

Portfolio Holder decision sheet

Name of decision maker:	Graeme Elliot
Portfolio:	Finance & Resources
Date of Portfolio Holder decision:	

Title of decision:	Extension of Support for Pubs business rate relief scheme for 2018/19
Part II:	No
Part II reason:	

Decision made and reasons:	
To extend the operation of the Support for Pubs business rate relief scheme to the financial year 2018/19. This will provide additional help for businesses in line with announcements made by the Chancellor in the 2017 Autumn Budget.	
Reports considered: (here reference can be made to specific documents)	
Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders consulted: Group Manager (Revenues, Benefits & Fraud)	
Monitoring Officer comments:	
	No comments to add to the report
Chief Financial Officer comments:	
	No further comments to add.
Implications:	The extension of the Support for Pubs scheme was announced by the Chancellor during the 2017 Autumn Budget. If the Council does not decide to extend the scheme, we could suffer reputational damage.
Risk:	
Value for money:	The scheme will be fully funded by central Government, so there is no cost to the Council.
Options considered and reasons for rejection: Do nothing – rejected for reasons noted above in “implications” section	

Portfolio Holder's signature:
Date:
Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:

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Date decision record sheet received from portfolio holder:	
Date decision published: 23/03/2018	Decision no:PH/009/18
Date of expiry of call-in period: 31/03/2018	
Date any call-in received or decision implemented:	

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Background

1. The Support for Pubs scheme for 2017/18 was announced by the Chancellor in the 2017 Spring Budget. It provides for a rate relief of £1,000 for pubs with a rateable value of below £100,000. There are currently about 60 businesses in Dacorum which benefit from this relief.
2. This scheme was adopted by Council at the meeting on 27 September 2017.
3. During the 2017 Autumn Budget, the Chancellor announced that the Support for Pubs scheme would be extended for 2018/19, with the existing guidance and terms for the current scheme continuing to apply.
4. To bring this into effect, the Council needs to use its discretionary powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Government will reimburse the cost of providing the relief through a section 31 grant.
5. At the meeting on 27 September 2017, Council delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder (Finance & Resources) to agree the introduction of discretionary rate relief schemes which are proposed, fully funded and have detailed guidance provided by Government.
6. The detailed guidance for the operation of the scheme was provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government in June 2017, in pages 17 – 23 of Business Rates Information Letter 4/2017.