the county also present challenges for the council in provision of services.
- 7.6.8 The council needs to make savings and proposes to seek this school improvement element of the locality board funding from other sources including DfE, through the investment areas, and consideration of using delegated funds agreed by North Yorkshire Schools Forum as well as the Early Years Block. The council intends to ensure that all funding for school improvement is supported by evidence informed and effective actions.
- 7.6.9 **Among the efficiency savings are:**
- reducing the costs of democracy through having fewer councillors as a unitary authority
 - reducing our management costs through having fewer senior managers, therefore saving on salaries and on-costs
 - vacancy management
 - rationalisation of the property portfolio
- 7.6.10 There are no additional frontline savings planned for this budget year, although, in future years, savings are anticipated from the transformation of services across the council.
- 7.6.11 Overall impacts for the protected groups relating to savings proposals are summarised in **Appendix J**.

7.7 Summary of overall action to decrease adverse impact or increase positive impact

7.7.1 Various programmes have been implemented to increase resilience in the communities of North Yorkshire and reduce demand on services. These should help mitigate the effects of service reduction, particularly on those with protected characteristics.

7.7.2 Our Stronger Communities team has been set up specifically to support communities to help themselves and to take on a greater role in the provision of services. This is particularly in the areas of community libraries, community transport, activities for young people, children and families, and support for older and more vulnerable people to remain involved and active within their community.

7.7.3 Community Support - Covid19 Recovery

Stronger Communities will continue to work with the network of 23 Community Support Organisations (CSOs) until March 2023, to evolve the local community support offer developed as part of the place-based response to the Covid pandemic. Although Covid response has now been scaled back as individuals and communities focus on recovery activities, it is acknowledged that as we move into winter, there will be broader community resilience challenges such as cost of living and winter pressures. CSOs will therefore continue to work in partnership with NYCC to act as a place-based single point of contact for locally based support, in collaboration with their volunteers, partners and networks.

7.7.4 As well as pandemic recovery, the Stronger Communities programme continues to lead a number of other work areas including:

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme: The Stronger Communities programme continues to lead on the delivery of HAF, in partnership with Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) and the voluntary and community sector. Coordination of the programme is being undertaken by North Yorkshire Together who in conjunction with locally placed clubs and community organisations, deliver a range of enriching activities over holiday periods (excluding half terms). Since the Programme's inception, 17,105 primary aged children and 5,529 secondary aged children have benefitted from a mix of free activity club places and activity packs. Provision has also been made for paid for places, with 12,361 primary aged children and 698 secondary aged children accessing over the lifetime of the programme.

Household Support Fund: Work continued to distribute North Yorkshire County Council's allocations of Household Support Fund in 2021/22. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) funded programme aims to support those most in need with significantly rising living costs. In line with the expenditure guidelines of each phase, eligibility frameworks have been developed in partnership with the seven District and Borough Councils, to provide a mixture of targeted and universal support for households in need. A total of 59,647 households have been supported since the scheme's inception in October 2021, with a further 40,000 anticipated to be supported this winter.

Local Food Support: Work continues on the collaborative insight work with City of York Council to better understand the food insecurity landscape in the region. The

work will evaluate the range of support services that were established during the pandemic and explore potential opportunities for future service provision.

In addition to the Food for the Future programme launched in Autumn 2021, additional grants have also awarded to food banks and / or organisations that supply food to those in need through the three rounds of Household Support Fund (October 2021 – March 2022, April 2022 – September 2022 and October 2022 – March 2023). Across all three phases of Household Support Fund, 44 grant awards have been made, totalling £465,000 to bolster the capacity of the free food infrastructure across the County.

Suicide Prevention: Stronger Communities has administered a range of NHS mental health grants since 2019/20 including grassroots suicide prevention, self-harm co-design project and postvention support (activities which reduce risk and promote healing after a suicide death). In 2020/21, the programme was asked to manage the entire budget for the Humber Coast & Vale ICS geographic footprint as well as Harrogate and Craven; the grants programme was subsequently launched in September 2021.

Since 2019/20, Stronger Communities has managed a total investment of £313,988 across 6 NHS mental health grant programmes for suicide prevention work in the County as well as on behalf of colleagues in Darlington and also Humber, Coast and Vale geographical patches.

Across these investments 56 unique VCSEs / community organisations have received awards to deliver services / interventions at community level from grassroots suicide prevention, self-harm co-design project and postvention support.

The aim of these programmes is to provide funding across various areas to support an overall national 10% reduction in suicide rate. Our outcomes include;

- Reducing stigma and discrimination
- Developing mentally healthy communities and workplaces
- Reducing loneliness and social and emotional isolation
- Reducing suicides.

Reboot North Yorkshire: A collaborative project led by the County Council was formed in 2021 to address digital inequalities and to increase digital inclusion by getting as many people online as possible. Work on Reboot North Yorkshire continued to progress in 2022 with a particular focus on encouraging the public and small businesses to consider donating their surplus or unwanted devices to Reboot NY before disposing of them. The number of organisations and services referring their clients into the scheme has increased and 627 devices and 133 SIM cards have been gifted to socially isolated individuals or those in need since the scheme started.

Cost-of-living support: In conjunction with internal and external partners, the cost-of-living support page on the NYCC website has been updated and reconfigured to provide as comprehensive a picture as possible. This encompasses links to national schemes but also to more local sources of information, encompassing help available at District and Borough Council level with details of housing costs, rent and council tax support and how to access local Community Support

Organisations (CSOs) for advice and guidance. This will continue to be updated over the winter as new offers of support and / or initiatives become available.

A Cost-of-living media and communications campaign with a range of key messages each week will be delivered over the winter focussing on support for children and families, food insecurity, advice on money, free Wi-fi and digital, transport, energy saving and support for voluntary and community groups delivering cost-of-living support activity.

7.7.5 Also, as part of the wider prevention service, our Living Well Coordinators work with individuals (and their carers) who are on the cusp of becoming regular users of health and social care services by helping them access activities in their local community, reducing loneliness and isolation, and supporting them to find their own solutions to their health and wellbeing goals. Team members provide help with practical and emotional issues. Since 2019 the service has supported over 13000 people. For the year 2021/22 the majority of people being supported are those that are physically frail or have another vulnerability (52%) with 19% needing mental health support and 91% of people receiving Living Well support said that they would definitely recommend the service to others.

7.7.6 Through our Extra Care programme we are providing homes where people can live independently, but with care on hand when they need it. We also support people with the skills and equipment they need to live independently. As shown above, and based on the evidence of the period 2011-2023, Extra Care does represent a positive change in provision, both in terms of outcomes for people and financially for individuals and NYCC. Future provision will follow this model and as such impacts are expected to be in line with those already established.

7.7.7 The North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF) is a fund providing practical support for vulnerable people, for example those fleeing domestic abuse, or those with complex mental health issues and individuals who might have recently experienced a crisis and need a few basic essential items to help them cope. Awards are goods made in kind and do not have to be repaid. The Fund is to be used when other forms of support have been exhausted.

Since October 2021, NYLAF has temporarily increased award entitlement for emergency provision. Eligible applicants are now able to apply for up to four awards of emergency food and/or utility vouchers. The fund received additional funding in 21/22 to make sure people who might be struggling and feeling the financial pressures of paying their bills over winter get additional help.

Beyond the direct voucher awards and emergency items, NYLAF operates the fund using Authorised Agents – who are frontline charities, or council teams and services that offer more in depth short or long-term specialist support.

Last year, NYLAF received 8,343 applications. 89% of these applications were approved with 13,370 individual items provided.

7.7.8 The Council commissions practical and strategic support to voluntary and community organisations and volunteering from Community First Yorkshire. This helps support the needs of the wider voluntary and community sector, much of which provides support and prevention services for vulnerable members of our communities.

7.7.9 In 2019 the County Council established an independent Rural Commission to investigate the challenges to our most rural communities and explore opportunities for them to grow and prosper. The Rural Commission's final report, including 57 recommendations, was published in July 2021. The work of the Commission provided a new evidence base for making North Yorkshire's case to the Government for increased support for our rural communities. At the recommendation of the Rural Commission, North Yorkshire Rural Taskforce was assembled in October 2021, to take forward the vision of the Commission and support delivery of the recommendations.

The Taskforce is chaired by the Chief Executive of the County Council and includes 15 core members from major rural partners and stakeholders across the County. The Taskforce meets quarterly to share progress on actions and activities across the seven key policy themes identified by the original Commission. Despite a challenging national backdrop, the Taskforce has responded successfully to its task and has built momentum. A report to the County Council's Executive in November 2022 recommended that the new North Yorkshire Council should embed the work of the Taskforce within its organisational structures and play an enhanced role in tackling long-standing and deep-rooted rural challenges. The report to the County Council's Executive also noted that rural challenges in North Yorkshire cannot be separated out from the national context and the development and direction of national Government policy. The report recommended that the Council should continue to lobby the national Government on the need for it to recognise the distinctive challenges experienced by rural communities and place the rural dimension and rural problems at the heart of the national policy framework.

7.8 Protected characteristics

7.8.1 **Appendix J** is a summary based on findings of EIAs carried out for specific proposals. It provides background information about the profile of the county and notes other factors likely to affect specific sections of the community. It then highlights any anticipated adverse (12.6% of total impacts) or mixed impact (0% of total impacts) for each group and notes steps taken to minimise impact. Where proposals are not specifically referenced, impacts are anticipated to be positive (23.4% of total impacts) or neutral (64% of total impacts). (NB. Percentages are rounded so may not add up to 100).

7.8.2 A number of other projects are also being progressed which aim to increase efficiency and improve customer experience. These projects are not intended to make cash savings in 2023/24 and therefore are not included in the information provided in **Appendix J**.

7.8.3 Specific details of how individual proposals have been adjusted to minimise impact and promote equality are set out in the EIAs for individual proposals which can be found at Equalities assessment and consultation | North Yorkshire County

7.8.4 **Members are required to read the individual EIAs to inform their decision-making and ensure legal compliance with the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010.**

8.0 Other Statutory Requirements Relating to Budget Setting

Local Government Act 2003 - Section 25

8.1 Under the terms of Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 the s.151 Officer is required to report to the Council on two specific matters:-

the robustness of the estimates included in the Budget, and
the adequacy of the reserves for which the Budget provides

8.2 The Council then has a statutory duty to have regard to this report from the Section 151 Officer when making its decision about the proposed Budget and Precept (see **paragraph 8.12** below for the Section 25 opinion of the Section 151 Officer).

Robustness of the estimates

8.3 The Corporate Director, Strategic Resources, as Section 151 Officer, has undertaken a high level assessment of the Council's anticipated potential financial risks in 2023/24 (**Appendix K**) and the subsequent period up to 2025/26 as far as that is possible, including:

- the realism of the Revenue Budget 2023/24 estimates for
 - price increases and general levels of inflation
 - fees / charges income
 - changes to specific grants and / or changes to their eligibility requirements
 - provision for demand and supply chain pressures within services
 - pump priming sufficient LGR transitional costs
 - likely impacts of aggregation of services across the eight NY councils
 - the financing costs arising from the Capital Plan.
 - the impact of current and forecast interest rates on the expected returns from investment of cash balances
 - the probability of achieving the savings targets during the MTFs period
 - and the likelihood of being able to deliver further necessary savings without dangerous levels of depletion of Reserves / Balances
- the realism of the Capital Plan estimates in light of
 - the potential for slippage and underspending of the Capital Plan
 - the risks of overspends due to inflation and / or contractor distress
 - the possible non-achievement of capital receipts targets and its implications for the funding of the Capital Plan
- financial management arrangements including
 - the history over recent years of financial management performance across the eight predecessor councils including delivery / non-delivery of savings programme
 - the impact on current financial management arrangements of the budget savings required on management within services, and in finance and related functions across the Council, whilst at the same time retaining a capability to help achieve the necessary saving targets across the Council as a whole

- the need to continue to be able to respond to Covid or other similar scenarios whilst retaining existing services and implementing new arrangements as part of the new unitary North Yorkshire Council
- potential losses, including
 - claims against the Council
 - bad debts or failure to collect income
 - major emergencies or disasters
 - contingent or other potential future liabilities

8.4 An assessment has also been made of the ability of the Council to offset the costs of such potential risks. The MTFS therefore reflects:

- the provision of a contingency fund in the Corporate Miscellaneous budget
- specific provisions in the accounts and in earmarked reserves
- a commitment to maintain the level of the General Working Balance at its policy target level of £62m.
- a Local Taxation Equalisation reserve to smooth surpluses and deficits from billing authorities' Collection Funds.
- A recurring Corporate Risk Contingency of £6m to provide for service growth and / or non-delivery of savings as a direct or indirect result of Covid
- A reserve to fund LGR Transitional Costs
- comprehensive insurance arrangements using a mixture of self-funding and external top-up cover

8.5 It is inevitable that the first cut of a new Council Budget / MTFS will be imperfect and that better information will be ascertained once the new Council is in existence. Estimates used in the Budget for 2023/24 are therefore based on pragmatic assumptions, taking into account:

- future pay and price increases across services
- anticipated levels of both specific and general grants
- the impact of the economic situation on future interest rates, the Council Tax tax base, District Council Collection Fund surpluses and deficits, and the future levels of Business Rates collected in North Yorkshire
- policies and priorities as expressed in the Council Plan and associated Service Plans
- best estimates of continuing funding streams for services
- commitments in terms of demand for services

8.6 Budget monitoring will continue to be carried out on a regular basis and reported, alongside other key performance information, to the Executive on a quarterly basis. Given the newness of the Council it is to be expected that there may be more significant variations in the budget position so such budget monitoring will be of immense importance.

Adequacy of Reserves and Balances

8.7 The Council has inherited a good level of Reserves and Balances. This is primarily as a result of sound financial management across the eight councils. The healthy level of reserves is now extremely valuable given the financial deficit and the need

to make time for delivery of a comprehensive savings programme underpinned by local government reorganisation. The availability of “one-off” funding from Reserves and Balances is therefore of central importance to support the 2023/24 Budget and to provide time for a coherent longer term financial strategy.

- 8.8 A good level of Reserves and Balances will need to be maintained as it remains possible that further shocks will emerge alongside the existing financial challenges and the work towards implementing the new council and its savings programme. This report sets out a robust reserve policy for the new Council and proposes the maintenance of both unallocated and earmarked reserves to manage risk and investment.
- 8.9 The s151 officer is content that there are adequate levels of Reserves and Balances for the 2023/24 Budget and for the early stages of the MTFs beyond. However, this position may be significantly eroded should the Council not be able to develop a comprehensive savings programme as set out elsewhere in this report. The position will need to be reviewed constantly throughout 2023/24 and earlier corrective action may be required should any forecast indicate that Reserves and Balances could become near-exhausted before any sustainable financial plan is in place.
- 8.10 Reserves and Balances can only be used once. They are therefore best suited to bridging any financial deficit pending a recurrent savings plan or, even more desirable, for investing in one-off initiatives that deliver policy value and / or provide returns on investments (e.g. savings).

Section 25 opinion of the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources

- 8.11 While many councils are facing section 114 notices across the country, that is not the case in North Yorkshire at this stage. That is because the Council has sufficient Reserves and Balances to bridge the deficit of £30m in 2023/24. It cannot be ruled out that the North Yorkshire Council may well find itself in a situation where it has not been possible to develop a comprehensive savings programme over the next 3 years that largely eliminates any in-year deficit. The Council, its Members and officers therefore should carefully consider this Section 25 opinion and guard against complacency and the risk of a section 114 notice in the foreseeable future. The onus is on the Council to ensure that the time “bought” by the use of Reserves and Balances in 2023/24 is a valuable investment that delivers lasting, sensible and deliverable savings proposals. These proposals can be brought forward at any time but the Budget report for 2024/25 will be a key acid-test of this approach.
- 8.12 Taking all of the above factors and considerations into account the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources is satisfied that the:-
- i) estimates used in the Revenue Budget 2023/24 are as realistic and robust as possible given the extremely challenging circumstances and that the provision of a £10m Corporate Risk Contingency plus the associated level of balances / reserves is adequate within the terms of the proposed revised policy.
 - ii) associated level of balances / reserves for the MTFs period is adequate within the terms of the policy noting the extremely challenging financial position in 2023/24 and beyond with great levels of uncertainty on all key

moving parts of the Budget. This view is offered, however, with the strong proviso that the new Council will need to develop the comprehensive savings plan as set out in this report and specifically in paragraph 9.11 above.

- iii) high level estimates used in the projections for the MTFS up to 2025/26 are as realistic as can be assessed at this stage given the large scale uncertainty across a range of factors.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 The Corporate Risk Register is attached as **Appendix L**. It is, however, appropriate to consider a more detailed range of risks at this stage which could adversely impact upon the Council's Budget / MTFS.

9.2 **Appendix K** sets out some of the key financial risks and a ready reckoner to quantify certain potential financial impacts. This should not be regarded as exhaustive due to many national and local uncertainties.

9.3 A brief summary of the key risks is identified below:-

- i) *Cost pressures* – the financial strains in large parts of the Council's supply chain but particularly in the high impact areas of adult social care, transport and energy lead to increased prices. In addition, higher levels of inflation potentially impact upon pay award levels for council staff.
- ii) *Inability to identify and deliver sufficient savings* – the £30m in-year budget deficit for 2023/24 and the shortfalls for future years will require a sizeable savings plan that allows the Council to protect those areas that are of highest priority. The complexity of LGR and producing such large savings plans could take too long to address the deficit resulting in a sub-optimal approach of short-term "cuts".
- iii) *Workforce* – Insufficient resource to deal with competing demands of the authority and inability to deliver service and/or progress strategically important initiatives.
- iv) *Financial assumptions* – the MTFS includes assumptions around council tax levels and base; continuation of core funding streams; business rates levels; pay; income levels and inflation all of which carry a degree of uncertainty and risk.
- v) *Demand for services* – certain services such as children's social care, SEN, home to school transport, adult social care, homelessness and welfare and benefits are likely to be subject to increased demand and / or increased care needs.
- vi) *Legal challenge* – savings proposals and the way in which the Council delivers services may be subject to legal challenge from third parties resulting in delays and additional costs.
- vii) *Emergencies / incidents* – incidents such as flooding and severe winters will incur additional costs which it is simply not possible to predict and will compound costs and pressures.
- viii) Others including –

- *Schools / DSG* – increasing levels of deficit budgets
- *Unfunded additional responsibilities*

9.4 The on-going monitoring of the above and other risks will be essential throughout 2023/24 as there is less headroom to work with.

10.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Strategic:

10.1.1 NYCC continues in its ambition to become carbon neutral in its operational activities by 2030. This year, the Council has taken a step change in both its own ambition and in recognising the significant role in tackling climate change across North Yorkshire. Executive declared a Climate Emergency in July 2022. A NYCC Climate Change Policy Officer was appointed in January 2022.

10.1.2 Also in July, the Local Enterprise Partnership Board approved the York and North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative which provides a clear, co-owned and evidenced based plan to achieve net zero for the region by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040: This ambition being outlined in the York and North Yorkshire Devolution Deal. North Yorkshire County Council was one of many partners that contributed to the development of the Routemap.

10.1.3 The Local Area Energy Plan for North Yorkshire was also completed in December 2022 and this will provide essential data for the transition to the low carbon economy to support investment decisions in renewable energy supply and demand.

10.1.4 Over the last 6 months, the North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy Consultation Draft has been developed. The process has engaged many Members, Officers and community groups across North Yorkshire in developing the key objectives: to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to prepare and adapt to the changing climate and to support nature to thrive. The consultation period will be from January 2023 to March 2023.

10.1.5 The LGR process has included Climate Change as a key design principle and the LGR Climate Working Group has been able to advise every workstream to ensure climate change is 'built in' to the new Authorities policies and processes.

10.1.6 The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy was out for public consultation in December 2022. This outlines the Council's vision for supporting zero emission mobility and ensuring that a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charge points is developed over the next 10 years.

10.1.7 We continue to embed climate change activities throughout the Council's policy development and services which is essential for us to meet our carbon reduction targets. All officers and Members have access to the bespoke Climate Awareness training package and climate change impact assessments are completed for all reports.

10.2 Operational

10.2.1 The Beyond Carbon Transformation Board continues to recommend several projects for approval and 9 are currently underway. Funding approvals this year include

- Engaging with our suppliers – particularly SMES – to identify their pathway to net zero and how this will impact on our 'scope 3' emissions.
- Communications and engagement activity – to enable a programme of awareness raising in the community through the library hubs, an e-newsletter and engagement activity specifically with young people.
- Research into the potential for county owned land to be utilised to tackle climate change.

10.2.2 There remains £518K in the pump priming pot to support the development of projects to decarbonise the Council's operational activity. This is for use over and above normal service budgets.

10.2.3 Throughout the year, services have continued to bid to Government for capital and revenue projects to make a difference 'on the ground.' This includes bids to:

- The Levelling Up Fund which focusses on improving access to rail travel (outcome awaited)
- The Shared Prosperity Fund, which, amongst other things, will support our community based climate change actions.
- The Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund to pilot innovative ways to install rural EV Charging Points.
- A Community Energy Pathfinder programme, jointly with City of York.
- Woodland Creation Accelerator Programme – 2 years funding to support NYCC to bring forward tree planting in the County.
- Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 – Funding over 2 years to support energy efficiency and low carbon heating in private homes off the mains gas grid across North Yorkshire. (Publication of outcome awaited)
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund Phase 3b bid for application has been submitted for £425k to improve energy efficiency and low carbon heating at 4 Council properties. (outcome awaited)
- Active Travel England bid to the Capability and Ambition Fund of £220,780 to support cycling and walking initiatives in the Selby and Whitby areas.

10.2.4 We continue to support innovation in public transport solutions. We have extended the YorBus Demand Responsive Transport Pilot Scheme extended for 12 months. The £7.8m by the Department for Transport's Zero Emissions Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme which will enable zero emissions buses, alongside supporting charging infrastructure in the Ripon and Harrogate area over the next 3 years is now being delivered.

10.2.5 Through the Government's Transforming Cities Fund a £42m package of infrastructure improvements for Selby, Harrogate and Skipton which aim to increase productivity through improved transport connectivity and promote healthy and sustainable travel is being delivered. The proposals include improved access to public transport, cycling and walking connections. *Our Public Health team have also taken part in the LGA Behavioural Insights programme research the barriers and facilitators to encouraging people to take a walk rather than the car for a short journeys.*

10.2.6 To support both climate change and health and wellbeing in a period of escalating energy prices we have launched the North Yorkshire Home Energy Efficiency Fund – to support residents to upgrade their insulation and low carbon heating in a

number of District areas. This resulted from an £8 million bid to Government funding led by our Public Health team

10.2.7 The Wifi in market towns programme extending to a further 8 towns, bringing the total to 20. The 'Reboot' programme (refurbishing IT devices) supports our digital inclusion work, with the added bonus of the 'circular economy' approach.

11.0 DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS

11.1 It is the responsibility of the Executive to ensure the implementation of the Budget once it is agreed by the Council, and the Officer Delegation Scheme sets out the authority delegated to the Corporate Directors in relation to the implementation of the Budget within their services areas, subject to the Budget and the Policy framework.

12.0 CONCLUSION

12.1 This is the first Budget for the new North Yorkshire Council. It has largely been produced by aggregating the eight predecessor authorities and then reflecting the appropriate rates of inflation, growth and savings etc. Given the scale of the exercise it is inevitable that there will be significant changes that need to be made as further information comes to light.

12.2 The focus on transitioning to the new Council has inevitably restricted opportunities to deliver large scale savings. The savings and transformation opportunities as a result of unitarization are, however, very significant and the high-level planning can move into more detailed planning and, in some cases, execution from vesting day onwards.

12.3 The Council is facing the compounding factors of high levels of inflation, strong demand for some high cost services, reduced income levels, distressed supply chains and an extremely challenging labour market. Against this backdrop the Council is facing a revenue budget deficit in 2023/24 of £?m and that is after additional government funding as announced in the Autumn Statement; additional savings proposals; and a proposal to set council tax (including the social care precept) at a 4.99% increase. This Budget proposes that this deficit is funded by the use of Reserves.

12.4 The position set out above is not unique to North Yorkshire – it is a national phenomena. Very few councils will be able to deliver a balanced budget without drawing significantly from reserves. Reserves are one-off in nature and it is therefore unsustainable to use them to fund a recurring budget deficit. That is why it is imperative that the Council regards the use of Reserves as a valuable investment to buy planning time for a lasting, sensible and deliverable savings proposals. These proposals can be brought forward at any time but the Budget report for 2024/25 will be a key acid-test.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 That the Executive recommends to the County Council:

- a) That the Section 25 assurance statement provided by the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources regarding the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves (**paragraph 8.12**) and the risk assessment of the MTFs detailed in **Section 9** are noted;
- b) An increase in Council Tax of 4.99% (basic 2.99% and Adult Social Care 2%) resulting in a Band D weighted average charge of £1,759.96 – an increase of £83.64 (**paragraph 4.3.8 and Appendix D**);
- c) That, in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by Section 74 of The Localism Act 2011), a Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 of £427,729,811.74 is approved;
- d) That a Net Revenue Budget for 2023/24, after use of reserves, of £623,458k (**Section 5.0 and Appendix H**) is approved
- e) That in the event that the level of overall external funding (including from the final Local Government Settlement) results in a variance of less than £5m in 2023/24 then the difference to be addressed by a transfer to / from the Strategic Capacity Unallocated Reserve in line with **paragraph 4.2.3** with such changes being made to **Appendix F** as appropriate.
- f) That the Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service is authorised, in consultation with the Corporate Director, Strategic Resources and the Executive Members for Schools and Finance, to take the final decision on the allocation of the Schools Budget including High Needs, Early Years and the Central Schools Services Block (**paragraph 3.1.16**).
- g) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2023/24 to 2025/26, and its caveats, as laid out in **Section 3.0** and **Appendix G** is approved in line with the proposed council tax option.
- h) That the Corporate Director – Environment is authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for Highways & Transportation and Open for Business, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where considered appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in **Appendix B (ENV 1 to 6)**.
- i) That the Corporate Director – Community Development is authorised, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning for Growth, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where considered appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in **Appendix B (CDS 1)**.

- j) That the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services is authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for HAS, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in **Appendix B (HAS 1 to 3)**.
 - k) That the Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Services are authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for CYPS, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in **Appendix B (CYPS 1 to 5)**.
 - l) That the Chief Executive is authorised, in consultation with the Executive Members for Central Services, to carry out all necessary actions, including consultation where he considers it appropriate, to implement the range of savings as set out in **Appendix B (CS 1 to 3)**.
 - m) That any outcomes requiring changes following **Recommendations h), i), j), k) and l)** above be brought back to the Executive to consider and, where changes are recommended to the existing major policy framework, then such matters to be considered by full Council.
 - n) That the proposed policy target for the minimum level of the General Working Balance is £62m in line with **Appendix E**.
 - o) That £900k be provided annually to provide for a Member Locality Budget at £10k per annum per Member as set out in **paragraph 4.8.2**.
 - p) That £50k be provided annually for each Area Constituency Committee to commission works they feel appropriate for their local areas as set out in **paragraph 4.8.3** and to delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Community Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning for Growth to determine application of the scheme.
- 13.2 That the Executive notes and agrees the delegation arrangements referred to in **Section 11** that authorise the Corporate Directors to implement the Budget proposals contained in this report for their respective service areas and for the Chief Executive in those areas where there are cross-Council proposals.
- 13.3 That the Executive confirms introduction of a council tax premium of 100% on second homes following consultation subject to the legislation receiving Royal Assent as currently drafted.
- 13.4 That the Executive have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (identified in **Section 7** and **Appendix J**) in approving the Budget proposals contained in this report.

RICHARD FLINTON
Chief Executive

GARY FIELDING
Corporate Director, Strategic Resources

County Hall
24 January 2023

24 January 2023

**SCHEDULE OF APPENDICES TO MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/24 TO
2025/26 & REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2023/24**

Appendix	Title	Section Colour
A	Objectives	Cream
B	Savings Schedule	Lilac
C	Service Spending Analysis	Mid Green
D	Calculation of Council Tax Requirement	Light Blue
E	Charging Policy	
F	Reserves Schedule	Buttercup
G	Reserves & Balances Policy	White
H	Summary of MTFS to 2025/26	Pink
I	Budget Consultation	Dark Blue
J	Equalities Impact Assessment	Mint
K	Risk Assessment	Cream
L	Corporate Risk Register	Lilac

MTFS Objectives

A **Medium Term Financial Strategy** is not a legal requirement, but given the scale of financial challenges and risks/uncertainties we face and as we establish, consolidate and transform the new unitary council, it is important that shorter-term decisions are seen in the context of a longer-term position and that there is clear line of sight on the financial sustainability of the new Council. Given the well-publicised difficulties of a number of councils this longer-term view is more important than ever. The MTFS provides the strategic framework for managing the Council's finances and ensures that:

- resources are aligned to achieve corporate objectives over the medium/longer term, and;
- the Revenue Budget, Capital Plan, Treasury Management Strategy and required Prudential Indicators are appropriately aligned.

The objectives of the MTFS, are as follows:

- to support the achievement of the vision and corporate objectives expressed in the Council Plan;
- to meet and respond to the perceived needs and priorities of local people;
- to maintain and improve service quality and the Council's improvement planning priorities so as to secure high performance which is sustainable over the medium term;
- to manage and minimise the risks to local services and customers;
- to achieve effective use of all land and property assets.

The MTFS achieves these objectives by:

- enabling the Council to understand its medium to longer term financial position;
- providing clarity over the revenue and capital resources available;
- informing decision making on the distribution of resources to deliver the Council's objectives;
- ensuring the Council can set a Council Tax that avoids central Government intervention;
- enabling the Council to plan and manage its day to day spending within affordable limits without undue reliance on balances and general reserves;
- identifying future budget 'pressure points' in order to plan accordingly and avoid unnecessary remedial action;
- identifying financial decisions that need to be taken to inform action planning and the development of projects;
- supporting a prudent, affordable and sustainable level of revenue and capital investment;
- creating financial capacity to deal with uncertain, volatile and unforeseen funding and cost pressures;
- Providing forecasts and insights on the financial issues and challenges that arise over the MTFS period.

Savings proposals for Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) directorate

Introduction

In developing these budget proposals, the Council has ensured that key principles are consistent with a positive, cross-council strategy and remains ambitious for children and young people in North Yorkshire.

- Good and outstanding educational provision liberates individuals and can change the nature of both individual trajectories and communities;
- The Council, whilst maintaining a strategic overview of educational outcomes recognises the evidenced improvement made through collaborative, sector-led arrangements;
- Families need to have access to high quality information, advice and guidance including web-based advice;
- High quality whole family interventions are increasingly provided through early help to those needing more targeted prevention to prevent those problems escalating;
- We continue to protect the provision of care and protection for those with higher level needs;
- We aim for children to live safely with their families within communities but, where care is needed, that high quality provision should ideally be family-based and more locally available, and;
- We continue to seek further opportunities to enhance partnership working and commissioning.

Proposals

The proposals reflect the context and impact of recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, the potential opportunities of local government reorganisation, and to continue to support schools, early years and educational settings through flexible delivery models, and partnership working. The proposals are informed by, and recognise, the current levels of support, particularly to those children and families who are most vulnerable.

Children with special educational needs

Since the introduction of the **Children and Families Act 2014**, the local authority has experienced a rapid and sustained increase in the number of children and young people assessed as requiring a funded Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Although funding has increased in the last few years, the local authority had an accumulated deficit of £9.6m as at March 2022. This is expected to increase to c.£10m by March 2023 despite additional funding for 2022-23. The DfE has confirmed that further funding will be allocated to local authorities for 2023-24 and, although this will be helpful in reducing the anticipated in-year deficit, it will not address the significant accumulated deficit. Special Schools and Alternative Provision establishments continue to operate under financially constrained circumstances particularly given their diseconomies of scale as relatively small special schools in a rural context. The increase in EHCPs also significantly impacts on the cost of providing home to school transport.

The Council continues to implement the Strategic Plan for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) current plans include developing a free special school in Selby,

continuing with the identification and development of mainstream targeted provision across the county, building and reshaping capacity in special schools and building confidence in parents/carers. The aim of the strategy is to ensure the right educational provision is in the right place to ensure children can be educated locally without the need for extensive travel. The local authority will be engaging with the Department for Education's Delivering Better Value in SEND programme to undertake diagnostic work to inform the development of a plan to achieve a financially sustainable SEND system. Work will also progress to review health contributions to care packages and to identify measures to reduce the overspend position.

Disabled Children's Services	£1,000k
Education Psychology	£200k
SEN Administration and Co-ordination	£200k

Children and Families

We continue to support children and families to remain at home or with family, where it is safe to do so. This approach requires relentless efforts to meet challenging targets for maintaining the numbers of children in care without compromising either the rigour of our child protection arrangements or the quality of care provided for those that we have assessed as requiring it.

Proposals include vacancy management within Early Help and a strategic review of the Young People's Accommodation Pathway. Further work will also be undertaken to identify strategic options to reduce overspending in the pooled budget of complex care packages which are funded by health, education and care.

Early Help	£225k
Young People's Accommodation Pathway	£1,000k
Pooled Budget	£2,500k

School Improvement and the role of the Local Authority in Education

Our School Improvement service aims to provide a more streamlined and targeted service that recognises the strategic role of the local authority in the monitoring and oversight of educational outcomes for children and young people throughout the county.

Our aim remains to ensure that every child in North Yorkshire has the chance to be educated in a good or outstanding school. The DfE has consulted on changes to the way in which School Improvement is funded and has confirmed the complete removal of all grant funding by April 2023. The local authority has requested funding to be de-delegated from maintained schools through the local Schools Forum.

Proposals include a reduction in the local authority base budget for school improvement functions.

Mainstream Transport	£100k
School Improvement	£250k
Strategic Planning	£30k
Other	£150k

Children & Young People's Services

Appendix B

Project No.	Savings Area	Description	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	Total £000
CYPS 1	SEND & Mainstream Transport	Impact of previously agreed changes to the mainstream transport policy.	100	0	0	100
CYPS 2	Children and Families	Vacancy management and reduction in held vacancies in Early Help. Review of the Young People's Accommodation Pathway.	125	350	750	1,225
CYPS 3	High Needs and SEN	Review of SEN administration, co-ordination and education psychology. Review of health contributions to care packages and identification of measures to reduce overspends within Disabled Children's Services	0	1,200	200	1,400
CYPS 4	Other school and LA support services	Review of a range of strategic LA functions including pension provision and school place planning. Reduction in school improvement.	205	175	50	430
CYPS 5	Pooled Budget	Earlier intervention and exploration of alternative options for high-cost and emergency placements.	0	1,250	1,250	2,500
			430	2,975	2,250	5,655

Savings proposals for Environment directorate

Introduction

The Environment directorate provides a number of service areas that complement each other. Highways and transportation including parking services, street scene, parks and grounds maintenance along with environmental services and the council's agenda for becoming a carbon neutral council. Waste services, including both the collection responsibility and the disposal of waste is also part of the directorate.

Passenger transport services is also covered by the Environment directorate along with fleet and transport operations, licensing, rights of way and the responsibility for the East Coast harbours. Regulatory services, including trading standards and environmental health, the registration services, the bereavement services including the coroners service are also provided by the directorate.

The Environment Directorate, like many areas has been impacted by the prevailing national financial climate including significant inflationary price increases and adapting to a post covid environment. Particularly, passenger transport services are operating in a difficult sector of the market working with bus operators and large projects are challenging to deliver within budget due to ongoing price rises and labour and materials shortages. Naturally, this has provided an additional level of challenge when contending with continuing financial pressures on the Council. Part of that challenge is to not only continue to deliver high quality services and deliver a range of savings initiatives as laid out in the MTFS while also working as a new directorate as part of the new North Yorkshire Council.

Outside of service continuity following local government reorganisation, an area of particular focus and priority over the MTFS is the successful continued development of the Highways 'teckal', NY Highways. The company successfully went live at the conclusion of the Ringway contract in June 2021 and has been working to provide a more efficient service delivery model for the Council. Now that the company has been operating for over 18 months, the aim over the next two years is to drive forward the transformation of service delivery that has already started. For the savings programme, a number of the highlighted savings below are directly or indirectly to be achieved through working with NY Highways.

Proposals

Highways & Transportation

The Highways and Transport savings are made up of a number of initiatives:

- Efficiencies delivered as a result of improved service delivery made possible through NY Highways arrangements. This will involve the continuation of the lean reviews and service improvement initiatives. These initiatives will include a reduction in the gritter fleet which should be able to be achieved through route optimisation and a revised approach to gritter resilience along with a less costly way of repairing some of the defects on the highway.

- Investment in resource to increase income in chargeable areas including development works and highways license enforcement. These are areas for which charges are already levied but there is scope to do more as the service grows.

Waste Management Services

As part of the move to North Yorkshire Council, efficiencies are able to be achieved through the harmonisation of the fees charged for garden waste and bulky waste collection across the North Yorkshire Council area.

Transport

Reduction of the England National Concessionary Travel Scheme budget to bring in line with usage.

Trading Standards

Various small initiatives including reduction in staff levels and other efficiencies

Project No.	Savings Area	Description	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	Total £000
Highways & Transportation						
ENV 1	Highways	Efficiencies delivered as a result of improved service delivery made possible through NY Highways arrangements - Second Lean Review of Basic Maintenance	150	74	0	224
ENV 2	Highways	Efficiencies delivered as a result of improved service delivery made possible through NY Highways arrangements including a more efficient gritter fleet and less costly ways of repairing some of the defects on the highway.	400	0	0	400
ENV 3	Highways	Investment in resource to increase income in chargeable areas including development works and highways license enforcement.	0	200	0	200
Waste						
ENV 4	Waste	As part of the move to North Yorkshire Council, efficiencies are able to be achieved through the harmonisation of the fees charged for garden waste and bulky waste collection across the North Yorkshire Council area and a review of commercial vehicles usage of HWRC's	550	1,050		1,600
Transport						
ENV 5	Transport	England National Concessionary Travel Scheme - reduce budget in line with usage	500	0	0	500
Trading Standards						
ENV 6	Trading Standards	Various small initiatives including reduction in staff levels and other efficiencies	0	50	0	50
Environment			1,600	1,374	0	2,974

Saving proposals for Health and Adults Services (HAS) directorate

Introduction

The Health and Adult Services directorate commissions and provides adult social care and public health services and leads on the Council's joint work with the NHS. Public Health is funded via a separate ring-fenced specific Grant from Government.

The financial impact of COVID on the Directorate for 2022/23 has reduced significantly since last year, but we are still experiencing the long-term fall-out and pressures caused by the impact on some services during the pandemic. In particular a combination of increased demand, inflation pressure and market sustainability issues mean that the contingencies agreed by Council for 2022/23 have all now been utilized.

These pressures include:

- Increased discharge costs and Temporary Placements following the end of the hospital discharge funding from central government at the end of 2021/22.
- High levels of hospital discharge which, on a daily rolling basis, are between 33% and 100% higher than pre-pandemic levels
- A shortage of home care capacity, resulting in many more people either going into short-term residential care pending a package at home, or moving into long-term residential care, both of which are costlier options, as well as being less appropriate for people themselves
- Inflationary pressures arising from cost of living and issues in the provider market resulting in an increased number of sustainability requests from care providers, seeking additional support to continue to operate.
- Impact of Cost of Care exercise for residential and nursing packages
- Increased average costs for new packages of care.

In addition to these, we have not yet seen the impact of the re-procurement of the Approved Provider List and the implementation of the Fair Cost of Care for domiciliary packages. These areas are expected to show very significant price uplifts.

It remains vitally important therefore that the Directorate continues to work as efficiently as it can and contribute to the MTFs savings programme.

The starting point always has to be prevention, without the need for long-term service intervention. Where people need services on a longer-term basis, then most want to be supported to live at home and to use services at home, or as near as possible. They want to remain with their family, in their community and to contribute to the community and the economy. They also want information and advice, support for their carers and short-term services to get them back on their feet or to give them a break from caring. To this end, the Council's model of public health and social care focuses much more on prevention and keeping people as independent as possible, as well as providing long-term support where it is needed. The Council works with

people who use services, carers, voluntary and independent sector colleagues and the NHS to deliver these services.

As part of this approach, we continue to expand our extra care housing provision across the County, while reviewing our in-house provider services' position in the market. We have invested in prevention through our Stronger Communities programme (which works with community groups and the voluntary sector) and our Living Well service, as well as through Public Health programmes. More recently, we have also worked with borough/district council colleagues to develop new care and housing services for people with complex life circumstances (mental health and substance misuse), such as the REACH project in Scarborough, and with the NHS on hospital discharge.

The pandemic has changed and grown the role of Public Health – particularly in terms of our local health protection services.

Whilst significant savings have had to be made in social care over the past few years, the social care budget has had relative protection, accounting for an increasing share of the Council's overall budget. It is also important to note that provision is being made in the budget for continuing demand and market pressures, which is in addition to inflation for the cost of care and other pay / price increases. As a result, the cumulative impact is entirely consistent with the principles of the adult social care precept.

The service continues to work to reduce the impact of these pressures wherever it can, with a comprehensive deficit action plan in place.

The Public Health budget sits within the Directorate. Although funded by grant, and therefore showing no net impact on the NYCC revenue account, the service has a medium-term plan in place to bring spending into line with a reduced grant, while also ensuring that services across the council which contribute to various Public Health programmes are fully funded by the grant. The County's Director of Public Health has reviewed all areas of spend and the relative performance and outcomes for Grant investment. This approach is necessitating some savings as well as short-term deployment of reserves, so that a broader range of priorities can be addressed.

Proposals – already agreed in previous years

The savings for Extra Care were agreed in previous years and are being re-profiled due to delays in achievement while work has focussed on dealing with the pandemic. A summary of each is shown below.

Extra Care Housing and Elderly Person's Homes (EPHs)

This programme includes the current work on replacing the Council's own EPH estate with Extra Care Housing to improve accommodation choices for people who need support including those with complex needs. The overall target remains as agreed in previous years but a new timescale is suggested which takes into account the delays caused largely by the impact of COVID.

New Savings

The area of new savings is around maximising the use of Public Health Grant to cover eligible costs currently funded by base budget. This could include services currently managed and paid for by the district and borough councils.

This will ensure that any efficiencies/underspends and any increases in the Public Health grant are maximised to continue to fund Public Health-related work that improves and protects the health of people. Where this activity is currently funded by the Council budget in future it can be met through the grant and has a beneficial impact on the Council's finances. Currently the Public Health programme is funded through a combination of the grant plus planned use of the earmarked reserve. This reserve has increased in recent years as a result of some reductions in services and additional funding through the pandemic and this will help to manage the MTFS contribution.

This expenditure will contribute to the eight priorities set out by the Director of Public Health:

- Reducing Health inequalities through healthy place-shaping and targeted work with groups, communities and neighbourhoods
- Ensure measures are in place to protect the population's health
- Improving mental health of our population
- Ensuring babies and children and young people have a good start in life
- Ensuring the working age population have the opportunity to live well
- Ensuring older people are able to age well
- Work with NHS partners to maximise our joint effectiveness and impact on health outcomes
- Develop a centre for public health in research, training, practice and behavioural science

Health & Adult Services

Appendix B

Project No.	Savings Area	Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
			£000	£000	£000	£000
HAS1	Extra care housing and Elderly Person Homes (EPH)	This programme includes the current work on replacing the Council’s own EPH estate with Extra Care Housing to improve accommodation choices for people who need support including those with complex needs.	250	250	325	825
HAS2	Provider Services	Scope and deliver e-rostering solution for provider services	75	0	0	75
HAS3	Public Health contribution to MTFS	Maximising use of ring-fenced Public Health grant.	1,000	1,000	0	2,000
	TOTAL		1,325	1,250	325	2,900

Savings proposals for Central Services directorate

Introduction

Central Services is comprised of three principal categories;

- Front line services including locality,
- A range of support services including property; and
- Investment & commercial income generation

Similar to the rest of the organisation, the additional workload of preparing for and the implementation of local government reorganisation (LGR) has been felt within Central Services placing additional demand on vital support services. This is in addition to the challenging national environment in which the Council is operating including external factors such as challenges with recruitment and retention. Central services teams are significantly impacted as resources are required to ensure LGR is delivered and then implemented successfully post vesting day. To this end, savings within Central services have necessarily been limited to those set out below.

Proposals

Property

A review of the property portfolio continues, to rationalise properties across the county and identify areas where property related costs such as repairs and maintenance can be reduced. In addition, further property savings are anticipated as a result of LGR.

Stronger Communities

Due to continuing ongoing grant support from Government in relation to Domestic Abuse work, the existing base budget which has not been spent in previous years is able to be removed – this position will be reviewed if the funding provision from Government changes in the future.

Central Services, LGR Transition and Community Development Services

Appendix B

Project No.	Savings Area	Description	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	Total £000
Resources						
CS1	Corporate Property	A review of the property portfolio continues, to rationalise properties across the county and identify areas where property related costs such as repairs and maintenance can be reduced. In addition, further property savings are anticipated as a result of LGR.	480			480
Locality						
CS2	Locality	Due to continuing ongoing grant support from Government in relation to Domestic Abuse work, the existing base budget which has not been spent in previous years is able to be removed – this position will be reviewed if the funding provision from Government changes in the future.	450			450
CS			930	0	0	930
Corporate/ LGR Savings						
CS3	LGR	Savings linked to the transition to the new council and rationalisation of Senior Management posts including the Chief Executive. In addition, savings linked to Members allowances as the overall number of members is reduced across the 8 councils. As well as other housekeeping efficiencies linked to the transition.	3,174			
CS4	Pension	Revised employers contribution rate	6,163			
			9,337	0	0	9,337
Community Development						
CDS1	Leisure	Due to a planned reduction in the management fee linked to Brimhams Active.	1,073			
			1,073	0	0	1,073

Service Spending Analysis

	2022/23 Start Budget £'000	Savings £'000	Inflation* £'000	Growth £'000	Additional adjustments £'000	Draft Final Budget £'000
Health and Adult Services	199,970	-1,325	20,880	11,500	-104	230,921
Children and Young Peoples Service	90,725	-430	7,636	9,900	-	107,831
Central and Other Services	159,454	-4,104	12,682	-3,663	6,500	170,871
Community Development	36,935	-1,073	9,752	3,731	-2,870	46,476
Environmental Services	90,229	-1,600	13,797	595	-2,350	100,671
Directorate Subtotal	577,314	-8,532	64,747	22,063	1,176	656,770
Corporate Miscellaneous	6,037	-6,163	1,203	-16,357	-5,584	-20,866
Net Expenditure	583,351	-14,695	65,950	5,706	-4,408	635,904
Budget/MTFS Shortfall	-	-	-	-	-	-12,446
Net Budget Requirement						623,458
Funded by						
NNDR/Business Rates	-	-	-	-	-	119,453
Government Grants	-	-	-	-	-	76,275
Council Tax Requirement	-	-	-	-	-	427,730
Tax Base	239,742.44	-	-	-	-	243,033.59
Band D Council Tax	-	-	-	-	-	1,759.96

Please note directorate budget split is subject to change as further work is undertaken to align the new council budget to the new structure of the council.

Appendix C

BUDGET REQUIREMENT	2022/23 Budget/ MTFS £'000	Changes	2023/24 Budget/ MTFS £'000	Changes	2024/25 Budget/ MTFS £'000	Changes	2025/26 Budget/ MTFS £'000
Directorate Net Budgets							
Health and Adult Services	199,970	30,951	230,921	14,316	245,237	4,767	250,004
Children and Young People's Services	90,725	17,106	107,831	2,313	110,145	2,112	112,257
Central and Other Services	159,455	11,416	170,871	4,612	175,482	3,468	178,950
Community Development	36,935	9,540	46,476	3,439	49,915	2,446	52,360
Environment and Regulatory	90,229	10,442	100,671	4,075	104,747	3,521	108,268
Other Corporate Miscellaneous	6,037	26,903	20,866	8,983	29,850	363	29,487
Net Expenditure	583,351	52,553	635,904	19,773	655,676	16,677	672,353
Budget Shortfall			12,446	1,245	11,201	16,226	27,427
Net Budget Requirement	583,351	-	623,458	-	644,475	-	644,926
Funded By							
External Corp Funding			76,275		85,330		80,998
NNDR/ Business Rates			119,453		109,902		96,626
Council Tax Requirement			427,730		449,243		467,302
Council Tax Base			243,034		245,464		247,919
Band D Council Tax Rate			£1,759.96		£1,830.18		£1,884.90
Year-on-Year Increase							
%			4.99		3.99		2.99

CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT AND BASIC AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX (BAND D EQUIVALENT) 2023/24

1. The Council has a statutory duty as a billing authority in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by Section 75 of the Localism Act 2011) to calculate its Council Tax requirement each year. Additionally in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by Section 75 of the Localism Act 2011) it must also calculate the basic amount (Band D equivalent) of Council Tax
2. Based on the Government's Provisional Funding Settlement figures announced in December 2022, the Council Tax position is set out below:-

COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	£ '000	£ '000
North Yorkshire Council Net Expenditure Budget		559,538
Special Expenses		90
Contribution from Reserve (net shortfall)		-12,446
Net Budget Requirement		547,183
Funding from Business Rates		-119,453
TOTAL COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT		427,730
Council Tax Base (equivalent number of Band D properties)		243,033.59
Basic Amount of Council Tax per Band D property (weighted average)		£ 1,759.96
Increase over 2022/23 (£1,676.32)		
£ increase		£ 83.64
% increase		4.99%
Basic Council Tax Increase (2.99%)		£ 50.12
Adult Social Care Precept (2.00%)		£ 33.52
Increase in Basic Council Tax (including tax base)		17,160
Increase in Adult Social Care Precept (including tax base)		8,703
Total Basic Council Tax	378,624	
Total Adult Social Care Precept	49,106	
TOTAL BASIC COUNCIL TAX AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT		427,730

3. To produce a Council Tax per property, the amount required to be levied has to be divided by a figure representing the 'relevant tax bases'. For the Council, this figure is the aggregate of the 'relevant tax bases' of each of the seven District Councils.
4. Each District Council prepares an estimate of its 'relevant tax base' expressed as the yield from a Council Tax levy of £1 as applied to an equivalent number

of Band D properties. This calculation takes into account the number of properties eligible for a single person discount, reductions for the disabled, anticipated property changes during the year and the extent to which a 100% recovery rate may not be achieved. The following information has been received from the District Councils:

Local Authority	Tax Base (Band D Equivalents) 2023/24
Craven	23,379.75
Hambleton	38,395.74
Harrogate	66,830.13
Richmondshire	19,884.71
Ryedale	22,264.54
Scarborough	39,131.27
Selby	33,147.45
Total	243,033.59

5. Using the above information the Council's equivalent Council Tax for a Band D property, based on a 4.99% increase, would be as follows:

Total Council Tax Requirement		427,729.812
Relevant Tax Base		243,033.59
@ Band D	=	1759.96

6. This represents the overall weighted average for the new North Yorkshire Council but because of the harmonisation arrangements the actual Band D amounts will vary by area for 2023/24. These specific figures (plus rates for the other council tax bands) are detailed in the following table:

Appendix D – Council Tax

Band	Craven £ p	Hambleton £ p	Harrogate £ p	Richmondshire £ p	Ryedale £ p	Scarborough £ p	Selby £ p
A	1166.00	1143.42	1188.90	1178.59	1173.00	1185.18	1164.67
B	1360.33	1333.99	1387.05	1375.03	1368.50	1382.71	1358.78
C	1554.67	1524.56	1585.20	1571.46	1564.00	1580.24	1552.89
D	1749.00	1715.13	1783.35	1767.89	1759.50	1777.77	1747.00
E	2137.67	2096.27	2179.65	2160.75	2150.50	2172.83	2135.22
F	2526.33	2477.41	2575.95	2553.62	2541.50	2567.89	2523.44
G	2915.00	2858.55	2972.25	2946.48	2932.50	2962.95	2911.67
H	3498.00	3430.26	3566.70	3535.78	3519.00	3555.54	3494.00

7. It should be noted that the actual final bills for council taxpayers will be a combination of the above rates (adjusted for special expenses), a charge for police and fire services plus the tax payers specific parish precept. Complete details of these will be provided to the full Council in the Council Tax Resolution report.

North Yorkshire Council

Fees & Charges Policy

1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1 Income generation is an important part of the Council's overall resources. Fees and charges can help to achieve income to support frontline service delivery and future investment, can influence customer behaviour and can help to ensure the council's policy objectives are achieved.
- 1.2 In total in 22/23 the former 8 councils in North Yorkshire expect to generate £113m from discretionary fees and charges - 11% of total income budgeted for the year. An effective Fees and Charges Policy will help to maximise income raised and lower the burden to Council Tax payers of providing various council services, instead ensuring that where appropriate, it is the direct users of these services that are paying towards the costs of these services.
- 1.3 The principle aims of this Fees and Charges Policy are to support future budget setting and medium-term financial planning processes and to provide a framework for the Council's approach to charging for services.
- 1.4 With this in mind, this Policy has been developed, to provide Service Managers with a centralised framework to consider when reviewing their fees and charges, helping to ensure a consistent approach across the Council.

2. Scope

2.1 This Policy applies to:

- Non-Discretionary (Statutory) Services that a Local Authority is mandated, or has a duty to provide, where charging is permissible in the legislation;
- Discretionary Services that a Local Authority has the power, but is not obliged, to provide and may cost recover for providing such services.

2.2 This Policy does not apply to:

- Any service where there is no ability to cost recover (charge) for such services;
- Council Tax and Business Rates – local taxation charges are covered by separate legislation;
- Fees and Charges that are set in statute and regulations, for example, Planning Application Fees;
- Services that are free of charge at the point of delivery, under legislation, for example domestic general waste collection;
- Contributions to the cost of care, as defined by social care legislation;
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) housing rents – a separate HRA rents policy covers these particular charges;
- Services traded through North Yorkshire Education Services (NYES) and
- Wholly controlled companies – as separate legal entities (within the NYC Group) fees and charges are set separately in accordance with their approved objectives, business plans and governance arrangements.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1 Within the Council's Constitution, Directors are responsible for establishing and reviewing fees and charges for their directorate in accordance with this corporate policy framework, the legal framework which enables such charges and the approved budget envelope.

- 3.2 The Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for reviewing this policy and providing advice and guidance for its implementation.

4. Objectives

- 4.1 With the ever-increasing budget pressures facing the public sector, it is important for the Council to increase resilience and independence wherever possible. One of the main areas this can be explored through is Fees and Charges.

- 4.2 In line with the Council's savings requirements and commercial stance, it is vital to regularly review the continuing provision of those discretionary services where the council is unable, or unwilling, to recover the full costs of service. It is also important to ensure that where there is an opportunity to introduce new fees and charges, this opportunity is investigated fully to understand the implications of doing so.

- 4.3 The Fees and Charges Policy therefore has the following objectives:

- 4.3.1 Maximising consistency across services:

As part of local government reorganisation, there is a need to move towards a consistent approach to fees and charges to ensure charges reflect service costs and are fair across the whole of North Yorkshire. This Policy acknowledges that there will be different fees and charges in operation across North Yorkshire as services work towards single operating models. This Policy does not specify if, when or how the various fees and charges across all 8 former councils should be harmonised but as services are brought together, it provides a unified set of principles for services to follow.

Any departure from the agreed Policy should be clearly documented and clearly explained. A corporate list of fees and charges is maintained by Finance and will allow Directors and Service Managers to record when a charge was last reviewed and what was considered. To assist with this process, a Fees and Charges calculation tool/guidance has been developed. (Link to Intranet)

- 4.3.2 Ensuring Fees and Charges are robust and up to date:

All fees and charges are to be reviewed on an annual basis. Whilst it is acknowledged that a full review of each fee and charge implemented by the Council is not practicable each financial year, it is considered that as a minimum the fees and charges already charged by the Council are to be adjusted in line with inflation each year. This will ensure that any inflationary change to the costs of providing a service will be matched by a corresponding change to the charge made for the service. The inflation rate to be applied each year will be notified by the Corporate Director of Resources as part of the budget setting process. All fees and charges must be subject to a detailed review at least every 3 years.

- 4.3.3 Ensuring that Fees and Charges are clearly understood:

As part of the review of Fees and Charges, the cost of providing each service, and any legislation pertaining to this service, is to be considered. As services start to work together under local government reorganisation and budgets are re-worked, services will be better placed to understand the costs of providing services and will help inform future decisions around fees and charges. The Fees and Charges calculation tool will allow Directors and Service Managers to calculate the cost of providing a service and record any relevant legislation and store this information for future reference.

- 4.3.4 Maximising Council income:

When reviewing existing fees and charges, or when considering the implementation of a new charge, the charge should be set at such a level as to maximise the income received by the

Council. Please see (Link to intrant) for further guidance on the approach to use when determining a fee and charge.

Service income budgets will rise in line with inflation in each year. As budgeted income targets are set to increase, it is important for fees and charges to be regularly reviewed and updated to help in meeting this increased level of budgeted income.

It is also important to ensure that fees and charges are reflective of the council's costs of service provision, to ensure that services are not being inadvertently subsidised without a positive decision to this effect.

5. Implementation

5.1. The following costing approach to fees and charges should be adopted:

- When introducing or reviewing a fee or charge, the Council will follow one of three models set out below.
- As a general rule, Fees and Charges should be aimed towards full-cost recovery, including an appropriate share of corporate and departmental overheads.
- If the Council is unable, or unwilling, to recover the full costs of providing a discretionary service, then as part of the annual review, the continued provision of this service should be considered along with the rationale of the charging policy adopted.
- When finalising the costs of each fee and charge, consideration should be given to any wider implications of setting the charge at the proposed rate, to avoid any unintended consequences.

