

BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY

4.0 COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 4.2 The Panel discussed the Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy at its meeting on 2nd February 2023.
- 4.3 Following an enquiry from Councillor Alban on whether available support differed for rural or urban communities, the Panel heard that a wide range of support was available for businesses and would be applied appropriately.
- 4.4 It was clarified to the Panel after questions from Councillors Alban and McAdam, that charity shops receive mandatory relief and therefore the scheme does not apply to them. It was further clarified that there are notable differences between the help available for nationally recognised charities and non-profit organisations however work is done with such groups to ensure the correct support is given.
- 4.5 Following questions from Councillor Shaw, the Panel were assured that whilst the department aims to be cost neutral, the team undertake extensive modelling to ensure that there are clear guidelines in order to support local communities. The strategy gives structure to the package of support already available for businesses.
- 4.6 The Panel were advised that only standalone public conveniences could be considered for support in response to a question from Councillor Shaw.
- 4.7 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for the Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.