



Kim Webber B.Sc. M.Sc.
Chief Executive
52 Derby Street
Ormskirk
West Lancashire
L39 2DF

Wednesday, 11 October 2017

TO: THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Dear Councillor,

Please find attached reports marked 'To follow' on the agenda for the meeting of the **COUNCIL** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2017**, including Appendix 2 of Item 8, not included with the agenda papers.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kim Webber", written over a horizontal line.

Kim Webber
Chief Executive

AGENDA
(Open to the Public)

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We can provide this document, upon request, on audiotape, in large print, in Braille and in other languages.

FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE: Please see attached sheet.

MOBILE PHONES: These should be switched off or to 'silent' at all meetings.

For further information, please contact:-
Jacky Denning on 01695 585384
Or email jacky.denning@westlancs.gov.uk

Agenda Item 7f

PLANNING COMMITTEE

HELD: Thursday, 5 October 2017

Start: 7.30 PM

Finish: 9.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor: G Dowling (Chairman)
A Yates (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: I Ashcroft Mrs P Baybutt
T Blane C Cooper
T Devine D Evans
D McKay M Mills
D O'Toole R Pendleton
E Pope A Pritchard
Mrs M Westley

Officers: Director of Development and Regeneration (Mr J. Harrison)
Deputy Director of Development and Regeneration (Mr I Gill)
Head of Development Management (Mrs C. Thomas)
Principal Planning Officer (Mrs A. Veevers)
Regeneration Project Manager (Mr D. Griffiths)
Planning Appeals Officer (Ms. E. O. Woollacott)
Member Services/Civic Support Officer (Mrs J.A. Ryan)

In attendance: Councillor J Hodson (Portfolio Holder Planning)

31 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

32 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of membership of Councillor C. Marshall and the appointment of Councillor Blane for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

33 URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no urgent items of business.

34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pendleton declared a Pecuniary Interest in Planning Application 2017/0885/FUL relating to 192-198 Ennerdale, Tanhouse, Skelmersdale as the Chairman of Tanhouse Community Enterprise.

35 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no Declarations of Party Whip.

36 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7 September 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report on planning applications (all prefixed 2017 unless otherwise stated) as contained on pages 650 to 740 of the Book of Reports and on pages 751 to 754 of the Late Information Report.

RESOLVED: A. That the undermentioned planning applications be approved subject to the conditions in the report:-

0703/FUL; 0431/ARM; 0402/WL3;
0885/FUL

B. That in respect of planning application 0627/WL3 relating to Site of Former Westec House, Derby Street, Ormskirk:-

- (i) That the decision to grant planning permission be delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee subject to a planning obligation under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act being entered into as set out on page 683 of the Report.
- (ii) That any planning permission granted by the Director of Development and Regeneration pursuant to recommendation (i) above be subject to the conditions as set out on pages 687 to 689 of the Report but subject to the amendment to Condition no. 2 as set out on page 753 of the Late Information Report.

C. That in respect of planning application 0492/ARM relating to Henry Alty Limited, Station Road, Hesketh Bank:-

- (i) That the decision to grant planning permission be delegated to the Director of Development and Regeneration subject to a planning obligation (Deed of Variation) under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act being entered into as set out

in paragraph 10.49 of the Report.

- (ii) That any planning permission granted by the Director of Development and Regeneration pursuant to recommendation (i) above be subject to the conditions as set down on pages 709 to 713 of the Book of Reports.

D. In respect of planning application no LCC/2017/0064 relating to Beconsall Exploration Site, Marsh Road, Banks that it be noted that the Council raises no objections.

E. That planning application 2017/0738/FUL relating to Former Farm Shop, Course Lane, Newburgh be approved subject to the conditions as set out on pages 719 to 721 of the Book of Reports but subject to an amendment to condition 3 and an additional condition as set out below:-

Amended Condition 3

No development shall take place until a scheme for the separate foul and surface water drainage of the site, including any necessary attenuation measures, has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be implemented in full, prior to the building being brought into use and shall be maintained as such at all times thereafter for the duration of the development.

Additional Condition

The hereby approved building shall only be used for the storage of agricultural equipment and machinery, storage of produce grown on the holding and for ancillary retail sales of produce grown on the holding.

Reason

To ensure the amenity of nearby residents, and the area generally and so comply with the provisions of Policy GN3 in the adopted West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027 Development Plan Document.

- (Notes: 1. In accordance with the procedure for public speaking on planning applications on this Committee, members of the public spoke in connection with application nos: 0431/ARM and 0492/ARM.
2. Burscough Parish Clerk, Tess Reddington spoke in connection with planning application 0431/ARM relating to Yew Tree Farm, Liverpool

Road South, Burscough.

3. Councillor McKay left the Chamber during consideration of planning application 2017/0627/WL3 relating to Site of Former Westec House, Derby Street, Ormskirk and therefore took no part in the debate or decision making process on this application.
4. Councillor J. Hodson left the meeting at the conclusion of planning application 2017/0738/FUL relating to Former Farm Shop, Course Lane, Newburgh and was not present for the remainder of the meeting.
5. Councillor Mills left the meeting during consideration of application no. LCC/2017/0064 relating to Becconsall Exploration Site, Marsh Road, Banks and therefore took no part in the decision making process on this application.
6. Councillor Pendleton left the meeting at the conclusion of planning application 2017/0402/WL3 RE relating to 55A Pennington Avenue, Ormskirk and was not present for the remainder of the meeting.
7. During the discussion on planning application 2017/0492/ARM relating to Henry Alty Limited, Station Road, Hesketh Bank a motion was moved and seconded to refuse the application. At the request of a member the voting on the motion was recorded as follows:-

FOR REFUSAL: Cooper, Pendleton and Pritchard

AGAINST REFUSAL: Ashcroft, Mrs. Baybutt, Blane, Devine, Dowling, D. Evans, McKay, Mills, O'Toole, Pope, Mrs. Westley and Yates.)

.....
- CHAIRMAN -

West Lancashire
Meeting the Budget Challenge
2017 Consultation – Organisations



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1 Executive Summary

34 responses were received to the 2017 Meeting the Budget Challenge consultation from organisations.

The table below provides a summary of the level of agreement for each proposal in the consultation, ordered by those proposals with the highest agreement levels. Not all 34 respondents to the consultation answered every question. (Rounded numbers, presented in tables throughout this report, may not equal the total due to rounding differences).

The majority of organisations and stakeholders agree that they understand the challenges that the Council faces to find new ways of achieving savings and increasing income.

The savings proposal with the strongest level of disagreement amongst stakeholders is the proposal to review the range of options to reduce the role of the Mayor. From the comments received this appears to be because organisations feel that the Mayor's role is important for significant events such as Remembrance Sunday and is the visible face of local Government. However, some comments also suggest that one solution would be to conduct a review to '*slim down*' the role and reduce the expense.

Proposals	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Increasing the charge for replacement wheelie bins from £23 to £25 to cover the actual cost of providing the bins	76%	12%	12%
Annual increases in line with inflation (currently around 2.9%) to a range of charges including pest control, some licensing fees, and charges for the Home Care Link and lifeline emergency alarm service for elderly and vulnerable residents	65%	26%	9%
Providing, for a fee, advice to parish councils on how to procure high-value contracts with external companies for projects in their areas e.g. environmental improvements, purchase of play equipment	42%	30%	27%
A 6% increase in charges for trade waste collections, from April 2018. Our trade waste service is available to business premises; the charge depends on the amount of waste that is	68%	15%	17%

collected. The increase would cover the rising costs of collection and disposal			
Charging for an additional catering van at Coronation Park, Ormskirk during peak visitor periods	64%	18%	18%
Increase departure fees to bus companies who use Ormskirk station from 7.5p to 50p	68%	18%	14%
End the provision of the civic car and Chauffeur/ Attendant	76%	15%	9%
Range of other options to reduce the role of the Mayor	34%	51%	15%
Review of the Home Care Link service to ensure that it breaks even	78%	11%	11%
Review of street cleaning and grounds maintenance services	53%	18%	29%
Understand the challenges the Council faces to achieve savings and increase income	81%	3%	16%*

