



Date of Meeting	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Corporate Delivery
Report Author	Carolyn Goddard
Public/Private Document	Public

## 2022/23 Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy

### Executive Summary

1. The Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy needs to be amended for 2022/23 due to the changes announced by Government in 2021.

The Policy is attached at Appendix 1.

### Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Note the introduction of the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme.
2. Note the extension of the Supporting Small Businesses Scheme.
3. Note the extension of the Transitional Relief Scheme.
4. Note the introduction of the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund.
5. Approve the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Delivery, be given delegated authority to finalise the 2022/23 Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy following the Government's Spring 2022 budget which is expected to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.
6. Approve the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Delivery, be given delegated authority to finalise the 2022/23 Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy in relation to the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

3. The changes to the Policy have been announced by Government. All the changes must be administered by the Council using discretionary powers.

### **Key Points for Consideration**

- 4.1 The powers for granting discretionary rate relief by Councils are provided in Sections 44a, 47 and 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 which was amended by the Localism Act 2011 to incorporate wider powers to grant relief under local discretion.

- 4.2 The Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme provides that businesses occupying hereditaments that meet the eligibility criteria and who have not refused the relief will, subject to cash caps receive relief of 50%.

The discount is not available to hereditaments occupied by the Council or a precepting authority.

- 4.3 The Supporting Small Business Scheme was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to provide relief to ratepayers who lost some or all of their Small Business Rate Relief as a result of a large rateable value increase following the 2017 revaluation. The scheme was available for 5 years.

The scheme has been extended for a further year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

- 4.4 The Transitional Relief Scheme was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to reduce the impact of any significant changes in the rateable value of a property, either up or down following a national revaluation. The scheme was available for 5 years.

The scheme has been extended for a further year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

- 4.5 The Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund provides that businesses adversely affected by the pandemic who are ineligible for existing relief schemes are eligible for support in respect of 2021/22.

After taking into the Government's eligibility criteria it is for the Council to determine its own local scheme.

The relief is not available to hereditaments occupied by the Council or a precepting authority.

- 4.6

#### **Alternatives Considered**

None – Government has instructed the Council to provide the relief.

<b>Costs and Budget Summary</b>
---------------------------------

5. Government will be providing Section 31 funding to fully cover the full cost of awarding these reliefs. The Council will also receive new burdens funding to cover the cost of delivering this additional support.

<b>Risk and Policy Implications</b>
-------------------------------------

6. None.

<b>Consultation</b>
---------------------

7. Consultation is not required to implement the changes in this report.

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
--------------------------	----------------------------

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 8. |  |
|----|--|

<b>For Further Information Contact:</b>	Carolyn Goddard, Tel: 01706 926051, Carolyn.Goddard@Rochdale.Gov.Uk
---	--