

RECOMMENDATION FROM 1 AUGUST CABINET ON 1 AUGUST 2017
TO 31 AUGUST 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

CAB41: NON DOMESTIC RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEFS

Councillor Long presented the report which explained that at the Budget on 8 March 2017 the Chancellor announced the Government would make available a discretionary fund of £300m over four years from 2017/2018 to support those businesses facing the steepest increases in their business rates bills as a result of the 2017 Revaluation.

Every Billing Authority had been awarded a share of the £300m based on the increases in their rates bills, and Billing Authorities were free to decide on a scheme to allocate this to their ratepayers. The Scheme was not applicable to large national chains due to the state aid rules.

The report presented detailed the recommended Discretionary Relief scheme to allocate this funding to local ratepayers. It was proposed that the recommendations be submitted to the Special Council on 31 August in order to get the scheme under way as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDED: That Council at its Special Meeting on 31 August 2017 consider:

1. That the new Discretionary Revaluation Relief scheme for Year 1 (2017/2018) is a banded scheme where a fixed amount of relief is awarded for occupied properties based on the amount the ratepayer's bill has increased as at 1 April 2017.
2. That the principle of a banded scheme is retained in Years 2, 3 and 4 with delegated authority given to the s151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader, to review and decide the bandwidths and the value of the relief given to each band.
3. That delegated authority be given to the Leader to consider individual applications for the new Discretionary Revaluation Relief scheme that do not meet these criteria.
4. Delegated authority is given to the Council's s151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree any Non Domestic Rate Relief schemes where the eligibility criteria are specified by Central Government and the cost is met in full by Central Government through a Grant.

Reasons for Decisions

To ensure a Discretionary Relief scheme for Ratepayers facing the steepest increases in their bills is recommended to Council.

To ensure future Relief initiatives, where the eligibility criteria are specified by Central Government and the cost is met in full, can be implemented in a timely manner.