

1. **Non Domestic Rate Relief Schemes** (Pages 1 - 4)

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 amend, extend and reintroduce the following reliefs from 1 April 2020 as per guidance from Central Government:

- **Retail Discount** – increase the discount for qualifying properties with a rateable value of less than £51,000 from 1/3 to 50% for 2020/2021, and include cinemas and live music venues as properties who can benefit from the relief
- **Local Newspaper Relief** - extend the duration of the £1,500 per annum Local Newspaper Discount for five years to 31 March 2025
- **Pub Relief** – reintroduce the £1,000 discount for Public Houses with a rateable value of less than £100,000 for 2020/2021

Reasons for the Decision

In the December 2019 Queen's speech the government announced a number of policies aimed at helping businesses, including a package of measures around business rates reliefs.

On 27 January 2020 the government produced further guidance for local authorities on these reliefs and their eligibility criteria. They are all existing or historic reliefs which have either been extended (Local Newspaper Relief), made more generous (Retail Discount) or reintroduced (Pub Relief). The changes above reflect this guidance. Central Government will fully compensate local authorities for the cost of awarding these reliefs, and has asked that they be implemented in time for the annual bills for 2020/2021.

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



Tina Stankley

Date

6-2-20

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

6 / 2 / 2020 .

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 changes 2020/2021				
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	Amendments to the existing scheme of business rates reliefs				
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 28 January 2020				