

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Record of decisions taken by the Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources at a meeting held in the Cabinet Office, Woodgreen Offices, Witney, Oxon, on Tuesday 26 April 2016 at 10.30am in accordance with powers delegated by the Leader of the Council

PRESENT

Councillor Mr R A Langridge (Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources)

Officers in Attendance: Kath Leonard, Frank Wilson and Simon Wright

11. NOTICE OF DECISIONS

The record of decisions taken at the meeting held on 22 January 2016 was signed by the Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

**RESOLVED:** that being of the opinion that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the public were present during the following items of business there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)), the public be excluded from the meeting

13. DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

The report of the Joint Head of Revenues and Housing Support containing exempt information in respect of applications for Discretionary Rate Relief for the 2016/2017 business rates year was received. It was noted that the application numbering needed to be amended.

Clarification was given that relief could be applied to more than one business in the same community if they both met the criteria.

The Strategic Director highlighted concern about changes to the business rate relief scheme and the pressure, particularly in rural areas, on local councils to provide top-up funding from their own resources. Mr Langridge concurred and suggested that the concerns could be forwarded to the relevant government department for consideration.

**DECISIONS:**

(a) That the following level of Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded in respect of the applications set out below:

Application Number	Percentage of Discretionary Rate Relief
1.01	20%
1.02	20%
1.03	20%
1.04	20%
1.05	20%
1.06	20%

Application Number	Percentage of Discretionary Rate Relief
1.07	20%
1.08	20%
1.09	20%
1.10	20%
1.11	20%
1.12	20%
2.01	50%
2.02	44%
2.03	20%
2.04	50%
2.05	50%
2.06	50%
2.07	50%
2.08	50%
2.10	50%

- (b) That no discretionary relief be awarded in respect of application 2.09; and
- (c) That the concerns regarding changes to the business rate relief scheme and the pressure, particularly in rural areas, on local councils to provide top-up funding from their own resources for rural relief compared to government support for small business rate relief be conveyed to the relevant government department.

**REASONS:** The awards made were considered to support the Council's vision and priorities. The level of relief granted reflected the financial circumstances of the applicant and the extent to which their objectives reflected those of the Local Authority.

No award was made in respect of application 2.09 as it was not a community interest company.

Mr Langridge considered that the government needed to be aware of issues regarding changes to business rate relief and the potential impact on the council.

**OPTIONS:** The level of recommended Discretionary Rate Relief was detailed in the appendix to the report.

The meeting closed at 10.38am

Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources