



## CABINET – 19TH DECEMBER 2013

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF GRANT FUNDING – WG SCHEMES**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND S151 OFFICER**

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Welsh Government (WG) Minister for Economy, Science and Transport has announced two new national non-domestic rate (NDR), also known as business rate, relief schemes. Any relief granted by the Authority under these new schemes is to be reimbursed by WG by way of a grant but, before any relief is awarded, the Authority must consider and adopt a resolution drafted by WG. Approval is sought to adopt the resolution containing the details of these schemes before 31st December 2013 in order to comply with the grant conditions.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report gives details of the two new rate relief schemes offered by WG and the resolution which the Authority must adopt in order to obtain the WG grant funding.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 This grant-funded initiative is aimed at developing economy activity in Wales.

### 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 WG has announced two new rate relief schemes; the 'Open for Business Scheme' and the 'New Developments Scheme'. It is intended that the relief under these schemes will be made available subject to the Authority adopting the resolution and accepting the grant offer.
- 4.2 The first scheme, 'Open for Business', is focussed on bringing long-term unoccupied **retail** non-domestic properties back into use, particularly in our town centres and shopping areas.
- 4.3 The second scheme, the 'New Developments Scheme', applies to all newly built commercial property and should encourage new and speculative development.
- 4.4 Relief is to be provided under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 in accordance with the criteria and conditions specified in the resolution in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 4.5 In order to qualify for this rate relief, the resolution requires that the ratepayer completes an application form issued by the Authority relating to the particular scheme; such application to be submitted to the Authority within the time periods detailed in the resolution.

4.6 As a condition of accepting the grant offer, the Authority must make the business community aware of the Schemes through its usual channels, such as its website and the 'Newline' publication.

4.7 Full details of the schemes, including the qualifying criteria, are included in the resolution in Appendix 1.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no potential equalities implications of this report and its recommendations on groups or individuals who fall under the categories identified in Section 6 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan, therefore no Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Authority as the Authority will be reimbursed by Welsh Government for any relief granted.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are none.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 There are no consultation responses which have not been reflected in this report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet determine the resolution detailed in Appendix 1 be adopted by the Authority before 31st December 2013.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 To ensure that the Authority complies with the grant conditions before 31st December 2013 in order to obtain grant funding in respect of any rate relief awarded under the two WG schemes detailed in the resolution in Appendix 1.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Finance Act 1988 and Local Government Act 1972, 2000 and 2003.

Author: J. Carpenter, Council Tax and NNDR Manager  
Tel: 01443 863421, E-mail: [carpewj@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:carpewj@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer  
Stephen Harris, Acting Head of Corporate Finance  
Cllr K. Reynolds, Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Background Papers:  
Contact Council Tax and NNDR Manager (ext. 3421)

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Resolution - 'Open for Business' and 'New Developments' Schemes