

Individual 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.

Decision Maker:	Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council
Lead Officer:	Janet Waggott, Chief Executive / Karen Iveson, Chief Finance Officer/ Stuart Robinson, Head of Business Development and Improvement
Title of Decision:	CARF Relief Scheme, RHL Scheme, TRL Scheme
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Type of Decision:	<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
Details of decision:	<p>In December 2021 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has provided local authorities further details of various rates relief schemes that local authorities are expected to administer through their discretionary powers.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) of £1.5 billion. This fund is available to support those businesses affected by the pandemic but that are ineligible for existing support linked to business rates.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new business rates relief scheme for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses (RHL) for 2022/23. This is a similar scheme to the extended retail relief scheme first introduced in April 2020 and extended to March 2022. Details were published on 20 December 2021 and this new scheme will provide eligible occupied retail, leisure and hospitality properties with a 50% relief, up to a cash cap of £110,000.00 per business. • An extension to the transitional relief scheme and the supporting small business scheme (TRL and SSB) for one year for 2022/23. The transitional relief scheme was introduced in 2017 to help those ratepayers who were faced with higher bills as a result of the revaluation. The scheme ends 31 March 2022 and as a result some ratepayers would see an increase in their bills. The government has therefore announced it would extend the current schemes for one year to the end of the current revaluation cycle. <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 has agreed that the decision cannot be reasonably deferred, and that the decision is genuinely urgent.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the decision is urgent and 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, and that the policy documents for the 3 schemes be approved for insertion into the councils Discretionary Rates Relief Policy, attached at Appendix A to the report.</p>
Reason for decision:	To administer the government’s business rate relief schemes to assist businesses affected by Covid 19.
Alternative options considered and	

rejected:	
Member Interests: (<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>)	None.
Legal, Financial or other implications:	<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>
Background papers:	None.
Contact details for further information:	Janet Waggott, Chief Executive
Signed:	<p><i>Signature redacted</i></p> <p>Leader of the Council, Councillor Mark Crane</p>
Date of Decision:	14 February 2022