

BUSINESS RATES – DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY

4.0 Overview and Scrutiny Comments

- 4.2 The Panel discussed the Business Rates – Discretionary Rate Relief Policy report at its meeting on 6th February 2025.
- 4.3 It was clarified to the Panel, following a question from Councillor Shaw, that the policy ran up to 31st March 2025 and that the new policy ran from 1st April 2025, it was further clarified that this also applied to the newspaper relief.
- 4.4 In response to a question from Councillor McAdam, the Panel heard that 40% reduction was the maximum amount able to be reclaimed from the Government and that there was not further funding for anything over this.
- 4.5 Following questions from Councillors Hassall, Alban and Kerr, the Panel heard that these changes would be affecting small businesses in hospitality, retail and leisure, and that the team were proactively working to identify and contact affected businesses. It was also confirmed that paperwork detailing available support would additionally be included with the 2025/26 bills and it was anticipated that businesses would be in contact with the team to move forward. More detail on the number of businesses affected would be shared with the Panel once the work to identify them had been completed.
- 4.6 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for an informed decision to be made on the report recommendations.