

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS**

<b>Decision No:</b>	<b>D220004EM</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 Key Decision
<b>Date:</b>	17 February 2022

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

**Granting of Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) – Policy**

Following recent announcements from Government of further business grants and relief the Borough Council had been allocated £3,768,000 to support those businesses affected by the pandemic but that were ineligible for existing support linked to business rates.

The relief was available to reduce chargeable amounts in respect of 2021/22 and should be applied directly to business rates accounts and was not a grant paid in cash.

A policy entitled 'Policy for the granting of COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund Discretionary Non Domestic Rate Relief had been developed and was attached at Annex 1.

Criteria for eligibility was as follows:

- a) The ratepayer must be shown as occupying one of the following hereditaments on the Council's records as at 15/12/21 (and continuously thereafter):
  - Car park
  - Office
  - Workshops or
  - Warehouses
- b) the ratepayer is not eligible for the Expanded Retail Discount, the Nursery Discount or the Airport and Ground Operations Support Scheme;

- c) the ratepayer is not entitled to either Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief granted at 100%;
- d) the ratepayer is not entitled to mandatory relief (80%) and discretionary top up of 20%;
- e) the ratepayer confirms that they have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to that impact; and
- f) the ratepayer is not subject to Subsidy Control.

The outcome is that for eligible businesses with a rateable value of up to £100,000, 44% relief (after any other reliefs have been applied) will be applied to the business rates accounts during 2021/22.

**RESOLVED:** That the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) Policy attached at Annex 1 be adopted.

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: M Boughton

Signed Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee: J Sergison

Signed Chief Executive: J Beilby

Date of publication: 18 February 2022

This decision is urgent and therefore not subject to call-in (in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 15 (i) as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution) and may be implemented immediately.