FINANCE, INVESTMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION – 9 FEBRUARY 2023

RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE RATE RELIEF SCHEME AND 2023 SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF SCHEME

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Government has announced two new discretionary reliefs to support businesses with their business rates bills from 1 April 2023.
- 1.2 The first is the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure rate relief for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, which is broadly similar to the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure rate relief scheme which ends on 31 March 2023.
- 1.3 The second is 2023 Supporting Small Business rate relief which supports businesses losing some or all of their Small Business Rate Relief following the 2023 revaluation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In the 2022 Autumn statement, the Chancellor announced that a new business rates relief scheme for occupied retail, hospitality, and leisure properties. The value of the relief will be 75% of chargeable amount for 2023/24 and is subject to a cash cap of £110,000 and subsidy control.
- 2.2 The Government has issued guidance on the types of businesses that will benefit from the relief which will be *occupied* hereditaments that are wholly or mainly being used as:
 - i. shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas, or live music venues
 - ii. for assembly and leisure, or
 - iii. as hotels, guest and boarding premises or self-catering accommodation
- 2.3 The Chancellor also announced a new relief which caps any increase at £600 per year for any business losing eligibility to some or all Small Business Rate Relief following the 2023 revaluation. The business rates revaluation is a review of the rateable values of all non-domestic properties n England, undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency.
- 2.4 This support is for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26.
- 2.5 The Government has issued guidance on which businesses are eligible for this support and our scheme mirrors this.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications to the Council as any relief granted from either scheme 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 The are no equality and diversity implications.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 That the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief scheme (Appendix 1) and the 2023 Supporting Small Business Relief scheme (Appendix 2) be approved.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

7.1 I have agreed to the recommendations of this report.

Sign: Cllr Jeremy Heron Date: 10 February 2023

For further information please contact: Background Papers

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Date on which notice given of this Decision – 10 February 2023 Last date for call in – 17 February 2023