

Decision Schedule

Leader of the Council

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 18 March 2021

The Leader of the Council took the following decision on 18 March 2021. It will take immediate effect. The reason for the urgency being that this report must be considered urgent due to the ongoing Covid-19 coronavirus situation, a number of businesses are still prohibited from trading, others have seen their trade drastically reduced. In response, Welsh Government made funds available to remove the need to pay rates for all retail leisure and hospitality businesses that occupy premises with rateable values of less than £500,000.

The Welsh Government has decided to introduce a fully funded targeted rate relief for hospitality and leisure businesses that occupy larger premises with a rateable value over £500,000. This will cover the cost of rates due for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Business rate bills are soon to be issued for 2021-22 and payments will start becoming due in early April 2021. It is therefore vital that the business rate relief is applied as soon as possible to these businesses so that a correct bill can be issued for 2021-22, and to relieve the financial burden of making rate payments at a time when they are still facing restrictions on trading.

In addition the lateness in the year of the Welsh Government issuing the scheme for 2020-21 means that it has to be adopted and applied to rate account before the end of financial year.

For this reason and to expedite the help available for the affected 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 02/21

National Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Relief: Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme 2020-21 and 2021-22

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

In response to the ongoing Covid-19 coronavirus situation the Welsh Government has made available grant funding for billing authorities to deliver in 2020-21 and 2021-22, Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates 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.

The scheme will deliver:

100% rate relief in 2020-21 and 2021-22 for qualifying properties which are broadly leisure or hospitality and have a rateable value of more than £500,000.

Decision

It is proposed that the Leader of the Council agrees to adopt the Welsh Government's Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme for 2020-21 and 2021-22 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

18 March 2021

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