

# Executive decision taken by Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder



***Decision taken by:***

Councillor Zoe Nicholson

***Date of decision:***

28 February 2022

***Subject of report:***

On 27 October 2021 the Government announced the introduction of a new Business Rate Relief scheme for retail, hospitality and leisure properties and the extension of Transitional relief and Supporting Small Business relief for small and medium sized properties. Guidance was issued to Local Authorities at the end of December 2021.

The Government fully expects billing authorities to grant these reliefs to qualifying ratepayers before 01 April 2022 for the 2022/23 financial year.

***Exempt matter (if any as given under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972):***

No

***Key decision:***

Yes

***Open summary of decision made:***

The Leader of the Council approves the 2022/23 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and the Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business Relief schemes and grants the Director of Service Delivery delegated authority, to implement, and if necessary, amend each Policy (in consultation with the Leader). Such delegated authority will include any measures necessary for or incidental to its management and administration.

In accordance with section 17 of the Council's Policy and Performance Advisory Committee Procedure Rules, the call-in procedure shall not apply to this decision given its urgency. A decision is urgent if, in the view of the decision maker, any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would, for example, seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.

***Reason(s) for decision:***

These are new schemes which needs to be implemented as a matter of urgency and so executive approval for the scheme is being sought from the Leader. The Leader is being asked to authorise the Director of Service Delivery to implement and administer the scheme as there is no existing officer delegation in place.

***Alternative options considered:***

These are government rate relief schemes which must be in place prior to 01 April 2022. Time does not permit alternative options as eligible businesses must receive relief on their 2022/23 annual bills which will be sent on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

***Was an executive councillor(s) consulted before decision was taken? If so, what was the result of this consultation?***

None

***Does the proposal involve any unplanned expenditure? If so, please confirm that you have consulted with the Chief Finance officer and include the date of consultation***

The cost of the scheme is being met by Central Government and any additional expenditure will be met through the New Burdens Funding.

Date of consultation: Not applicable

***Signed:***

Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of the Council

***Leader/Cabinet portfolio holder***