

Decision Schedule

Leader of the Council

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 6 April 2020

The Leader of the Council took the following decision on 6 April 2020. It will take immediate effect. The reason for the urgency being that this report must be considered urgent due to the Covid-19 coronavirus situation, a number of businesses are prohibited from trading, others have seen their trade drastically reduced. In response, Welsh Government has issued details of a fully funded scheme to give 100% rate relief for one year for businesses occupying properties in the retail, leisure or hospitality industry.

Business rate bills have already been issued for 2020-21 and payments will start to become due in early April 2020. It is therefore vital that the business rate relief is applied as soon as possible to these businesses to relieve the financial burden of making rate payments at a time when they are not allowed to trade.

For this reason and to expedite the help available for businesses this report is being treated as urgent.

The decision is not subject to the 'Call-in- Process.

In accordance with Standing Order 24 – Urgent Matters, this matter will be forwarded to the Audit Committee.

In accordance Reports relating to staffing issues/Confidential reports are not circulated to all members of the Council as part of the consultation/call-in processes.

L 04/208

National Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Relief: Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme 2020-21

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

In response to the Covid-19 coronavirus emergency situation the Welsh Government has made available grant funding for billing authorities to deliver in 2020-21, the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme to reduce the rates payable to zero for qualifying properties. The Welsh Government has agreed to reimburse the Council in full for any awards made under the scheme and it is envisaged that around 800 businesses will benefit from not having to pay rates by way of this relief.

The scheme will deliver:

Full relief from business rates for 2020-21 for qualifying properties which are broadly used for retail, leisure or hospitality and have a rateable value of less than £500,000.

Decision

It is proposed that the Leader of the Council agrees to adopt the Welsh Government's Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme for 2020-21 by making the appropriate determination and decision,

as required by Sections 47(1)(a) and 47(3) respectively of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and set out in the Appendix to this report.

Consultation

Head of Finance, Head of Law and Regulation, Head of People and Business Change, Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing

Implemented by: Head of Finance

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR J MUDD

6 April 2020