**includes 'Neither agree nor disagree'*

2 Background and Methodology

2.1 Background

West Lancashire Borough Council needs to make savings, efficiencies and increase income in order to balance the budget for 2018/19.

The Council developed a range of proposals in 2017 which were approved for consultation with residents and organisations in the borough. Residents' views will be considered before any final decisions are made on the Council's budget for 2018/19.

The aim of the consultation is to understand whether residents and organisations agree or disagree with the proposals and what impact these would have if they are implemented. The findings of the consultation will inform the decision-making process on the Council's budget.

This report focuses on the feedback received from **organisations** in the borough.

2.2 Methodology

A targeted online consultation survey was developed for organisations in West Lancashire to give their views on proposals around the Council's budget. The six week consultation went live on Monday 24 July 2017 and closed on Sunday 3 September 2017, except for Parish Councils who were granted a short extension which closed on 13 September 2017.

The organisations' survey was hosted on the Council website.

In relation to each of the savings proposals, some facts and figures were provided giving further information including how much money would be saved. Respondents were also invited to give comments about each proposal and any impact it might have.

In total, **34 responses were received from organisations**, of which two were paper returns. By comparison, 38 responses were received from organisations to the 2016 budget consultation and 30 were received in 2015. Therefore this represents a broadly similar response rate when compared to previous years.

The purpose of the consultation was to give organisations the opportunity to give their views on the Council's budget proposals and provide insight into any impact these would have. Therefore it should not be considered a statistically representative piece of research which represents the views of all organisations in the borough.

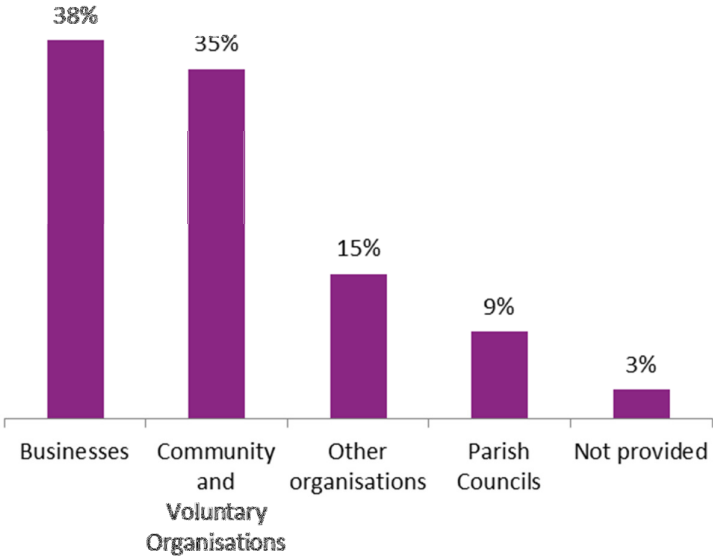
The ‘base’ totals included for each question within this report refer to the total number of responses to that particular question. Whilst 34 organisations completed the survey, some did not answer every question.

A number of open-ended questions were included in the survey to give people the opportunity to comment on the proposals. As part of the report, these comments have been independently reviewed and summarised into key themes during the analysis process.

2.3 Who responded?

Of the 34 organisations who responded, around half are community/ voluntary organisations and organisations with similar community aims. A third of respondents were businesses and three were Parish Councils. One respondent to the consultation did not indicate which organisation they were representing.

