



**DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

**PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**TOPIC - NON-DOMESTIC RATES – RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST 2015/16**

**PROCEDURAL INFORMATION**

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

**If you wish to make representation on this proposed Decision please contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and the following Democratic Services Officer by 5.00pm on Wednesday 12 November 2014.**

**Contact Officers:**

**Case Officer:** Gill Cranswick, Head of Revenues, Tel: 01962 848 190, gcranswick@winchester.gov.uk

**Democratic Services Officer:** Nancy Graham, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Tel: 01962 848 235, ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

**SUMMARY**

One of the criteria for awarding non-domestic rate relief for village shops, post offices or village food stores is that the premises must be "within the boundaries of a qualifying settlement", as outlined under Section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

The settlement list must be compiled and approved by the Council three months prior to the commencement of the financial year for which it is effective, and during this period it must be made available for Public Inspection. The whole of England is treated as rural, apart from urban areas that have a population of more than 10,000. Maps issued by the former Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) designate rural areas. For Winchester City Council, the map indicates that the whole of the District is to be treated as rural, apart from the

Winchester Town area. The map is the starting point for compiling the settlement list with the criteria that each settlement must:

- Be wholly or partly within the authority's area;
- Appear to the billing authority to have had a population of 3,000 or less on the preceding 31<sup>st</sup> December; and
- Be wholly or partly within a designated rural area (as specified in a designation order).

The settlement list as outlined in Appendix A has been compiled with the assistance of the Strategic Planning Team, as in previous years.

There are two changes to the list for 2015/16 –

- South Wonston has been included with those parishes whose rural settlement areas are based on parish boundaries as the population and settlement forecast are both under 3,000.
- Colden Common has been included with those parishes whose rural settlement is not based on the parish boundaries. The rural settlement area will be based on the settlement boundary as the parish population forecast exceeds 3,000 but the settlement forecast is below 3,000.

Approval of the Rural Settlement list is delegated to the Portfolio for Finance and Administration under the Scheme of Delegation to Portfolio Holders (as set out in Part 3, Section 3 of the Council's Constitution).

### **PROPOSED DECISION**

That the list of Rural Settlements shown in Appendix A be approved for the year 2015/16.

### **REASON FOR THE PROPOSED DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The proposed list has been updated to reflect changes in population forecast.

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

With effect from 1 April 2013 there was a change to funding arrangements for Non-Domestic Rates. Prior to the changes the cost of Mandatory Relief was met by the national pool and the cost of Discretionary Rural Rate Relief was shared by the Council and the pool. Following the change the Council now funds 40% of all relief given for both mandatory and discretionary elements above the amount of relief in payment prior to the change in funding arrangements. The cost of this relief and all other rate relief is accounted for in the Collection Fund.

During the current year approximately £34,000 will be awarded in Mandatory and Discretionary Rural Rate Relief. The figure for 2013/14 was £33,000.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROPOSED DECISION**

None

**FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

n/a

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED**

n/a

**DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

n/a

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision

Councillor Godfrey – Portfolio Holder for Finance & Organisational Development

Appendix A

**RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST**

**2015-2016**

In accordance with SECTION 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 the following is the Rural Settlement List for Winchester City Council.

**The following settlements are based on parish boundaries:**

Beauworth

Bighton

Bishops Sutton

Bishops Waltham -

with the exception of those properties within the boundary H.3 of Inset Map No 1 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)

Boarhunt

Bramdean & Hinton Ampner

Cheriton

Chilcomb

Compton and Shawford

Corhampton and Meonstoke

Crawley

Curdridge

Denmead -

with the exception of those properties within the boundary H.3 of Inset Map No 7 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)

Droxford

Durley

Exton

Hambledon

Headbourne Worthy -

with the exception of those properties within the boundary H.3 of Inset Map No 12 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)

Hursley

Itchen Stoke and Ovington

Itchen Valley

Kilmeston

Kings Worthy -

with the exception of those properties within the boundary H.3 of the Inset Map No 12 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)

Littleton and Harestock -

with the exception of those properties in the area known as Harestock shown within the boundary H.3 of the Inset Map No 31N of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)

Micheldever

New Alresford	-	with the exception of those properties within the boundary H.3 of the Inset Map No 16 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)
Northington		
Old Alresford		
Otterbourne		
Owslebury		
Soberton		
South Wonston		
Southwick and Widley		
Sparsholt		
Tichborne		
Twyford		
Upham		
Warnford		
West Meon		
Whiteley	-	with the exception of those properties within the boundary H.3 of the Inset Map No 29(S) of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)
Wonston		

**The following settlements are not based on parish boundaries.**

Colden Common	as indicated within the boundary H.3 on Inset Map No 3 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)
Knowle	as indicated within the boundary H.3 on Inset Map No 13 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)
Shedfield	as indicated within the Blue Boundary shown on the map held within the Revenues Division
Shirrell Heath	as indicated within the Red Boundary shown on the map held within the Revenues Division
Swanmore	as indicated within the Boundary H.3 on Inset Map No 24 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)
Waltham Chase	as indicated within the Boundary H.3 on Inset Map No 26 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)
Wickham	as indicated within the Boundary H.3 on Inset Map No 30 of the Winchester District Local Plan Review (2006)