



**Discretionary Rate Relief Working Party
Minutes of meeting held on
Monday 11th June at 10.00am
in the Member's Room**

Present

Councillors:	Steven North	Cllr SN
	Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Cllr GGS
	David Jenney	Cllr DJ

Also in attendance

Officers:	Lucy Hogston, Benefits Manager	LH
	Julia Smith, Head of Customer and Community Services	JS
	Sue Wadlow, Business Rate Officer	SW
	Greg Macdonald, Head of Economic and Commercial Development	GM

Minutes – Charlie Christmas, Democratic Services and Corporate Support Officer (CCh)

		<u>ACTION</u>
1	Introduction and apologies	
1.1	Round table introductions were made. No apologies were received.	
1.2	Cllr DJ declared an interest as the Chairman of the Rushden Sea Cadets.	
2	To note the Terms of Reference	
2.1	It was noted that this working party was omitted from the Full Council meeting in May, and will therefore need to go to P&R Committee to be officially reconvened. Any declarations of interest made that are relevant, will be carried through to future meetings. The membership will also need to change; with a replacement nominated for Councillor Helen Harrison.	
3	Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair	
3.1	Cllr DJ was elected as Chair of the Working Party. Cllr SN was elected as Vice Chair of the Working Party.	
4	National Non Domestic Rate Report	
4.1	LH provided an overview of national non domestic rates. Business rates are a tax levied on non-domestic properties, and since 2013 council's have been able to retain a portion of business rates raised locally; currently 40% for ENC. This figure may rise from 2020/21, although the exact percentage is yet to be confirmed.	

4.2	Some properties are eligible for discounts, known as business rates reliefs. This falls under two categories; mandatory or discretionary relief. Examples of mandatory relief are: Charitable Relief, Rural Relief and Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR). From April 2017, SBRR of 100% applies to eligible properties with a rateable value of not more than £12,000.	
4.3	The current position of the fair funding consultation was queried. JS to request this information from Michelle Drewery. JS confirmed that any risks, such as being unable to collect rates, are included on the risk register.	JS
5	Discretionary Rate Relief Report	
5.1	The Discretionary Rate Relief Policy was approved in 2012, with several amendments made since then. In line with current policy, customers who receive relief were notified on 1 st March 2018 that this ceases on 31 st March 2019 due to the review. After a through discussion and overview of the policy members felt it was fit for purpose and supported businesses as appropriate. Further communication to be sent notifying customers of the outcome of the review subject to approval by Policy and Resources Committee.	LH/SW
5.2	Members were provided with an analysis of the descriptions determined by the Valuation Office, of the types of organisations that currently receive discretionary relief. A breakdown of the 2017/18 reliefs totalling £5,585,109, granted by the council was also presented.	
6	Any other business	
6.1	None raised.	
7	Date of the next meeting	
7.1	No further meetings are required.	
	Resolve to recommended to Policy and Resources Committee: That no amendments are made to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy.	