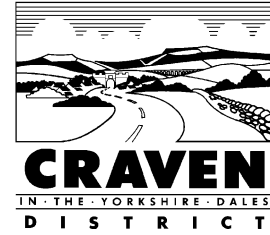


Audit and Governance Committee – 30th March 2015



RECORDED VOTES AT THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET MEETINGS

Report of the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer)

Ward(s) affected: ALL

1. **Purpose of Report** – To seek Members approval to amend the Council Procedure Rules as required by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.
2. **Recommendations** – That Council is recommended to amend Council Procedure Rule 16.4 (Recorded Vote) as set out at paragraph 3.4 of this report.
3. **Report**
 - 3.1 The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 came into force on the 25th February 2014. These Regulations require that the votes of each individual Councillor on the budget to be recorded by name in the minutes of the meeting.
 - 3.2 The Regulations also make it mandatory for Councils, as soon as practicable after the Regulations came into force, to amend their Standing Orders to include provisions requiring recorded votes at budget meetings as follows:

“Immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of an authority there must be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting;

References to a vote are references to a vote on any decision related to the making of the calculation or the issuing of the precept as the case may be.”
 - 3.3 A recorded vote was taken at the Council Meeting on the 24th February 2015 however, the Council’s Standing Orders have not yet been amended as required by the Regulations.
 - 3.4 It is suggested that Council Procedure Rule 16.4 is amended to read as follows:
 - 16.4 **Recorded Vote**
 - 16.4.1 If two Members present at the meeting demand it, the names for and

against the motion / amendment or those abstaining from voting will be recorded in the minutes.

16.4.2 All votes relating to the setting of the budget and the Council Tax at budget setting Council meetings shall be a recorded vote.

4. **Implications**

4.1 **Financial Implications** – None arising directly from the report.

4.2 **Legal Implications** – These are set out in the body of the report.

4.3 **Contribution to Council Priorities** – Improving how the Council governs its business.

4.4 **Risk Management** – Not applicable.

4.5 **Equality Analysis** – Not applicable.

5. **Consultations with Others** – None.

6. **Access to Information: Background Documents** – Not applicable.

7. **Author of the Report** – Annette Moppett, Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer); telephone 01756 706325; e-mail: amoppett@cravendc.gov.uk.

8. **Appendices** – None