



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>DATE:</b>	27 February 2023
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Discretionary Rate Relief Policy 2023/24
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	Approval of the policy for 2023/24, including business rates relief schemes that are being delivered on behalf of central government.
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	N/A
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	Councillor Richard Fry, Executive Portfolio Holder for Finance
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Christine Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive – Corporate Development (S151)
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Sharon Hammond, Head of Revenues and Benefits
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	All
<b>EXEMPT REPORT?</b>	No

#### **SUMMARY**

The Discretionary Rate Relief Policy is reviewed and updated annually.

This report seeks approval of the 2023/24 Policy, which has been updated to include the central government schemes to be delivered by local authorities using their discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended), and for which it will reimburse loss of income as a result of authorities awarding relief in line with guidance.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy 2023/24 is approved.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

This will ensure that ELDC has its Discretionary Business Rate Relief policy in place for 2023/24.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing – this option is rejected because the council needs to have a current policy in place, and if the additional schemes required by central government were not included eligible business would not benefit from the intended support.

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1988 sets out provisions for local authorities to grant discretionary rate relief. East Lindsey's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy is reviewed and updated annually and includes schemes which councils are required by central government to administer using their discretionary powers. These government schemes are fully funded.

## 2. 2023/24 DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY UPDATES

- 2.1 Sections 2.2 – 2.4 below set out the updates that have been made to the policy for 2023/24. These schemes will be delivered in line with the government guidance and are included as Addendums to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy. The policy is attached at Appendix A.

### 2.2 **Retail Hospitality and Leisure (RHL)**

This relief will be increased from 50% to 75% from 1 April 2023, with the cap remaining at £110,000 per business.

### 2.3 **Supporting Small Business Relief (SSB)**

This new scheme will be introduced from 1 April 2023 to ensure no small business faces a bill increase greater than £50 per month (£600 per year) for 2023/24 as a result of losing eligibility for Small Business Rates Relief, or Rural Rate Relief through the 2023 revaluation

### 2.4 **Heat Network Relief**

100% relief will be available to hereditaments which are wholly or mainly used for the purposes of a heat network and the heat is, over the next 12 months, expected to be generated from a low carbon source.

*Heat networks take heat or cooling from a central source(s) and deliver it to a variety of different customers such as public buildings, shops, offices, hospitals, universities and homes. By supplying multiple buildings, they avoid the need for individual boilers or electric heaters in every building. Heat networks have the potential to reduce bills, support local regeneration and be a cost-effective way of reducing carbon emissions from heating.*

### **3 CONCLUSION**

3.1 The Discretionary Rate Relief Policy for 2023/24 has been updated to reflect all schemes to be delivered under the council's discretionary powers.

#### **EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP**

Not applicable

#### **IMPLICATIONS**

##### **SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP**

None

##### **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

None

##### **STAFFING**

None

##### **CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Discretionary rate relief is administered under the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the local Discretionary Rate Relief Policy adopted by the council.

##### **DATA PROTECTION**

*None*

##### **FINANCIAL**

The cost of discretionary rate relief is shared between this council (40%), Lincolnshire County Council (10%) and the government (50%).

Additional schemes required by central government to be delivered by local authorities using their discretionary powers are fully funded.

##### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

None

**STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES**

The Section 151 Officer and Portfolio Holder for Finance has been consulted.

**REPUTATION**

None

**CONTRACTS**

None

**CRIME AND DISORDER**

None

**EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING**

There are no equality issues as a result of this report.

**HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

None

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**ACRONYMS**

LGFA – Local Government Finance Act

**APPENDICES**

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A

Discretionary Rate Relief Policy 2023/24

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

<b>CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT</b>
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A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.
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<b>REPORT APPROVAL</b>
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Report author:	Head of Revenues and Benefits <a href="mailto:Sharon.hammond@pspsl.co.uk">Sharon.hammond@pspsl.co.uk</a>
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Signed off by:	Deputy Chief Executive - Corporate Development (S151) <a href="mailto:Christine.marshall@sholland.gov.uk">Christine.marshall@sholland.gov.uk</a>
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Approved for publication:	Councillor Richard Fry Executive Portfolio Holder for Finance
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