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EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

A1 Service Area	Finance
A2 Title	Business Rates Local Discretionary Rate Relief awards
A3 Decision Taken By	Leader/ Chief Officer
A4 Chief Officer	Please print name: Sal Khan Please sign
A5 Leader / Deputy Leader	Please print name: Cllr Richard Grosv Please sign name
A6 Date of Decision	[22-02-2018]

Confidentiality

A7 Is this Decision confidential by containing exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972?	No
A7.1 If yes, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972.	Paragraph []

Scrutiny

A8 Which Scrutiny Committee should this decision be submitted to?	(Please tick as appropriate) ✓
Scrutiny (Audit & Value for Money Council Services) Committee	✓
Scrutiny (Economic Growth, Communities and Health) Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>

B1 What is the Decision?	To approve revised calculations of Local Discretionary Rate Relief (LDRR) awards for 2017/18 and 2018/19, resulting in increased funding for local business ratepayers.
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B2 What are the reasons for the Decision?

On 9th March 2017, the Department for Communities and Local government, now the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), published their intention to provide all Local Authorities with funding to help business affected by the 2017 Business Rates Revaluation.

In September 2017 the Council approved its LDRR scheme. MHCLG granted the Council £370,000 for 2017/18 to award to local ratepayers under the policy and 524 potential recipients of the relief had been identified, with a potential award of 40% of the net increase of rates from 2016 to 2017 totalling £354,463.36. Officers have conducted up to date calculations and have found that the actual number of ratepayers receiving the relief award during 2017/18 is 356, with £186,866.77 relief being awarded. During the year there have been alterations to ratepayer's Rateable Values, successful applications for other reliefs and changes of liability (eg vacations) which have reduced the original estimations to the actual awards made.

Under paragraph 8.9 of the policy, the Council can amend the amount of relief it will award in the year. Officers have conducted further calculations which show that an increase of relief from 40% of the net increase in rates from 2016 to 2017 to 79% of that increase to the same 356 ratepayers who have been awarded the relief during 2017/18, would result in £369,061.87 relief being awarded during 2017/18. If this increase in relief awarded is approved, the Council will only have to repay a very small amount of the original funding back to MHCLG rather than £182k if the Council did not approve this amendment in relief calculations.

With regards to 2018/19, current figures indicate that 333 ratepayers would be entitled to the relief. In the original estimates in September 2017, an estimated relief award of 20% (or 50% of the 2017/18 award) was approved. However current calculations show that the total relief awarded would be £92,805.50 out of a total funding pot of £180,000 for 2018/19 if that level of relief were applied. However, if the award were increased to to 39% (or 97% of the 2017/18 award) then potentially the Council can award £180,970.73. This amount is slightly over the funding allowance for 2018/19 (albeit less than £1000), however officers envisage changes


	of circumstances will again reduce eligibility and the actual amount awarded at the end of that financial year will be under the amount of funding provided by MHCLG.
B3 What are the contributions to Corporate Priorities?	The award of Discretionary Rate Relief to local ratepayers affects the whole of the Borough and underpins all Corporate Priorities.
B4 What are the Human Rights considerations?	There are no Human Rights issues arising from this decision.

Financial Implications

B5 What are the financial implications?	The changes proposed fall within the funding provided by MHCLG, and therefore there is no impact on the Council's budget.
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Revenue	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Not applicable			

Capital	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Not applicable			

The finance section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit:	Please print name: LWA TURNER Please sign: 
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Policy Framework

B6 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's policy framework?	Yes
B6.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	N/A
B6.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	N/A
B7 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's budget?	Yes
B7.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	N/A
B7.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	N/A


Equalities Implications

B8 What are the Equalities implications:
B8.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): The Council has funding over 4 years to provide support through awards of local rate relief to help businesses struggling to pay increased rates following the 2017 Revaluation. There is no impact on Council finances as the relief is fully funded by MHCLG.
B8.2 Negative (Threats): None.
B8.3 The subject of this decision is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality impact assessment is not required.
B8.4

Risk Assessment

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications:
B9.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): The Council has funding over 4 years to provide support through awards of local rate relief to help businesses struggling to pay increased rates following the 2017 Revaluation.
B9.2 Negative (Threats): Any unspent funding each year must be returned to MHCLG.
B9.3 The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

Legal Considerations

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:	
B10.1 The main legal issues arising from this decision are as follows: Section 47 Local Government Finance Act 1988.	
This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:	Please print name: ANGELA WALKER-LEEDS Please sign name: 

Sustainability Implications

B11 What are the Sustainability implications:
B11.1 The proposal [would/would not] result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures). N/A
B11.2 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):
B11.3 Negative (Threats):

Health & Safety Implications

B12 What are the Health & Safety implications:
B12.1 A Risk Assessment has not been carried out and entered into Harriet for all significant hazards and risks because there are no significant hazards or risks arising from this decision.
B12.2 Any financial implications to mitigate against these hazards and risks are considered above.
B12.3 [Control measures and an action plan have been identified for any significant hazards and risks identified in the risk assessment. The positive/negative impacts are set out below] N/A
B12.3.1 Positive (Benefits)
B12.3.2 Negative (Threats)

Key Decision

B13 Is this a Key Decision?	No
Note: A Key Executive Decision is one where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. REVENUE – Any contract or proposal with an annual payment or saving of more than £100,000 2. CAPITAL – Any capital project with a value in excess of £150,000 3. A decision which significantly affects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards. 	
B13.1 If this is a Key Decision, is this an urgent decision such that a delay caused by use of the Call-in Procedure would <u>seriously</u> prejudice the public interest?	N/A
B13.2 If yes, has the Mayor or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or in his/her absence the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision will be exempt from Call-in?	N/A

NOTE: If this decision is subject to the Call-in Procedure it will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 3 working days after publication – unless 10 Members of the Council call in the decision.

Please send the original signed document to andrea.davies@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk