

**CABINET**

25 September 2017

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held at the Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea on Monday 25 September 2017 at 4:00pm.

Cabinet Members present: Councillors C.R. Maynard (Leader), Lord Ampthill, I.R. Hollidge, Mrs J.M. Hughes, I.G.F. Jenkins, G.P. Johnson, M.J. Kenward (Deputy Leader) and Mrs E.M. Kirby-Green.

Other Members present: Councillors Mrs M.L. Barnes, J.M. Johnson, B. Kentfield, and M.R. Watson.

Advisory Officers present: Executive Director of Resources, Executive Director of Business Operations, Service Manager – Finance and Welfare, Revenue and Benefits Manager and Democratic Services Manager.

Also present: Four members of the public.

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**CB17/23. MINUTES**

The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2017 as a correct record of the proceedings.

**CB17/24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Executive Members A.E. Ganly and Mrs S. Hart.

**PART I – RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL** – not subject to call-in procedure under Rule 16 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

**CB17/25. BUSINESS RATES – DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATE RELIEF  
(6.1) SCHEME**

In July Cabinet had approved a draft Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme for consultation purposes, aimed at alleviating some of the financial burden on businesses following the national revaluation of business rates that came into force on the 1 April 2017. The Government had established a £300m discretionary fund over four years from 2017/18 to support businesses. The maximum funding available to Rother over the four years was £228,000 in 2017/18, £111,000 in 2018/19, £46,000 in 2019/20 and £7,000 in 2020/21.

The Council had received positive confirmation from East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner that they were supportive of the proposed scheme; no other comments had been received.

To remain within the available funding and to achieve the administrative simplicity, it was proposed that the scheme operated as per the draft proposals save for qualifying ratepayers, the Relief awarded would meet any increase above 5% of the full year equivalent amount payable for 2016/17. It was noted that the business sectors excluded from help were the same or similar to those being adopted by other local authorities in East Sussex.

It was noted that whilst the scheme was expected to cost no more than the available funding, the Council could not restrict the relief given to qualifying businesses. This might mean that the amount awarded may be more than the funding available. Cabinet were happy to support the scheme and agree that the Executive Director of Resources be authorised to make minor textual amendments, if necessary. Following full Council approval, a press release would be issued and all businesses likely to be affected would be contacted by the Council.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Discretionary Rate Relief scheme be approved and adopted and the Executive Director of Resources be authorised to make minor textual amendments, if necessary.

**CHAIRMAN**

The meeting closed at 4.07pm

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