

## Member Decision Record

This form records a Member decision and is published in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Janet Waggott, Chief Executive / June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services
<b>Title of Decision:</b>	Revision to Discretionary Discount Scheme Relief for businesses affected by Covid 19.
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	All
<b>Type of Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Key decision  <input type="checkbox"/> Non key decision discharging (or connected to the discharge of) an Executive function  <input type="checkbox"/> Specific delegation from Council or Committee  <input type="checkbox"/> Grant of permission / licence  <input type="checkbox"/> Affecting the rights of an individual  <input type="checkbox"/> Awarding a contract or incurring expenditure which materially affects the financial position of the Council  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision under urgency
<b>Details of decision:</b>	<p>In March 2020 the Government has announced a financial rescue package to support and protect businesses affected by COVID-19, particularly those in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.</p> <p>With regards to local authority business rates administration these included -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 100% business rates relief scheme for all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses and nurseries in England for 2020/21. Approximately 800 businesses in the Selby District received this relief on their business rates bills.</li> </ul> <p>In the March 2021 budget the Government announced the 100%</p>

	<p>scheme would be extended into 2021/22 at 100% relief until 30 June 2021 and then a 66% discount until 31 March 2022.</p> <p>The Council is expected to implement these measures as quickly as possible to provide immediate help to businesses, they are being asked to do this using their discretionary powers under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to grant these reliefs.</p> <p>Local authorities should adopt a local scheme to determine each individual case, having regard to the further guidance provided to apply this relief under Section 47. Central Government will fully reimburse local authorities for these using a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.</p> <p>As the decision is a Key Decision the Chair of Scrutiny has been consulted and agreed that the decision cannot be reasonably deferred, and that the decision is genuinely urgent.</p> <p>That this decision is urgent, and the decision cannot await a full meeting of the Executive due to the need to put in place arrangements as part of the ongoing Covid-19 response, the Leader agrees that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The amended Discretionary Rates Relief Policy 2021/22, attached at Appendix A to the Report is approved.</li> <li>(ii) That delegated authority is given to the Head of Operational Services to administer the approved Scheme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reason for decision:</b></p>	<p>To administer the government's business rate relief scheme to assist businesses affected by Covid 19.</p>
<p><b>Alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	
<p><b>Member Interests:</b> <i>(Name of any Member who has declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision and details of any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service if appropriate)</i></p>	<p>None.</p>

<p><b>Legal, Financial or other implications:</b></p>	<p>The government will fully reimburse the Council for the cost of reliefs provided under the new measures by Section 31 grants.</p> <p>Fully documented decisions by officers of the reliefs applied to accounts will be made to ensure all external audit requirements are fulfilled and to ensure maximum return of costs on NNDR returns to Central Government.</p> <p>As the decision is made under urgency powers it is not subject to call-in. The Chief Executive confirms that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and is to be treated as urgent.</p>
<p><b>Background papers:</b></p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>Contact details for further information:</b></p>	<p>Janet Waggott, Chief Executive</p>
<p><b>Signed:</b></p>	<p><b>Signature Redacted</b></p> <p>Leader of the Council, Cllr Mark Crane</p>
<p><b>Date of Decision:</b></p>	<p>6 July 2021</p>