

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCE
27 SEPTEMBER 2017
2017/18 BUSINESS RATES REVALUATION DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF
SCHEME
REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE
(Contact: Frank Wilson, Tel: (01993) 861291
Email:frank.wilson@westoxon.gov.uk)

(The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Finance is authorised to determine this relief).

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To approve the award of discretionary rate reliefs in line with the scheme announced by the government in the March 2017 budget.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the discretionary reliefs recommended in Appendix I be approved.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. On the 4 August 2017 The Member with Responsibility for Resources approved a report which set out changes announced in the budget of 8th March to support businesses through the difficulty arising from major increases in rateable values as part of the 2017 revaluation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The relief should be fully funded by central government so unless relief awards exceed the limits imposed by government of £559,000 there will be no impact on the level of business rates income and therefore the impact on the Council Taxpayer should be neutral.
- 4.2. The total awards set out at Appendix I amount to £42,018.24.
- 4.3. Relief totalling £52,000 has already been awarded to 52 Public Houses.
- 4.4. Relief totalling £129,268.00 was been approved for 100 businesses under the Discretionary Relief scheme.
- 4.5. With regard the Supporting Small Businesses Scheme, Officers will provide a verbal update at the meeting as at the time of writing the report software to award this relief is being tested.

5. RISKS

- 5.1. The key risks associated with this scheme relate to ensuring that all eligible businesses apply for the relief. Officers undertook a modelling exercise to identify these businesses and wrote to all individually with a simple application form. To date take up has been as large as was hoped and officers will work with the Communications Team and Business Development Officer to ensure all businesses are aware of the scheme and encouraged to apply.

6. REASONS

To support the local economy

Kath Leonard

Joint Support Lead

(Author: Kath Leonard, Tel: (01993) 861246; Email: kath.leonard@westoxon.gov.uk)

Date: 18 September 2017