

Individual Member Decision Record



This form records an officer 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 / June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services
Title of Decision:	Discretionary Discount Scheme Relief for businesses affected by Covid 19
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Type of Decision:	<input 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>The government have recently announced urgent budget measures regarding business rates to provide support for businesses following the COVID-19 outbreak.</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</p>

	<p>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>This decision is urgent, due to putting in place arrangements for Covid 19, the Leader agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the Council will implement with immediate effect, on 23 March 2020, the Government's financial rescue package to support and protect businesses affected by COVID-19, as set out in Section 4 of this report; ii. To delegate authority to the Council's Section 151 Officer to agree a new Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme, in consultation with the Leader which shall include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The matters set out in section 4 of this report, and b. That the new discounts apply from the 1st April 2020. iii. That delegated authority be given to the Head of Operational Services to administer the approved Scheme.
<p>Reason for decision:</p>	<p>To enact the government's business rate relief scheme to assist businesses affected by Covid 19.</p>
<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>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></p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Legal, Financial or other implications:</p>	<p>The government will fully reimburse Council's for the cost of reliefs provided under the new measures by Section 31 grants. The estimated number of businesses who will benefit from the relief is 1,100 who in total will receive over £5 million.</p> <p>Fully documented decisions by officers of the reliefs applied to accounts will be made to ensure all external audit requirements</p>

	<p>are fulfilled and to ensure maximum return of costs on NNDR returns to Central Government.</p> <p>The Chairs of the Scrutiny and Policy Review Committees have been consulted on this issue as it is an urgent decision outside of the Budget and Policy Framework.</p>
Background papers:	None.
Contact details for further information:	Janet Waggott, Chief Executive
Signed:	<p><i>Signature redacted</i></p> <p>Cllr Mark Crane, Leader of the Council</p>
Date of Decision:	23 March 2020