

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**RECORDED VOTES ON BUDGET/COUNCIL TAX SETTING**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Council of the introduction of regulations requiring recorded votes to be taken on decisions to set the council tax and the Council's budget.
- 1.2 To approve amendments to the Council's constitution to reflect these provisions.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 On the 4 February 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government notified all local authorities of the Government's expectation that at this year's budget meetings all councils will adopt the practice of recorded votes - "that is recording in the minutes of the meeting how each member present voted on any decision relating to the budget or council tax".
- 2.2 To facilitate this Government announced that it will introduce The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (Regulations) to make it mandatory for local authorities to amend their standing orders so as to include provisions requiring recorded votes at budget meetings.
- 2.3 The Regulations have now been issued and come into force on 25 February 2014.
- 2.4 Approval is accordingly sought to the following amendment to the Council's constitution:

D.1.22 Voting

"(e) Immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting (as defined in The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014) the voting shall be recorded in the minutes so as to show whether each member present voted for or against the decision or who abstained from voting."

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 There are no options associated with the requirement to ensure that a recorded vote is now taken on decisions concerning the setting of the Council's budget and council tax. This is now a statutory requirement prescribed under the Regulations.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 There are no such implications arising from this report.

### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 There are no such implications arising from this report.

### **6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Both group secretaries have been provided with a copy of the letters received from the Department for Communities and Local Government dated 4 February 2014 and have been notified of the intention to place this report before Council.

### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 To approve the amendment to the Council's constitution as detailed in paragraph 2.4.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND RESOURCES

Civic Centre  
Ashby Road  
SCUNTHORPE  
North Lincolnshire  
DN16 1AB  
Author: W S Bell  
Date: 7 February 2014

#### **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report -**

Letters from the DCLG (Paul Roswell) and (Brandon Lewis MP) both dated 4 February 2014.

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014