

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO :** Cabinet **DATE:** 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Neil Wilcox, Director of Finance & Resources  
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**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Inclusive Growth & Skills, Councillor Bains

### **PART I** **KEY DECISION**

#### **ADDENDUM TO THE BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY POLICIES**

##### **1 Purpose of Report**

To provide supplementary information to the Cabinet following the Chancellor's Budget statement delivered on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

##### **2. Additional Recommendation(s)**

The Cabinet is requested to resolve:

- (b) That the Director of Finance & Resources, following consultation with the Lead Member for Inclusive Growth & Skills, be given delegated authority to update the policies following receipt of detailed information or guidance arising from the changes announced by the Chancellor in the March 2020 Budget.

##### **5. Additional Supporting Information**

- 5.13 In the budget on 11 March 2020 the Chancellor announced changes to Business Rate Relief, in addition to the changes that were announced in the Ministerial Statement on 27 January 2020.
- 5.14 All the changes that have been announced will be made under section 47 and 48 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended, which is in effect the discretionary part of the legislation which allows local authorities the discretion to implement changes, therefore a policy needs to be agreed.
- 5.15 The following changes were announced
- Retail relief further increased from 50% to 100% for 2020/21
  - Retail relief extended to include:
    - Museums, art galleries, and theatres
    - Caravan parks and gyms
    - Small hotels and B&Bs
    - Sports clubs, night clubs
    - Club houses, guest houses

- Pub relief increased from £1,000 to £5,000 for 2020/21 (will affect RV's between £51-£100k)
- 5.16 The government has said that they will issue a Business Rates Information Letter by 20 March 2020 in order that this can be implemented as soon as possible for the 2020-21 bills.
- 5.17 In addition in the budget the Chancellor stated that a £3,000 cash grant per business was also announced for any firm that is currently eligible for small business rates relief, at this stage we do not know who will administer this it may be the Local Authority.

### **Additional Appendices**

None.