

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORD OF EXECUTIVE / CHIEF OFFICER DECISION**

This form should be used to record key and other decisions made by individual Portfolio Holders and key decisions made by Chief Officers. The contact officer will ensure that the signed and completed form is given to Democratic Services as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision has been taken.

Unless permission has been obtained from the Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee that this decision be treated as a matter of urgency under Rule 12.19 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules, this decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in under Rule 7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules or Rule 12 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules.

Portfolio	Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder
Subject Matter	Amendment to Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Date Taken	Tuesday, 23 January 2018
Contact Officer	Katie Brown, Revenues Manager 01954 713335 (katie.brown@scambs.gov.uk)
Date Published	Tuesday, 23 January 2018
Call-In Expiry	Tuesday, 30 January 2018
Key Decision?	No
In Forward Plan?	No
Urgent?	No

Purpose / Background
<p>In the Budget on 8th March 2017, the Chancellor announced that the Government would establish a £300m discretionary fund over four years from 2017/18 to support those businesses that face the steepest increases in the business rates bills as a result of the revaluation. Local Authorities were required to design and implement their own local relief scheme to best meet the needs of their local businesses.</p> <p>The Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief scheme was amended at the Portfolio Holder Meeting in August 2017, setting out the key features of a local scheme. To date, we have awarded almost half of the funding available to those identified within the parameters of the scheme.</p> <p>An amendment to the Policy has now been agreed by the Portfolio Holder, to state that where funds remain after all applications have been considered, the PFH may decide to vary the amount awarded in order to maximise the benefit to ratepayers.</p>

Declaration(s) of Interest
<i>Record below any relevant interest declared by any executive Member consulted or by an officer present in relation to the decision.</i>
None

Dispensation(s)
<i>In respect of any conflict(s) of interest declared above, record below any dispensation(s) granted by the Council's Standards Committee.</i>
None

Consultation <i>Record below all parties consulted in relation to the decision.</i>
None.

Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection
None.

Final decision	Reason(s)
<p>To ensure that the Council allocates the remaining Business Rates Local Discretionary Scheme funding, the percentage of relief that is awarded to the Businesses identified in our scheme would change to the following:</p> <p>Increase > 25%: Initial Award 10% Award additional 10%, giving a total 20% reduction.</p> <p>Increase 20-25% Initial Award 10% Award additional 5%, giving a total 15% reduction.</p> <p>Increase 15-20% Initial Award 5% Award additional 5%, giving a total 10% reduction.</p> <p>Increase 10- 15% Initial Award 5% Award additional 2.5%, giving a total 7.5% reduction.</p> <p>The following amendments would allow for approximately £180k of further relief to be allocated. This would still leave around £36k for any additional cases that may arise.</p>	<p>The Council is required to ensure that it supports Businesses in their area that have faced the steepest increases in their Business Rates as a result of revaluation.</p> <p>By amending the original percentages awarded the Council can award more relief to the Businesses identified in the scheme.</p>

Signed	Name (CAPITALS)	Signature	Date
Portfolio Holder	Signed copy available upon request from Democratic Services (democratic.services@scamb.gov.uk)		
Chief Officer			

Further Information