

CABINET

19 March 2014

RECORDED VOTES AT BUDGET COUNCIL MEETINGS

REPORT OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The DCLG made The Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, which came into effect on 25 February 2014.

This requires councils to make standing orders to require the taking of recorded votes in relation to the Annual Budget and Council Tax debate.

The reason given for this change is for openness and transparency.

The Council has already adopted this practice at its budget debate on 20 February 2014 – and indeed it was normally its practice at budget meetings in previous years.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the Council Procedure Rules 32, Recording of Votes, be amended to add:  
  
Rule 32 (3)
  - (a) Immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of the Council there must be recorded in the minutes of that meeting the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting.
  - (b) A “budget decision meeting” means a meeting of the Council at which it makes a calculation (whether originally or by way of substitute) in accordance with any of sections 31A, 31B, 34 to 36A, 42A, 42B, 45 to 49, 52ZF, 52ZJ, of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- 1 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):
  - 1.1 None
- 2 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:
  - 2.1 None
- 3 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES
  - 3.1 None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

None