

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

This is a record of a decision taken by the officers under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

Delegated Power

Cabinet: 1 August 2017
Minute CAB41(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.

Decision Taken

To extend the Non Domestic Rates Discretionary Rural Rate Relief available in 2017/2018 into 2018/2019.

Reasons for the Decision

The Autumn Statement 2016 confirmed that Central Government intends to double the amount of Mandatory Rural Rate Relief from 50% to 100% from 1 April 2017. This requires primary legislation and until this is passed government have asked billing authorities to award the increase as Discretionary Rural Rate Relief. Government are fully compensating billing authorities for the cost of doing so.

The Council's Discretionary Rural Rate Relief scheme 2017/2018 was agreed by Council on 21 September 2017. Unfortunately the primary legislation will not be passed in time for the 2018/2019 financial year so billing authorities have been asked to continue awarding the relief under their discretionary powers. The cost of the discretionary relief in 2017/2018 is £64,766, and the estimated cost for 2018/2019 is £68,262. Funding will be paid on the same basis as the 2017/2018 scheme and the cost will be met in full by Central Government.

As the eligibility criteria are set by Central Government, and the cost is met in full, this extension can be agreed under delegated powers.


Options considered

Not applicable

Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests.

Not applicable

Authorisation

Signature 

Lorraine Gore

Date 12/1/2018

Consultation with members/officers

If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:

Consultation with the Council Leader, Councillor Brian Long

Signed by Member as consulted: 

Councillor Brian Long

Date 15/1/18.

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Name of policy/service/function	Non Domestic Rates Discretionary Rural Rate Relief Scheme				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?	Existing				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations	The relief scheme doubles the amount of rural rate relief available to certain rural businesses. It began in 2017/2018 and is now extended into 2018/2019				
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			✓	
	Disability			✓	
	Gender			✓	
	Gender Re-assignment			✓	
	Marriage/civil partnership			✓	
	Pregnancy & maternity			✓	
	Race			✓	
	Religion or belief			✓	
	Sexual orientation			✓	
	Other (eg low income)			✓	
Question	Answer	Comments			
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	No				
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	No				
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	No				
<p>5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section</p>	N/A	Actions:			
		Actions agreed by EWG member:			
Assessment completed by: Name Joanne Stanton					
Job title Revenues and Benefits Manager	Date 11 January 2018				