

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Samuel, Cabinet Member for Resources	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On 8 th June 2021	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3304
TITLE:	Rule 16 Appendix G to the Discretionary Rates Relief Policy	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix G to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy		

1 THE ISSUE

The updated Appendix G to the Bath and North East Somerset Council Non-Domestic Rate Relief Policy gives guidance to officers administering claims for discretionary relief under discretionary powers provided by the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (“The 88 Act”).

Appendix G covers:

Expanded Businesses Rates Retail Discount

The update is required to allow Officers to be able to make further awards of Business Rates Relief to qualifying ratepayers in respect of the 2020/21 financial year and beyond.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is asked to approve the proposal relating to these reliefs in the attached Appendix G

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Government has introduced several measures to provide Business Rates relief to qualifying ratepayers and guaranteed to reimburse local authorities for the local share of these discretionary reliefs using a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 3.2 The reliefs relating to the Business Rates Retail Discount are prescriptive and, although a discretionary power, clear guidance on its administration is provided by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 3.3 The Government introduced the Expanded Business Rate Retail Discount Scheme in the 2020 budget in reaction to the economic issues faced by businesses during the pandemic. This granted a discount of 100% on qualifying retail leisure or hospitality premises during the 2020/21 Financial Year. For the 2021/22 Financial Year this discount will be 100% for the first three months, then 66% for the remaining 9 months of the year, subject to cash caps. This appendix updates the policy already in place to reflect this change.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Localism Act of 2011 ("The 11 Act") amended the discretionary powers available to Councils with effect from 1st April 2012. Specifically, section 69 of The 11 Act amended section 47 of The Local Government Finance Act 1988("The 88 Act"). Section 47 of the 88 Act enables the Council to grant relief to any ratepayer, including profit making organisations and individuals, with the proviso that awarding relief is in the interests of its Council Tax payers.
- 4.2 This decision is to be made under Rule 16 of the council's constitution as an urgent decision. This matter is urgent because the council needs to implement the Expanded Retail Discount Scheme so that Business Rate relief to businesses impacted by Covid19 and the national restrictions can be provided as quickly as possible.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 As these reliefs are funded by Central Government there will be no financial cost to the Council in making these changes.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 7.1 N/A

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

The Council has sought the views of the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation, The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and has considered the views and local schemes operated by other Councils.

Contact person	Rob Brunton
Background papers	None
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