

Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 24 February 2022

Report submitted by: Chief Executive and Director of Resources

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
N/A;

Financial Threshold for Key Decisions

Contact for further information:
Neil Kissock, Tel: (01772) 534286, Director of Finance,
neil.kissock@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief 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 C19 (1) (a).

Recommendation

It is recommended that Full Council approves that the financial threshold for Key Decisions, for the purposes of Standing Order C19 (1) (a), increases to £1.8m for 2022/23.

Background and Advice

Standing Order C19 (1) (a) 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 £1.7m.

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 C19 (key decisions).”

The current threshold of £1.7m approved by Full Council in February 2021 for 2021/22 has remained constant since 2020/21. 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 increase to reflect compound Retail Price Index inflation. It is proposed, therefore, that the threshold for 2022/23 should increase to £1.8m.

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
-------	------	-------------

None		
------	--	--

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A