



COUNCIL MEETING

16 March 2017

DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to approve a revised Discretionary Rate Relief policy.
2. The existing policy was not considered fit for purpose in the current financial context and a report was presented to Cabinet on 8 November 2016 recommending consultation on a revised policy.
3. The outcome of the consultation was supportive of undertaking a financial assessment of applicants for relief and relief to be given to organisations which provide benefits for the borough and its residents.
4. The proposed Discretionary Rate Relief policy seeks to balance the changing financial context, the financial consequences to the Council both now and in the future and the impact on rate paying organisations that are the recipients of relief.
5. The proposed policy will cap the level of award and will where possible, consider entitlement to other reliefs. The policy will be implemented with effect from 1 April 2017
6. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

7. It is recommended that Council:
 - (i) Approves the proposed policy set out in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the attached report.
 - (ii) Delegates powers to the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, to administer this policy.