Figure 2.1: Type of organisations who responded (base – 34)



3 Main Findings

3.1 Raising Income by Increasing Fees and Charges

The Council proposes to generate an additional £80,000 of income each year by increasing, where appropriate, some fees and charges. The majority of organisations agree with most of the proposals, results of which are outlined below for individual proposals.

Figure 3.1: Increasing the charge for replacement wheelie bins from £23 to £25 to cover the actual cost of providing the bins? (base – 34)

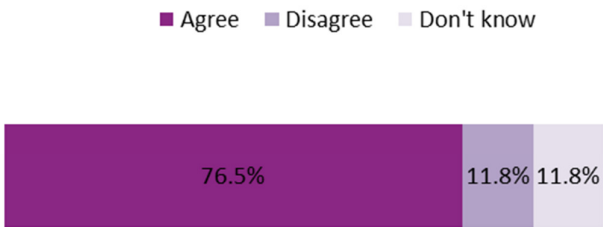


Figure 3.2: Annual increases in line with inflation (currently around 2.9%) to a range of charges including pest control, some licensing fees, and charges for the Home Care Link and lifeline emergency alarm service for elderly and vulnerable residents? (base – 34)

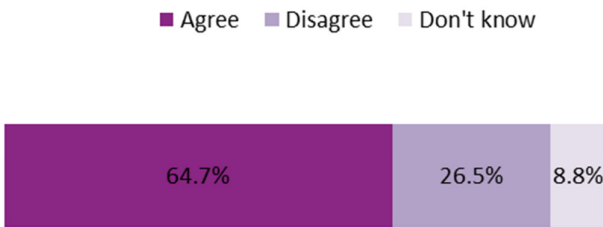


Figure 3.3: Providing, for a fee, advice to parish councils on how to procure high-value contracts with external companies for projects in their areas e.g. environmental improvements, purchase of play equipment. (base – 33)

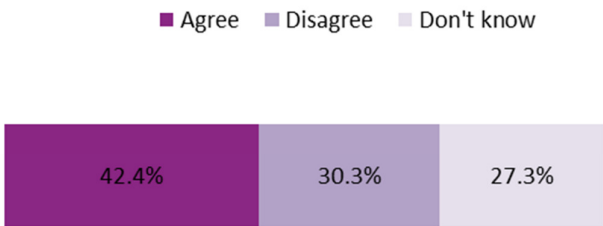


Figure 3.4: A 6% increase in charges for trade waste collections, from April 2018. Our trade waste service is available to business premises; the charge depends on the amount of waste that is collected. The increase would cover the rising costs of collection and disposal. (base – 34)

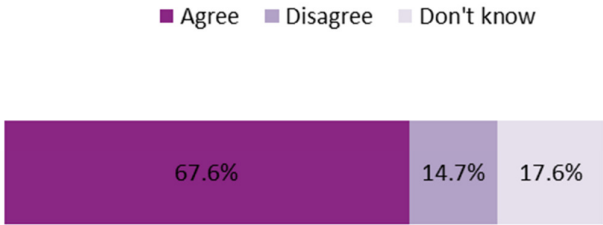
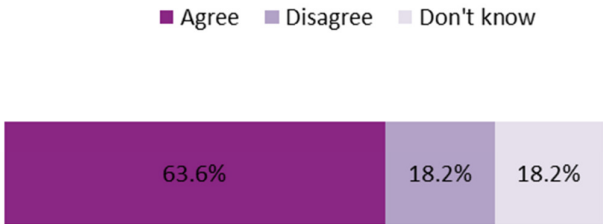
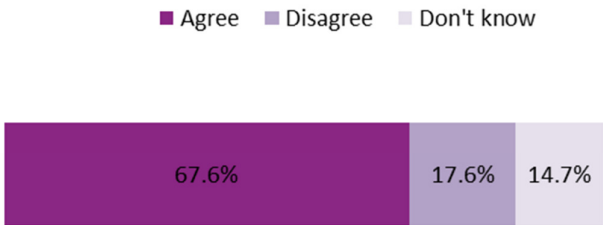


Figure 3.5: Charging for an additional catering van at Coronation Park, Ormskirk during peak visitor periods (base – 33)



Bus companies who use Ormskirk bus station pay a fee to the Council for each bus service that leaves the bus station. Currently, this fee is 7.5p per departure. It has not been increased since 1981. We propose to increase this to 50p per departure, bringing West Lancashire in line with other bus stations in the region, and generating £24,000 per year.

