



Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>CABINET – 9 JANUARY 2025</b>
Subject	<b>BUSINESS RATES RELIEF: 2025/2026. RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE SCHEME</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Mike Every – Deputy Leader and Member for Finance Email: <a href="mailto:mike.every@cotswold.gov.uk">mike.every@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Jon Dearing – Interim Executive Director for Resident Services Email: <a href="mailto:Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk">Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Report author	Mandy Fathers – Business Manager Email: <a href="mailto:Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk">Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To consider a scheme of rate relief for retail premises as outlined by Government in the Autumn Statement 2024
Annexes	Annex A – Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Discount Criteria
Recommendation(s)	That Cabinet resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Approve the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure scheme as set out in Annex A for 2025/2026</li><li>2. Delegate authority to the Interim Executive Director for Resident Services to award such reliefs</li></ol>
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivering Good Services</li><li>• Supporting Communities</li><li>• Supporting the Economy</li></ul>
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO



**COTSWOLD**

District Council

Consultees/ Consultation	Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer, Interim Head of Legal Services, Finance Business Partner, Interim Executive Director, Interim Managing Director (Publica)
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## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report sets out the Government's intention to continue its retail, hospitality and leisure scheme for the financial year 2025/2026.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** Retail, hospitality and leisure properties not qualifying for small business rates relief currently receive a 75% business rates discount, subject to a cap of £110,000 per business. This relief is to continue for 2025/26, but with the rate of discount cut to 40%:

## **3. MAIN POINTS**

- 3.1** The Chancellor announced in her Autumn Budget that eligible hereditaments will receive 40% business rate relief up to a cash cap of £110,000 per business.
- 3.2** Local authorities are expected to use their discretionary relief powers (under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended) to grant these discounts in line with the relevant eligibility criteria as detailed within Annex A (attached).
- 3.3** The Council will be compensated for the cost of granting these discounts through a section 31 grant from government.
- 3.4** Guidance has been provided in respect of which businesses should benefit from this relief and those that should not as detailed within the attached Annex. The Council's Discretionary Rate Relief policy will also be amended with a separate annex detailing the qualifying criteria.
- 3.5** These changes will take effect from 1 April 2025.
- 3.6** The team responsible for the administration of Business Rates will identify those businesses eligible for this relief and apply it to their 2025/2026 liability. Those eligible businesses will see the reduction on their annual business rate demand notice.

## **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1** None



## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** Central government will fully reimburse local authorities for the local share of relief awarded to those qualifying businesses entitled to this relief using a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 providing the council adopt the recommended approach when granting relief.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** The government is not changing the legislation around the relief available to businesses and expects councils to grant the relief under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1988, as amended.

## **7. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 8.** There are no risks associated with this report as the Council will be following central government guidance.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 9.1** None

## **10. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1** None

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1** None

(END)