Costing Model	Objective	Key Considerations
1. Full Cost Recovery	To cover the full costs of delivering the service ensuring no element of subsidy from local taxpayers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the Council's default charging method; • Charges should recover the full costs, including overheads, capital charges and recharges;
2. Cost Plus	To cover the full costs of delivering the service plus a margin to contribute to re-investment in services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In limited circumstances it may be appropriate to add a margin to full cost recovery, for example to contribute to re-investment in services where the income will not generate a surplus or profit against the service in totality. Guidance from Finance should be obtained before considering such charges
3. Subsidised	To cover all or part of the costs of service delivery with support from local taxpayers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of subsidy should have regard to the full cost of service delivery and there should be a clear and agreed rationale for subsidy

5.2 Fees and Charges should be benchmarked against other local authorities to help identify potential best practice. When appropriate to the Fee and Charge in question, benchmarking against other relevant competitors in the market should also be undertaken.

5.3 Each Directorate is responsible for ensuring that their Fees and Charges are appropriately monitored and up to date. Each Directorate's list of Fees and Charges is to be overseen by the Directorate's lead Finance Business Partner.

- 5.4 Annual reviews should consider the following factors:
- Inflationary pressures, and when a flat rate uplift might not be the most appropriate option due to specific changes to the cost-of-service delivery;
 - Service-level budget targets, with the context of council-wide targets and advice from lead Finance Business Partners;
 - Cost of administration;
 - Scope for new charging areas, this might be entirely new discretionary service to deliver, or existing services that are currently not charged for;
 - Demand/volume and sensitivity to price changes;
 - Use stakeholder engagement and comparative data, where appropriate, to ensure that charges do not adversely affect the take up of services or restrict access to services (other than where this is a desirable outcome).
- 5.5 If a decision is taken to not increase some fees and charges the budget shortfall that this creates will need to be bridged through other operational and cost savings. Conversely, if charges are increased above inflation this can contribute to Directorate savings targets.
- 5.6 Service users should be given a reasonable period of notice before the introduction of new or increased charges and there may be a requirement to consult.
- 5.7 To ensure cost effectiveness and efficiency when setting and amending charging levels, the following are to be considered:
- The desirability of increasing the Council's market share e.g., temporarily reducing a fee or charge in order to stimulate demand for a service, leading to increased income generation;
 - Obstacles to maximising full cost recover when providing the service;
 - Future investment required to improve or maintain the service;
 - If full cost recovery would require a sudden and large uplift and may reduce market share, it may be prudent to phase-in that price rise over a longer period with a temporary agreed discount;
 - The desirability of reducing the uptake of a given service, i.e., raising charges during peak times.
- 5.8 Once the review of existing fees and charges has been completed, or any proposal for a new fee or charge has been developed, these will need to pass through each Directorate's agreed approval process before implementation.
- 5.9 Further guidance is available as part of the Fees and Charges Calculation Tool.

6. Regularity of Review

- 6.1 The Policy is to be reviewed every four years as a minimum and any required amendments will be subject to approval of the Executive.

Summary of Usable Reserves

Usable Reserves	Estimated Balance 31 Mar 2023 £000	Appropriations In 2023/24 £000	Appropriations Out 2023/24 £000	Transfer s 2023-24 £000	Estimated Balance 31 Mar 2024 £000	Appropriations In 2024/25 £000	Appropriations Out 2024/25 £000	Transfers 2024/25 £000	Estimated Balance 31 Mar 2025 £000
Earmarked	-285,497	-6,678	54,027	-75	-238,223	-7,510	22,299	-36	-223,471
Restricted	-78,191	-13,963	23,549	75	-68,530	-14,102	18,292	36	-64,305
Unallocated	-60,684		2,055		-58,629		1,128		-57,501
Grand Total	-424,372	-20,641	79,631	0	-365,382	-21,612	41,718	0	-345,276

Appendix G – North Yorkshire Council Reserves Policy

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the Budget process all balances and reserves are reviewed as to their adequacy, appropriateness and management arrangements.
- 1.2 A schedule of the Reserves/Balances forecast to be held by the former councils at 31 March 2023 and to be transferred to the new North Yorkshire Council from 1 April 2023, together with forecast movements over 2023/24 to 2025/26 is provided at **Appendix F**.
- 1.3 All the Reserves/Balances listed are reviewed and monitored on a regular basis by the Corporate Director Resources. The level of the General Fund Working Balance (GFWB) is specifically reported to the Executive as part of each Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring report. Reserves are reviewed to establish:
- The current justification of the need for the reserve together with its intended use and the timing of that use;
 - The likely value of any potential liability and whether the Reserve is sufficient;
 - Whether the liability is better met as part of a wider Council Reserve (i.e. either as part of general fund balances or another dedicated Reserve) thus eliminating the need for a specific earmarked reserve.

2.0 Reserve Classification

- 2.1 As an initial categorisation of the following types of Balances/Reserves have been identified:
- Earmarked - these reserves help to manage financial risk, commitments and support improvement and investment within service directorates.
 - Restricted - some reserves are restricted in use due to legislative requirements or specific legal/funding agreements – examples include: ring-fenced Housing Revenue Account reserves; Community Infrastructure Levies/s106 sums for specific investments; capital receipts; and capital grants;
 - Unallocated balances are available for general use and include the **General Fund Working Balance (GFWB)**. The GFWB is the Council's funding of last resort. It provides the contingency to manage risk across the Council and is subject to a minimum 10% policy requirement

A full review of reserves and their categorisation will be undertaken during 2023/24 in preparation for the next refresh of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

- 2.2 The operation of reserves and balances are subject to the following:

General Fund (GF) Reserves

General Fund Working Balance (GFWB)

- 2.3 The policy is to maintain the minimum level of GFWB at:

a) A minimum of 10% of the net revenue budget (rounded to the nearest £m) in order to provide for unforeseen emergencies etc.

2.4 The above policy is also accompanied by the following "good practice rules":

- (a) that any underspending on the Corporate Miscellaneous budget at the year-end will be allocated to the GFWB only if the balance drops below the target balance. Any other underspends will be allocated to the Strategic Capacity Reserve;
- (b) that should there be any call on the GFWB during a year such that the Target level (as defined in the MTFS) will not be achieved at the respective year end then:
 - (i) that shortfall be addressed in the next Budget cycle; and/or
 - (ii) that revenue or capital expenditure reductions be effected in either the current or following financial year, in order to offset the shortfall;
- (c) that in order to implement 2.4(b) the Executive should review the position of the GFWB on a regular basis as part of the Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring report process.

Earmarked Reserves

2.5 These are specific funds for a range of initiatives and projects – balances are subject to annual challenge to establish appropriate levels and spend profiles, as part of the council's budget monitoring and financial management arrangements. Appropriations to and from these reserves will be considered on a case by case basis. Within earmarked reserves there are some strategic reserves which are important to the overall financial management of the Council:

Strategic Capacity - Unallocated and MTFS Shortfall

2.6 Appropriations to the Strategic Capacity reserve will be dependent upon in-year revenue surpluses (beyond those required to top-up GFWB) and windfall resources. The first call on this reserve will be to fund any revenue budget shortfalls after planned reserve movements. Subject to available resources, appropriations from this reserve to fund specific projects will be subject to approved business cases.

2.7 The MTFS Shortfall Reserve holds the deficits arising from revenue shortfalls (actual and forecast) so that the cumulative impact of budget decisions and savings delivered can be tracked.

Local Taxation Reserves

2.8 These reserves receive the surpluses and deficits on the Council's share of Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Funds. The purpose of these reserves is to mitigate the risk of a significant Collection Fund deficit impacting on the revenue budget in a single year. These reserves also receive the renewable energy business rates income received by the former Selby District Council earmarked for revenue budget support.

2.9 A maximum balance which is sufficient to provide a reasonable internal 'safety net' is proposed at 2% of these income streams – estimated at £11m for 2023/24.

- 2.10 Should this maximum balance be exceeded then the excess will be released to the Strategic Capacity Reserve for alternative use. In 2023/24 £20m is available for transfer to the Strategic Capacity Reserve but this will be considered as part of the full review of reserves in 2023/24.
- 2.11 A minimum balance of £2m is held and if this is insufficient to meet an expected net Collection Fund deficit, then the Strategic Capacity (Unallocated) Reserve will be used to fund any shortfall and reinstate the minimum balance.

Local Government Re-organisation (LGR)

- 2.12 This reserve supports the additional transitioning and transformation costs for the new unitary council. Baseline funding of £38m was earmarked by the former County Council and there is currently £21.1m uncommitted..
- 2.13 Appropriations from and to this reserve will be considered on a case by case basis.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Reserves

HRA Working Balance (HRAWB)

- 2.14 HRA reserves and balances are ringfenced to the HRA. The policy is to maintain the minimum level of HRAWB at:
- a) A minimum of 10% of the net HRA revenue budget (rounded to the nearest £m) in order to provide for unforeseen emergencies etc
- 2.15 This policy is also accompanied by the following "good practice rules":
- (a) that any underspending on the HRA revenue budget at the year-end will be allocated to the HRAWB only if the balance drops below the target balance. Any other underspends will be allocated to the HRA Major Repairs Reserve;
- (b) that should there be any call on the HRAWB during a year such that the Target level (as defined in the MTFS) will not be achieved at the respective year end then:
- (i) that shortfall be addressed in the next Budget cycle; and/or
- (ii) that revenue or capital expenditure reductions be effected in either the current or following financial year, in order to offset the shortfall;
- (c) that in order to implement 2.15(b) the Executive should review the position of the HRAWB on a regular basis as part of the Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring report process.

HRA Major Repairs Reserve

- 2.16 This reserve supports the HRA business plan and its forecasts for on-going cyclical replacements and improvements to the Council's HRA housing stock beyond the annual maintenance budgets within the HRA revenue budget.
- 2.17 In accordance with the financial framework governing HRAs, appropriations into this reserve include 'depreciation charges' applied to the HRA along with any net annual surpluses arising from housing rents received, less HRA annual running costs.

2.18 Appropriations from this reserve are subject to annual review of the HRA Business Plan and budget setting.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL
MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)
2022/23 to 2025/26

Appendix H

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	2023/24 £ '000	2024/25 £ '000	2025/26 £ '000
Districts	102,037		
NYCC	481,314		
A Starting Position	583,351	623,458	644,475
Pay Awards	19,035	11,451	8,589
Other Inflationary Costs	46,914	14,500	8,000
	65,950	25,951	16,589
C Increased Spending / Growth Requirements			
Environment			
Transport	(290)	-	38
Community			
Planning	750	-	-
Housing	764	-	125
Culture and Leisure	1,430	(391)	-
Central			
Area Constituency Committee	300	-	-
NYLAF	20	-	-
Catch Up Inflation	3,784	-	-
System Developments	214	-	-
Corporate/Other			
Changes to T&C's	1,374	-	-
Treasury Management & Capital Financing	(17,002)	(612)	-
Council Tax Deficit Adjustment	(4,709)	-	-
Business Rates Adjustment	(566)	-	-
Contingency	1,000	-	-
Brexit Contingency	(1,500)	-	-
Other adjustments	(3,921)	-	-
Removal of Renewables Expenditure	-	(9,551)	-
Hospital Discharge	(1,750)	-	-
CYPS			
SEN Administration & Coordination	400	-	-
Education Psychology	400	-	-
Disabled Children's Services	1,000	-	-
Home to School Transport	5,600	2,500	2,500
Digital EHCPs	50	-	-
School Improvement	(50)	(125)	-
Pooled Budget	2,500	-	-
HAS			
Structural Overspend	4,100	-	-
Hospital Discharge	2,400	1,600	-
Market Sustainability	5,000	5,000	-
	1,298	(1,579)	2,663
D Cost Reduction / Savings Requirements			
Environment			
Budget Savings	(1,600)	(1,374)	-
Community			
Community Development	(1,073)	-	-
Central			
Central Services Budget Savings	(930)	-	-
Corporate/Other			
LGR Savings	(3,174)	-	-
Employer's Contribution Rate	(6,163)	-	-
CYPS			
Budget Savings	(430)	(2,975)	(2,250)
HAS			
Budget Savings	(1,325)	(250)	(325)
	(14,695)	(4,599)	(2,575)
F Use of General Working Balances (GWB)			
MTFS Balance/(Shortfall)	(12,446)	1,244	(16,225)
	(12,446)	1,244	(16,225)
Sub Total	623,458	644,475	644,926
E Funding Sources			
Revenue Support Grant	(175)	(188)	(188)
Rural Services Delivery Grant	(11,043)	(11,043)	(11,043)
New Homes Bonus	(4,332)	(4,332)	-
2022-23 Services Grant	(3,299)	(3,299)	(3,299)
Improved Better Care Fund (Original Allocation)	(17,328)	(17,328)	(17,328)
Social Care Grant (SR19, SR20 & SR21)	(31,992)	(36,557)	(36,557)
Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	(2,430)	(4,049)	(4,049)
Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund	(5,675)	(8,533)	(8,533)
	(76,275)	(85,330)	(80,998)
H Business Rates			
Total Retained by authority	(91,532)	(91,532)	(96,626)
Multiplier Cap and Renewables	(27,921)	(18,370)	-
	(119,453)	(109,902)	(96,626)
I Balance Required from Council Tax	427,730	449,243	467,302
J Council Tax Base (Band D equivalents)	243,033.59	245,463.93	247,918.57
K Basic Amount of Council Tax (Band D)	1,759.96	1,830.17	1,884.89
Annual % Increase	4.99%	3.99%	2.99%
Summary of In-Year Budget Shortfall	(12,446)	1,244	(16,226)
Cumulative Budget Shortfall	(30,350)	(29,105)	(45,331)

Let's Talk Money

1.0 Summary

- 2,654 valid responses were received to the Let's Talk Money survey.
- Responses were received from people who live and work within all districts across North Yorkshire, although people from Harrogate were over represented in the responses.
- The top ranked services, based on those which people allocated most budget to were education, adult social care, highways and transport and children's social care.
- More than three-quarters of responses agreed with the proposals to introduce a 100 per cent council tax premium for second home owners.
- Around half the responses supported the approach of harmonising council tax rates over two years. However, results varied across districts. People in Harrogate and Richmondshire, who will see a reduction in their bills, were much more likely to agree that this should happen over two years. Scarborough people were much more likely to say it should happen sooner than two years. A higher proportion of people in Hambleton, Craven and Selby felt that this process should take longer than two years and a higher proportion said other.
- A quarter of participants in the survey stated that they would be willing to pay a 2% increase in council tax to help deliver critical services across North Yorkshire. Around one-in-five respondents would not support an increase of any amount.
- A third of people who replied would be willing to pay a 1% increase in council tax to fund adult social care services. Around one-in-five would not support an increase of any amount.

2.0 Introduction, background, and methodology

Our ambition for Let's Talk North Yorkshire was for it to be our biggest ever countywide conversation, to help understand how the public are feeling, and use that intelligence to improve decision making and inform the council's policy development process.

Three consultations fell under the Let's Talk banner – Local, Devolution and Money.

Let's Talk Local was launched on 26 September 2022. This strand focused on understanding people's priorities for their local areas and testing the geography of potential community networks. The survey also included a question on council priorities and the impact of the cost of living crisis.

Let's Talk Money followed, launching on 31 October 2022 and running until 23 December 2022. The survey included the same questions to understand people's priorities and the impact of the cost of living crisis. People who had already completed Let's Talk Local and had answered these questions did not need to complete them again.

Both surveys were hosted on 'Commonplace', our digital engagement platform. The work was supported by a marketing campaign using owned, earned and paid for print, digital, broadcast and social media channels, directing people to the platform. It was also promoted at engagement events across the county. An easy read version of the questionnaire was produced and, where requested, alternative formats such as large print were supplied.

2,654 valid responses to the Let's Talk Money survey were received. This report presents the results of the Let's Talk Money survey and includes the questions repeated on across both surveys. The Let's Talk Local report will consider the repeated questions in more depth.

Responses have been validated to remove test responses submitted during the development of the survey and technical duplicate responses submitted when respondents experienced technical problems in submitting their responses.

As usual with self-completion questionnaires, some participants did not complete all questions. This may be because they did not have an opinion on the question asked, but we cannot make this assumption in full confidence. Such 'missing data' is excluded from the results unless otherwise stated. All charts indicate the number of responses received for each question.

The survey results are reported as whole numbers for percentages. As a result of this ‘rounding’ process there may be occasions when the figures do not add up to 100.

Free text response questions were coded to look for patterns and themes in the responses.

Reliability of the results

The number of responses received as part of the Let’s Talk Money survey indicates we can be confident that the survey results reflect the wider view of people in North Yorkshire and can be generalised to the whole population

The 95% confidence interval for overall survey results is calculated to be within +/- 1.9%, and this indicates a high level of certainty in the results. ⁱ

While the sample of response in the survey is broadly representative of the population in North Yorkshire in many respects, the over-representation of people from some sub-groups such as districts and age groups may have an impact on the survey results if people from these groups have different views on issues. Demographic group information was not provided by many people taking part in the survey, and this also limits the ability to determine how truly representative the sample of responses is.

We acknowledge that there is likely to be some survey error in the results, due to the over-representation of certain sub-groups in the sample. Although the survey is not truly representative, we always assume that there will be some sampling error and/or response bias in every survey, and this does not invalidate the survey findings.

3.0 Summary of main findings

Survey respondent characteristics

Most people completing the survey were residents of the county. Participants also included people who work, study or represent organisations in the county and there was a small number of people who stated other. People were asked for their connection to North Yorkshire and were able to choose several options.

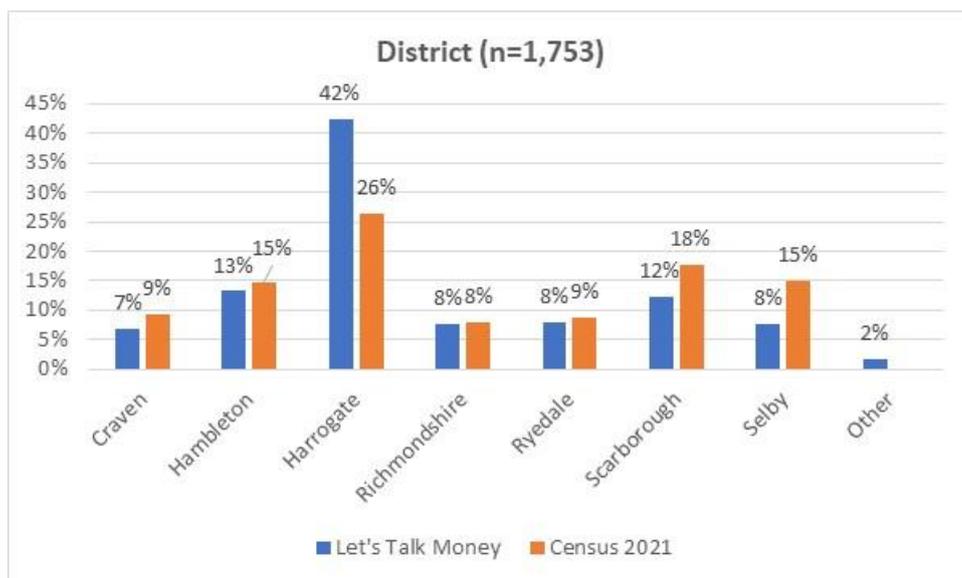
Chart 1 Connection to the area

I live here	1209	93%
I work here	424	33%
I work for one of the local authorities	118	9%
I run a business here	103	8%
I represent an organisation here	103	8%
I study here	21	2%
Other	35	3%
Number responding	1,296	

The majority (93%) of those who provided a reply said that they lived here, a third (33%) said they worked here. Nearly one- in- ten worked for one of the local authorities (9%).

People were asked for their postcode to identify where they live, and this was used to indicate the district in which they live. The chart below compares the distribution of responses with the breakdown of population (age 16+) by district across North Yorkshire.

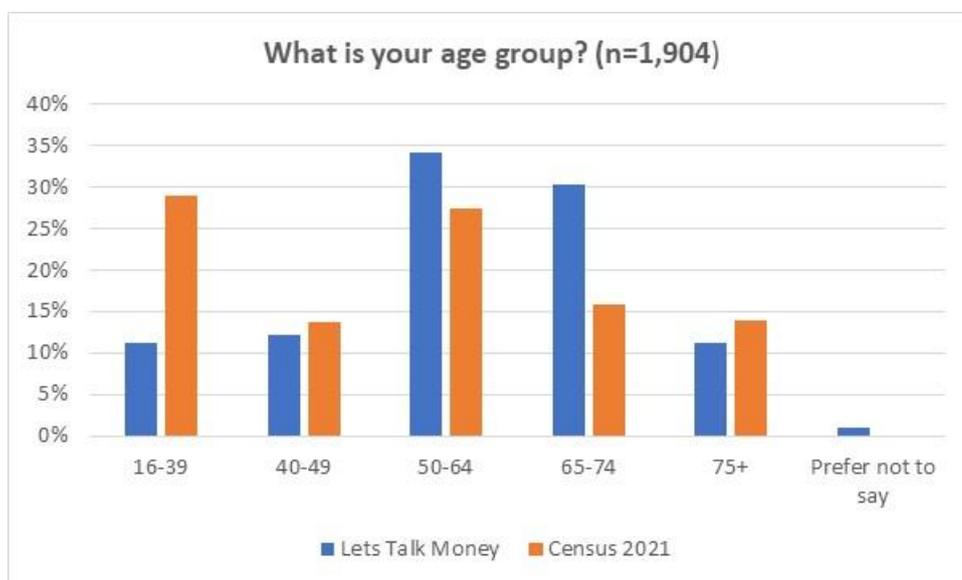
Chart 2 Response sample and population by district of residence



Harrogate is overrepresented in the responses, with 42% of the participants indicating that they lived within the Harrogate district. The proportion of responses from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Ryedale is representative. Scarborough and Selby are underrepresented. In addition, 2% of the responses were from people from outside North Yorkshire. The district of a further 901 responses is not known because this information was not provided or was incomplete.

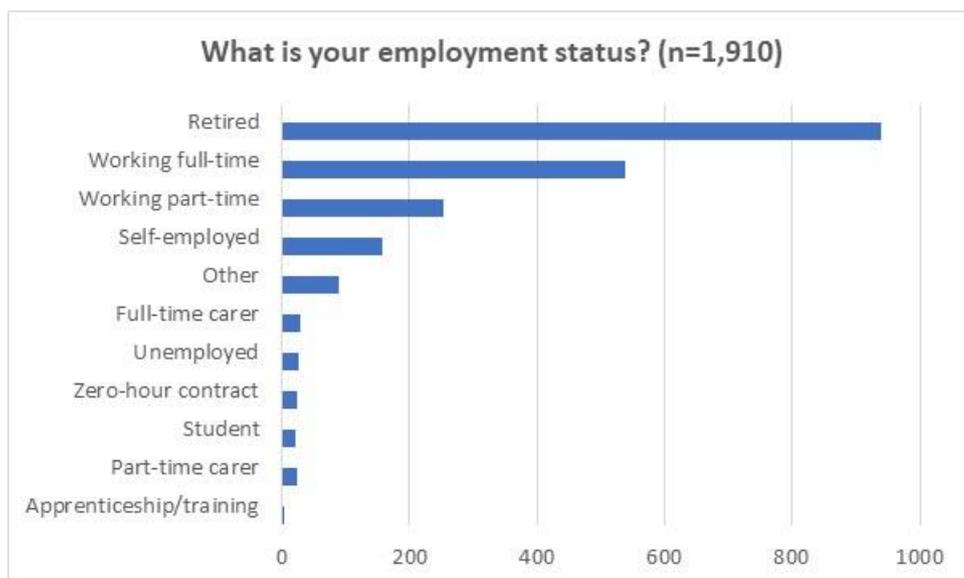
There were more responses from people identifying as male (50%) than female (46%), with 3% preferring not to say and a small number (5 responses) describing themselves in another way. In total 1628 responded to this question.

Chart 3 Response sample and population by age group



People in the 65-74 age group make up a high proportion of responses (30%) which is higher than the population of North Yorkshire as a whole, for this age grouping (16%). The 50-64 age group is also overrepresented, making up 34% of the responses and 27% of the population. The 16-39 age group is underrepresented, making up 11% of the responses and 29% of the population, this is despite targeting the younger age groups in the campaign. Again a significant number of people did not answer this question.

Chart 4 - Employment status

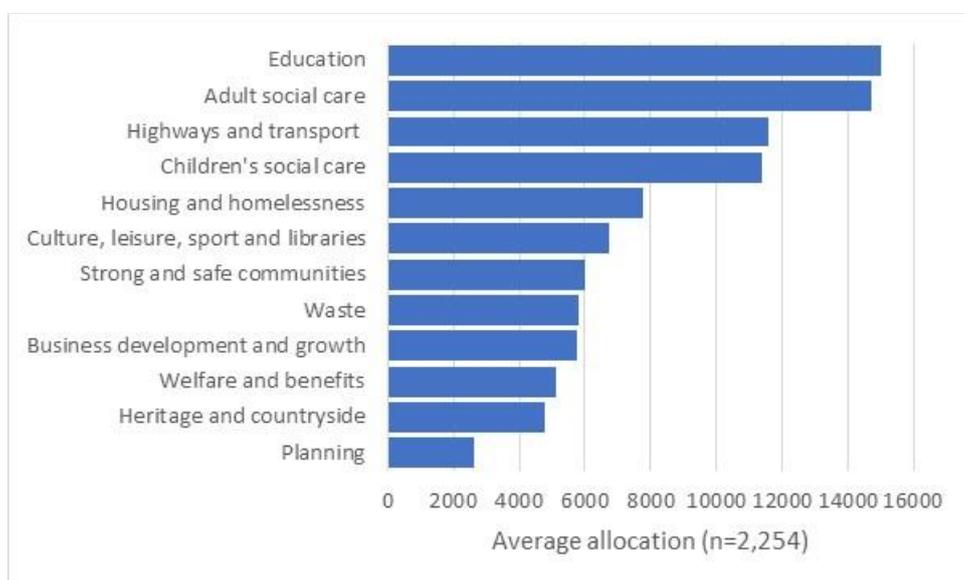


People were also asked their employment status and could choose more than one option. Of those answering the question, nearly half (49%) were retired, which reflects the age group of those responding. Around half of the respondents were working in one way or another, 28% were working full time, 13% part time, 8% were self-employed and 1% had zero-hour contracts.

Priorities

The survey asked people to allocate a budget of £100,000 across 12 council services. This exercise was aimed at assessing how respondents would prioritise statutory services that need to be delivered.

Chart 5 - If you had £100,000 to spend on council services how would you split it?



The top ranked services, based on the services which people allocated most budget to, were:

- Education – average allocation of 15% of the budget
- Adult social care– average allocation of 15% of the budget
- Highways and transport– average allocation of 12% of the budget
- Children’s social care– average allocation of 11% of the budget

The lowest ranked service was planning, which people allocated an average of 3% of the budget to.

Council priorities

People completing both the Let's Talk Money and the Let's Talk Local surveys were asked what the new council should prioritise over the next three years by ranking eleven areas/themes.

The following were most commonly ranked in the top three priorities for the next three years in the Let's Talk Money survey:

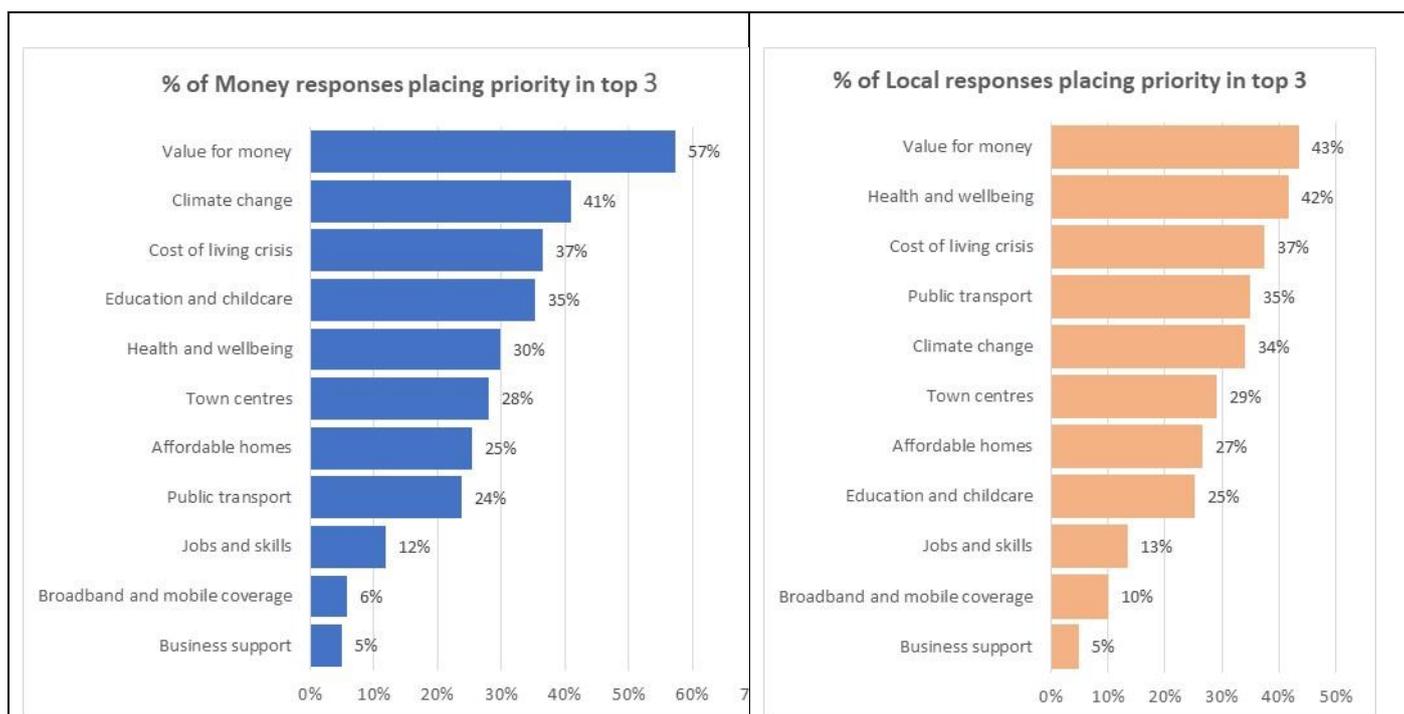
1. Value for money (ranked as a top 3 priority in 57% of responses)
2. Climate change (41%)
3. Cost of living crisis (37%)
4. Education and childcare (35%)
5. Health and wellbeing (30%)

Value for money, health and wellbeing, cost of living crisis and climate change are also ranked as the highest priorities in the Let's Talk Local survey, but public transport is also included in this list, in place of education and childcare.

Both sets of survey responses rank business support, broadband and mobile coverage, and jobs and skills as the lowest priorities for the next three years.

Chart 6 - What should the new council prioritise over the next three years?

The charts below show the proportions of responses placing each area or theme in the top three priorities for the new council in each of the surveys.



Feedback received from our officers staffing Let's Talk Local events in the community has highlighted that some people struggled to complete this question with people not necessarily ranking all 11 options. Results from the question must be considered more widely alongside other feedback, and this will be undertaken in more depth in the Let's Talk Local survey report.

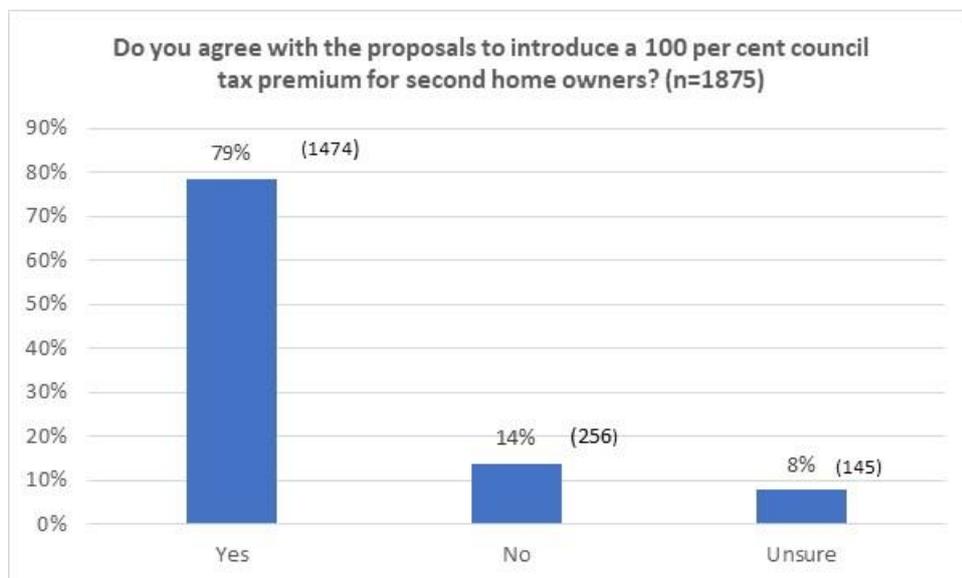
Second homes premium

North Yorkshire has the highest number of second homes in the Yorkshire and Humber region, which affects the availability of housing for local people. In September 2022, senior councillors on North Yorkshire County Council's

executive backed a proposal to introduce a 100 per cent council tax premium on second homes within two years. This would mean that council tax bills are effectively doubled for second homeowners.

If the plans are agreed, the extra funding that would be raised by increasing council tax for people who own second homes is estimated at around £14m a year. This financial boost would help to fund key priorities for the new council such as tackling the affordable housing crisis. The 100 per cent council tax premium on second homes would not be introduced until 1 April 2024, if the Government’s proposals to make these changes become law.

Chart 7 - Do you agree with the proposals to introduce a 100 per cent council tax premium for second home owners?



The text above was included in the survey and it then asked if people agreed with the proposals to introduce a 100 per cent council tax premium for second home owners. 79% of responses agreed with the proposals to introduce a 100 per cent council tax premium for second home owners and 14% disagreed.

Some people used the open-ended question on savings to give their views on the question on second homes. There were 15 responses supporting the increase with some suggesting a higher premium, there were 10 responses objecting to the proposal or seeking further clarification for particular circumstances. There were also a few comments about the need for more housing for residents and comments about holiday lets and the tax implications.

Harmonisation

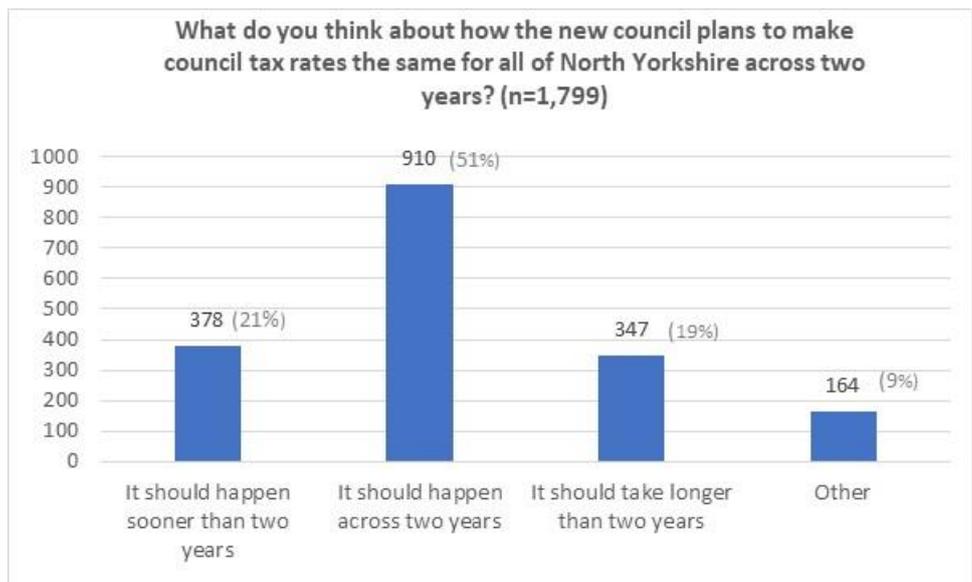
By law, North Yorkshire Council must set a single base level for council tax. Currently, the seven borough and district councils all charge different amounts.

The Government will allow the new council to make council tax levels the same over a period of up to eight years. To get the right balance of fairness for everyone, the recommendation is that council tax levels are made the same over a period of two financial years starting from 1 April 2023.

This avoids the sharp and sudden increase that would happen by making council tax the same in a single year, but means that people are paying the same amount for the same services more quickly.

For people in some areas this will mean an increase in their council tax bill and for others it will mean they pay less. If the proposals are agreed, the first change to the base level of council tax will take effect from 1 April 2023 and the second from 1 April 2024. This means that the base level of council tax for the financial year 2024/25 will be the same for the whole of North Yorkshire.

Chart 8 - What do you think about how the new council plans to make council tax rates the same for all of North Yorkshire across two years?



The information above the chart was detailed in the survey. People were asked what they thought about how the new council plans to make council tax rates the same for all of North Yorkshire across two years. The majority (51%) of responses supported the approach of making it happen over two years, around one-in-five (21%) thought it should happen sooner and a similar proportion (19%) thought it should take longer.

Although the majority of people thought the process should take place over two years, there were significant differences in views by area. People in Harrogate and Richmondshire who will see a reduction in their bills were much more likely to agree that this should happen over two years. Scarborough people were much more likely to say it should happen sooner than two years. A higher proportion of people in Hambleton, Craven and Selby felt that this process should take longer than two years and a higher proportion said other.

Chart 9 – Opinion of the new council plans to make council tax rates the same for all of North Yorkshire across two years by district

	Number of responses	It should happen sooner than two years	It should happen across two years	It should take longer than two years	Other
Craven	73	15%	44%	23%	18%
Hambleton	157	4%	48%	31%	17%
Harrogate	505	22%	60%	12%	7%
Richmondshire	95	22%	60%	12%	6%
Ryedale	92	26%	47%	17%	10%
Scarborough	151	33%	44%	15%	7%
Selby	88	18%	45%	22%	15%
Outside NY	22	18%	32%	41%	9%
Unknown	615	22%	47%	23%	8%
Total	1798	21%	51%	19%	9%

The other category was made up of:

- those who did not think that harmonisation should happen (74 responses), because they did not agree with the new council, and/or did not think it fair as they feel that access to services is not the same across the county

- people commenting on the council tax system such as the bands being out of date, the parish precept, and the single person discount (14 responses)
- people detailing why / how it should take longer than two years (12 responses)
- those who felt that harmonisation should be done on the lowest current rate (9 responses)
- a number stating that they are unsure or need more information (7 responses)
- those who raised issues on the ability to pay (6 responses)
- people saying it should be quicker (3 responses) or explaining that they agree with it taking two years (3 responses)
- people commenting about second homes (3 responses); and
- a wide variety of other responses (30 responses).

Council tax

Council tax is now the most important source of funding for the council and each one per cent increase would raise £4m towards meeting rising costs and demand. Each one per cent increase in council tax would add:

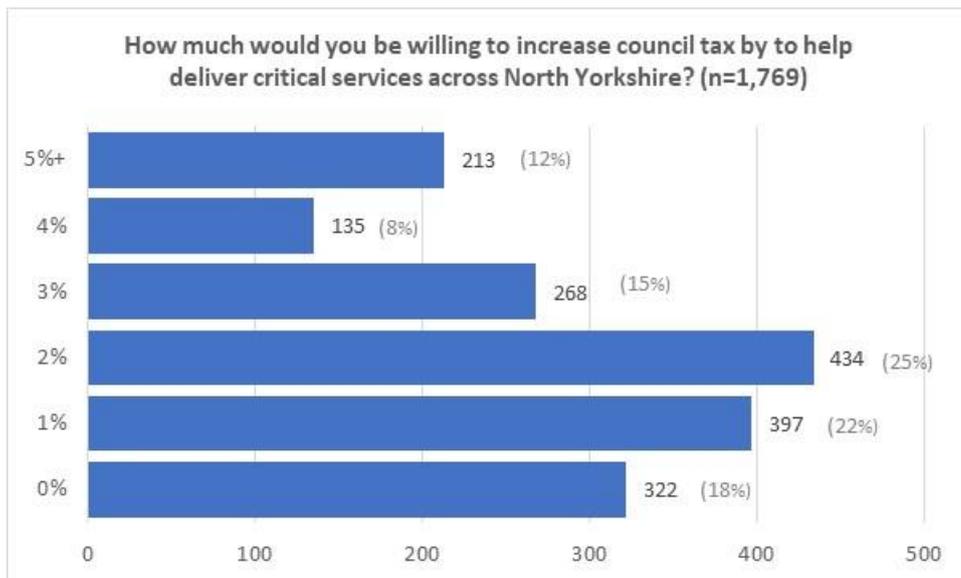
- £17 to the average Band D household bill for the year; or
- around £1.40 per month.

How far council tax can be raised is, in part, controlled by the Government. In recent years it has set a ‘referendum limit’ which means any increase above that rate must be voted on locally. The cost and practicalities of doing that means that this limit acts as a cap on council tax increases.

At the time of launching this consultation it was unclear whether the Government would impose a referendum limit for the coming year and how much that might be. In his Autumn Statement on 17 November 2022, the Chancellor announced that local authorities in England who provide social care will be able to increase council tax by up to 5 per cent without holding a local referendum, with a 3 per cent general increase and 2 per cent to fund social care.

People were asked how much would you be willing to increase council tax by to help deliver critical services across North Yorkshire?

Chart 10 - How much would you be willing to increase council tax by to help deliver critical services across North Yorkshire?

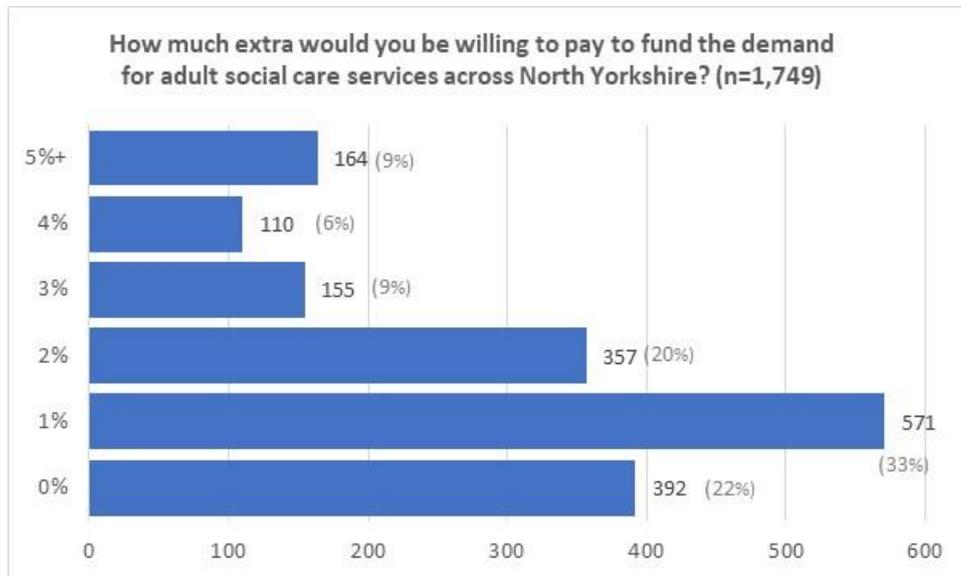


A quarter (25%) of responses would be willing to pay a 2% increase in council tax to help deliver critical services across North Yorkshire. A further 22% would support a 1% increase, 15% a 3% increase but 18% would not support an increase of any amount.

A significant proportion of people did not provide any response.

In addition, people were asked how much extra would you be willing to pay to fund the demand for adult social care services across North Yorkshire?

Chart 11- How much extra would you be willing to pay to fund the demand for adult social care services across North Yorkshire?



A third (33%) of responses would be willing to pay a 1% increase in council tax to fund adult social care services. A further 20% would support a 2% increase but 22% would not support an increase of any amount.

A significant proportion of people did not provide any response.

People were informed that by creating a single council for North Yorkshire there will be opportunities for transformation and savings in the future. There will be:

- fewer councillors;
- a smaller senior management structure; and
- less duplication by joining up services.

The larger organisation will also be able to buy goods and services in the most cost-effective way. In the longer-term, bringing together services, for example waste collection and disposal, will potentially give further opportunities for efficiencies. We expect that many of these changes will happen over several years.

People were then asked do you have any ideas or suggestions for how the new council could do things differently to make savings or generate income. These comments were coded to identify the most common ideas / suggestions made.

Chart 12 - Do you have any ideas or suggestions for how the new council could do things differently to make savings or generate income?

Comment Type	Comment description	Number
Staffing and councillors	Reduced management, reduced staff numbers, fewer councillors, cut in expenses / allowances, no redundancy reduced pay and expenses, pension changes,	181
Efficiencies	Reduced bureaucracy, join up services, improved ways of working, shared IT, online meetings, use of IT, efficiency reviews, service improvements	137
Highways and transportation	Comments regarding improvements for highways, turning street lighting off or using LEDs, street cleansing, car parking	110

Comment Type	Comment description	Number
	and public transportation. Including less improvement schemes, improved public transport, less or more cycling, leaving verges unmown	
Income generation	Ideas for income generation such as renting out properties, service charges, fines	82
Property	Property rationalisation, making property more efficient	78
Waste / recycling	Improve recycling rates, common methods / income, charging for garden waste, food caddies for food waste	73
Climate change / environment	Investment in renewable energy (solar panels, hydro, district heating systems, wind turbines), climate change as a priority, low emission zones, EV infrastructure, limitations on car usage	72
Funding of local government / council tax system	Suggested changes to council tax system including rebanding valuation, tax holiday properties, tourist tax	65
Housing / planning	Priorities around housing and planning, including gaining funding from developers, more or less new homes, efficiency of planning, council homes sold or leased, housing standards	57
Economic development	Priorities around economic development and tourism	46
Procurement	Improved procurement, contract management, reduced outsourcing	37
Cut unnecessary roles and activities	Focus on/only deliver statutory services, do fewer things, cut "non jobs", don't subsidise events	37
Second homes	Comments supporting proposed second homes council tax increase, some objecting to plan, others saying should be more, other comments around holiday homes / holiday lets	33
Devolution / Double devolution / community action	Comments on devolution negative and positive, role of parish councils and double devolution, locality working, use of volunteers, engaging with communities, community action	54
Social care	Priorities relating to social care, comments about standards in social care	31
Savings from single council	Expectation of savings related to the creation of the single council being made and stated in survey, comments about getting on with it	25
Objection to change	Comments objecting to the new council	22
Children and young people	Comments regarding services for children and young people, schools, areas for priority reducing spend on school transport including taxis	25
Reduce communication / marketing spend	Reduce communications spend, rebranding spend, spend on consultations	16
Support for vulnerable people	Comments about supporting vulnerable people including benefits, some as priority area for spend, others as a place to cut spending	16
Leisure services	Ensuring leisure services are self-funding, privatise, sell or put leisure services in a trust	9
Other public sector services	Comments about health, fire, and police	8
Other	A wide variety of other comments	99

There were 873 comments made including emailed comments to this question, some covered a number of topics. Many of these were about regarding achieving the savings that are in line with the plans from the reorganisation;

comments about achieving the proposed savings from the single council, saving on staff costs and property costs, savings on councillor costs, procurement savings and efficiencies.

There were a variety of comments around priorities such as climate change, highways and transportation, social care, children and young people’s services and economic development.

There were also comments around factors which the council cannot directly deal with such as funding of local government, rebanding council tax bands, creating a tourist tax and stopping older people’s bus passes.

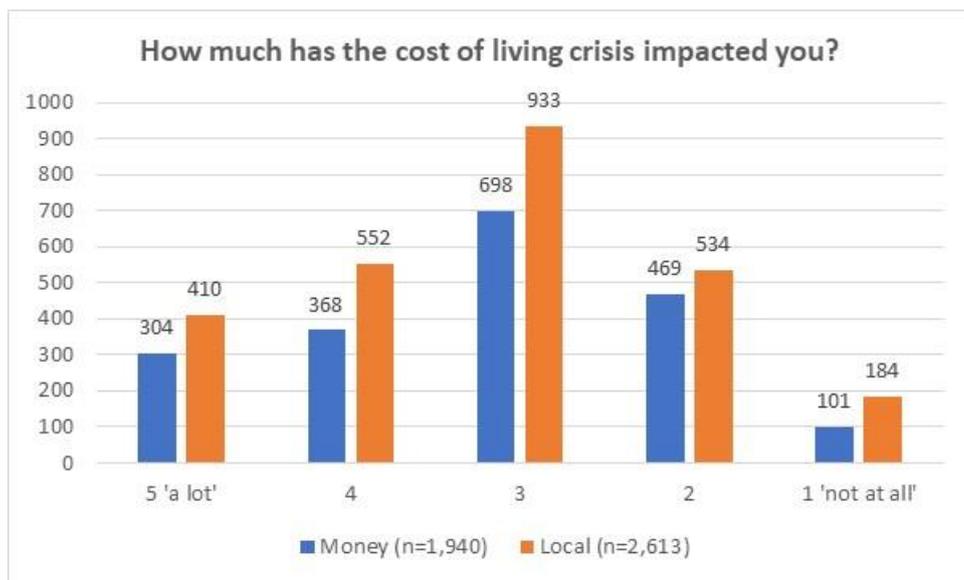
Cost of living

We know that many people are struggling as the cost of food, energy and other essentials continues to rise, so any decisions on council tax will be considered very carefully. Supporting people during the cost of living crisis is a key priority for the new council, and the proposed new scheme for council tax reduction will give the maximum level of reduction for the people most in need.

People were asked about the cost of living, how much it affected them and how, across both the Let’s Talk Money and Let’s Talk Local Surveys.

People were asked how much has the cost of living crisis impacted them on a scale of 1 to 5, rating 1 'not at all' to 5 'a lot'.

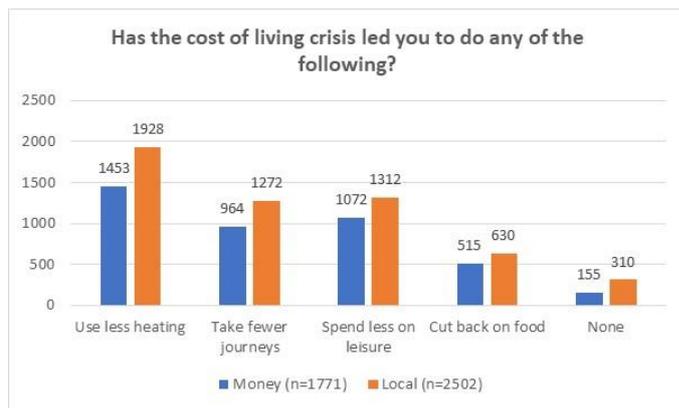
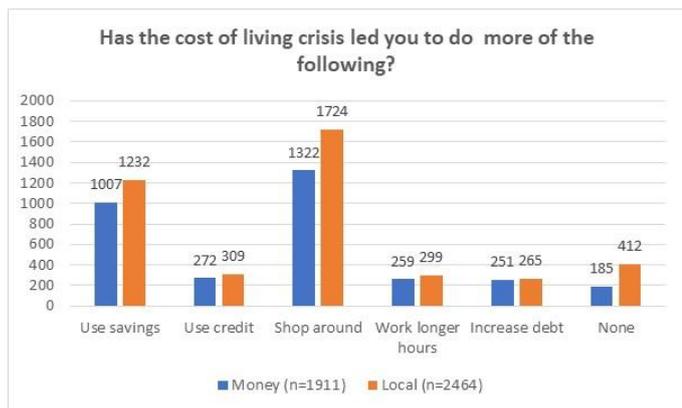
Chart 13 - How much has the cost of living crisis impacted you?



The most common responses (36%) for both surveys rated the impact of the cost of living as ‘3’ on a scale of 1 to 5. Around 15% of responses for both surveys rated the impact as 5 ‘a lot’.

People were asked about the impacts of the cost of living crisis.

Chart 14 – Actions resulting from the cost of living crisis



Around four-out-of-five responses had used less heating, seven out of ten responses said that the cost of living crisis had resulted in shopping around, around half had reduced spending on leisure and around half had used savings.

People were asked if there is anything else you would like to tell us about the impact of the cost of living crisis on you and your family? In Let’s Talk Money 31 responses mentioned council tax, examples below.

Very worried about council tax and rent

My family might be able to cope for now, but increasing (and especially doubling!) council tax would tip the balance and quickly make things worse

It is impossible for individuals living on their own to afford to pay the rent even in the smallest flats. My rent, bills and council tax make up 70% of my income. Something has to be done

The cost of living results will be considered in more depth in a separate report.

Appendix 1 – Let’s Talk Money tables of results

Number of responses: 2654

If you had 100,000 to spend on council services how would you split it?

	Responses	Ave	Ave	Min	Max
Education	2,234	14,984	15%	0	100,000
Adult social care	2,234	14,686	15%	0	100,000
Highways and transport	2,234	11,592	12%	0	100,000
Children's social care	2,234	11,384	11%	0	100,000
Housing and homelessness	2,234	7,750	8%	0	100,000
Culture, leisure, sport and libraries	2,234	6,722	7%	0	100,000
Strong and safe communities	2,234	6,004	6%	0	100,000
Waste	2,234	5,783	6%	0	100,000
Business development and growth	2,234	5,753	6%	0	100,000
Welfare and benefits	2,234	5,130	5%	0	100,000
Heritage and countryside	2,234	4,782	5%	0	100,000
Planning	2,234	2,648	3%	0	30,000

Do you agree with the proposals to introduce a 100 per cent council tax premium for second home owners?

	Responses	%
Yes	1474	79%
No	256	14%
Unsure	145	8%
Total	1875	100%

What do you think about how the new council plans to make council tax rates the same for all of North Yorkshire across two years?

	Responses	%
It should happen sooner than two years	378	21%
It should happen across two years	910	51%
It should take longer than two years	347	19%
Other	164	9%
Total	1799	100%

How much would you be willing to increase council tax by to help deliver critical services across North Yorkshire?

	Responses	%
0%	322	18%
1%	397	22%
2%	434	25%
3%	268	15%
4%	135	8%
5%+	213	12%
Total	1769	100%

How much extra would you be willing to pay to fund the demand for adult social care services across North Yorkshire?

	Responses	%
0%	392	22%
1%	571	33%
2%	357	20%
3%	155	9%
4%	110	6%
5%+	164	9%
Total	1749	100%

What should the new council prioritise over the next three years?

	Responses ranking in top 3	% ranking in top 3
Value for money	1155	57%
Climate change	826	41%
Cost of living crisis	738	37%
Education and childcare	713	35%
Health and wellbeing	600	30%
Town centres	566	28%
Affordable homes	513	25%
Public transport	481	24%
Jobs and skills	240	12%
Broadband and mobile coverage	117	6%
Business support	99	5%
Total	2016	

How much has the cost of living crisis impacted you?

	Responses	%
5 'a lot'	304	16%
4	368	19%
3	698	36%
2	469	24%
1 'not at all'	101	5%
Total	1940	100%

Has the cost of living crisis led you to do more of the following?

	Responses	%
Shop around	1322	69%
Use savings	1007	53%
Use credit	272	14%
Work longer hours	259	14%
Increase debt	251	13%
None	185	10%
Total	1911	100%

Has the cost of living crisis led you to do any of the following?

	Responses	%
Use less heating	1453	82%
Spend less on leisure	1072	61%
Take fewer journeys	964	54%
Cut back on food	515	29%
None	155	9%
Total	1771	100%

What is your age group?

	Responses	%
16-29	60	3%
30-39	145	8%
40-49	225	12%
50-64	642	34%
65-74	588	31%
75-84	210	11%
85 +	16	1%
Prefer not to say	18	1%
Total	1904	100%

What is your employment status?

	Responses	%
Retired	938	49%
Working full-time	537	28%
Working part-time	252	13%
Self-employed	158	8%
Other	89	5%
Full-time carer	29	2%
Unemployed	27	1%
Zero-hour contract	24	1%
Part-time carer	23	1%
Student	20	1%
Apprenticeship/training	3	0%
Total	1,910	100%

Are you?

	Responses	%
Male	821	50%
Female	755	46%
Prefer not to say	47	3%
Describe myself in another way	5	0%
Total	1628	100%

What is your connection to the area?

	Responses	%
I live here	1209	93%
I work here	424	33%
I work for one of the local authorities	118	9%
I run a business here	103	8%
I represent an organisation here	103	8%
Other	35	3%
I study here	21	2%
Total	1,296	100%

District

	Responses	%
Harrogate	743	42%
Hambleton	232	13%
Scarborough	216	12%
Ryedale	139	8%
Richmondshire	136	8%
Selby	136	8%
Craven	119	7%
Other	32	2%
Total	1753	100%

Do you agree with the proposals to introduce a 100 per cent council tax premium for second home owners?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Total
Craven	61 78%	13 17%	4 5%	78 100%
Hambleton	140 86%	17 10%	6 4%	163 100%
Harrogate	413 80%	71 14%	34 7%	518 100%
Richmondshire	78 79%	15 15%	6 6%	99 100%
Ryedale	76 79%	10 11%	8 9%	94 100%
Scarborough	128 81%	20 13%	10 6%	158 100%
Selby	71 77%	11 12%	10 11%	92 100%
Other	15 68%	4 18%	3 14%	22 100%
Unknown	492 76%	95 15%	64 10%	651 100%
16-29	31 67%	5 11%	10 22%	46 100%
30-39	82 82%	6 6%	12 12%	100 100%
40-49	121 73%	29 18%	15 9%	165 100%
50-64	375 78%	71 15%	32 7%	478 100%
65-74	349 82%	55 13%	24 6%	428 100%
75+	138 84%	17 10%	10 6%	165 100%
Unknown	378 77%	73 15%	42 9%	493 100%
Total	1474 79%	256 14%	145 8%	1875 100%

What do you think about how the new council plans to make council tax rates the same for all of North Yorkshire across two years?

	It should happen sooner than two years	It should happen across two years	It should take longer than two years	Other	Total
Craven	11 15%	32 44%	17 23%	13 18%	73 100%
Hambleton	7 4%	75 48%	49 31%	26 31%	157 100%
Harrogate	109 22%	302 60%	59 12%	35 7%	505 100%
Richmondshire	21 22%	57 30%	11 12%	6 6%	95 100%
Ryedale	24 26%	43 47%	16 17%	9 10%	92 100%
Scarborough	50 33%	67 44%	23 15%	11 7%	151 100%
Selby	16 18%	40 45%	19 22%	13 15%	88 100%
Other	4 18%	7 32%	9 41%	2 9%	22 100%
Unknown	136 22%	286 47%	144 23%	49 8%	615 100%
16-29	14 30%	20 43%	9 20%	3 7%	46 100%
30-39	27 28%	55 56%	8 8%	8 8%	98 100%
40-49	46 29%	81 51%	21 13%	12 8%	160 100%
50-64	93 20%	248 54%	75 16%	44 10%	460 100%
65-74	68 16%	224 53%	93 22%	36 9%	421 100%
75+	28 19%	83 55%	26 17%	14 9%	151 100%
Unknown	102 22%	198 43%	115 25%	46 10%	461 100%
Total	378 21%	909 51%	347 19%	164 9%	1798 100%

How much would you be willing to increase council tax by to help deliver critical services across North Yorkshire?

	0%	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%+	Total
Craven	20 27%	18 24%	11 15%	12 16%	2 3%	11 15%	74 100%
Hambleton	22 14%	44 24%	43 27%	16 10%	8 5%	24 15%	157 100%
Harrogate	75 15%	104 21%	125 25%	90 18%	44 9%	65 13%	503 100%
Richmondshire	18 19%	22 24%	25 27%	8 9%	6 6%	14 15%	93 100%
Ryedale	17 19%	15 17%	27 30%	14 16%	6 7%	11 12%	90 100%
Scarborough	22 15%	32 22%	38 26%	23 16%	12 8%	18 12%	145 100%
Selby	15 18%	16 19%	26 31%	13 15%	6 7%	9 11%	85 100%
Other	3 14%	4 18%	7 32%	5 23%	1 5%	2 9%	22 100%
Unknown	130 22%	142 24%	132 22%	87 15%	50 8%	59 10%	600 100%
16-29	4 9%	14 30%	11 24%	4 9%	4 9%	9 20%	46 100%
30-39	24 24%	24 24%	27 27%	7 7%	8 8%	9 9%	99 100%
40-49	30 19%	50 32%	35 22%	21 13%	9 6%	13 8%	158 100%
50-64	82 18%	108 24%	116 26%	69 15%	28 6%	51 11%	454 100%
65-74	65 16%	65 16%	104 25%	72 17%	42 10%	65 16%	413 100%
75+	20 13%	30 20%	42 28%	27 18%	11 7%	20 13%	150 100%
Unknown	98 22%	106 24%	100 22%	68 15%	33 7%	46 10%	451 100%
Total	323 18%	397 22%	435 25%	268 15%	135 8%	213 12%	1771 100%

How much extra would you be willing to pay to fund the demand for adult social care services across North Yorkshire?

	0%	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%+	Total
Craven	22 29%	27 36%	10 13%	5 7%	4 5%	7 9%	75 100%
Hambleton	33 21%	55 36%	31 20%	12 8%	6 4%	17 11%	154 100%
Harrogate	89 18%	161 32%	107 22%	52 10%	36 7%	51 10%	496 100%
Richmondshire	21 23%	29 32%	23 25%	7 8%	3 3%	8 9%	91 100%
Ryedale	19 22%	26 30%	21 24%	9 10%	4 5%	9 10%	88 100%
Scarborough	36 25%	43 29%	25 17%	14 10%	13 9%	15 10%	146 100%
Selby	21 25%	35 41%	13 15%	4 5%	4 5%	8 9%	85 100%
Other	4 18%	7 32%	6 27%	3 14%	0 0%	2 9%	18 100%
Unknown	147 25%	188 32%	121 20%	49 8%	40 7%	47 8%	592 100%
16-29	13 28%	14 30%	7 15%	3 7%	4 9%	5 11%	46 100%
30-39	31 32%	34 35%	19 20%	3 3%	5 5%	5 5%	97 100%
40-49	45 28%	71 45%	26 16%	9 6%	4 3%	4 3%	159 100%
50-64	104 23%	142 32%	90 20%	47 10%	27 6%	38 8%	448 100%
65-74	62 15%	127 31%	85 21%	37 9%	37 9%	58 14%	406 100%
75+	19 13%	44 30%	41 28%	21 14%	8 5%	13 9%	146 100%
Unknown	118 26%	139 20%	89 20%	35 8%	25 6%	41 9%	447 100%
Total	392 22%	571 33%	357 20%	155 9%	110 6%	164 9%	1749 100%

ⁱ [The confidence interval estimates the amount of certainty associated with the survey results by considering the size of the sample (2,654 respondents) and the population (number of people in North Yorkshire) and a given result (percentage of people choosing a response option from a range of possible options). For the purpose of calculating this figure we have taken the 'worst case' scenario in which 50% choose agree and 50% choose disagree.]

Survey Example: The survey found 78.6% of respondents (1,474) agree with the proposals to introduce a 100 per cent council tax premium for second home owners – we can be 95% confident the true value lies between 76.7% and 80.5% (i.e. within +/- 1.9% of the reported survey result). [There is a 5% chance the true result lies outside the range]. [The 95% confidential interval for this question was calculated on the basis of the 1,875 responses to this question and not the full sample].

Appendix J - Cumulative equalities impact assessment

Cumulative equalities impact assessment – Budget 2023/24

All proposals will be subject to individual equality impact assessments.

Protected characteristic / additional characteristic monitored by NYCC	Local context and related factors	Potential adverse impacts of budget savings proposals and steps taken to minimise impact
Age	<p>Updated with data from 2021 census, where available.</p> <p>North Yorkshire has a lower proportion of young people than the national average – 24.5% under 25 years old compared to 29.1% nationally. ¹</p> <p>In 2020 11.4% of 16 – 17-year-olds in North Yorkshire were identified as NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) against an England value of 5.5%.² Nationally the unemployment rate for 16-24-year-olds is high. The unemployment rate for people aged 16 and over for the UK was 4.2%, for the period August to October 2021. ³</p> <p>In 2021 25% of the county's adult population was aged 65 or over. This is considerably higher than the national percentage of 18.6%.¹</p>	<p>Older people</p> <p>Proposals to require people who are assessed as having sufficient personal finances to pay a fair charge for the total cost of care support and/or transport relating to social care, are also more likely to impact on older people due to the greater likelihood that they will have care needs. As people age they are more likely to develop a long term condition or disability which requires care and support.</p> <p>Work to prevent or delay reliance on social care by supporting people to live more independently and fostering community provision may provide positive impacts for older people. Our Stronger Communities team has been set up specifically to support communities to take on a greater role in the provision of services and has as one of its priorities support for older and more vulnerable people to remain involved and active within their community. In addition, our Living Well Co-ordinators work with individuals (and their carers) who are on the cusp of becoming regular users of health and social care services by helping them access activities in</p>

¹ Office for National Statistics: Census 2021

² Office for Health Improvement and Disparities 2020

³ ONS UK labour market statistics 2021

Protected characteristic / additional characteristic monitored by NYCC	Local context and related factors	Potential adverse impacts of budget savings proposals and steps taken to minimise impact
	<p>Updated with data from 2021 census, where available.</p> <p>Every year the population of older people increases, and with it the demand for the care and support which the council provides. By 2035, 32.60% of North Yorkshire's total population will be aged 65+ and 5.97% will be aged 85+.</p> <p>Nationally 23.26% will be 65+ and 4.05% will be 85+ by 2035.</p>	<p>their local community, reducing loneliness and isolation, and supporting them to find their own solutions to their health and wellbeing goals.</p> <p>Similarly, continuing to replace Elderly Persons Homes with Extra Care Housing where people can live independently whilst being in a supportive community could produce positive impacts for older people.</p> <p>Younger people</p> <p>Proposals which may have specific impacts for younger people include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the provision of home to school transport for solo travellers. <p>The anticipated adverse impacts in relation to age for home to school transport review of solo travellers has not materialised due to changing the practise and embedding criteria with evidence to support solo travel when it is the appropriate provision, is preventing all except logistical solo transport. The full school review continues to reduce solo transport due to pupils leaving and joining during a review period.</p> <p>Working-age people</p> <p>The proposed rise in the council tax may have a larger adverse impact upon these residents due to the effect of inflation in relation to wage growth as this category of residents is not protected from inflation in the same way that older people are, due to uprating of state pensions. The current economic situation caused by Covid may also have impacted people's ability to pay.</p> <p>Any potential impacts on staff as a result of staff restructuring to facilitate service changes will be carefully monitored. We will ensure that all relevant human</p>

Protected characteristic / additional characteristic monitored by NYCC	Local context and related factors	Potential adverse impacts of budget savings proposals and steps taken to minimise impact
	Updated with data from 2021 census, where available.	resources policies and procedures are adhered to and that our duty under the Equality Act 2010 is met.
Disability	<p>North Yorkshire has a lower proportion (19.3%) of people with a disability or long-term limiting illness whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot - against the national average of 23.69%.⁴ However, this will rise to 20.89% of the 65+ population in North Yorkshire, against a national average of 24.86%.</p>	<p>Work to prevent or delay reliance on social care by supporting people to live more independently and fostering community provision may provide positive impacts for people with disabilities. Our Stronger Communities team has been set up specifically to support communities to take on a greater role in the provision of services, and has as one of its priorities support for more vulnerable people to remain involved and active within their community. In addition, our Living Well Co-ordinators work with individuals (and their carers) who are on the cusp of becoming regular users of health and social care services by helping them access activities in their local community, reducing loneliness and isolation, and supporting them to find their own solutions to their health and wellbeing goals.</p> <p>The anticipated adverse impacts on those with a disability, has not materialised and most of the proposals have now been embedded with minimal adverse impact, a small number of families were impacted by the implementation of proposal 1, removal of transport to provision which were not nearest or catchment, and where an older sibling was receiving transport as a protected provision prior to the policy change, the majority have been mitigated with the use of Paid Travel Permits and all families were offered the right of appeal. Proposal 6 charging for replacement passes and 7 introduction of online application form will be reviewed and restarted following the LGR process. However these are unlikely to have any adverse impacts on those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The proposed increase in council tax and, in some areas, council tax harmonisation, could have a disproportionately adverse impact upon those with a</p>

⁴ Poppi 2019

Protected characteristic / additional characteristic monitored by NYCC	Local context and related factors	Potential adverse impacts of budget savings proposals and steps taken to minimise impact
	Updated with data from 2021 census, where available.	<p>disability due to the fact that disability benefits have reduced over time as thresholds for support has increased.</p> <p>Any potential impacts on staff as a result of staff restructuring to facilitate service changes will be carefully monitored. We will ensure that all relevant human resources policies and procedures are adhered to and that our duty under the Equality Act 2010 is met.</p>
Sex	<p>The proportion of females is slightly higher (51%) than that of males (49%)⁵. In some areas of the county the large number of predominantly male military personnel have the effect of reversing these proportions. This is also true of veteran numbers. The 2021 census recorded Richmondshire as having the third highest proportion of armed forces veterans in England (9.5%)</p> <p>There were 13,648 lone parent households in North Yorkshire in 2011⁶, of which 11,958 had a female lone parent (87.6%).</p>	<p>The proposed increase to council tax and, in some areas, council tax harmonisation, could have a disproportionately adverse impact upon females as women are likely to have lower incomes than men in later life due to working patterns when they were younger and may therefore be more likely to be impacted by increased costs. They are also disproportionately more likely to be lone parents.</p> <p>Any potential impacts on staff as a result of staff restructuring to facilitate service changes will be carefully monitored. We will ensure that all relevant human resources policies and procedures are adhered to and that our duty under the Equality Act 2010 is met.</p>
Race	North Yorkshire has a much lower proportion (4.77%) of people who identify with a non-UK identity than the national average (12%) ⁵	<p>There are no anticipated adverse impacts on people with this protected characteristic.</p> <p>Any potential impacts on staff as a result of staff restructuring to facilitate service changes will be carefully monitored. We will ensure that all relevant human resources policies and procedures are adhered to and that our duty under the Equality Act 2010 is met.</p>

⁵ Census 2021

⁶ Census 2011

Protected characteristic / additional characteristic monitored by NYCC	Local context and related factors	Potential adverse impacts of budget savings proposals and steps taken to minimise impact
Religion or belief	<p>Updated with data from 2021 census, where available.</p> <p>North Yorkshire has higher levels of Christians (59%) than the England and Wales average (46%) and lower levels of all other religions. The percentages of people with no religion (39%) and those not stating their religion (5.8%) are broadly similar to the England and Wales average.⁵</p>	<p>There are no anticipated adverse impacts on people with this protected characteristic.</p> <p>Any potential impacts on staff as a result of staff restructuring to facilitate service changes will be carefully monitored. We will ensure that all relevant human resources policies and procedures are adhered to and that our duty under the Equality Act 2010 is met.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>The government estimates that 5 – 7% of the population are gay, lesbian or bisexual. We have no evidence to suggest that this is not the case in North Yorkshire.</p>	<p>Any potential impacts on staff as a result of staff restructuring to facilitate service changes will be carefully monitored. We will ensure that all relevant human resources policies and procedures are adhered to and that our duty under the Equality Act 2010 is met.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>The Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIREs) suggests that across the UK: 1% of employees and service users may be experiencing some degree of gender variance. At some point, about 0.2% may undergo transition (i.e. gender reassignment). Around 0.025% have so far sought medical help and about 0.015% have probably undergone transition. In any year 0.003% may start transition.</p>	<p>Any potential impacts on staff as a result of staff restructuring to facilitate service changes will be carefully monitored. We will ensure that all relevant human resources policies and procedures are adhered to and that our duty under the Equality Act 2010 is met.</p>
Pregnancy or maternity	<p>In 2021 there were 5133 live births in North Yorkshire.</p> <p>In 2020 the conception rate per 1000 for under 18-year-olds in North Yorkshire was 10.9. This is below the rate for England (13).⁷</p>	<p>There are no anticipated adverse impacts on people with this protected characteristic.</p> <p>Any potential impacts on staff as a result of staff restructuring to facilitate service changes will be carefully monitored. We will ensure that all relevant human</p>

⁷ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities 2020

Protected characteristic / additional characteristic monitored by NYCC	Local context and related factors	Potential adverse impacts of budget savings proposals and steps taken to minimise impact
	Updated with data from 2021 census, where available.	
Marriage or civil partnerships	In 2020/21 4.2% of deliveries in North Yorkshire were to mothers from ethnic minorities, compared to the England value of 21.6% ⁷	resources policies and procedures are adhered to and that our duty under the Equality Act 2010 is met.
Rural areas	A higher percentage of North Yorkshire's population is married or in a civil partnership (53.7%) than the national average (44.6%). ⁸ (2021 census)	There are no anticipated adverse impacts on people with this protected characteristic. Any potential impacts on staff as a result of staff restructuring to facilitate service changes will be carefully monitored. We will ensure that all relevant human resources policies and procedures are adhered to and that our duty under the Equality Act 2010 is met.
	The population in North Yorkshire is generally sparser than the England average (0.86 people per hectare as opposed to 4.32 nationally). In some parts of the county this is lower still (Ryedale 0.37, Richmondshire 0.41) ⁹ . Distance travelled to access services is further than the national average. The Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), which covers the Dales ward in Ryedale, is in the 10% most deprived in England for Geographical Barriers to Services. ¹⁰	The anticipated adverse impact from the changes to home to school transport covering collection from pick-up points rather than door-to-door mean that families are expected to bring their child to the safe pick up point, did not produce the adverse impact expected as consideration of the safety of the route to the collection point, and door-to-door service was made available where medical, mobility or special educational needs required it. There may be some adverse impact on council staff living in rural areas where restructures and consequent changes to work locations take place, in that travel to work time may increase and there is disruption to childcare arrangements, for example, however this has been considered and discussed through consultation meetings and individual equality impact assessments will be carried out for any individual building closures where this is relevant and proportionate. Due

⁸ 2011 census

⁹ ONS 2019

¹⁰ Index of Multiple Deprivation, Indices of Deprivation 2019

Protected characteristic / additional characteristic monitored by NYCC	Local context and related factors	Potential adverse impacts of budget savings proposals and steps taken to minimise impact
	Updated with data from 2021 census, where available.	
	Rurality can also mean higher costs for such things as fuel for heating and travel.	consideration will be given to the degree of disruption likely to be caused by a proposed change in location and additional expense and travelling time incurred in circumstances where an alternative offer of employment is made, as per the Council's redeployment Policy.
People with low income	<p>The proportion of households in deprivation in North Yorkshire reduced between 2011 and 2021. In 2011 52.1% of households in North Yorkshire were deprived in at least one of the four dimensions (employment, education, health and disability, housing). By 2021 this had fallen to 46.7%. This 5.4 percentage point reduction in North Yorkshire compared with a 5.9 percentage point reduction across England as a whole, with the proportion of households in deprivation in North Yorkshire remaining below the national average.¹¹</p> <p>Scarborough is the only North Yorkshire district above the national average level of deprivation. 9 out of the 10 most deprived neighbourhoods in North Yorkshire in 2021 were in Scarborough district. ¹¹ North Yorkshire also has a number of lower super output areas within the 20% most deprived in England (23 in 2019, rising from 18 in 2010) and three LSOAs in Scarborough town are within the most deprived 1% in England.¹²</p>	<p>The changes to home to school transport relating to increased charges for discretionary transport and introducing a fee for replacement school bus passes were identified as having potential adverse effects on low income families was mitigated with the introduction of a 50% reduction.</p> <p>The proposed increase to council tax and, in some areas, council tax harmonisation, may have a disproportionately adverse impact upon those residents receiving low incomes.</p>

¹¹ Census 2021

¹² Index of multiple deprivation 2019

Protected characteristic / additional characteristic monitored by NYCC	Local context and related factors	Potential adverse impacts of budget savings proposals and steps taken to minimise impact
	<p>Updated with data from 2021 census, where available.</p> <p>Figures for long-term unemployment in North Yorkshire (0.8%) are lower than the national average (1.9%)¹³.</p> <p>The percentage of children in absolute low-income families is 11.3%, compared to the England value of 15.1%.¹¹</p> <p>The percentage of the population who claim out of work benefits in North Yorkshire is 2.0%, compared to a Great Britain percentage of 3.7% (Nomis – ONS September 2022)</p> <p>Percentage of people in North Yorkshire unemployed (June 2021 – June 2022) 3% - Great Britain 3.8%</p>	
Carers	Carers' allowance claimants make up 0.98% of North Yorkshire's population. ¹⁴ This is lower than the average for England (1.42%) but there are variations across the county. It is also very likely that these figures do not reflect the true number of people carrying out caring roles in the county as many do not claim allowances.	<p>Carers are likely to be impacted in similar ways to older and younger people and disabled people i.e. the people for whom they are caring, although the impacts may be more indirect. Carers may also have lower incomes as in many cases they will be unable to work due to their caring responsibilities. Some carers will, of course, have protected characteristics themselves, such as young carers.</p> <p>Staffing restructures which involve a change of locality base may impact adversely on home / work balance. Flexible working is in place to provide mitigation where this is feasible.</p>

¹³ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities 2021/22

¹⁴ May 2018, ONS

APPENDIX K

BUDGET RISK ASSESSMENT

There are always a number of significant risk factors, which it is necessary to consider in determining the Budget / MTFS. This Appendix seeks to give some indication of the potential financial consequences of some of the key risks assessed in formulating the 2023/24 Budget / MTFS:-

Risk	Quantification	Likelihood (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	£m	Recurring?	Rationale
Demand pressures - Including Adult Social Care, SEN, Children's Services, Homelessness and welfare and benefits	Corporate risk contingency as identified in the MTFS report.	H	H	£6m	Yes	Majority of budget is demand driven 1% of net budget equates to £6.2m
Supply Chain Distress	1% of all third-party payments to HAS and 1% of all third-party payments	H	H	£1.9m and £6m	Yes	Economic Position and additional targeted support that has been required in prior year
Erosion of business rates	1% of business rates	M	H	£1.2m	Yes	Economic impact of a recession.
Successful delivery of the LGR transition	Business case indicated costs of £38m to deliver	M	L	?	No	Provided £38m one-off funding
Failure to deliver savings ideas to bridge the gap	As per MTFS recurring shortfall	M	H	£103m		Based on cumulative use of reserves over life of MTFS.
Acceleration of inflation above assumptions on	1% increase in inflation (in a single year)	M	H	£0.5m	Yes	Economic position

supplies and services within the MTFS						
Acceleration of inflation above assumptions on pay award	1% increase	M	H	£3.2m	Yes	Economic position
Potential shortfall on Council Tax yield based upon MTFS assumptions	1% Council Tax variation	M	M	£4.3m	Yes	More people able to claim LCTS – impact of pandemic on jobs.
Income levels	1% of fees and charges	M	M	Circa £2.8m	No	Economic position.
Insufficient capacity to deal with the competing demands of the organisation and inability to progress strategically important initiatives. Therefore having to go to market for agency staff and consultants.	1% staff workforce * price premium	H	M	£3m	No	LGR, continued response to pandemic etc.
Risk of adverse weather conditions	Extreme spend on adverse weather in excess of budget and / or emergencies	M	L	£4m	No	Based on previous experience.

North Yorkshire Council Corporate Risks - Draft

Workforce capacity, recruitment and retention

Failure to recruit and retain appropriately skilled staff resulting in inability to deliver services, key projects and the desired organisational transformation also increased staff workload, decreased morale and impact on staff wellbeing.

Cyber Security / Information Governance

Failure to put in place the appropriate cyber security and information governance arrangements could lead to a data breach, loss of data, loss of access to systems, inability to deliver services, loss of reputation and significant financial impact.

Financial / funding challenges

Growing financial pressures arising from inflation and service demand along with inadequate funding available to the Council to discharge its statutory responsibilities and to meet public expectation for the medium term resulting in legal challenge, unbalanced budget and public dissatisfaction.

Major failure in the care market

Major failure of provider/key providers results in being unable to meet the needs of people who use services. This could be caused by economic performance or resource capabilities including recruitment and retention. The impact could include loss of trust in the Care Market, increased budgetary implications and issues of service user safety.

Partnership and integration with the NHS

Failure to achieve the best outcomes from working jointly with NHS across the NYC footprint, resulting in a negative impact on the customer experience and the possibility of fragmented care and poor outcomes.

Safeguarding

Failure to have robust Safeguarding arrangements in place, with appropriate practices, care and attention, results in risk to vulnerable children, adults and families and not protecting them from harm.

Major incident resilience

Failure to plan for, respond to and recover effectively from significant regional, national or global incidents resulting in risk to life and limb, impact on statutory responsibilities, finances and reputation.

The delivery of Local Government Reorganisation

Failure to transition effectively to the new North Yorkshire Council by 1 April 2023 and to successfully set out and deliver on a road map for further transformation over the subsequent years resulting in risk of failing services from Day 1, compromised local service delivery, reputational impacts, member dissatisfaction and reduced performance.

Economic Growth including Devolution

Failure to take advantage of Devolution opportunities and to deliver sustainable economic growth, through for example the delivery of the right housing and transport whilst protecting the outstanding environment and heritage, resulting in reduced investment and impact on growth and jobs.

Housing and homelessness

Insufficient mix of available and affordable housing and the condition of social housing stock resulting in the needs of current and future residents not being met, a continued increase in the number of people presenting as homeless, regulatory breach and subsequent financial and reputational damage to the council.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

22 February 2023

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION REPORT

Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For the Council to approve the council tax requirement and basic amount of council tax for 2023/24

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

- 2.1 Under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) the Council as the billing authority must calculate a council tax requirement and basic amount of council tax for the following year.
- 2.2 Part 4 of The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Finance) Regulations 2008 modifies the 1992 Act to permit an authority undergoing restructuring to calculate different basic amounts of council tax for its predecessor areas for up to seven years as part of a process of harmonisation.
- 2.3 This report sets out the resolution based on the assumption that the budget proposals recommended by Executive on 24th January 2023, and detailed elsewhere on this agenda, are approved.
- 2.4 The council tax levels to be proposed will reflect special expenses and the precepts received from the parish and town councils, the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.
- 2.5 The proposed council tax resolution for 2023/24 is attached as Appendix A.

3.0 COUNCIL TAX HARMONISATION

- 3.1 There is a legal requirement to have a single harmonised council tax rate across the Council but Part 4 of The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Finance) Regulations 2008 modifies the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to permit an authority undergoing restructuring to calculate different basic amounts of council tax for its predecessor areas for up to seven years as part of a process of harmonisation. The act also allows the local authority choice over how to determine whether its council tax is excessive for referendum purposes: either the increase in the band D figures in each individual predecessor area or average band D amount for North Yorkshire as a whole.
- 3.2 A member working group on council tax harmonisation based its recommendations on the latter approach and proposed harmonisation over two financial years and this was approved by County Council on 16th November 2022.

3.3 Therefore, a single overall tax-base weighted Band D council tax rate for the whole Council must be calculated for making the determination of whether the increase is excessive and requires approval in a referendum. However, reflecting the harmonisation process, the actual rate charged in 2023/24 will vary in each of the former district/borough council areas and these are detailed in Paragraph 3f of Appendix A.

4.0 SPECIAL EXPENSES

4.1 Special expenses are charges to specific parts of the local authority's area rather than the whole. Special expenses are included within the calculation of the overall average council tax increase for referendum purposes but for billing are only applied to the specific parishes/areas concerned.

4.2 There are two blocks of special expenses for North Yorkshire Council. First, a legacy arrangement from Ryedale district council whereby it undertook the management of street lighting in the areas of the former Malton and Norton Urban District Councils and Pickering Rural District Council. The special expenses are a specific charge to the residents of the parishes concerned and are estimated as follows:-

<u>Town/Parish</u>	Total cost (£)	Band D equivalent (£)
Malton	12,180	5.32
Norton	21,310	8.23
Pickering Rural	<u>26,510</u>	13.62
	60,000	

4.3 Secondly, there will be special expenses for the charter trustee arrangements in Harrogate and Scarborough. In England and Wales, charter trustees are set up to maintain the continuity of a town charter after a district with the status of a borough has been abolished. This is until such time as a parish council is established. The charter trustees are made up of local councillors representing wards within the boundaries of the town. A working group on this subject has estimated costs in 2023/24 of £12,100 for Harrogate, made up of staff support and organisational administrative costs, and £21,000 for Scarborough covering administrative and organisational support together with specific civic duties. This would give Band D equivalent charges of £0.44 and £1.71 respectively.

4.4 At the time of writing the Budget and MTFs report to the Executive the final figure for special expenses had not been confirmed and an estimate of £90,000 was included against a final total of £93,100.

5.0 PARISHES

5.1 The town and parish council precepts are detailed in Appendices B1-B7 and total £10,230,902 for 2023/24.

5.2 Parish precepts form part of this Council's own Council Tax Requirement and share of the collection fund. Expressed in terms of an Average Band D Council Tax for the whole Council, parish precepts amount to £42.10 in 2023/24 compared to £39.02 in 2022/23 representing a 7.9% increase.

5.3 At the time of writing this report, one parish had not yet decided its precept. For the calculations detailed in the appendices an estimated figure based on the proposed precept has been included. If the final agreed value is different, amended calculations will be provided at the meeting.

6.0 POLICE AND FIRE PRECEPTORS

6.1 The information from the Police and Fire Precepting bodies is as follows:

(a) On 6th February 2023 the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner set its Police precept at £71,716,782. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £295.09 and represents a 4.99% (£14.03) increase over 2022/23.

(b) On 6th February 2023 the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Fire and Rescue Authority set its precept at £19,590,938. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £80.61, an increase of £5 (6.61%) over 2022/23.

7.0 COUNCIL TAX BANDS

7.1 If the resolution as detailed in Appendix A is approved then the relevant total council tax figures for each locality, including all precepts and special expenses, are shown in Appendix C.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Council Tax Resolution, as detailed at Appendix A, be approved.

GARY FIELDING
Corporate Director, Strategic Resources

County Hall
10 February 2023

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION REPORT APPENDICES

- A Council Tax Resolution

- B Summary of parish precepts by district area
- B1 Individual parish precepts for Craven area
- B2 Individual parish precepts for Hambleton area
- B3 Individual parish precepts for Harrogate area
- B4 Individual parish precepts for Richmondshire area
- B5 Individual parish precepts for Ryedale area
- B6 Individual parish precepts for Scarborough area
- B7 Individual parish precepts for Selby area

- C Total Council Tax (including precepts) by locality

The North Yorkshire County Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that the North Yorkshire County Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2023/24:
 - a. For the North Yorkshire County Council the tax base is comprised for the year 2023/24 as follows:

Areas	Band D Base
Craven	23,379.75
Hambleton	38,395.74
Harrogate	66,830.13
Richmondshire	19,884.71
Ryedale	22,264.54
Scarborough	39,131.27
Selby	33,147.45
TOTAL	243,033.59

(Item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as modified by Schedule 2 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Finance) Regulations 2008"; and

- b. For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendices B1 - 7.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding parish and town precepts) is £427,729,811.74.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011:
 - a. £1,406,033,379.47 being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Council's
 - b. £968,072,665.26 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

c.

Areas	Total
Craven	42,497,727.63
Hambleton	67,798,524.03
Harrogate	120,483,005.34
Richmondshire	36,031,447.32
Ryedale	40,371,648.65
Scarborough	70,774,816.17
Selby	60,003,545.08
TOTAL	437,960,714.21

Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act.

d.

Areas	Basic CT S31B
Craven	1,817.72
Hambleton	1,765.78
Harrogate	1,802.82
Richmondshire	1,812.02
Ryedale	1,813.27
Scarborough	1,808.65
Selby	1,810.20
Average	1,802.06

Being the amount 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

e. Parish Precept and Special Expenses

Areas	Precept and Special Expenses
Craven	1,606,544.88
Hambleton	1,944,838.48
Harrogate	1,313,593.00
Richmondshire	877,467.36
Ryedale	1,257,190.52
Scarborough	1,229,418.30
Selby	2,094,949.93
TOTAL	10,324,002.47

£10,324,002.47 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish and Town precepts and special expenses) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act).

f.

And	Basic Council Tax
Craven	1,749.00
Hambleton	1,715.13
Harrogate	1,783.17
Richmondshire	1,767.89
Ryedale	1,756.81
Scarborough	1,777.23
Selby	1,747.00
Average	1,759.58

being the amount at 3(d) above less the result of dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (the amount at 1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish Precept relates.

4. To note that the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section

40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the tables below:

5. That the Council, in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

North Yorkshire County Council (excluding Adult Social Care and Special Expenses)

Areas	Band							
	<u>A</u> £	<u>B</u> £	<u>C</u> £	<u>D</u> £	<u>E</u> £	<u>F</u> £	<u>G</u> £	<u>H</u> £
Craven	1,031.20	1,203.18	1,375.07	1,546.95	1,890.72	2,234.48	2,578.25	3,093.90
Hambleton	1,008.72	1,176.84	1,344.96	1,513.08	1,849.32	2,185.56	2,521.80	3,026.16
Harrogate	1,054.08	1,229.76	1,405.44	1,581.12	1,932.48	2,283.84	2,635.20	3,162.24
Richmondshire	1,043.89	1,217.88	1,391.86	1,565.84	1,913.80	2,261.77	2,609.73	3,131.68
Ryedale	1,036.51	1,209.26	1,382.01	1,554.76	1,900.26	2,245.76	2,591.27	3,109.52
Scarborough	1,050.12	1,225.14	1,400.16	1,575.18	1,925.22	2,275.26	2,625.30	3,150.36
Selby	1,029.97	1,201.63	1,373.29	1,544.95	1,888.27	2,231.59	2,574.92	3,089.90

North Yorkshire County Council (Adult Social Care Precept):

	Band							
	<u>A</u> £	<u>B</u> £	<u>C</u> £	<u>D</u> £	<u>E</u> £	<u>F</u> £	<u>G</u> £	<u>H</u> £
Charge	134.70	157.15	179.60	202.05	246.95	291.85	336.75	404.10

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire – Police element:

	Band							
	<u>A</u> £	<u>B</u> £	<u>C</u> £	<u>D</u> £	<u>E</u> £	<u>F</u> £	<u>G</u> £	<u>H</u> £
Charge	196.73	229.51	262.30	295.09	360.67	426.24	491.82	590.18

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire – North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service element:

Areas	Band							
	<u>A</u> £	<u>B</u> £	<u>C</u> £	<u>D</u> £	<u>E</u> £	<u>F</u> £	<u>G</u> £	<u>H</u> £
Charge	53.74	62.70	71.65	80.61	98.52	116.44	134.35	161.22

Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses):

Areas	Band							
	<u>A</u> £	<u>B</u> £	<u>C</u> £	<u>D</u> £	<u>E</u> £	<u>F</u> £	<u>G</u> £	<u>H</u> £
Craven	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
Hambleton	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
Harrogate	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74
Richmondshire	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
Ryedale	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02

Scarborough	1,435.29	1,674.50	1,913.71	2,152.93	2,631.36	3,109.79	3,588.22	4,305.86
Selby	1,415.14	1,650.99	1,886.84	2,122.70	2,594.41	3,066.12	3,537.84	4,245.40

Determination of Excessiveness

6. North Yorkshire Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with principle approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 as modified by the 2008 Regulations.

As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act

Town and Parish Precepts

Summary of North Yorkshire Council Areas

<u>Area</u>	<u>2023/24</u>		
	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precept Levied</u>	<u>Council Tax Band D</u>
CRAVEN	23,379.75	1,606,544.88	68.72
HAMBLETON	38,395.74	1,944,838.48	50.65
HARROGATE	66,830.13	1,301,493.00	19.47
RICHMONDSHIRE	19,884.71	877,467.36	44.13
RYEDALE	22,264.54	1,197,190.52	53.77
SCARBOROUGH	39,131.27	1,208,418.30	30.88
SELBY	33,147.45	2,094,949.93	63.20
TOTAL	243,033.59	10,230,902.47	42.10

Craven Area

Parish	2023/24		
	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council Tax Band D
AIRTON	100.58	8,000.00	79.54
APPLETREETWICK	109.97	-	-
ARNCLIFFE	41.83	-	-
AUSTWICK	248.17	13,500.00	54.40
BANK NEWTON	29.21	-	-
BARDEN	36.98	-	-
BEAMSLEY	73.73	-	-
BENTHAM	1,291.23	123,957.00	96.00
BOLTON ABBEY	45.26	-	-
BRADLEYS BOTH	516.90	23,011.92	44.52
BROUGHTON	29.03	-	-
BUCKDEN	110.89	4,600.00	41.48
BURNSALL	56.24	1,000.00	17.78
BURTON IN LONSDALE	269.27	19,500.00	72.42
CALTON	30.30	-	-
CARLETON IN CRAVEN	452.28	22,680.00	50.15
CLAPHAM-CUM-NEWBY	333.46	7,326.00	21.97
CONISTON COLD	104.94	500.00	4.76
CONISTONE WITH KILNSEY	67.17	1,000.00	14.89
CONONLEY	574.00	29,042.00	50.60
COWLING	898.48	54,800.00	60.99
CRACOE	85.77	-	-
DRAUGHTON	132.49	10,009.00	75.55
ELSLACK	38.06	-	-
EMBSAY-WITH-EASTBY	902.48	31,040.00	34.39
ESHTON	42.28	-	-
FARNHILL	222.84	14,898.00	66.86
FLASBY-WITH-WINTERBURN	55.13	-	-
GARGRAVE	791.17	46,000.00	58.14
GIGGLESWICK	585.16	25,000.00	42.72
GLUSBURN	1,515.98	95,225.00	62.81
GRASSINGTON	565.90	76,515.00	135.21
HALTON EAST	50.50	975.00	19.31
HALTON GILL	30.80	-	-
HARTLINGTON	34.91	-	-
HAWKSWICK	40.38	-	-
HAZLEWOOD WITH STORITHS	42.04	-	-
HEBDEN	121.80	-	-
HELLIFIELD	581.68	25,625.00	44.05
HETTON-CUM-BORDLEY	85.41	-	-
HORTON IN RIBBLESDALE	187.15	13,750.00	73.47
INGLETON	886.11	109,650.00	123.74
KETTLEWELL WITH STARBOTTON	207.09	10,830.00	52.29
KILDWICK	123.17	1,715.20	13.92

Parish	2023/24		
	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council Tax Band D
KIRKBY MALHAMDALE	159.57	-	-
LANGCLIFFE	176.08	10,000.00	56.79
LAWKLAND	135.56	-	-
LINTON	90.88	6,500.00	71.53
LITTON	36.33	-	-
LONG PRESTON	334.07	26,500.00	79.32
LOTHERSDALE	272.45	18,520.96	67.98
MARTONS BOTH	149.28	2,500.00	16.75
OTTERBURN	24.60	-	-
RIBBLE BANKS	325.19	8,000.00	24.57
RYLSTONE	77.05	-	-
SCOSTHROP	37.39	310.00	8.29
SETTLE	1,130.74	129,269.00	114.32
SKIPTON	5,415.09	519,614.00	95.96
STAINFORTH	123.86	8,550.00	69.03
STIRTON WITH THORLBY	101.14	-	-
SUTTON IN CRAVEN	1,234.51	82,000.00	66.42
THORNTON IN CRAVEN	216.40	15,381.80	71.08
THORNTON IN LONSDALE	156.88	-	-
THORPE	26.32	-	-
THRESHFIELD	408.14	9,250.00	22.66
Total / Average	23,379.75	1,606,544.88	68.72

Hambleton Area

Parish	2023/24		
	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council Tax Band D
AINDERBY QUERNHOW	24.80	-	-
AINDERBY STEEPLE	110.33	4,500.00	40.79
AISKEW	1,083.17	30,000.00	27.70
ALDWARK, FLAWITH & YOULTON	157.40	4,520.00	28.72
ALNE	336.32	7,500.00	22.30
ANGRAM GRANGE	7.11	-	-
APPLETON WISKE	210.38	8,475.50	40.29
BAGBY & BALK	257.48	8,500.00	33.01
BEDALE	1,190.61	64,264.00	53.98
BENINGBROUGH	22.95	-	-
BILSDALE MIDCABLE	165.83	2,250.00	13.57
BIRDFORTH	10.06	-	-
BIRKBY	16.07	-	-
BORROWBY	194.19	4,500.00	23.17
BRAFFERTON & HELPERBY	355.18	14,600.00	41.11
BRANDSBY CUM STEARSBY	146.81	2,000.00	13.62
BROMPTON	1,071.34	68,000.00	63.47
BURNESTON, SWAINBY WITH ALLERTHORPE & THEAKSTON	172.24	5,348.36	31.05
CARLTON HUSTHWAITE	79.22	2,500.00	31.56
CARLTON MINIOTT	401.38	7,677.32	19.13
CARLTON-IN-CLEVELAND	143.54	7,876.38	54.87
CARTHORPE	122.18	2,700.00	22.10
CATTON	56.43	-	-
COXWOLD	100.63	3,800.00	37.76
CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE	297.24	11,000.00	37.01
CRATHORNE	88.87	902.00	10.15
CRAYKE	188.49	3,861.00	20.48
DALBY CUM SKEWSBY	50.74	-	-
DALTON	321.29	9,500.00	29.57
DANBY WISKE WITH LAZENBY	129.23	3,100.00	23.99
DEIGHTON	44.39	-	-
EASBY	50.32	300.00	5.96
EASINGWOLD	2,432.71	182,691.00	75.10
EAST COWTON	253.32	7,256.00	28.64
EAST HARLSEY	130.49	3,370.00	25.83
ELDMIRE WITH CRAKEHILL	12.71	-	-
EXELBY, LEEMING AND LONDONDERRY	642.38	14,000.00	21.79
FACEBY	106.74	1,500.00	14.05
FARLINGTON	56.42	480.00	8.51
FAWDINGTON	4.83	-	-
FIRBY	22.78	-	-
GATENBY	20.16	-	-
GIRSBY	19.11	-	-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>2023/24</u>		
	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precept Levied</u>	<u>Council Tax Band D</u>
GREAT AND LITTLE BROUGHTON	532.94	15,600.00	29.27
GREAT AYTON	1,866.60	120,000.00	64.29
GREAT BUSBY	50.16	-	-
GREAT LANGTON	54.01	750.00	13.89
HACKFORTH, AINDERBY MIERS WITH HOLTBY	95.69	2,600.00	27.17
HILLSIDE (BOLTBY, COWESBY, FELIXKIRK, KIRBY KNOWLE AND UPSALL)	231.44	2,000.00	8.64
HOLME	25.91	-	-
HOOD GRANGE	1.02	-	-
HOWE	7.88	-	-
HUBY	528.44	10,000.00	18.92
HUSTHWAITE	196.83	8,000.00	40.64
HUTTON BONVILLE	33.00	-	-
HUTTON RUDBY, MIDDLETON, RUDBY AND SKUTTERSHELFE	1,098.32	47,500.00	43.25
INGLEBY ARNCLIFFE	170.04	7,150.00	42.05
INGLEBY GREENHOW	175.28	7,500.00	42.79
KILBURN	127.44	8,220.00	64.50
KILDALE	45.72	-	-
KILLERBY	10.82	-	-
KIPLIN	26.58	-	-
KIRBY FLEETHAM WITH FENCOTES	238.54	7,800.00	32.70
KIRBY WISKE AND NEWSHAM WITH BRECKENBROUGH	113.08	3,472.00	30.70
KIRKBY IN CLEVELAND	164.58	4,600.00	27.95
KIRKLINGTON CUM UPSLAND, HOWGRAVE AND SUTTON WITH HOWGRAVE	146.29	2,600.00	17.77
KNAYTON WITH BRAWITH LEAKE	171.80	5,487.52	31.94
LINTON - ON - OUSE	296.33	17,000.00	57.37
LITTLE AYTON	56.79	-	-
LITTLE BUSBY	14.09	-	-
LITTLE LANGTON	20.54	-	-
LOW AND HIGH WORSALL	162.03	5,196.00	32.07
MARTON CUM MOXBY	35.19	-	-
MORTON ON SWALE	265.64	10,500.00	39.53
MYTON ON SWALE	69.30	1,400.00	20.20
NEWBURGH	22.92	-	-
NEWBY	113.55	4,172.00	36.74
NEWTON ON OUSE	259.34	7,200.00	27.76
NORTH KILVINGTON	17.63	-	-
NORTH OTTERINGTON	19.77	-	-
NORTHALLERTON	3,545.26	371,750.00	104.86

<u>Parish</u>	<u>2023/24</u>		
	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precept Levied</u>	<u>Council Tax Band D</u>
OSMOTHERLEY, KIRBY SIGSTON, ELLERBECK, SOWERBY UNDER COTCLIFFE, THIMBLEBY, WINTON, STANK AND HALIKELD AND WEST HARLSEY	477.08	15,000.00	31.44
OULSTON	67.80	1,700.00	25.07
OVER DINSDALE	34.77	-	-
OVERTON	25.41	185.00	7.28
PICKHILL WITH ROXBY & SINDERBY	247.49	3,890.00	15.72
PICTON	64.71	400.00	6.18
POTTO	152.83	8,000.00	52.35
RAND GRANGE	3.55	-	-
RASKELF	267.66	6,500.00	24.28
ROMANBY	2,362.10	71,186.00	30.14
ROUNTON EAST AND WEST	132.07	1,000.00	7.57
SANDHUTTON	119.36	4,520.00	37.87
SCRUTON	213.40	6,000.00	28.12
SEAMER	285.72	5,590.00	19.56
SESSAY AND HUTTON SESSAY	203.36	10,000.00	49.17
SEXHOW	9.97	-	-
SHIPTON BY BENINGBROUGH	304.18	12,000.00	39.45
SILTON WITH KEPWICK (OVER SILTON, NETHER SILTON, LANDMOTH CUM CATTO AND KEPWICK)	132.63	4,000.00	30.16
SKIPTON ON SWALE	40.33	-	-
SMEATON WITH HORNBY (GREAT SMEATON, LITTLE SMEATON AND HORNBY)	254.54	3,196.50	12.56
SNAPE WITH THORP	177.32	8,858.00	49.95
SOUTH COWTON	46.50	-	-
SOUTH KILVINGTON	113.28	5,000.00	44.14
SOUTH OTTERINGTON, MAUNBY AND NEWBY	303.22	6,800.00	22.43
SOWERBY	2,167.87	101,000.00	46.59
STILLINGTON	394.69	12,430.00	31.49
STOKESLEY	2,167.99	169,500.00	78.18
SUTTON UNDER WHITESTONECLIFFE	146.32	9,000.00	61.51
SUTTON-ON-THE-FOREST	415.47	20,000.00	48.14
THIRKLEBY HIGH AND LOW WITH OSGODBY	138.50	3,000.00	21.66
THIRLBY	67.80	-	-
THIRN, THORNTON WATLASS, CLIFTON ON YORE, BURRILL WITH COWLING & ROOKWITH:			
1) THIRN, THORNTON WATLASS, CLIFTON ON YORE, BURRILL WITH COWLING & ROOKWITH	199.86	2,500.00	12.51
2) BURRILL WITH COWLING		137.20	15.61
THIRSK	1,865.45	219,800.00	117.83

THOLTHORPE	117.22	1,600.00	13.65
	<u>2023/24</u>		
<u>Parish</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precept Levied</u>	<u>Council Tax Band D</u>
THORMANBY	50.60	250.00	4.94
THORNBOROUGH	7.68	-	-
THORNTON LE BEANS, CROSBY AND COTCLI	142.25	22,000.00	154.66
THORNTON LE MOOR AND THORNTON LE ST	201.07	2,152.50	10.71
THORNTON-ON-THE-HILL	16.17	-	-
THRINTOFT	63.49	-	-
TOLLERTON	455.69	11,000.00	24.14
TOPCLIFFE	374.95	16,600.00	44.27
WARLABY	21.36	-	-
WELBURY	123.61	1,050.00	8.49
WELL	125.73	2,000.00	15.91
WEST TANFIELD (AND East)	299.39	8,600.00	28.73
WHENBY	41.25	-	-
WHITWELL	14.09	-	-
WHORLTON	275.58	10,924.20	39.64
WILDON GRANGE	11.82	-	-
YAFFORTH	73.35	-	-
YEARSLEY	55.00	-	-
Total / Average	38,395.74	1,944,838.48	50.65

Harrogate Area

Parish	2023/24				
	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council	Charter	Charter
			Tax Band		
			D		Charge
ALLERTON MAULEVERER WITH HOPPERTON	70.03	300.00	4.28	-	-
ARKENDALE, CONEYTHORPE & CLARETON GROUP	201.23	3,930.00	19.53	-	-
ASENBY	146.24	1,350.00	9.23	-	-
AZERLEY & WINKSLEY GROUP	272.00	7,280.00	26.76	-	-
BALDERSBY	146.85	6,120.00	41.68	-	-
BEWERLEY	356.66	7,700.00	21.59	-	-
BILTON-IN-AINSTY WITH BICKERTON	207.99	8,300.00	39.91	-	-
BIRSTWITH	432.58	15,000.00	34.68	-	-
BISHOP MONKTON	437.32	13,000.00	29.73	-	-
BISHOP THORNTON & WARSILL GROUP	289.67	8,840.00	30.52	-	-
BOROUGHBRIDGE	1,660.34	70,000.00	42.16	-	-
BREARTON	77.15	-	-	-	-
BURTON LEONARD	354.95	8,651.00	24.37	-	-
CATTAL, HUSINGORE & WALSHFORD GROUP	177.16	2,520.00	14.22	-	-
CLINT-CUM-HAMLETS	278.42	4,600.00	16.52	-	-
CUNDALL & NORTON-LE-CLAY GROUP	212.39	-	-	-	-
DACRE	382.51	11,363.00	29.71	-	-
DARLEY & MENWITH	510.77	15,750.00	30.84	-	-
DISHFORTH	434.27	13,000.00	29.94	-	-
DUNSFORTHS	129.96	1,750.00	13.47	-	-
FARNHAM	118.23	1,870.00	15.82	-	-
FEARBY, HEALEY & DISTRICT GROUP	191.76	3,300.00	17.21	-	-
FELLISCLIFFE	180.74	4,000.00	22.13	-	-
FERRENSBY	108.13	600.00	5.55	-	-
FOLLIFOOT & PLOMPTON GROUP	379.66	10,930.00	28.79	-	-
FOUNTAINS ABBEY GROUP	118.70	2,784.00	23.45	-	-
GOLDSBOROUGH & FLAXBY GROUP	305.53	7,350.00	24.06	-	-
GRANTLEY AND SAWLEY GROUP	245.95	11,500.00	46.76	-	-
GREAT OUSEBURN	285.27	12,575.00	44.08	-	-
GREEN HAMMERTON	441.40	19,250.00	43.61	-	-
GREWELTHORPE	228.06	5,828.00	25.55	-	-
HAMPSTHWAITE	601.70	13,630.00	22.65	-	-
HARROGATE	27,732.70	-	-	12,100	0.44

Parish	2023/24				
	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council	Charter	Charter
			Tax Band		
			D		Charge
HARTWITH-CUM-WINSLEY	466.47	13,300.00	28.51	-	-
HAVERAH PARK & BECKWITHSHAW GROUP	331.82	7,655.00	23.07	-	-
HEWICK AND HUTTON GROUP	221.56	5,768.00	26.03	-	-
HIGH & LOW BISHOPSIDE	965.13	31,500.00	32.64	-	-
KEARBY-WITH-NETHERBY	110.51	2,800.00	25.34	-	-
KILLINGHALL	2,187.86	30,000.00	13.71	-	-
KIRBY HILL AND DISTRICT GROUP	569.82	6,000.00	10.53	-	-
KIRKBY MALZEARD, LAVERTON & DALLOWGILL GROUP	516.19	17,000.00	32.93	-	-
KIRKBY OVERBLOW	269.03	9,500.00	35.31	-	-
KIRK DEIGHTON	261.54	7,100.00	27.15	-	-
KIRK HAMMERTON	251.70	7,500.00	29.80	-	-
KNARESBOROUGH SUCCESSOR	6,149.94	158,991.00	25.85	-	-
LANGTHORPE	434.28	-	-	-	-
LITTLE OUSEBURN GROUP	185.71	4,465.00	24.04	-	-
LITTLE RIBSTON	110.57	5,000.00	45.22	-	-
LITTLETHORPE	241.32	4,000.00	16.58	-	-
LONG MARSTON	254.23	6,500.00	25.57	-	-
LOWER WASHBURN GROUP	413.86	9,000.00	21.75	-	-
MARKENFIELD HALL	4.62	-	-	-	-
MARKINGTON-WITH- WALLERTHORPE	292.25	5,250.00	17.96	-	-
MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON	260.77	6,721.00	25.77	-	-
MARTON-LE-MOOR	103.06	1,728.00	16.77	-	-
MASHAM GROUP	568.69	-	-	-	-
MELMERBY & MIDDLETON GROUP	190.88	5,000.00	26.19	-	-
MID-WHARFEDALE GROUP	397.97	5,000.00	12.56	-	-
MOOR MONKTON	146.65	5,548.00	37.83	-	-
NEWALL-WITH-CLIFTON	67.75	-	-	-	-
NIDD	64.27	-	-	-	-
NORTH DEIGHTON	37.07	1,000.00	26.98	-	-
NORTH RIGTON	243.15	9,220.00	37.92	-	-
NORTH STAINLEY-WITH- SLENGFORD	300.69	17,403.00	57.88	-	-
NUN MONKTON	149.64	12,000.00	80.19	-	-
PANNAL AND BURN BRIDGE	1,303.68	38,848.00	29.80	-	-
RAINTON-WITH-NEWBY	192.15	7,420.00	38.62	-	-
RIPLEY	132.98	3,585.00	26.96	-	-
RIPON SUCCESSOR	5,939.76	420,000.00	70.71	-	-
ROECLIFFE & WESTWICK GROUP	118.54	8,416.00	71.00	-	-
SCOTTON	329.08	7,500.00	22.79	-	-
SCRIVEN	158.43	7,403.00	46.73	-	-

Parish	2023/24				
	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council	Charter	Charter
			Tax Band	Trustee	Trustee
			D		Charge
SHAROW	277.81	12,938.00	46.57	-	-
SICKLINGHALL	181.40	2,500.00	13.78	-	-
SKELTON GROUP	147.33	2,508.00	17.02	-	-
	97.00	-	-	-	-
SOUTH STAINLEY-WITH-CAYTON					
SPOFFORTH-WITH-STOCKELD	545.99	11,015.00	20.17	-	-
	292.36	6,700.00	22.92	-	-
STAVELEY & COPGROVE GROUP					
	98.49	-	-	-	-
THORNTHWAITE-WITH-PADSIDE					
THORNVILLE	8.78	-	-	-	-
THRUSCROSS	51.73	1,200.00	23.20	-	-
TOCKWITH AND WILSTROP GROU	862.36	44,770.00	51.92	-	-
UPPER NIDDERDALE GROUP	243.58	8,650.00	35.51	-	-
WALKINGHAM HILL WITH OCCANE	11.12	-	-	-	-
WASHBURN GROUP	276.26	7,700.00	27.87	-	-
WATH & NORTON CONYERS GRO	112.91	3,690.00	32.68	-	-
WEETON	491.96	5,600.00	11.38	-	-
WHIXLEY	369.57	9,030.00	24.43	-	-
WIGHILL	101.54	4,000.00	39.39	-	-
Total / Average	66,830.13	1,301,493.00	19.47	12,100	0.44

Richmondshire Area

Parish	2023/24		
	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council Tax Band D
AGGLETHORPE WITH COVERHAM	37.290	-	-
ALDBROUGH	218.540	4,284.00	19.60
APPLETON (EAST & WEST)	35.600	-	-
ARKENGARThDALE	152.060	4,500.00	29.59
ARRATHORNE	43.980	-	-
ASKE	37.540	-	-
ASKRIGG & LOW ABBOTSDALE	262.220	3,500.00	13.35
AYSGARTH DISTRICT: AYSGARTH, BISHOPDALE, NEWBIGGIN, THORALBY AND THORNTON RUST	340.360	8,000.00	23.50
BAINBRIDGE	250.490	6,510.00	25.99
BARTON	339.370	12,025.00	35.43
BELLERBY	191.250	11,995.20	62.72
BOLTON ON SWALE	32.340	750.00	23.19
BROMPTON ON SWALE	632.470	22,039.50	34.85
BROUGH WITH ST GILES	373.300	13,039.00	34.93
BURTON CUM WALDEN (WEST BURTON)	162.450	6,600.00	40.63
CALDBERGH & EAST SCRAFTON	19.710	-	-
CALDWELL	67.490	-	-
CARLTON HIGHDALE	67.830	700.00	10.32
CARLTON	96.050	20,000.00	208.22
CARPERBY	112.070	4,900.00	43.72
CASTLE BOLTON	32.920	1,500.00	45.57
CATTERICK	948.670	34,455.00	36.32
COLBURN	1,506.730	180,000.00	119.46
CONSTABLE BURTON / FINGHALL: AKEBAR, BARDEN, CONSTABLE BURTON, EAST HAUXWELL, FINGHALL, GARRISTON, HUTTON HANG AND WEST HAUXWELL	233.570	3,220.00	13.79
CROFT-ON-TEES	203.090	3,800.00	18.71
DALTON	91.970	-	-
DALTON ON TEES	116.310	3,450.00	29.66
EASBY	64.910	-	-
EAST LAYTON	38.080	-	-
EAST WITTON	127.180	3,850.00	30.27
ELLERTON ON SWALE	59.630	450.00	7.55
EPPLEBY	116.060	6,825.00	58.81
ERYHOLME	29.550	700.00	23.69
FORCETT	72.130	-	-
GAYLES	66.870	-	-
GILLING WITH HARTFORTH & SEDBURY	247.970	4,620.00	18.63
GRINTON WITH ELLERTON ABBEY	106.120	5,500.00	51.83
HARMBY	190.750	6,321.00	33.14
HAWES & HIGH ABBOTSDALE	625.250	17,500.00	27.99
HIPSWELL	1,201.440	28,750.00	23.93

Parish	2023/24		
	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council Tax Band D
HORNBY	56.090	-	-
HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME, STANTON & WALBURN	173.510	4,000.00	23.05
HUNTON	179.630	6,000.00	33.40
KIRBY HILL	28.270	-	-
LEYBURN	1,055.850	69,848.36	66.15
MANFIELD & CLIFFE	131.410	3,750.00	28.54
MARRICK	73.670	1,500.00	20.36
MARSKE & NEW FOREST	91.500	2,784.00	30.43
MELBECKS	196.660	1,500.00	7.63
MELMERBY	25.870	-	-
MELSONBY	300.690	11,706.00	38.93
MIDDLEHAM	376.830	12,750.00	33.83
MIDDLETON TYAS	316.880	23,500.00	74.16
MOULTON	92.050	-	-
MUKER	179.130	2,000.00	11.17
NEWSHAM	156.650	2,756.00	17.59
NEWTON LE WILLOWS	166.160	3,239.00	19.49
NEWTON MORRELL	25.570	-	-
NORTH COWTON	210.410	3,900.00	18.54
PATRICK BROMPTON	100.280	4,428.00	44.16
PRESTON UNDER SCAR	95.320	4,500.00	47.21
RAVENSWORTH	116.940	5,400.00	46.18
REDMIRE	180.820	9,603.30	53.11
REETH	376.420	-	-
RICHMOND TOWN	3,124.960	178,429.00	57.10
SCORTON	324.990	16,000.00	49.23
SCOTTON	927.230	55,000.00	59.32
SKEEBY	166.410	7,000.00	42.06
SPENNITHORNE	100.100	2,640.00	26.37
ST MARTINS	99.010	3,200.00	32.32
STANWICK ST JOHN	64.840	1,500.00	23.13
STAPLETON & CLEASBY	153.240	6,000.00	39.15
THORNTON STEWARD	103.440	5,000.00	48.34
TUNSTALL	131.490	5,200.00	39.55
UCKERBY	32.680	-	-
WENSLEY	67.820	800.00	11.80
WEST LAYTON	23.580	-	-
WEST SCRAFTON	39.610	-	-
WEST WITTON	203.460	3,750.00	18.43
WHASHTON	63.630	-	-
Total / Average	19,884.71	877,467.36	44.13

