

Officer Decision Statement

Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014/2095

Subject:	Expanded Retail Discount Scheme
Key Decision	Yes
Notice of the Key Decision	Notice has been given as per Regulation 11 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012
Details of Decision taken The endorsement of the Expanded Retail Discount Scheme providing rate relief for 2020/2021 in response to the coronavirus.	
Reason for Decision With the special circumstances surrounding the impact on businesses of the coronavirus (Covid 19), the Council must deliver on the Government direction quickly to support the business community.	
Reason for Urgency In order to have a positive and immediate impact it is not possible to wait until the next meeting of Cabinet on 16 April 2020 and following government advice, prudent to avoid unnecessary meetings of groups of people. An urgent decision is required on the adoption of the Expanded Retail Discount Scheme. It is imperative that we deliver much needed support to the business community in the form of rate relief to preserve the local economy Pursuant to Appendix C, paragraph 18 of the Council's Constitution, it is deemed that the decision proposed is reasonable in these circumstances to be treated as a matter of urgency and the call-in procedure does not apply.	
All Documents considered: Report and appendices attached	
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Officer when making the Decision: None.	

Financial implications

Since 1 April 2013 all discretionary relief granted has come under the provisions of the business rates retention scheme.

The cost of relief is initially shared between central government (50%) and local authorities (50%). Of this Sevenoaks District Council is required to fund 40%. However, due to the complexities of business rates retention, the actual impact is likely to be significantly lower.

Central government will fully reimburse billing authorities and major precepting authorities for the actual cost to them under the rates retention scheme of the relief that falls within the definitions in the guidance set out in Appendix A. Reimbursement will be by way of a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

This decision is taken by the Chief Executive acting in accordance with Paragraph 12 (d) of Part 13 of the Constitution, which authorises him as follows:

(d) In cases of urgency, after consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council [and, where possible, the Leader(s) of the Opposition], to take any decision which could be taken by the Cabinet or by a Committee and to report such actions to Cabinet or Committee as appropriate.

Furthermore, this being an urgent Key Decision, Notice has been duly given and the agreement of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee has been sought to enable the decision to proceed as per Regulation 11(1)(a) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012.

Furthermore, this being an urgent Key Decision, the agreement of the Chairman of the Council has been sought to disapply the call-in procedure set out in Paragraph 18 of Appendix C of the Constitution, for the reasons set out in Paragraphs 18.13 - 18.18.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Local Member(s), Portfolio Holders and/or Chief Officer/Heads of Service Consulted

Councillors Fleming and Dickins
Chief Officer - Customer and Resources

Agreement of Chairman of Scrutiny Committee pursuant to 11 (1)(a) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012, obtained on: On 23 March 2020

Agreement of the Chairman of the Council pursuant to Appendix C, para.18.16 of the Council's Constitution, obtained on:
On 23 March 2020

Details of any conflicts of interest

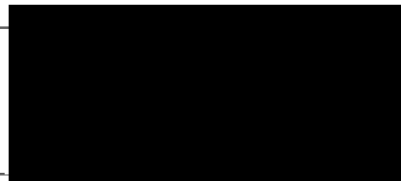
a) declared by any member who was consulted or was part of the body giving specific express authorisation

b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict

Decision taken by:

The Chief Executive

Signed by Officer



Date of Decision

30.03.20

Record made by:

30.03.20

Date of record:

Vanessa Etheridge

This decision takes immediate effect