

**FINANCE, INVESTMENT AND CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER
DECISION – 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

PUBS RATE RELIEF SCHEME AND RETAIL DISCOUNT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In a Written Ministerial Statement on 27 January 2020 the Government announced the reintroduction of the Pubs Rate Relief and to extend the Retail Discount, increasing the discount from one-third to 50% from 1 April 2020.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The support for Pubs is a rate relief providing £1,000 business rates discount for occupied public houses with a rateable value of less than £100,000 and who meet the qualifying criteria as set out by MHCLG. This relief was previously granted from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019 and the Government has stated that this relief is for 2020/21 only. The Government expects all billing authorities to grant the relief to all qualifying ratepayers.
- 2.2 The Retail Discount is a discount for occupied retail properties that are wholly or mainly used for the sale of goods or services with a rateable value of less than £51,000. The current policy includes the financial year 2020/21. However, following the Written Ministerial Statement the discount is increasing from one-third to 50%. The discount is to also include cinemas and live music venues from 1 April 2020 and the policy has been amended to include these changes.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications to the council as any relief or discount granted is fully funded by central government under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no environmental, crime or disorder implications.

5. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That the Pub Rate Relief Policy 2020/21 be approved.
- 6.2 That the updated Retail Discount Policy be approved.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

- 7.1 I agree with this decision and agree the recommendations contained in section 6.

