

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET ON 1 JULY 2014 FROM THE
MEETING OF THE RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE PANEL
HELD ON 24 JUNE 2014**

**RP24: CABINET REPORT: BUSINESS RATES AND COUNCIL TAX –
AMENDMENTS IN FLOODING RELIEFS**

The Revenues and Benefits Manager presented the report and explained that on 1 April 2014 Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council to award the new discretionary flood relief discounts to council tax and business rate payers adversely affected by the December floods. The recommendations were subsequently agreed by Council on 24 April 2014.

The original Government guidance stated the flood reliefs would be fully funded by Central Government for up to three months. This was adopted by Council as the length of discount that would be awarded to qualifying cases. Since the meeting Central Government had amended their guidance and the Council could now extend the period of relief for Council Tax from three months to an indefinite period.

The report also considered the potential to extend the relief scheme for business rates if Government provided further guidance.

It was reported that there had been 24 council tax properties affected by the flood, and out of that number there were a small number of properties which could not yet be occupied.

In response to a question from Councillor Collop regarding how many businesses had been affected, the Revenues and Benefits Manager explained that there had been 19 applications for Business Rates Flood relief. One of the worst affected was the Sea Life Centre at Hunstanton and it had been agreed that this premises would be taken out of the rateable valuation scheme. It was explained that there was also the hardship relief fund for businesses which could be used after the 3 month discount period. These applications would be assessed on an individual basis.

The Deputy Chief Executive also advised that if businesses could not get back into their premises, there were also separate flood relief schemes which could be accessed.

RESOLVED: That the Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as follows:

1. Cabinet recommend to Council to extend the council tax discount for properties adversely affected by flooding from three months to an indefinite time in line with Central Government guidance.
2. Cabinet recommend to Council to agree in advance to an amended business rates discount if Central Government subsequently amend their guidance.