Figure 3.6: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for the Council to increase the charge for each bus service that leaves the bus station? (base – 34)



Respondents were asked if they had any comments about these proposed increases and any impact they might have. The main concerns were around any impact on the potential of a reduction in services or increased fare prices. Whilst an increase in charges was seen as

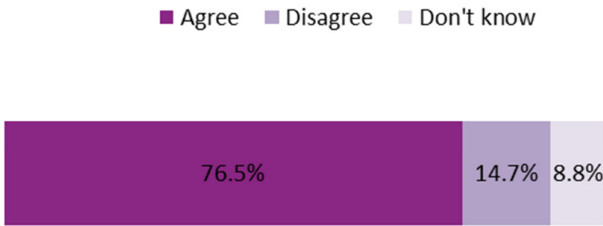
appropriate from several comments a couple did suggest that the increase could be completed in stages as opposed to all at once.

3.2 The Mayor

The Council is proposing to end provision of the civic car and Chauffeur/ Attendant. This means that the Mayor would drive him/herself to functions and claim mileage allowance for the distance travelled, or make other travel arrangements, e.g. hire a taxi. For some high profile special events, a special vehicle could be hired.

This would save approximately £31,000 per year for the provision of the Chauffeur/ Attendant. Attendance by the Mayor at some functions may not be possible under the revised arrangements.

Figure 3.7: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to end provision of the civic car and Chauffeur/ Attendant? (base – 34)

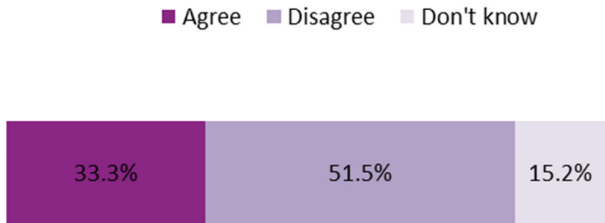


In addition to this, the Council proposed to look at a range of options to reduce the role of the Mayor, saving up to £32,000 per year. The reduction in the role could involve:

- Ceasing Mayor's Charity Committee and associated fundraising activities; and/ or
- Ceasing visits to local community and voluntary organisations, care homes, schools, businesses etc and representing the borough at various church services and events outside the area; and/or
- Ceasing the hosting of events to promote civic pride, such as honouring individuals or groups to recognise excellence or contribution to the community and engaging with schools and visitors to the area; or
- Chairing Council meetings only and ceasing all other functions, including attendance at events such as Remembrance Sunday and other ceremonial events such as Armed Forces Commemoration

This would lead to a loss of Mayoral presence throughout the borough and the wider area.

Figure 3.8: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to look at a range of options to reduce the role of the Mayor, saving up to £32,000? (base – 33)

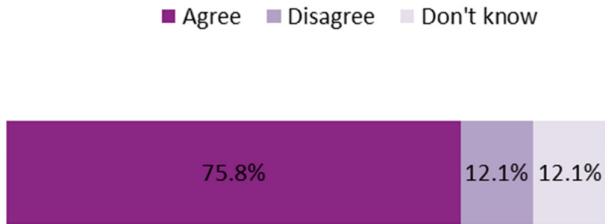


Respondents were asked if they had any comments about these proposals and any impact they might have. Comments generally reflected that the mayoral role was seen as important to and a valuable support for the borough whilst understanding that at a time of austerity it was sometimes a non-essential luxury. However, there appeared to be a reluctance to dispense entirely with the role of Mayor and comments were more focused on reducing costs by removal of the civic car or by a reduction in events that are attended.

