Officer Executive Decisions

Business Rates Relief

Delegation from Leader and Cabinet and date: Cabinet considered a report on 5 September 2017 which provided details of a request from Central Government that Local Authorities consider using their discretionary powers to award business rate relief in certain circumstances. The Cabinet agreed to:

1) adopt a Support for Pubs discretionary relief scheme and agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, to set the qualifying criteria, as outlined in paragraph 3.4 of the report (decision no. 101/2017 refers); and
2) adopt a New Discretionary Rate Relief scheme to be met within Government funding limits, and agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business Management, to agree the detailed application of the scheme, as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report (decision no 102/2017 refers).

The report may be viewed online:
https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieIssueDetails.aspx?IId=20559&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI16648

Decision: Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business Management set the qualifying criteria for the discretionary relief scheme for Pubs and agreed the detailed application of the scheme.

Reasons for Decision: The relief schemes have been promoted by and will be funded by central government to assist small business ratepayers. Given the lack of cost to the local taxpayer it is appropriate for the Council to operate such a scheme.

The business usages for which the New Discretionary Rate Relief is awarded will be compatible with the Authority's wider objectives for the local area.

Date of Decision: The scheme was applied during the 2017/18 financial year.

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Details of any other options considered and rejected: None

Conflicts of Interest: None