

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS**

<b>Decision No:</b>	<b>D200003EM</b>
<b>Decision Taken By:</b>	Leader of the Borough Council
<b>Authority under which Decision Taken:</b>	Emergency provisions for decision making during a period of serious and unexpected disruption under Part 7 of the Constitution.
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Executive Non Key Decision
<b>Date:</b>	27 March 2020

**Decision(s) and Reason(s)**

**Rate Relief Discounts to Support Businesses in 2020/21**

As part of measures announced during the coronavirus crisis, the Government issued details of discounts and reliefs to support businesses in 2020/21.

The Borough Council was required to adopt a local scheme and determine in each individual case when, having regard to Government guidance, to grant relief under section 47 Local Government Finance Act 1988. Central government would fully reimburse local authorities for the local share of the discretionary relief (using a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003).

In all cases the total amount of government-funded relief available for each property for 2020/21 under these schemes was 100% of the bill. There was no rateable value limit. Government advice was that local authorities should prepare to award the discounts ignoring de minimis State Aid limits and MHCLG will inform them of the outcome of the notification as soon as it is known.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- (1) a scheme of Expanded Retail Discount, as described in the guidance issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, be adopted;
- (2) a scheme of Nursery Discount, as described in the guidance issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, be adopted; and

(3) delegated authority be given to the Director of Finance & Transformation to grant relief in accordance with the adopted schemes, subject to any disputed entitlement to relief being referred to the Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board.

Taken in accordance with the Emergency Provisions set out at Part 7 Paragraph 1.3 of the Constitution and in agreement with the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Signed Leader: N Heslop

Signed Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee: J Sergison

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 27 March 2020

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.