3.3 Home Care Link

The Council proposes to review the Home Care Link emergency response system which provides help 24/7 to elderly and vulnerable residents in sheltered housing schemes. We propose to review the way this service is provided to ensure that it at least breaks even. This may involve trying to bring in more business from other organisations and operating more efficiently.

Figure 3.9: Do you agree or disagree with this proposed review? (base – 33)

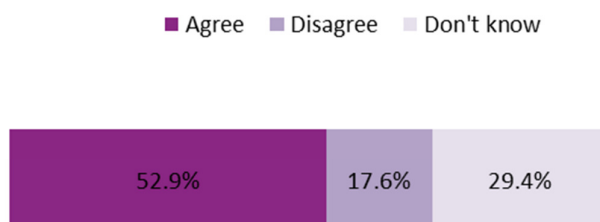


Respondents were asked if they had any ideas or suggestions for the proposed review, or any comments around the impact any potential change to the current service offer might have. Although there was a tentative agreement from some respondents that a review doesn't necessarily mean a negative outcome there was significant agreement that vulnerable groups should be a priority. A few comments suggested that they could not make an informed decision without further information.

3.4 Street Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance Services

The Council proposes to carry out a review of our street cleaning and grounds maintenance services.

Figure 3.10: Do you agree or disagree with this proposed review? (base – 34)



Respondents were asked to choose which of the following grounds maintenance services they thought were most important (Selection was up to 3).

Grounds maintenance services options	No of responses
Maintenance of parks and open spaces	29
Maintenance of cemeteries	18
Maintenance of sports pitches	14
Maintenance of trees, hedges and shrubbery	12
Floral bedding in summer months	7
Grass cutting within the Council's housing stock	7
Weed spraying of bedding areas	1
Winter bedding plants	0

Street cleansing services options	No of responses
Emptying of litter bins	24
Litter picking in town centres	13
Road sweeping	12
Collection of dumped rubbish	11
Pavement sweeping	9
Removal of dead animals	6
Clearing dog fouling	6
Removal of graffiti	6
Litter picking on housing estates	3

Removal of bonfires	1
Street cleaning inspections	1
Removal of leaves	0

3.5 Any further comments

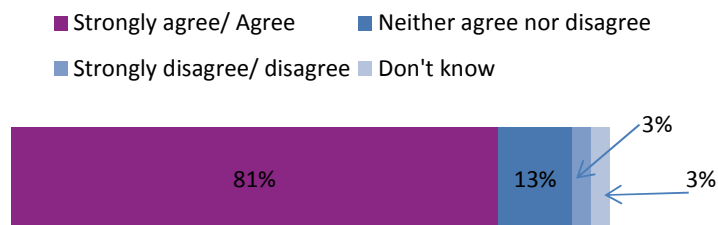
Organisations were given the opportunity to make any further comments or suggestions around the proposed review or to make any comments around the impact any potential change to current service offer might have. The main comments centred on encouraging the community to take responsibility for their local environments including encouraging communities and schools to contribute. Concerns were that green spaces should remain accessible and were important to various aspects of community living such as appearance and providing nice spaces for children.

3.6 Overall Measures

26 of 32 organisations who responded to this question strongly agree or agree that they understand the challenges the Council faces to find new ways of achieving savings and increasing income from the services it delivers.

Just one organisation strongly disagreed with the statement.

Figure 3.11: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement – ‘The organisation I represent understands the challenges the Council faces to find new ways of achieving savings and increasing income from the services it delivers’? (base – 32)



Organisations were given the opportunity to make any further comments or suggestions around how the Council could make savings or increase income. Savings could be made by empowering and supporting community initiatives (five comments), reviewing all services (two comments), reducing mayoral and Councillor expenses (two comments) and one comment suggested collaborating with other Councils to share services was a possible solution.