Ryedale Area

<u>Parish</u>	<u>2023/24</u>				
	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precept Levied</u>	<u>Council Tax Band D</u>	<u>Special Expenses</u>	<u>Special Expense Charge</u>
ACKLAM	68.83	2,000.00	29.06	-	-
AISLABY MIDDLETON & WRELTON	327.39	1,000.00	3.05	4,459.01	13.62
ALLERSTON & WILTON	206.60	9,000.00	43.56	2,813.87	13.62
AMOTHERBY	144.60	5,393.00	37.30	-	-
AMPLEFORTH	390.63	16,000.00	40.96	-	-
APPLETON-LE-MOORS	96.81	1,250.00	12.91	-	-
APPLETON-LE-STREET	55.80	-	-	-	-
BARTON-LE-STREET	88.09	600.00	6.81	-	-
BARTON-LE-WILLOWS	92.32	5,000.00	54.16	-	-
BARUGHS AMBO	90.10	1,347.00	14.95	1,227.15	13.62
BEADLAM	98.48	4,000.00	40.62	-	-
BIRDSALL	80.47	600.00	7.46	-	-
BRANSDALE	28.21	-	-	-	-
BRAWBY	73.70	-	-	-	-
BROUGHTON	85.57	3,075.00	35.94	-	-
BULMER	90.59	2,400.00	26.49	-	-
BURYTHORPE	110.05	1,500.00	13.63	-	-
BUTTERCRAMBE	40.72	-	-	-	-
BYLAND WITH WASS & OLDSTEAD	121.27	2,000.00	16.49	-	-
CAWTON COULTON & GRIMSTONE	104.42	1,100.00	10.53	-	-
CLAXTON & SAND HUTTON	212.47	6,400.00	30.12	-	-
COLD KIRBY	52.19	-	-	-	-
CONEYSTHORPE	36.75	-	-	-	-
CROPTON	123.82	2,000.00	16.15	1,686.41	13.62
EBBERSTON & YEDINGHAM	261.20	10,395.00	39.80	3,557.51	13.62
EDSTONE	67.54	-	-	-	-
FADMOOR	54.98	-	-	-	-
FARNDALE EAST	47.08	897.00	19.05	-	-
FARNDALE WEST	47.49	903.00	19.01	-	-
FLAXTON	157.51	3,800.00	24.13	-	-
FOSTON & THORNTON-LE-CLAY	135.47	2,780.00	20.52	-	-
FOXHOLES WITH BUTTERWICK	90.87	4,000.00	44.02	-	-
GANTON WITH POTTER BROMPTON	84.95	2,500.00	29.43	-	-
GATE HELMSLEY & UPPER HELMSLEY	145.46	5,000.00	34.37	-	-
GILLAMOOR	70.39	575.00	8.17	-	-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>2023/24</u>				
	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precept Levied</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Special</u>	<u>Special</u>
			<u>Tax Band D</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Expense Charge</u>
GILLING EAST	105.91	1,726.00	16.30	-	-
HABTON	135.65	2,000.00	14.74	-	-
HAROME	136.74	5,500.00	40.22	-	-
HARTOFT	35.86	-	-	-	-
HARTON	41.61	-	-	-	-
HAWNBY	89.84	950.00	10.57	-	-
HELMSLEY	869.96	117,000.00	134.49	-	-
HENDERSKELFE	23.29	-	-	-	-
HESLERTON	144.67	4,100.00	28.34	-	-
HOVINGHAM & SCACKLETON	256.25	7,900.00	30.83	-	-
HOWSHAM	63.40	-	-	-	-
HUTTON-LE-HOLE	102.01	5,250.00	51.47	-	-
HUTTONS AMBO	131.19	3,950.00	30.11	-	-
KIRBY GRINDALYTHE	115.42	2,925.00	25.34	-	-
KIRBY MISPERTON	115.86	2,437.05	21.03	1,578.00	13.62
KIRKBYMOORSIDE	1,248.44	79,400.00	63.60	-	-
LANGTON	44.11	-	-	-	-
LASTINGHAM	70.50	1,770.00	25.11	-	-
LEAVENING	142.69	1,800.00	12.61	-	-
LEVISHAM	48.98	-	-	667.10	13.62
LILLINGS AMBO	80.95	1,000.00	12.35	-	-
LOCKTON	131.21	5,012.00	38.20	1,787.06	13.62
LUTTONS	164.07	6,550.00	39.92	-	-
MALTON	2,288.73	230,196.00	100.58	12,180.00	5.32
MARISHES	60.93	-	-	-	-
MARTON	103.32	420.00	4.07	1,407.21	13.62
NAWTON	276.96	5,000.00	18.05	-	-
NEWTON-ON-RAWCLIFFE & STAPE	133.46	2,500.00	18.73	1,817.71	13.62
NORMANBY	68.56	400.00	5.83	933.78	13.62
NORTON	2,588.32	162,825.00	62.91	21,310.00	8.23
NUNNINGTON	129.61	1,500.00	11.57	-	-
OLD BYLAND & SCAWTON	77.85	-	-	-	-
OSWALDKIRK	125.75	3,600.00	28.63	-	-
PICKERING	2,898.86	254,961.00	87.95	-	-
POCKLEY	49.59	-	-	-	-
RIEVAULX	40.01	-	-	-	-
RILLINGTON	424.12	18,000.00	42.44	-	-
ROSEDALE EAST & WEST	189.47	8,500.00	44.86	2,580.56	13.62
SALTON	37.37	-	-	-	-
SCAGGLETHORPE	90.24	3,000.00	33.24	-	-
SCAMPSTON WITH EAST & WEST KNAPTON	120.17	4,400.00	36.61	-	-
SCRAYINGHAM AND LEPPINGTON	93.21	1,300.00	13.95	-	-
SETTRINGTON	137.84	6,300.00	45.71	-	-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>2023/24</u>				
	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precept Levied</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Special</u>	<u>Special</u>
			<u>Tax Band D</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Expense Charge</u>
SHERBURN	276.76	31,000.00	112.01	-	-
SHERIFF HUTTON with CORNBOROUGH	473.30	18,220.00	38.50	-	-
SINNINGTON	146.45	4,400.00	30.04	1,994.63	13.62
SLINGSBY	251.84	7,317.00	29.05	-	-
SOUTHOLME & FRYTON	36.78	768.00	20.88	-	-
SPAUNTON	35.65	-	-	-	-
SPROXTON	57.34	291.00	5.07	-	-
STONEGRAVE	50.81	-	-	-	-
SWINTON	216.76	6,384.00	29.45	-	-
TERRINGTON	245.66	3,863.47	15.73	-	-
THIXENDALE	80.46	1,545.00	19.20	-	-
THORNTON-LE-DALE	874.88	45,500.00	52.01	-	-
THORPE BASSETT	46.74	600.00	12.84	-	-
WARTHILL	112.64	1,800.00	15.98	-	-
WEAVERTHORPE	124.99	5,500.00	44.00	-	-
WELBURN (KIRKBYMOORSIDE)	33.35	-	-	-	-
WELBURN (MALTON)	213.79	4,000.00	18.71	-	-
WESTOW	150.04	2,500.00	16.66	-	-
WHARRAM	44.41	-	-	-	-
WHITWELL-ON-THE-HILL & CRAMBE	106.99	915.00	8.55	-	-
WILLERBY & STAXTON	233.39	8,800.00	37.71	-	-
WINTRINGHAM	83.40	1,500.00	17.99	-	-
WOMBLETON	152.31	4,600.00	30.20	-	-
Total / Average	22,264.54	1,197,190.52	53.77	60,000.00	8.79

Scarborough Area

Parish	2023/24				
	Tax Base	Precept Levied	Council	Charter Trustee	Charter
			Tax Band D		Trustee Charge
AISLABY	150.17	3,060.00	20.38	-	-
AYTON EAST	646.36	32,000.00	49.51	-	-
AYTON WEST	415.58	20,300.00	48.85	-	-
BARNBY, ELLERBY & MICKLEBY	120.73	3,813.00	31.58	-	-
BORROWBY, ROXBY, NEWTON MULGRAVE	79.63	3,300.00	41.44	-	-
BROMPTON	227.70	14,984.00	65.81	-	-
BURNISTON	599.57	14,718.00	24.55	-	-
CAYTON	913.74	70,000.00	76.61	-	-
CLOUGHTON	300.75	3,604.00	11.98	-	-
DANBY GROUP	714.46	16,000.00	22.39	-	-
EASTFIELD	1,553.09	108,490.00	69.85	-	-
EGTON	215.73	4,300.00	19.93	-	-
ESKDALE CUM UGGLEBARNBY	994.51	15,880.00	15.97	-	-
FILEY	3,037.41	168,750.00	55.56	-	-
FOLKTON	186.96	9,928.00	53.1	-	-
FYLINGDALES	664.74	22,050.00	33.17	-	-
GLAISDALE	484.30	7,500.00	15.49	-	-
GOATHLAND	236.67	3,161.30	13.36	-	-
GRISTHORPE & LEBBERSTON	259.91	17,000.00	65.41	-	-
GROSMONT	149.83	3,756.00	25.07	-	-
HACKNESS & HARWOOD DALE GROUP	204.20	4,037.00	19.77	-	-
HAWKSER CUM STAINSACRE	278.23	7,400.00	26.6	-	-
HINDERWELL	778.62	21,000.00	26.97	-	-
HUNMANBY	1,141.65	128,800.00	112.82	-	-
HUTTON BUSCEL	144.24	11,300.00	78.34	-	-
HUTTON MULGRAVE & UGTHORPE	95.44	2,000.00	20.96	-	-
IRTON	146.10	8,250.00	56.47	-	-
LYTHE	250.65	6,135.00	24.48	-	-
MUSTON	128.37	8,250.00	64.27	-	-
NEWBY & SCALBY	3,781.31	113,078.00	29.9	-	-
NEWHOLM CUM DUNSLEY	113.67	2,133.00	18.76	-	-
OSGODBY	481.04	6,300.00	13.1	-	-
REIGHTON	159.44	9,341.00	58.59	-	-
SEAMER	1,547.15	21,000.00	13.57	-	-
SNAINTON	365.37	25,000.00	68.42	-	-
SNEATON	75.41	2,142.00	28.4	-	-
STAINTONDALE	140.95	2,971.00	21.08	-	-
WHITBY	4,947.97	283,560.00	57.31	-	-
WYKEHAM	101.03	3,127.00	30.95	-	-
SCARBOROUGH	12,298.59	-	-	21,000	1.71
Total / Average	39,131.27	1,208,418.30	30.88	21,000	1.71

Selby Area

<u>Parish</u>	<u>2023/24</u>		
	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precept Levied</u>	<u>Council Tax Band D</u>
APPLETON ROEBUCK & ACASTER SELBY	420.65	12,000.00	28.53
BALNE	94.58	3,500.00	37.01
BARKSTON ASH	180.08	6,200.00	34.43
BARLBY	1,781.86	175,100.00	98.27
BARLOW	289.08	20,063.00	69.40
BEAL	261.73	19,105.09	73.00
BIGGIN	67.93	1,613.15	23.75
BILBROUGH	184.08	5,600.00	30.42
BIRKIN	56.22	-	-
BOLTON PERCY, COLTON & STEETON	259.09	6,900.00	26.63
BRAYTON	2,049.09	76,000.00	37.09
BROTHERTON	225.32	14,500.00	64.35
BURN	186.28	15,000.00	80.52
BURTON SALMON	189.26	11,261.00	59.50
BYRAM CUM SUTTON	436.22	20,918.16	47.95
CAMBLESFORTH	528.84	22,906.00	43.31
CARLTON	783.74	32,690.00	41.71
CAWOOD	649.08	33,362.70	51.40
CHAPEL HADDLESEY	82.83	4,500.00	54.33
CHURCH FENTON	538.83	24,690.00	45.82
CLIFFE	520.24	25,000.00	48.05
CRIDLING STUBBS	73.70	4,977.40	67.54
DRAX	159.96	9,500.00	59.39
EGGBOROUGH	792.02	26,310.00	33.22
ESCRICK	460.93	22,000.00	47.73
FAIRBURN	343.17	13,556.47	39.50
GATEFORTH	118.72	6,500.00	54.75
HAMBLETON	900.45	38,116.00	42.33
HEALAUGH & CATTERTON	116.48	550.00	4.72
HECK	96.82	6,500.00	67.13
HEMINGBROUGH	713.79	22,592.00	31.65
HENSALL	310.69	17,000.00	54.72
HILLAM	338.43	14,995.00	44.31
HIRST COURTNEY	112.52	10,000.00	88.87
HUDDLESTONE WITH NEWTHORPE	38.08	-	-
KELFIELD	170.69	6,600.00	38.67
KELLINGTON	294.70	16,310.00	55.34
KIRK SMEATON	204.87	12,250.00	59.79
LITTLE FENTON	52.80	-	-
LITTLE SMEATON	138.04	6,598.70	47.80
LONG DRAX	43.54	1,250.00	28.71
MONK FRYSTON	443.77	20,604.00	46.43
NEWLAND	84.42	3,000.00	35.54
NEWTON KYME CUM TOULSTON	263.32	9,848.34	37.40

<u>Parish</u>	<u>2023/24</u>		
	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precept Levied</u>	<u>Council Tax Band D</u>
NORTH DUFFIELD	532.95	20,000.00	37.53
OXTON	16.13	-	-
RICCALL	934.76	103,137.00	110.34
RYTHER CUM OZENDYKE	110.62	6,330.00	57.22
SAXTON CUM SCARTHINGWELL & LEAD	284.21	29,508.00	103.82
SELBY	4,888.62	573,966.00	117.41
SHERBURN IN ELMET	3,048.33	202,230.00	66.34
SKIPWITH	164.34	10,000.00	60.85
SOUTH MILFORD	1,065.70	27,249.00	25.57
STAPLETON	30.58	-	-
STILLINGFLEET	216.59	6,250.00	28.86
STUBBS WALDEN	33.85	-	-
STUTTON WITH HAZLEWOOD	355.26	9,575.00	26.95
TADCASTER	2,101.61	140,219.42	66.72
TEMPLE HIRST	41.96	-	-
THORGANBY	169.49	11,195.00	66.05
THORPE WILLOUGHBY	1,256.09	66,000.00	52.54
TOWTON (WITH GRIMSTON, KIRKBY WHARFE & NORTH MILFORD)	181.54	7,000.00	38.56
ULLESKELF	464.90	26,708.50	57.45
WEST HADDLESEY	99.68	4,000.00	40.13
WHITLEY	404.35	10,500.00	25.97
WISTOW	502.41	18,115.00	36.06
WOMERSLEY	186.54	23,000.00	123.30
Total / Average	33,147.45	2,094,949.93	63.20

North Yorkshire Council

Total Council Tax (incl. precepts and special expenses) 2023/24 by locality

Craven Area

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
AIRTON	1,469.50	1,714.40	1,959.32	2,204.24	2,694.08	3,183.90	3,673.74	4,408.48
APPLETREEWICK	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
ARNCLIFFE	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
AUSTWICK	1,452.74	1,694.85	1,936.98	2,179.10	2,663.35	3,147.59	3,631.84	4,358.20
BANK NEWTON	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
BARDEN	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
BEAMSLEY	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
BENTHAM	1,480.47	1,727.21	1,973.95	2,220.70	2,714.19	3,207.68	3,701.17	4,441.40
BOLTON ABBEY	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
BRADLEYS BOTH	1,446.15	1,687.17	1,928.19	2,169.22	2,651.27	3,133.32	3,615.37	4,338.44
BROUGHTON	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
BUCKDEN	1,444.12	1,684.80	1,925.49	2,166.18	2,647.56	3,128.93	3,610.30	4,332.36
BURNSALL	1,428.32	1,666.37	1,904.42	2,142.48	2,618.59	3,094.69	3,570.80	4,284.96
BURTON IN LONSDALE	1,464.75	1,708.87	1,952.99	2,197.12	2,685.37	3,173.62	3,661.87	4,394.24
CALTON	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
CARLETON IN CRAVEN	1,449.90	1,691.55	1,933.20	2,174.85	2,658.15	3,141.45	3,624.75	4,349.70
CLAPHAM-CUM-NEWBY	1,431.12	1,669.63	1,908.15	2,146.67	2,623.71	3,100.74	3,577.79	4,293.34
CONISTON COLD	1,419.64	1,656.24	1,892.85	2,129.46	2,602.68	3,075.89	3,549.10	4,258.92
CONISTONE WITH KILNSEY	1,426.40	1,664.12	1,901.86	2,139.59	2,615.06	3,090.52	3,565.99	4,279.18
CONONLEY	1,450.20	1,691.90	1,933.60	2,175.30	2,658.70	3,142.10	3,625.50	4,350.60
COWLING	1,457.13	1,699.98	1,942.83	2,185.69	2,671.40	3,157.11	3,642.82	4,371.38
CRACOE	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
DRAUGHTON	1,466.84	1,711.30	1,955.78	2,200.25	2,689.20	3,178.14	3,667.09	4,400.50
ELSLACK	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
EMBSAY WITH EASTBY	1,439.40	1,679.29	1,919.19	2,159.09	2,638.89	3,118.68	3,598.49	4,318.18
ESHTON	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
FARNHILL	1,461.04	1,704.54	1,948.05	2,191.56	2,678.58	3,165.59	3,652.60	4,383.12

	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
	2023/24							
	Council Tax							
	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£							
FLASBY WITH WINTERBURN								
GARGRAVE	1,455.23	1,697.76	1,940.30	2,182.84	2,667.92	3,152.99	3,638.07	4,365.68
GIGGLESWICK	1,444.95	1,685.77	1,926.59	2,167.42	2,649.07	3,130.72	3,612.37	4,334.84
GLUSBURN	1,458.34	1,701.39	1,944.45	2,187.51	2,673.63	3,159.74	3,645.85	4,375.02
GRASSINGTON	1,506.61	1,757.70	2,008.81	2,259.91	2,762.12	3,264.31	3,766.52	4,519.82
HALTON EAST	1,429.34	1,667.56	1,905.78	2,144.01	2,620.46	3,096.90	3,573.35	4,288.02
HALTON GILL	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
HARTLINGTON	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
HAWKSWICK	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
HAZLEWOOD WITH STORITHS	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
HEBDEN	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
HELLIFIELD	1,445.84	1,686.80	1,927.78	2,168.75	2,650.70	3,132.64	3,614.59	4,337.50
HETTON-CUM-BORDLEY	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
HORTON IN RIBBLESDALE	1,465.45	1,709.68	1,953.93	2,198.17	2,686.66	3,175.13	3,663.62	4,396.34
INGLETON	1,498.96	1,748.78	1,998.61	2,248.44	2,748.10	3,247.75	3,747.40	4,496.88
KETTLEWELL WITH STARBOTTON	1,451.33	1,693.21	1,935.10	2,176.99	2,660.77	3,144.54	3,628.32	4,353.98
KILDWICK	1,425.75	1,663.37	1,900.99	2,138.62	2,613.87	3,089.12	3,564.37	4,277.24
KIRKBY MALHAMDALE	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
LANGCLIFFE	1,454.33	1,696.71	1,939.10	2,181.49	2,666.27	3,151.04	3,635.82	4,362.98
LAWKLAND	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
LINTON	1,464.16	1,708.17	1,952.20	2,196.23	2,684.29	3,172.33	3,660.39	4,392.46
LITTON	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
LONG PRESTON	1,469.35	1,714.23	1,959.13	2,204.02	2,693.81	3,183.58	3,673.37	4,408.04
LOTHERSDALE	1,461.79	1,705.41	1,949.05	2,192.68	2,679.95	3,167.20	3,654.47	4,385.36
MARTONS BOTH	1,427.64	1,665.57	1,903.51	2,141.45	2,617.33	3,093.20	3,569.09	4,282.90
OTTERBURN	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
RIBBLE BANKS	1,432.85	1,671.65	1,910.46	2,149.27	2,626.89	3,104.50	3,582.12	4,298.54
RYLSTONE	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
SCOSTHROP	1,422.00	1,658.99	1,895.99	2,132.99	2,606.99	3,080.98	3,554.99	4,265.98
SETTLE	1,492.68	1,741.46	1,990.24	2,239.02	2,736.58	3,234.14	3,731.70	4,478.04
SKIPTON	1,480.44	1,727.18	1,973.92	2,220.66	2,714.14	3,207.62	3,701.10	4,441.32
STAINFORTH	1,462.49	1,706.23	1,949.98	2,193.73	2,681.23	3,168.72	3,656.22	4,387.46
STIRTON WITH THORLBY	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
SUTTON IN CRAVEN	1,460.75	1,704.20	1,947.66	2,191.12	2,678.04	3,164.95	3,651.87	4,382.24
THORNTON IN CRAVEN	1,463.86	1,707.82	1,951.80	2,195.78	2,683.74	3,171.68	3,659.64	4,391.56
THORNTON IN LONSDALE	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40
THORPE	1,416.47	1,652.54	1,888.62	2,124.70	2,596.86	3,069.01	3,541.17	4,249.40

THRESHFIELD	1,431.58	1,670.16	1,908.76	2,147.36	2,624.56	3,101.74	3,578.94	4,294.72
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North Yorkshire Council

Hambleton Area

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
AINDERBY QUERNHOW	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
AINDERBY STEEPLE	1,421.08	1,657.93	1,894.77	2,131.62	2,605.31	3,079.01	3,552.70	4,263.24
AISKEW	1,412.36	1,647.74	1,883.13	2,118.53	2,589.32	3,060.10	3,530.89	4,237.06
ALDWARD, FLAWITH & YOULTON	1,413.04	1,648.54	1,884.04	2,119.55	2,590.56	3,061.57	3,532.59	4,239.10
ALNE	1,408.76	1,643.54	1,878.33	2,113.13	2,582.72	3,052.30	3,521.89	4,226.26
ANGRAM GRANGE	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
APPLETON WISKE	1,420.75	1,657.54	1,894.32	2,131.12	2,604.70	3,078.29	3,551.87	4,262.24
BAGBY & BALK	1,415.90	1,651.87	1,887.85	2,123.84	2,595.81	3,067.77	3,539.74	4,247.68
BEDALE	1,429.88	1,668.18	1,906.49	2,144.81	2,621.44	3,098.06	3,574.69	4,289.62
BENINGBROUGH	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
BILSDALE MIDCABLE	1,402.94	1,636.75	1,870.57	2,104.40	2,572.05	3,039.69	3,507.34	4,208.80
BIRDFORTH	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
BIRKBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
BORROWBY	1,409.34	1,644.22	1,879.11	2,114.00	2,583.78	3,053.56	3,523.34	4,228.00
BRAFFERTON & HELPERBY	1,421.30	1,658.17	1,895.05	2,131.94	2,605.71	3,079.47	3,553.24	4,263.88
BRANDSBY CUM STEARSBY	1,402.97	1,636.79	1,870.62	2,104.45	2,572.11	3,039.76	3,507.42	4,208.90
BROMPTON	1,436.20	1,675.57	1,914.93	2,154.30	2,633.03	3,111.77	3,590.50	4,308.60
BURNESTON, SWAINBY WITH ALLERTHORPE & THEAKSTON	1,414.59	1,650.35	1,886.11	2,121.88	2,593.41	3,064.94	3,536.47	4,243.76
CARLTON-IN-CLEVELAND	1,430.47	1,668.88	1,907.28	2,145.70	2,622.52	3,099.35	3,576.17	4,291.40
CARLTON HUSTHWAITE	1,414.93	1,650.75	1,886.56	2,122.39	2,594.03	3,065.68	3,537.32	4,244.78
CARLTON MINIOTT	1,406.64	1,641.08	1,875.51	2,109.96	2,578.84	3,047.72	3,516.60	4,219.92
CARTHORPE	1,408.62	1,643.39	1,878.15	2,112.93	2,582.47	3,052.01	3,521.55	4,225.86
CATTON	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
COXWOLD	1,419.06	1,655.57	1,892.07	2,128.59	2,601.61	3,074.63	3,547.65	4,257.18
CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE	1,418.56	1,654.99	1,891.41	2,127.84	2,600.69	3,073.55	3,546.40	4,255.68
CRATHORNE	1,400.66	1,634.09	1,867.53	2,100.98	2,567.87	3,034.75	3,501.64	4,201.96
CRAYKE	1,407.54	1,642.13	1,876.71	2,111.31	2,580.49	3,049.67	3,518.85	4,222.62
DALBY CUM SKEWSBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66

	1,413.60	1,649.20	1,884.79	2,120.40	2,591.60	3,062.80	3,534.00	4,240.80
	2023/24							
	Council Tax							
	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£							
DALTON								
DANBY WISKE WITH LAZENBY	1,409.88	1,644.86	1,879.83	2,114.82	2,584.78	3,054.74	3,524.70	4,229.64
DEIGHTON	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
EASBY	1,397.86	1,630.84	1,863.81	2,096.79	2,562.74	3,028.70	3,494.65	4,193.58
EASINGWOLD	1,443.96	1,684.61	1,925.27	2,165.93	2,647.25	3,128.57	3,609.89	4,331.86
EAST COWTON	1,412.98	1,648.48	1,883.97	2,119.47	2,590.46	3,061.46	3,532.45	4,238.94
EAST HARLSEY	1,411.11	1,646.29	1,881.47	2,116.66	2,587.03	3,057.40	3,527.77	4,233.32
ELDMIRE WITH CRAKEHALL	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
EXELBY, LEEMING AND LONDONDERRY	1,408.42	1,643.15	1,877.88	2,112.62	2,582.09	3,051.56	3,521.04	4,225.24
FACEBY	1,403.26	1,637.13	1,871.00	2,104.88	2,572.63	3,040.38	3,508.14	4,209.76
FARLINGTON	1,399.56	1,632.82	1,866.07	2,099.34	2,565.86	3,032.38	3,498.90	4,198.68
FAWDINGTON	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
FIRBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
GATENBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
GIRSBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
GREAT AYTON	1,436.75	1,676.20	1,915.66	2,155.12	2,634.04	3,112.95	3,591.87	4,310.24
GREAT AND LITTLE BROUGHTON	1,413.40	1,648.97	1,884.53	2,120.10	2,591.23	3,062.37	3,533.50	4,240.20
GREAT BUSBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
GREAT LANGTON	1,403.15	1,637.00	1,870.86	2,104.72	2,572.44	3,040.15	3,507.87	4,209.44
HACKFORTH, AINDERBY MIERS WITH HOLTBY	1,412.00	1,647.33	1,882.66	2,118.00	2,588.67	3,059.34	3,530.00	4,236.00
HILLSIDE (BOLTBY, COWESBY, FELIXKIRK, KIRBY KNOWLE AND UPSALL)	1,399.65	1,632.92	1,866.19	2,099.47	2,566.02	3,032.57	3,499.12	4,198.94
HOLME	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
HOOD GRANGE	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
HOWE	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
HUBY	1,406.50	1,640.92	1,875.33	2,109.75	2,578.58	3,047.42	3,516.25	4,219.50
HUSTHWAITE	1,420.98	1,657.81	1,894.63	2,131.47	2,605.13	3,078.79	3,552.45	4,262.94
HUTTON RUDBY, MIDDLETON, RUDBY AND SKUTTERSKEFFE	1,422.72	1,659.84	1,896.95	2,134.08	2,608.32	3,082.56	3,556.80	4,268.16
INGLEBY ARNCLIFFE	1,421.92	1,658.91	1,895.89	2,132.88	2,606.85	3,080.83	3,554.80	4,265.76
INGLEBY GREENHOW	1,422.42	1,659.48	1,896.55	2,133.62	2,607.76	3,081.90	3,556.04	4,267.24
KILBURN	1,436.89	1,676.37	1,915.84	2,155.33	2,634.29	3,113.26	3,592.22	4,310.66
KILDALE	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
KILLERBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
KIPLIN	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
KIRBY WISKE AND NEWSHAM WITH BRECKENBROUGH	1,414.36	1,650.08	1,885.80	2,121.53	2,592.98	3,064.43	3,535.89	4,243.06
KIRKBY IN CLEVELAND	1,412.52	1,647.94	1,883.35	2,118.78	2,589.62	3,060.46	3,531.30	4,237.56
KIRBY FLEETHAM WITH FENCOTES	1,415.69	1,651.63	1,887.58	2,123.53	2,595.43	3,067.32	3,539.22	4,247.06
KIRKLINGTON CUM UPSLAND, HOWGRAVE AND SUTTON WITH HOWGRAVE	1,405.74	1,640.02	1,874.31	2,108.60	2,577.18	3,045.76	3,514.34	4,217.20
KNAYTON WITH BRAWITH LEAKE	1,415.18	1,651.04	1,886.90	2,122.77	2,594.50	3,066.23	3,537.95	4,245.54
LINTON - ON - OUSE	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
LITTLE AYTON	1,432.14	1,670.82	1,909.51	2,148.20	2,625.58	3,102.96	3,580.34	4,296.40
LITTLE BUSBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
LITTLE LANGTON	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
LOW AND HIGH WORSALL	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
MARTON CUM MOXBY	1,415.27	1,651.14	1,887.02	2,122.90	2,594.66	3,066.41	3,538.17	4,245.80
MORTON ON SWALE	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
MYTON ON SWALE	1,420.24	1,656.95	1,893.65	2,130.36	2,603.77	3,077.19	3,550.60	4,260.72
NEWBURGH	1,407.36	1,641.91	1,876.47	2,111.03	2,580.15	3,049.27	3,518.39	4,222.06
NEWBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
NEWTON ON OUSE	1,418.38	1,654.78	1,891.17	2,127.57	2,600.36	3,073.16	3,545.95	4,255.14
NORTH KILVINGTON	1,412.40	1,647.79	1,883.19	2,118.59	2,589.39	3,060.19	3,530.99	4,237.18
NORTH OTTERINGTON	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
NORTHALLERTON	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
OSMOTHERLEY, KIRBY SIGSTON, ELLERBECK, SOWERBY UNDER COTCLIFFE, THIMBLEBY, WINTON, STANK AND HALIKELD AND WEST HARLSEY	1,463.80	1,707.76	1,951.72	2,195.69	2,683.62	3,171.55	3,659.49	4,391.38
OULSTON	1,414.85	1,650.65	1,886.46	2,122.27	2,593.89	3,065.50	3,537.12	4,244.54
OVER DINSDALE	1,410.60	1,645.70	1,880.79	2,115.90	2,586.10	3,056.30	3,526.50	4,231.80
OVERTON	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
PICKHILL WITH ROXBY & SINDERBY	1,398.74	1,631.86	1,864.98	2,098.11	2,564.36	3,030.61	3,496.85	4,196.22
PICTON	1,404.37	1,638.43	1,872.48	2,106.55	2,574.67	3,042.80	3,510.92	4,213.10
POTTO	1,398.01	1,631.01	1,864.00	2,097.01	2,563.01	3,029.02	3,495.02	4,194.02
RAND GRANGE	1,428.79	1,666.92	1,905.04	2,143.18	2,619.44	3,095.71	3,571.97	4,286.36
RASKELF	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
	1,410.08	1,645.08	1,880.09	2,115.11	2,585.14	3,055.16	3,525.19	4,230.22

ROMANBY	1,413.98	1,649.64	1,885.30	2,120.97	2,592.30	3,063.63	3,534.95	4,241.94
	2023/24							
	Council Tax							
	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£							
ROUNTON EAST AND WEST	1,398.94	1,632.09	1,865.24	2,098.40	2,564.71	3,031.02	3,497.34	4,196.80
SANDHUTTON	1,419.14	1,655.65	1,892.17	2,128.70	2,601.75	3,074.79	3,547.84	4,257.40
SCRUTON	1,412.64	1,648.07	1,883.51	2,118.95	2,589.83	3,060.71	3,531.59	4,237.90
SEAMER	1,406.93	1,641.41	1,875.90	2,110.39	2,579.37	3,048.34	3,517.32	4,220.78
SESSAY AND HUTTON SESSAY	1,426.67	1,664.44	1,902.22	2,140.00	2,615.56	3,091.11	3,566.67	4,280.00
SEXHOW	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
SHIPTON BY BENINGBROUGH	1,420.19	1,656.88	1,893.58	2,130.28	2,603.68	3,077.07	3,550.47	4,260.56
SILTON WITH KEPWICK (OVER SILTON, NETHER SILTON, LANDMOTH CUM CATTO AND KEPWICK)	1,414.00	1,649.66	1,885.32	2,120.99	2,592.32	3,063.65	3,534.99	4,241.98
SKIPTON ON SWALE	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
SNAPE WITH THORP	1,427.19	1,665.05	1,902.91	2,140.78	2,616.51	3,092.24	3,567.97	4,281.56
SMEATON WITH HORNBY (GREAT SMEATON, LITTLE SMEATON AND HORNBY)	1,402.26	1,635.97	1,869.67	2,103.39	2,570.81	3,038.23	3,505.65	4,206.78
SOUTH COWTON	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
SOUTH KILVINGTON	1,423.32	1,660.53	1,897.75	2,134.97	2,609.41	3,083.85	3,558.29	4,269.94
SOUTH OTTERINGTON, MAUNBY AND NEWBY WISKE	1,408.84	1,643.65	1,878.45	2,113.26	2,582.87	3,052.49	3,522.10	4,226.52
SOWERBY	1,424.95	1,662.44	1,899.92	2,137.42	2,612.40	3,087.39	3,562.37	4,274.84
STILLINGTON	1,414.88	1,650.69	1,886.50	2,122.32	2,593.95	3,065.58	3,537.20	4,244.64
STOKESLEY	1,446.01	1,687.01	1,928.00	2,169.01	2,651.01	3,133.02	3,615.02	4,338.02
SUTTON UNDER WHITESTONECLIFFE	1,434.90	1,674.04	1,913.19	2,152.34	2,630.64	3,108.94	3,587.24	4,304.68
SUTTON-ON-THE-FOREST	1,425.98	1,663.64	1,901.30	2,138.97	2,614.30	3,089.63	3,564.95	4,277.94
THIRKLEBY HIGH AND LOW WITH OSGODBY	1,408.33	1,643.05	1,877.76	2,112.49	2,581.93	3,051.38	3,520.82	4,224.98
THIRLBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
THIRN, THORNTON WATLASS, CLIFTON ON YORE, BURRILL WITH COWLING & ROOKWITH	1,402.23	1,635.93	1,869.63	2,103.34	2,570.75	3,038.16	3,505.57	4,206.68

2) BURRILL WITH COWLING	1,404.30	1,638.34	1,872.39	2,106.44	2,574.54	3,042.64	3,510.74	4,212.88
	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
THIRSK	1,472.44	1,717.85	1,963.25	2,208.66	2,699.47	3,190.29	3,681.10	4,417.32
THOLTHORPE	1,402.99	1,636.82	1,870.64	2,104.48	2,572.14	3,039.81	3,507.47	4,208.96
THORMANBY	1,397.18	1,630.04	1,862.90	2,095.77	2,561.50	3,027.23	3,492.95	4,191.54
THORNBOROUGH	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
THORNTON LE BEANS, CROSBY AND COTCLIFFE	1,497.00	1,746.49	1,995.99	2,245.49	2,744.49	3,243.49	3,742.49	4,490.98
THORNTON LE MOOR AND THORNTON LE STREET	1,401.03	1,634.53	1,868.03	2,101.54	2,568.55	3,035.56	3,502.57	4,203.08
THORNTON ON THE HILL	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
THRINTOFT	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
TOLLERTON	1,409.98	1,644.98	1,879.97	2,114.97	2,584.96	3,054.96	3,524.95	4,229.94
TOPCLIFFE	1,423.40	1,660.63	1,897.86	2,135.10	2,609.57	3,084.04	3,558.50	4,270.20
WARLABY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
WELBURY	1,399.55	1,632.80	1,866.06	2,099.32	2,565.84	3,032.35	3,498.87	4,198.64
WELL	1,404.50	1,638.57	1,872.65	2,106.74	2,574.91	3,043.07	3,511.24	4,213.48
WEST TANFIELD (AND EAST)	1,413.04	1,648.55	1,884.05	2,119.56	2,590.57	3,061.59	3,532.60	4,239.12
WHENBY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
WHITWELL	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
WHORLTON	1,420.32	1,657.03	1,893.75	2,130.47	2,603.91	3,077.35	3,550.79	4,260.94
WILDON GRANGE	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
YAFFORTH	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66
YEARSLEY	1,393.89	1,626.20	1,858.51	2,090.83	2,555.46	3,020.09	3,484.72	4,181.66

Harrogate Area

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
ALLERTON MAULEVERER WITH HOPPERTON	1,442.10	1,682.45	1,922.79	2,163.15	2,643.85	3,124.55	3,605.25	4,326.30
ARKENDALE, CONEYTHORPE & CLARETON GROUP	1,452.27	1,694.31	1,936.35	2,178.40	2,662.49	3,146.58	3,630.67	4,356.80
ASENBY	1,445.40	1,686.30	1,927.19	2,168.10	2,649.90	3,131.70	3,613.50	4,336.20
AZERLEY & WINKSLEY GROUP	1,457.09	1,699.93	1,942.78	2,185.63	2,671.33	3,157.02	3,642.72	4,371.26
BALDEBSBY	1,467.04	1,711.54	1,956.04	2,200.55	2,689.56	3,178.57	3,667.59	4,401.10
BEWERLEY	1,453.64	1,695.91	1,938.18	2,180.46	2,665.01	3,149.56	3,634.10	4,360.92
BILTON-IN-AINSTY WITH BICKERTON	1,465.86	1,710.16	1,954.47	2,198.78	2,687.40	3,176.02	3,664.64	4,397.56
BIRSTWITH	1,462.37	1,706.09	1,949.82	2,193.55	2,681.01	3,168.46	3,655.92	4,387.10
BISHOP MONKTON	1,459.07	1,702.24	1,945.42	2,188.60	2,674.96	3,161.31	3,647.67	4,377.20
BISHOP THORNTON & WARSILL GROUP	1,459.60	1,702.86	1,946.12	2,189.39	2,675.92	3,162.45	3,648.99	4,378.78
BOROUGHBRIDGE	1,467.36	1,711.91	1,956.47	2,201.03	2,690.15	3,179.27	3,668.39	4,402.06
BREARTON	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74
BURTON LEONARD	1,455.50	1,698.07	1,940.65	2,183.24	2,668.41	3,153.57	3,638.74	4,366.48
CATTAL, HUNSINGORE & WALSHFORD GROUP	1,448.73	1,690.18	1,931.63	2,173.09	2,656.00	3,138.91	3,621.82	4,346.18
CLINT-CUM-HAMLETS	1,450.26	1,691.97	1,933.67	2,175.39	2,658.81	3,142.23	3,625.65	4,350.78
CUNDALL & NORTON-LE-CLAY GROUP	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74
DACRE	1,459.06	1,702.23	1,945.40	2,188.58	2,674.93	3,161.28	3,647.64	4,377.16
DARLEY & MENWITH	1,459.81	1,703.11	1,946.40	2,189.71	2,676.31	3,162.92	3,649.52	4,379.42
DISHFORTH	1,459.21	1,702.41	1,945.60	2,188.81	2,675.21	3,161.62	3,648.02	4,377.62
DUNSFORTHS	1,448.23	1,689.60	1,930.96	2,172.34	2,655.08	3,137.83	3,620.57	4,344.68
FARNHAM	1,449.80	1,691.42	1,933.05	2,174.69	2,657.96	3,141.22	3,624.49	4,349.38
FEARBY, HEALY & DISTRICT GROUP	1,450.72	1,692.51	1,934.29	2,176.08	2,659.65	3,143.23	3,626.80	4,352.16
FELLISCLIFFE	1,454.00	1,696.33	1,938.66	2,181.00	2,665.67	3,150.34	3,635.00	4,362.00

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
FERRENSBY	1,442.95	1,683.44	1,923.92	2,164.42	2,645.40	3,126.39	3,607.37	4,328.84
FOLLIFOOT & PLOMPTON GROUP	1,458.44	1,701.51	1,944.58	2,187.66	2,673.81	3,159.96	3,646.10	4,375.32
FOUNTAINS ABBEY GROUP	1,454.88	1,697.36	1,939.83	2,182.32	2,667.28	3,152.24	3,637.20	4,364.64
GOLDSBOROUGH & FLAXBY GROUP	1,455.29	1,697.83	1,940.38	2,182.93	2,668.03	3,153.12	3,638.22	4,365.86
GRANTLEY & SAWLEY GROUP	1,470.42	1,715.49	1,960.55	2,205.63	2,695.77	3,185.91	3,676.05	4,411.26
GREAT OUSEBURN	1,468.64	1,713.40	1,958.17	2,202.95	2,692.50	3,182.04	3,671.59	4,405.90
GREEN HAMMERTON	1,468.32	1,713.04	1,957.75	2,202.48	2,691.92	3,181.36	3,670.80	4,404.96
GREWELTHORPE	1,456.28	1,698.99	1,941.70	2,184.42	2,669.85	3,155.28	3,640.70	4,368.84
HAMPSTHWAITE	1,454.35	1,696.74	1,939.12	2,181.52	2,666.30	3,151.09	3,635.87	4,363.04
HARROGATE	1,439.54	1,679.46	1,919.38	2,159.31	2,639.16	3,119.01	3,598.85	4,318.62
HARTWITH-CUM-WINSLEY	1,458.26	1,701.29	1,944.33	2,187.38	2,673.47	3,159.55	3,645.64	4,374.76
HAVERAH PARK & BECKWITHSHAW GROUP	1,454.63	1,697.06	1,939.50	2,181.94	2,666.82	3,151.69	3,636.57	4,363.88
HEWICK & HUTTON GROUP	1,456.60	1,699.37	1,942.13	2,184.90	2,670.43	3,155.97	3,641.50	4,369.80
HIGH & LOW BISHOPSIDE	1,461.01	1,704.51	1,948.00	2,191.51	2,678.51	3,165.52	3,652.52	4,383.02
KEARBY-WITH-NETHERBY	1,456.14	1,698.83	1,941.51	2,184.21	2,669.59	3,154.97	3,640.35	4,368.42
KILLINGHALL	1,448.39	1,689.78	1,931.18	2,172.58	2,655.38	3,138.17	3,620.97	4,345.16
KIRBY HILL & DISTRICT GROUP	1,446.27	1,687.31	1,928.35	2,169.40	2,651.49	3,133.58	3,615.67	4,338.80
KIRKBY MALZEARD, LAVERTON & DALLOWGILL GROUP	1,461.20	1,704.73	1,948.26	2,191.80	2,678.87	3,165.94	3,653.00	4,383.60
KIRKBY OVERBLOW	1,462.79	1,706.58	1,950.38	2,194.18	2,681.78	3,169.37	3,656.97	4,388.36
KIRK DEIGHTON	1,457.35	1,700.24	1,943.12	2,186.02	2,671.80	3,157.59	3,643.37	4,372.04
KIRK HAMMERTON	1,459.12	1,702.30	1,945.48	2,188.67	2,675.04	3,161.41	3,647.79	4,377.34
KNARESBOROUGH SUCCESSOR	1,456.48	1,699.23	1,941.97	2,184.72	2,670.21	3,155.71	3,641.20	4,369.44
LANGTHORPE	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74
LITTLE OUSEBURN GROUP	1,455.28	1,697.82	1,940.36	2,182.91	2,668.00	3,153.09	3,638.19	4,365.82
LITTLE RIBSTON	1,469.40	1,714.29	1,959.19	2,204.09	2,693.89	3,183.69	3,673.49	4,408.18
LITTLETHORPE	1,450.30	1,692.02	1,933.73	2,175.45	2,658.88	3,142.32	3,625.75	4,350.90
LONG MARSTON	1,456.30	1,699.01	1,941.72	2,184.44	2,669.87	3,155.30	3,640.74	4,368.88
LOWER WASHBURN GROUP	1,453.75	1,696.04	1,938.32	2,180.62	2,665.20	3,149.79	3,634.37	4,361.24
MARKENFIELD HALL	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74

MARKINGTON-WITH-WALLERTHORPE	1,451.22	1,693.09	1,934.95	2,176.83	2,660.57	3,144.31	3,628.05	4,353.66
MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON	1,456.43	1,699.16	1,941.90	2,184.64	2,670.12	3,155.59	3,641.07	4,369.28
MARTON-LE-MOOR	1,450.43	1,692.16	1,933.90	2,175.64	2,659.12	3,142.59	3,626.07	4,351.28
MASHAM GROUP	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
MELMERBY & MIDDLETON GROUP	1,456.71	1,699.49	1,942.27	2,185.06	2,670.63	3,156.20	3,641.77	4,370.12
MID-WHARFEDALE GROUP	1,447.62	1,688.89	1,930.15	2,171.43	2,653.97	3,136.51	3,619.05	4,342.86
MOOR MONKTON	1,464.47	1,708.54	1,952.62	2,196.70	2,684.86	3,173.01	3,661.17	4,393.40
NEWALL-WITH-CLIFTON	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74
NIDD	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74
NORTH DEIGHTON	1,457.24	1,700.10	1,942.97	2,185.85	2,671.60	3,157.34	3,643.09	4,371.70
NORTH RIGTON	1,464.53	1,708.61	1,952.70	2,196.79	2,684.97	3,173.14	3,661.32	4,393.58
NORTH STAINLEY-WITH- SLENNINGFORD	1,477.84	1,724.14	1,970.44	2,216.75	2,709.36	3,201.97	3,694.59	4,433.50
NUN MONKTON	1,492.71	1,741.49	1,990.27	2,239.06	2,736.63	3,234.20	3,731.77	4,478.12
PANNAL AND BURN BRIDGE	1,459.12	1,702.30	1,945.48	2,188.67	2,675.04	3,161.41	3,647.79	4,377.34
RAINTON WITH NEWBY	1,465.00	1,709.16	1,953.32	2,197.49	2,685.82	3,174.15	3,662.49	4,394.98
RIPLEY	1,457.22	1,700.09	1,942.95	2,185.83	2,671.57	3,157.31	3,643.05	4,371.66
RIPON SUCCESSOR	1,486.39	1,734.12	1,981.84	2,229.58	2,725.04	3,220.51	3,715.97	4,459.16
ROECLIFFE & WESTWICK GROUP	1,486.58	1,734.34	1,982.10	2,229.87	2,725.40	3,220.93	3,716.45	4,459.74
SCOTTON	1,454.44	1,696.85	1,939.25	2,181.66	2,666.47	3,151.29	3,636.10	4,363.32
SCRIVEN	1,470.40	1,715.47	1,960.53	2,205.60	2,695.73	3,185.87	3,676.00	4,411.20
SHAROW	1,470.30	1,715.34	1,960.39	2,205.44	2,695.54	3,185.64	3,675.74	4,410.88
SICKLINGHALL	1,448.44	1,689.84	1,931.24	2,172.65	2,655.46	3,138.27	3,621.09	4,345.30
SKELTON GROUP	1,450.60	1,692.36	1,934.12	2,175.89	2,659.42	3,142.95	3,626.49	4,351.78
SOUTH STAINLEY-WITH-CAYTON	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74
SPOFFORTH-WITH-STOCKELD	1,452.70	1,694.81	1,936.92	2,179.04	2,663.27	3,147.50	3,631.74	4,358.08
STAVELEY & COPGROVE GROUP	1,454.53	1,696.95	1,939.36	2,181.79	2,666.63	3,151.48	3,636.32	4,363.58
THORNTHWAITE-WITH-PADSIDE	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74
THORNVILLE	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74
THRUSCROSS	1,454.72	1,697.16	1,939.61	2,182.07	2,666.98	3,151.88	3,636.79	4,364.14
TOCKWITH & WILSTROP GROUP	1,473.86	1,719.50	1,965.14	2,210.79	2,702.08	3,193.37	3,684.65	4,421.58
UPPER NIDDERDALE GROUP	1,462.92	1,706.74	1,950.55	2,194.38	2,682.02	3,169.66	3,657.30	4,388.76
WALKINGHAM HILL WITH OCCANEY	1,439.25	1,679.12	1,918.99	2,158.87	2,638.62	3,118.37	3,598.12	4,317.74
WASHBURN GROUP	1,457.83	1,700.80	1,943.76	2,186.74	2,672.68	3,158.63	3,644.57	4,373.48

WATH & NORTON CONYERS GROUP	1,461.04	1,704.54	1,948.04	2,191.55	2,678.56	3,165.57	3,652.59	4,383.10
WEETON	1,446.84	1,687.97	1,929.11	2,170.25	2,652.53	3,134.81	3,617.09	4,340.50
WHIXLEY	1,455.54	1,698.12	1,940.71	2,183.30	2,668.48	3,153.66	3,638.84	4,366.60
WIGHILL	1,465.51	1,709.76	1,954.00	2,198.26	2,686.76	3,175.27	3,663.77	4,396.52

Richmondshire Area

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
AGGLETHORPE WITH COVERHAM	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
ALDBROUGH	1,442.13	1,682.48	1,922.83	2,163.19	2,643.90	3,124.61	3,605.32	4,326.38
APPLETON (EAST & WEST)	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
ARKENGARHTDALE	1,448.79	1,690.25	1,931.71	2,173.18	2,656.11	3,139.04	3,621.97	4,346.36
ARRATHORNE	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
ASKE	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
ASKRIGG & LOW ABBOTSIDE	1,437.96	1,677.62	1,917.28	2,156.94	2,636.26	3,115.58	3,594.90	4,313.88
AYSGARTH DISTRICT: AYSGARTH, BISHOPDALE, NEWBIGGIN, THORALBY AND THORNTON RUST	1,444.73	1,685.52	1,926.30	2,167.09	2,648.66	3,130.24	3,611.82	4,334.18
BAINBRIDGE	1,446.39	1,687.45	1,928.51	2,169.58	2,651.71	3,133.84	3,615.97	4,339.16
BARTON	1,452.68	1,694.80	1,936.90	2,179.02	2,663.24	3,147.48	3,631.70	4,358.04
BELLERBY	1,470.87	1,716.02	1,961.16	2,206.31	2,696.60	3,186.90	3,677.18	4,412.62
BOLTON ON SWALE	1,444.52	1,685.28	1,926.02	2,166.78	2,648.28	3,129.80	3,611.30	4,333.56
BROMPTON ON SWALE	1,452.29	1,694.35	1,936.39	2,178.44	2,662.53	3,146.64	3,630.73	4,356.88
BROUGH WITH ST GILES	1,452.35	1,694.41	1,936.46	2,178.52	2,662.63	3,146.75	3,630.87	4,357.04
BURTON CUM WALDEN (WEST BURTON)	1,456.15	1,698.84	1,941.53	2,184.22	2,669.60	3,154.99	3,640.37	4,368.44
CALDBERGH & EAST SCRAFTON	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
CALDWELL	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
CARLTON HIGHDALE	1,435.94	1,675.27	1,914.58	2,153.91	2,632.55	3,111.21	3,589.85	4,307.82
CARLTON	1,567.87	1,829.19	2,090.49	2,351.81	2,874.43	3,397.06	3,919.68	4,703.62
CARPERBY	1,458.21	1,701.24	1,944.27	2,187.31	2,673.38	3,159.45	3,645.52	4,374.62
CASTLE BOLTON	1,459.44	1,702.68	1,945.92	2,189.16	2,675.64	3,162.12	3,648.60	4,378.32
CATTERICK	1,453.27	1,695.49	1,937.69	2,179.91	2,664.33	3,148.76	3,633.18	4,359.82
COLBURN	1,508.70	1,760.15	2,011.60	2,263.05	2,765.95	3,268.85	3,771.75	4,526.10

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CONSTABLE BURTON / FINGHALL: AKEBAR, BARDEN, CONSTABLE BURTON, EAST HAUXWELL, FINGHALL, GARRISTON, HUTTON HANG AND WEST HAUXWELL	1,438.25	1,677.97	1,917.67	2,157.38	2,636.79	3,116.22	3,595.63	4,314.76
CROFT-ON-TEES	1,441.53	1,681.79	1,922.04	2,162.30	2,642.81	3,123.33	3,603.83	4,324.60
DALTON	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
DALTON-ON-TEES	1,448.83	1,690.31	1,931.77	2,173.25	2,656.19	3,139.14	3,622.08	4,346.50
EASBY	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
EAST LAYTON	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
EAST WITTON	1,449.24	1,690.78	1,932.32	2,173.86	2,656.94	3,140.02	3,623.10	4,347.72
ELLERTON ON SWALE	1,434.09	1,673.11	1,912.12	2,151.14	2,629.17	3,107.21	3,585.23	4,302.28
EPPLEBY	1,468.27	1,712.98	1,957.69	2,202.40	2,691.82	3,181.25	3,670.67	4,404.80
ERYHOLME	1,444.85	1,685.67	1,926.47	2,167.28	2,648.89	3,130.52	3,612.13	4,334.56
FORCETT	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
GAYLES	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
GILLING WITH HARTFORTH & SEDBURY	1,441.48	1,681.73	1,921.97	2,162.22	2,642.71	3,123.21	3,603.70	4,324.44
GRINTON WITH ELLERTON ABBEY	1,463.61	1,707.55	1,951.48	2,195.42	2,683.29	3,171.17	3,659.03	4,390.84
HARMBY	1,451.15	1,693.02	1,934.87	2,176.73	2,660.44	3,144.17	3,627.88	4,353.46
HAWES & HIGH ABBOTSDALE	1,447.72	1,689.01	1,930.29	2,171.58	2,654.15	3,136.73	3,619.30	4,343.16
HIPSWELL	1,445.01	1,685.85	1,926.68	2,167.52	2,649.19	3,130.87	3,612.53	4,335.04
HORNBY	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
HUDSWELL, DOWNHOLME, STAINTON & WALBURN	1,444.43	1,685.17	1,925.90	2,166.64	2,648.11	3,129.59	3,611.07	4,333.28
HUNTON	1,451.33	1,693.22	1,935.10	2,176.99	2,660.76	3,144.54	3,628.32	4,353.98
KIRBY HILL	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
LEYBURN	1,473.16	1,718.69	1,964.21	2,209.74	2,700.79	3,191.85	3,682.90	4,419.48
MANFIELD & CLIFFE	1,448.09	1,689.44	1,930.78	2,172.13	2,654.82	3,137.52	3,620.22	4,344.26
MARRICK	1,442.63	1,683.08	1,923.51	2,163.95	2,644.82	3,125.71	3,606.58	4,327.90
MARSKE & NEW FORREST	1,449.35	1,690.91	1,932.46	2,174.02	2,657.13	3,140.25	3,623.37	4,348.04
MELBECKS	1,434.15	1,673.17	1,912.19	2,151.22	2,629.27	3,107.32	3,585.37	4,302.44
MELMERBY	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
MELSONBY	1,455.01	1,697.52	1,940.01	2,182.52	2,667.52	3,152.53	3,637.53	4,365.04
MIDDLEHAM	1,451.61	1,693.55	1,935.48	2,177.42	2,661.29	3,145.17	3,629.03	4,354.84
MIDDLETON TYAS	1,478.50	1,724.92	1,971.33	2,217.75	2,710.58	3,203.42	3,696.25	4,435.50
MOULTON	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
MUKER	1,436.51	1,675.93	1,915.34	2,154.76	2,633.59	3,112.43	3,591.27	4,309.52
NEWSHAM	1,440.79	1,680.92	1,921.05	2,161.18	2,641.44	3,121.71	3,601.97	4,322.36
NEWTON LE WILLOWS	1,442.05	1,682.40	1,922.73	2,163.08	2,643.76	3,124.45	3,605.13	4,326.16
NEWTON MORRELL	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
NORTH COWTON	1,441.42	1,681.66	1,921.89	2,162.13	2,642.60	3,123.08	3,603.55	4,324.26
PATRICK BROMPTON	1,458.50	1,701.59	1,944.66	2,187.75	2,673.91	3,160.09	3,646.25	4,375.50
PRESTON UNDER SCAR	1,460.53	1,703.96	1,947.37	2,190.80	2,677.64	3,164.49	3,651.33	4,381.60
RAVENSWORTH	1,459.85	1,703.16	1,946.46	2,189.77	2,676.38	3,163.00	3,649.62	4,379.54
REDMIRE	1,464.47	1,708.55	1,952.62	2,196.70	2,684.85	3,173.01	3,661.17	4,393.40
REETH	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
RICHMOND TOWN	1,467.13	1,711.65	1,956.17	2,200.69	2,689.73	3,178.78	3,667.82	4,401.38
SCORTON	1,461.88	1,705.53	1,949.17	2,192.82	2,680.11	3,167.41	3,654.70	4,385.64
SCOTTON	1,468.61	1,713.38	1,958.14	2,202.91	2,692.44	3,181.98	3,671.52	4,405.82
SKEEBY	1,457.10	1,699.95	1,942.80	2,185.65	2,671.35	3,157.05	3,642.75	4,371.30
SPENNITHORNE	1,446.64	1,687.75	1,928.85	2,169.96	2,652.17	3,134.39	3,616.60	4,339.92
ST MARTINS	1,450.61	1,692.38	1,934.14	2,175.91	2,659.44	3,142.98	3,626.52	4,351.82
STANWICK ST JOHN	1,444.48	1,685.23	1,925.97	2,166.72	2,648.21	3,129.71	3,611.20	4,333.44
STAPLETON & CLEASBY	1,455.16	1,697.69	1,940.21	2,182.74	2,667.79	3,152.85	3,637.90	4,365.48
THORNTON STEWARD	1,461.29	1,704.84	1,948.38	2,191.93	2,679.02	3,166.12	3,653.22	4,383.86
TUNSTALL	1,455.43	1,698.00	1,940.57	2,183.14	2,668.28	3,153.43	3,638.57	4,366.28
UCKERBY	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
WENSLEY	1,436.93	1,676.42	1,915.90	2,155.39	2,634.36	3,113.34	3,592.32	4,310.78
WEST LAYTON	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
WEST SCRAFTON	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18
WEST WITTON	1,441.35	1,681.57	1,921.79	2,162.02	2,642.47	3,122.92	3,603.37	4,324.04
WHASHTON	1,429.06	1,667.24	1,905.41	2,143.59	2,619.94	3,096.30	3,572.65	4,287.18

