

12 January 2023 at 7.00 pm

Council Chamber, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks
Published: 12.01.23



Cabinet

Supplementary Agenda 2

	Pages	Contact
9. Discretionary Rate Relief	Replacement Page 119	Sue Cressall Tel: 01732 227041
10. Financial Monitoring 2022/23 - to the end of November 2022	Replacement Page 145	Alan Mitchell Tel: 01732 227483

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Item 09 - Discretionary Rate Relief

The attached report was considered by the Finance & Investment Advisory Committee on 10 January 2023. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Finance & Investment Advisory Committee (10 January 2023, Minute 38)

The Business Rates Manager presented the report which set out the proposals for awarding discretionary rate relief for 2023/2024. Discretionary rate relief could be awarded in isolation or given to supplement a mandatory award.

She advised Members that the gross relief granted was estimated to be £227,253 but that this figure did not account for new reliefs, as the Council was awaiting further guidance. This was an increase of £31,618 from 2022/23, largely due to the change in the rateable value of the new Swanley Leisure Centre.

She drew Members' attention to Seal supermarket, which was no longer eligible for the rate relief it previously received, and the recommendation that it receive 80% discretionary relief. She further highlighted three shops that were no longer eligible for mandatory rural rate relief, but were recommended to receive 100% discretionary rural rate relief for their importance to their communities.

Resolved: That it be recommend that Cabinet approve the proposals for granting relief from business rates for 2023/2024 set out in Appendix B.

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Item 10 - Financial Monitoring 2022/23 - to the end of November 2022.

The attached report was considered by the Finance & Investment Advisory Committee on 10 January 2023. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Finance & Investment Advisory Committee (10 January 2023, Minute 39)

The Head of Finance presented the report, which outlined the Council's financial position to November 2022 and the forecast position as at 31 March 2023, which was an estimated unfavourable variance of £252,000.

Parking and Development Management incomes were expected to exceed budget. Investment returns were ahead of budget due to the Council's investing in Multi-Asset Income Funds. These favourable variances were offset by forecast unfavourable variances from land charges, the Print shop, Direct Services, and investment property income.

The Committee discussed the impact of agency staff costs on the variance for Direct Services, as well as the underachievement of income targets and the impact of the pay award. They further discussed avenues for increasing income from the Print shop, through stronger marketing towards the organisations the Council is able to serve.

Action: Head of Finance to provide a costing comparison between employed and agency staff for a selection of roles.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

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