



**5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015**

**CABINET**

**AGENDA ITEM (11)**

**BUSINESS RATE RELIEF**

<b>Accountable Member</b>	Councillor Stowe Leader of the Council
<b>Accountable Officer</b>	Jon Dearing Joint Head of Revenues and Housing Support 01285 623304 <a href="mailto:jon.dearing@cotswold.gov.uk">jon.dearing@cotswold.gov.uk</a>

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To approve a scheme to grant transitional relief for 2015-16 and 2016-17 for qualifying properties.
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<b>(a) That the scheme for the extension of transitional Business Rate Relief be approved;</b> <b>(b) That the Joint Head of Revenues and Housing Support be authorised to administer the scheme.</b>
<b>Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)</b>	The scheme contributes to the Council's objectives.

<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Recommendation to Council</b>	No

<b>Financial Implications</b>	The local share of any awards will be fully reimbursed by the Government by way of a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003.
<b>Legal and Human Rights Implications</b>	None
<b>Environmental and Sustainability Implications</b>	None
<b>Human Resource Implications</b>	None
<b>Key Risks</b>	As reliefs awarded will be fully reimbursed by the Government, there is limited financial risk. The major risk would be around reputation if the Council decided not to adopt the scheme.

<b>Equalities Analysis</b>	None
<b>Related Decisions</b>	None
<b>Background Documents</b>	None
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>Appendix 'A'</b> - Proposed Relief Scheme
<b>Performance Management Follow Up</b>	The Revenues and Housing Support Service will monitor any impact.
<b>Options for Joint Working</b>	The recommendations are aligned with those made to WODC Cabinet and the alignment of the reliefs will make joint Business Rate administration marginally more straightforward.
<p><b>Background Information</b></p> <p>1. The Government announced in the Autumn Statement 2014 that it would fund an extension of the Transitional Business Rate Relief scheme for two years. This will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 when the statutory scheme comes to an end, for small and medium businesses which would have faced large increases in their bills from that date.</p> <p>2. The statutory transition scheme was designed to end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 after which date a revaluation of all non-domestic properties was due to take place. The revaluation has been deferred by the Government until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.</p> <p>3. Local authorities are expected to administer this scheme, and will do so using Discretionary Relief powers introduced under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 to award any reliefs. The Government will reimburse the local authority's share of the cost by way of a Section 31 Grant.</p> <p>4. The recommendations to the Cabinet are therefore intended to confirm the scheme and to delegate authority for its administration in time for the start of the Financial Year 2015/16. This will ensure that eligible properties are given the same level of protection that they would have enjoyed had the transitional relief scheme been extended.</p> <p>5. To enable the delegation of authority to be effective, it is recommended that the principles of the scheme, as detailed at <b>Appendix 'A'</b>, are approved and that Officer apply those principles.</p>	

(END)