Ryedale Area

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
ACKLAM	1,441.05	1,681.22	1,921.39	2,161.57	2,641.92	3,122.27	3,602.62	4,323.14
AISLABY, MIDDLETON & WRELTON	1,432.79	1,671.58	1,910.38	2,149.18	2,626.78	3,104.37	3,581.97	4,298.36
ALLERSTON & WILTON	1,459.80	1,703.09	1,946.39	2,189.69	2,676.29	3,162.88	3,649.49	4,379.38
AMOTHERBY	1,446.55	1,687.63	1,928.72	2,169.81	2,651.99	3,134.17	3,616.36	4,339.62
AMPLEFORTH	1,448.99	1,690.48	1,931.97	2,173.47	2,656.46	3,139.45	3,622.46	4,346.94
APPLETON LE MOORS	1,430.29	1,668.66	1,907.04	2,145.42	2,622.18	3,098.94	3,575.71	4,290.84
APPLETON LE STREET	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
BARTON LE STREET	1,426.22	1,663.92	1,901.61	2,139.32	2,614.72	3,090.13	3,565.54	4,278.64
BARTON LE WILLOWS	1,457.79	1,700.74	1,943.70	2,186.67	2,672.60	3,158.52	3,644.46	4,373.34
BARUGHS AMBO	1,440.73	1,680.84	1,920.96	2,161.08	2,641.32	3,121.55	3,601.81	4,322.16
BEADLAM	1,448.76	1,690.21	1,931.67	2,173.13	2,656.05	3,138.96	3,621.89	4,346.26
BIRDSALL	1,426.65	1,664.42	1,902.19	2,139.97	2,615.52	3,091.07	3,566.62	4,279.94
BRANSDALE	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
BRAWBY	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
BROUGHTON	1,445.64	1,686.57	1,927.51	2,168.45	2,650.33	3,132.20	3,614.09	4,336.90
BULMER	1,439.34	1,679.22	1,919.11	2,159.00	2,638.78	3,118.55	3,598.34	4,318.00
BURYTHORPE	1,430.77	1,669.22	1,907.68	2,146.14	2,623.06	3,099.98	3,576.91	4,292.28
BUTTERCRAMBE	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
BYLAND WITH WASS & OLDSTEAD	1,432.67	1,671.45	1,910.22	2,149.00	2,626.55	3,104.11	3,581.67	4,298.00
CAWTON, COULTON & GRIMSTONE	1,428.70	1,666.81	1,904.92	2,143.04	2,619.27	3,095.50	3,571.74	4,286.08
CLAXTON & SAND HUTTON	1,441.76	1,682.05	1,922.33	2,162.63	2,643.21	3,123.80	3,604.39	4,325.26
COLD KIRBY	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
CONEYSTHORPE	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
CROPTON	1,441.53	1,681.77	1,922.03	2,162.28	2,642.79	3,123.29	3,603.81	4,324.56
EBBERSTON & YEDINGHAM	1,457.29	1,700.17	1,943.05	2,185.93	2,671.69	3,157.45	3,643.22	4,371.86
EDSTONE	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
FADMOOR	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
FARNSDALE EAST	1,434.38	1,673.44	1,912.49	2,151.56	2,629.68	3,107.81	3,585.94	4,303.12
FARNSDALE WEST	1,434.35	1,673.41	1,912.46	2,151.52	2,629.63	3,107.75	3,585.87	4,303.04
FLAXTON	1,437.77	1,677.39	1,917.01	2,156.64	2,635.89	3,115.14	3,594.41	4,313.28

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FOSTON & THORNTON-LE-CLAY	1,435.36	1,674.58	1,913.80	2,153.03	2,631.48	3,109.93	3,588.39	4,306.06
FOXHOLES & BUTTERWICK	1,451.03	1,692.86	1,934.69	2,176.53	2,660.20	3,143.87	3,627.56	4,353.06
GANTON WITH POTTER BROMPTON	1,441.30	1,681.51	1,921.72	2,161.94	2,642.37	3,122.80	3,603.24	4,323.88
GATE HELMSLEY & UPPER HELMSLEY	1,444.59	1,685.35	1,926.11	2,166.88	2,648.41	3,129.94	3,611.47	4,333.76
GILLAMOOR	1,427.13	1,664.97	1,902.82	2,140.68	2,616.39	3,092.09	3,567.81	4,281.36
GILLING EAST	1,432.55	1,671.30	1,910.05	2,148.81	2,626.32	3,103.83	3,581.36	4,297.62
HABTON	1,431.51	1,670.08	1,908.66	2,147.25	2,624.42	3,101.58	3,578.76	4,294.50
HAROME	1,448.49	1,689.90	1,931.31	2,172.73	2,655.56	3,138.39	3,621.22	4,345.46
HARTOFT	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
HARTON	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
HAWNBY	1,428.73	1,666.84	1,904.96	2,143.08	2,619.32	3,095.56	3,571.81	4,286.16
HELMSLEY	1,511.34	1,763.22	2,015.11	2,267.00	2,770.78	3,274.55	3,778.34	4,534.00
HENDERSKELFE	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
HESLERTON	1,440.57	1,680.66	1,920.75	2,160.85	2,641.04	3,121.23	3,601.42	4,321.70
HOVINGHAM & SCACKLETON	1,442.23	1,682.60	1,922.96	2,163.34	2,644.08	3,124.82	3,605.57	4,326.68
HOWSHAM	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
HUTTON LE HOLE	1,455.99	1,698.65	1,941.31	2,183.98	2,669.31	3,154.64	3,639.97	4,367.96
HUTTONS AMBO	1,441.75	1,682.04	1,922.32	2,162.62	2,643.20	3,123.78	3,604.37	4,325.24
KIRBY GRINDALYTHE	1,438.57	1,678.33	1,918.08	2,157.85	2,637.37	3,116.89	3,596.42	4,315.70
KIRBY MISPERTON	1,444.78	1,685.57	1,926.36	2,167.16	2,648.75	3,130.34	3,611.94	4,334.32
KIRKBYMOORSIDE	1,464.08	1,708.09	1,952.09	2,196.11	2,684.13	3,172.16	3,660.19	4,392.22
LANGTON	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
LASTINGHAM	1,438.42	1,678.15	1,917.88	2,157.62	2,637.09	3,116.56	3,596.04	4,315.24
LEAVENING	1,430.09	1,668.43	1,906.77	2,145.12	2,621.81	3,098.50	3,575.21	4,290.24
LEVISHAM	1,430.76	1,669.21	1,907.67	2,146.13	2,623.05	3,099.96	3,576.89	4,292.26
LILLINGS AMBO	1,429.91	1,668.23	1,906.54	2,144.86	2,621.49	3,098.13	3,574.77	4,289.72
LOCKTON	1,456.23	1,698.92	1,941.63	2,184.33	2,669.74	3,155.14	3,640.56	4,368.66
LUTTONS	1,448.29	1,689.67	1,931.04	2,172.43	2,655.19	3,137.95	3,620.72	4,344.86
MALTON	1,492.28	1,740.99	1,989.69	2,238.41	2,735.83	3,233.25	3,730.69	4,476.82
MARISHES	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
MARTON	1,433.47	1,672.38	1,911.29	2,150.20	2,628.02	3,105.84	3,583.67	4,300.40
NAWTON	1,433.71	1,672.66	1,911.60	2,150.56	2,628.46	3,106.36	3,584.27	4,301.12
NEWTON ON RAWCLIFFE & STAPE	1,443.25	1,683.78	1,924.32	2,164.86	2,645.94	3,127.01	3,608.11	4,329.72
NORMANBY	1,434.65	1,673.74	1,912.85	2,151.96	2,630.18	3,108.38	3,586.61	4,303.92
NORTON	1,469.11	1,713.95	1,958.80	2,203.65	2,693.35	3,183.05	3,672.76	4,407.30

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
NUNNINGTON	1,429.39	1,667.62	1,905.84	2,144.08	2,620.54	3,097.00	3,573.47	4,288.16
OLD BYLAND & SCAWTON	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
OSWALDKIRK	1,440.77	1,680.89	1,921.01	2,161.14	2,641.39	3,121.64	3,601.91	4,322.28
PICKERING	1,480.31	1,727.03	1,973.74	2,220.46	2,713.89	3,207.33	3,700.77	4,440.92
POCKLEY	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
RIEVAULX	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
RILLINGTON	1,449.97	1,691.63	1,933.28	2,174.95	2,658.27	3,141.59	3,624.92	4,349.90
ROSEDALE EAST & WEST	1,460.67	1,704.10	1,947.55	2,190.99	2,677.88	3,164.76	3,651.66	4,381.98
SALTON	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
SCAGGLETHORPE	1,443.84	1,684.47	1,925.11	2,165.75	2,647.03	3,128.30	3,609.59	4,331.50
SCAMPSTON WITH EAST & WEST KNAPTONS	1,446.09	1,687.09	1,928.10	2,169.12	2,651.15	3,133.17	3,615.21	4,338.24
SCRAYINGHAM AND LEPPINGTON	1,430.98	1,669.47	1,907.96	2,146.46	2,623.45	3,100.44	3,577.44	4,292.92
SETTRINGTON	1,452.15	1,694.17	1,936.19	2,178.22	2,662.27	3,146.32	3,630.37	4,356.44
SHERBURN	1,496.35	1,745.74	1,995.12	2,244.52	2,743.30	3,242.08	3,740.87	4,489.04
SHERIFF HUTTON WITH CORNBOROUGH	1,447.35	1,688.56	1,929.78	2,171.01	2,653.46	3,135.90	3,618.36	4,342.02
SINNINGTON	1,450.79	1,692.57	1,934.37	2,176.17	2,659.77	3,143.35	3,626.96	4,352.34
SLINGSBY	1,441.05	1,681.21	1,921.38	2,161.56	2,641.91	3,122.25	3,602.61	4,323.12
SOUTHOLME & FRYTON	1,435.60	1,674.86	1,914.12	2,153.39	2,631.92	3,110.45	3,588.99	4,306.78
SPAUNTON	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
SPROXTON	1,425.06	1,662.56	1,900.07	2,137.58	2,612.60	3,087.61	3,562.64	4,275.16
STONEGRAVE	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
SWINTON	1,441.31	1,681.53	1,921.74	2,161.96	2,642.39	3,122.83	3,603.27	4,323.92
TERRINGTON	1,432.17	1,670.85	1,909.54	2,148.24	2,625.63	3,103.01	3,580.41	4,296.48
THIXENDALE	1,434.48	1,673.55	1,912.63	2,151.71	2,629.87	3,108.02	3,586.19	4,303.42
THORNTON LE DALE	1,456.35	1,699.07	1,941.79	2,184.52	2,669.97	3,155.42	3,640.87	4,369.04
THORPE BASSET	1,430.24	1,668.61	1,906.97	2,145.35	2,622.09	3,098.84	3,575.59	4,290.70
WARTHILL	1,432.33	1,671.05	1,909.76	2,148.49	2,625.93	3,103.37	3,580.82	4,296.98
WEAVERTHORPE	1,451.01	1,692.84	1,934.67	2,176.51	2,660.18	3,143.85	3,627.52	4,353.02
WELBURN (KIRKBYMOORSIDE)	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
WELBURN (MALTON)	1,434.15	1,673.17	1,912.19	2,151.22	2,629.27	3,107.32	3,585.37	4,302.44
WESTOW	1,432.79	1,671.58	1,910.37	2,149.17	2,626.76	3,104.35	3,581.96	4,298.34
WHARRAM	1,421.68	1,658.62	1,895.56	2,132.51	2,606.40	3,080.29	3,554.19	4,265.02
WHITWELL ON THE HILL & CRAMBE	1,427.38	1,665.27	1,903.16	2,141.06	2,616.85	3,092.64	3,568.44	4,282.12
WILLERBY & STAXTON	1,446.82	1,687.95	1,929.08	2,170.22	2,652.49	3,134.76	3,617.04	4,340.44
WINTRINGHAM	1,433.67	1,672.61	1,911.55	2,150.50	2,628.39	3,106.28	3,584.17	4,301.00

WOMBLETON	1,441.81	1,682.11	1,922.40	2,162.71	2,643.31	3,123.91	3,604.52	4,325.42
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Scarborough Area

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
AISLABY	1,448.88	1,690.35	1,931.83	2,173.31	2,656.27	3,139.23	3,622.19	4,346.62
AYTON EAST	1,468.30	1,713.01	1,957.72	2,202.44	2,691.87	3,181.30	3,670.74	4,404.88
AYTON WEST	1,467.86	1,712.49	1,957.13	2,201.78	2,691.07	3,180.35	3,669.64	4,403.56
BARNBY, ELLERBY & MICKLEBY	1,456.34	1,699.06	1,941.78	2,184.51	2,669.96	3,155.41	3,640.85	4,369.02
BORROWBY, ROXBY, NEWTON MULGRAVE	1,462.92	1,706.73	1,950.55	2,194.37	2,682.01	3,169.65	3,657.29	4,388.74
BROMPTON	1,479.16	1,725.69	1,972.21	2,218.74	2,711.79	3,204.85	3,697.90	4,437.48
BURNISTON	1,451.66	1,693.59	1,935.53	2,177.48	2,661.37	3,145.25	3,629.14	4,354.96
CAYTON	1,486.36	1,734.09	1,981.81	2,229.54	2,724.99	3,220.45	3,715.90	4,459.08
CLOUGHTON	1,443.28	1,683.82	1,924.36	2,164.91	2,646.00	3,127.09	3,608.19	4,329.82
DANBY GROUP	1,450.22	1,691.91	1,933.61	2,175.32	2,658.73	3,142.13	3,625.54	4,350.64
EASTFIELD	1,481.86	1,728.83	1,975.80	2,222.78	2,716.73	3,210.68	3,704.64	4,445.56
EGTON	1,448.58	1,690.00	1,931.43	2,172.86	2,655.72	3,138.58	3,621.44	4,345.72
ESKDALE CUM UGGLEBARNBY	1,445.94	1,686.92	1,927.91	2,168.90	2,650.88	3,132.86	3,614.84	4,337.80
FILEY	1,472.33	1,717.71	1,963.10	2,208.49	2,699.27	3,190.04	3,680.82	4,416.98
FOLKTON	1,470.69	1,715.80	1,960.91	2,206.03	2,696.26	3,186.49	3,676.72	4,412.06
FYLINGDALES	1,457.40	1,700.30	1,943.19	2,186.10	2,671.90	3,157.70	3,643.50	4,372.20
GLAISDALES	1,445.62	1,686.55	1,927.48	2,168.42	2,650.29	3,132.16	3,614.04	4,336.84
GOATHLAND	1,444.20	1,684.89	1,925.59	2,166.29	2,647.69	3,129.09	3,610.49	4,332.58
GRISTHORPE & LEBBERSTON	1,478.90	1,725.37	1,971.85	2,218.34	2,711.31	3,204.27	3,697.24	4,436.68
GROSMONT	1,452.00	1,694.00	1,935.99	2,178.00	2,662.00	3,146.00	3,630.00	4,356.00
HACKNESS & HARWOOD DALE GROUP	1,448.47	1,689.88	1,931.28	2,172.70	2,655.52	3,138.35	3,621.17	4,345.40
HAWKSER CUM STAINSACRE	1,453.02	1,695.19	1,937.35	2,179.53	2,663.87	3,148.21	3,632.55	4,359.06
HINDERWELL	1,453.27	1,695.48	1,937.68	2,179.90	2,664.32	3,148.75	3,633.17	4,359.80
HUNMANBY	1,510.50	1,762.25	2,013.99	2,265.75	2,769.25	3,272.75	3,776.25	4,531.50
HUTTON BUSCEL	1,487.52	1,735.43	1,983.35	2,231.27	2,727.11	3,222.95	3,718.79	4,462.54
HUTTON MULGRAVE & UGTHORPE	1,449.26	1,690.80	1,932.34	2,173.89	2,656.98	3,140.07	3,623.15	4,347.78
IRTON	1,472.94	1,718.42	1,963.91	2,209.40	2,700.38	3,191.36	3,682.34	4,418.80
LYTHE	1,451.61	1,693.54	1,935.47	2,177.41	2,661.28	3,145.15	3,629.02	4,354.82

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
MUSTON	1,478.14	1,724.49	1,970.84	2,217.20	2,709.91	3,202.62	3,695.34	4,434.40
NEWBY & SCALBY	1,455.22	1,697.76	1,940.29	2,182.83	2,667.90	3,152.98	3,638.05	4,365.66
NEWHOLM CUM DUNSLEY	1,447.80	1,689.09	1,930.39	2,171.69	2,654.29	3,136.89	3,619.49	4,343.38
OSGODBY	1,444.02	1,684.69	1,925.35	2,166.03	2,647.37	3,128.71	3,610.05	4,332.06
REIGHTON	1,474.35	1,720.07	1,965.79	2,211.52	2,702.97	3,194.42	3,685.87	4,423.04
SEAMER	1,444.34	1,685.05	1,925.77	2,166.50	2,647.95	3,129.39	3,610.84	4,333.00
SNAINTON	1,480.90	1,727.72	1,974.53	2,221.35	2,714.98	3,208.62	3,702.25	4,442.70
SNEATON	1,454.22	1,696.59	1,938.95	2,181.33	2,666.07	3,150.81	3,635.55	4,362.66
STAINTONDALE	1,449.34	1,690.90	1,932.45	2,174.01	2,657.12	3,140.24	3,623.35	4,348.02
WHITBY	1,473.50	1,719.07	1,964.65	2,210.24	2,701.41	3,192.57	3,683.74	4,420.48
WYKEHAM	1,455.92	1,698.57	1,941.22	2,183.88	2,669.19	3,154.50	3,639.80	4,367.76
SCARBOROUGH	1,436.43	1,675.83	1,915.23	2,154.64	2,633.45	3,112.26	3,591.07	4,309.28

Selby Area

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
APPLETON ROEBUCK & ACASTER SELBY	1,434.16	1,673.18	1,912.20	2,151.23	2,629.28	3,107.33	3,585.39	4,302.46
BALNE	1,439.81	1,679.78	1,919.74	2,159.71	2,639.64	3,119.58	3,599.52	4,319.42
BARKSTON ASH	1,438.09	1,677.77	1,917.44	2,157.13	2,636.49	3,115.85	3,595.22	4,314.26
BARLBY	1,480.65	1,727.42	1,974.19	2,220.97	2,714.52	3,208.07	3,701.62	4,441.94
BARLOW	1,461.41	1,704.97	1,948.53	2,192.10	2,679.23	3,166.36	3,653.51	4,384.20
BEAL	1,463.81	1,707.77	1,951.73	2,195.70	2,683.63	3,171.56	3,659.51	4,391.40
BIGGIN	1,430.97	1,669.46	1,907.95	2,146.45	2,623.44	3,100.43	3,577.42	4,292.90
BILBROUGH	1,435.42	1,674.65	1,913.88	2,153.12	2,631.59	3,110.06	3,588.54	4,306.24
BIRKIN	1,415.14	1,650.99	1,886.84	2,122.70	2,594.41	3,066.12	3,537.84	4,245.40
BOLTON PERCY, COLTON & STEETON	1,432.89	1,671.70	1,910.51	2,149.33	2,626.96	3,104.59	3,582.22	4,298.66
BRAYTON	1,439.87	1,679.84	1,919.81	2,159.79	2,639.74	3,119.69	3,599.66	4,319.58
BROTHERTON	1,458.04	1,701.04	1,944.04	2,187.05	2,673.06	3,159.07	3,645.09	4,374.10
BURN	1,468.82	1,713.62	1,958.41	2,203.22	2,692.82	3,182.43	3,672.04	4,406.44
BURTON SALMON	1,454.81	1,697.27	1,939.73	2,182.20	2,667.13	3,152.06	3,637.01	4,364.40
BYRUM CUM SUTTON	1,447.11	1,688.28	1,929.46	2,170.65	2,653.02	3,135.38	3,617.76	4,341.30
CAMBLESFORTH	1,444.01	1,684.68	1,925.34	2,166.01	2,647.34	3,128.68	3,610.02	4,332.02
CARLTON	1,442.95	1,683.43	1,923.92	2,164.41	2,645.39	3,126.37	3,607.36	4,328.82
CAWOOD	1,449.41	1,690.97	1,932.53	2,174.10	2,657.23	3,140.36	3,623.51	4,348.20
CHAPPEL HADDLESEY	1,451.36	1,693.25	1,935.13	2,177.03	2,660.81	3,144.60	3,628.39	4,354.06
CHURCH FENTON	1,445.69	1,686.63	1,927.57	2,168.52	2,650.41	3,132.30	3,614.21	4,337.04
CLIFFE	1,447.17	1,688.36	1,929.55	2,170.75	2,653.14	3,135.53	3,617.92	4,341.50
CRIDLING STUBBS	1,460.17	1,703.52	1,946.88	2,190.24	2,676.96	3,163.68	3,650.41	4,380.48
DRAX	1,454.73	1,697.18	1,939.63	2,182.09	2,667.00	3,151.91	3,636.82	4,364.18
EGGBOROUGH	1,437.29	1,676.83	1,916.37	2,155.92	2,635.01	3,114.10	3,593.21	4,311.84
ESCRICK	1,446.96	1,688.11	1,929.27	2,170.43	2,652.75	3,135.06	3,617.39	4,340.86
FAIRBURN	1,441.47	1,681.71	1,921.95	2,162.20	2,642.69	3,123.18	3,603.67	4,324.40
GATEFORTH	1,451.64	1,693.57	1,935.51	2,177.45	2,661.33	3,145.20	3,629.09	4,354.90
HAMBLETON	1,443.36	1,683.91	1,924.47	2,165.03	2,646.15	3,127.26	3,608.39	4,330.06

	2023/24 Council Tax Band A £	2023/24 Council Tax Band B £	2023/24 Council Tax Band C £	2023/24 Council Tax Band D £	2023/24 Council Tax Band E £	2023/24 Council Tax Band F £	2023/24 Council Tax Band G £	2023/24 Council Tax Band H £
HEALAUGH & CATTERTON	1,418.29	1,654.66	1,891.04	2,127.42	2,600.18	3,072.94	3,545.71	4,254.84
HECK	1,459.89	1,703.20	1,946.51	2,189.83	2,676.46	3,163.09	3,649.72	4,379.66
HEMINGBROUGH	1,436.24	1,675.61	1,914.97	2,154.35	2,633.09	3,111.84	3,590.59	4,308.70
HENSALL	1,451.62	1,693.55	1,935.48	2,177.42	2,661.29	3,145.16	3,629.04	4,354.84
HILLAM	1,444.68	1,685.45	1,926.23	2,167.01	2,648.57	3,130.12	3,611.69	4,334.02
HIRST COURTNEY	1,474.39	1,720.11	1,965.84	2,211.57	2,703.03	3,194.49	3,685.96	4,423.14
HUDDLESTON WITH NEWTHORPE	1,415.14	1,650.99	1,886.84	2,122.70	2,594.41	3,066.12	3,537.84	4,245.40
KELFIELD	1,440.92	1,681.07	1,921.21	2,161.37	2,641.67	3,121.98	3,602.29	4,322.74
KELLINGTON	1,452.03	1,694.03	1,936.03	2,178.04	2,662.05	3,146.06	3,630.07	4,356.08
KIRK SMEATON	1,455.00	1,697.49	1,939.99	2,182.49	2,667.49	3,152.48	3,637.49	4,364.98
LITTLE FENTON	1,415.14	1,650.99	1,886.84	2,122.70	2,594.41	3,066.12	3,537.84	4,245.40
LITTLE SMEATON	1,447.01	1,688.17	1,929.33	2,170.50	2,652.83	3,135.16	3,617.51	4,341.00
LONG DRAX	1,434.28	1,673.32	1,912.36	2,151.41	2,629.50	3,107.59	3,585.69	4,302.82
MONK FRYSTON	1,446.09	1,687.10	1,928.11	2,169.13	2,651.16	3,133.19	3,615.22	4,338.26
NEWLAND	1,438.83	1,678.63	1,918.43	2,158.24	2,637.85	3,117.46	3,597.07	4,316.48
NEWTON KYME CUM TOULSTON	1,440.07	1,680.08	1,920.08	2,160.10	2,640.12	3,120.14	3,600.17	4,320.20
NORTH DUFFIELD	1,440.16	1,680.18	1,920.20	2,160.23	2,640.28	3,120.33	3,600.39	4,320.46
OXTON	1,415.14	1,650.99	1,886.84	2,122.70	2,594.41	3,066.12	3,537.84	4,245.40
RICCALL	1,488.70	1,736.81	1,984.92	2,233.04	2,729.27	3,225.50	3,721.74	4,466.08
RYTHER CUM OSSENDYKE	1,453.29	1,695.49	1,937.70	2,179.92	2,664.35	3,148.77	3,633.21	4,359.84
SAXTON CUM SCARTHINGWELL & LEAD	1,484.35	1,731.74	1,979.12	2,226.52	2,721.30	3,216.08	3,710.87	4,453.04
SELBY	1,493.41	1,742.31	1,991.20	2,240.11	2,737.91	3,235.71	3,733.52	4,480.22
SHERBURN IN ELMET	1,459.37	1,702.59	1,945.81	2,189.04	2,675.49	3,161.94	3,648.41	4,378.08
SKIPWITH	1,455.71	1,698.32	1,940.93	2,183.55	2,668.78	3,154.01	3,639.26	4,367.10
SOUTH MILFORD	1,432.19	1,670.88	1,909.57	2,148.27	2,625.66	3,103.05	3,580.46	4,296.54
STAPLETON	1,415.14	1,650.99	1,886.84	2,122.70	2,594.41	3,066.12	3,537.84	4,245.40
STILLINGFLEET	1,434.38	1,673.44	1,912.49	2,151.56	2,629.68	3,107.81	3,585.94	4,303.12
STUBBS WALDEN	1,415.14	1,650.99	1,886.84	2,122.70	2,594.41	3,066.12	3,537.84	4,245.40
STUTTON WITH HAZLEWOOD	1,433.11	1,671.95	1,910.80	2,149.65	2,627.35	3,105.05	3,582.76	4,299.30
TADCASTER	1,459.62	1,702.88	1,946.15	2,189.42	2,675.96	3,162.49	3,649.04	4,378.84
TEMPLE HIRST	1,415.14	1,650.99	1,886.84	2,122.70	2,594.41	3,066.12	3,537.84	4,245.40
THORGANBY	1,459.17	1,702.36	1,945.55	2,188.75	2,675.14	3,161.53	3,647.92	4,377.50
THORPE WILLOUGHBY	1,450.17	1,691.85	1,933.54	2,175.24	2,658.63	3,142.01	3,625.41	4,350.48
TOWTON (WITH GRIMSTON, KIRKBY WHARFE & NORTH MILFORD)	1,440.85	1,680.98	1,921.12	2,161.26	2,641.54	3,121.82	3,602.11	4,322.52

	1,453.44	1,695.67	1,937.91	2,180.15	2,664.63	3,149.10	3,633.59	4,360.30
	2023/24							
	Council Tax							
	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£							
ULLESKELF	1,441.89	1,682.20	1,922.51	2,162.83	2,643.46	3,124.09	3,604.72	4,325.66
WEST HADDLESEY	1,432.45	1,671.19	1,909.92	2,148.67	2,626.15	3,103.63	3,581.12	4,297.34
WHITLEY	1,439.18	1,679.04	1,918.89	2,158.76	2,638.48	3,118.21	3,597.94	4,317.52
WISTOW	1,497.34	1,746.89	1,996.44	2,246.00	2,745.11	3,244.22	3,743.34	4,492.00
WOMERSLEY								

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

24 January 2023

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL CAPITAL FIVE YEAR SPENDING PLAN

Report of the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the proposed Capital Plan for the new unitary Council and recommend its adoption to Full Council on 22 February 2023; and
- 1.2 To note the next steps in relation to the transition from 8 individual capital plans to a single unitary Capital Plan on 1 April 2023.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

- 2.1 This is the first Capital Plan for the new North Yorkshire Council (NYC). It has been produced by bringing together the existing Capital programmes of the eight predecessor councils through a collaborative approach involving all bodies. The new Capital Plan for NYC will continue to develop going forward and will help to shape future capital investment.
- 2.2 The start of any new council will bring great uncertainty, and this Capital Plan has been developed in a challenging financial environment given inflationary pressures. Looking ahead to future refreshes, capital investment provides opportunities for prioritising investment not only to deliver the council's ambitions but deliver savings and efficiencies.
- 2.3 The Capital Plan must be approved by Council before the start of the financial year. The Council's Financial Procedure Rules empower the Executive to modify the Capital Plan during the year by means of the Capital section of the quarterly performance monitoring reports or through Executive reports at other points in the reporting calendar.
- 2.4 In order to obtain a Council approved Capital Plan for 2023/24 before the start of the financial year, an updated Capital Plan is submitted to the Executive alongside the other 2023/24 budget-related reports. This updated Capital Plan is recommended for:
 - a) approval by Executive at this meeting

followed by

b) approval and adoption by the County Council on 22 February 2023.

3.0 **REFRESHING THE CAPITAL PLAN**

- 3.1 The consolidated Capital Plan gained general consent approval at the meeting of the Executive on 23 May 2022. The Plan is being updated on a quarterly basis in line with the direction made under section 24 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 3.2 The schemes and programmes within this consolidated Capital Plan have since been reviewed by the respective councils and this report details the consolidated Capital Plan position as at Quarter 2 2022/23, 1 July to 30 September, and reflects the additions and adjustments, including the reprofiling of budgets, since the original general consent version was approved.
- 3.3 The new unitary Council is currently planning to invest £154.9m on capital schemes across the County in 2023/24 and £323.8m, in total, over the 5 year capital plan period.
- 3.4 Capital investment across the 8 councils is on-going and the slippage of some schemes into 2023/24 from 2022/23 is to be expected. The schemes and the associated budgets will be confirmed in the next quarter as outturn positions are finalised. The carry forward position will be reported at Q1 2023/24.
- 3.5 The latest consolidated Capital Plan is set out at **Appendix A**. It shows the planned gross expenditure by scheme type along with the associated funding. This supports the completion of the statutory returns highlighted in **paragraph 5.3-5.4**. Work will be undertaken in the next quarter to assign individual schemes and programmes to the new directorate structure, which is being replicated in the Oracle financial system to meet the future reporting requirements of the new unitary Council.

4.0 **RISKS**

- 4.1 Every effort is made to identify and minimise the level of risk associated with a scheme or programme within the Capital Plan.
- 4.2 Assessing the risks across the entire programme will continue particularly with regard to the possibility of overspends and the impact of inflation. Inflationary cost pressures on construction schemes are a live risk, although there is a level of headroom within available funding to mitigate to some degree. However, the outcomes of several significant grant funding bids are awaited which have the potential to increase the level of risk across the Plan. In addition, the current economic climate may give rise to greater commercial conflicts with contractors. The final nature of the risk will therefore only be known at the end of construction and settlement of contract. More detailed

updates will be provided in future reports once the new Council becomes operational.

5.0 **NEXT STEPS**

CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN

- 5.1 The purpose of the Capital Forward Plan is to ensure that there is a methodical approach to developing proposals for new capital schemes for addition to the Capital Plan and, in particular, the process for approval and securing funding.
- 5.2 A Capital Forward Plan and procedures for (i) proposing and subsequently approving new schemes for capital investment and for (ii) seeking approval to apply for and accept external funding are currently under development. Further details on the capital approval will be included in a future report.
- 5.3 Along with savings and efficiencies, the new NYC provides an opportunity to apply our considerable combined asset base to facilitate local economic growth and regeneration and drive improved outcomes for residents, businesses and visitors to our area.
- 5.4 There is a need to establish the new Councils' approach to capital prioritisation and longer term planning. This Capital Plan should be regarded as a start to that process and work will pick up to address the new range of requirements, expectations, priorities and aspirations.

CAPITAL ESTIMATES RETURN (DLUHC)

- 5.3 The Capital Estimates Return (CER) is one of 6 statutory capital returns required annually by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. It is completed every March and sets out the Council's proposed capital expenditure for the following financial year. This is then used as a benchmark for actual capital payments and receipts in year.
- 5.4 The next return will be the first for the new unitary council. Its completion will be based on the data in the appendix to this report.

6.0 **CAPITAL FINANCING**

- 6.1 The financing of the Capital Plan is realised, primarily, through the receipt of Government grants. In addition, the Council can utilise revenue contributions, reserves and capital receipts from the sale of assets such as surplus land and buildings,. In addition, the new Council can borrow, from either the Public Works Loan Board or money markets to fund service investment where there is a clear business case or in relation to the HRA Business Plan.
- 6.2 The main grants included in the Capital Plan relate to Highways and Schools and, as such, the Council's Capital Plan can be heavily influenced by

Government department priorities. Grants, in total, fund 59% of the total proposed 2023/24 Capital programme. Where confirmed, grants have been added to the Capital Plan in the years to which they are due to be received.

6.3 Revenue contributions, whilst reflected in capital budgets, are also addressed in the associated revenue budgets.

7.0 FINANCING THE REFRESHED CAPITAL PLAN

7.1 The following table indicates that there is potentially £20.3m of unallocated capital funding that might become available over the Capital Plan period (depending upon the realisation of forecast capital receipts).

7.2 The 'Corporate Capital pot' is a combination of previously unspent funding approvals and future forecast surplus capital funding, including Capital Receipts. The Capital Receipts included in the table above are not expected to be realised for some time yet. As a result, the availability of this unallocated funding is speculative in terms of both timing and amount. Against this background, any material spending of the 'pot' combined with significant reductions in the expected value of potential capital receipts in the pipeline could result in its being 'overdrawn'. Such a scenario would result in the requirement for additional Prudential Borrowing to finance the existing Capital Plan. Again any impacts beyond 2022/23 will be subject to the transitional arrangements for the new unitary council.

7.3 Assuming that the forecasts remain accurate, the options for this unallocated resource are:

- a) To retain, resulting in the earning of short term interest within Corporate Miscellaneous; or
- b) To make available for either new capital investment or for reducing Prudential Borrowing which would, in turn, result in financing cost savings in the Revenue Budget.

7.4 The current position, as previously agreed by Members, remains to retain any surplus capital funding for the time being.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is recommended to:

- a) Approve the consolidated Capital Plan summarised at **Appendix A**;
- b) Note the next steps in transitioning to the new unitary council; and

c) Agree that no action be taken at this stage to allocate any additional capital resources (**paragraph 6.7**)

APPENDIX A
5 Year Consolidated Capital Plan 2023/24 Summary

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	Y1	Y2	Y3	LY	
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
AGRICULTURAL & FISHERIES SERVICES	1,370.0	-	-	-	1,370.0
CEMETERIES, CREMATION & MORTUARY	304.0	565.0	683.9	635.0	2,187.9
CENTRAL SERVICES - ICT INFRASTRUCTURE	2,084.0	2,260.9	1,359.0	2,934.4	8,638.3
CENTRAL SERVICES - LOANS	9,664.5	-	4,716.4	200.0	14,580.9
CENTRAL SERVICES - OTHER	1,892.9	687.5	722.5	609.0	3,911.9
CENTRAL SERVICES - PROPERTY	3,202.9	447.5	960.0	375.0	4,985.4
CENTRAL SERVICES - VEHICLES	2,473.4	1,701.4	3,092.4	937.0	8,204.2
COAST PROTECTION	-	-	-	-	-
COMMUNITY SAFETY	65.0	405.0	255.0	60.0	785.0
CULTURE & HERITAGE	1,716.6	165.0	1,133.0	218.0	3,232.6
EDUCATION	30,515.8	13,085.4	4,860.0	16,238.2	64,699.4
FLOOD DEFENCE & LAND DRAINAGE	501.4	235.0	-	-	736.4
HIGHWAYS	45,942.9	40,615.0	276.4	12.0	86,846.3
HOUSING HRA	22,955.9	15,739.7	17,350.8	12,410.0	68,456.4
HOUSING NON-HRA	8,503.7	4,742.4	3,714.4	1,854.0	18,814.5
INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL TRADING	2,556.7	-	-	-	2,556.7
LIBRARY SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-
LOCAL AUTHORITY PORTS & PIERS	-	-	-	-	-
OPEN SPACES	476.0	433.0	240.0	425.0	1,574.0
OTHER COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY	-	-	-	-	-
PARKING	550.0	40.0	-	80.0	670.0
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	200.0	-	-	-	200.0
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	9,494.9	-	-	-	9,494.9
RECREATION & SPORT	6,453.4	855.2	1,359.8	635.5	9,303.9
REGULATORY SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-
SOCIAL CARE	3,853.8	115.0	115.0	7,372.5	11,456.3
STREET CLEANING (NOT CHARGEABLE TO HIGHWAYS)	-	-	-	-	-
WASTE	126.0	112.0	603.6	210.0	1,051.6
GROSS EXPENDITURE TOTAL	154,903.8	82,205.0	41,442.2	45,205.6	323,756.6
GRANTS & CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	- 92,120.7	- 54,823.9	- 8,047.5	- 31,097.3	- 186,089.4
REVENUE CONTRIBUTIONS	- 36,015.5	- 20,437.6	- 28,682.4	- 4,787.0	- 89,922.5
CAPITAL RECEIPTS	- 10,856.3	- 16,734.5	- 17,108.1	- 5,412.3	- 50,111.2
BORROWING REQUIREMENT	- 15,911.3	9,791.0	12,395.8	- 3,909.0	2,366.5
FUNDING TOTAL	- 154,903.8	- 82,205.0	- 41,442.2	- 45,205.6	- 323,756.6

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

24 January 2023

TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL STRATEGY

Report of the Corporate Director – Resources

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend to the Council an Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement for the financial year 2023/24 which incorporates:
- a) a Treasury Management Strategy;
 - b) Capital Prudential and Treasury Indicators; including a Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement;
 - c) a Borrowing Strategy;
 - d) an Annual Investment Strategy;
- 1.2 To recommend to the Council a Capital Strategy for the financial year 2023/24; and
- 1.3 To recommend to the Council the proposed Debt Recovery Policy.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

- 2.1 2023/24 is the first year for establishing an Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Capital Strategy for the new North Yorkshire Council (NYC). Both the Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy for NYC have been produced by bringing together the strategies of the eight predecessor councils, supported by Treasury Management advisers, Link. While a collaborative approach has been taken in developing the Treasury Management and Capital Strategies for NYC, they are broadly in line with the strategies for North Yorkshire County Council from the previous year due to the relative size of investment and borrowing portfolios.

3.0 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Treasury management is defined as ‘the management of the local authority’s investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks’.
- 3.2 The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, with the main aims of providing sufficient liquidity and security, with the achievement of the best possible investment returns ranking as less important.
- 3.3 The second main function of the treasury management service is to arrange the funding of the Council’s capital programme, which will support the provision of Council services. The capital programme provides a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, and there needs to be longer term cash flow planning to ensure capital spending requirements can be met. The management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, utilising longer term cash flow surpluses and, occasionally, debt restructuring to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 3.4 The Council adopts the latest CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) which is regarded as best practice in ensuring adequate monitoring of the Council’s capital expenditure plans and its Prudential Indicators.
- 3.5 This report provides a summary of the following for 2023/24:

3.5.1 Treasury Management Strategy (See Annex 1 – Section 1)

The Treasury Management Strategy sets out the requirements for the overall Treasury, Borrowing, Investment and Capital Policies. The strategic approach is set out in the following:

3.5.2 Capital Prudential Indicators (See Annex 1 – Section 2)

The Capital Prudential Indicators set out the capital expenditure plan and associated indicators, capital financing requirement (£612.1m in 2023/24) and the monitoring of core funds and investment balances. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement is also included.

The Prudential Indicators have been revised and updated in line with the latest CIPFA Code of Practice. The Estimated Ratio of Capital Financing Costs is no longer a required indicator and as a result has been removed along with the local indicator. Indicators for 21/22 and 22/23 have been derived from an aggregation of the predecessor councils, and are included for comparison purposes

3.5.3 Borrowing Strategy (See Annex 1 – Section 3)

The Treasury Management function ensures that the Council’s cash is managed to safeguard the delivery of the Capital Expenditures plans set out in **Appendix A**. The Borrowing Strategy covers the current and projected position as well as the Treasury Prudential Indicators. The key Treasury Management Indicators the Council are required to approve are:

- The Authorised Limit for External Debt (the legal limit beyond which external debt is prohibited), £652.1m in 2023/24; and
- The Operational Boundary for External Debt (the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed), £632.1m in 2023/24.

3.5.4 Annual Investment Strategy (See Annex 1 – Section 4)

The Annual Investment Strategy details the Council's Investment Policy and approach to the investment of funds. The strategy is broadly in line with the North Yorkshire County Council policy which was unchanged from the previous year.

3.5.5 Treasury Management Strategy Statement Appendices (See Appendices A – F)

Appendix A	The Capital Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2023/24 – 2025/26
Appendix B	Treasury Management Practice (TMP1) – Credit and Counterparty Risk Management
Appendix C	Approved Lending List
Appendix D	Approved Countries for Investment
Appendix E	Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation
Appendix F	The Treasury Management Role of the Section 151 Officer

The appendices cover the requirements of the various laws, codes and guidance that cover the Treasury Management activity, including the Local Government Act 2003, the CIPFA Prudential Code, Communities and Local Government (CLG) MRP Guidance, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and Communities and Local Government Investment Guidance.

3.5.6 Capital Strategy (See Annex 2)

The Capital Strategy sets out the context of which Capital Expenditure and Investment decisions are made, and gives due consideration to both risk and reward and the impact on the achievement of policy outcomes. The Capital Strategy also includes the current position on the Council's non-treasury alternative investments.

3.5.7 Debt Recovery Policy (See Annex 3)

As part of management of the Council's cashflow, the Debt Recovery Policy sets out the guiding principles which apply to debt collection and recovery. These principles will ensure that the new Council recovers debt, efficiently and effectively, thus ensuring the maximisation of revenue streams for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors to North Yorkshire. The policy covers the following types of corporate debt, which includes a mixture of statutory and non-statutory charges and enables prioritisation of debt across the organisation:

- Council Tax
- National non-domestic rates (business rates)
- Housing benefit overpayments
- Housing rents
- Sundry debts (including Health and Adult Social Care charges and commercial and domestic fees and charges)

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members recommend to the Council: -

- 4.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement Annex 1, consisting of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy (**Section 1**), Capital Prudential Indicators (**Section 2**), Borrowing Strategy (**Section 3**) and Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 (**Section 4**), including in particular;
- i. an authorised limit for external debt of £652.1m in 2023/24;
 - ii. an operational boundary for external debt of £631.1m in 2023/24;
 - iii. the Prudential and Treasury Indicators based on the Council's current and indicative spending plans for 2023/24 to 2025/26;
 - iv. a limit of £60m of the total cash sums available for investment (both in house and externally managed) to be invested in Non-Specified Investments over 365 days;
 - v. a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for debt repayment to be charged to Revenue in 2023/24;
 - vi. the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources to report to the Council if and when necessary during the year on any changes to this Strategy arising from the use of operational leasing, PFI or other innovative methods of funding not previously approved by the Council;
- 4.2 The Capital Strategy as attached as **Annex 2**;
- 4.3 The Debt Recovery Policy set out at **Annex 3**;
- 4.4 That the Audit Committee be invited to review **Annex 1, 2 and 3** and submit any proposals to the Executive for consideration at the earliest opportunity.

SECTION 1 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24

1.1 Introduction and Context

The Council is required to operate a balanced budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low risk counterparties or instruments commensurate with the Council's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.

The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer-term cash flow surpluses. On occasion, when it is prudent and economic, any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

The contribution the treasury management function makes to the authority is critical, as the balance of debt and investment operations ensure liquidity or the ability to meet spending commitments as they fall due, either on day-to-day revenue or for larger capital projects. The treasury operations will see a balance of the interest costs of debt and the investment income arising from cash deposits affecting the available budget. Since cash balances generally result from reserves and balances, it is paramount to ensure adequate security of the sums invested, as a loss of principal will in effect result in a loss to the General Fund Balance.

Whilst any commercial initiatives or loans to third parties will impact on the treasury function, these activities are generally classed as non-treasury activities, (arising usually from capital expenditure), and are separate from the day to day treasury management activities. CIPFA defines treasury management as:

“The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

1.2 Reporting Requirements

Reporting arrangements in place relating to Treasury Management activities are highlighted below:

1.2.1 Capital Strategy

The CIPFA 2017 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require all local authorities to prepare a capital strategy report which will provide the following:

- a high-level long-term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services;
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed; and
- the implications for future financial sustainability.

The aim of this capital strategy is to ensure that all elected members on the full council fully understand the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting capital strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite.

The Council's Capital Strategy includes the requirements of the 2021 Treasury Management Code and Prudential code: -

1. the approach to investments for service or commercial purposes (non-treasury investments), including defining the authority's objectives, risk appetite and risk management in respect of these investments, and processes ensuring effective due diligence;
2. an assessment of affordability, prudence and proportionality in respect of the authority's overall financial capacity (i.e. whether plausible losses could be absorbed in budgets or reserves without unmanageable detriment to local services);
3. details of financial and other risks of undertaking investments for service or commercial purposes and how these are managed;
4. limits on total investments for service purposes and for commercial purposes respectively (consistent with any limits required by other statutory guidance on investments);
5. requirements for independent and expert advice and scrutiny arrangements (while business cases may provide some of this material, the information contained in them will need to be periodically re-evaluated to inform the authority's overall strategy);
6. State compliance with paragraph 51 of the Prudential Code in relation to investments for commercial purposes, in particular the requirement that an authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return.

This Capital Strategy [**Annex 2**] is reported separately from the Treasury Management Strategy Statement; non-treasury investments will be reported through the former. This ensures the

separation of the core treasury function under security, liquidity and yield principles, and the policy, service and commercial investments usually arising from expenditure on an asset.

Where the Council has borrowed to fund any non-treasury investment, there is to be an explanation of why borrowing was required and why the DLUHC Investment Guidance and CIPFA Prudential Code have not been adhered to.

If any non-treasury investment sustains a loss during the final accounts and audit process, the strategy and revenue implications will be reported through the same procedure as the capital strategy.

To demonstrate the proportionality between the treasury operations and the non-treasury operation, high-level comparators are shown throughout this report.

1.2.2 Treasury Management Reporting

Quarterly reporting to members is now required under the 2021 Treasury Management Code, however it is not necessary to take these reports to full Council. The full Council is currently required to receive and approve, as a minimum, three main treasury reports each year, which incorporate a variety of policies, estimates and actuals.

- a) **Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Treasury Strategy** (this report) –The first, and most important report is forward looking and covers:
 - the capital plans, (including prudential indicators);
 - a minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy, (how residual capital expenditure is charged to revenue over time);
 - the treasury management strategy, (how the investments borrowings are to be organised), including treasury indicators; and
 - an investment strategy, (the parameters on how investments are to be managed).
- b) **A mid-year treasury management report** – This is primarily a progress report and will update members on the capital position, amending prudential indicators as necessary, and whether any policies require revision. In addition, to comply with the 2021 revision of the CIPFA Treasury Code, the Executive will receive quarterly update reports including the Treasury Management Indicators and Prudential Indicators as part of the authority's general revenue and capital monitoring.
- c) **An annual treasury report** – This is a backward looking review document and provides details of a selection of actual prudential and treasury indicators and actual treasury operations compared to the estimates within the strategy.

1.2.3 Scrutiny

Treasury Management reports are required to be adequately scrutinised before being recommended to the Council. The scrutiny role is undertaken by the Audit Committee.

1.3 Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24

The Treasury Management strategy for 2023/24 covers two main areas:

a. Capital issues

- the capital expenditure plans and the associated prudential indicators; and
- the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy.

b. Treasury management issues

- the current treasury position;
- treasury indicators which limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council;
- prospects for interest rates;
- the borrowing strategy;
- policy on borrowing in advance of need;
- debt rescheduling;
- the investment strategy;
- creditworthiness policy; and
- the policy on use of external service providers.

These elements cover the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Investment Guidance, DLUHC MRP Guidance, the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code.

1.4 Training

The CIPFA Treasury Management Code requires the Section 151 Officer to ensure that members with responsibility for treasury management receive adequate training in treasury management. This especially applies to members responsible for scrutiny.

The revised TM Code introduces strengthened requirements for skills and training, and for investments which are not for specifically treasury management purposes i.e. non-treasury investments, where further detail is contained in the Capital Strategy.

The scale and nature of training requirements will depend on the size and complexity of the Council's treasury management needs. The Council will need to assess whether treasury management staff and members have the required knowledge and skills to undertake the roles and if those skills have been maintained and are up to date.

As a minimum, the Council will carry out the following to monitor and review knowledge and skills:

- record attendance at training and ensure action is taken where poor attendance is identified;
- prepare tailored learning plans for treasury management officers and board/council members;

- require treasury management officers and board/council members to undertake self-assessment against the required competencies set out in Treasury Management Practice (TMP) 10; and
- have regular communication with officers and board/council members, encouraging them to highlight training needs on an ongoing basis.

Member training has been provided by Treasury Management Consultants, Link Group (Link) and further training will be provided as required. The training needs of treasury management officers are periodically reviewed. A formal record of the training received by officers central to the Treasury function will be maintained and similarly, a formal record of the treasury management/capital finance training received by members

The Council maintains a “Knowledge and skills policy” within its Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). Specifically, TMP 10 includes the details of the competencies required for the core roles, a knowledge and skills schedule and details of how the council will monitor and review these skills and knowledge. This policy aims to ensure the effective acquisition and retention of treasury management skills for those responsible for the management, delivery, governance, decision-making and compliance with legislative requirements

1.5 Treasury Management Consultants

The Council uses Link Group, as its external treasury management advisors.

The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the organisation and will ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon the services of our external service providers. All decisions will be undertaken with regards to all available information, including, but not solely, our treasury advisers.

It also recognises that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The Council will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented, and subjected to regular review.

SECTION 2 - CAPITAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2022/23 – 2024/25

The Council's capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity. The output of the capital expenditure plans is reflected in the prudential indicators, which are designed to assist members' overview and confirm capital expenditure plans.

2.1 Capital Expenditure and Financing

This prudential indicator is a summary of the Council's capital expenditure plans, both those agreed previously, and those forming part of this budget cycle. The table below summarises the above capital expenditure plans and how these plans are being financed by capital or revenue resources. Any shortfall of resources results in a funding borrowing need.

Capital expenditure	2021/22 Actual £k	2022/23 Estimate £k	2023/24 Estimate £k	2024/25 Estimate £k	2025/26 Estimate £k
Non-HRA	305,521	316,299	96,075	56,858	39,933
HRA	16,763	35,308	17,649	14,505	8,744
Total	322,284	351,607	113,724	71,363	48,677

The capital expenditure plans exclude 'other long-term liabilities' such as PFI and leasing arrangements that already include their own borrowing facility. The Council's Capital Plans do not include any plans on "projects for yield" schemes and there is no intention to purchase commercial assets primarily for yield.

The table below summarises the above capital expenditure plans and how these plans are being financed by capital or revenue resources. A shortfall that results in a funding borrowing need - net financing need for the year - is indicated in years 2021/22 to 2023/24. Years 2024/25 and 2025/26 indicates that the capital plans have allocated financing that may not be required because as the net financing need is negative. This is due to reprofiling which will need to be realigned in future updates.

Financing of capital expenditure	2021/22 Actual £k	2022/23 Estimate £k	2023/24 Estimate £k	2024/25 Estimate £k	2025/26 Estimate £k
Capital receipts	(23,121)	(16,463)	(7,224)	(14,913)	(22,432)
Capital grants	(153,874)	(194,637)	(71,342)	(48,457)	(22,130)
Capital reserves	(7,801)	0	0	0	0
Revenue	(39,323)	(73,437)	(32,536)	(19,244)	(17,015)
Net financing need for the year	98,165	67,070	2,622	(11,251)	(12,900)

2.2 The Council's borrowing need - the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

The second prudential indicator is the Council's CFR. The CFR is the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been financed from either revenue or capital resources. It is a measure of the Council's indebtedness and so underlying borrowing need. Any capital expenditure above, which has not been financed through a revenue or capital resource, will increase the CFR.

The CFR does not increase indefinitely, as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is a statutory annual revenue charge which broadly reduces the indebtedness in line with each asset's life and charges the economic consumption of capital assets as they are used.

The CFR includes any other long-term liabilities (e.g., PFI schemes, finance leases). Whilst these increase the CFR, and therefore the Council's borrowing requirement, these types of schemes include a borrowing facility by the PFI or lease provider and so the Council is not required to separately borrow for these schemes. The Council currently has PFI and lease schemes within the CFR

The Council is asked to approve the CFR projections below:

	2021/22 Actual £k	2022/23 Estimate £k	2023/24 Estimate £k	2024/25 Estimate £k	2025/26 Estimate £k
Capital Financing Requirement					
Non-HRA	616,663	664,963	644,790	612,648	579,511
HRA	109,088	109,088	109,088	109,088	109,088
Total CFR	725,751	774,051	753,878	721,736	688,599
Movement in CFR		48,300	(20,173)	(32,142)	(33,137)

Movement in CFR represented by					
Net financing need for the year		67,070	2,622	(11,251)	(12,900)
Less MRP/VRP and other financing movements		(18,770)	(22,795)	(20,891)	(20,237)
Movement in CFR		48,300	(20,173)	(32,142)	(33,137)

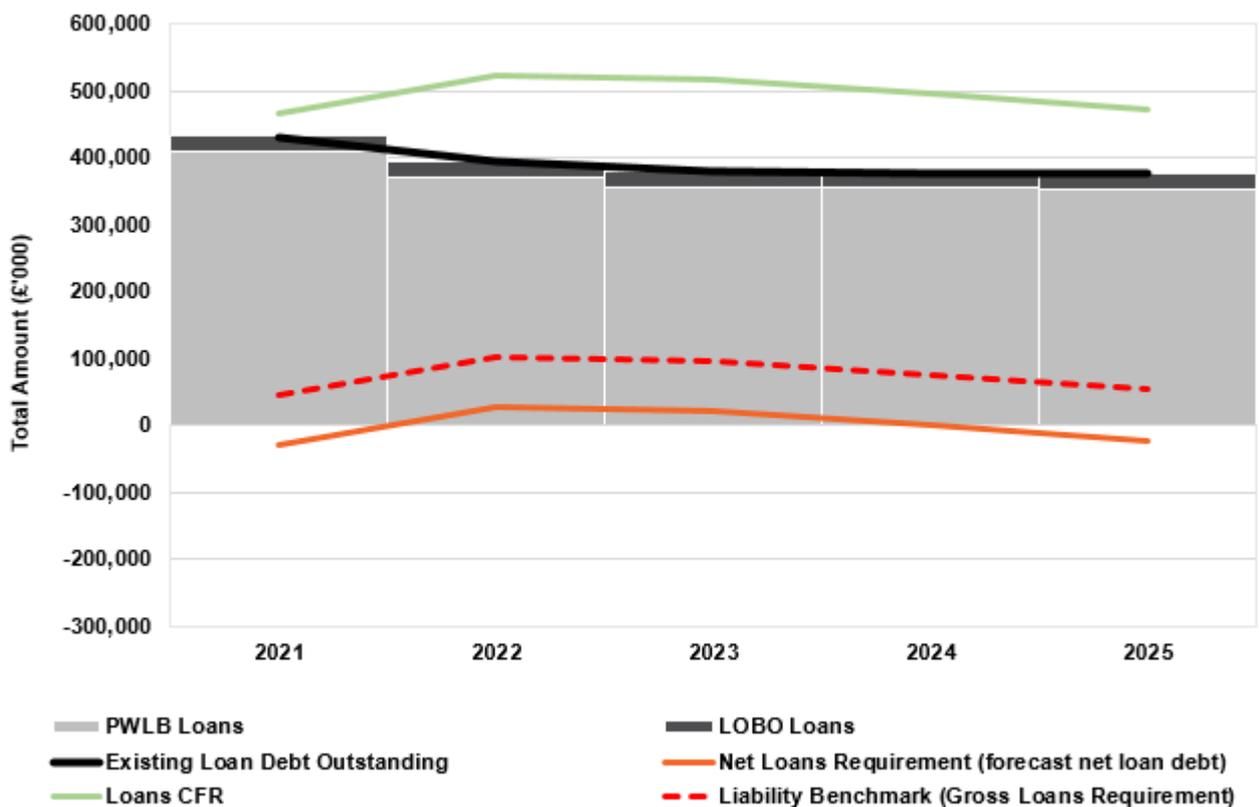
2.3 The Liability Benchmark

A third and new prudential indicator for 2023/24 is the Liability Benchmark (LB). The Council is required to estimate and measure the LB for the forthcoming financial year and the following two financial years, as a minimum, where this Council has provided the full debt maturity profile out to 50+ years as recommended by CIPFA.