AGENDA ITEM:

COUNCIL: 18th October 2017



Report of: Director of Housing and Inclusion and Borough Treasurer

Contact: Marc Taylor (Extn. 5092)
(E-mail: Marc.Taylor@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATE RELIEFS

Wards affected: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on discretionary rate relief for local businesses using funding provided by Government as announced in the Spring Budget.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the discretionary relief schemes that have already been implemented this year under delegated authority be noted and endorsed.
- 2.2 That the further local scheme of relief set out in the Appendix be approved, and that delegated authority be provided to the Director of Housing and Inclusion in consultation with the Leader to finalise and implement the scheme.
-

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Government is providing funding to local authorities to enable them to offer business rate discounts to local businesses. This report provides details on these schemes, including their estimated value and the number of businesses that will benefit.

4.0 NEW DISCRETIONARY RELIEF SCHEMES

- 4.1 On the 1st April 2017 new rateable values for all business premises in England and Wales came into force as a result of the 2017 Revaluation undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency. In the Spring 2017 Budget, the Chancellor announced that a new scheme of support would be made available to those ratepayers facing large increases in their business rates as a result of the loss of small business or rural rate relief due to the revaluation. This is known as the “Supporting Small Businesses Relief Scheme”. This scheme will help those ratepayers affected by ensuring that the annual increase in their bills is limited to £50 per month. The relief will continue for up to 5 years.
- 4.2 It is estimated that there are 13 businesses in West Lancashire that are eligible for assistance under this scheme of support, and the total value of this support would be £15,097. These businesses have been contacted to inform them that they will receive this discount, and have been re-billed accordingly.
- 4.3 In addition to the above scheme, the government also announced a new relief scheme for pubs that have a rateable value of below £100,000. Under the scheme, eligible pubs will receive a discount of up to £1,000 on their bill. The relief will have effect for 2017/18 only.
- 4.4 It is estimated that there are 62 pubs in West Lancashire that may be eligible for assistance under this scheme of support. These businesses have been contacted and asked to confirm relevant details including that there are no State Aid implications arising from the award of relief (a potential issue with national pub chains). As soon as these details are confirmed the businesses will be provided with the discount.
- 4.5 Both of these schemes have been implemented under delegated authority as they comply with the Council's long standing aim of supporting local businesses and because their details are largely prescribed by the Government.
- 4.6 The Government is also providing £300m of support over the four year period from 2017-18 to help support those businesses that face increases in their business rates bills as a result of the 2017 Revaluation. This will require the Council to design and establish a new local scheme of discretionary rate relief, and this is explored further in the next section of the report.

5.0 PROPOSED NEW SCHEME OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

- 5.1 The Government has calculated West Lancashire's share of the £300m national pot as £288,889 which will be allocated over 4 years as follows:
- 2017/18 £168,518
 - 2018/19 £81,852
 - 2019/20 £33,704
 - 2020/21 £4,815

