

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Customer & Digital (Introduced by the Executive Member for Customer, Advice & Streetscene)	Executive Member Decision (Resources)	March 2021

## National Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

### Purpose of report

- To gain approval to amend the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to include Budget 2021 changes to Expanded Retail Discount and Nursery Discount for the financial year 2021/22.

### Recommendation(s)

- To amend the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy, under delegated powers, to include changes outlined within this report to Expanded Retail Discount and Nursery Discount from 1 April 2021 and subsequently from 1 July 2021.

### Executive summary of report

- The Chancellor announced in the Budget 2021 that the Government will provide additional temporary Business Rates support for eligible retail, hospitality, leisure, and nursery businesses occupying a qualifying property in England.
- This announcement requires the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to be amended to incorporate these additional temporary support measures.
- Authorities will be compensated for the cost of granting these discounts through a section 31 grant from the Government.
- The Discretionary Rate Relief Policy permits cost neutral changes under delegated powers (EMD) by the Executive Member for Resources.

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	<b>No</b>
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<b>Key Decision?</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	<b>No</b>
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<b>Reason</b> Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

**Reasons for recommendation(s)  
(If the recommendations are accepted)**

7. To ensure that the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy is up to date and consistent with local and statutory requirements.

**Alternative options considered and rejected**

8. None.

**Corporate priorities**

9. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	X
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

**Budget 2021 Business Rates announcements**

10. In the Budget on 3 March 2021, the Chancellor announced that the Government would provide additional Business Rates support for eligible retail, hospitality, leisure, and nursery businesses occupying a qualifying property in England.
11. As a temporary measure for the financial year 2021/22 he announced that:
- a. The Expanded Retail Discount (2020/21) will be extended for three months for eligible properties, at 100% relief, uncapped, for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021.
  - b. From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022, the Expanded Retail Discount would apply at 66% relief for eligible properties in the scheme, with a cash cap of £2m for businesses that were required to close as at 5 January 2021, and up to £105,000 for business permitted to open at that date.
  - c. The Nursery Discount 2021 would also be extended for three months, at 100%, uncapped, for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021.
  - d. From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022 the Nursery Discount would apply at 66% relief for eligible properties, with a cash cap of £105,000.
  - e. For the Expanded Retail Discount 2021/22 and Nursery Discount 2021/22, businesses may choose to opt out of support by providing billing authorities notification of their request to refuse support, per eligible hereditament.
12. Local authorities are expected to use their discretionary relief powers (under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended) to grant these discounts in line with the relevant eligibility criteria.
13. No new legislation will be required to deliver the schemes, but local discretionary policies must be amended to include this temporary support. The policy must also include the option for businesses to opt out of support by providing billing authorities with notification of their request to refuse support.
14. Authorities will be compensated for the cost of granting the discount through a section 31 grant from Government.

**Implications of report**

15. If the recommendation in Paragraph 2 is not approved the Council will not have discretionary powers to award Expanded Retail Discount and Nursery Discount in 2021/22.
16. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

**Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

17. As outlined in this report the Government will reimburse the council for the reduced income from offering these reliefs.

**Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

18. The changes proposed to the local scheme reflect changes imposed from central government.

ASIM KHAN  
DIRECTOR (CUSTOMER & DIGITAL)

Report Author	Ext	Date
Alison Wilding		16 March 2021
<a href="#">Background papers</a>		

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in Paragraph 2 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.



Dated 30.03.21

**Councillor Peter Wilson**  
Executive Member (Resources)