

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Record of decisions taken by the Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources at a meeting held in the Committee Room Two, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney on Wednesday 27 September 2017 at 9:00am in accordance with powers delegated by the Leader of the Council

PRESENT

Councillor T J Morris (Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources)

Officers in Attendance: Mandy Fathers, Kath Leonard, Chris Kent and Frank Wilson

7. NOTICE OF DECISIONS

The record of decisions taken at the meeting held on 4 August 2017, copies of which had been circulated, was signed by the Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources.

8. 2017/18 BUSINESS RATES REVALUATION DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF SCHEME

The report of the Strategic Director and Head of Paid Service relating to the award of Discretionary Rate Relief in accordance with the scheme announced by the Government in the March 2017 budget was received and considered.

Mr Morris noted that a significant number of businesses had failed to apply for discretionary rate relief to which they were entitled and enquired as to the steps taken to publicise the availability of the scheme. Officers outlined the measures taken to date and discussed additional potential measures.

It was noted that, of the two applications withdrawn for further consideration at the last meeting, one remained outstanding whilst the second had been dealt with under the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme.

**DECISIONS:**

- (a) That Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded as recommended in the Appendix to the report and attached to the original copy of these minutes.
- (b) That a further press release be issued and Officers be requested to consider other ways in which to publicise the scheme.

**REASONS:** The awards made were in accordance with the Government's scheme and considered to support the Council's vision and priorities and the local economy. The level of relief granted reflected the scheme design criteria set out in the report and therefore related to the impact of the 2017 revaluation on individual businesses.

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

9. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

**RESOLVED:** that the Cabinet Member 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 I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting.

10. DISCRETIONARY COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT

The report of the Strategic Director and Head of Paid Service regarding an application for Discretionary Council Tax Discount submitted under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance act 2003 was received and considered.

**DECISION:** That the application for Discretionary Council Tax Discount submitted under Section 13A of the LGFA 1992, as amended be approved.

**REASONS:** The special circumstances set out in the appendix to the report were considered to warrant the waiver of the empty house premium in this instance.

**OPTIONS:** None appropriate.

The meeting closed at 9.10 am

Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources