

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on 25th April 2022 by the Executive Member for Finance and Resources.

Date notified to all members: 4th May 2022

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on 10th May 2022

Unless called-in, the decision can be implemented from 11th May 2022

1. **TITLE**

Review of Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates) Discretionary Relief Policy

2. **DECISION TAKEN**

That the Executive Member for Finance and Resources:

1. Approves that the Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates) Discretionary Relief Policy be amended, as detailed in the report, and set out in the appendix to the report; and
2. Approves that the Council notes the acceptance of the level of funding being made available in relation to CARF in order to establish and administer the CARF Scheme.

3. **Reasons For Decision**

At a time of unprecedented challenge and ongoing uncertainty, it is incumbent on the Council to protect its citizens, businesses, its own finances and the services it provides wherever possible. In adopting these fully funded Government reliefs, and in the process potentially awarding up to £14m of relief, (which equates to the potential sum of business rates the Council would otherwise have to recover if relief was not awarded) the Council is going a significant way to meeting its obligations.

4. **Alternatives Considered And Rejected**

1. Under the Council's discretionary powers under Section 47 of the LGFA it could also choose to widen the scope of the Policy in order to;
 - to include businesses that under the relevant Government guidance are not intended to be eligible for relief;
 - to increase the level of relief above the levels set out in the Government guidance, and:

- in relation to 2022/23 ERD increase the cash cap limits set by Government.
- 2. However, if it were to do so, any awards of relief to those additional businesses or awards made at higher amounts, would not be funded by the Government and would have to be funded in full by the Council. By way of example, increasing the level of ERD and Nursery Discount Relief to 100% could cost the Council around £30m.
- 3. Therefore, given the ongoing cuts to Government funding the Council has faced since 2012 and the increasing uncertainty that the Covid -19 pandemic will have on the Council's short and longer term financial situation, it is not proposed that the Council uses its powers to expand the scope of these relief schemes.

5. **Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

6. **Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Executive Director, Resources

7. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee If Decision Called In**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee