

**Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 28 February 2019**

Report submitted by: Chief Executive and Director of Resources

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Financial Threshold for Key Decisions

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Executive Summary

The Council is required, each year, to specify the financial threshold above which decisions should be treated as Key Decisions as defined in Standing Order 19(1).

Recommendation

It is recommended that Full Council confirms the financial threshold for Key Decisions, for the purposes of Standing Order 19(1), be increased to £1.6m for 2019/20.

Background and Advice

Standing Order 19(1) defines a key decision of the cabinet/cabinet member for the purpose of the requirement for the county council to publish details of a key decision at least 28 clear days before the decision is due to be taken.

A key decision means an executive decision which is likely:

- (a) to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the council.

In the case of (a), a decision with a significant financial impact on the county council, the current threshold is £1.5m.

The council is required, by number 13 in its list of functions in the Constitution, to “specify, before the beginning of each financial year, the amounts of expenditure and savings that shall be regarded as significant for the purposes of Standing Order 19 (key decisions).”

The current threshold of £1.5m approved by full council in February 2018 has remained constant since 2017/18. The Chief Executive and Director of Resources has, in consultation with Legal and Democratic Services, reviewed the financial threshold for key decisions. The recommendation arising from the review is that the threshold should be increased to reflect compound RPI inflation. It is proposed, therefore, that the threshold for 2019/20 should be £1.6m.

Consultations

As above

Implications:

This item has no significant implications for the council.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact/Tel |
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A