- 5.2 These figures have been derived taking into account the total increase in bills (excluding transitional and other reliefs), for every property in England where the rateable value for 2017/18 is less than £200,000 and the increase in the 2017/18 bill is more than 12.5%. The sums shown above represent the maximum that will be available in each year. Any funding not used will be reclaimed by the Government and there is no flexibility to carry funding over between years.
- 5.3 The Government expects that billing authorities will implement a local scheme of relief using their discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. It will then provide grant funding to compensate for lost business rates income up to the maximum level.
- 5.4 In designing the local scheme of relief, consideration will be given to any other reliefs that the ratepayer is entitled to, because this discretionary relief will be the last type of discount applied to an account. As the relief is awarded as a local discount, awards will be subject to State Aid considerations. The maximum threshold for State Aid is €200,000 over 3 years. A consequence of this limit is that it ordinarily excludes national business chains from accessing relief.
- 5.5 A draft scheme is provided at Appendix 1 for consideration. It is designed so as to fully allocate the funding awarded to the Council and be relatively simple to administer. The scheme sets out the criteria and exclusions that will apply in determining the eligibility of businesses for the scheme.
- 5.6 The Council must consult with the major precepting authorities on our local scheme i.e. the County Council and Fire Authority. A copy of the draft scheme has been submitted to them and any feedback will be provided at the meeting.
- 5.7 There are several variants that could be devised when implementing a local discretionary scheme. The proposed scheme seeks to grant relief to a wide range of small businesses and will compensate them for the majority of the increase in rates they have experienced as a result of revaluation. It is estimated that there are around 60 businesses that will benefit from the scheme.
- 5.8 There may be a potential need to refine the scheme to ensure the value of relief is maximised but remains within the funding available. Consequently it is proposed that a delegated authority be given to the Director of Housing and Inclusion in consultation with the Leader to finalise and implement the scheme.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The costs to the Council associated with these discounts schemes should be fully reimbursed by government grant.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 7.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The risks appear limited if, as expected, the Government reimburses the Council in full for implementing these reliefs. However, there are risks around compliance and eligibility checks including State Aid considerations and these will need to be addressed in the determination of awards. It is also important to build in sufficient flexibility into the proposed new local scheme to ensure awards of relief can be contained within the government funding allocation.
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Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken on the proposed changes given that they will apply to all qualifying businesses.

Appendices

Draft Local Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme 2017/18 – 2020/21.

APPENDIX

Draft Local Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme 2017/18 – 2020/21

(a) The scheme is designed to assist qualifying ratepayers who have experienced an increase in their rates liability due to the 2017 Revaluation.

(b) Relief will not be awarded where mandatory relief is granted.

(c) In assessing potential entitlement the Council will compare the rate liability as at the 31st March 2017 after any reliefs and reductions and the rate liability as at 1st April 2017 taking into account any reliefs and reductions.

(d) Relief will be applied at a maximum rate of 75% on the increase in rates payable subject to a maximum award of relief not exceeding £5,000. Awards will only be applied where the amount is £100 or greater. This percentage rate will be adjusted, if required, to ensure that the relief provided shall maximise but not exceed the level of funding provided by the Government.

(e) Relief will only be given to premises liable for occupied rates and which are trading. There is no relief for unoccupied premises or premises that are not trading.

(f) Relief will only be granted to ratepayers who were in occupation as at the 31st March 2017 and in occupation on the 1st April 2017 and for each day subsequently.

(g) Ratepayers taking up occupation after the 1st April 2017 will not be eligible as they will not have suffered an increase due to a revaluation.

(h) Relief will not be awarded on properties which were not on the rating list at 1st April 2017, relief will not apply where properties are entered into the list retrospectively.

(i) Relief may be awarded for more than one premise as long as all other criteria are met.

(j) Relief will not be awarded where:

- the ratepayer has applied for a reduction under S44a of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (i.e. partly occupied properties); and
- the property has an increase in rateable value after the 1st April 2017 which increases the rate charge above the 1st April 2017 value.

(k) Relief will not be awarded for premises which are wholly or mainly used for Health and Education or Public Sector purposes.

(l) Relief will not be awarded on any premises with a rateable value of £200,000 or more.

(m) If, after relief has been granted, an eligible ratepayer's bill for 2017/18 is *reduced* for any reason, the amount of relief will be reduced or removed accordingly. Where a ratepayer's bill for 2016/17 is *increased* for any reason, the amount of relief will be reduced or removed accordingly.

(n) The level of relief granted in 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 will be based on the relief awarded in 2017/18, pro rata adjusted to take account of the total funding available

(o) The total value of relief granted in any year by the Council shall not exceed the level of funding it receives from the Government.

(p) Relief will not be granted where its award would not comply with European Union law on State Aid (i.e. the total value of State Aid must not exceed €200,000 under the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013). More information on State Aid can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/state-aid>

(q) Any ratepayer considered for relief under this scheme will be required to provide such information as is needed by the Council to determine their eligibility.