

Committee: Cabinet

Agenda Item

Date: 19 March 2015

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Title: Discretionary Rate Relief

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Robert Chambers

Summary

1. The current Discretionary Rate Relief Policy was approved at Cabinet in June 2014. As part of the Governments Autumn Statement an increase in the amount of transitional rate relief is to be increased from £1,000 to £1,500 and this relief to be extended for a further 2 years until 31st March 2017. Central Government is requesting that Local Authorities use their discretionary powers to implement these changes rather than through an Act of Parliament.
2. The full Discretionary Rate Relief Policy can be seen in Appendix A, which includes the amended relief of £1,500.

Recommendations

3. That the Cabinet is requested to approve the Discretionary Rate Relief with the following amendments:
 - a. The scheme is extended to 31st March 2017
 - b. The increase of transitional rate relief from £1,000 to £1,500

Financial Implications

4. This will affect 17 properties and the cost is approximately £19,488, of which the council will receive 100% reimbursement via the Section 31 grant.

Background Papers

5. Autumn Statement

Impact

Communication/Consultation	All businesses notified when this relief was included into policy
Community Safety	None
Equalities	Eligibility criteria applies
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	100% reimbursed via grant funding
None Ward-specific impacts	Relates to all wards
Workforce/Workplace	None

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That we do not receive any grant funding	1 – unlikely as the grant is built into the governments autumn	2 – the council would have to fund the relief out of current resources	All documents/notifications read to clarify that we are entitled and this gives assurance that we meet all criteria

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.