

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Record of decisions taken by the **Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources** at a meeting held in Committee Room Two, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney on **Wednesday 21 February 2018** 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: Kath Leonard and Frank Wilson

17. NOTICE OF DECISIONS

The record of decisions taken at the meeting held on 10 January 2018, copies of which had been circulated, was signed by the Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources.

18. 2017/2018 BUSINESS RATES REVALUATION: DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF SCHEME

The report of the Joint Support Lead – Business Rates 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. Details of seven further applications were also reported and considered, as specified in resolution (b) below.

In giving consideration to the matters referenced in resolutions (b) to (d) below, the Cabinet Member was advised that the decisions as taken would lead to a total allocation of £552,000 in 2017/18, against the maximum available sum of £559,000.

During discussion, it was also confirmed that there would be a further meeting in March or April, at which approval for a scheme for 2018/19 would be sought.

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 Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded to additional applicants as follows:

| Applicant | Amount (60%) |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Hillview Garden Centre | £1,652.84 |
| Bruern LLP | £1,911.04 |
| Mediafleet | £250.24 |
| Mediafleet | £582.59 |
| Burford Golf Club | £838.82 |
| Autocare Express | £655.55 |
| Zoki | £345.87 |

- (b) That the amount of relief awarded to all qualifying applicants be increased 90%; and
- (c) That the existing scheme be extended to include major local employers with rateable values between £200,000 and £300,000, with the amount of relief to be 70% of the increase over £600.

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.

The amendments to the scheme were considered to accord with the Council's objective of supporting the local economy.

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

19. 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.

20. DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

The report of the Group Manager for Revenues and Housing Support Services containing exempt information in respect of applications for Discretionary Rate Relief for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 business rates years was received and considered.

DECISIONS:

- (a) That 20% Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded for the 2017/18 and 2018/2019 Business Rates Years in respect of the applications referenced 1.1 to 1.5 inclusive;
- (b) That 20% Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded for the 2018/2019 Business Rates Year in respect of the applications referenced 2.1 to 2.9 inclusive; and 2.11 and 2.12; and
- (c) That 50% Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded for the 2018/2019 Business Rates Year in respect of the application referenced 2.10.

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 applicants and the extent to which their objectives reflected those of the Local Authority.

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

The meeting closed at 9.25 am

Cabinet Member Responsible for Resources