There are four components to the LB: -

1. **Existing loan debt outstanding:** the Authority's existing loans that are still outstanding in future years.

2. **Loans CFR:** this is calculated in accordance with the loans CFR definition in the Prudential Code and projected into the future based on approved prudential borrowing and planned MRP. With only approved prudential borrowing being included in the calculation, the Loans CFR will peak after four years where the other inputs are projected forward for 50 years+.
3. **Net loans requirement:** this will show the Council's gross loan debt less treasury management investments at the last financial year-end, projected into the future and based on its approved prudential borrowing, planned MRP and any other major cash flows forecast.
4. **Liability benchmark (or gross loans requirement):** this equals net loans requirement plus short-term liquidity allowance. The short-term liquidity allowance is an adequate (but not excessive) allowance for a level of excess cash to be invested short-term to provide access to liquidity if needed due to short-term cash flow variations, for example.



The Liability benchmark is low due to the high level of investments in comparison to the actual borrowing position, indicating that there is no future borrowing requirement.

2.4 Core funds and expected investment balances

The application of resources (capital receipts, reserves etc.) to either finance capital expenditure or other budget decisions to support the revenue budget will have an ongoing impact on investments unless resources are supplemented each year from new sources

(asset sales etc.). Detailed below are estimates of the year-end balances for each resource and anticipated day-to-day cash flow balances.

Year End Resources	2021/22 Actual £k	2022/23 Estimate £k	2023/24 Estimate £k	2024/25 Estimate £k	2025/26 Estimate £k
Fund balances / reserves	539,842	424,716	386,389	356,852	356,852
Capital receipts	3,560	16,463	7,226	14,913	22,432
Provisions	15,700	20,000	20,000	20,000	2,000
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total core funds	559,102	461,179	413,615	391,765	381,284
Working capital*	245,903	245,000	245,000	245,000	245,000
Under/over borrowing	(181,631)	(248,910)	(234,412)	(208,069)	(190,835)
Expected investments**	623,374	457,269	424,203	428,696	435,449

*Working capital balances shown are estimated year-end; these may be higher mid-year

**In addition to the core funds balance detailed in the table there are additional resources from 'other bodies funds' which are not used to finance either capital expenditure or revenue budget decisions and have therefore been excluded. However, the cash received from the 'other bodies funds' is invested, is illustrated in paragraph 3.1 Current treasury position and is also included in the annual investment strategy limits

2.5 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement

Under Regulation 27 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003, where the Council has financed capital expenditure by borrowing it is required to make a provision each year through a revenue charge, known as Minimum Revenue provision (MRP). The Council is also allowed to undertake additional voluntary payments, the Voluntary Revenue provision (VRP), if required.

The Council is required to calculate a prudent provision of MRP which ensures that the outstanding debt liability is repaid over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits. The MRP Guidance gives four ready-made options for calculating MRP, however the Authority can use any other reasonable basis that it can justify as prudent

The MRP policy statement requires Full Council approval in advance of each financial year. The Council is recommended to approve the following MRP Statement:

- a) For capital expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008 (known as supported borrowing), MRP will be based on 4% of the CFR at that date;
- b) From 1 April 2008 for all unsupported borrowing not covered by points c-f, the MRP policy will be;

Asset life method (option 3 of the statutory guidance) – MRP will be based on the estimated life of the assets using equal instalments of principal. In accordance with the regulations this option must also be applied for any expenditure capitalised under a Capitalisation Direction.

The asset life method provides for a reduction in the borrowing need over the asset's life.

- c) For capital expenditure on loans to third parties where the principal element of the loan is being repaid in annual instalments, the capital receipts arising from the principal loan repayments will be used to reduce the CFR instead of MRP. Where no principal repayment is made each year (and the loan can be classified as service expenditure) the Council will not make MRP unless an actual or expected credit loss is recognised on any capital loan and then the MRP charge in the year will not be less than the loss amount. Where a shortfall is expected the S151 Officer will make an individual assessment on a prudent level of MRP to be made.
- d) For capital expenditure on investment / development properties, under the current Government proposed amendments, where loan repayments are received in year those capital receipts will be used to reduce the CFR in that year. However, where no capital receipt is received, or where no future capital receipts are anticipated, a prudent level of MRP will be charged based on the asset life method using equal instalments of principal
- e) For PFI schemes or finance leases, MRP will be charged at an amount equal to the principal element of the annual repayment.
- f) There is no requirement to make MRP for the HRA but there is a requirement for a charge for depreciation to be made. VRP can also be made to reduce outstanding debt in a shorter period.

MRP Overpayments - Under the MRP Guidance any charges made in excess of the statutory (MRP are known as VRP. VRP can, be reclaimed in later years if deemed necessary or prudent. For these sums to be reclaimed in future, this policy must disclose the cumulative overpayment made each year. Up until the 31.3.22 the total VRP overpayments were £42.2m, including £27.2m relating to the HRA.

SECTION 3 - BORROWING

The capital expenditure plans set out in **Section 2** provide details of the service activity of the Council. The treasury management function ensures that the Council's cash is organised in accordance with the relevant professional codes, so that sufficient cash is available to meet this service activity and the Council's capital strategy. This will involve both the organisation of the cash flow and, where capital plans require, the organisation of appropriate borrowing facilities. The strategy covers the relevant treasury / prudential indicators, the current and projected debt positions and the annual investment strategy.

3.1 Current portfolio position

The overall treasury management portfolio as at 31 March 2022 and for the position as at 31 December 2022 are shown below for both borrowing and investments.

TREASURY PORTFOLIO				
	actual	actual	current	current
	31.3.22	31.3.22	31.12.22	31.12.22
Treasury investments	£m	%	£m	%
banks	530	81	395	66
building societies	36	5	21	3
local authorities	65	10	99	16
money market funds	7	1	32	5
other	2	0	43	7
Total managed in house	640	98	590	98
Total managed externally – property funds	16	2	11	2
Total Treasury Investments	656	100	601	100
Less other bodies funds	-50		-24	
Total treasury investments excluding other bodies funds	606		577	
Treasury external borrowing	£m	%	£m	%
PWLB	371	94	369	94
LOBOs	24	6	24	6
Total external borrowing	395		393	
Net treasury investments / (borrowing)	211		184	

The Council's current forward projections for borrowing are summarised below. The table shows the actual external debt, against the underlying capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement - CFR), highlighting any over or under borrowing.

Forward projections for borrowing	2021/22 Actual £k	2022/23 Estimate £k	2023/24 Estimate £k	2024/25 Estimate £k	2025/26 Estimate £k
External Debt					
Debt at 1 April	431,957	394,689	379,300	377,713	376,084
Expected change in Debt	(37,268)	(15,389)	(1,588)	(1,628)	(11,670)
Other long-term liabilities (OLTL)	153,393	149,431	145,841	141,754	137,582
Expected change in OLTL	(3,962)	(3,590)	(4,087)	(4,172)	(4,232)
Actual gross debt at 31 March	544,120	525,141	519,466	513,667	497,764
The CFR	725,751	774,051	753,878	721,736	688,599
Under / (over) borrowing	181,631	248,910	234,412	208,069	190,835

Within the range of prudential indicators there are several key indicators to ensure that the Council operates its activities within well-defined limits. One of these is that the Council needs to ensure that its gross debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2023/24 and the following two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years, but ensures that borrowing is not undertaken for revenue or speculative purposes.

The Corporate Director – Resources reports that the Council complied with this prudential indicator in the current year and does not envisage difficulties for the future. This view considers current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in this budget report.

3.2 Treasury Indicators: limits to borrowing activity

The operational boundary. This is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed. In most cases, this would be a similar figure to the CFR, but may be lower or higher depending on the levels of actual debt and the ability to fund under-borrowing by other cash resources.

Operational boundary	2022/23 Estimate £k	2023/24 Estimate £k	2024/25 Estimate £k	2025/26 Estimate £k
Debt	457,688	445,300	422,713	397,084
Other long-term liabilities	190,841	186,754	182,582	178,350
Total	648,529	632,054	605,295	575,434

The authorised limit for external debt. This is a key prudential indicator and represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing. This represents a legal limit beyond which external debt is prohibited, and this limit needs to be set or revised by the Full Council. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term.

This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all councils' plans, or those of a specific council, although this power has not yet been exercised.

The Council is asked to approve the following authorised limit:

Authorised limit	2022/23 Estimate £k	2023/24 Estimate £k	2024/25 Estimate £k	2025/26 Estimate £k
Debt	477,688	465,300	442,713	417,084
Other long-term liabilities	190,841	186,754	182,582	178,350
Total	668,529	652,054	625,295	595,434

3.3 Prospects for interest rates

Link Group are the Councils treasury advisor and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The following table shows their view on future interest rates. Link provided the following forecasts on 19 December. These are forecasts for PWLB certainty rates.

Link Group Interest Rate View	19.12.22												
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
BANK RATE	3.50	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.50	2.50
3 month ave eamings	3.60	4.30	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.50	2.50
6 month ave eamings	4.20	4.50	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60	2.60
12 month ave earnings	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70	2.70
5 yr PWLB	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.10
10 yr PWLB	4.30	4.40	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30
25 yr PWLB	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50
50 yr PWLB	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.30	3.20	3.20

The Link forecast for interest rates, updated on 19 December, reflects a view that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) are keen to address inflation through rate increases. Bank Rate is at 3.5% currently but is expected to reach a peak of 4.5% in the first six months of 2023. Link anticipate the Bank of England will then loosen monetary policy once the most significant inflationary pressures subside.

The CPI measure of inflation is expected to have peaked at 11.1% in Q4 2022 (currently 10.7%). Despite the cost-of-living pressures, the Bank will continue to monitor wage inflation given a very tight labour market.

The plan to sell £10bn of gilts back into the market each quarter (Quantitative Tightening) has started and will focus on the short, medium and longer end of the curve in equal measure.

In the upcoming months, Link forecasts will be guided not only by economic data releases and clarifications from the MPC over its monetary policies and the Government over its fiscal policies, but the on-going conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the heightened tensions between China/Taiwan/US (which also have the potential to have a wider and negative economic impact).

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Rates

- The yield curve movements have become less volatile of late and PWLB 5 to 50 years Certainty Rates are, generally, in the range of 4.10% to 4.80%.
- We view the markets as having built in, already, nearly all the effects on gilt yields of the likely increases in Bank Rate and the elevated inflation outlook.

The balance of risks to the UK economy

- The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is to the downside.

Downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates include

- Labour and supply shortages prove more enduring and disruptive and depress economic activity (accepting that in the near-term this is also an upside risk to inflation and, thus, rising gilt yields).
- The Bank of England acts too quickly, or too far, over the next year to raise Bank Rate and causes UK economic growth, and increases in inflation, to be weaker than we currently anticipate.
- UK / EU trade arrangements – if there was a major impact on trade flows and financial services due to complications or lack of co-operation in sorting out significant remaining issues.
- Geopolitical risks, for example in Ukraine/Russia, China/Taiwan/US, Iran, North Korea and Middle Eastern countries, which could lead to increasing safe-haven flows.

Upside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates

- The Bank of England is too slow in its pace and strength of increases in Bank Rate and, therefore, allows inflationary pressures to build up too strongly and for a longer period within the UK economy, which then necessitates Bank Rate staying higher for longer than we currently project or even necessitates a further series of increases in Bank Rate.
- The Government acts too quickly to cut taxes and/or increases expenditure in light of the cost-of-living squeeze.
- The pound weakens because of a lack of confidence in the UK Government's fiscal policies, resulting in investors pricing in a risk premium for holding UK sovereign debt.
- Longer term US treasury yields rise strongly and push gilt yields up higher than currently forecast.
- Projected gilt issuance could be too much for the markets to comfortably digest without higher yields.

Borrowing advice: Links long-term (beyond 10 years) forecast for Bank Rate stands at 2.5%. As all PWLB certainty rates are currently above this level, borrowing strategies will need to be reviewed in that context. Better value can generally be obtained at the shorter end of the curve and short-dated fixed Local Authority to Local Authority monies should be considered. Temporary borrowing rates are likely, however, to remain near Bank Rate and may also prove attractive whilst the market waits for inflation, and therein gilt yields, to drop back later in 2023.

Investment Rates

Link’s suggested budgeted earnings rates for investments up to about three months’ duration in each financial year are as follows:

Average earnings in each year	
2022/23 (remainder)	4.00%
2023/24	4.40%
2024/25	3.30%
2025/26	2.60%
2026/27	2.50%
Years 6 to 10	2.80%
Years 10+	2.80%

As there are so many variables at this time, caution must be exercised in respect of all interest rate forecasts. Link continue to monitor events and will update forecasts as and when appropriate.

3.4 Borrowing strategy

The Council is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need, the CFR, has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council’s reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy is prudent as medium and longer dated borrowing rates are expected to fall from their current levels once prevailing inflation concerns are addressed by tighter near-term monetary policy (Bank Rate increases over the remainder of 2022 and the first half of 2023).

Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution will be adopted with the 2023/24 treasury operations. The Corporate Director – Strategic Resources will monitor interest rates in financial markets and adopt a pragmatic approach to changing circumstances:

- *if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp FALL in borrowing rates, then borrowing will be postponed.*

- *if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in borrowing rates than that currently forecast, fixed rate funding will be drawn whilst interest rates are lower than they are projected to be in the next few years.*

Any decisions will be reported to the appropriate decision-making body at the next available opportunity.

In order to align with the revised 2021 Treasury Management Code, the Council will consider the need for further borrowing against short term investments, the cash flow forecast and the liquidity requirements of the Council. Where the investment portfolio can sufficiently provide an appropriate level of liquidity without exposing the Council to undue liquidity risk then a policy of avoiding/delaying new borrowing will be deployed.

This will run down cash balances and avoid the 'cost of carry' – any borrowing undertaken that results in a temporary increase in investments will usually incur a revenue loss between borrowing costs and investment returns. However, liquidity forecasts need to be carefully reviewed to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when the Council may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.

To comply with the revised Treasury Management Code, liquidity risk management is considered where 'This organisation will not borrow earlier than required to meet cash flow needs unless there is a clear business case for doing so and will only do so for the current capital programme, to fund future debt maturities, or to ensure an adequate level of short-term investments to provide liquidity for the organisation'

Any decisions will be reported to the Executive and Audit Committee at the next available opportunity.

3.5 Policy on borrowing in advance of need

The Council will not borrow more than or in advance of its needs purely to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance will be within forward approved Capital Financing Requirement estimates and will be considered carefully to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated, there is a clear business case for doing so and that the Authority can ensure the security of such funds.

Risks associated with any borrowing in advance activity will be subject to prior appraisal and subsequent reporting through the mid-year or annual reporting mechanism.

3.6 Debt rescheduling

Rescheduling of current borrowing in the debt portfolio is unlikely to occur as there is still a very large difference between premature redemption rates and new borrowing rates.

However, given the current forecasts for the future interest rates this will be kept under review and if rescheduling is done, it will be reported to the Executive and Audit Committee as part of the quarterly Treasury Management Reports following its action.

3.7 New financial institutions as a source of borrowing and / or types of borrowing

Currently the PWLB Certainty Rate is set at gilts + 80 basis points. However, consideration may still need to be given to sourcing funding from the following sources for the following reasons:

- Local authorities - primarily shorter dated maturities out to 3 years are generally still cheaper than the Certainty Rate.
- Financial institutions - primarily insurance companies and pension funds but also some banks, out of forward dates where the objective is to avoid a “cost of carry” or to achieve refinancing certainty in the short term.

Any consideration of alternative sources of funding, other than those highlighted above, will only be undertaken in conjunction with treasury advisors, Link.

SECTION 4 - ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

4.1 Investment policy – management of risk

The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and CIPFA have extended the meaning of ‘investments’ to include both financial and non-financial investments. This report deals solely with financial investments, (as managed by the treasury management team). Non-financial investments, essentially the purchase of income yielding assets, are covered in the Capital Strategy, (**ANNEX 2**).

The Council’s investment policy has regard to the following: -

- DLUHC’s Guidance on Local Government Investments (“the Guidance”);
- CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes 2021 (“the Code”); and
- CIPFA Treasury Management Guidance Notes 2021.

The Council’s investment priorities will be security first, portfolio liquidity second and then yield, (return). The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and within the Council’s risk appetite.

In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to maintain a degree of liquidity to cover cash flow needs but to also consider “laddering” investments for periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, whilst investment rates remain elevated, as well as wider range fund options.

The above guidance from the DLUHC and CIPFA place a high priority on the management of risk. The Council has adopted a prudent approach to managing risk and defines its risk appetite by the following means: -

- a) Minimum acceptable **credit criteria** are applied in order to generate a list of highly creditworthy counterparties. This also enables diversification and thus avoidance of concentration risk. The key ratings used to monitor counterparties are the short term and long-term ratings.
- b) **Other information:** ratings will not be the sole determinant of the quality of an institution; it is important to continually assess and monitor the financial sector on both a micro and macro basis and in relation to the economic and political environments in which institutions operate. The assessment will also take account of information that reflects the opinion of the markets. To achieve this consideration, the Council will engage with its advisors to maintain a monitor on market pricing such as “**credit default swaps**” and overlay that information on top of the credit ratings.
- c) **Other information sources** used will include the financial press, share price and other such information pertaining to the financial sector in order to establish the most robust scrutiny process on the suitability of potential investment counterparties.
- d) The Council has defined the list of types of investment instruments that the treasury management team are authorised to use.

- **Specified investments** are those with a high level of credit quality and subject to a maturity limit of one year or have less than a year left to run to maturity if originally, they were classified as being non-specified investments solely due to the maturity period exceeding one year.
 - **Non-specified investments** are those with less high credit quality, may be for periods in more than one year, and/or are more complex instruments which require greater consideration by members and officers before being authorised for use. Once an investment is classed as non-specified, it remains non-specified all the way through to maturity i.e. an 18 month deposit would still be non-specified even if it has only 11 months left until maturity.
- e) **Non-specified investments limit.** The Council has determined that it will limit the maximum total exposure to non-specified investments as being 20% of the total investment portfolio.
 - f) **Lending limits**, (amounts and maturity), for each counterparty will be set through applying the matrix table in **(paragraph 4.2)**.
 - g) **Transaction limits** are set for each type of investment in through applying the matrix table in **paragraph 4.2**.
 - h) The Council will set a limit for the amount of its investments which are invested for **longer than 365 days (paragraph 4.4)**,
 - i) Investments will only be placed with counterparties from countries with a specified minimum **sovereign rating, (paragraph 4.3)**
 - j) The Council has engaged **external consultants**, to provide expert advice on how to optimise an appropriate balance of security, liquidity and yield, given the risk appetite of the Council in the context of the expected level of cash balances and need for liquidity throughout the year.
 - k) All investments will be denominated in **sterling**.
 - l) The change in accounting standards under IFRS 9, has resulted in this authority considering the implications of investment instruments which could result in an adverse movement in the value of the amount invested and resultant charges at the end of the year to the General Fund. In November 2018, the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (now DLUHC), concluded a consultation by announcing statutory override to delay implementation of IFRS 9 for five years to 31 March 2023 to allow English local authorities time to adjust their portfolio of all pooled investment instruments. DLUHC launched an 8-week consultation on the future of the IFRS 9 statutory override from 11 August to 7 October 2022 with the aim of this consultation being to collect the views of authorities and other stakeholders, and to collect additional information needed to understand the financial risks associated with both continuing the statutory override or allowing reversion to the Code of practice on local authority accounting. The department has now considered the responses to the consultation and Ministers have decided to extend the existing IFRS 9 statutory accounting override for a further 2 years until 31 March 2025.

However, the Council will also pursue **value for money** in treasury management and will monitor the yield from investment income against appropriate benchmarks for investment performance. Regular monitoring of investment performance will be carried out during the year.

Changes in risk management policy from last year

The above criteria are for the new unitary North Yorkshire Council. The risk management policy is broadly in line with the North Yorkshire County Council policy which was unchanged from the previous year.

4.2 Creditworthiness policy

The Council applies the creditworthiness service provided by the Link Group. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach utilising credit ratings from the three main credit rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays:

- “watches” and “outlooks” from credit rating agencies;
- CDS spreads that may give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings; and
- sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

This modelling approach combines credit ratings, and any assigned Watches and Outlooks in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS spreads. The end product of this is a series of colour coded bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These colour codes are used by the Council to determine the suggested duration for investments.

The Link Group creditworthiness service uses a wider array of information other than just primary ratings. Furthermore, by using a risk weighted scoring system, it does not give undue preference to just one agency's ratings.

Typically, the minimum credit ratings criteria the Council use will be a short term rating (Fitch or equivalents) of F1 and a long term rating of A-. There may be occasions when the counterparty ratings from one rating agency are marginally lower than these ratings but may still be used. In these instances, consideration will be given to the whole range of ratings available, or other topical market information, to support their use.

All credit ratings will be monitored daily. The Council is alerted to changes to ratings of all three agencies through its use of the Link Group creditworthiness service.

If a downgrade results in the counterparty / investment scheme no longer meeting the Council's minimum criteria, its further use as a new investment will be withdrawn immediately.

In addition to the use of credit ratings the Council will be advised of information in movements in Credit Default Swap (CDS) spreads against the iTraxx European Financials benchmark and other market data on a daily basis via its Passport website, provided exclusively to it by Link Group. Extreme market movements may result in downgrade of an institution or removal from the Council's lending list.

Sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external service. In addition, the Council will also use market data and market information, as well as information on any external support for banks to help support its decision making process.

Creditworthiness

Significant levels of downgrades to Short- and Long-Term credit ratings have not materialised since the pandemic in March 2020. In the main, where they did change, any alterations were limited to Outlooks.. However, more recently the UK sovereign debt rating has been placed on Negative Outlook by the three major rating agencies in the wake of recent government policy. Although markets have calmed more recently, the outcome of the rating agency reviews is unknown at present, but it is possible the UK sovereign debt rating will be downgraded. Accordingly, when setting minimum sovereign debt ratings, this Authority will not set a minimum rating for the UK.

CDS prices

Although bank CDS prices, (these are market indicators of credit risk), spiked upwards in the last 6 months, they have returned to more average levels since then. However, sentiment can easily shift, so it will remain important to undertake continual monitoring of all aspects of risk and return in the current circumstances. Link monitor CDS prices as part of their creditworthiness service to local authorities and the Council has access to this information.

Environmental, social and governance (ESG)

This is a developing area, and for the purpose of the Council's treasury investments the Council's ESG policies and the environmental and climate change policy, will have a trickle-down effect into Treasury Management activity. Investments will still comply with SLY, Security, Liquidity, Yield requirements in the first instance. Treasury Management Practice 1 – Risk Management – has been expanded to include a high-level reference to ESG aspects of Treasury Management where creditworthiness and counterparty policies are in place to mitigate investment risk where the ESG risks are also incorporated.

4.3 Other Limits

Due care will be taken to consider the exposure of the Council's total investment portfolio to non-specified investments, countries, groups and sectors.

- a) Non-specified treasury management investment limit. The Council has determined that it will limit the maximum total exposure of treasury management investments to non-specified treasury management investments as being £60m, being approximately 10% of the total treasury management investment portfolio.
- b) Country limit. The Council has determined that, for counterparties outside the UK, it will only use approved counterparties from countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AA- from Fitch or equivalent. The list of countries that qualify using this credit criteria as at the date of this report are shown in Appendix D. This list will be added to, or deducted from, by officers should ratings change in accordance with this policy.
- c) **Countries / Groups / Sector limits.** In addition
 - Limits in place will apply to a group of companies/institutions
 - Sector limits will be monitored regularly for appropriateness

4.4 Investment strategy

In-house funds. Investments will be made with reference to the core balance and cash flow requirements and the outlook for short-term interest rates (i.e. rates for investments up to 12 months). Greater returns are usually obtainable by investing for longer periods. The current shape of the yield curve suggests that is the case at present, but there is the prospect of Bank Rate peaking in the first half of 2023 and possibly reducing as early as the latter part of 2023 so an agile investment strategy would be appropriate to optimise returns.

Accordingly, where cash sums can be identified that could be invested for longer periods, the value to be obtained from longer-term investments will be carefully assessed.

Investment returns expectations. The current interest rate forecast assumes interest rates will continue to raise until June 2023, with the first fall expected March 2024.

The suggested budgeted investment earnings rates for returns on investments placed for periods up to about three months during each financial year are as follows:

Average earnings in each year	
2022/23 (remainder)	4.00%
2023/24	4.40%
2024/25	3.30%
2025/26	2.60%
2026/27	2.50%
Years 6 to 10	2.80%
Years 10+	2.80%

As there are so many variables at this time, caution must be exercised in respect of all interest rate forecasts.

For its cash flow generated balances (cash required for liquidity purposes), the Council will seek to utilise its instant access and notice accounts, money market funds and short-dated deposits, (overnight to 100 days) to benefit from the compounding of interest.

Change of investment strategy - Although the Council's investment strategy is new, the approach is consistent with the prior year investment strategies of the previous individual councils weighted towards the largest investment portfolios.

Investment treasury indicator and limit - total principal funds invested for greater than 365 days. These limits are set with regard to the Council's liquidity requirements and to reduce the need for early sale of an investment and are based on the availability of funds after each year-end.

The Council is asked to approve the following treasury indicator and limit:

Upper limit for principal sums invested for longer than 365 days			
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m	£m
Principal sums invested for longer than 365 days	60	60	60
Current investments as at 31.03.222 in excess of 1 year maturing in each year	0	0	0

Investment performance / risk benchmarking

This Council will use investment benchmarks to assess the investment portfolio performance for internally and externally managed funds.

Internal investment portfolio - The SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average) rate will be used to compare the yield on the internal investments portfolio. The measure is used to demonstrate the performance of the organisation. SONIA is the rate published each day by the Bank of England and reflects overnight rates paid on eligible sterling denominated deposit transactions conducted the previous day. The backward looking average 7 day compound rate will be used over a quarter for comparison with the actual portfolio.

It is important to understand that the benchmark has changed from previous years as the 7-day LIBID rate is no longer published by the Bank of England. This benchmark is an active benchmark as it reflects the movement of the market. Using the backward-looking SONIA rates data reflects the environment in which investments are made.

This benchmark is a simple guide to maximum risk, so could be breached from time to time, depending on movements in interest rates and counterparty criteria. The purpose of the benchmark is that officers will monitor the current and trend position and amend the operational strategy to manage risk as conditions change. Any breach of the benchmark will be reported, with supporting reasons in the quarterly monitoring reports.

Yield - the Council has adopted to measure the internal investment portfolio yield compared to the industry benchmark rates

- **Average Investment return against the backward looking 7-day SONIA compound rate**

External investment portfolio - The performance of externally managed funds will be benchmarked against an appropriate published index depending on the fund type as described in section below.

4.6 External Fund Managers

The Council has £16.3m externally managed investments on a pooled basis across the following funds:-

- Blackrock UK Property Fund

- Threadneedle Property Unit Trust
- Fidelity UK Real Estate Fund
- Federated Hermes Property Unit Trust

The Council's external fund manager(s) will comply with the Annual Investment Strategy. The Council fully appreciates the importance of monitoring the activity and performance of its appointed external fund manager and to aid this assessment, the Council is provided with a suite of regular reports.

In addition to formal reports, the Council also meets with representatives of the fund manager. These meetings allow for additional scrutiny of the manager's activity, discussions on the outlook for the fund(s) as well as the wider markets.

4.7 End of year investment report

At the end of the financial year, the Council will report on its investment activity as part of its Annual Treasury Report.

5 APPENDICES

- A. Prudential and treasury indicators
- B. Treasury management practice 1 – credit and counterparty risk management
- C. Approved Lending List
- D. Approved sources of long and short term borrowing
- E. Approved countries for investments
- F. Treasury management scheme of delegation
- G. The treasury management role of the section 151 officer

THE CAPITAL PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS 2023/24 – 2025/26

The Council's capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity. The output of the capital expenditure plans is reflected in the prudential indicators, which are designed to assist members' overview and confirm capital expenditure plans.

Capital expenditure

This indicator shows a breakdown of planned capital expenditure by service. If there were any capital expenditure plans defined as projects for yield (would be a capital investment made wholly or mainly to generate financial return) these would be shown in a separate line.

Capital expenditure	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Children and Young People's Service	24,523	49,683	16,625	5,100	16,238
Health and Adult Services	1,778	5,144	1,115	115	8,111
Resources	40,174	66,669	16,680	9,278	10,089
Community Development	111,109	71,050	9,066	1,235	2,975
Environment	113,322	123,254	52,524	40,725	2,265
Local Engagement	14,615	499	65	405	255
Non-HRA	305,521	316,299	96,075	56,858	39,933
HRA	16,763	35,308	17,649	14,505	8,744
Total	322,284	351,607	113,724	71,363	48,677

Affordability prudential indicators

The previous sections cover the overall capital and control of borrowing prudential indicators, but within this framework prudential indicators are also required to assess the affordability of the capital investment plans. These provide an indication of the impact of the capital investment plans on the Council's overall finances. The Council is asked to approve the following indicators:

a. Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital, (borrowing and other long-term obligation costs net of investment income), against the net revenue stream.

%	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Non-HRA	9.5	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.2
HRA	63.6	22.7	20.5	21.1	20.6

b. HRA debt ratios

	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
HRA debt £m	101.8	100.7	99.5	98.4	97.1
HRA revenues £m	38.6	38.3	40.8	41.4	42.7
Ratio of debt to revenues %	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.3

	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
HRA debt £m	101.8	100.7	99.5	98.4	97.1
Number of HRA dwellings	8,350	8,332	8,312	8,284	8,256
Debt per dwelling £k	12.2	12.1	12.0	11.9	11.8

Maturity structure of borrowing

Maturity structure of borrowing. These gross limits are set to reduce the Council’s exposure to large sums falling due for refinancing and are required for upper and lower limits.

The Council is asked to approve the following treasury indicators and limits:

Maturity structure of borrowing 2022/23		
	Lower	Upper
Under 12 months	0%	15%
12 months to 2 years	0%	15%
2 years to 5 years	0%	15%
5 years to 10 years	0%	25%
10 years to 20 years	0%	25%
20 years to 30 years	0%	45%
30 years to 40 years	0%	45%
40 years and above	0%	45%

TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (TMP1) – CREDIT AND COUNTERPARTY RISK MANAGEMENT

This appendix should be used in conjunction with sections 4.2 Creditworthiness policy and 4.3 Other limits.

SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS: All such investments will be sterling denominated, with **maturities up to a maximum of 1 year**, meeting the minimum ‘high’ quality criteria where applicable. (Non-specified investments which would be specified investments apart from originally being for a period longer than 12 months, will be classified as being specified once the remaining period to maturity falls to under twelve months.)

NON-SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS: These are any investments which do not meet the specified investment criteria. A maximum of 20% will be held in aggregate in non-specified investment.

A variety of investment instruments will be used, subject to the credit quality of the institution, and depending on the type of investment made, it will fall into one of the above categories.

The criteria, time limits and monetary limits applying to institutions or investment vehicles are:

SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS:

(All such investments will be sterling denominated, with **maturities up to a maximum of 1 year**, meeting the minimum ‘high’ rating criteria where applicable)

	Minimum ‘High’ Credit Criteria	Use
Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility	--	In-house
Term deposits – local authorities	--	In-house
Term deposits – banks and building societies **	Colour Band Green	In-house

Term deposits with nationalised banks and banks and building societies

	Minimum Credit Criteria	Use
UK part nationalised banks	Colour Band Blue	In-house

Other specified investments

	Minimum 'High' Credit Criteria	Use
UK Government Gilts	UK sovereign rating	In-house buy and hold and Fund Managers
Bonds issued by multilateral development banks	AA or Government backed	In-house buy and hold and Fund Managers
Bonds issued by a financial institution which is explicitly guaranteed by the UK Government e.g., National Rail	AA or Government backed	In-house buy and hold and Fund Managers
Treasury Bills	UK sovereign rating	In house and Fund Managers

Collective Investment Schemes structured as Open-Ended Investment Companies (OEICs): -

	Minimum 'High' Credit Criteria	Use
1a. Money Market Funds (CNAV)	Funds must be AAA rated (MMF rating)	In-house and Fund Managers
1b. Money Market Funds (LVNAV)	Funds must be AAA rated (MMF rating)	In-house and Fund Managers
1c. Money Market Funds (VNAV)	Funds must be AAA rated (MMF rating)	In-house and Fund Managers

Accounting treatment of investments - The accounting treatment may differ from the underlying cash transactions arising from investment decisions made by this Council. To ensure that the Council is protected from any adverse revenue impact, which may arise from these differences, we will review the accounting implications of new transactions before they are undertaken.

NON-SPECIFIED INVESTMENTS: A maximum of £60m will be held in aggregate in non-specified investment

	Minimum Credit Criteria	Use	Maximum investments	Maximum maturity period
Term deposits – local authorities with maturities greater than 1 year	--	In-house	£60m	5 yrs
Term deposits – banks and building societies with maturities greater than 1 year	Colour band Purple	In-house	£60m	5 yrs
Certificates of deposit issued by banks and building societies with maturities greater than 1 year	Colour band Purple	In-house	£60m	5 yrs
Certificates of deposit issued by banks and building societies with maturities greater than 1 year	Short-term F1, Long-term A- (Fitch or equivalent)	Fund Managers	£60m	5 yrs
Collateralised deposits	UK sovereign rating	In-house	£60m	5 yrs
UK Government Gilts with maturities greater than 1 year	UK sovereign rating	In-house and Fund Managers	£60m	5 yrs
Bonds issued by multilateral development banks with maturities greater than 1 year	AA or Government backed	In-house and Fund Managers	£60m	5 yrs
Collective Investment Schemes structured as Open-Ended Investment Companies (OEICs)				
Property Funds	Organisations assessed as having “high credit quality”	In-house after consultation with Treasury Management Advisor	£60m	10 yrs

APPENDIX C

APPROVED LENDING LIST 2023/24

Maximum sum invested at any time (The overall total exposure figure covers both Specified and Non-Specified investments)

	Country	Specified Investments		Non-Specified	
		Total Exposure £m	Time Limit *	Total Exposure £m	Time Limit *
UK "Nationalised" banks / UK banks with UK Central Government involvement					
Royal Bank of Scotland PLC (RFB)	GBR	90.0	365 days	-	-
National Westminster Bank PLC (RFB)	GBR				
UK "Clearing Banks", other UK based banks and Building Societies					
Santander UK PLC (includes Cater Allen)	GBR	80.0	6 months	-	-
Barclays Bank PLC (NRFB)	GBR	90.0	6 months	-	-
Barclays Bank UK PLC (RFB)	GBR				
Bank of Scotland PLC (RFB)	GBR	80.0	6 months	-	-
Lloyds Bank PLC (RFB)	GBR				
Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets PLC (NRFB)	GBR				
Goldman Sachs International Bank	GBR	80.0	6 months	-	-
Sumitomo Mitsui	GBR	80.0	6 months	-	-
Standard Chartered Bank	GBR	80.0	6 months	-	-
Handelsbanken	GBR	80.0	365 days	-	-
Nationwide Building Society	GBR	40.0	6 months	-	-
Leeds Building Society	GBR	40.0	100 Day	-	-
Coventry Building Society	GBR	40.0	6 months	-	-
High Quality Foreign Banks					
National Australia Bank	AUS	40.0	365 days	-	-
Credit Industriel et Commercial	FRA	40.0	365 days	-	-
Landesbank Hessen-Thuringen Girozentrale (Helaba)	GER	40.0	365 days	-	-
DBS (Singapore)	SING	40.0	365 days	-	-
Bayerische Landesbank	GER	40.0	6 months	-	-
National Bank of Canada	CAN	40.0	6 months	-	-
Local Authorities					
County / Unitary / Metropolitan / District Councils		30.0	365 days	5.0	5 years
Police / Fire Authorities		30.0	365 days	5.0	5 years
National Park Authorities		30.0	365 days	5.0	5 years
Other Deposit Takers					
Money Market Funds		40.0	n/a - liquid	-	-
Property Funds		5.0	not listed	5.0	10 years
UK Debt Management Account		150.0	365 days	-	-

APPROVED SOURCES OF LONG TERM AND SHORT TERM BORROWING

The approved sources and types of funding are shown below.

On Balance Sheet	Fixed	Variable
PWLB	●	●
Municipal bond agency	●	●
Local authorities	●	●
Banks	●	●
Pension Funds	●	●
Insurance companies	●	●
UK Infrastructure Bank	●	●
Market (long-term)	●	●
Market (temporary)	●	●
Market (LOBOs)	●	●
Stock issues	●	●
Local temporary	●	●
Local Bonds	●	
Local authority bills	●	●
Overdraft		●
Negotiable Bonds	●	●
Internal (capital receipts & revenue balances)	●	●
Commercial Paper	●	
Medium Term Notes	●	
Finance leases	●	●

APPROVED COUNTRIES FOR INVESTMENTS

This list is based on those countries which have sovereign ratings of AA- or higher, (we show the lowest rating from Fitch, Moody's and S&P) and also, (except - at the time of writing - for Hong Kong, Norway and Luxembourg), have banks operating in sterling markets which have credit ratings of green or above in the Link credit worthiness service.

Based on lowest available rating

AAA

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

AA+

- Canada
- Finland
- U.S.A.

AA

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- France

AA-

- Belgium
- Hong Kong
- Qatar
- **U.K.**

TREASURY MANAGEMENT SCHEME OF DELEGATION

(i) Council

- receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities.
- approval of annual strategy.

(ii) Executive

- approval of/amendments to the organisation's adopted clauses, treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices.
- budget consideration and approval.
- approval of the division of responsibilities.
- receiving and reviewing regular monitoring reports and acting on recommendations.
- approving the selection of external service providers and agreeing terms of appointment.

(iii) Audit Committee

- reviewing the treasury management policy and procedures and making recommendations to the responsible body.

THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT ROLE OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER

The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its Treasury Management policies and practices to the Executive, and for the execution and administration of Treasury Management decisions to the Corporate Director - Resources, who will act in accordance with the Council's TMPs, as well as CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management. In addition, the Council delegates responsibility for the execution and administration of Treasury Management decisions to the Corporate Director - Resources, including any borrowing and debt rescheduling.

The S151 (responsible) officer

- recommending clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance.
- submitting regular treasury management policy reports.
- submitting budgets and budgets variations.
- receiving and reviewing management information reports.
- reviewing the performance of the treasury management function.
- ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function.
- ensuring the adequacy of internal audit and liaising with external audit.
- recommending the appointment of external service providers.
- preparation of a capital strategy to include capital expenditure, capital financing, non-financial investments and treasury management, with a long-term timeframe
- ensuring that the capital strategy is prudent, sustainable, affordable and prudent in the long term and provides value for money
- ensuring that due diligence has been carried out on all treasury and non-financial investments and is in accordance with the risk appetite of the authority
- ensure that the authority has appropriate legal powers to undertake expenditure on non-financial assets and their financing
- ensuring the proportionality of all investments so that the authority does not undertake a level of investing which exposes the authority to an excessive level of risk compared to its financial resources
- ensuring that an adequate governance process is in place for the approval, monitoring and ongoing risk management of all non-financial investments and long-term liabilities
- provision to members of a schedule of all non-treasury investments including material investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures, loans and financial guarantees
- ensuring that members are adequately informed and understand the risk exposures taken on by an authority
- ensuring that the authority has adequate expertise, either in house or externally provided, to carry out the above

- creation of Treasury Management Practices which specifically deal with how non treasury investments will be carried out and managed, to include the following: -
 - *Risk management (TMP1 and schedules), including investment and risk management criteria for any material non-treasury investment portfolios.*
 - *Performance measurement and management (TMP2 and schedules), including methodology and criteria for assessing the performance and success of non-treasury investments.*
 - *Decision making, governance and organisation (TMP5 and schedules), including a statement of the governance requirements for decision making in relation to non-treasury investments; and arrangements to ensure that appropriate professional due diligence is carried out to support decision making.*
 - *Reporting and management information (TMP6 and schedules), including where and how often monitoring reports are taken.*
 - *Training and qualifications (TMP10 and schedules), including how the relevant knowledge and skills in relation to non-treasury investments will be arranged.*

CAPITAL STRATEGY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in 2021 revised the Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code which require local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy to demonstrate that capital expenditure and investment decisions contribute to the delivery of North Yorkshire Council's plans and provisions of services whilst taking account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability, proportionality and affordability. This requirement was first introduced in 2018/19.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Capital Strategy is to set out how the Council proposes to deploy its capital resources effectively to achieve its corporate and service objectives. The Capital Strategy takes into account other relevant Council strategies and, policies as well as the views of partners and interested parties with whom the Council is involved. The resources which are forecast to be available to fund capital investment and the effect of that investment on the Council's revenue budget are also considered. The Capital Strategy will serve as a useful point of reference when determining or reviewing the Council's Capital Five Year Spending Plan (known as the Capital Plan).
- 1.3 **Re-organisation** - As background, under Government proposals, the North Yorkshire (Structural Changes) Order 2022 was laid before Parliament in January 2022. The Order sets out plans for the reorganisation of local government in the County of North Yorkshire where all services will be provided from 1 April 2023 by a single unitary council, North Yorkshire Council. The Council will replace North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and the seven District / Borough councils – Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby – which will be abolished. The Capital Strategy for the new unitary council will come into effect as from 1 April 2023 for the financial year 2023/24.
- 1.4 **Scope and Reporting** - The Council has chosen to report the Capital Strategy separately from the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS). The Council will report treasury investments through the TMSS only and non-treasury investments will be reported through the Capital Strategy. This allows the core treasury investment reporting to focus on security, liquidity and yield principles, and the non-treasury investments, both service and commercial, to concentrate on capital expenditure in relation to assets.
- 1.5 **Our Vision** - We want to build on North Yorkshire's natural capital, strong local economy and resilient communities, to improve the way local services are delivered and support a good quality of life for all.

The Council is committed to seeking a better, fairer future for everyone, keeping services local and going even further. With more locally based staff and more local access points to Council services the community is provided with a bigger say in how these are delivered.

Along with savings and efficiencies, the new NYC provides an opportunity to apply our considerable combined asset base to facilitate local economic growth and regeneration and drive improved outcomes for residents, businesses and visitors to our area.

2.0 KEY AMBITIONS, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

2.1 The Council's ambitions, objectives and priorities are shown within the Council Plan the cornerstone of our policy framework. It provides the basis for all that we do and sets out the principles, priorities and ambitions for the Council and drives the many other plans and strategies including the Capital Strategy that supports informed decision making including establishing the need for capital investment and the required outcomes from that investment.

2.2 The Capital Strategy is key to support long term investment decision enabling the delivery of the Council's Ambition. It is a key strategy document and forms part of the Council's revenue, capital, balance sheet and reserves planning. It provides:

- A long-term view of capital expenditure plans and any financial risks to which the Council is exposed;
- Ensuring due regard to the long-term financing, affordability implications, potential risks and the implications for future financial sustainability.
- A clear overview of the Council's asset management planning arrangements, prioritisation process and monitoring.

3.0 EXTERNAL FACTORS AND PARTNER INFLUENCES

3.1 The Council's capital investment plans are influenced by a number of external parties and factors: central government and its agencies, legislation requirements for capital works, partner organisations, businesses, developers and by the needs and views of other interested parties, particularly those of the residents

3.2 **Government policy and funding** – The Government's focus on 'levelling up' the UK and the proposed devolution deals aim to unlock greater funding for York and North Yorkshire to lead on delivering outcomes

3.3 **Legislation and guidance** - In 2004, local authorities were provided with the flexibility to make their own capital investment decisions. Legislation, guidance and professional codes of practice were introduced to support decision making and ensure investment and borrowing is prudent, sustainable and affordable. The Council has complied with these principles since their introduction and subsequent updates. The Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code were revised in December 2021 primarily in response to concerns regarding commercial investment undertaken solely for financial yield.

- Updated and additional prudential indicators, monitoring, reporting as well as creation of Investment Management Practices for Service and Commercial investments.
- Confirmation of approach to 'Proportionality' and risk to service delivery where borrowing is undertaken primarily to generate a financial return.
- Setting out an approach for the inclusion of Environmental, Social and Governance issues in developing capital investment.
- Reviewing existing commercial or service investments to divest where appropriate.

- A Council must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return applies with immediate effect, with the loss of borrowing ability from the PWLB being an immediate consequence.

3.4 Local stakeholders - The Council works with a wide range of partners from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, including a new combined authority from April 2024, all of which have an influence over its spending priorities. Relationships with partners, including those concerning capital matters, will be governed by the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance and the Partnership Governance guidance.

Wherever possible the Council will seek to work in partnership with others to deliver its capital investment programme in order to provide facilities which meet its own and partners' needs. When working with the private sector, the objective will be to maximise the benefits to the Council and the community from any projects, both in terms of outputs and in relation to obtaining funding for the project.

The Council has a key role in the Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP).

The Council is also joint shareholders in Yorwaste (waste management company) and partners in the public private partnership of the Allerton Park Waste Recovery Plant

4.0 INTERNAL STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

4.1 The Council's capital investment plans are influenced by a number of factors: the corporate ambitions within the Council Plan, existing commitments on revenue and funding resources, other Council policies, strategies and plans that comply with financial regulations and legislation.

4.2 **Council priorities** - The Council Plan has five corporate ambitions which will guide the development of the Capital Five Year Spending Plan. Capital investment expenditure including non-treasury investment projects are in line with these overall objectives as well as individual service aims. The Council's ambitions for North Yorkshire are:

Place and Environment

- A clean, environmentally sustainable and attractive place to live, work and visit
- A well connected and planned place with good transport links and digital connectivity
- Communities are supported and work together to improve their local area
- Good quality, affordable and sustainable housing that meets the needs of our communities

Economy

- Economically sustainable growth that enables people and places to prosper
- Culture, heritage, arts and sustainable tourism all play their part in the economic growth of the county
- New and existing businesses can thrive and grow
- North Yorkshire has a high profile, is influential nationally and receives its fair share of resources

Health and Wellbeing

- People are supported to have a good quality of life and enjoy active and healthy lifestyles
- Reduced variations in health through tackling the root causes of inequality
- In times of hardship, support is provided to those that need it most
- People can access good public health services and social care across our different communities

People

- People are free from harm and feel safe and protected
- People can achieve their full potential through lifelong education and learning
- Vulnerable people are supported by strengthening families or other appropriate networks
- People have control and choice in relation to their independence and social care support

Organisation

- Good quality, value for money services that are customer focused and accessible to all
- A well-led and managed, financially sustainable and forward- thinking council
- A diverse and inclusive council, where employees are supported and valued
- A carbon neutral council

4.3 Other Council strategies and plans driving investment - Capital Schemes must comply with other Council policies, strategies and, as well as contract procedure rules, financial regulations and with legislation, such as the Disability Discrimination Act. Important linking documents will include:

- Council's Constitution including Contract and Financial Procedure Rules
- Council Plan
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Capital Plan
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement
- Individual Service Plans

5.0 CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN AND PLANNING PROCESS

5.1 Capital expenditure plans - The Council's strategies and plans support the need for capital investment to enable required outcomes. The Council has a responsibility to apply an affordable, prudent and sustainable approach to that investment, as set out in the Prudential Code and therefore uses the prioritisation and planning process to manage this as described above. A summary of the Council's capital expenditure plans, both those agreed previously, and those forming part of the budget are integral to the capital strategy.

Capital expenditure £m	2021/22 Estimate	2022/23 Estimate	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate
Children and Young People's Service	24,523	49,683	16,625	5,100	16,238
Health and Adult Services	1,778	5,144	1,115	115	8,111
Resources	40,174	66,669	16,680	9,278	10,089
Community Development	111,109	71,050	9,066	1,235	2,975
Environment	113,322	123,254	52,524	40,725	2,265
Local Engagement	14,615	499	65	405	255
Non-HRA	305,521	316,299	96,075	56,858	39,933
HRA	16,763	35,308	17,649	14,505	8,744
Total	322,284	351,607	113,724	71,363	48,677

5.2 **Capital expenditure in non-treasury investments** can be for a service or a commercial purpose. To meet service or Council obligations capital investment could be in the form of loans or equity provided to external bodies, Council subsidiaries or joint ventures. In order to retain access to borrowing from the PWLB the Council is required to certify the capitals plans do not include expenditure on new non-treasury commercial investments primarily for financial return. However, where the capital spending decision is primarily related to the function of the Council and any financial returns are incidental then access is retained.

The Council will annually evaluate whether any of the commercial investments should be sold to release funds to finance new capital expenditure or refinance maturing debt. The Council's Capital Plans do not include any estimates to purchase any treasury commercial assets primarily for yield.

The Council continues to review potential commercial investments but will now consider any potential investment opportunities alongside the implications for PWLB borrowing going forward.

All alternative investment activities are subject to approval in accordance with the Council's governance framework for decision making and given the technical nature of potential alternative investments and strong linkages to the Council's Treasury Management function, appropriate governance and decision-making arrangements are in place. The Commercial Investment Board has been established to ensure robust due diligence in order to make recommendations for implementation.

The Council recognises that achieving its capital ambitions will require consideration of alternative delivery structures and of all forms of funding including additional borrowing. Financial austerity has had a significant impact on affordability, however capital investment funded by borrowing will be undertaken in priority areas to meet capital ambitions if required, subject to at all times clearly understanding how the affordability of such expenditure can be managed over the longer term supported by a robust capital planning process, due diligence, business cases, risk management and monitoring.

5.3 **Available Resources** – The Council has several funding streams available to support capital investment. The funding of the five-year capital investment programme is detailed in the Capital spending plan which highlights unallocated funding that might become available.

The Council policies in relation to financing capital expenditure and investment are covered in this section and are listed in the table below:

External funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services should seek to maximise external funding wherever possible to support capital schemes. This can be in the form of grants and contributions from outside bodies including central government. However, services will be expected to underwrite any cost overruns on externally funded schemes. If services bid for external funding for schemes and costs exceed the available funding, then services will be expected to fund any shortfall from existing resources (either revenue or capital). • Prior to submitting bids for grant funding, an assessment of the risk of a contract price increase, associated with market conditions or abnormal building plan demands attached to some grants, must be completed to estimate the likelihood of additional funding being needed • In respect of match funding bids then the relevant service must fully identify the necessary match funding resources from within existing service budgets prior to submitting any bid for funding
Capital receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A capital receipt is an amount of money received from the sale of an asset. It cannot be spent on revenue items. • Capital Receipts Group review the Council's property quarterly against the aims and objectives the Council Plan and Asset Management Strategy. • The general policy is that any capital receipts are pooled and used to finance future capital expenditure and investment according to priorities, although they may be used to repay outstanding debt on assets financed from borrowing, as permitted by the regulations.
Revenue and reserve funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services may use their revenue budgets to fund capital expenditure. • Directors in conjunction with the Corporate Director - Resources (S151 Officer) will take an overview and decide the most appropriate way of funding capital expenditure
Prudential borrowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities can set their own borrowing levels based on their capital need and their ability to pay for the borrowing. The levels will be set by using the indicators and factors set out in the Prudential Code. The borrowing costs are not supported by the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">••
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">••

5.4 **Borrowing and the CFR** – where resources are unavailable to fund capital expenditure, borrowing will be used. This will increase what is termed the Council’s Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) which is the Council’s underlying need to borrow. The Council is required to make a prudent provision for the repayment of historic capital expenditure from its revenue budget in line with its agreed Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy.

This reduces the CFR and the prudent provision set aside is used to repay debt. The calculation of the CFR summarised in the diagram below results in the amount the Council will need to borrow:

+	
-	
-	
=	

The amount of borrowing a Council can take is determined by what the Council can afford, along with ensuring it is prudent and sustainable. In accordance with the Prudential Code, the Council will only make capital investments, which increase the CFR, for a prudent purpose where this directly and primarily relates to the functions of the Council. Affordability and prudence are assessed and controlled by the prudential indicators which are recorded in the TMSS and described below in the Assessing affordability section.

5.5 **Assessing affordability** – the revenue cost implications of Capital investment undertaken historically and the proposed Capital Plan form an integral part of the Council’s revenue budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan. The revenue budget impact of capital schemes for Council Tax and Rent payers include:

- The costs of operating/maintaining new assets
- The capital financing costs of servicing any borrowing required to pay for investment (interest and the Council’s approach to making prudent provision for repayment of capital investment paid for by borrowing – MRP)
- The revenue costs of preparing and delivering projects
- Abortive costs required to be charged to revenue budgets if schemes do not proceed.

Some or all of the costs of investment may be offset by financial and non-financial benefits such as income, cost avoidance and importantly improved outcomes for residents. Where capital investment has been undertaken by borrowing, the Council is required to spread the cost of that investment over future years’ revenue budgets. This is in accordance with its MRP Policy for the prudent repayment of capital expenditure which is approved as part of the budget proposals each year.

5.6 **Revenue implications** - The revenue costs associated with capital schemes need to be identified and included within the revenue budget and the Medium-Term Financial Plan. For example, a housing development project is likely to have revenue budget implications e.g. additional street lighting, waste disposal, schooling provision or other Council services. It is recognised that the Council cannot afford to do everything. However where revenue resources are deemed available to increase the level of Council borrowing capital investment will be considered. The Council’s approach to affordability of its capital financing budgets in the medium term is as follows:

- General Fund – additional investment funded by borrowing over the medium term to be minimised unless approved in line with the prioritisation and evaluation criteria as described above.

- Housing Revenue Account – increasing over the medium term primarily as a result of implementing the Council’s ambition target of new affordable housing. Future rent policy, pressures and a robust approach to ensuring viability of new developments will be key to affordability.
- Strategic and major development projects – On a case-by-case basis subject to approved business cases and due diligence including the long-term capital financing costs.

5.7 **Affordability indicators** - Prudential and treasury indicators to manage capital investments take a longer-term view of affordability, prudence and sustainability and are included in the TMSS at the start of every financial year. Prudential Indicators are used to assess affordability, along with other treasury management specific indicators and are approved within the TMSS and monitored on a quarterly basis in the Quarterly Performance Monitoring and Budget report to Executive and Council. These are listed below:

Financing costs and net revenue stream

This is a prudential indicator for affordability showing the percentage of the Council’s revenue budget that is committed to capital financing costs and is required to be shown for the General Fund and the HRA separately. For the General Fund, the net revenue stream is the amount to be met from non-specific Government grants and Council Tax, whilst for the HRA it is the amount to be met from rent payers and service charges.

Estimates of capital expenditure

This is a prudential indicator for prudence showing the previous year actual and estimates of the total of capital expenditure planned to be incurred during the forthcoming financial year and the following two financial years.

Estimates of capital financing requirement (CFR)

This is a prudential indicator for prudence and shows the previous year actual and the forecast total capital financing requirement at the end of the forthcoming financial year and the following two years. The CFR is the amount of capital spending that has not yet been financed by capital receipts, capital grants or contributions from revenue income. It measures the underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.

The operational boundary and the authorised limit

These are prudential indicators for prudence and focus setting an affordable limit for external debt. The operational boundary is the affordable debt limit and the authorised limit represents the legislative limit specified in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003. This is the set using the operational boundary plus an amount for unforeseen cashflow movement. The operational boundary is the limit for total gross external debt, separately identifying borrowing from other long-term liabilities. These are set for the forthcoming financial year and the following two financial years.

Gross debt to CFR

This is a prudential indicator for prudence and is used to show that external debt (i.e. borrowing for any purpose and other long-term liabilities) should not exceed the CFR (except in the short term) in the previous year plus the estimates of any increase in the CFR at the end of the current and next two financial years. This is to ensure that over the medium-term debt will only be for a capital purpose.

5.8 **Balance Sheet forward planning and the treasury management strategy** - where capital expenditure has been incurred without a resource to pay for it, i.e. when proposed to be paid for by supported or unsupported borrowing, this will increase what is termed the Council's CFR which is the Council's underlying need to borrow. The amount of borrowing required will be considered along with the Council's cashflow position.

The Council is typically cash rich in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent, this can include both working capital and reserves held on the balance sheet. The TMSS uses forecast cashflow information from the Reserves Strategy and the Capital Plan to make decisions around the amount, timing and duration of any new external borrowing required by the Council.

In terms of the Reserves Strategy, the Council uses a risk-assessed General Fund Reserve and effectively manages the balances of earmarked reserves over the longer term which is used to support the forward Balance Sheet projection. This projection provides a valuable foundation for the strategic financial planning of capital financing costs for the capital investment plan.

In terms of the Borrowing Strategy, the Council's main objectives when borrowing are to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in future. These objectives are often conflicting, and the Council therefore seeks to strike a balance between financing using the low-cost internal cash resources available in the short term and further long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known.

6.0 NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS

6.1 **Non-treasury overview** - The CIPFA Treasury Management Code recognises that organisations may make investments for policy reasons outside of normal treasury management activity. These are non-treasury investments and include service and commercial investments.

Non-treasury management investment is expenditure made on the purchase of a capital asset and are investments for policy reasons outside normal treasury management activity. It is these non-treasury management investments which are the subject of this Capital Strategy.

Service investments - 'Investments for service purposes' are taken or held primarily and directly for the delivery of public services (including housing, regeneration and local infrastructure) or in support of joint working with others to deliver such services. Characteristics for service investments are:

- Service investments may or may not involve financial returns; however, obtaining those returns will not be the primary purpose of the investment.
- For local authorities, service investments will normally constitute capital expenditure, and it may be appropriate to borrow to finance service investments

An example of a service investment is when the Council lends money to local bodies or its subsidiaries to support local public services and stimulate local economic growth. In light of the wider benefits that can arise the Council is prepared to take more risk than with

treasury investments. The main risk when making service loans is if the borrower is unable to repay the principal lent and/or the interest due.

