

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCE
10 JANUARY 2018
2017/18 BUSINESS RATES REVALUATION DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF
SCHEME

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER GO SHARED SERVICES

Contact: Kath Leonard Tel: (01993) 861246

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

1. PURPOSE

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

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the discretionary reliefs recommended in Appendix A 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 £17,294.25.
- 4.3. Relief totalling £63,095.89 has already been awarded to 65 Public Houses.
- 4.4. Relief totalling £170,131.71 has been awarded to 131 businesses under the Discretionary Relief scheme.
- 4.5. Relief totalling £64,873.16 has been awarded to 58 businesses under the Supporting Small Business Relief scheme.

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 not been as large as was hoped and officers are in the process of speaking to customers by phone and encouraging applications.

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: 02 January 2018