

LOCAL DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF SCHEME ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SPRING BUDGET - UPDATE
COUNCILLOR DAVID SEATON, CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES
January 2018
Deadline date: N/A

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Councillor David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources Marion Kelly, Interim Corporate Director Resources
Is this a Key Decision?	NO
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	NO
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
The Cabinet Member is recommended to approve the amendment to the Local Discretionary Rate Relief scheme for 2017-18 to remove the requirement for an application process.

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Approve an amendment to the Local Discretionary Rate Relief scheme for 2017-18 to remove the requirement for an application process from the scheme.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 2.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Resources to consider an amendment to the Local Discretionary Rate Relief scheme under paragraph 3.4 of Part 3, Section 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph (l).

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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4. DETAILS OF DECISION REQUIRED

- 4.1 In the Spring 2017 budget the Government announced a £300m package over 4 years from 2017-18 for local authorities to provide discretionary relief to those ratepayers facing significant increases in their bills due to revaluation. The total relief tapers over the four years

from £175m to £5m and the Peterborough allocation ranges from £272k in 2017/18 to £8k in 2020/21; details are shown in the table below.

Allocation of Relief to be granted	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
National Allocation in £m	£175m	£85m	£35m	£5m
Peterborough Allocation in £k	£272k	£132k	£54k	£8k

4.2 These values represent the total amount of relief to be awarded to the ratepayer and the government have committed to fund the Councils share (49%) by way of a s31 grant but this will be capped at the allocation level. If additional reliefs above the allocation level are granted the council will bear the full cost of these reliefs.

4.3 The government asked each local authority to design their own scheme but have assumed that relief will only be provided where an increase in bills has taken place due to revaluation and that more support will be provided to lower value properties and for higher levels of increase.

4.4 A local scheme including a simple application process was agreed by the Cabinet Member for Resources in October 2017 and the scheme has been published on the council's website. In addition the council have written to all those ratepayers that are expected to benefit from this relief but the take up has been poor.

4.5 The government are very keen to ensure that the funding provided is utilised to provide additional support to local businesses by the end of this financial year and have recently encouraged those authorities with an application as part of their scheme and where take up is poor to consider automating the process. It should be noted that some authorities do not have an application process within their schemes.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The Local Taxation section has been fully involved in the development of this report and other interested authorities have been advised of the amendment.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

6.1 If the amendment to the Local Discretionary Rate Relief scheme is agreed, the relevant reliefs will be processed and the business or organisation will see a reduction in their business rate liability for 2017-18 by 31st March 2018.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

7.1 The amended scheme will ensure that the additional rate relief due to those businesses who meet the other conditions of the scheme is processed in the current financial year.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 There are no other realistic options to ensure that the businesses due the relief under the council's scheme will receive the relief.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Finance

9.1 There are no further financial implications arising from this report.

Legal

9.2 Awards of relief under these schemes are granted under the discretionary relief scheme which is detailed in s47 Local Government Finance Act, as inserted by Section 69 of the Localism Act 2011.

9.3 Awards of discretionary relief to the rate payers outlined within section 7.6 of this CMDN are allowed under s47 Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2003) and the Local Government and Rating Act 1997.

10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

None.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

ND26 Local discretionary rate relief scheme announced by the Government in the spring budget approved in October 2017.