

Bolsover District Council

Executive

4th December 2017

Local Discretionary Business Rates Relief Scheme

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- Executive is requested approve the proposed Local Discretionary Rates Relief Scheme.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 At the Spring Budget in March 2017 the Government announced the establishment of a £300m discretionary fund payable over four years from 2017/18 to support those businesses that face the steepest increases in their business rates bills as a result of the 2017 revaluation.
- 1.2 The intention is that every billing authority in England will be provided with a share of the £300m to support their local businesses. Billing authorities are expected to use their share of the funding to develop their own discretionary relief schemes to deliver targeted support to the most hard-pressed ratepayers.
- 1.3 Bolsover District Council will receive the following over the four financial years from 2017/18:

2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
£237,000	£115,000	£47,000	£7,000

- 1.4 The Government expects that billing authorities will deliver the scheme through the use of their discretionary relief powers under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended. Billing authorities will be compensated through a Section 31 grant for the cost to the authority of granting the relief, up to a maximum amount based on the authority's allocation of the £300m fund.
- 1.5 As per the DCLG's consultation the conditions will require the grant to be used to support only ratepayers facing an increase in their bills following revaluation after all other types of adjustments have been applied. They also stated "further assume, by and large, more support will be provided to":
- Ratepayers that face the most significant increase in bills;

- Ratepayers occupying lower value properties, i.e. properties with a rateable value below £200,000).

1.6 The proposed scheme is attached in Appendix 1.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 The report seeks agreement to introduce the proposed Local Discretionary Business Rates Relief Scheme, in accordance with the Government's establishment of funding.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 The Government stated that we must consult with the major precepting authorities on the scheme.

3.2 Details of the proposed scheme have been issued to Derbyshire County Council, and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 A scheme that is more generous than the one proposed would result in expenditure greater than the grant which we will receive and incur the Authority in additional expenditure. A scheme less generous would result in businesses having to pay more and an under spend and the Authority having to return the under spend to the Government.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

5.1.1 Based on initial analysis of the Business Rates database the cost of the proposed scheme would be contained within the grant allocation from the Government which means there is no financial cost to the Authority.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

5.2.1 The Authority is legally obliged to have a scheme in place.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 There are no issues arising directly from this report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Executive approve the proposed Local Discretionary Business Rates Relief Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	Yes
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	N/A
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	Strategic Organisational Development - Continually improving our organisation

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Proposed Local Discretionary Business Rates Relief Scheme
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
<p>Report Author</p>	
<p>Contact Number</p>	
Billing and Recovery Manager Assistant Director – Finance, Revenues & Benefits	2432 7658

Report Reference –