It is important that the Council limits the financial risk, and assessment will be made of the risk of loss before entering into Service Loans by assessing the counterparty's resilience, the service users' needs that the loan is designed to help and how these needs will evolve over time. During the life of the loan any change in original assumptions will be monitored. The Council will use external advisors where appropriate.

Commercial investments - Investments taken or held primarily for financial return and are not linked to treasury management activity nor are directly part of delivering services. Characteristics for commercial investments are:

- non-financial assets such as commercial property is held primarily for financial return.
- For local authorities, investments of this type will usually constitute capital expenditure.
- 'Commercial' in this context refers to the purpose of the investment. Commercial investments are not taken to meet treasury management cash flow needs, and do not result from treasury risk management activity to prudently manage the risks, costs or income from existing or forecast debt or treasury investments. They are additional investments voluntarily taken primarily in order to generate net financial return or profit.

Details of the governance arrangements including the decision making and performance monitoring of non-treasury investments is covered in section 9 Corporate governance arrangements - Non-treasury investment activities.

The Council's Capital Plan has no expenditure on new non-treasury investments primarily for financial return.

6.2 **Existing non-treasury investments** – Based on prior year capital decisions the Council has a number of non-treasury investments. If there is a material financial interest in the shareholding or income generated during the year then the balances as at 31 March 2022 are shown in the tables below.

Service non-treasury investments:

The Council has investments in third parties and in Council owned companies including loans. These holdings are non-treasury service investments that achieve the Council objectives, these existing holdings are shown below.

a) Company loans - The Council has made several loans in recent years to subsidiaries for the purpose of the delivery of Council services and objectives, the position below will continue to be monitored and reviewed:

Loans portfolio	Balance at 31 March 2022 £m	2021/22 net income generated £k	2021/22 net income budgeted £k	Interest rate %
Yorwaste – Loan 1 (Subsidiary)	3.7	155.1	150.0	4%+base
Yorwaste – Loan 2 (Subsidiary)	2.3	101.0	90.0	4%+base
Brierley Homes (Subsidiary)	12.8	693.6	390.0	6%+base
First North Law (Subsidiary)	0.1	3.8	0	4%+base
NY Highways (Subsidiary)	8.0	311.7	120.0	6.5%+base
Broadacres Housing Association loan	33.6	1,437.9	1,435.5	2.85% - 4.64%
Bracewell Housing Ltd (Subsidiary)	1.5	98.0	45.0	7.5%+base 5.5%+base
Selby and District Housing Trust	2.8	117.8	120.0	4.19%
TOTAL	64.8	2,918.9	2,350.5	

b) Company shares - The Council has the following investments in Council companies held for the purpose of the delivery of Council services and objectives:

Equity portfolio	Shareholding 31 March 2022 at cost £m
Bracewell Housing Limited	-
Yorwaste Limited	3.518
Brierley Homes Limited	-
First North Law Limited	-
Align Property Partners Limited	0.500
NY Highways Limited	0.500
TOTAL	4.518

Commercial non-treasury investments:

Commercial investments are the result of past acquisitions of land and buildings for a commercial purpose rather than for the supply of goods and services or for administrative purposes. They have been classified as commercial investment properties:

Commercial Property portfolio	Fair value at 31 March 2022 £m	Cost less debt repayment (MRP) at 31 March 2022 £m	2021/22 net income generated £k	2021/22 net income budgeted £m	return %
Bank Unit in Stafford Town Centre	0.9	0.9	53.3	50.0	6.05
Harrogate Royal Baths	9.5	9.5	77.2	255.0	1.45
Co-op in Somercotes	1.5	1.5	79.6	76.0	5.32
Shopping centre - Harrogate	0.9	0.9	46.0	37.0	3.07
Secondary industrial land- Harrogate	0.8	0.8	53.0	38.0	6.58
TOTAL	13.6	13.6	309.1	456.0	

The Council retains some existing holdings in non-treasury commercial property assets that are held to provide a financial return rather than deliver a Council service. These investments were taken prior to the revised 2021 Prudential Code and the Governments March 2020 PWLB legislation coming into being.

- 6.3 **Review of existing commercial investments** – The commercial property investment portfolio is reviewed annually against the risks to the budgeted income and the liquidity requirements of the Council.
- 6.4 **Future non-treasury investments** - The Council has the following service investments within the Capital Plan where the primary purpose of these investments is the delivery of the Council's stated service objectives:

Loans portfolio	Balance outstanding at 31 March 2022 £m	Further loans included in Capital Plan £m
NYnet (Subsidiary)	-	10.0
Yorwaste – Loan 1 (Subsidiary)	3.7	0.0
Yorwaste – Loan 2 (Subsidiary)	2.3	1.6
Brierley Homes (Subsidiary)	12.8	2.1
First North Law (Subsidiary)	0.1	0.2
NY Highways (Subsidiary)	8.0	3.0
Broadacres Housing Association loan	33.6	-
Bracewell Housing Ltd (Subsidiary)	1.5	9.5
Selby and District Housing Trust*	2.8	-
TOTAL	64.8	26.3

** Selby and District Housing trust has decided to wind up and plans are in place for Selby District Council (or North Yorkshire Council after 31 March 2023) to acquire the trust's housing stock and for the loans to be repaid.*

7.0 RISK MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

7.1 Risk management overview - Clear criteria for both investment decisions and the ongoing risk management of the non-treasury investment portfolios is vital not only for the risks of individual investments but also the cumulative impact of all the investments made by the Council and the interaction of individual risks.

Limits on cumulative and individual non-treasury investments – The Commercial Investment Board was set up to monitor and provide due diligence on all North Yorkshire County Council non-treasury investments and it is envisaged that the Board will continue under the new North Yorkshire Council. The Board has delegated authority to approve individual investments up to a limit of £1.5m per investment and up to a total of £10m in any one financial year. Investments in excess of this will be submitted to the Executive for approval.

Following amalgamation of all commercial investments for the new North Yorkshire Council, the Commercial Investment Board will need to review and revise these limits.

7.2 The Governance arrangements in section 9 below detail the process and procedures for investment decision and the following paragraphs on risk assessments, risk appetite and the indicators to monitor risk explain the management of the non-treasury investments.

7.3 Risk assessment - Risk is the threat that an event or action will adversely affect the Council's ability to achieve its objectives and to execute its strategies successfully. Risk management is the process of identifying risks, evaluating their potential consequences and determining the most effective methods of managing them and/or responding to them. It is both a means of minimising the costs and disruption to the organisation caused by undesired events and ensuring that staff understand and appreciate the element of risk in all their activities.

The aim of risk management is to reduce the frequency of adverse risk events occurring (where possible), minimise the severity of their consequences if they do occur, or to consider whether risk can be transferred to other parties.

7.4 Due diligence - The Council recognises that the Capital Investment plans may increase in scale and ambition following the North Yorkshire re-organisation and therefore sophisticated and robust governance and assurance measures are in place to ensure delivery. To support this the Council has developed and continually refines a delivery assurance framework.

For capital investments the appropriate level of due diligence is undertaken with the extent and depth reflecting the level of additional risk being considered. Due diligence will cover a number of areas such as legal, treasury, accounting and technical implications and the process and procedures for this work will include:

- effective scrutiny of proposed capital investments by the relevant committee
- identification of the risk to both the capital invested and the returns
- understanding the extent and nature of any external underwriting of those risks

- the potential impact on the financial sustainability of the Council if those risks come to fruition
- understanding the powers under which the investment is made and changes to relevant laws and regulations factored into any capital bidding and programme monitoring processes
- identification of the assets being held for security against debt and any prior charges on those assets
- further independent and expert advice being sought where necessary

An assessment of risk is therefore built into every capital project and major risks recorded in the Corporate Risk Register to manage and monitor the Council's risk appetite.

7.5 **Risk appetite** - To manage risk effectively, the risks associated with each capital project need to be systematically identified, analysed, influenced and monitored. It is important to identify the appetite for risk by each scheme as well as for the capital programme as a whole.

7.6 **Indicators and limits** - In determining the Council's risk appetite in respect of non-treasury investments, for commercial or service purposes, including financial assets and property investments, indicators and limits can be used to establish the parameters of an acceptable level of risk of which can then be managed and monitored. This can focus on the impact of the downside risk so that the overall sustainability of the Council is considered.

The CIPFA Prudential Code, Treasury Management Code and the statutory investment guidance in England (issued by the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) requires indicators and limits to be set, along with risk assessments to be made in order to assist the management and monitoring of non-treasury investments on a regular basis. Non-treasury investment indicator included in this capital strategy is detailed below:

i) **Ratio of net income from non-treasury investments to net revenue stream**

This prudential indicator for affordability shows the extent to which the revenue budget is reliant on budgeted net income from non-treasury commercial and service investments and is an important monitoring tool in the capital strategy. The level of anticipated income is not deemed a risk to the financial sustainability of the Council.

	2021/22 Actual %	2022/23 Estimate %	2023/24 Estimate %	2024/25 Estimate %	2025/26 Estimate %
Net income from service investments to net revenue stream	0.58	0.90	0.87	0.84	0.81
Net income from commercial to net revenue stream	0.06	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.11
Net income from non-treasury investments to net revenue stream	0.64	1.02	0.99	0.95	0.92

8.0 GOVERNANCE

8.1 Consideration, approval and monitoring of the capital plan takes place as part of the Council's strategic planning timetable and is detailed below.

Capital budget setting process – Part of the Capital Strategy importantly notes that consideration is given to the capital budget setting process i.e. the approval of the Capital Plan. The Capital Plan sets out the Council's longer term capital investment plans. These plans support the Council's strategic and service objectives by maximising the assets and infrastructure necessary to support service delivery whilst minimising the impact on the revenue budget.

8.2 The Capital Plan must be approved by Council before the start of the financial year. The Council's Financial Procedure rules empower the Executive to modify the Capital Plan during the year by means of the Capital section of the quarterly performance monitoring reports or, if urgent changes are needed, ad hoc reports at other points in the reporting calendar.

8.3 The Council's Financial Procedure Rules and the Asset Management Planning Framework provide a framework for the preparation and appraisal of schemes proposed for inclusion in the Capital Plan, appropriate authorisations for individual schemes to proceed and facilitate the overall management of the Capital Plan within defined resource parameters.

8.4 The Corporate Director – Resources shall determine the format of the Capital Plan and the timing of reports relating to it. The approved Capital Plan will comprise a number of individual schemes each of which will be quantified in overall project terms or on an annualised basis, as appropriate. Each Director shall prepare a draft Capital Plan for their service, in consultation with the Corporate Director – Strategic Resources, for submission to the Executive. The Capital Plan should identify planned expenditure, and funding, at proposed individual scheme or programme level

8.5 This process is designed to ensure the capital schemes contribute to service delivery and where in some cases a return on the investment is generated, this can be financial and/or non-financial.

8.6 The Corporate Director – Resources is responsible for preparing an overall Capital Plan for consideration by the Executive, and approval by the Council, the funding of which shall be compatible at all times with the Treasury Management Policy Statement of the Council. Individual schemes shall only be included in the Capital Plan following a project appraisal process.

8.7 In Year Opportunities can be put forward for entry into the capital programme in a managed way either when the capital programme is reviewed each quarter and is reported to the Executive and Council or outside of this timetable as a separate Executive report to seek approval at any other meeting in the Executive cycle.

8.8 Other long-term liabilities – The Council's Financial Procedure Rules and the Asset Management Planning Framework provide a framework for the appraisal and approval of schemes including where this is delivered by means of PFI contracts or leasing arrangements. This framework includes the ongoing monitoring and risk management of

long-term liabilities taken to deliver operational services, these include PFI contracts, leasing agreements or arrangements that require financial guarantees, including those given in respect of subsidiaries or joint ventures. PFI contracts and lease obligations are like borrowing as they have an ongoing revenue budget commitment. These will be considered following due diligence over the life of the asset, comparing the financial and non-financial benefits and risks compared to the Council owning and delivering such assets and services itself.

8.9 Where the Council has issued financial guarantees, it will periodically reassess the probability of financial guarantees being called upon and include this in the risk management reporting with mitigating actions as appropriate.

9.0 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS – NON-TREASURY INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

9.1 Non-treasury investments can be considered where the primary purpose of the expenditure is for service delivery including projects for economic development / regeneration, but these investments do not always give priority to security and liquidity over yield (like treasury investment do) so appropriate governance is required.

9.2 Given the technical nature of potential non-treasury investments and strong linkages to the Council's Treasury Management function, appropriate governance and decision making arrangements are needed to ensure robust due diligence and scrutiny in order to make recommendations for implementation. As a result, a Commercial Investment Board has been established. All non-treasury investments will be subject to consideration and where necessary recommendations of the Commercial Investment Board.

9.3 The Commercial Investment Board is not a constituted body and therefore does not have formal decision making powers. However, it is the chief means of identifying, reviewing, providing scrutiny and recommending schemes for investment decisions. Formal decisions on investments will be taken within the existing delegations namely through delegated authority to the Corporate Director – Resources and further decisions as made by the Executive.

9.4 The responsibilities of the Board also include:

- to consider appropriate due diligence proportionate to the investment / risk / reward proposed
- terminate investments should concerns be raised - to consider and recommend cases for early termination of alternative investments
- to monitor returns against approved performance targets
- to report performance of alternative investments to the Executive on a quarterly basis; and
- to make recommendations to Executive on any proposed changes to the framework.

Membership of the Board is as follows:

- Lead Member for Finance (Chair)
- Lead Member for Growth
- Corporate Director Resources

- Corporate Director of Community Development
- Assistant Director Resources
- Assistant Director Economic Development, Regeneration, Tourism and Skills

- 9.5 All Executive reports will ensure that the Council has the appropriate legal powers to undertake such non-treasury investments and will also include the 'proportionality of non-treasury investments' so that the Council does not undertake a level of investing which exposes it to an excessive level of risk compared to its financial resources.
- 9.6 Monitoring of all investments will be included in the quarterly capital and treasury management monitoring reports which are received by the Executive.
- 9.7 The Corporate Director – Resources (S151 Officer) - will report explicitly on the affordability and risk associated with the Capital Strategy as detailed below and, where appropriate, will have access to specialist advice to enable conclusions to be reached.

10.0 SKILLS AND TRAINING

- 10.1 **Skills and training** - All capital investment approvals are subject to robust consideration and challenge by members and officers from across the Council with extensive Local Government experience from varying professional backgrounds.
- 10.2 The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. The Council requires finance staff to maintain relevant professional qualifications including CIPFA and AAT. All officers attend courses on an ongoing basis to keep abreast of new developments and skills to ensure their Continuous Professional Development. Members are also offered training regularly to ensure they have up to date skills and are able to make capital and treasury decisions.
- 10.3 Where Council staff do not have the specialist knowledge and skills required, use is made of external advisers and consultants that are experts in their field. The Council currently employs Link Group as treasury management advisers. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff whilst ensuring that the Council has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.

North Yorkshire Council Debt Recovery Policy

Contents

1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Aims	3
3.0	Scope	3
4.0	Principles.....	4
5.0	Debt Priority.....	5
6.0	Methods of payment	5
7.0	Support and advice	5
8.0	Protecting vulnerable customers.....	6
9.0	Credits on accounts	6
10.0	Equality and reasonable adjustments.....	6
11.0	Fraud and Evasion.....	7
12.0	Write-off and Write on	7
13.0	Deviation from the Process.....	7
14.0	Training	8
15.0	Performance Monitoring	8
16.0	Use of data.....	8
17.0	Review	8
	Annex A.....	9
	Council Tax Recovery	9
	Annex B	21
	Non Domestic Rating	21
	Annex C	30
	Housing Benefit Overpayment Recovery	30
	Annex D.....	41
	Housing Rent Collection and Arrears Recovery	41
	Annex E	53
	Sundry Debt Recovery.....	53

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the guiding principles which apply to our corporate debt collection and recovery in North Yorkshire Council.
- 1.2 It is important for us to collect money owed to us, as that money is used to fund key public services. The principles set out in this document will ensure that the Council does this consistently, efficiently, and effectively. This ensures the maximisation of revenue streams for the benefit of residents, businesses, and visitors to North Yorkshire.
- 1.3 The types of corporate debt this document is referring to are:
- Council Tax;
 - National non-domestic rates (business rates);
 - Housing benefit overpayments;
 - Housing rents; and
 - Sundry debts (commercial & domestic fees & charges).
- 1.4 Sums due to the Council can be a mixture of statutory and non-statutory charges. Where recovery of debts is required, in the case of Council Tax action may be taken via the Magistrates Court. In the case of Non-Domestic Rates via either the Magistrates Court or County Court and for all other debts action may be taken via the County Court.

2.0 Aims

- 2.1 The aims and aspirations of this document are to:
- Facilitate a coordinated approach to managing certain debts owed to the council
 - Enable teams to recover and collect outstanding monies effectively and efficiently
 - Establish a corporate debt priority order
 - Provide a set of principles which will provide clarity and consistency to our debt recovery policies

3.0 Scope

- 3.1 These guiding principles apply to the Council's corporate debt collection and recovery policies as shown in the below diagram:



- 3.2 This document has been written to provide customers and staff with clear guidance on the recovery principles which the Council will follow when pursuing debts.
- 3.3 There are specific rules, regulations and guidance which govern the recovery and collection of some debts. The Council will collect and recover these debts according to required legislation and regulation.

3.4 Should there be a conflict between regulation and any guiding principle, the regulation should be followed.

4.0 Principles

4.1 The policies should be underpinned by the following key principles:

Minimising debt:

4.2 The Council will aim to reduce the levels of arrears, bad debt provision and write offs. We will take a fair and effective approach, providing consistency in the way customers in debt are dealt with across the council, and support our customers to manage their priority debts. We will strive to take payments in advance where possible to remove the option of debt building.

Proactive approach:

4.3 The Council will ensure customers are made aware of their liabilities, be approachable, encourage customers to contact us at the earliest opportunity enabling officers to take into account customers' circumstances, their ability to pay and attempting to ensure financial hardship is not inflicted by having a realistic attitude to repayments. We will support customers to come to affordable payment agreements appropriate to their circumstances.

Preventative measures:

4.4 The Council will advise on any housing assistance or taxation discounts; reliefs and exemptions customers may be entitled to. We will assist with applications when appropriate and signpost customers to money advice, debt counselling and other support services available through our partners and in the voluntary sector, when additional assistance may be required.

4.5 In addition to the above, the Council will act in a way that is:

Proportionate – acting proportionately allows for a balance to be struck between the loss of income to the Council and the costs of compliance

Consistent – the Council will take a similar approach in similar circumstances to achieve similar ends. The Council will aim to achieve consistency in:

- The advice we give;
- The use of powers; and
- The recovery procedures we use.

Consistency does not mean simple uniformity. The Council recognises that two cases are unlikely to be exactly the same, and therefore, when considering your case, our officers will take account of many variables, such as:

- Your social circumstances;
- Your payment history; and
- Your ability to pay.

Transparent – the Council believes that transparency is important in maintaining public confidence. It means helping you understand what is expected of you, and what you can expect from us. It also means clearly explaining the reasons for taking any recovery action.

When taking action against you we will:

- Clearly state the reasons why we are taking action;

- Clearly state timelines;
- Give a distinction between advice and legal requirements; and
- Ensure our invoices are as clear as possible.

4.6 Additionally, our intention will be to be firm and fair, and our manner will be courteous.

5.0 Debt Priority

5.1 The Council will use the following as a guide to determine which debts are our priority to recover and collect.

5.2 It is not the size of a debt that denotes it as a priority, but the result of the action e.g., rent arrears resulting in loss of home. The Council will prioritise (i.e., apply payments to) debts in the order as shown in the table below:

Domestic	Commercial
1. Rent	1. National Non Domestic Rates
2. Council Tax	
3. Housing Benefit Overpayments	2. Sundry Debts (commercial charges)
4. Sundry Debts (domestic charges)	

6.0 Methods of payment

6.1 The Council's preferred method of payment for most debts is Direct Debit. However, this does not prohibit accepting payment by other methods. Apart from Direct Debit, the Council accepts a variety of payment types as appropriate to the debt type and size. Details of which are available on the Council's website.

7.0 Support and advice

7.1 The Council wants to help you with your debts. Subject to your circumstances we will work with you in the following ways:

Arrangements

- We will make arrangements with you, whether you are an individual or a business, at **any** stage during the collection process. However, we encourage you to make contact with us as soon as you begin experiencing difficulties paying;
- Any arrangement we make with you will be tailored to your individual or the business' circumstances and the need to clear debts in a reasonable period of time having regard to current and future liabilities;
- We will take into account your individual or the business' income and essential expenditure when determining any arrangement. Our aim is to achieve mutually acceptable payment arrangements; and
- If you are unable to settle your debt(s) in full we will endeavour to make payment arrangements. However, this may involve legal action being taken against you where appropriate.

Signposting

- The Council will also make every effort to advise you of your right to apply for benefits assistance, including pro-active take up campaigns as appropriate. We encourage customers to use our online benefit calculator to check if they would be eligible for any support;
- We will also advise individuals and businesses of the range of other discounts, reliefs, and reductions available at the time an account is issued and also in subsequent communications.
- During both face-to-face contact and telephone communications, we will direct customers as to where they can obtain further specialist advice on benefits and debt matters appropriate to their needs. On-line signposting will also be available to the tools available on other agencies websites, such as budget planners and checks for eligibility to other welfare benefits;
- Where appropriate we will work with other agencies to assist customers who are receiving help and liaise with them on a local level to solve issues and answer queries; and
- We will keep up to date with, and where possible, sign up to current best practice.

8.0 Protecting vulnerable customers

8.1 For the purpose of this policy, the key factor in determining whether an individual should be regarded as vulnerable will be that the circumstances which give rise to the concern that they are vulnerable affects their ability to deal with their financial affairs. The Council acknowledges that vulnerability can be permanent, transient, or progressive.

8.2 Where an individual is considered vulnerable, the Council will give consideration to:

- Allowing longer to pay;
- Postponing recovery action;
- Assisting the person to claim benefits, discounts or other entitlements including maximising their income through grants, assistance funds and the like;
- Referring the person to sources of 'free to customer' registered, independent advice;
- Providing information in an accessible format;
- A temporary payment arrangement with a lower repayment than would normally be agreed; or
- Other action as appropriate to avoid the vulnerable person being at a disadvantage as compared to a non-vulnerable person.

8.3 It is important to note that being vulnerable does not mean that the person will not be required to pay the debt owed.

9.0 Credits on accounts

9.1 Where appropriate internal checks against all outstanding debts will be undertaken to ensure no other debt is owed to the Council for any other goods or services provided.

10.0 Equality and reasonable adjustments

10.1 The Council is committed to ensuring that all our services are available to all service users in line with the principles of equality and fairness and that all service users are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. Our aim is to make our debt recovery policies easy to use and accessible for everyone.

10.2 The Council will take steps to make any reasonable adjustments needed to access the policies, or any requests to provide responses in other formats.

10.3 We are committed to achieving our Public Sector Equality Duty, as set out in the Equality Act 2010, and we recognise that there will be occasions where a reasonable adjustment is needed to adapt normal policies, procedures, or processes to accommodate an individual's needs so that all customers can access services without barriers.

10.3 The Council will take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people. It is not possible to set out all these adjustments in writing; however, we have published information on our activities to demonstrate our compliance with our Public Sector Equality Duty.

10.4 The Council can also offer or help you access support to assist you to understand a decision or response.

11.0 Fraud and Evasion

11.1 Unlawful evasion or fraud to avoid payment is not tolerated and the Council may seek further penalties or sanctions where available by law. This will be considered on a case by case basis.

11.2 The unlawful evasion of payment reduces the financial resources available to us and has a direct impact on all residents, businesses and other organisations that rely on our services. Where evasion of payment is identified, we will take appropriate and proportionate action to recover the debt.

11.3 Where activity impacts upon other public bodies, such as the Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenues & Customs and other authorities, the Council will work with those organisations to seek legal remedy.

12.0 Write-off and Write on

12.1 The Council recognises that a small proportion of overall debt may not be collectable due to matters beyond its control and accordingly where a debt is assessed to be irrecoverable it will be considered for write-off. However, the Council will seek to minimise the cost of write-offs by taking all appropriate action to recover what is due.

12.2 Furthermore, if a debt is written off but circumstances change such debts will be considered for write-on and pursued to the full extent of the law. An example of when this may occur is if a debtor absconds with no forwarding address but is subsequently traced. A further example would be in insolvency cases where an individual/company goes bankrupt or is made insolvent, partial/full dividend(s) can be received many years later.

12.3 Each case for write-off and write-on will be considered on their individual circumstances.

13.0 Deviation from the Process

13.1 There are times/situations when our standard debt recovery process cannot be followed. In these circumstances alternative debt recovery actions are taken depending on the debt/debtor.

13.2 There is no official approval mechanism for this type of deviation from the standard debt recovery process.

13.3 If a person is in 'Breathing Space' then the Council will follow legislation.

13.4 Deviation from any recovery process should not deviate from legislative regulations.

14.0 Training

14.1 The Council is committed to training staff with the necessary skills to deliver this policy.

14.2 The Council will seek to adopt or incorporate any programme of training that reflects any nationally approved debt recovery pre-action protocol or recognised best practice protocols, particularly in relation to the application of fairness and the recognition of vulnerability and hardship.

15.0 Performance Monitoring

15.1 To ensure that our debt policies are as efficient and effective as they should be it is important that suitable key performance indicators are reported against and monitored.

15.2 Performance indicators should be published annually as a minimum, but more frequent and consistent monitoring is recommended.

16.0 Use of data

16.1 The Council will collect and store personal data for the purposes of the effective billing, collection, and recovery of sums due. Data retained for this purpose will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and stored securely at all times.

16.2 The Council is fully committed to supporting the use of data matching to identify potential fraud and error. Data will be shared with agents or contractors appointed by the Council for the purposes of the billing, collection, and recovery of sums due where permitted. Data may also be shared within the Council or with external organisations where the law allows and, in particular where it is in the interests of the customer or where it will prevent fraud or the evasion of sums due for payment. Further details including privacy statements can be found on the Council's website.

17.0 Review

17.1 Policies to which these guidelines apply should be monitored and regularly reviewed and updated where necessary to take account of changes in legislation and best practice. Full reviews of the policies should be scheduled for 3 years from their introduction.

Annex A

Council Tax Recovery

Introduction and general overview of the recovery process.

- A.1 Council tax is a tax levied on all chargeable dwellings. The amount levied is dependent on the Council Tax band that the property falls into and the total amount of tax to be raised as determined through the Council's annual budget setting process.
- A.2 The full rate of tax is liable to be paid unless the property, liable person is eligible for a reduction, discount, disregard, relief, or exemption.
- A.3 Council tax is payable in line with a statutory instalment scheme or by agreement with the Council. There is a legal duty placed on the Council and its officers to collect outstanding debts in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) together with secondary legislation primarily, the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992. This legislation, together with relevant litigation (case law) details the enforcement action that can be taken to recover the Council Tax.
- A.4 All liable persons receive a Council Tax demand notice detailing the instalments by which to pay. Where payment is not received as requested, statute requires the Council to issue a reminder and/or final notice. If the taxpayer continues to default, a summons requesting their appearance at a local Magistrates Court, is issued.
- A.5 At that hearing, where the taxpayer offers no valid defence, the magistrates will issue a liability order which enables the Council to take various methods of recovery action to collect the debt. These include attachment to earnings; attachment to Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit or Universal Credit; the use of enforcement agents; attachment of Council Members allowances; bankruptcy; the securing of a charging order through the County Court or, as a last result, committal to prison.
- A.6 Discretion as to the particular recovery remedy to use to collect the tax can be made once a liability order has been obtained. When considering which method of recovery to use to pursue a debt, the Council will take the taxpayer's individual's personal and financial circumstances, where known, into account and apply the most appropriate recovery remedy.

Statutory instalments and payment dates

- A.7 In line with legislation, the Council will enable all taxpayers to pay by statutory instalments. Taxpayers will be offered ten monthly instalments per year as a default although they may opt to pay over a twelve month period if required.
- A.8 Where a taxpayer becomes liable for the tax during any year, the Council will provide a reduced number of instalments in line with the legislative requirements. Where a demand is issued on or after 1st January of any year but before the end of that financial year (31st March), there is no statutory obligation to provide the taxpayer with instalments, although the Council may, at its discretion make alternative arrangements with the taxpayer.
- A.9 Statutory instalments are not available for any debts in respect of previous financial years, although again, the Council will consider any reasonable request from the taxpayer for additional time to pay.

A.10 A minimum of 14 days will be allowed between the issue of the demand notice and the first instalment date. The Council offers a variety of dates for payment. Details can be found on the Council's website.

Reminder Notices and Final Notices

A.11 The legislation covering the recovery of Council Tax requires the Council to issue either a reminder notice and / or a final notice prior to taking action through the Magistrates Courts. If a taxpayer has the right to pay by instalments but does not make payment by the due date, the Council will issue a reminder notice. There is no statutory timescale from the date of the instalment becoming due and when a reminder can be issued.

A.12 The reminder notice will request that the taxpayer pay any missing instalment (together with any instalment falling due within the period of the notice) within seven days of the date of issue of the reminder.

A.13 If the missed instalment(s) is received within the seven days stated, the Council will not take any further action. If it is not paid then the right to pay by instalments is lost and the remaining Council Tax liability (for the full year) becomes due and payable. A further seven days is allowed for the full liability to be paid.

A.14 If payment is not made in accordance with the reminder notice, then a summons may be issued for the taxpayer to appear before the Magistrate's Court to determine whether a liability order should be issued which may allow the Council to take further action.

A.15 If the outstanding instalments are paid within the seven day period, but a further default on instalments occurs later in the year, the Council will issue send a second reminder notice. Again, if the missed instalment(s) is received within seven days of that notice, no further action will be taken. If payment is not paid, then the right to pay by instalments is lost and any remaining Council Tax liability for the year becomes due.

A.16 As with any further default, if payment is not made, then a summons may be issued for the taxpayer to appear before the Magistrate's Court to determine whether a liability order should be issued which will allow the Council to take further action.

A.17 In effect the reminder notice is a fourteen day notice. The first seven days allows for any outstanding instalments to be paid and where the taxpayer fails to comply with that request, the full years liability becomes due and action can be taken to pursue the debt through the Magistrate's Court after a further seven days.

A.18 If a taxpayer defaults for a third time in any year, the right to pay by instalments is lost automatically and a final notice will be issued by the Council.

A.19 A final notice is different to a reminder notice in that it demands any remaining Council Tax liability to be paid and allows just 7 days, after which the Council can pursue the debt through the Magistrate's Court.

A.20 Taxpayers are encouraged to contact the Council at their earlier convenience where it is anticipated that they will default on payment. As mentioned within this policy, the Council is keen to minimise

the level of debt due and maximise the income of taxpayers wherever possible. Details of 'free to customer' registered debt advice are available on the Council's website.

A.21 Reminders and Final Notices can be legally issued by a variety of methods including post and by electronic means. The Council will look to use the most appropriate method given the taxpayer's circumstances and preferences.

The issue of Summonses and Magistrate's Court

A.22 All Council Tax is recovered using the Magistrate's Court. Where taxpayers fail to respond to any reminder notice or final notice or defaults on an arrangement to pay, the Council may apply to the Magistrates' Court for a liability order to be issued.

A.23 Court proceedings are instigated by the issue of a 'complaint' by the Council to the local Magistrate's Court and a request that a summons will be issued to all taxpayers who have failed to pay the amounts due to establish the reasons for the default and answer why a liability order should not be granted to the Council.

A.24 Once the Court has authorised the Council that a summons can be issued, the taxpayer will be required to appear at a liability order hearing at the Magistrates' Court. It is at this stage that the Council will add summons costs to the Council Tax account.

A.25 A summons will always be served at least 14 days before any court hearing date. The summons will state the amount due and the time and place of the court hearing. The summons will normally be served post but can, at the discretion of the Council, be served by other methods.

A.26 A summons may be issued to a single taxpayer or to two or more taxpayers if they are jointly and severally liable for a debt.

A.27 For information, the summons may state:

- The reason for its issue i.e., the non-payment of Council Tax;
- The liable taxpayer(s);
- The address, last known address, or registered office of the taxpayer;
- The address to which the debt refers;
- The amount of Council Tax outstanding together with any costs incurred for the issue of the summons; and
- The date and time of the hearing

A.28 If the amount due, plus costs are paid prior to the date of the hearing, the Council will not proceed to obtain a liability order. If taxpayer(s) are not able to pay in full prior to the hearing the Council will continue to proceed with the application for a liability order.

A.29 Any time after a summons is issued the Council will still consider making an arrangement to pay the amount due on the summons including costs. If an arrangement is made at this stage, a liability order will still be obtained to secure the debt. However, if payments are received as per the arrangement no further action will be taken.

A.30 A summons together with the associated costs will be withdrawn if it can be shown that the summons was issued in error.

Liability order hearings

A.31 A taxpayer has a right to attend a hearing and a right to give evidence as to why a liability order should not be granted. If they do not attend, the hearing will still proceed in their absence. If the Magistrates are satisfied that the council tax is payable and remains unpaid, then they are required to issue a liability order. If a taxpayer wishes to defend an application for a liability order, they must offer a valid defence against it.

A.32 At the hearing an authorised officer of the Council will make an application to the Court for the liability orders listed. The Magistrates will hear the defence of any persons wishing to prevent the issue of the liability order. Valid defences include (but are not limited to) :

- the Council has not demanded the Council Tax in accordance with statute;
- the amount has been paid in full together with any associated costs; or
- is subject to a bankruptcy order or winding up order and the Council Tax debt should be included in the insolvency proceedings.

A.33 It should be noted that it is **not a valid defence** if the taxpayer:

- is unable to pay;
- has recently applied for council tax reduction;
- is disputing the liability (this is a matter for the independent Valuation Tribunal);
- has applied to the Valuation Office Agency against their Council Tax band;
- is disputing whether a discount or exemption should be granted (this is a matter for the independent Valuation Tribunal).

A.34 Obtaining a liability order usually incurs further costs

A.35 A liability order may be made against one or more joint taxpayers in respect of an amount for which they are jointly and severally liable. Recovery procedures for the full sum owed may be applied to one or more than one of the joint taxpayers.

Costs

A.36 Any summons and liability order costs incurred will be added to a taxpayer's account and will be included as part of their debt. Costs reflect both the reasonable administrative cost incurred by the Council and any court fee. Therefore, costs will only be removed from an account in exceptional circumstances including, for example, where a summons or liability order was incorrectly issued.

A.37 Summons and liability order costs are reviewed annually.

Post liability order methods of recovery

A.38 Once a Liability Order has been obtained, the Council may take the following enforcement actions:

- Request for information;
- Attachment of Earnings Order;
- Deduction from prescribed Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Benefits;
- Attachment of Council Members Allowances;
- Enforcement Agent;

- Charging Orders (including orders for sale);
- Insolvency (Bankruptcy of an individual(s) or Liquidation of a company); or
- Committal to Prison

A.39 The Council can, and will, attempt to contact the customer at all stages of recovery action by any method appropriate including by letter, text, email or by telephone. Where possible payment arrangements will be made with the taxpayer to ensure that the debt is paid and also to establish the circumstances of the individual or business

Information Request Letter

A.40 Once a liability order has been obtained, taxpayers may be sent a letter by the Council requesting details of their employment and income. It will be explained that it is a statutory requirement under section 36 of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 for them to complete and return the questionnaire.

A.41 Where issued, this notice can help to determine the next course of action to be taken to recover the sum due. The information that can be statutorily requested is as follows:

- The name and address of their employer;
- The amount earned;
- Amounts deducted for income tax, NI, and superannuation;
- Any payroll or works number;
- Whether any other attachment order(s) is in place;
- Any other sources of income; and
- Whether the person is jointly and severally liable for the debt.

A.42 It is an offence to not provide this information to the Council within 14 days without reasonable excuse or to knowingly provide false information. This could result in a fine of up to £500. If the taxpayer knowingly supply false information, they could be liable for a fine of up to £1,000.

Attachment of earnings

A.43 Where a taxpayer is employed, an Attachment of Earnings Order may be issued. The order once served will remain in force until the balance is clear or the Council withdraws it. The content of the order is prescribed as follows:

- It must be addressed to the taxpayer's employer;
- It must specify the sum outstanding;
- It must include details of the deduction prescribed by regulations

A.44 The amount is deducted in accordance with the tables contained in the regulations which provides percentages to be applied to net earnings after income tax, National Insurance, pension contributions, deductions for advances of salary and any other Council Tax attachment or earnings deductions. Attachable pay includes wages, salary, overtime, holiday pay, other fees, bonus, commission, or Statutory Sick Pay. The regulations allow for two deductions to be made at any time.

A.45 The service of the attachment of earnings order imposes certain duties on the employer and the taxpayer. The employer must:

- Notify the Council of the employment of a person who they know is subject to attachment within 14 days of receipt of the order;
- Notify the Council within 14 days of the employee leaving the employment;

- Notify the taxpayer of the amount of the deductions; and
- Allows the employer to make an administration fee, in addition to the deduction of £1 per deduction.

A.46 The taxpayer is also under a legal duty to:

- Notify the Council within 14 days of a change in their employment and provide details of their new employer including an employee number (if any); and
- Notify the Council of a change in their earnings or deductions;

A.47 Fines may be imposed for non-compliance with the regulations and both the employer and employee may be subject to the following fines:

The employer may be fined for:

- Failure to comply with an order;
- Supply of false information; or
- Failure to give all notifications required.

The employee may be fined for:

- Supply of false information; or
- Failure to supply information.

A.48 When the taxpayer is employed by the Crown, the Chief Officer, of the department in which the taxpayer is employed shall be treated as the employer. Although the pay of those in the armed services is specifically exempted from the definition of earnings, where the taxpayer is employed by the armed forces, they may make a deduction on request of the Council.

A.49 The Council may serve attachment of earnings orders on itself as an employer of a taxpayer and make deductions accordingly

A.50 Where there are taxpayers who are joint and severally liable, the Council may consider applying attachments to either or both taxpayers.

A.51 Once applied, an attachment to earnings will only be withdrawn in **exceptional** circumstances.

Attachment to Members Allowances

A.52 Where the taxpayer is also a member of Council, attempts may be made to secure payment of the Council Tax by attachment to his/her member's allowance. This will be undertaken following consultation with the S151 Officer. The attachment operates by deducting 40% of any members allowance payable.

A.53 Where any Council member is more than two months in arrears with their Council Tax, under S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, they will be required to declare such in any meeting which relates to finance or Council Tax in general. Failure to do so will result in sanctions.

Deduction from prescribed DWP benefits

A.54 Deductions can be made from Universal Credit, Job Seekers Allowance, Pension Credit, Income Support and Employment Support Allowance for any unpaid Council Tax.

- A.55 If a taxpayer is receiving one of these benefits, the Council may ask the Department for Work and Pensions to make regular deductions from the benefit and make payments to the Council. Only one deduction can be applied at any one time and the taxpayer must be entitled to the relevant benefit.
- A.56 The Council will usually take this action where it has details of the taxpayer's benefit and where it is reasonable to do so. Deduction requests will be decided on a case by case basis, considering the total amount of debt and time it will take to clear the debt. If a deduction will not clear the debt in a reasonable time or if it is otherwise considered inappropriate, then the Council will consider another recovery action.
- A.57 Any decision to deduct or the amount of any deduction is a matter for the Department for Work and Pensions and any appeal against a deduction must be made directly to them. The level of deduction is not a matter for the Council to decide.
- A.58 A cancellation of any deduction from benefits will only be made by the Council in **exceptional** circumstances.

Enforcement Agents

- A.59 The Council employs both internal and external enforcement agents. Both will be used as a method of recovery in order to obtain payment of any outstanding Council Tax.
- A.60 The use of enforcement agents is normally considered as a last resort for the collection of arrears. An assessment of each taxpayer's situation, where known, will be undertaken to ascertain whether enforcement agent action is appropriate in each individual case. If at any time it is established that the taxpayer may be considered vulnerable, the Council will look to use using alternative methods of collection.
- A.61 All enforcement agents employed or engaged by the Council are fully trained and are able to:
- Identify and recognise signs of vulnerability in the taxpayer or their dependents so that taxpayers who are at risk of detriment or disadvantage can be offered a fair and good quality service which can be adapted to suit their particular needs and abilities;
 - Ensure that information required by all taxpayers and other service users is available in accessible formats; and
 - Conduct business in language (whether written or spoken) which is plain and easily intelligible and adapted to the needs of customer and other service users.
- A.62 All actions undertaken by any enforcement agent employed or engaged by the Council are covered the Tribunal Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, the Taking Control of Goods Regulations 2013, and the Taking Control of Goods (Fees) Regulations 2014.
- A.63 Enforcement agents must comply with this policy at all times whilst carrying out their duties. All enforcement agents must carry:
- Photo identification (ID) from the enforcement agent company or the Council (as appropriate)
This must be shown to all persons at first contact and on each subsequent visit;
 - Written authorisation to act on behalf of the Council. This must be produced on request.

Enforcement Stages and fees

A.64 The legislation sets down various stages which must be adhered to and through which any enforcement action will be taken. These are summarised below:

Stage 1: Compliance Stage - Fee: £75

A.65 When an enforcement agent receives an instruction from the Council, the case will enter the compliance stage. During this stage the agent will attempt to contact the taxpayer by any method other than by visit. A £75 fee is payable for each liability order.

A.66 Prior to making any visit the agent will issue a Notice of Enforcement. The service of the Notice of Enforcement, which gives a minimum period of 7 days prior to any actual visit, places the case into the enforcement stage.

Stage 2: Enforcement Stage - Fee: £235.00 (plus 7.5% of the value of the debt that exceeds £1,500)

A.67 If during the compliance stage, full payment or a payment arrangement is not made or if a previous payment arrangement is broken, the case will progress to the 'enforcement stage'. As a consequence, an individual enforcement agent will make a personal visit to the taxpayer's property. The purpose of the visit would be to 'take control' of goods. The enforcement fee of £235 becomes payable when the agent attends your property. It will not be charged before a visit takes place.

A.68 If the enforcement agent is enforcing more than one Liability Order only charge one enforcement stage fee will be made.

Stage 3: Sale Stage - Fee: £110.00 (plus 7.5% of the value of the debt that exceeds £1,500.00).

A.69 This fee can be charged when an agent actually attends the taxpayer's property and make **preparations** for the sale of goods. If goods are actually removed, additional disbursements may be charged. The most significant disbursement being storage fees.

Enforcement Agent Code of Conduct

A.70 The Council will require all enforcement agents to abide by an agreed code of conduct and adopt best practice. The enforcement agent must introduce themselves to taxpayer and state that they are acting on behalf of the Council.

Further recovery actions

A.71 Where the actions above have been unsuccessful in recovering all of the debt owed or when they are considered inappropriate, the Council may consider further recovery actions. These include:

- charging orders;
- bankruptcy or liquidation in the case of a limited company; or
- committal to prison (for individuals).

A.72 These actions may have serious consequences for the taxpayer. They will therefore always be considered on a case by case basis, taking individual circumstances into account.

A.73 Other legal actions outside of this procedure may also be considered where appropriate.

Factors to take into consideration

A.74 When making a decision to proceed with a further recovery action, the Council will always investigate the circumstances of the taxpayer and then consider the:

- implications for overall payment levels if people come to believe that council tax debts will not be collected;
- impact of non-payment on Council income and the need to deliver services to the community;
- equality between those who do pay and those who don't;
- why other recovery methods are not appropriate;
- whether action is likely to be effective;
- the potential debt that may be recovered by the action and whether the likely costs of the action are proportionate to it;
- whether the taxpayer's failure to pay may result from a vulnerability and, if so, what action is appropriate as a result;
- potential effect of the action on any known dependants, especially children;
- need to prevent homelessness and whether the action may cause it; and
- any other circumstances which may warrant protection from the consequences of the action.

A.75 An investigation into a taxpayer's circumstances may include:

- an attempt to contact the taxpayer in person, including a home visit if necessary;
- data about the taxpayer shared by other areas of the Council including but not limited to Council Tax Reduction and Electoral Registration
- data about the taxpayer shared by other public bodies as permitted by data protection.

A.76 The Council will maintain a written record of the above together with:

- details of attempts to contact the taxpayer;
- the information gathered, consideration of whether the action is proportionate to the likely debt to be recovered and the reasons for proceeding with the action.

Bankruptcy (or Liquidation if the taxpayer is a Ltd Company)

A.77 Where the taxpayer is an individual the Council can apply to the County Court or High Court for them to be made bankrupt if they have liability orders totalling more than £5,000.00. For liquidation the debt must be at least £750.

A.78 Before taking this action, the Council will therefore make reasonable attempts to investigate the taxpayer's personal and financial circumstances to determine whether bankruptcy (or liquidation) action is appropriate.

A.79 The Council is more likely to pursue this action where:

- (a) the taxpayer has previously broken agreed payment arrangements; or
- (b) from the information the Council holds they appear to likely have sufficient realisable assets to pay the debt and likely costs;
- (a) the likely costs are proportionate to the debt to be recovered;
- (b) the taxpayer and members of their household are not vulnerable; and
- (c) all other enforcement remedies have been exhausted.

A.80 While the Council considers potential vulnerability at all stages of recovery particular regard to these will be made when considering bankruptcy action.

- A.81 Once a decision is made to make a taxpayer bankrupt or wind up the taxpayer in the case of a limited company, the account will be referred to the Council's legal provider for action.
- A.82 A statutory demand will first be served on the taxpayer setting out the debt outstanding, and the options available to them to prevent further action, the time scales in which they need to respond and direct contact details of officers dealing with the case. A guide to the potential bankruptcy or liquidation costs is included with the statutory demand. No additional costs are incurred at this stage, and the Council may still agree a payment arrangement with the taxpayer at this stage.
- A.83 Where the taxpayer has not responded to the statutory demand within 21 days or where the Council is unable to agree arrangements that will discharge the debt, the Council will consider whether a petition for the taxpayer to be made bankrupt (winding up for a limited company) should be made to a court.
- A.84 Where a bankruptcy or winding up order is made; the Official Receiver will act as the initial Trustee in Bankruptcy or Liquidator. The matter will then be passed to a final Trustee in Bankruptcy or Liquidator if the taxpayer has assets that might be sold to settle a debt.

Charging orders

- A.85 Under the regulations, the Council may apply to the County Court or High Court for a charge to be put on a property owned by the taxpayer where a council tax debt of more than £1,000.00 is owed.
- A.86 Where a decision is made to proceed with an application for a charging order, the account will be referred to the legal provider. After referral, the legal provider will attempt to contact the taxpayer again to try and settle the matter without the need for legal proceedings. They will then commence legal proceedings if no agreement is reached.
- A.87 The costs associated with this will be added to the amount of the order.
- A.88 In certain circumstances, the Council may also apply to the court for an order for sale, which may result in the property being sold and the amount subject to the charging order, including costs, being paid from the proceeds of sale.

Committal proceedings

- A.89 If enforcement agents have been unable to find any or sufficient goods to pay the debt or have been unable to gain entry to the taxpayer's premises, the Council can apply to the Magistrates' Court to have the taxpayer committed to prison for a maximum of three months. Committal proceedings are usually a recovery action of last resort when all other actions have either failed or are not appropriate.
- A.90 The Council is more likely to take committal action against a taxpayer when:
- enforcement agents have not been able to recover all of the debt;
 - the taxpayer has previously broken agreed payment arrangements;
 - the taxpayer has failed to provide employment or benefit details;
 - the taxpayer is not considered vulnerable;
 - it appears that the failure to pay may be the result of wilful refusal or culpable neglect; and
 - no other recovery action is appropriate.

A.91 Where the Taxpayer fails to respond or where an agreement is not reached, the Council will then apply for a summons for the taxpayer to appear at a hearing before the Magistrate's court.

A.92 At the hearing the Magistrates will conduct a means enquiry to determine whether the failure to pay the council tax concerned was due to 'wilful refusal' or 'culpable neglect'. The Magistrates may make the following decisions:

Commit to prison:

- The Magistrates can decide to send the taxpayer to prison for up to three months where wilful refusal or culpable neglect is proven;

Fix a term of imprisonment and postpone on conditions:

- The taxpayer in this case is normally ordered to pay an arrangement as determined by the Magistrates. If payments are made as ordered then no further action is taken. If payments are missed, then the prison sentence will come into force and the taxpayer can be sent to prison for up to three months.

Adjourn:

- A hearing may be postponed to a later date if, for example, more information or evidence is needed before a decision can be made.

Dismiss (take no action):

- The Magistrates may decide that no further action is appropriate.

Remit some or all of the debt:

- The Magistrates may remit (write off) part or all of the Council Tax owed where there is an inability to pay determined as part of the means inquiry.

A.93 Where the taxpayer does not attend the committal hearing as required, the Council will ask for a warrant of arrest with bail to be issued for a further hearing at the Magistrate's court. A warrant of arrest without bail may be applied for in some circumstances, for example where a taxpayer has previously not complied with a warrant with bail.

A.94 It should be noted that if a term of imprisonment is served, the Council Tax remains outstanding but the recovery remedies for it will have been exhausted. A part payment will also reduce the term of imprisonment by the ratio of payment to the total amount of the debt.

A.95 The costs of any committal proceedings will be added to the existing Council Tax debt.

Annex B

Non Domestic Rating

Introduction and general overview of the recovery process.

- B.1 Non-domestic rates are a tax levied on hereditaments (business assessments). The amount charged is dependent on the rateable value of the property and the nationally determined non-domestic rating multiplier.
- B.2 Rates are payable for both occupied and unoccupied hereditaments and the full rate of tax is payable unless the hereditament, rateable occupier or owner is eligible for a reduction, relief, or exemption.
- B.3 Non Domestic Rates are payable in line with a statutory instalment scheme or by agreement with the Council. There is a legal duty placed on the Council and its officers to collect outstanding debts in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended) together with secondary legislation primarily, the Non Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) Regulations 1989. This legislation, together with relevant litigation (case law) details the enforcement action that can be taken to recover the Non Domestic Rate.
- B.4 All ratepayers receive a demand notice detailing the instalments by which to pay. Where payment is not received as requested, statute requires the Council to issue a reminder (second notice) and/or final notice. If the ratepayer continues to default, a summons requesting their appearance at a local Magistrates Court, is issued.
- B.5 At that hearing, where the ratepayer offers no valid defence, the magistrates will issue a liability order which enables the Council to take various methods of recovery action to collect the debt. These include the use of enforcement agents; bankruptcy or liquidation for a limited company; or, in the case of an individual, committal to prison.
- B.6 Non Domestic Rates can be recovered through the County Court provided no action has been taken through the Magistrates Court (by a liability order being obtained). The Council may consider using the County Court process where it is of the opinion that the action would be more appropriate. The process through the Magistrates Court has no effect on the credit rating of the ratepayer, obtaining a County Court judgement will have a detrimental effect on the ratepayer's ability to obtain credit.

Statutory instalments and payment dates

- B.7 In line with legislation, the Council will enable all ratepayers to pay by statutory instalments. Taxpayers will be offered 10 monthly instalments per year as a default although they may opt to pay over a twelve month period if required.
- B.8 Where a ratepayer becomes liable for the rate during any year, the Council will provide a reduced number of instalments in line with the legislative requirements. Where a demand is issued on or after 1st January of any year but before the end of that financial year (31st March), there is no statutory obligation to provide the ratepayer with instalments, although the Council may, at its discretion make alternative arrangements with the ratepayer.
- B.9 Statutory instalments are not available for any debts in respect of previous financial years, although again, the Council will consider any reasonable request from the ratepayer for additional time to pay.

B.10 A minimum of 14 days will be allowed between the issue of the demand notice and the first instalment date. The Council offers a variety of payment dates, details of which can be found on the Council's website.

Reminder Notices (Second Notices) and Final Notices

B.11 The legislation covering the recovery of Non-Domestic Rates requires the Council to issue either a reminder notice (second notice) and / or a final notice prior to taking action through the Magistrates Courts. If a ratepayer has the right to pay by instalments but does not make payment by the due date, the Council will issue a reminder notice. There is no statutory timescale from the date of the instalment becoming due and when a reminder can be issued. The reminder notice will request that the ratepayer pay any missing instalment (together with any instalment falling due within the period of the notice) within seven days of the date of issue of the reminder.

B.12 If the missed instalment (s) is received within the seven days stated, the Council will not take any further action. If it is not paid then the right to pay by instalments is lost and the remaining Non-Domestic Rates liability (for the full year) becomes due and payable. A further seven days is allowed for the full liability to be paid.

B.13 If payment is not made in accordance with the reminder notice, then a summons will be issued for the ratepayer to appear before the Magistrate's Court to determine whether a liability order should be issued which will allow the Council to take further action. If the outstanding instalments are paid within the seven day period, but a further default on instalments occurs later in the year, then the right to pay by instalments is lost and any remaining Non-Domestic Rates liability for the year becomes due.

B.14 As with any further default, if payment is not made, then a summons may be issued for the ratepayer to appear before the Magistrate's Court to determine whether a liability order should be issued which will allow the Council to take further action.

B.15 In effect the reminder notice is a fourteen day notice. The first seven days allows for any outstanding instalments to be paid and where the ratepayer fails to comply with that request, the full years liability becomes due and action can be taken to pursue the debt through the Magistrate's Court after a further seven days.

B.16 A final notice is different to a reminder notice in that it demands any remaining Non-Domestic Rates liability to be paid and allows just 7 days, after which the Council can pursue the debt through the Magistrate's Court.

B.17 Ratepayers should contact the Council as soon as possible where it is anticipated that they will default on payment. As mentioned within this policy, the Council is keen to minimise the level of debt due and maximise the income of ratepayers wherever possible. Details of 'free to customer' registered debt advice are available on the Council's website.

B.18 Reminders and Final Notices can be legally issued by a variety of methods including post and by electronic means. The Council will look to use the most appropriate method given the ratepayer's circumstances and preferences.

The issue of Summonses and Magistrate's Court

- B.19 Non-Domestic Rates is usually recovered using the Magistrate's Court although the Council reserves the right to take action through the County Court where it feels the action is more appropriate.
- B.20 Where ratepayers fail to respond to any reminder notice or final notice or defaults on an arrangement to pay, the Council may apply to the Magistrates' Court for a liability order to be issued.
- B.21 Court proceedings are instigated by the issue of a 'complaint' by the Council to the local Magistrate's Court and a request that a summons will be issued to all ratepayers who have failed to pay the amounts due to establish the reasons for the default and answer why a liability order should not be granted to the Council. Once the Court has authorised the Council that a summons can be issued, the ratepayer will be required to appear at a liability order hearing at the Magistrates' Court. It is at this stage that the Council will add costs to the Non-Domestic Rates account.
- B.22 A summons will always be served at least 14 days before any court hearing date. The summons will state the amount due and the time and place of the court hearing. The summons will normally be served post but can, at the discretion of the Council be served by other methods.
- B.23 A summons may be issued to a single ratepayer or to two or more ratepayers if they are jointly and severally liable for a debt.
- B.24 For information, the summons will state:
- The reason for its issue i.e., the non-payment of Non-Domestic Rates;
 - The liable ratepayer(s);
 - The address, last known address, or registered office of the ratepayer;
 - The address to which the debt refers;
 - The amount of Non-Domestic Rates outstanding together with any costs incurred for the issue of the summons; and
 - The date and time of the hearing
- B.25 If the amount due, plus costs are paid prior to the date of the hearing, the Council will not proceed to obtain a liability order. If ratepayer(s) are not able to pay in full prior to the hearing the Council will continue to proceed with the application for a liability order.
- B.26 Any time after a summons is issued the Council will still consider making an arrangement to pay the amount due on the summons including costs. If an arrangement is made at this stage, a liability order will still be obtained to secure the debt. However, if payments are received as per the arrangement no further action will be taken.
- B.27 A summons together with the associated costs will be withdrawn if it can be shown that the summons was issued in error.

Liability order hearings

- B.28 A ratepayer has a right to attend a hearing and a right to give evidence as to why a liability order should not be granted. If they do not attend, the hearing will still proceed in their absence. If the Magistrates are satisfied that the Non-Domestic Rates is payable and remains unpaid, then they are required to issue a liability order. If a ratepayer wishes to defend an application for a liability order, they must offer a valid defence against it.

B.29 At the hearing an authorised officer of the Council will make an application to the Court for the liability orders listed. The Magistrates will hear the defence of any persons wishing to prevent the issue of the liability order. Valid defences include (but are not limited to) :

- the Council has not demanded the Non-Domestic Rates in accordance with statute;
- they are not the liable person;
- the amount has been paid in full together with any associated costs; or
- is subject to a bankruptcy order or winding up order and the Non-Domestic Rates debt should be included in the insolvency proceedings.

B.30 It should be noted that it is **not a valid defence** if the taxpayer:

- is unable to pay; or
- has applied to the Valuation Office Agency against their Rateable Value;

B.31 Obtaining a liability order usually incurs a further costs.

B.32 A liability order may be made against one or more joint ratepayers in respect of an amount for which they are jointly and severally liable. Recovery procedures for the full sum owed may be applied to one or more than one of the joint ratepayers.

Costs

B.33 Any summons and liability order costs incurred will be added to a ratepayer's account and will be included as part of their debt. Costs reflect both the reasonable administrative cost incurred by the Council and any court fee. Therefore, costs will only be removed from an account in exceptional circumstances including, for example, where a summons or liability order was incorrectly issued.

B.34 Summons and liability order costs are reviewed annually.

