



Doncaster Council

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS - DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on Friday, 28th February 2020 by:-

Mayor Ros Jones

Date notified to all Members: Friday 28th February 2020

End of the call-in period is 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 10th March 2020. This decision will not be implemented until after this date and time.

Present: Mayor Ros Jones, Marian Bolton and Alan Stoves

Apologies: N/A

1. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND TITLE

Proposals for changes to the Retail Rate Relief Scheme for Business Rates for 2020/21; extension of the Business Rates discount for local newspaper office space to 31 March 2025; and proposals for a Pub Discount for Business Rates for 2020/21

2. DECISION TAKEN

To approve changes to the Retail Rate Relief Scheme for occupied retail properties with a rateable value below £51,000 that meet Government criteria - to increase the relief from one third of the bill to 50% for 2020/21 and to extend the scheme to include cinemas and music venues.

To approve the award of Retail Rate Relief up-front to the eligible businesses and the use of a State Aid disclaimer for businesses to return if they do not meet State Aid conditions.

To approve the extension of the Business Rates discount of £1,500 for any local newspaper office space meeting the Government criteria from 1st April 2020 to 31 March 2025.

To approve a Pub Discount Scheme of £1,000 for 2020/2021 for occupied public houses with a rateable value below £100,000 that meet Government criteria.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

The changes to the Retail Rate Relief Scheme support the Government's intentions to recognize the challenges faced by smaller retailers. The extension of the local newspaper office relief scheme will support any new local qualifying businesses that may emerge between 1st April 2020 and 31 March 2025. The Pub Discount Scheme will support local public houses by reducing the amount they have to pay in Business Rates for



Doncaster Council

2020/2021. The Council will be fully reimbursed by the Government for the reliefs awarded under these schemes.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- a) Not to provide the relief schemes
- b) Award reliefs under different criteria to the Government guidance and eligibility criteria

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Nil

6. IF EXEMPT, REASON FOR EXEMPTION

Not exempt

7. RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Debbie Hogg – Director of Corporate Resources

Signed *R G Jones 28/2/20*

Chair/Decision Maker