

Report to: **Hub Committee**

Date: **17 July 2018**

Title: **Business Rates – Locally Administered Business Rate Relief Policy**

Portfolio Area: **Cllr Oxborough**

Wards Affected: **all**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: **After Full Council
24 July 2018**

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Recommendations:

1. That Hub Committee **RECOMMEND** to Full Council adoption of the Year 2 Locally Administered Business Rate Relief Policy.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Members are asked to consider and recommend the policy (Appendix 1) to administer Year 2 of the 4 year funding agreement, awarded by central Government to support those who have seen an increase in their rates bill due to the 2017 revaluation exercise.

2. Background

- 2.1 As a result of the 2017 revaluation exercise, central Government allocated £300m over 4 years to help those who saw an increase in their rates bill. In West Devon the award for 2017/18 was £112k, but has been reduced as follows.
- 2018/19 - £54k
 - 2019/20 - £22k
 - 2020/21 - £3k
- 2.2 There are some conditions to the grant which can be found at point 1.3 of Appendix 1 – the locally administered business rate relief policy.
- 2.3 The policy for Year 2 again proposes to divide funding in to 2 separate funds. A lump sum payment to businesses that have seen an increase in their rates bill after all reliefs have been taken into account. The criteria of this award can be found at 2.2 of Appendix

1 – The Policy. The second fund concerns discretionary awards for those businesses regardless of their eligibility for the lump sum payment. These applications will be considered by the already existing Rate Relief Panel and must meet criteria set out in Appendix 1, 2.4 – The Policy. Due to reduced funding in Year 2, the proportion of the Government funding allocated for applications for consideration by the Rates Relief Panel has been reduced.

- 2.4 The awards will be made automatically to those Business that have been identified as qualifying, and they will be given the opportunity to advise if their circumstances have changed when notified of the award.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 It is intended to adopt this policy as soon as possible in order that the awards can be made.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 The Government will fully fund West Devon Borough Council and the other preceptor Authorities their share of lost income from the awards through a grant.
- 4.2 Any relief awarded above the grant will not receive Government funding, and any shortfall in the award will be funding lost locally, so the fund will be closely monitored.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 That Members recommend to Full Council the adoption of the Locally Administered Business Rate Relief Policy subject to the agreement of the other preceptors.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	Local Government Act 1988, Section 47
Financial	Y	The funding for this scheme has come from central government. The 4 years of annual award are detailed in the background section
Risk		As this is Year 2 of the scheme, funding has been reduced, and the amount of award will need to be closely monitored to ensure that it is awarded in full.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and		None

Diversity		
Safeguarding		None
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		None
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		None
Other implications		

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Locally Administered Discretionary Rate Relief Policy