Post liability order methods of recovery

B.35 Once a Liability Order has been obtained, the Council may take the following enforcement actions:

- the use of Enforcement Agents;
- Insolvency (Bankruptcy of an individual(s) or Liquidation of a company); or
- Committal to Prison

B.36 The Council can, and will, attempt to contact the ratepayer at all stages of recovery action by any method appropriate including by letter, text, email or by telephone. Where possible payment arrangements will be made with the ratepayer to ensure that the debt is paid and also to establish the circumstances of the individual or business

Enforcement Agents

B.37 The Council employs both internal and external enforcement agents. Both will be used as a method of recovery in order to obtain payment of any outstanding Non-Domestic Rates.

B.38 The use of enforcement agents is normally considered as a last resort for the collection of arrears. An assessment of each ratepayer's situation, where known, will be undertaken to ascertain whether enforcement agent action is appropriate in each individual case. If at any time it is established that

the ratepayer may be considered vulnerable, the Council will look to use using alternative methods of collection.

- B.39 All enforcement agents employed or engaged by the Council are fully trained and are able to:
- Identify and recognise signs of vulnerability in the ratepayer or their dependents so that taxpayers who are at risk of detriment or disadvantage can be offered a fair and good quality service which can be adapted to suit their particular needs and abilities;
 - Ensure that information required by all ratepayers and other service users is available in accessible formats; and
 - Conduct business in language (whether written or spoken) which is plain and easily intelligible and adapted to the needs of customer and other service users.
- B.40 All actions undertaken by any enforcement agent employed or engaged by the Council are covered the Tribunal Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, the Taking Control of Goods Regulations 2013, and the Taking Control of Goods (Fees) Regulations 2014.
- B.41 Enforcement agents must comply with this policy at all times whilst carrying out their duties. All enforcement agents must carry:
- Photo identification (ID) from the enforcement agent company or the Council (as appropriate)
This must be shown to all persons at first contact and on each subsequent visit;
 - Written authorisation to act on behalf of the Council. This must be produced on request.

Enforcement Stages and fees

B.42 The legislation sets down various stages which must be adhered to and through which any enforcement action will be taken. These are summarised below:

Stage 1: Compliance Stage - Fee: £75

- B.43 When an enforcement agent receives an instruction from the Council, the case will enter the compliance stage. During this stage the agent will attempt to contact the ratepayer by any method other than by visit. A £75 fee is payable for each liability order.
- B.44 Prior to making any visit the agent will issue a Notice of Enforcement. The service of the Notice of Enforcement, which gives a minimum period of 7 days prior to any actual visit, places the case into the enforcement stage.

Stage 2: Enforcement Stage - Fee: £235.00 (plus 7.5% of the value of the debt that exceeds £1,500)

- B.45 If during the compliance stage, full payment or a payment arrangement is not made or if a previous payment arrangement is broken, the case will progress to the 'enforcement stage'. As a consequence, an individual enforcement agent will make a personal visit to the ratepayer's property. The purpose of the visit would be to 'take control' of goods. The enforcement fee of £235 becomes payable when the agent attends your property. It will not be charged before a visit takes place.
- B.46 If the enforcement agent is enforcing more than one Liability Order only charge one enforcement stage fee will be made.

Stage 3: Sale Stage - Fee: £110.00 (plus 7.5% of the value of the debt that exceeds £1,500.00).

B.47 This fee can be charged when an agent actually attends the ratepayer's property and make **preparations** for the sale of goods. If goods are actually removed, additional disbursements may be charged. The most significant disbursement being storage fees.

Enforcement Agent Code of Conduct

B.48 The Council will require all enforcement agents to abide by an agreed code of conduct and adopt best practice. The enforcement agent must introduce themselves to ratepayer and state that they are acting on behalf of the Council.

Further recovery actions

B.49 Where the actions above have been unsuccessful in recovering all of the debt owed or when they are considered inappropriate, the Council may consider further recovery actions. These include:

- bankruptcy or liquidation in the case of a limited company; or
- committal to prison (for individuals).

B.50 These actions may have serious consequences for the ratepayer. They will therefore always be considered on a case by case basis, taking individual circumstances into account. Other legal actions outside of this procedure may also be considered where appropriate.

Factors to take into consideration

B.51 When making a decision to proceed with a further recovery action, the Council will always attempt to investigate the circumstances of the ratepayer and then consider the:

- implications for overall payment levels if people come to believe that Non-Domestic Rate debts will not be collected;
- impact of non-payment on Council income and the need to deliver services to the community;
- equality between those who do pay and those who don't;
- why other recovery methods are not appropriate;
- whether action is likely to be effective;
- the potential debt that may be recovered by the action and whether the likely costs of the action are proportionate to it;
- whether the ratepayer's failure to pay may result from a vulnerability and, if so, what action is appropriate as a result;
- potential effect of the action on any known dependants, especially children;
- need to prevent homelessness and whether the action may cause it; and
- any other circumstances which may warrant protection from the consequences of the action.

B.52 An investigation into a ratepayer's circumstances may include:

- an attempt to contact the ratepayer in person, including a home visit if necessary;
- data about the ratepayer shared by other areas of the Council including but not limited to Council Tax; and
- data about the ratepayer shared by other public bodies as permitted by data protection.

B.53 The Council will maintain a record of the above together with:

- details of attempts to contact the ratepayer; and
- the information gathered, consideration of whether the action is proportionate to the likely debt

to be recovered and the reasons for proceeding with the action.

Bankruptcy (or Liquidation if the ratepayer is a Ltd Company)

- B.54 Where the ratepayer is an individual the Council can apply to the County Court or High Court for them to be made bankrupt if they have liability orders totalling more than £5,000.00. For liquidation the debt must be at least £750.
- B.55 Before taking this action, the Council will therefore make reasonable attempts to investigate the ratepayer's personal and financial circumstances to determine whether bankruptcy (or liquidation in the case of a limited company) action is appropriate.
- B.56 While the Council considers potential vulnerability at all stages of recovery, particular regard to these will be made when considering bankruptcy action.
- B.57 Once a decision is made to make a ratepayer bankrupt or wind up the ratepayer in the case of a limited company, the account will be referred to the Council's legal provider for action.
- B.58 A statutory demand will first be served on the ratepayer setting out the debt outstanding, and the options available to them to prevent further action, the time scales in which they need to respond and direct contact details of officers dealing with the case. A guide to the potential bankruptcy or liquidation costs is included with the statutory demand. No additional costs are incurred at this stage, and the Council may still agree a payment arrangement with the taxpayer at this stage.
- B.59 Where the ratepayer has not responded to the statutory demand within 21 days or where the Council is unable to agree arrangements that will discharge the debt, the Council will consider whether a petition for the taxpayer to be made bankrupt (winding up for a limited company) should be made to a court.
- B.60 Where a bankruptcy or winding up order is made; the Official Receiver will act as the initial Trustee in Bankruptcy or Liquidator. The matter will then be passed to a final Trustee in Bankruptcy or Liquidator if the ratepayer has assets that might be sold to settle a debt.

Committal proceedings

- B.61 If enforcement agents have been unable to find any or sufficient goods to pay the debt or have been unable to gain entry to the ratepayer's premises, the Council can apply to the Magistrates' Court to have the ratepayer committed to prison for a maximum of three months. Committal proceedings are usually a recovery action of last resort when all other actions have either failed or are not appropriate.
- B.62 The Council is more likely to take committal action against a ratepayer when:
- enforcement agents have not been able to recover all of the debt;
 - the ratepayer has previously broken agreed payment arrangements;
 - the ratepayer is not considered vulnerable;
 - it appears that the failure to pay may be the result of wilful refusal or culpable neglect; and
 - no other recovery action is appropriate.
- B.63 Where the ratepayer fails to respond or where an agreement is not reached, the Council will then apply for a summons for the ratepayer to appear at a hearing before the Magistrate's court.

B.64 At the hearing the Magistrates will conduct a means enquiry to determine whether the failure to pay the Non-Domestic Rates concerned was due to 'wilful refusal' or 'culpable neglect'. The Magistrates may make the following decisions:

Commit to prison:

- The Magistrates can decide to send the ratepayer to prison for up to three months where wilful refusal or culpable neglect is proven;

Fix a term of imprisonment and postpone on conditions:

- The ratepayer in this case is normally ordered to pay an arrangement as determined by the Magistrates. If payments are made as ordered then no further action is taken. If payments are missed, then the prison sentence will come into force and the ratepayer can be sent to prison for up to three months.

Adjourn:

- A hearing may be postponed to a later date if, for example, more information or evidence is needed before a decision can be made.

Dismiss (take no action):

- The Magistrates may decide that no further action is appropriate.

Remit some or all of the debt:

- The Magistrates may remit (write off) part or all of the Non-Domestic Rates owed where there is an inability to pay determined as part of the means inquiry.

B.65 Where the ratepayer does not attend the committal hearing as required, the Council will ask for a warrant of arrest with bail to be issued for a further hearing at the Magistrate's court. A warrant of arrest without bail may be applied for in some circumstances, for example where a ratepayer has previously not complied with a warrant with bail.

B.66 It should be noted that if a term of imprisonment is served, the Non-Domestic Rates remains outstanding but the recovery remedies for it will have been exhausted. A part payment will also reduce the term of imprisonment by the ratio of payment to the total amount of the debt.

B.67 The costs of any committal proceedings will be added to the existing Non-Domestic Rates debt.

Annex C

Housing Benefit Overpayment Recovery

Introduction and background to the recovery of Housing Benefit Overpayments

- C.1 Overpayments of Housing Benefit are established through a change in benefit entitlement. They are described as an amount of benefit that has been awarded but to which there is no entitlement under the regulations. It should be noted that this section of the policy applies to Housing Benefit Overpayments **only**. Any amount of debt recovered through any adjustment of Council Tax Reduction is to be recovered in the same manner as outstanding Council Tax in line with Annex A.
- C.2 The Social Security Administration Act 1992 and the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 provide the primary legislation that governs Housing Benefit and the recovery of overpayments. Secondary legislation in the form of statutory instruments provide additional detail, the most relevant being the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 for working age claimants and the Housing Benefit (Persons who have attained the age for state pension credit) Regulations 2006 for all pension age claimants. These regulations lay down the statutory framework for administering the benefit schemes, including overpayment recovery
- C.3 Accurate and prompt identification of overpayments is important to ensure that the incorrect payment of benefit is discontinued and to maximise the chances of successful recovery. The Council recognises that to ensure there is minimal loss to public funds, firm but fair action must be undertaken in the administration of Housing Benefit overpayments.
- C.4 Proactive action in the recovery of overpayments has a deterrent effect. However, the Council has a responsibility to act in accordance with all relevant legislation and regulations.
- C.5 In all cases due regard will be given to the health and individual circumstances of the claimant to avoid causing unnecessary hardship.

Policy Aims

- C.6 The Council's Housing Benefit Overpayments recovery policy reflects best practice in dealing with the administration and recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments.
- C.7 The Council will:
- (a) take steps to minimise and prevent overpayments from occurring;
 - (b) identify the overpayment promptly;
 - (c) stop the overpayment from continuing;
 - (d) classify the overpayment correctly;
 - (e) determine if the overpayment is recoverable and, if recoverable:
 - (i) determine from whom to recover;
 - (ii) determine the most appropriate method of recovery;
 - (f) notify the claimant and other affected persons of the decision; and
 - (g) implement effective financial control of the recovery process.
- C.8 This policy applies in all cases where an overpayment of benefit has occurred, that is, any amount of Housing Benefit which has been paid but to which there was no entitlement whether on initial decision or on a subsequent revised or superseded decision.
- C.9 In most cases overpayments can arise as a consequence of:
- payments made in advance;
 - late disclosure of a change in circumstances;

- errors made by the claimant when completing an application form or review form;
- claimant error; and
- official errors made by the Council or the Department for Work and Pensions; or
- deliberate fraud.

C.10 Official error overpayments are only recoverable if the claimant or the person from whom recovery of the overpayment is sought could reasonably have known that an overpayment was occurring at the time the overpayment occurred.

Prevention of Overpayments

C.11 The recovery of overpayments are often difficult and time consuming to administer. They can cause difficulties for claimants and their families as they try to manage on limited incomes. They are to be avoided where possible. This will be achieved by:

- telling claimants how to avoid overpayments, with letters, in leaflets and during verbal communications;
- encouraging claimants to maintain contact with us;
- processing information quickly and accurately to minimise overpayments; and
- offsetting any new or underlying entitlement.

Identifying Overpayments

C.12 The Council will endeavour to act on any information received in relation to a claimant's change in circumstances as soon as practicable of having received sufficient information to identify that an overpayment has or will be occurring.

C.13 This action will in the first instance include the suspension of further ongoing payments of incorrect benefit. The Council will endeavour to identify any change in circumstances that would result in an overpayment.

Classification of Overpayments

C.14 The correct classification of overpayments is essential as, depending on the type of overpayment, the Council will receive a percentage of the overpayment back from the government by way of subsidy.

Calculation of Overpayments

C.15 Where an overpayment has occurred, the Council will invite claimants to provide sufficient information for any underlying entitlement to benefit for the overpayment period to be assessed. The full amount of the overpayment will be recovered unless the health or financial circumstances of the person from whom recovery is being sought suggest a lesser amount would be appropriate.

Decisions on Recoverability

- C.17 In all cases where an overpayment has arisen, the Council will consider whether an official error has caused or contributed towards the overpayment.
- C.18 Where the Council has identified an overpayment, which was caused or contributed to by an official error, it will decide whether recovery of the overpayment is appropriate under the guidance issued by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Who should the overpayment be recovered from?

- C.19 Before recovery action begins, consideration will be given as to whom is the most appropriate person to recover the overpayment from. This may in certain cases mean that further information is required from the affected parties.
- C.20 Recovery will then be made from the most appropriate persons who may be:
- the claimant;
 - the person to whom the payment of benefit was made;
 - the person who misrepresented or failed to disclose the material fact; and
 - the partner of the claimant if the partner was living with the claimant at the time of the overpayment and at the time the decision to recover was made.
- C.21 In all cases where the overpayment was the result of proven fraud the overpayment will, in the first instance, be sought to be recovered from the person who misrepresented or failed to disclose a material fact.

Recovery of Overpayments

- C.22 In all cases where recovery of an overpayment is sought, the Council will have regard to its statutory duty to protect the loss from public funds but in doing so will have regard to:
- the length of time the recovery of the overpayment may take;
 - the effect of recovery on the affected person; and
 - the ability of the affected person to repay the debt.
- C.23 The Council may consider the method of recovery of an overpayment at any time for the purpose of effectiveness and efficiency in financial control.
- C.24 Only if it becomes clear after all attempts at recovering the overpayment have become exhausted and there is no hope of recovery, or there are extenuating circumstances, shall the debt be recommended for write-off.
- C.25 Recovery may be suspended if a claimant formally appeals a decision until such time as the appeal has been resolved.

Notification of overpayment

- C.26 The Council must notify, in writing, any 'person affected' by a decision it makes under the regulations. This includes not only the claimant, but also any person from whom the Council seeks to recover a recoverable overpayment for example the landlord.
- C.27 Every notification must include certain specified information as a statutory duty and the following is a list of what should be included:
- the fact that there is a recoverable overpayment and the reason it is recoverable;
 - the reason it occurred;
 - the amount;
 - how it was calculated;
 - the date informed by the claimant;
 - the date actioned;
 - the period of overpayment
 - where recovery is to be made by deduction from future Housing Benefit, the amount of the deduction;
 - the person's right to request a written statement giving the Council's reasons for its decision; and
 - the right to appeal and time limits involved

Methods of Recovery

- C.28 The most appropriate method of recovery for Housing Benefit Overpayments will be considered in all cases, including:
- on-going deductions from further payments of Housing Benefit;
 - blameless tenant recovery;
 - deductions from other Department for Works and Pensions benefits;
 - direct invoicing of the client;
 - Direct Earnings Attachments;
 - deductions from to the rent account where it is in credit;
 - recovery from landlord;
 - referral to an external debt collection agency;
 - applying to the County Court for a County Court Order (after all avenues of recovery are considered or exhausted). Further recovery actions will then be taken through the Courts, e.g., instructing enforcement agents; or
 - where the claimant is deceased, recovering any outstanding amount by contacting their executors or representatives to seek recovery from their estate.

C.29 Each of the recovery remedies available to the Council are examined in detail below.

On-going deductions from further payments of Housing Benefit

C.30 Where there is still entitlement to Housing Benefit, the overpayment can be recovered from any ongoing benefit and this will be the primary recovery remedy for all cases where Housing Benefit continues in payment.

C.31 Government sets the recovery rates for deductions from on-going Housing Benefit and these are revised annually. There are two levels of deduction available and the higher level can only be used

where a customer has been prosecuted and found guilty of fraud / or admitted fraud after being 'Interviewed under Caution' or agreed to pay an Administrative Penalty in respect of the overpayment.

- C.32 In all cases the deduction will be increased by 50% of any earnings disregard. This additional amount will automatically be deducted by the Council.
- C.33 in all cases the amounts are subject to an overall maximum deduction, which does not reduce the balance of benefit payable to less than 50 pence per week.
- C.34 Where the overpayment is to be recovered from ongoing benefit the recovery rate is detailed in the notification letter sent to the customer. The Council will review all arrangements on a regular basis to ensure the payments are being made as agreed.
- C.35 If the customer is still in receipt of Housing Benefit but there is not sufficient in payment to enable a maximum recovery rate to be taken, the Council will recover all but £0.50 per week and invite the customer to pay an additional amount each week.
- C.36 In cases where a fraud has been identified the recovery rate will be increased to the current standard maximum recovery amount where appropriate.
- C.37 If a customer has moved to another Local Authority area and is in receipt of Housing Benefit at their new address, the Council may contact that Authority by telephone or email to request that they make deductions from the ongoing benefit at an appropriate rate and forward the amounts recovered to the Council.
- C.38 It should be noted that recovery from ongoing benefit is counted as recovery from the claimant and not the landlord. Consequently, the landlord is not a person affected and cannot appeal any decision. The claimant must make up the shortfall in the Housing Benefit in order to avoid any rent arrears. If a rent arrears situation develops the landlord should pursue recovery on that basis.
- C.39 The Council may recover a recoverable overpayment from arrears of Housing Benefit. Arrears, in this case means any entitlement which is payable after the Council has revised or superseded a decision and concluded that, for whatever reason, it has underpaid the claimant. Arrears does not include any payment owing due to a delay in processing a new claim or change of address.
- C.40 The full amount of the arrears/underpayment may be used to recover the overpayment. This method is not subject to the maximum recovery rates.
- C.41 If Housing Benefit has been overpaid to a claimant who has a partner and they switch who is claiming the benefit, the overpayment can be recovered by making deductions from the partner's HB, as long as the claimant and partner were a couple both at the time
- the overpayment occurred; and
 - when it is being recovered.

Blameless tenant recovery

- C.42 Under the regulations the Council can recover overpayments of Housing Benefit made to a third party, e.g., landlords/agents, from Housing Benefit paid to that third party. This includes recovering Housing Benefit payments paid direct to a landlord in respect of any of their tenants. This method of recovery is often known as 'direct recovery from landlords' or 'blameless tenant' method.
- C.43 The Council has the ability to use these powers at its discretion and will look to recover using this method where appropriate.
- C.44 Where such action is taken decision notices must take in to account the following:
- When a decision has been made to pay a landlord direct payments of Housing Benefit, on behalf of their tenants, it is a legal requirement to include on decision notices to both the claimant and the landlord at the time direct payments commence that if recovery is made from one tenant's benefit for an overpayment made to another tenant, the rental liabilities of the tenant from whom the recovery has been made will be protected. This person is known as the 'blameless tenant'. Both the landlord and tenant have to be notified in writing;
 - It is a legal requirement for overpayment decision notices sent by the Council to landlords to specify when recovery is to be made from another tenant's benefit; and
 - the Council must also specify which benefits recovery may be made from, and the circumstances in which a tenant's rental liability remains discharged (i.e., blameless tenants) when recovery is made in respect of them.

Direct Earnings Attachment

- C.45 The Council will use the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Housing Benefit Debt Service, to establish whether the customer is employed or in receipt of any other benefits.
- C.46 Where it is established that the customer is employed, the Council may instruct the customer's employer to implement a Direct Earnings Attachment (DEA) in accordance with the Social Security (Overpayments and Recovery) Regulations 2013. The level of deduction is determined by the regulations and is linked to the customer's level of earnings. The employer does not have any discretion regarding the level deductions applied to a customer's earnings.
- C.47 The Council will issue a DEA where the customer has:
- Refused to engage with the Council in relation to their overpayment;
 - Refused to agree an acceptable repayment plan; or
 - Has defaulted on a previously agreed repayment plan.
- C.48 The Council will only withdraw a DEA if:
- The document has been served in error (e.g., to the wrong employer); or
 - The customer provides evidence that the DEA would cause severe financial hardship or would put them at risk of losing their home.
- C.49 Where the customer or their employer fails to meet their duties in relation to a DEA, then they may potentially be subject to a fine of up to £1000, as prescribed by Regulation 30 of the Social Security (Overpayments and Recovery) Regulations 2013.

Deductions from other Department for Works and Pensions benefits.

C.50 If the Council receives information which suggests that the customer is entitled to DWP benefits, it will seek to make deductions from prescribed DWP benefits in accordance with Section 75(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 and Regulation 105 of the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006. The Council will may ask the DWP (Debt Management) to recover a Housing Benefit overpayment from the following benefits:

- Income Support (IS);
- Attendance Allowance (AA);
- Bereavement Allowance (BA);
- Jobseeker's Allowance (income based) (JSA(IB));
- Jobseeker's Allowance (contribution based) (JSA (C));
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA);
- Personal Independence Payments (PIP);
- Employment Support Allowance (income-related) (ESA(IR));
- Employment Support Allowance (contributory) (ESA(C));
- Incapacity Benefit (IB);
- Industrial Death Benefit (IDB);
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB);
- Carer's Allowance (CA);
- Maternity Allowance (MA);
- State Pension (SP)/Retirement Pension (RP);
- State Pension Credit (SPC);
- Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA);
- Universal Credit (UC);
- Widowed Parents Allowance (WPA);
- War Pensions (WP); and
- War Disablement Pension (WDP).

C.51 The Council **cannot** request deductions from:

- Child Benefit (CHB);
- Guardians Allowance (GA);
- Working Tax Credit (WTC); or
- Child Tax Credit (CTC)

C.52 The prescribed benefit must be in payment and the claimant is receiving sufficient amount of benefits to allow for the deductions to be made. The DWP Debt Management will inform the Council if deductions cannot be made for whatever reason. The Council will be required to reconcile payments received with the DWP.

C.53 The Council may ask DWP Debt Management to recover a Housing Benefit overpayment by deduction from certain DWP benefits which the claimant's partner is in receipt of. These are IS; JSA(IB); SPC; ESA(IR); PIP; and UC. However, the claimant and partner must have been a couple, both when the overpayment occurred and when it is being recovered.

Deductions from to the rent account where it is in credit

- C.54 Even though Housing Benefit is paid directly onto rent accounts in the case of a rent rebate, recovery of any overpayment can only be made from a rent account operated by the Council if it is in credit. No amount of an overpayment can be added to a rent account and recovered as though it is rent.
- C.55 The Department for Work and Pensions guidance suggests that the Council may not use a credit on a rent account to recover overpaid Housing Benefit unless the credit on the rent account was for the same period as the Housing Benefit overpayment.

Recovery from landlord.

- C.56 The Council may only recover any overpayment from a landlord or agent where it is their duty to report any changes of circumstances that they might reasonably be expected to know might affect the claimant's entitlement to benefit and where the Council is of the opinion that it is reasonable to recover the overpayment from them.

Direct invoicing of the claimant or landlord and Civil Proceedings

- C.57 The Council may issue an invoice directly to either the claimant or landlord as appropriate.
- C.58 As mentioned in the general policy details, the Council encourages both claimants and landlords to contact the Council in order to make arrangements where payment of any overpayment cannot be made in full. Arrangements may be made at any time.
- C.59 Failure to contact the Council or make payment in full on the invoice will result in a reminder being issued. Where further default occurs, a 'Letter before Action' will be issued prior to the commencement of any civil proceeding through the County Court or High Court.
- C.60 Legal proceedings will be considered after attempts to achieve recovery by other means have failed and there is good reason to believe the debtor can afford to make repayments.
- C.61 The legislation provides that Housing Benefit overpayments not recovered by deductions from prescribed benefits may be recovered by execution in the County Court in England and Wales, as if under a court order. Housing Benefit overpayment decisions can be registered as a judgment of the court. This allows the Council to use any of the court's enforcement procedures for recovery should the debtor not pay.
- C.62 The Council will use the Form N322A (Fast Track system) and this will be filed in the court for the district in which the person from whom the debt is recoverable resides, i.e., the court covering the debtor. This will incur court costs which will be added to any outstanding debt. The Council may also decide to use the **Money Claim On Line** system.
- C.63 If this is accepted by the Court, it will make a decision to grant an order and they will inform the Council of the decision. Should an order be granted, a copy will be sent to both the Council and the debtor. This order can then be enforced as if it were a County Court judgment as follows:

Order to obtain information

- If the Council holds little or no information about the debtor, they may ask the court for an ‘order to obtain information’ from the debtor (sometimes known as an oral examination). The debtor will be ordered to come to the court to be questioned on oath by a court officer. This is not a method of enforcement, but a way of finding out details of the debtor’s:
 - employment status;
 - employer, wages, or salary (if appropriate);
 - additional income;
 - property owned which may have a saleable value (house, car, caravan etc);
 - bank or building society accounts and their balances; and
 - dependants and outgoings from income
- The above list is not exhaustive.
- The information collected from this order can help the Council decide whether the debtor can pay them, and which method is most likely to be successful. A fee is payable for this action, but the court may add this fee to the money the debtor already owes to the Council.

Third party debt order

- This order is usually made to stop the defendant taking money out of their bank/building society account (the money the Council is owed is then paid from the account). It can also be sent to anyone who owes the debtor money. An application for a third party debt order can be made at any time after the Council has registered the debt at court, but it will not be granted unless the debtor has either:
 - failed to pay the amount of the debt when it was due, or
 - failed to make one or more agreed payments
- The Council cannot apply for a third party debt order against a joint bank account unless both parties are held liable for the debt;
- When the court order is received by the bank/building society, they will freeze the account immediately, so only funds that are in the account on that day will be affected.

Attachment of earnings

- The Council can use the courts to enforce an attachment of earnings. The use of the Direct Earnings Attachment has overridden this to a large degree.

Charging order

- This order prevents the debtor from selling their assets, such as property, investments, or land, without paying what is owed to the Council. The Council will consider this option where recovery is sought from a landlord. An application for a charging order can be made at any time after the Council has registered the debt at court, but the order will not be granted unless the debtor has:
 - failed to pay the amount of the debt when it was due; or
 - failed to make one or more agreed payments.

Compensation Order

- When the Council has decided to prosecute a claimant following fraudulent activity, it may apply to the court for a compensation order. A compensation order is intended to punish the offender whilst providing some degree of financial recompense to the victim. When making the order the court will consider the offender’s circumstances and ability to pay. When an order has been made the offender will be required to pay the money to the court who will then pass it on.

Warrant of Control

- This gives court enforcement agents the authority to take goods from the debtor's home or business. Agents will try to either:
 - collect the money owed to the Council; or
 - take goods to sell at auction and then pass the money on to the Council
- The County Court enforcement agent can only enforce a warrant of execution for debts of £5,000 or less. For any other amount the order will be transferred to the High Court.
- The provisions used by County Court are the same as those for Council Tax or Non Domestic Rates outlined within this policy

Deceased person's personal representative

- C.64 The decision of how far to pursue recovery of an overpayment following the death of a claimant is entirely at the discretion of the Council. The Council will make sure overpayment decision notices are issued to the personal representative, in order to allow for appeal rights, before seeking recovery.
- C.65 If the deceased person had more than £5,000 in their estate at the time of their death, the personal representative must take out a Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration when there is no will and advertise for creditors. The personal representative is then advised not to distribute the estate for at least two months to allow creditors to come forward.
- C.66 The Council will make a search for an estate of the deceased and find out who the personal representative is. The Council will then register as a creditor in the estate to make a claim for the debt.

Use of external Collection agents

- C.67 The Council reserves the right to use any appointed agents to assist in the collection of any overpayment. Where such agents are appointed, they have no specific powers other than to attempt to contact the debtor and make arrangements for repayment of any Housing Benefit overpayment.

Proceeds of Crime

- C.68 'Proceeds of Crime Act' (POCA) refers to the assets, funds and property gained whilst undertaking criminal activity. In appropriate cases, the Council will look to use the powers available under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.
- C.69 The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 proceedings may be commenced where:
- A defendant is convicted of an offence in proceedings brought before the Court or where a defendant's case is committed to the Crown Court for sentence; and
 - The Council asks the court to commence POCA proceedings or the court considers it appropriate to commence POCA proceedings.

Annex D

Housing Rent Collection and Arrears Recovery

Introduction

- D.1 This policy outlines, to Council tenants, leaseholders, and staff, how the Council will collect housing rent and other related charges and our approach to recovering rent arrears and monies owed to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
- D.2 North Yorkshire Council takes rent arrears seriously and the Council expect all tenants to pay the rent, which is due every week. This is an important condition of all Tenancy Agreements. Every tenant is responsible for ensuring that his or her rent is paid in full. If they are entitled to Housing Benefit or Universal Credit, they are equally responsible in ensuring payment is made using this method.
- D.3 Rent charges are set annually following Council approval. Tenants will be made aware of any changes for the coming year with a minimum of one month's notice. The annual increase or decrease is set in accordance with central government guidelines. However, changes can occur to the amount a tenant is required to fund themselves dependent upon any welfare benefit (Universal Credit/Housing Benefit) they may be in receipt of at any one time.
- D.4 It is recognised that on occasion tenants may have genuine financial difficulties, which affect their ability to pay the rent due. In these cases, our aim is to adopt a firm but fair approach to arrears recovery offering all tenants, where possible, clear, practical repayments plans. Formal court action, which can ultimately result in the termination of tenancy, will only be taken when all other options have been explored and the Council is left with no other alternative.

Aims of the Policy

- D.5 The Council aim to collect all rent due to us. If this is not possible, the purpose of the Policy is to minimise the level of rent arrears in a sensitive, but effective manner. In accordance with this, Council staff will try and engage with customers to provide assistance and give advice on suitable re-payments.
- D.6 Through this policy The Council will aim to:
- Maximise income to the Housing Revenue Account – this means more money available to spend on social housing in the area;
 - Encourage a payment culture amongst all tenants – everyone has a responsibility to pay their rent;
 - Ensure that all those in arrears are treated equally whilst recognising that each tenant is an individual;
 - Minimise the arrears owed by current tenants;
 - Maximise the take up of Universal Credit, Housing Benefit, and other welfare benefits;
 - Give advice and assistance on Discretionary Housing Payments;
 - Encourage tenants to seek advice from other specialist groups in order to manage their debts; and
 - Adopt a firm but fair approach to tackling rent arrears, taking action, if appropriate at an early stage to encourage co-operation but also to protect the interests of the Council.

Scope of the Policy

- D.7 The policy applies to the collection of all rents and debts owed to the Housing Revenue Account from:
- Council Housing Tenants;
 - Council Garage Tenants ;
 - Former Council Tenants; and
 - Shared Ownership (Leaseholders)
- D.8 This policy has been written to provide customers and officers with clear guidance on the recovery methods to be administered where there are outstanding amounts of rent and/or service charges due.
- D.9 The Council will:
- Bill, collect and recover all debts in an economic, effective, and efficient manner in accordance with legislation and best practice;
 - Treat all individuals fairly and objectively; and
 - Ensure that any action taken will be fair and open, no-one will receive less favourable treatment because of their race, nationality, colour, ethnic or national origin, religious belief, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

Joint and Several

- D.10 Where the law allows, the Council will ensure that all parties who are jointly and severally liable will be held liable and demands / invoices issued in joint names. The Council will also look to use all recovery remedies that allow the recovery of debt from jointly liable persons.
- D.11 All joint tenants are jointly and severally liable for rent arrears that may accrue. The Council will:
- Address all letters to all the tenants named in the tenancy agreement;
 - Make arrangements and hold interviews with any tenant who appears to be acting on behalf of all parties in the tenancy agreement; and
 - Provide a copy of all legal documents to all parties named in the tenancy agreement.
- D.12 The Council will not pursue victims fleeing a joint tenancy due to domestic violence.
- D.13 In households with single tenancy agreements and where the households are married, cohabiting or have joint custody over children under the age of 16 the Council will encourage the tenant to keep the other interested party within the household informed of any legal action proposed in connection with rent arrears.

Debt Collection and Recovery

- D.14 Demands or invoices will, wherever possible, be issued as soon as practicable and, if possible, on the day of production. The Council will always attempt to use the most appropriate and effective method of debt recovery in order to maximise income.
- D.15 The Council will encourage the most cost-effective payment methods with the emphasis being on electronic means such as Direct Debit where possible.

D.16 Where the potential for a statutory reduction, benefit or discount exists in relation to the debt, efforts will be made to make the tenant aware of such opportunities and they will be assisted and encouraged to apply for these.

D.17 The Council will provide access to contextual information, so customers are clear on their responsibilities. This includes making payment, the required timeframes to make payment, the consequences of not making a payment within the timeframe. Also, what action to take, or advice to seek, if they have a difficulty in making a payment or dispute the amount being requested.

D.18 The Council recognises that efficient recovery action is key in managing its Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The Council therefore aims to:

- Regularly monitor the level and age of all Housing Revenue Account debts;
- Set clear targets for the percentage of rent collected and recovery of HRA debt;
- Have clear written recovery policies and procedures for HRA debt and;
- Regularly review irrecoverable debts for write-off.

D.19 The Council will seek to take all allowable recovery actions for debts and any costs and fees incurred. Only in cases where it would not be in the public interest to pursue debts, costs, or fees, will they be waived or written off.

Arrangements, debt advice and resolution

D.20 Should tenants fall into arrears the Council will support them to come to affordable payment agreements appropriate to their circumstances. The Council will advise on any housing assistance or discounts; reliefs and exemptions customers may be entitled to. The Council will assist with applications when appropriate and signpost customers to money advice, debt counselling and other support services available through our partners and in the voluntary sector, when additional assistance may be required.

D.21 **Debt Relief Orders (DRO)** - The Council will work with tenants and independent financial institutions such as CAB as part of the rent arrears procedure who are considering the use of DRO's. It will be necessary to look at each case individually applying the Council's rent arrears procedure and 16-point court protocol. The Council will not automatically take court action for possession/eviction on DRO cases because of the breach in non-payment of rent account. The Council will work with the tenant and financial institution to ensure the tenant can make future payments despite the DRO in order that future rent arrears do not accrue. However, in cases where there is real concern that the tenant has no intention of adhering in the future to the conditions of tenancy, the Council can pursue court action if this action had already commenced and in cases where no court action had been applied this should be considered only in cases where high level debt has been subject to a DRO and rental debt continues. Whilst it is accepted that any rent arrears included within a DRO are not recoverable by the Council the ability to pursue through the courts for breach of tenancy agreement due to non-payment of rent still exists.

D.22 **Breathing Space** - Breathing Space was introduced on 4 May 2021 and is also known as the debt relief service. If a tenant is approved onto the scheme by an approved organisation all action must cease on all debt included. A flag/alert will be raised on the tenant's rent account identifying which type of Breathing Space has been applied; Standard Breathing space if approved gives 60 days of respite from all debt related action from the date approved or earlier if cancelled by a court or upon death of the tenant and Mental Health Breathing Space allows unlimited respite and will come to

an end 30 days after the tenant health crisis/treatment has ended or 30 days after the debt advisor working to support the tenant advises the Council that they have had no response from the tenant.

- D.23 In accordance with the prevailing legislation relating to this debt respite service the Council will suspend all ongoing actions and ensure that any recovery action already in place, i.e., through additional payments made via rent direct debit is amended to ensure only the rent due from the date of the approved Breathing Space is collected. The Council will actively monitor and take normal recovery action regarding the rent account/support account, with current rent and current other charges still being collectable from the date of the Breathing Space, and only historical debt being put on hold with regard to recovery.
- D.24 The nominated officer will alert the team when Breathing Space is applied and ensure the information is shared across the service to ensure that any other debts included within the Breathing Space are also put on hold, i.e., Rechargeable Repairs, Former Tenant debt. Only on expiry of the Breathing Space will action recommence on historical debt with flags and alerts updated accordingly.
- D.25 Advice and assistance provided to the tenant by the independent specialist debt advisors involved in their Breathing Space may advise on further actions to be taken by the tenant which may include pursuing a Debt Relief Order if appropriate to do so.

Hierarchy of Debt

- D.26 The Council recognises rent as the highest priority debt.
- D.27 Debt is not prioritised based on its size but the result of the action e.g., rent arrears resulting in loss of home. The Council will generally prioritise debts in the order as shown below:
1. Rent;
 2. Council Tax;
 3. Housing Benefit Overpayments;
 4. Sundry Debts.

Vulnerability

- D.28 The Council recognises that certain individuals will require more sympathetic and sensitive treatment and that some customers do not pay their debts for a variety of reasons. This may include poverty or other financial hardship, which the Council will endeavour to balance against our duty to collect.
- D.29 The Council will deliver a service, which aims to meet the needs of each individual, and direct them to other support agencies, identifying vulnerable customers, where feasible, at the earliest possible stage.

Vulnerability does not mean that a person will not be required to pay amounts they are legally obliged to pay.

- D.30 The cause of vulnerability may be temporary or may be permanent in nature and the degree of vulnerability will vary widely. Whilst there are several characteristics which a person may have that others automatically consider them to be vulnerable, each case will be considered on an individual basis, taking into account all relevant factors.

D.31 There is no legal definition of a vulnerable person. Generally, persons considered vulnerable are likely to be those who fall into one or more of the below categories:

- Are elderly;
- Appear to be physically or mentally ill, severely disabled or suffering mental confusion;
- Have young children and severe social deprivation is evident;
- Are heavily pregnant;
- Are in mourning due to recent bereavement (of immediate family);
- Have difficulty communicating e.g., due to profound deafness, blindness, or language difficulties;
- Are in receipt of state benefits and/or on a low income and severe social deprivation is evident;
- Are suffering from long term sickness or serious illness including the terminally ill;
- Those in need of special care, support, or protection due to risk of abuse or neglect, i.e., victims of domestic abuse, refugees, at risk of homelessness and young people; and
- Those from a marginalised groups such as prison leavers and ex armed forces personnel.

Irrecoverable Debts

D.32 Prompt and appropriate action will be taken in all cases to recover all sums overdue to the Council. However, in cases where payments are not forthcoming, and Officers are unable to trace the whereabouts of a Former Tenant, consideration shall be given to writing off the debt in accordance with financial regulations. When a debt has been written off, it will no longer be shown as outstanding in the Council's accounts, however, the debt remains due to the Council in law and if the Tenant is subsequently traced, the debt will be re-instated.

Statute Barred

D.33 Former Tenant Arrears are 'Statute Barred' after 6 years under the Limitation Act 1980. The six-year period will start from the last payment made or the last acknowledgement between the Council and the tenant. If no contact or payments are made within the 6-year period, the outstanding debt should be considered for 'write off' following this period.

Write offs

D.34 North Yorkshire Council will not write debts off without taking appropriate steps to recover them or without approval of the responsible officer. There are some circumstances where this will be appropriate:

- Where it is not economical to pursue the debt
- Tracing action has failed to find the debtor
- The External Debt Recovery Agents deem the debt irrecoverable
- The account is 'Statute Barred' (Debt over 6 years old)
- Debtor is overseas
- Recommended by management
- Bankruptcy. Individual Voluntary arrangement. Liquidation. Debt Relief Order.
- Where one partner has left the tenancy due to domestic violence (the victim will not be pursued)
- Debtor is serving a Custodial Sentence
- Vulnerable / Hardship

- Local Authority error
- Deceased (No funds in the estate)

D.35 Should an account be written off, it is possible to reactivate if the Council subsequently trace the customer, or if the customer approaches the Council e.g., in the case of a future application for rehousing.

D.36 The write off process is undertaken on a regular basis and is considered prudent financial management.

Council Housing Rents and Arrears

Rent Collection – Setup

D.37 All new tenants will be advised of the rent and any other charges at the time of the offer of accommodation. They will be advised of their ability to apply for Housing Benefit and an assessment will be offered if required. If they are claiming Universal Credit, they will be advised of how to submit an application for the Housing cost element to assist with rent payments.

D.38 If there are concerns as to whether the new tenant will be able to afford the rent payments on their new tenancy, a full affordability check will be completed prior to tenancy sign up, to ensure that they can manage their payments.

D.39 Prior to the sign up interview, the new tenant will be advised to bring in all supporting documents required for completion and submission of a housing benefit application, if applicable. At the time of the sign-up the Council will advise the new tenant of the rent, which is payable, complete a Housing Benefit application, if the tenant is deemed to be eligible, and advise the tenant what rent to pay whilst the claim is being processed. The Council should aim to obtain all supporting documents at the time of the interview, if the new tenant has failed to bring the documents to the interview, they must be advised to bring them in within the next 5 days. The application will be sent immediately to the Housing Benefit team to avoid the date of application being affected and subsequent gap in benefit.

D.40 All new tenants should be encouraged to pay the first weeks rent at the time of the sign up.

D.41 All new tenants will have a settling in visit made to their home within the first 4-6 weeks of their tenancy. As well as this visit being used to check the tenant has settled in well and is not encountering any problems, the visit will also be used to check that any claims for benefit have come through and to discuss payment plans to cover any shortfall in payments. The Council will follow up any concerns regarding rent payments with the Housing Management Team and the Housing Benefit Team.

D.42 The Council shall give the following advice to all new tenants as part of the sign up process:

- Provide information about the different payment methods available, promoting payment by Direct Debit.
- Advise tenants to contact the Council should their financial or household circumstances change in the future
- Provide information on the debt advice services offered
- Provide information on the housing support service available and make any immediate referrals deemed necessary at the time of sign up

Rent Collection - Ongoing

- D.43 Rents are due weekly in accordance with the terms detailed in the Tenancy Agreement. Any account will be considered to be in arrears if a payment has not been paid onto the account by the end of each week.
- D.44 Housing benefit payments are made direct to the account with any shortfall being made by the tenant using one of the above methods. The Housing team will work closely with the Housing Benefit team to ensure prompt payment of any benefit entitlement and clarify any issues affecting the payment of benefit to tenants.
- D.45 Universal Credit payments are made either directly to the tenant or directly to the Council where a payment arrangement has been requested. These payments are made on a four weekly basis in arrears.

Recovery Action

- D.46 It is the Policy of North Yorkshire Council to:
- Maximise the recovery of arrears outstanding when a tenant terminates a tenancy;
 - To ensure that the recovery process is cost effective e.g., recover arrears where the cost involved in recovery is less than the amount to be recovered or proportionate to the outstanding amount; and
 - Ensure that bad or unrecoverable debt is written off according to the limits set out in the Financial Procedure Rules.
- D.47 The Rent Arrears Recovery Procedure provides details on the actions that will be taken should accounts fall into arrears. At all times within the process of recovery, it is the Council's intention to help the tenant repay the arrears and avoid the need for possession proceedings. For those tenants who persistently fail to pay their rent arrears actions are at a later stage in the recovery process. The Pre-Court Action Protocol outlines our approach to enforcement action. Prior to any application being made to courts for eviction of a tenant, internal consultation will take place to ensure all other options have been exhausted and this is the only option left available to the Council.

Suppressing Action on Rent Accounts

- D.48 Very occasionally, there may be a situation where there is a requirement for recovery action on a rent account to be suspended, for example, close family bereavement. Each case would be considered individually and, where necessary, recovery action could be suppressed for a period of up to 8 weeks. Following this period, the case would be reviewed by the Council officer with a view to coming to a suitable repayment arrangement. The timescale of this repayment plan would be agreed taking into account the individual circumstances.

Direct Payments

- D.49 The Housing team will liaise with the Department for Work and Pensions regarding direct payment of rent arrears from Universal Credit. Tenants should regularly update their Universal Credit Portal to enable Officers to enquire about claims on their behalf, should their rent accounts fall into arrears.

Council Garage Rents and Arrears

Collection and Arrears

- D.50 Garage rents are to be paid in accordance with the terms of the Garage Tenancy Agreement rents will be due via the payment methods outlined in this policy.
- D.51 Should Garage rent accounts fall into arrears tenants will be offered the opportunity to bring the account up to date.
- D.52 Should rental arrears not be paid and payment not forthcoming then in line with the Tenancy Agreement one weeks' notice shall be given to terminate the garage tenancy.

Multiple Debts

- D.53 To reduce the ability for multiple debts and hardship the Council will, in cases where a tenant has a garage tenancy and has fallen into arrears with their main tenancy and has a debt equivalent to more than four weeks and has not come to an acceptable arrangement or where an arranged agreement has not been adhered to, serve notice to terminate the garage tenancy.
- D.54 If the main tenancy's rent account is brought up to date because of the notice being served the garage tenancy may be continued. However, any tenant who loses the garage tenancy as a result of rent arrears on the main tenancy will not be entitled to apply for another garage until such time that the main tenancy has a clear account and the account has been clear for a period of 3 months.

Former Garage Tenant Arrears

- D.55 Arrears of former garage tenants will be pursued as per this policy's Former Tenant Arrears Policy

Former Tenant Arrears

- D.56 The Council will advise all tenants of their obligation to pay any outstanding rent when a tenancy is terminated. Upon notice of termination, the tenant will be made aware of any rental balance due and a forwarding address will be requested. If the tenant is unable to clear the debt prior to termination, an affordable and realistic repayment plan should be made. The arrangement will be confirmed in writing and the tenant will be advised of how payment can be made.
- D.57 The Council will pursue all recoverable former tenant arrears. If the tenant fails to provide a forwarding address, the Council will use a tracing agent and collecting agent if appropriate.
- D.58 The Council will consider the appropriateness of further recovery action, which may include:
- Money judgement order
 - Attachment of earnings
 - Small claims court
 - Third party debt order
- D.59 All former tenant arrears will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and where there is no financial sense to pursue a debt it will be written off in accordance with the limits set out in the Financial Procedure Rules.

D.60 North Yorkshire Homechoice, the choice based lettings scheme adopted across North Yorkshire allows former tenants of social housing to join the scheme; however, bids for accommodation will not be considered until such time as they have adhered to an agreed repayment plan for an initial 13 week period. There must be no breaks in the plan to allow the bids made by the former tenant to be considered with payments continuing beyond the initial 13 weeks until the debt is ultimately cleared.

Shared Ownership

D.61 When a property is sold on a shared ownership basis, the shared owner is granted a leasehold interest. North Yorkshire Council will be the freeholder of the property. The shared owner pays a percentage share of the freehold value of the property and pays rent on the remainder. As well as paying the rent and service charge, the shared owner may also be repaying a mortgage.

D.62 The lease will prescribe certain conditions for stair casing, which is when the shared owner is given the opportunity to buy an increased share of the property. The Council will transfer the freehold interest to the shared owner once 100% of the shares have been purchased.

D.63 The lease sets out the requirement for shared owners to pay the specified rent, buildings insurance and any service charges. Service charges are payable for the management of blocks of flats and communal grounds and estates.

D.64 The aim of the Shared Ownership Debt Recovery Policy is:

- To manage shared ownership rent arrears in accordance with leasehold legislation and in a consistent manner;
- To promote payment culture in which shared owners pay their rent, service charges and any other charges on time and in accordance with their lease;
- To act in accordance with best practice; and
- To work with the leaseholders to help them sustain their tenancy.

Responsibility for Payment of Specified Rent, Insurance, Service Charges and Ground Rent

D.65 Responsibility for the payment of specified rent, ground rent, insurance and/or service charges rests with the person(s) named in the lease agreement as the shared owner(s).

Charging frequency

D.66 Charges are payable as identified in the lease, in advance on the first of each month - the first payment to be made on the date of the Lease. Generally, payment of the specified rent, building insurance and/or service charge should be made in advance on the first day of each month.

D.67 As the lease requires rent to be paid monthly in advance on the first of the month the first recovery action should be taken immediately an account is identified as being in arrears.

Arrears Process

- D.68 Where shared owners require assistance in making a claim for Housing Benefit or Universal Credit to cover their rent and service charge Council officers will assist the customer with their claim and signpost to the appropriate service of further help is needed.
- D.69 If payment is not being made due to any application for Housing Benefit/universal credit the shared owner is still required to pay their rent and any service charges until Housing Benefit or Universal Credit is confirmed.
- D.70 Universal credit is usually paid direct to the shared owner, although alternative payment arrangements are available for vulnerable customers or where customers have problems paying their rent and any service charge. The Council can request that the part of the Universal Credit that covers rent and service charge is paid direct to us where the shared owner is in two months' rent and service charge arrears or more.
- D.71 Throughout the arrears process and forfeiture process Council officers should ensure that all correspondence clearly states the account is in arrears, provide copies of the rent account showing when the rent was due, the amounts and the dates of any payments made, including Housing Benefit or Universal Credit and the running total of the arrears. A copy of the rent account statement dating from the beginning of the debt will be included with all arrears letters.

Arrears Monitoring

- D.72 Efficient monitoring on the Housing Management System will identify arrears outstanding and will allow for repayment arrangements to be recorded. Follow-up contact will be maintained in timescales, which are proportionate and targeted.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

- D.73 The council will at all times meet legislative and regulatory requirements, including but not limited to, the Ministry of Justice Pre-Action Protocol, the Regulator of Social Housing, and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Complaints

- D.74 The Council will deal with all tenancy related complaints in accordance with the Housing Ombudsman's Code for Complaint Handling.
- D.75 The Council will regularly report on its complaints performance and publish any outcomes and lessons learnt in correspondence with tenants and its annual report.
- D.76 Tenants will regularly be reminded of the complaints procedure and signposted to the various means of complaining, as well as being provided with details of the Housing Ombudsman's Code for Complaint Handling and the Ombudsman's contact details.

Policy Review

D.77 This policy will be subject to regular review and any changes will be agreed with the relevant Cabinet Member. Any significant changes will be consulted on and an impact assessment completed.

Annex E

Sundry Debt Recovery

Introduction

- E.1 The Council charges and collects income from a range of activities. Many of which fall under this policy. Customers range from individual residents to public bodies and private businesses.
- E.2 The value of the invoices from this range of activity vary. Starting from a few pounds to millions of pounds. This can mean the Council is owed a large amount in sundry debt at any one time.
- E.3 It is important that the Council meets its duty to ensure that sundry debts are collected. This benefits our tax payers, residents, and businesses.
- E.4 Failure to effectively manage sundry debt will have budgetary implications across the Council. This could lead to cuts in our services and increases in the fees and charges we request.
- E.5 Our officers will consider this policy alongside respective processes, relevant rules, and guidance. This ensures that consistent, efficient, and effective sundry debt recovery takes place.

Scope

- E.6 Sundry debts are sometimes known as miscellaneous invoices. They are issued for many reasons, and in respect of a wide and varying range of services. A debt is any amount of money owed to us that is not paid by the due date. Some sundry debts are governed by statute, for example, licences. Whilst others are governed by civil debt procedures.

Purpose and objective

- E.7 This policy is to ensure that the Council meets its duty to collect sundry debts effectively and efficiently. We aim to achieve good practice in sundry debt revenue collection. The Council considers that good practice is to:
 - achieve our best possible cash flow
 - calculate the liability to pay correctly
 - use enforcement action that is reasonable, and
 - assist those who are vulnerable to meet their financial obligation to us

Raising invoices

- E.8 The Council takes a commercial approach to all debts. Fees and charges should be paid before or at the time of service provision if applicable. The Council may not supply goods or services to debtors who have been consistent late payers or who have not paid at all. The only exception would be where there is a statutory need to do so. We will check our financial system before offering a service/goods to a debtor. This is to check payment history and to identify any existing debts.
- E.9 By raising an invoice, the service is granting approval to take appropriate recovery action. This includes Court action when necessary.
- E.10 Prompt invoicing is essential to efficient debt collection. The Council aims to raise any invoices as soon as practicable of the goods and/or services being supplied.

E.11 Invoices should not be raised for less than £10 (fees and charges below this level should be paid in advance). Exceptions may apply. The Corporate Director of Resources will periodically consider a review of the minimum invoice amount. For periodic or recurring charges, a direct debit should, wherever practicable, be set up in advance of the service being provided.

E.12 The Service responsible for raising the invoice must ensure that:

- the evidence of the service provided is validated
- the invoice is accurate and contains enough detail for both billing and recovery purposes

E.13 Services must ensure that all invoice information is complete, including:

- Customer's full name(s)
- Customer's full address(es), including postcode(s)
- Customer's contact telephone number(s)
- Customer's email address(es)
- Name of contact officer in cases of query over the service/goods provided
- Date of supply of service/goods
- Purchase order number (where applicable)
- Full description of the service/goods supplied
- Amount due
- VAT amount and rate of VAT
- Total due

E.14 The description on the invoice should be brief. It should contain enough detail that we can recover the invoice and the customer understands what the charge is for and how to pay.

Credit limits

E.15 The Council may ask for a credit check on customers for:

- goods and/or services supplied and costing £5,000 or more
- all commercial leases

E.16 The Council does not ask a credit check on:

- a public sector organisation
- Health & Adult service customers

E.17 Credit will not be given to customers who are consistently late payers or have not paid at all. Exceptions can be made for our Health & Adult Services and Education Services customers at the discretion of our officers.

E.18 Preferential credit limits will not be agreed for any customer.

Sundry debt recovery

E.19 In pursuing the payment of overdue sums, the Council may utilise all the methods available to us in law. The enforcement actions used in each case will be on an escalating basis.

E.20 Repayment will be sought by the most appropriate and proportionate action. This is decided on a case-by-case basis and is dependent on the debt and the debtor.

E.21 Customers with multiple debts may need extra support to find a solution to their debt problems. We encourage you to share information on all debts with Credit Control. This will help us to identify most appropriate resolution for you.

E.22 Unless stated otherwise, our standard terms for payment apply to invoices. Our standard payment terms are 14 days. Invoices and reminders will be issued as follows:

Day 1	Invoice Raised with payment terms of 14 days
Day 17	First Reminder Letter Issued
Day 24	Second Reminder Letter Issued
Day 31	Final Notice Issued
Day 45	Decision made on next course of action

E.23 If an invoice remains unpaid after the issue of the Final Notice, the relevant team will decide how to progress the case. This will generally follow our normal procedures. The next course of action will depend on:

- the level of debt
- the information that we know about the debtor (including their ability to pay)
- the nature of the outstanding charge
- the total debt owed to the authority

E.24 Where necessary, discussions will take place with the service area. An agreement will be reached about how to progress the case.

E.25 The services where the standard terms and recovery cycles vary from the norm are:

- Licensing (Lotteries and Amusement and Premises) – Terms and recovery procedures will be in accordance with prevailing legislation;
- Property Services (commercial rents) – Terms and recovery procedures will be in accordance with the terms of individuals' agreements;
- Contribution or Sponsorship - We do not pursue Invoices for contribution or sponsorship in the normal manner. Standard reminders will not be issued. It is deemed inappropriate to threaten court action for these types of invoices. The charge should still be supported by an agreement signed by a contributor/sponsor. In the event of non-payment, the relevant teams will discuss how to progress the case;
- Retrospective rebates;
- School fixed penalty notices;
- Health and Adult Services where solicitors' undertakings, charges on property, deceased cases etc occur.

E.26 The options available as the next course of action include: -

- (i) Telephoning, emailing, and corresponding with the debtor
- (ii) Referral to an External Collection Agent
- (iii) Progression for recovery through the County Court
- (iv) Bankruptcy and Insolvency
- (v) Arresting of Boats

Should a vessel in the harbour refuse to pay their dues, the vessel can be arrested with the agreement of the Harbour Master, Portfolio Holder for Harbours, and the Accounts

Receivable Section. The Collector of Dues has the power of arrest under the 'Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act 1847' clause 44.

- E.27 If the Council is taking recovery action against you, we may decide it is necessary to end our agreement. This includes stopping providing you the services covered by the agreement.
- E.28 The Council may choose to write-off debts in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
- E.29 During recovery, the Council will act under the rules and advice issued by relevant professional bodies.

Waivers

- E.30 The possibility of waiving a charge must be an explicit feature of a particular charging scheme. A waiver of charges should be seen as an exceptional item to be used carefully.
- E.31 A waiver should only apply if there is some reason why the person receiving the service should continue to do so, and in circumstances in which the charge emerging from the charging scheme may not be fair and reasonable.
- E.32 Specific guidance will normally be appropriate for each charging scheme where this applies. For example, some Adult Social Care schemes.

Charges on Property – Health & Adult Services

- E.33 Sections 34 & 35 of the Care Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to offer Deferred Payment Agreements to allow persons to defer the sale of their main or only home where it is needed to fund social care fees.

Alternative Debt Recovery Action

- E.34 Delays in the debt recovery process can occur. These may result in alternative debt recovery action which can include:
- Ad Hoc Debt Recovery Letters;
 - Awaiting authorisation from Service Area to recommence debt recovery;
 - Awaiting/processing of a Credit Note to reduce the debt;
 - Instalment agreement arranged and subsequently monitored;
 - Deceased Person process instigated;
 - Social Care referral.
- E.35 These interventions can occur at any point along the debt recovery journey. This includes after the point that legal action has started.

Monitoring performance

- E.36 The efficiency of this policy and associated procedures will be monitored through the following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- % in year debt collected;

- % total debt over 90 days old;
- % total debt over 1 year old;
- % total invoices over 1 year old;
- % of total debt on hold with no current action being taken.